

The Summit

STONEHILL COLLEGE'S STUDENT-RUN NEWSPAPER SINCE 1949

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SCAN ME

SIA and AAUP demand financial transparency



"Battery-operated candles line the steps of Donahue Hall to symbolize academic losses"

Summit photo by Abby Campbell

BY ELIZABETH EDNIE &
KELLY LEWIS

Students In Action (SIA) and the American Association for University Professors (AAUP) said they want to know what the College's "financial position" is and how that will affect employees in the long run.

Megan Mitchell, associate professor of Philosophy and the president of Stonehill's chapter of the AAUP, said that it's time for students to demand transparency and accountability from senior administration.

"Ask Stonehill to open its books. This is what students at other institutions, like Ithaca College, have done in response to faculty and staff cuts. We have lots of smart folks in Business, Finance, Mathematics, Accounting, etc., who could help ensure that the College is holding itself accountable and putting student education at the forefront of the institution," Mitchell said.

Jill Goddard, spokesperson for the College said that the school's financial statements are available online for public view.

"As a nonprofit organization, Stonehill College makes its finances publicly available," Goddard said.

SIA has partnered with AAUP, launching a petition to the college's administration and board of trustees calling for fair pay for all faculty and staff.

The petition came after what was billed as a vigil on Monday, February 21 to protest cuts on campus, and has since been accumulating 500 plus signatures.

"I am hoping that the senior administration will see that so

many students care about this situation and that we will not just sit back and let it happen. If they do not respond or comment on the letters/postcards or the vigil it will show the entire community how Stonehill operates," Tahj Valentine, student body president and SIA co-founder said.

Goddard said that senior administration is currently reviewing the petition, and that a response from President Denning is forthcoming.

"While other colleges and universities chose mass layoffs due to the financial impact of the pandemic, Stonehill did not," she said.

Mitchell said that in order to understand the College's financial position, senior administration needs to show its employees the breakdown of decisions they have made since the pandemic began and explain them.

"But to do that, we need detailed information about the financial state of the College, not just the overall budget. An institution's budget is a moral document. It tells us what the institution values and how much it values it. Does Stonehill's current budget reflect its ethical imperative to educate our students? That is what I would like to know," Mitchell said.

Mitchell said the Faculty Compensation Committee was scheduled to meet with senior administration the same day as the vigil, but it was postponed. Goddard also confirmed that the meeting on Monday was rescheduled to March 21 because of a scheduling conflict.

Goddard said that President

John Denning, C.S.C, is working with the Faculty Compensation Committee on a year-long process to review compensation. He shared a staff salary study with the community.

The College has shared the salary ranges for current faculty with the appropriate committees, according to Goddard.

Goddard said for the School of Arts and Science an Assistant professors' salary ranges from \$60,000 to \$74,000, an Associate professor from \$65,000 to \$94,000, and a Full professor from \$80,000 to \$154,000. For the School of Business, an Assistant professor salary range from \$86,000 to \$125,000, Associate professor from \$93,000 to \$139,000, and Full professor from \$136,000 to \$157,000.

SIA and AAUP are encouraging students to take the next steps that are necessary to continue supporting and fighting for the faculty and staff at Stonehill.

"Our intent for the vigil was for it to bring the entire Stonehill community into the conversation so that the

message faculty and staff have been trying to send to administration would be significantly amplified," Karly O'Keefe, senior SIA representative said. "The most important thing students can do is not let the conversation end here."

O'Keefe said that sending emails to college officials could make a difference, because college officials value student opinions.

"Continuing to use our voices by sending emails and having conversations with faculty, staff, and senior leadership is going to be crucial in preventing even more people from feeling pushed out of Stonehill," she said.

O'Keefe said that faculty and staff members who were not able to come to the vigil reached out to SIA and AAUP thanking them for bringing the issue to light.

"The best thing to do as students is to start these conversations with faculty and staff; some may not share their thoughts, but others will be so relieved to know students see how Stonehill's poor financial decisions have affected them and are actively working to find solutions,"



"Megan Mitchell, associate professor of Philosophy and the president of Stonehill's chapter of the AAUP walks along students up the stairs to Donahue Hall."

Summit photo by Abby Campbell

O'Keefe said.

On Monday, February 21, SIA and AAUP hosted a vigil on the quad allowing students, faculty, and staff members to freely express their frustrations with senior administration concerning unfair compensation.

Mitchell said that in October of 2021, faculty sent over 100 postcards to Board of Trustees members asking to speak to senior administration about the worsening compensation situation.

"We do not know if any Stonehill Trustees attempted to intervene, but we do know that the subsequent plan which Fr. John presented, and which was approved by Trustees, was not fair and left key issues, like salary compression, unresolved," Mitchell said.

Goddard said that the Board of Trustees regularly engages with senior administration on all College-related matters.

"I am not aware of any members of the Board of Trustees contacting senior leaders regarding the vigil specifically," she said.

Valentine said that students have the power and the responsibility to advocate for fellow members of the Stonehill community.

"The work Stonehill AAUP has been doing since the fall semester to raise awareness about the crisis facing faculty and staff has been phenomenal. However, it is time for us students to help AAUP carry the weight in the fight," Valentine said.

Following the hour-long vigil on the quad, the almost 300 attendees from the Stonehill

community hiked up the hill to Donahue Hall, where most of the administrative offices are, to place battery-lit candles on the steps to symbolize academic losses.

"Since the pandemic began, everyone has experienced incalculable losses—both personally and professionally. College decisions have always been guided by what is in the best interest for the entire community," Goddard said in a statement to The Summit last week.

Mitchell said she hopes that senior administration will see that many students care about this situation and that students will not just sit back and let it happen.

"In the meantime, we'll continue doing exactly what faculty are supposed to do—educate our students

about the world they live in, including the institution where they choose to invest their tuition dollars. We will not stop fighting for our students' futures," Mitchell said.

During the vigil, professors spoke freely about their frustrations, including Bronwyn Heather Bleakly, Biology Department chairperson, Anne Mattina, Professor of Communications, and Danielle M. Carkin Lacorazza, associate professor of Criminology.

Students were invited to voice their thoughts as well. In addition to SIA members O'Keefe and Valentine who spoke, juniors Lauren Anhalt, and Will Guan spoke.

At the vigil, Mitchell read off an unofficial list of roughly 40 faculty and staff members

who have left the College over the last 18 months due to what she said was being overworked and underappreciated. She said the list was compiled through word of mouth because no one from the senior administration will reveal it.

"The list begins with a sad, defeated, slump of the shoulders and the question 'did you hear that they're leaving Stonehill?'" Mitchell said.

"In a small community like Stonehill, every person lost, every faculty member, every staff member, every administrative assistant, or librarian, represents not only a colleague, but a friend, a mentor, and an advisor," Mitchell said.

Here is the unofficial list of faculty and staff members who have left the College for all different kinds of reasons since the pandemic.

Ran Alix-Garth (Controller's Office), Tim Balint (Computer Science), Jackie Beatty (Biology & Health Science), Eileen Bellemore (Accessibility Resources), Zach Brown (Academic Advising), Liz Chase (General Education), Amy Chung (Admissions), Mary Ann Davey (Campus Ministry), Alex Eirmann (Economics), Kacie Foss (Community Standards), Latesha Fussell (Intercultural Affairs), Katherine Giovanni (Campus Police), Paul Gordon (IT), Jon Green (Archives), Rob Harbert (Biology), Shayla Jordan (Human Resources), Aliki Karigiannis (International Programs), Allison Keaney (Library), JP Kitson (IT), Mike Labella (Community Standards), Josh Magee (Data Science), Kate Marin (Education), Steve McDonald (Business Administration), Carolyn McGuinness (Meehan School), Abby Meachem (Admissions), Bridget Meigs (Farm), Joe Middleton (Library), O'Shane Morgan (Admissions), Heather Perry (Library), Kristen Pierce (Residence Life), Elizett Pires (Intercultural Affairs) Sara Polcari (Career Development Center), Melissa Ratliff (Admissions), Phylicia Rocha (May School), Andrea Ryan (Psychology/Neuroscience/Health Sciences), Kristine Shatas (Career Development Center), Kris Silva (Stonehill Service Core), Jenn Segawa (Neuroscience), Karen Teoh (History), Phyllis Thompson (Gender Studies & Center for Teaching & Learning), Anamika Twyman-Ghoshal (Criminology), Danielle Tulipano (May School), Shani Turner (Psychology), and Chief David Wordell (Campus Police).

Mask mandate lifted and guests welcome on campus

BY KELLY LEWIS

Masks are no longer required to be worn on campus except when inside the Testing Center, Athletic Training Room, Health Services, if a person has tested positive or is identified as a close contact for COVID-19, or per professors' discretion as of Sunday, February 20.

Vice President for Student Affairs Pauline Dobrowski and Vice President and General Counsel Thomas Flynn notified the community about the new COVID-19 policy updates via email on Wednesday, February 16. The College said they are

following the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's recent advisory and guidelines concerning face coverings in the fight against COVID-19.

This announcement comes nearly two years after the state of Massachusetts announced a mandatory masking order for indoor spaces.

"With over 96 percent of our community vaccinated, we are confident that we are well-positioned to continue thriving this semester and beyond," the email said.

Assistant Athletic Director for Business Operations, Colleen

Ford, OFS, said she is thrilled that the College lifted the mask mandate because she finally gets to see everyone's faces.

"I was so grateful to see my staff's smiling faces this morning at our staff meeting," Ford said, referring to a staff meeting with the work-study students who work at the Sports Complex.

Senior Shane Braz said he is excited that the College is slowly returning to normal life before the pandemic in a safe way.

"Things are definitely taking a turn for the better on campus with COVID, cases

are down and we have such a high vaccination rate," Braz said.

Senior Abby Guilfoyle said some of her professors are continuing to encourage students to wear masks in the classroom, despite the shift in rules.

"My professor wants to keep wearing masks because of how many commuters we have in class, as well as student teachers, but as it gets warmer, she will review the guidelines again," Guilfoyle said.

The College also announced that residential students can now register to host overnight

guests as of Friday, February 18.

"Resident students wishing to register an overnight guest should do so through the guest registration process in myHill," the email said.

Dobroski and Flynn thanked the Stonehill community for their sacrifices and perseverance throughout the pandemic.

"Thank you for continuing to do your part to keep our campus community living and learning together in a safe and healthy environment for all," the email said.

SGA urges students to vote in upcoming elections

BY JORDYN FORTE

The polls for the Student Government Association (SGA) Executive Board Elections opened on Wednesday, February 28 and SGA members are urging all students to vote.

"It's extremely important for students to vote in the SGA elections because these are the people who will be the voices of the entire student body, having the power to incorporate change where needed," current SGA President Tahj Valentine said.

At Stonehill, SGA serves as the voice for undergraduate

students, creating a bridge between them and upper administration.

"The Association takes an active and integral role in promoting diversity and inclusion initiatives, campus-wide programming, legislation, and overall student engagement within the Stonehill community," Valentine said. "We strive to embody the College's values of, 'educating the whole person, so that each Stonehill graduate thinks, acts, and leads with courage towards the creation of a more just and compassionate world.'"

"Our job is to listen to the student body and bring their requests to administration in order to further Stonehill both academically and personally," current SGA Diversity Chair Stephen Cobbs said. "My SGA has goals of transparency, productivity, and accountability, so that we can be held accountable and ensure that Stonehill is left better than when we all entered."

By exercising the right to vote, Cobbs and Valentine said Stonehill students can choose well-qualified candidates to represent the

student body and to help implement positive changes on campus.

To vote, students in the classes of 2023, 2024, and 2025 will be sent an email containing a link to Stonehill's voting system. Voting for the SGA Executive Board will remain open until March 2 at 12 p.m., and election results will be announced on the evening of Thursday, March 3.

"As a college, we run a democracy-like voting system, and in order for a democracy to be most effective, the people must perform the most important

civic duty, and that is voting," Cobbs said. "This semester, something unprecedented occurred in the fact that all executive positions are running uncontested, [and] while bittersweet, it is still essential for all students to vote, as voting shows the Executive Board that we have your support."



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Playa Bowls Stonehill: a new healthy off-campus option

BY ELIZABETH EDNIE
AND JAKE ZABSKI

Do you love refreshing smoothies, creative acai bowls, and freshly pressed juices? If you said yes to any of these delicious items, you are in luck.

The popular smoothie bowl and juice bar brand, Playa Bowls, opened a new location on Belmont Street in Brockton, just minutes from the Stonehill College campus.

Surrounded by existing student-favorites such as Bracks, Starbucks, Daddy's Dairy, Back Bay Bagel, and more, Playa Bowls will hopefully be a new favorite.

Since Playa Bowls launched its Playa Bowls Stonehill Instagram account, @playabowlsstonehill, in mid-October of 2021, the business amassed over 1,500 followers.

Playa Bowls Stonehill made its debut first on Saturday, February 26, with a soft opening, and a grand opening on Sunday, February 27.

Senior members of Ruckus, Stonehill's hip hop and step

dance team, were invited to the soft opening.

"Playa Bowls Stonehill is amazing. The staff is super friendly and welcoming. The bowls are great quality and the interior design of the place is beautiful," senior Alexis DaSilva said.

Senior Jasmine Santos said that the environment is great for people to hangout, and the store is very Instagram worthy.

The location features bright colors, unique designs and ample seating for customers, as well as a variety of menu items to choose from.

Senior Sydney Crain also said she loved the atmosphere at Playa Bowls and the options for students to order.

"The menu was truly customizable and fits anyone's taste," Crain said.

Playa Bowls Stonehill features different types of smoothies packed with fresh fruit and superfoods, bowls that are customizable, and juices that are all freshly squeezed.

Among those items, they also offer oatmeal bowls, coffee,

and poke bowls.

"We get deliveries of fresh produce each day, so everything is super delicious for our customers," Hung Lam, manager of Playa Bowls Stonehill said.

At the grand opening on Sunday, the first 50 people in line received a free t-shirt and a free acai bowl.

Junior Erin Harrigan camped out with their friends at 9 a.m. to get a spot in the line, and they even brought lawn chairs to sit in.

Along with Playa Bowls Stonehill, Lam is the manager of four other Boston based locations. He said that naming his new location after the surrounding college helps to target potential customers and engages the community.

"We really wanted to cater towards the college population and to the local community, and bring a healthy and good option to Easton, Brockton and Stonehill," he said.

Lam said that Playa Bowls Stonehill will be giving back to the community while



Playa Bowls Stonehill manager, Hung Lam, poses in front of the sign at the Belmont Street location.

Summit photo by Abby Campbell.

serving fresh and delicious items to the Easton/Brockton area.

"We are always open to doing fundraisers, like how Chipotle donates 10 percent of sales to the organization or team having the fundraiser," Lam said.

Playa Bowls also offers a program called "Playa Athletes," in which Stonehill athletes will get a chance to win a gift card in exchange for social media posts.

"We will have about five of

them email us, 'why do you like playa bowls,' and 'what sport you play,' and we [Playa Bowls] will give you a gift card to use throughout the semester. Every time you use the gift card to buy a bowl or smoothie, you have to post on Instagram and tag us," he said.

Playa Bowls Stonehill is offering DoorDash for delivery, and will be open everyday from 8 a.m. until 9 p.m.



PLAYA BOWLS

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71 Mt Auburn St
Cambridge, MA
617-714-5321

532 Adams St
Milton, MA
617-322-3042

277 Huntington Ave
Boston, MA
617-859-5814

1285 Belmont St
Brockton, MA
508-510-4562



Stepping back on stage

BY JUSTINE LONG

Last semester, the Stonehill Theatre Company produced "The Wolves" after two full years without in-person performances. This is a narrative writing piece written by Justine Long, who captured the excitement and jitters from the actors and actresses.

The doors of the theatre swung open, and the familiar scent of sawdust and hairspray filled the room. Nine girls put their backpacks down in the folding seats, waiting for instruction.

There was a buzz and excitement in the air as they waited for the director to come in and introduce herself. It was a huge day for them.

Hemingway Theatre was back open.

SEPTEMBER, 2 months until the show.

Stonehill Theatre Company was forced to move mostly online due to the pandemic this past year-and-a-half.

The Coronavirus caused the group to meet, rehearse, and perform on the zoom screen. It was unnatural for them to leave the place they were most comfortable, the stage.

Now almost two years later, STC was having auditions for their first in-person show since they were sent home from Stonehill in 2019. A few weeks prior, Sarah Barry woke up extra early on a September morning. The air was slowly turning into a crisp fall temperature, and the semester had just begun.

She was juggling a senior thesis class, a full schedule, and an audition for the first in-person show since COVID began. This play was a new beast that STC had to conquer.

The show picked was called The Wolves, a fast-paced comedy and drama about a high school girl's soccer team.

Each character had no name, just a number, and a character trait. It was an all-female show, with quick lines and big personalities. This was also a straight play, with no music and no dancing.

The nerves were definitely high. Doing any audition over quarantine was a battle in itself. Screen tests, multiple takes, and submissions took weeks of preparation.

As Sarah walked from her dorm, she couldn't decide how to feel. There was excitement, there was anxiousness, and there was hope.

"It was a combination of old and new," Barry said. "Here I am about to sing with a mask on, but it felt so good to be in front of people at all."

The audition required a memorized monologue, which Sarah felt okay with, but there were still nerves about the new challenge.

Abby Kramer, a seasoned performer of STC, also woke up nervous the day of her audition. She had a monologue prepared from class, but the

jitters were still there.

She felt like she was in the right headspace. Performing was back, and she couldn't wait to return. Auditions went well, and about a week later, a callback list was sent. This meant that out of everyone who auditioned, a select few would be asked to read more scenes.

With just nine roles to cast, this was a tough decision for director Ali Angelone. She needed a group that would embody a soccer team that grew up playing together.

Normally a choreographer and director at Dean College, this was Angelone's first show at Stonehill. She was excited to see the talent and what people would bring to callbacks.

Right by her side was Assistant Director Jason Dicenso, a senior gaining experience off the stage rather than on.

The duo would look for chemistry and genuine energy between cast members in order to create a believable show. Callbacks happened and different girls were chosen to read scenes each time. This funneled down the casting process as the "team" formed in Ali's eyes.

The cast of nine girls was then handpicked and selected based on what part they would cover best. Sarah got the part of #8, the "dumb one" and Abby accepted the role of #25, "the captain."

Both seniors soon met their seven "teammates" and began to prepare all semester for the performance. The script was hard to work with. With it being dialogue-based, small conversations were hard to learn, and landing the fast lines was the biggest hill the girls had to climb. Rehearsals were held four days a week for a couple hours each night. During this time, the cast would lay out the scenes under the direction of Ali and Jason, but they also got to know each other on a more personal level.

The nine girls worked hard to understand their characters and how they interacted with one another on stage. They also learned the ins and outs of being on a soccer team.

How do you warm-up? What are the correct techniques when handling the ball? These were details that Ali strived to hammer down.

It was a different theater experience for everyone involved. Wanting to make it authentic, the cast tried to forget they were in a show. They slowly got into the mindset of the team and what

it meant to be bonded together through a sport.

"It's been a really difficult but rewarding process," Barry said. "I'm just so grateful to have gained eight new best friends through it."

NOVEMBER, 2 weeks until the show.

The theatre felt familiar again. Sarah walked in, immediately taking out her highlighted script with scribbled writing of stage directions and acting notes. Abby greeted her with a smile and pushed over her backpack so she could sit.

The stage had been transformed into a soccer field, with fake turf, nets, and miscellaneous balls lying around. It was their set, and it was becoming more real every rehearsal.

The environment had a certain energy to it. The cast was chatting, catching up on their weekends, and cracking jokes. Ali walked in and found her usual seat in the back of the theatre, taking out her binder. Jason emerged from backstage with athletic jerseys and shoes: the costumes that the girls would be trying on later that night.

There was a routine now, one that worked and was ready to be shown to the world. With such little time left, there was so much to get done and prepare for, but they were ready. The Wolves were now a well-oiled machine, with their lines memorized and dynamic set in place. "Guys, listen up," Ali yelled across the theatre.

The girls quieted down and listened to their fearless leader. She began another rehearsal, this time blocking the last scene.

The excitement in the air lingered as they finished putting together the show that had taken up their minds for the past two months.

The only thing left to do was to perform it. Back where they started, and in their home again, the stage.

SHOW TIME, November 19, 2021.

The curtain opened and the lights went up, revealing the finished product to the audience. It was powerful, hilarious, and emotional all at once, just as they hoped for.

Although the "team" was parting ways, a new opportunity was ahead. Stonehill Theatre Company just announced the musical in the spring, Chicago, and just like that, the cycle began again.

Student Spotlight

Shannon Bursey



Photo Courtesy of Shannon Bursey

Senior Shannon Bursey is a Mediated Communications major and Creative Writing and Theatre Arts minor from Chelmsford Massachusetts.

BY JUSTINE LONG

Q: What are you involved in on campus?

A: On campus, I work in the CWAA as a writing and French tutor and peer academic coach. I'm the director of the Stonehill Musical Theater Club (which just put on its production of 9 to 5!) and president of the Goose Troupe Improv Comedy Club. When I'm not at work or club meetings, you can find me hanging out with friends in the dorm, playing Dungeons and Dragons, or getting donuts from Dunks.

Q: What do you do as President of Goose Troupe?

A: As president of Goose Troupe, I run our weekly meetings (every Wednesday at 8 in Duffy 101!), in which students can watch/participate in a variety of hilarious improv games. I also collaborate with the rest of the e-board to plan fun events, such as Bad Movie Nights and live shows at The Hill.

Q: What is your favorite memory at Stonehill?

A: Tough question - there's so many to choose from! I think one of my favorite nights was when the power went out on campus sophomore year. Although it sounds like it would have been a bad situation, my friends and I decided to make the most of it. We trekked to the Sem for hot food (which tasted so much better after walking through the cold), then went to Meehan and played board games all night. It ended up being so much fun and a nice, unexpected break from work.

Q: What is your advice to first year students?

A: My advice is to say yes to the things you want to say yes to. College is the best time to explore your different interests and develop meaningful relationships. If you're nervous about doing something new or not sure if you'll be good at it, just say yes! You'll never know unless you give it a try, and no matter what, you'll learn something about yourself along the way.

Q: What are you looking forward to as a senior?

A: I'm looking forward to making even more awesome Stonehill memories in my last few months here! I can't wait to spend time with people on campus and celebrate our achievements with senior events. I'm also excited to pass down the torch in the different clubs I'm involved in; even though I'll be sad to leave, I can't wait to see the underclassmen take on leadership roles and get ready to make future students' experiences great in the years to come.

OPINION

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FROM THE EDITOR...

Elizabeth Ednie

Hey Skyhawks,

Long time no see! It's been so long since I've sat down to write an editor's letter, and it feels great to be back and getting printed editions out. I hope everyone had a great winter break, and has a great spring break for that matter, since it starts this Friday.

There has been so much happening on campus recently, and I feel it's important to touch upon that a bit in this letter. As most readers know, *The Summit* cannot be biased when it comes to news reporting, because we aren't here to give opinions and thoughts, just to state the facts and attribute quotes to people who said them. But, I feel that I need to share my own personal thoughts on the issue of faculty and staff leaving due to feeling underappreciated and overworked. It's disheartening to know that these are some of the reasons why employees of Stonehill are leaving, because they truly make such an impact on our lives as students. I chose to come to Stonehill because of the small class sizes and the small but tight-knit community where we all know each other's names. I find it so sad and disappointing that a Catholic college is allowing this to happen without the slightest bit of transparency to the community. I was raised Roman Catholic, and this is not how I was taught to live my life serving God and His people.

The vigil last Monday was powerful to say the least. There were some amazing speakers and although I had class and was not able to put my candle up on the steps of Donahue, knowing that it took place made me feel a bit more positive about the whole thing. We, as students, cannot sit back and watch anymore; we need to join student organizations on campus and fight for what is right. We all love this school and want the best education possible, and without these beloved faculty and staff members, we might not be getting the education we signed on the dotted line for when we committed to this school.

Beyond the Stonehill bubble, there is so much more going on in our world today, that I simply cannot comprehend. The recent news involving Russia and the Ukraine honestly scares me. Knowing that the United States and Russia have economic ties to each other and the U.S. might end up pulling out of those deals, makes me scared for our future. The most we can do right now is hope and pray for things to resolve and for nothing to happen that might involve the United States. I want to raise a family in the coming years, and the thought of bringing new life into this world with the way it is right now makes me fear for my children, and the next generation all together. Someone said it in my senior capstone class today, but we as a generation have been living through major world events since 9/11. It's almost normal for us to be watching as big things happen in our world, and that not normal at all. At the end of the day, and as the editor of this paper, I believe it is extremely important that we all stay up to date with current events, so that we can learn from them, and help to change the world.

See you in April, Skyhawks

Elizabeth Ednie
Editor in Chief
The Summit



BY
**HANNAH
LENNON**

If it's a truth universally acknowledged that a single man in possession of a good fortune must be in want of a wife, then it is equally as noteworthy that each of the Bennet sisters in Jane Austen's 1813 *Pride and Prejudice* has been loved, envied, and embodied by girls today. Of the Bennets, Elizabeth and Jane are the most recognizable with Lydia trailing closely behind. We see Kitty and Mary minimally, but their moments of whimsy and whingeing shine through to those searching for bits of ourselves in the literature we read. Thank you, Jane Austen, for creating characters that everyone relates to in one way or another.

When first looking into

the bustling Bennet household, it's hard to focus on anyone other than Elizabeth. Austen gives the spotlight to the bookish second-eldest daughter; the world may not revolve around her, but *Pride and Prejudice*'s plot certainly does. Everyone dreams of being the main character, and Elizabeth speaks to readers who can't find themselves elsewhere. We champion Elizabeth because she's imperfect. Yes, she's beautiful, confident, and witty, but she makes mistakes and has regrets. Her pride bites her in the back— which isn't to say that hubris ruins a character, but shows that humanity is one of the best things about her. Millions see themselves in Elizabeth because she's the stubborn book nerd we hope to be.

Jane is often the opposite

of Elizabeth, but is her match in many ways. If you've ever been valued for your looks alone, Jane proves that beauty goes beyond the surface. Girls can find themselves in Jane because we daydream, care deeply for those we love, hide our feelings from the world, and hope. So what, if you're sentimental? If you see Jane in yourself, that's a high compliment.

I want to be friends with everyone identifying with Lydia; you're badass and the life of every party. Many find her cheeky and reckless, forgetting to commend her free spirit. She's a feminist material girl with the heart of everyone that ever walked by their middle school crush in the hallway. She's never afraid to do what she wants, and I envy it. If you've ever been in love or tended to

your inner child, chances are that you've felt close to Lydia at least once.

Mary and Kitty Bennet are harder to relate to. Kitty's second to Lydia in everything but love, and Mary is chastised for her every effort, but the rest of their personalities remain mysteries to us. If you've ever been the second choice or felt like you were just shy of being good enough, you'd see their reflections in a mirror. Kitty is every girl who was chosen last for teams in gym class and everyone insecure in their self-worth. Mary is vanilla, but there shouldn't be qualms about it; vanilla is classic, versatile, even divine, yet Mary functions as ordinary, something to compare the beauty, charm, and wit of her sisters to. She's every girl with dreams that go unseen

that's made fun of for being basic. The middle Bennet sisters embody stereotypes of try-hard, pick-me attitudes, but they're also caring and ambitious; they are every girl who's ever felt ordinary.

Despite 200 years and fictitious love affairs, the Bennet sisters remain relatable as ever. Austen wrote what she knew of the world, including infinite quirks, quips, and qualms of women. Each of her characters is as alive as everyone reading *Pride and Prejudice*. Thank you, Jane Austen, for creating characters that speak to us in a world so far from the one you once knew.

Lennon is a senior Communications major with Journalism and Creative Writing minors.

The Summit Staff

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Contact The Summit

Email Editor in Chief, Elizabeth Ednie
eednie@students.stonehill.edu
or
Professor Maureen Boyle
mboyle@stonehill.edu

A Letter to Jane Austen

BY
JAKE
ZABSKI

As a music fanatic, concerts and listening to live music are some of my favorite activities. During the pandemic, those experiences dwindled down to streaming concerts online or jamming out with my friends in our rooms to music, pretending we were performing at our own shows. While those activities are fun, and I enjoy them, I was missing out on that classic concert experience. The experience of waiting for hours for your favorite act to come on, feeling the emotions of the crowd, paying a million dollars for merch or food and drinks, and getting to enjoy a show with the company of others is like no other.

Before the Dua Lipa concert that I recently attended in Boston, I had not been to

BY
KELLY
LEWIS

Do you have a special furry someone in your life? Mine was a tall, skinny black labradoodle with white spots, floppy ears, and a long face. Her name was Maggie Elizabeth Lewis (yes, I gave my dog my middle name). A few weeks ago my family unexpectedly lost Maggie. We were all distraught. I'm still grieving the loss of my furry friend, but I want to reflect on how lucky I was to have her in my life.

After years of my brother and I begging our parents for a dog, they caved in 2010. I still remember the excitement of going to pick out our new puppy. All the puppies were black, but there was one that stood out to us who had a few white spots on her chest and paws and was extremely playful. We brought her home that hot summer day and named her Maggie. Picking her out of the litter and choosing her name was the easiest decision my family ever reached together.

Maggie was our first family pet, so it was similar to

BY
ALEXANDRA
KOULOURIS

If you're passionate about volunteering or find yourself with an abundance of free time, the Animal Protection Center of Southeastern Massachusetts might be the solution you're looking for! APCSM is an animal shelter located in Brockton, about a seven-minute drive from Stonehill. To volunteer, you must be at least 18 years old and willing to make a weekly commitment. APCSM

Dua Lipa is the cure to pandemic blues

a concert since 2019. I blame the pandemic for that, as many of my favorite artists released amazing projects over the last few years but they've been unable to tour due to the pandemic restrictions, and even today it still seems like a risk. However, when Dua Lipa announced she was going on tour back in September, I immediately bought tickets. Whether the show would be canceled or not, I didn't care. I knew that I needed to get those tickets no matter what. I went with my gut and bought tickets for her Boston show, and hoped that the show would go on for months, even when things started to get worse with Covid. Luckily, the stars aligned and I was able to go.

I feel like this might come as a shock to some for my more introverted nature,

but deep down inside my soul burns for fun, dance-y, upbeat music. I love all kinds of music, but dance has a special spot in my heart. For me, it is like an escape from reality and often the feeling of most dance songs is light enough where you do not find yourself questioning your life or decisions after listening. Dua Lipa's Future Nostalgia album came at the perfect time for me. I've been following Dua since 2016 and have always been a huge fan, but when she dropped the 70s and 80s throwback inspired Future Nostalgia project in the heat of the first wave of the pandemic, it immediately became an all-time favorite album of mine. During the stress and anxiety of the first wave, I played the album and for an hour, I felt that I was in outer space, dancing my

way around the fears back down on earth. I knew that it would be an amazing album to experience live, which is why I was so excited to go to the concert.

Miss Lipa did not disappoint in her concert at all. The anticipation of waiting almost two years to hear some of my favorite songs live definitely paid off. When she opened with my favorite song of hers, and one of my favorite songs of all time, "Physical," I immediately was able to step back into that feeling that was present during the more uneventful periods of the pandemic or before March 2020. The feeling of life being ever-present, and no fear about what lay ahead or what came next. Being surrounded by the amazing colors and visuals, people singing and dancing,

and feeling a sense of relief that all the craziness of the world would be paused for the next hour and a half of the show felt so freeing, and I don't think I've felt that way in quite some time.

Going to the concert made me appreciate my life at that moment for what it is. As Covid seems to die down, and as restrictions are being lifted, I feel very happy about what is to come in the future. Feeling that sense of freedom and release and enjoying it with others is something that not many of us have experienced in quite some time. I am looking forward to more of these experiences as the world starts to open back up again. Thanks, Dua Lipa, for a great night out!

Zabski is a senior Communication major with a minor in Journalism.

Lucky to have grown up with a furry friend

bringing a newborn baby home; we all had to adapt. She whined a lot and we slowly started to see her personality traits. Her main trait was persistence, or what I call - stubbornness. We attempted to crate train her, but she didn't like it, and used her cute face to convince my parents otherwise. From that night on, Maggie slept at my parent's bedside.

Although Maggie was smart, she couldn't figure out fetch. She would chase after balls to retrieve, but then turned it into a game of keep away. Maggie always refused to surrender the ball, so we had tons scattered in our yard. It was the one toy Maggie wouldn't destroy.

Maggie loved to run free in our yard and smell everything. She had two favorite spots, the front porch and the back deck. During the warmer months, my family and I like to eat outside on the back deck. One time while eating, Maggie jumped up onto our bench to get a better view of the food. From then on, that was her go-to spot. She loved sitting on that bench next to us, watch-

ing the cars go down the street from the front porch, and waiting for her humans to come home. If you ask any of our neighbors, they'd call Maggie the black dog that sits awkwardly on the front steps - he found a way to put her butt on the top step and her long front paws on the lower step.

Maggie was also known in the neighborhood because she accompanied my mom on a three-mile walk every day. Maggie loved being active and exploring. Unfortunately, she tore her ACL a few years back and had to stop going on walks with my mom. Maggie is persistent, stubborn, but smart, so she would whine when she saw my mom leave for a walk. It got so bad that my mom had to sneak out of the house. Maggie never understood the concept of rest. Her body couldn't keep up with her brain, but she continued to run and play.

Eventually, Maggie welcomed her older years, slowing down and lounging around the house more. She still jumped when she heard the garage open, the doorbell

ring, or the cheese drawer open in the fridge. She didn't like being alone when she knew someone was home. She truly showed me and my family that a dog is more than just a dog. We loved Maggie dearly and I hope she thought we gave her a great life. I could go on and on about Maggie and the ways she impacted my life. She was a gentle giant who loved following my dad around the house and basking in the sun.

On Saturday, February 12, my family had to make the toughest decision ever, to put Maggie down or have an extremely complicated surgery to potentially fix her flipped stomach. We all agreed to let Maggie go peacefully. My mom was by her side while my brother, dad, and I were on the phone. Although Maggie was almost 12 years old, this condition came unexpectedly. I didn't get to give her one last hug; it happened so quickly. So, please if you have a special furry one, give them a tight squeeze and show your appreciation. Remember, animals do more for us than we think.

I will leave you with this

excerpt from the TikTok account @the_mischiefous4

"Did you ever wonder why dogs don't have to stay on earth as long as humans do? When our loved ones come home we always run to say 'hello.' We never pass up an opportunity to go for a walk. We run, jump, and play daily. We let people touch us. We avoid biting when just a growl is enough. On warm days we lay on the grass. When we are happy we dance around and wag our tail. And when our dear ones have a bad day, we stay silent, sit close, and gently snuggle with them to make them feel better. Humans are born so they can learn how to live a good life. Us dogs already know how to do that, and that's the reason why we don't have to stay that long."

Scan the QR code below to watch the TikTok that inspired this piece.



Lewis is a senior Communications major with a Journalism minor.

Finding forever homes at APCSM

has plenty of volunteer shifts available during the weekday mornings and afternoons. The shelter is full of adorable dogs, cats, guinea pigs, and rabbits. Some volunteer responsibilities include small animal care, cat care, walking dogs, and cleaning animal's homes. It's the perfect place for any animal lover to dedicate their time! The shelter is currently understaffed and would benefit from extra helping hands.

If you are unable to commit to volunteering but would still like to support APCSM, there

are plenty of upcoming events you can attend! APCSM hosts a bake sale during the second weekend of every month from 12-3 p.m.. This month's bake sale will be March 12 and 13, so be sure to stop by! There will also be an open house in April and a Bad Pet Portraits fundraiser in May.

I am doing my senior Communications capstone project with the shelter. I will be volunteering, walking dogs once a week, and working on the shelter's social media marketing and PR. I knew that I wanted my capstone to

be a community-based learning project, and once APCSM responded to my inquiry, I knew it would be the perfect organization to work with. It is important to dedicate time and energy to helping animals because they cannot protect or care for themselves.

Animals end up abandoned or in shelters because of human neglect, so it's important to make up for the carelessness of other people and protect them. Everyone at APCSM has the same goal: to care for the animals at the shelter and help them find their forever

homes. APCSM is a great place to volunteer because everyone there cares deeply for the animals.

If you would like to stay up to date with APCSM's upcoming events and see cute pictures of their animals, make sure to give them a follow on Instagram @animalprotectioncenter and a 'Like' on Facebook!

Koulouris is a senior Communications and English double major with a Dance minor.

Coach Trisha Brown notches 400th career win

BY BELLA SANTORO

The Stonehill College head women's basketball coach, Trisha Brown, reached a major milestone on February 20. With the Skyhawk's 65-46 win over Southern Connecticut State University, the 20-year coaching veteran earned her 400th-career victory as a Division II college head basketball coach.

"Reaching that milestone is more of a reflection on this program than the accomplishment for me," Coach Brown said. "I am very grateful for all the student athletes, assistant coaches, and the people related to this program who helped me reach such an honor, it makes me reflect on how grateful I am to be a part of this program here at Stonehill."

According to some of her players, it is no surprise that Brown reached this milestone. "When the team heard we were playing in her possible 400th winning game, it meant

much more than a win for us that night," Sophie Glidden, a senior on the women's basketball team said. "Her accomplishments speak for themselves because of the commitment and dedication she brings to this program."

Glidden said that Brown encourages her players to be the best version of themselves in their everyday lives.

"Every day, whether it's in practice or not, Coach pushes her players to be not only the best players on the court but also the best version of themselves off the court," Glidden said.

"Trish Brown is so much more than a basketball coach," said Courtney Walsh, a former Stonehill women's basketball guard who played for coach Brown and graduated in 2018.

"She allows her players to discover a level of mental toughness and grit they often don't know is within them while also teaching the lessons of accountability, communication and leadership

that go far beyond the game of basketball. Her 400th win was just a matter of time, Congrats Coach."

In her 21 seasons as head coach at Stonehill, Brown has posted a 401-184 (.685) record. She is the only other women's basketball coach in Stonehill history to reach 400 wins, joining Paula Sullivan (1971-1996), who posted a 479-159 (.751) record in her 25 seasons with Stonehill women's basketball.

Outside of Stonehill, Brown is the fourth coach in NE10 history to reach 400 wins after the Skyhawks' victory on February 20, placing her third among active NE10 coaches. She ranks 28 among active head coaches at the NCAA Division II level for career wins.

The Skyhawks finished the regular season with an overall record of 13-8 and 11-7 in conference. Brown and the Skyhawks secured another win against the Golden Knights of Saint Rose College this past

Friday in Merkert Gymnasium in the first round of NE10 Playoff contention.

The team traveled to New York on Monday, February 28 to compete against Pace University in the quarter

finals and won 65-51. The semi-finals are scheduled for Thursday, March 3 at the Merkert Gymnasium, where the Skyhawks will host Southern Connecticut State University at 7 p.m.



Women's Head Basketball Coach, Trisha Brown, poses with Dean O'Keefe, Stonehill Director of Athletics while holding the game ball after her 400th career win.

Photo courtesy of Bella Santoro

Kayla Raymond scores 1000 points on the basketball court

BY KELLY LEWIS

As fans fill the seats, as the referees and opposing team arrive, Kayla Raymond gets dressed in the locker room of the Merkert gym: jersey first, followed by shorts, left sock, right sock, left shoe, and finally right shoe.

This routine has not changed since high school. And as we all know every star athlete has their pre-game rituals and superstitions.

At the age of six, Raymond started playing basketball for the local YMCA in Easton, Massachusetts, but she never imagined it would lead to playing for the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA).

"Honestly growing up I never thought about playing sports in college," Raymond said.

In 2014, Raymond began her freshman year at Oliver Ames High School in Easton. In the winter she went out for the girl's basketball team and made varsity. She said that's when the sport transformed from a hobby to a passion.

"During my freshman year, my high school coach, Elain Clement Holbrook, put things into perspective," Raymond said. "She's the one that pushed me to start playing AAU, and from there my love for basketball really took off."

Raymond joined Mass Premiere Swish, an AAU basketball team, during her sophomore year. From that point on, she traveled up and down the east coast with her team competing in tournaments. During most of

these tournaments, Raymond felt the pressure, knowing recruiters observed her every move from the sidelines.

"The recruiting process was stressful," Raymond said. "I was being recruited by D1 and D2 schools throughout the Northeast Region and had offers from some as well."

Finally, in the spring of her junior year of high school, she committed to Stonehill at age 17.

Raymond graduated from Oliver Ames High in 2018 and began her career as a student athlete just a few miles down the road at Stonehill College. "I chose Stonehill because of how much of a great school it is, the beautiful campus, as well as the basketball program," Raymond said. "While being recruited I felt like I really fit in and belonged here."

Head Coach Trisha Brown said Raymond arrived at Stonehill as a very highly touted recruit and has since worked to raise her game to an All-American level.

"Kayla is an incredibly humble and unselfish student athlete, which has always made her a great teammate and a player that is fun to coach," Brown said. "Her athleticism and a phenomenal ability to score in many ways definitely sets her apart."

Raymond may make it look easy, but she said that she dedicates roughly 15 hours a week towards basketball, including practicing, lifting, treatment, recovery, and games.

In March of 2020, during

Raymond's second season as a Skyhawk, the COVID-19 pandemic hit and the NCAA was canceled for the rest of the season.

Regardless of the unfortunate events, Raymond persevered.

Despite only playing for three seasons, Raymond became the 33rd women's basketball player in Stonehill history to have scored 1,000 or more career points on Saturday, February 5.

Brown said that Raymond needed 21 points to hit 1,000 during the game against Saint Anselm College, and she was confident that she would reach it during that game.

After losing 55-67 to Saint Anselm College on December 5, the women's basketball team had a point to prove, this time with home-court advantage.

In the final quarter of the game with one minute and 36 seconds remaining on the clock, the Skyhawks were up one point. Isabella Santoro, senior guard number five, lobbed the ball over her defender to the hands of Raymond. Raymond quickly made a layup leading the Skyhawks 57 to 54, but more importantly putting her at 1,001 career points.

"My shot went in, and I heard the crowd screaming after; the gym got so loud so fast. I couldn't help but smile as I was running back on defense. I was very excited, but it was the end of the game and we still needed to win so I had to stay focused while it was all going on," Raymond said.

Santoro has been by

Raymond's side ever since their freshman year. She said they've pushed each other over the last four years to be the best players they could be, and was fortunate enough to assist Raymond with her 1,000th career point.

"When I saw her come off the back screen, I had the biggest smile on my face because I knew once I passed it, she would break the 1,000 point mark! The chills that rushed through my body when I saw her lay the ball in were indescribable," Santoro said.

With one second left to go, the score was tied 59 all.

The fans all sat on the edge of their seats watching as the Skyhawks set up for an offense inbound play. Emily Bramanti, senior guard number 21, inbounded the ball to the hands of Raymond for a layup as the buzzer went off.

Bramanti immediately sprinted into the arms of Raymond to celebrate as the rest of the team surrounded her and cheered in excitement.

"I had no doubt in my mind that she wasn't going to make the shot, I knew I just had to get the ball to her," Bramanti said.

The Skyhawks redeemed themselves, beating Saint Anselm 61 to 59. Raymond finished the game with a total of 26 points and 1,005 career points over 60 games and three seasons.

Bramanti said that Kayla has become one of her best friends on and off the court over the past four years.

"We both challenged each

other every day to be the best player we can be for the team," Bramanti said. "I was extremely excited and happy to be on the court when Kayla scored her 1000th point because she has worked extremely hard for it and is a talented player."

Raymond's family was in attendance during the game, with other relatives watching online.

"Their love and support are so special to me and I truly would not have been able to accomplish this milestone without any of them," Raymond said.

Just as Raymond never imagined playing DII college basketball, she wasn't expecting to reach 1,000 career points.

"Going into this year I honestly was unsure of how far away I was from 1,000. I never even looked to check, someone told me about it. Not having a season last year either I don't think I was expecting to reach 1,000 in the time that I did. It's always been a goal in the back of my mind, but I didn't want to try and force it to happen, it just did," Raymond said.

As the basketball season comes to an end, Raymond said she is eligible for another year because of COVID, but instead will hang up her sneakers.

In May, Raymond will trade in her basketball uniform for a cap and gown, preparing to walk across the stage with her classmates, receiving degrees in both Criminology and Communications.



Dance Team to Compete in Nationals this Spring

BY RACHEL GALATIS

After two years of waiting due to COVID-19 circumstances, the Stonehill College Dance Team is set to compete in the College Classic National Invitational in April.

"I am most excited to compete on the Nationals stage for the first time," junior Juliana Rizza said. "I am just excited to finally be able to have the full Nationals experience with my team."

The competition will take place in Orange County, Orlando, Fla., at the Orange County Convention Center on April 9 and 10. Teams from around the country are invited to participate. Former competitors include Southeast Missouri State University and Western Kentucky University.

Rizza said that normally, teams who attend the event only compete in one group dance routine. However, Stonehill has been invited to compete in three: "jazz," "pom," and "hip-hop."

The team has spent months preparing by holding practices three times a week for two-to-three hours at a time, and attending "choreography weekends," where choreographers are flown in to help with creating routines.

Mia Shinney, a freshman, said that a typical practice consists of stretching, warm-up exercises, workouts, going over old routines and learning new ones.

"Because spring semester is mainly focused on preparing for nationals in April, we've been rotating through our three competition dances (pom, jazz, and hip hop) weekly,



The Dance Team gets together for a group photo after competing at Westfield State University on Sunday.

Photo Courtesy of Kaili Guyer

and dedicate each practice to cleaning a certain section of whatever piece we're working on," she said.

To increase the school spirit on campus, the team dances at home games for the football team in the fall, and both men's and women's basketball teams in the winter. Their performance at "Skyhawk Madness," is a fan-favorite, according to students.

Rizza said that she credits their strong team dynamic to

hard work at practices, team dinners, and learning to trust one another.

"You need to be able to trust someone who will catch you if you fall; someone who will hold you accountable when you make a mistake," she said. "We hold each other to a high standard and only want to push each other to be better as dancers."

Nationals isn't the only competition the dance team will compete in this season.

The team will be traveling to Westfield State University to dance in the New England Dance Challenge on February 27.

There are two captains who lead the team, Lauren Goode, a senior, and Morgan Morris, a junior.

Morris said that this event will be used as "prep" for nationals since they will be competing against other New England schools who may also

be attending the competition in Florida.

"Nationals is the wrap up of our season. After nationals we have a break before we begin the team cycle over again which begins with team auditions in late May/early June," she said.

Morris said that the routines choreographed during the season vary depending on the event and the audience.

"Our routines that we perform at game days and events around the school are geared towards entertaining families and students; they are fun and engaging," she said. "At nationals our routines are more competitive and dynamic."

When dancing at games, they have specific routines prepared for time-outs, half-time, and in between calls. Some of these routines are choreographed by members of the team themselves.

Shinney said that she credits the older members of the team for being, "so welcoming and helpful" to her and the other underclassmen and said that her time with the dance team is her "favorite part about Stonehill," since it is where she met some of her "closest friends," on campus.

"I look forward to going to dance every practice, it's the best part of my week," she said, "I love being a part of SCDT and couldn't imagine my college experience without it."

To keep up with the Dance Team, follow them on Instagram @stonehilldanceteam

UPCOMING SPORTING EVENTS

Women's Basketball: Thurs, March 3 at 6 p.m.

Baseball: Fri, March 4 at 5:00 p.m.

Women's Softball: Sat, March 5 at 12:15 p.m.

Women's Softball: Sat, March 5 at 2:30 p.m.

Baseball: Sat, March 5 at 5:00 p.m.

Women's Softball: Sun, March 6 at 1:30 p.m.

Men's Tennis: Sun, March 6 at 2:00 p.m.

Baseball: Sun, March 6 at 3:00 p.m.

Women's Softball: Sun, March 6 at 3:45 p.m.

