

The Summit

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Scan the QR code to donate to the senior class gift!



Shannon Bursey will be the student speaker at the Class of 2022's Commencement

BY ELIZABETH EDNIE

When Shannon Bursey first heard that auditions for student commencement speaker were coming up, she thought trying out would be the perfect way to finish off her Stonehill experience.

"As someone who enjoys writing and sharing it with others, it sounded like a fun challenge to make a speech that would summarize and celebrate the last four years. I also love performing, and thought that speaking at commencement would be a great memory to conclude my time here at Stonehill," Bursey said.

The Stonehill Class of 2022 will celebrate commencement on May 22, and will feature Bursey, who will serve as the student speaker to represent the class.

Bursey auditioned for the role of student speaker along with eight of her peers on April 21, and was chosen by committee members who are made up of faculty and students.

Bursey said she did not think she would be the one chosen out of the nine seniors who auditioned.

"When I got the call that I was chosen, I was, ironically,

speechless. I just felt so honored and excited that they liked my speech and performance," she said.

Nancy Dunsing, the Executive Assistant to the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, sends an annual email to seniors requesting that they contact her if they wish to speak at graduation.

"I organize the selection committee which consists of faculty and senior class officers, create a schedule where each student will present their planned speech to the selection committee, and then notify the student who has been selected as the speaker," Dunsing said.

Bursey said the speech had to be between three and five minutes long and had to meet several outlined criteria.

Dunsing said that it can be difficult to choose who will speak at graduation because they all put a lot of work into preparing their speech.

"There are times when you have two top finalists and a difficult decision must be made. The committee members will debate and discuss the likes of each speech, but the senior class officers will make

the final decision. We always choose a runner-up in case the chosen speaker cannot fulfill the role for whatever reason," she said.

Senior Fiona O'Brien was part of the committee to choose the student speaker, and said she enjoyed the experience because she got to learn more about each person who auditioned for the role.

"It was amazing to see all the brave students who decided to write a speech for graduation and they had the confidence to write and speak it in front of a group of us," O'Brien said.

O'Brien said there was a rating process to help determine which student would be best for the job.

"Each speaker would come in

and introduce themselves, then go on with their speech. All the speeches were so good and it was hard to pick the finalist," she said.

Bursey said that she wants the senior class to all reflect on their own experiences at Stonehill while she delivers her speech at commencement.

"We've all grown since we first came to Stonehill. I hope that while you're listening to my speech, you can be proud of how far you've come and look forward to the future ahead. But most importantly, I hope that you can sit back and take it all in; enjoy the present moment surrounded by friends, family, and the Stonehill community," she said.



Photo courtesy of Stonehill College.

Procession at Convocation on August 25, 2021. Welcoming the Class of 2025 and saying goodbye to the Class of 2022.

Seniors raise money for class gift

BY KELLY LEWIS AND JAKE ZABSKI

Every year the graduating class raises money for a cause to benefit Stonehill's campus once the caps and gowns are thrown in the air.

This year, the Class of 2022 raise money for the center for the Study of Race, Ethnicity, and Social Justice and will partner with the Class of 2017 to raise money to create a statue of a Skyhawk.

Kemuel Navarrete, Student Government Association (SGA) Class of 2022 President, encourages seniors to donate to the cause this year for several reasons.

Navarrete said that the statue will represent the legacy of the classes of 2017 and 2022, and donating to the new Center for the Study of Race, Ethnicity, and Social Justice will help sponsor a new hub on campus where faculty and students can research and study race,



Photo courtesy of Stonehill College.

Rebecca Brackett and Michael Everett present President John Denning C.S.C., and Vice President for Student Affairs, Pauline Dobrowski with the Class of 2019's senior gift; a check for the Wellness Initiatives Fund.

ethnicity, and other categories of difference infused in structures of power. A donation will also help sponsor a new major and minor, general education courses, and help integrate race and ethnicity more fully into the Stonehill curriculum for future classes.

"When we come back in five,

ten, or fifteen years, we will be able to look at these gifts as a part of us that was left on campus and will always remain here! (P.S. you also get a nice Skyhawk pin for graduation when you donate!)," Navarrete said.

Navarrete had the idea to donate a statue in the fall, and

after learning that the Class of 2017 was also looking to donate a statue, he decided to collaborate with them to create a statue of a Skyhawk that will hopefully be placed outside the Sally Blair Ames Sports Complex.

Senior Olivia Cerretani likes the idea that each graduating class presents a gift to the school through a donation.

"The social justice departments deserve all the support, and it reminds me of the class gift a year or two ago to counseling services. I wish we could have seen what the statue looks like," Cerretani said.

Students looking to submit a donation can do so on the Stonehill website using the QR code to the left.

Students can also honor a Stonehill faculty member, coach, advisor, or staff member with their gift.

What is the cost of transitioning to Division I?

BY JAKE ZABSKI

With a new division title comes a new set of financial guidelines and standards that the College must adopt in order to meet the likes of competing against Division I Northeast Conference schools. Some of these schools are the likes of New England colleges such as Bryant University, Merrimack College, and Sacred Heart University. As the College prepares to accommodate these guidelines,

this will mean that venues and athletic programs will need to be revamped and restructured. A study done between 2012 and 2015 at Georgia State University found that some colleges that changed conferences did not see any major economic or educational improvements on their campuses. For some colleges, revenue even fell as rivalries changed and were replaced with new, less appealing opponents. Stonehill’s conference has

the potential to see similar results, but Director of Communications and Media Relations Jill Goddard said that the school’s switch to Division I will only help the school financially. “Division I unlocks financial opportunities that are unavailable as a Division II athletic program, including corporate sponsorship, greater brand exposure which can lead to increased enrollment over time, increased ticket revenue generation, and fundraising

opportunities,” Goddard said. The cost of transitioning to Division I will be offset by several revenue streams, she said. “The annual tuition increase would not be impacted by the move to Division I,” Goddard said. Goddard said the tuition costs of transitioning will be offset by fundraising initiatives like the To Be Bold Campaign, ticket revenue generation, increased marketing opportunities, NCAA

Division I revenue sharing, and corporate sponsorship opportunities. Goddard said the school is in a great financial position to make the transition, and assures that Senior leadership, the Board of Trustees, the Athletic Department, and the Office of Finance have reviewed the investment protocols to transition to Division I and found that this is the best time to start the transition.

Students recognized and awarded for academic success

BY KELLY LEWIS

Thirty-nine seniors were recognized and presented awards at the Scholars Celebration on Wednesday, April 27 at 5 p.m. in May Auditorium. Stonehill President, Father John Denning, C.S.C. welcomed faculty, students, and families with an opening prayer and remark. “On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I want to recognize the great work these scholars have accomplished in the classroom, the labs, and in their research,” Denning said. “I also want to recognize in a special way the faculty who have worked so closely with our students during their days of study and learning. To the families, faculty, and staff who are here today, thank you for all you have done to support and mentor these remarkable individuals and help them to achieve this honor,” he said. Father Kevin Spicer, Dean of the May School of Arts & Sciences read off the names of departmental honorees from the May School. Please see the complete list below. As each name was called, the student receiving the award walked across the stage accompanied by a faculty member to receive a certificate and take a picture with President Denning. Senior Emma MacIntyre,

accompanied by Professor Jared Green, accepted the Maurice Morin Department Citizenship Prize. MacIntyre is an English major with a double minor in Spanish and Creative Writing. “She isn’t concerned with getting the ‘right’ answers, but rather with sharing her deeply felt experience of language, narrative, and poetics, and asking perceptive questions, enjoining her peers to connect more deeply to each other and the world,” Spicer said. MacIntyre said she will begin work at the Jamestown Philomenian Library as a Marketing and Programming Associate in June. “I am thrilled to explore the world of librarianship, taking the love for literature and learning I have developed as an English major to promote a society in which there is bountiful curiosity and information accessibility,” she said. Deirdre Boyer, a senior, was recognized by the Biology department and accompanied by Professor Nicole Cyr. “Her knowledge and enthusiasm for science informed her endocrine research, for which she was awarded two SURE fellowships. Her research led to presentations at neuroscience conferences and a senior honors thesis. She has

a bright future as a research scientist,” Spicer said. Following graduation, Boyer said she will work as a research associate at a biotechnology startup company. The Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences recognized Megan Perry for her research in intermediate-mass black holes. Perry said she could not have gotten to the point she is at today without the support of my professors, especially Professor Massarotti and Professor Fornasini. “I felt proud of how far I have come since freshman year. I am so thankful for the many opportunities I have gotten at Stonehill, especially through my STEM classes,” she said. Perry will attend the University of Maryland in August, studying geology while working with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Following the May School of Arts & Sciences awards, President of Lambda Epsilon Sigma Kaitlyn Simmons invited Dean Sam Beldona to the stage to present the awards for the students in the Leo J. Meehan School of Business. See the complete list below. Caroline Abate, a senior, a Moreau Honors Scholar double majoring in International Business and Spanish with

minors in Data Analytics and Entrepreneurship was recognized by the International Business Department. Abate has done it all. Spicer said she has participated in the NYC externship and Engage Financial Leaders Program, been inducted into three honor societies, and has held leadership roles as a Resident Assistant, Teaching Assistant, Volunteer Coordinator, and Women in Finance Club President. Abate said she has accepted a Financial Analyst position at Dell Technologies and will be traveling to Spain to teach English starting in September. Next, the Class of 2022 and 2023 Lambda Epsilon Sigma (LES), Stonehill College Honor Society inductees were invited on stage. Simmons, along with Vice President of Lambda Epsilon Sigma Nick Gould and Secretary Elisha Brinkman gave out certificates and LES pins. “Lambda Epsilon Sigma recognizes outstanding juniors and seniors who have demonstrated academic excellence, provided evidence of a thirst for knowledge that goes beyond the classroom into their co-curricular activities, contributed to the intellectual development of the Stonehill community, and exhibited an ability to communicate their

thoughts effectively,” the program said. According to the program there was a total of 91 inductees, 36 members from the class of 2022 and 55 from the class of 2023. On stage, the inductees had to affirm the principles of LES outloud. “I pledge to uphold the values of the Lambda Epsilon Sigma Honor Society to which I have been selected. I will be true to the principles for which it stands. I will demonstrate a thirst for knowledge, and contribute to the intellectual development of the community during my time at and beyond Stonehill College. I will maintain and encourage high standards of scholarship, service, leadership and character through my membership in this society,” the inductees said. Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs DeBrenna Agbényiga concluded the ceremony, congratulating all students represented that night.



Photo courtesy of Deidre Boyer

- May School of Arts & Sciences Honorees:**
- Anthropology:**
Cheyenne Zinnkosko
- Biochemistry:**
Mary Bussiere
- Biology B. A.:**
Keith Francis
- Biology B. S.:**
Deirdre Boyer
- Chemistry B. S.:**
Madison Hussey
- Communication Studies:**
Lukas Pina-Sousa
- Communication Media Studies:**
Meghan Jarret
- Computer Science:**
James Milinazzo
- Criminology:**

- Shannon Curran
- Early Childhood Education:**
Katherine McKenna
- Earth & Planetary Sciences:**
Megan Perry
- Education Studies (Non-Licensure):**
Emma Bernier
- Elementary Education:**
Lauretta Grant
- English:**
Emma MacIntyre
- Environmental Sciences:**
Abrielle Remick
- Environmental Studies:**
Kaitlin Kornachuk
- Gender & Sexuality Studies:**
Karly O’Keefe
- Health Science:**
Grace Sanders

- History:**
Gwenyth Taradash
- Mathematics BA:**
Julia Barry
- Mathematics BS:**
Emily Brady
- Neuroscience:**
Megan MacIver
- Performing Arts**
- Dance:**
Kaili Guyer
- Theatre:**
Abigail Kramer
- Philosophy:**
Lauren Correa
- Political Science & International Studies - Government & Politics:**
James Paul Constantine
- Psychology:**

- Amun Mohanty
- Secondary Education:**
Leah Kelly
- Sociology:**
Ellen Jones
- Spanish:**
Meghan Jarret
- Special Education:**
Lauren Goode
- Meehan School of Business Honorees:**
- Accounting:**
James Pentikis
- Economics:**
Elisha Brinkman
- Finance:**
Patrick Milton
- Healthcare Administration:**
Caitlin Regan
- International Business:**

- Caroline Abate
- General Management:**
Tyler Chaffee
- Management Information Systems:**
Alexandra Maiella
- Marketing:**
Katherine Frodigh



Summit Photo by Kelly Lewis
Caroline Abate along is presented with the International Business Program Award

What it means to be a communication major

BY ELIZABETH EDNIE

For her semester-long senior capstone project, Jenna Rohlman decided to plan, record, and edit her own podcast series, and credits the communications major for all of the opportunities and experiences she has had during her time at Stonehill.

“Podcasting is becoming one of the newer forms of media in which people are able to share new forms of information in a unique way, which is why I wanted it to be the basis of my project,” Rohlman said.

In her first episode, Rohlman interviewed Stonehill’s Communications Department Chair, Ron Leone, where they discussed what it means to be a communications major and highlighted some of the extracurriculars communication majors can partake in while at Stonehill.

According to the first episode of the five-part series, Rohlman asked Leone what he thinks the communications major is, and what its importance is in today’s ever-changing world.

“One of the beauties of it, I think, is that it’s such a versatile major. It’s something that works so well for so many, and I think there’s some misunderstandings about what the comm major is,” Leone said. Leone said that the major allows students to explore

and learn about both why we communicate and how we communicate.

“I think our students who major in communications really have the opportunities to develop an informed point of view, explore their creative energy and outlets to share that point of view, and also to really learn about how audiences process and are influenced by messages,” Leone said.

Rohlman said that being media literate is so important in today’s world, and that the communications major at Stonehill was beneficial in that way.

“A lot of people don’t know or realize just how we are being communicated to from social media and films, and a lot of these courses that we take can be applied to real life,” she said.

In her episode, Rohlman asked Leone what kinds of skills communications majors learn while in school, and why having those skills are effective in making the world a better place.

“The comfort of interactions, and I mean comfort in the general sense, the art of conversation, is something that is becoming more challenging for people. Understanding the different kinds of dynamics of communication as well. I think communication majors,



Senior Jenna Rohlman sitting at the podcast studio in the library
Photo Courtesy of Jenna Rohlman

as much as we spend so much time on our phones and on screens in general, it’s important to be able to understand how much miscommunication goes on and I think students of communication learn about that in every course they take here,” he said.

Rohlman said that it’s underrated to be able to effectively communicate nowadays, because it’s a life skill to have, especially with different types of people and in different situations.

“I think it’s very valuable to be able to have that skill,” she said.

Rohlman discussed the clubs and organizations that communication majors typically are drawn towards, because they are able to use the skills they learn in the classroom and apply it to bigger things, a few clubs being The WSHL radio station, and The Summit.

“Being a part of the school newspaper, which is not easy, still costs a lot to print rather than having an online version. But, we are preserving that here, and I hope for many more years that we still continue to do a print edition because it’s important,” Leone said. Rohlman said that she

is happy that she chose the communication major because it helped her find her passions, and helped lead her to her desired field of work.

“Choosing to major in communications was one of the best decisions I made at Stonehill and I strongly believe it opened up many opportunities for me to explore within the media industry,” she said. “I have been able to not only become a more effective communicator, but I also have had the opportunity to jumpstart a career in PR and production within various companies because of my field of study.”

Events to help you destress during finals

BY KELLY LEWIS

Events such as pet therapy, ice cream night, and a movie night are planned for students to enjoy following the end of Spring 2022 classes on Wednesday, May 4.

According to the Hill Happenings, Mamma Mia will be played on the quad on an outdoor screen at 7:45 p.m. on Wednesday.

Free Greek snacks will be provided, and the rain location will be Commons A.

“I love Mamma Mia, and I’m so excited that they are playing that for us during finals week. It’ll definitely be a nice distraction from studying,” senior Emma Doyle said.

The Office of Student Engagement sent out an email announcing a late-night ice cream study break. The event will happen on Thursday, May 5 from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. in Commons A.

“Take a break from studying with free ice cream served by Stonehill staff and faculty,” the email said.

According to the email, the first 100 students will receive a

free t-shirt.

Final exams are scheduled for Saturday, May 7 through Friday, May 13, with 24-hour quiet hours beginning on Wednesday, May 4 at 10:00 p.m.

And don’t forget, the Center for Writing and Academic Achievement (CWAA) will be open from Friday, May 6 to Thursday, May 12 to assist students during finals week and to help with writing needs.

Drop-in tutoring is available in room 314 of the MacPhaidin Library, but appointments are recommended, according to the CWAA.

Senior Olivia Cerretani said that she goes to the CWAA for help with writing and accounting homework.

“Whenever I plan to revise on my own, I always get lost or disheartened in the amount of work, but knowing I have an appointment with the CWAA puts me on a strict deadline for the draft and then I also feel supported with productive criticism. Finals adds a lot of stress, so it’s nice to be well supported and keep an even

mindset,” she said.

Cerretani advises other students to just start writing and get thoughts out onto paper, even if you have writer’s block or don’t know where to start.

“Even if you think it’s awful and you would never turn it in, write because you cannot revise a blank sheet,” she said.

Senior Kaitlyn Simmons advises younger students to make checklists for finals because it makes things easier.

“My biggest piece of advice is to write down everything you have to get done: when papers are due, when finals are, where finals are; and cross things off as you finish those tasks,” Simmons said.

Simmons also recommends students take time for themselves, away from academics, and spend time with friends.

Along with the movie and ice cream events, the Office of Health and Wellness will host Pet Therapy with Lola and Daisey on Tuesday, May 3, and Tuesday, May 10 from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. on the quad, or in the MacPhaidin Library if it rains.

Donna Couto is Lola’s owner

and is the Office Coordinator for Stonehill Police. She said Lola is 1 year old and is training to be a service dog.

Senior Alexa Meyler has been to pet therapy in the past and said that it’s nice to see pets on campus, especially during finals week.

“I have a dog at home that I don’t get to see that often during the school year, and just seeing the smiling faces of the

therapy pets reminds me of my own dog and motivates me to finish finals,” she said.

“Pet Therapy gives me a chance to pet dogs. And when I’m having a bad day, they (dogs) make it so much better. It’s fun to play with them if they have a toy too,” Charity Schultz, a junior said.

The Summit staff wishes all students the best of luck on their exams. We have no doubt you will ACE them!



Summit photo by Kelly Lewis.

BY JUSTINE LONG

Q: What are you involved in on campus?

A: I have many leadership roles on campus such as Orientation Leader, LIGHT Leader, ABS Leader, Resident Assistant, and Vice President of our co-ed A Capella group called Surround Sound. I also dance on the Ruckus Hip-Hop and Step Team, am a member of the Student Alumni Association, and so much more. However, most importantly, I am a First-Generation student, so I also serve as a First Gen Ambassador.

Q: What do you do as a student leader in some of these organizations?

A: As a mentor for first generation students, I provide insight, support, and help students find connections and resources on campus as well as give them leadership and professional skills that will serve through Stonehill and after. In SAA, we meet prestigious alumni through their involvement with events sponsored by the Alumni Office and the Advancement Division. I also help upperclassmen living in residence halls by providing resources and support as an RA in New Hall.

Q: What is your favorite memory at Stonehill?

A: Favorite memory has to be when one of my favorite bands, named JUICE, came to perform! They came my freshman year and my friends and I fell in love with them, and they were here this past Saturday again!

Q: What is your advice to first year students?

A: Explore the extra curricular activities that Stonehill has to offer! You build so many relationships, leadership skills, and unforgettable memories!

Q: What are you looking forward to in the upcoming semesters?

A: With my last 2 semesters coming up, I look forward to all the senior events, being successful in my academics, and making the most out of my time left here with my friends that I call my family!

Student Spotlight

Britney Savage



Photo Courtesy of Britney Savage

Juniior Britney Savage (she/her) is a Marketing major and Philosophy minor from Methuen, MA.

Student life awards 2022

On Sunday, May 1, the Division of Student Affairs and Campus Ministry held its annual Student Life Awards Ceremony where the following students, staff, and faculty were recognized. Please join us in congratulating this year's award recipients.

<i>The Student Life Awards Committee</i>				
President's Cup Jasmine Santos	Professor Maureen Boyle, Communication Outstanding Staff- Teddi Nguyen Lydon, Intercultural Affairs	2021-2022 Class Presidents Recognition Kemuel Navarrete – Class of 2022 Emily Hartford – Class of 2023 Jessika Crockett-Murphy – Class of 2024 Caleigh Fitzgerald – Class of 2025	Sadé Ratliff Bridget Ryan Jacquelin Sauer Lianza Stephen Colton Varholak Lindsey Walsh 2024 Emma Cahill Jessika Crockett-Murphy Anthony Gonez Maylee Mathieu Kyle McGrath Edison Roberts Jennifer Smith Jenna Torres Evan Turgeon Roslynn Wailus 2025 Derek Bamford Guadalupe Corona-Sampedro Matthew DeVirgilio Eileen Durgin Caleigh Fitzgerald Alvin George Caroline Green Joshua Rodriguez Elijah Stringham	Maria Feren Grace Gibson Gwyneth Gould Ethan Lescault Patrick Milton Sophia Owen Katrina Pacheco Katelyn Samios Erin Sousa
Vice President's Award Sayvion Jones Joshua Loveridge Stephen Cobbs Emily Hartford	Outstanding Team- COVID Testing Center Outstanding Senior- Kemuel Navarrete	Class Leadership Awards 2022 Sajeda Ahmad Jarrivel Baez-Colon Dominic Banor Wyatt Egan Benjamin Gleason Michaela Pantazelos Kaitlyn Simmons Alexis Thomas Maria Toapanta Tahj Valentine Emily Yip 2023 Melanie Barbosa Gianna Barboza Callen Edinger Erin Harrigan Reilly Johnston Michael Kennedy Kathleen Kilban Sophie Kripp Emily May Isabella Payne	Community Engagement Award Caroline Abate Bailey Adams Gianna Barboza Emma Bergstrom Felicia Cafua-Bautista Jason DiCenso Kelly Heney Valentina Mongillo Sophia Owen Sadé Ratliff Desiree Ruiz Ramoz Katelyn Samios Ahmed Samudeen Colton Varholak Newman Civic Fellow Desiree Ruiz Ramoz	
Jean Hamler Diversity & Social Justice Award Jillian Hansen Karly O'Keefe Professor Teresa Villa-Ignacio Gregory Wolfe, Director of Purchasing	Student Life Program Award UNDOCUWeek	Student Employee Leadership Award Melissa McCarthy, Athletics Jenna Rohlman, Media Technology Jacob Woznicki, COVID Operations : Conference and Event Services		
2021-2022 Student Government Executive Board Recognition Tahj Valentine – President Sadé Ratliff – Vice President Fiona Lu – Treasurer Hannah Lennon – Public Relations Chair Alexis Thomas – Programming Chair Stephen Cobbs – Diversity Chair Kamela Pallani – Finance Chair	Residence Life Award Maria Toapanta	Hall Council Leadership Award Elizabeth Gordon, Holy Cross Center	The Saint André Medal Caroline Abate Edilia Alves Emma Bergstrom Emma Bernier Felicia Cafua-Bautista Peter Carchidi Jason DiCenso	Robert O'Donnell Memorial Award Melanie Barbosa Cassie Ponder
SGA Appreciation Awards Outstanding Faculty-	Residence Life Community Partner Award Kaylee Desmond, COVID Testing Center			

Congratulations to our advisor Maureen Boyle



Associate Professor of Communication and Director of the Journalism Program, Maureen Boyle won the SGA Faculty Appreciation award Sunday, May 1. Here, she is pictured with senior Opinions Editor and SGA Public Relations Chair, Hannah Lennon who presented her the award.

Prof. Boyle: thank you for guiding us these last four years. We appreciate you more than you know and are so proud to call you our mentor, friend, and professor. The seniors of The Summit will miss you tremendously.



FROM THE EDITOR...

Elizabeth Ednie

Hey Skyhawks,

I cannot believe this is my last time addressing you all as the Editor in Chief of *The Summit*. It’s been the greatest journey serving as the leader of this amazing newspaper this past year, and I honestly can’t even begin to explain the joy I’ve experienced the past three years being involved with *The Summit*.

I started off as a nervous copy editor sophomore year, and if it wasn’t for my advisor, Maureen Boyle (who basically forced me to become a copy editor by telling me to sign the contract in class,) I would not have met one of my best friends to this day, Emma-Cate Rapose ‘20 who served as the Opinions Editor that year. I then went on to take her place my junior year, while also serving as the social media editor. I could not be more grateful for *The Summit* for giving me some of the closest friendships throughout my time here at Stonehill, and for helping me blossom into the person I am today.

To Rachel and Chris: I’m so excited to see your joint leadership next year, and I’ll always be a phone call or an hour-ish drive away if you need help with InDesign. To my other section editors and some of the best friends I could have made at Stonehill: Hannah, Jake, Kelly, and Justine: I love you guys so much. I’m going to miss all of our group texts for each Maureen class that we take, and for the late nights in the office. To Prof. Boyle: you have helped me grow tremendously as a writer and as a person, and have pushed me to do some of my very best work in short amounts of time. I truly couldn’t have asked for a better mentor, friend, and professor for almost every semester since spring 2019. You are an inspiration and a light to everyone who has the privilege of knowing you. To the rest of the staff: you all have worked so hard and made this year so much easier for me, and for that, I thank you. I don’t know what I would have done without you all.

To my best friends, (who I met far too late in my Stonehill career,) Megan, Kristin, Gabby and Nicole: you guys listened to me rant endlessly about journalism things you don’t know much about, have been there for me when layout nights get stressful (shout-out Kristin), or are just a listening ear while I read my stories aloud to make sure they sound okay. Thank you. I honestly couldn’t have made it as editor in chief without you all, and your constant support and encouragement. To my family: thank you for always reading my stories and wanting copies of the paper everytime I am home. The constant support has meant so much to me, and I am forever grateful for you all.

Lastly, to the Stonehill community, my professors, and classmates throughout these last four years: thank you all for helping me grow into the young woman I am today. I was not the same person I was when I moved in freshman year, and I am forever grateful for all of the experiences I’ve had here. *The Summit* will always hold a very special place in my heart, as it is such a huge part of Stonehill that (I hope) will continue to live on for years to come.

So for the last time, see ya, Skyhawks; it’s been quite the honor.

Elizabeth Ednie
Editor in Chief
The Summit

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BY
HANNAH
LENNON

Forever a dreamer and a Skyhawk

Stonehill gave me a home, and not just in the literal sense of putting a roof over my head for the last four years. As someone with a nasty habit of fading into the background, Stonehill let me step out of the crowd. Despite my introverted tendencies, I’m a dreamer, I always have been. If you know me, you also know that I’ve always done my best to stay busy. Walt Disney said that dreams don’t work unless you do, and I definitely took his words to heart.

I’m an honors student, a student-athlete, and involved in student government and here with *The Summit*. I have a major in Communications, a double minor in Journal-

ism and Creative Writing, and two part-time jobs. But, I’m also a first-gen student and the proud daughter of a single mom. Since January 2020, I’ve been living with the loss of my older brother. I have anxiety and asthma and need those two part-time jobs to pay for the student loans that are about to be due. Yet, I still dream.

I dream because when I was a kid watching *Angelina Ballerina* all day, my mom got me a ballet costume because it was the closest to dance lessons that we could afford. I dream because when I was in middle school reading *The Hunger Games* I decided that one day I would write my own book. I dream because my brother can’t anymore.

I don’t know what brought

everyone reading this to Stonehill, but aspirations led me here. I won’t lie, the first time I came to campus, my immediate thought was “pretty, but never in a million years will I come here,” and look at me now, graduating in a few weeks and tearing up almost daily at the thought of it. Choosing Stonehill came down to a few things. Price tag, of course, but also community and opportunity. From the minute I stepped onto campus for the second time, I knew it was home. The effort and passion of every faculty and staff member show in all that they do. The beauty around us is thanks to an amazing Facilities staff—no one else can mow grass like them. The warm and welcoming community of students here is like nothing I’ve seen

on other campuses. It’s a dream to call Stonehill home, to call *The Summit* office home.

Each person at Stonehill cares beyond limits; they want us to succeed. I know that I would not be here without each of my professors, coach, friends, and teammates. Elizabeth and Justine, my journalism and comm buddies til the end. Haley and Kiley and the rest of SCET, the team that truly gave me family. Syd, my best friend. Professors Maureen Boyle, Wanjiru Mbrue, Jared Green, and more, teaching me excellence and pushing me to succeed. Steve Pagios, supporting all of my SGA antics and helping me grow. Mom, giving me everything and always being the Lorelai to my Rory. Thank you, from

the bottom of my heart, to everyone who has helped me get closer to my dreams. I don’t have enough rhythm to be a dancer, but because of you, I am an author.

Most of you reading this right now don’t know the people I just mentioned, and you’ll probably forget reading this by tomorrow, but that’s okay. Just don’t forget what Stonehill gave and continues to give us. On paper, it’s just an education. Truly, it is a thousand hearts of compassion and courage. So, I’m going to live for the hope of it all. Because Stonehill gave me a beginning; I’m a dreamer and a Skyhawk, and I still have a story to write.

Lennon is a senior Communications major with a double minor in Journalism & Creative Writing.

**BY
JUSTINE
LONG**

Being a senior comes with a rollercoaster of feelings and certain “lasts” that you don’t want to face. This last is especially hard, for our seniors and for our staff. This group of editors and writers is really something special, and we have put our all into

every issue that was printed. The Summit has had a big part in shaping who I am at Stonehill. Immediately, the journalism department became family and we only grew as time went on.

As freshmen, we learned to write in AP style and come up with leads. Sophomore year, we copyedited and were sent on interviews that most of us didn’t know were possible. Covid hit junior year

and we learned to adapt to an online format, creating a blog and keeping up with the pandemic. Finally, as seniors, we are graduating with not only experience in journalism but lifelong friendships that started because of this newspaper.

I want to thank my family, the penthouse, and my entire support system who keeps reading my writing no matter what the subject. Every writer

needs that encouragement and you provide that along with so much more. I love you and I promise I won’t stop writing.

To the core five and fellow section editors: I want to thank you for pushing me to be a better writer. I am really going to miss walking into the office, opening up the layout, and hanging out until midnight. The Summit is and always will be a voice

for students on this campus. I am proud to be the Features Editor where I have learned about so many people and heard all those voices. For one final print, here is to all the memories we made and wrote about.

*Long is a senior
Communications major
with a minor in
Journalism.*

**BY
JAKE
ZABSKI**

Graduation always seems to bring about all of the clichés. The word “goodbye” is a word I hate uttering because to me a goodbye is permanent and while graduating symbolizes moving on, it doesn’t mean that Stonehill is going away forever, and neither are the best friendships, connections, and memories I made here. It’s a see you later.

The one thing that kept me coming back every year to Stonehill was the community

that I cultivated here, especially with my friends and my involvement with The Summit. My best friends that I met here have become my chosen family. They are the friends who will be the aunts and uncles to my future dogs or children, the first people who will get a call with my good or bad news, the first people who will get an invite to any major life achievement or award, the people who have become my chosen family. I love each and every one of them.

As for my experiences in

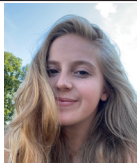
Journalism, I have to thank Elizabeth for reaching out to me during my fall of Junior year to write an opinion piece for the newspaper. While I was initially hesitant to share my work with the public, it was so well received that it was even published in the Monday Morning Update. Not bad for the first time! This gave me the confidence to continue to cultivate and share my writing, eventually becoming part of The Summit staff in the following months.

I also want to thank Pro-

fessor Maureen Boyle for always giving me the best feedback on my stories, often over email after she had read my work where she’d rave about how my writing was publication-worthy and encouraged me to keep pushing my writing further outside the classroom. I’m grateful to have worked with her for the last two years, and I am sad knowing that our time together is up soon. Thank you for always championing my best work, being a great advisor, and being my biggest writing supporter.

Lastly, I want to thank Stonehill for giving me a place to try new things, become the best version of myself, and allow me to feel part of something greater for the first time in my life. I will never forget the experiences, the people I met, and the memories made here. It’s not a goodbye, it’s a see you later.

*Zabski is a senior
Communications major
with a Journalism minor.*

**BY
JORDYN
FORTE**

To say that my four years of college have been anything but traditional would be an understatement.

In 2018, unlike many of you reading this, I didn’t move my life into a dorm room here in Easton; instead, my family and I packed up our car and made the nearly 400-mile journey to Loyola University Maryland.

Once in Baltimore, it quickly became apparent to me that my new life was not the one I had imagined – my roommate was antagonistic, leaving me couch-surfing at one of my acquaintance’s apartments. I knew no one, I had no support system within a reasonable distance, and found myself crying on the daily. Even now, it is difficult

to recall how much of a low I hit while at Loyola.

As I filled out transfer applications in December 2018 from my twin-xl bed, I didn’t have a plan. I simply knew that Loyola was not and never would be home. In fact, applying to Stonehill was a last-minute decision – one that I made on the day the transfer application was due. It was the last application that I sent out, and it was the one I was least certain about. Even upon accepting my spot as a commuter at Stonehill one month later, I felt unsure, focused only on the fact that I would now be the odd-man-out and that I would likely struggle to make friends – everyone else had already found their people while I would be starting anew.

I showed up to my first class in May Hall in January

2019 sick to my stomach, certain I wouldn’t be able to make it through the first hour-and-fifteen-minutes of my Stonehill career. This fear of mine was only reinforced when I realized that I was one of two freshmen in a 300-level creative writing course. Eventually, though, my walls slowly began to crumble, and I started to enjoy going to my creative writing class, where I eagerly talked to my freshman-aged classmate, who was also a new transfer student. In her, I found comfort, as being new to Stonehill, she understood what others simply could not. By the end of the semester, I was even eager for the fall – for my first real year at Stonehill.

But, in the same week that classes were set to start for the Fall 2019 semester,

my world as I knew it was up-ended when, while out to lunch with my brother and healthy, then-45-year-old mother, my mother suffered from a massive stroke. Though I again felt more alone than ever, this time, those at Stonehill assured me that I was not.

When I showed up to my classes two weeks later than everyone else, I was met with compassion, patience, and warmth from both my peers and my professors. In fact, professors I had never even had in class before inquired about my mother’s wellbeing, checked in regarding my mental-health, and offered their open office doors to me when I needed it the most.

Since then, Stonehill has been home. In this home, I’ve experienced more growth than I ever could have imag-

ined; in just three-and-a-half years, I’ve become more comfortable in my own skin, more confident in my academic abilities, bolder, and more assertive. I’ve discovered where my passion lies, I’ve started freelance writing for my local newspaper, I’ve made important personal and professional connections, and I’ve secured a post-graduate opportunity.

I want to hug my freshman year self – the girl who worried about her seemingly murky future – and show her a glimpse of my life now; and without Stonehill, none of that would have ever been possible.

*Forte is a senior
English major with a
Journalism & Creative
Writing double minor.*

**BY
NICK
FANTASIA**

I can’t believe it’s all really over.

So, I wasn’t ever really thinking about writing one of these. I have several presentations and papers to do and yet all I want to do right now is put my thoughts onto paper. To all my roommates: Rory, Scott, and Liam, and honestly Don too, even though we didn’t live in the same room, I really enjoyed living with you. All the late-night chats, fun nights, and video game fights will be ingrained in my memory. My fridge will forever say, “Just

Water” on it, Liam. I also spent a lot of time on discord with my friends Mora, Mike, and Brittany, and we had a great time.

Each year brought their own set of challenges, but through each experience I only got stronger. Whether socially, academically, religiously, mentally, and any other way that I can think of, life has tested me, and I’ve learned so much.

My acapella group, Surround Sound, brought me to Stonehill and will be the sole club that I spent 4 years doing. I’ve loved singing with every single one of you, alumni, and current members.

This last semester’s group is going to be the hardest to leave because of how hard we worked to get our schedule back to normal. Graduating as the President of Surround Sound was not planned, but I loved it all the same. You guys are going to do a great job next year, and I can’t wait to come back for the next concert.

The Summit allowed me to sharpen my editing skills and introduced me to a lot of great people. Max and Stacia, I loved staying up till 1 with you guys on layout nights and making everything look good. Elizabeth, you’ve done a great job as Editor-In-Chief and

I’m so happy to have worked with you for so long.

There are so many more people I want to thank, but I don’t want to go on for too long. Professor Carkin-Lacorazza, I would have either failed out or left the school if not for you, and I can’t repay all the kindness you’ve shown me. Brooke, I am so sorry that we only met this year, I wanted to spend so much more time with you, and I’m going to be heartbroken when I walk across that stage and not walk back to O’Hara. Everyone on my staff you have been wonderful. To residents of O’Hara, although you’ve caused me to

have some sleepless nights, I thank you for all of the conversations we’ve had together. I hope for the best for every one of you.

So that’s it, this is my only piece of writing that I ever did for the Summit, and it’s also my last. I don’t regret my time here, even with all of the difficulties. College taught me a lot, but I’ve learned an important lesson. Spend as much time as you can with the ones you love because once you cross that stage, it’s all really over.

*Fantasia is a senior
Criminology major with a
minor in Philosophy*

The end of an era

Thanks for the memories

Second college, first home

Living Spontaneously

Students make their mark at Boston Marathon

BY MARY GETTENS

Kenneth Vinacco ‘18 and current Stonehill student, Lauren Ladue ‘22, arrived at East Main Street in Hopkinton at 10:15 a.m. on April 18 to set their mark on the start line of the Boston Marathon course, in preparation for the fourth wave 11:15 a.m. start.

They said their emotions were mixed as they anxiously waited for the gun to fire, signaling the start of the race. Vinacco and Ladue were grateful and thankful for the opportunity to run the marathon but were nervous. They focused on stretching and last-minute fueling in Athlete’s Village to calm their nerves.

When the gun went off, they said they felt a rush of adrenaline but quickly settled into the controlled pace set by the 30,000 runners surrounding them.

At the height of the race, it was grueling and filled with highs and lows. They said there were parts of the race where they felt great, and others were tough, especially towards the very last few miles. They said they were both crawling and fighting

through intense pain to the finish line.

But, when Ladue reached Heartbreak Hill at Mile 20, it meant something special for her.

“As I ran up Heartbreak Hill, I consistently was saying to myself, ‘do it for your 13-year-old you,’” she said. “At 13, I was diagnosed with a rare kidney disease and went through a deal of trauma to reach remission at 16 years old. I made sure to prove to myself I can do tough things because I am tough.”

But what also kept them going was the immense support they had from friends and family, and the amazement of the crowds along the 26.2-mile course. The entire course was lined with crowds - some even in costumes such as blow-up dinosaurs and bumblebees.

But they said they were both elated to finish the race.

“I had tears of joy,” Vinacco said. “This race was a special one, in that it concluded what had been a long-time goal of mine, and I was just so thankful for everyone who helped me get there.”

After the adrenaline settled down, Vinacco said that he was exhausted and suffered

the worst sunburn of his life, while Ladue said that she could not stop eating.

On Tuesday morning, they said they woke up sore. Vinacco said that he could not make it down a flight of stairs without grasping onto the railing, while Ladue said she planned to go to classes, but could not move because she was so sore, and decided to do every class remotely from bed.

It was a quick turnaround to reality for them though. Vinacco said that he returned to the hospital on Wednesday, where he is currently in a residency program for neurological physical therapy at Boston University. As for Ladue, she is a member of the Stonehill Field Hockey team and played in a tournament on Sunday, April 24, with the field hockey seniors.

To recover, they said that they are hydrating, eating, and sleeping as much as possible.

“My eating has consisted mainly of healthy foods,” Ladue said. “But also, Kimball’s frozen yogurt, hostess cupcakes, vegan chocolate chip cookies from the Commons, and Annie’s Mac and Cheese. And I feel 100 percent great. I have been

drinking lots of coconut water, apple juice, and chocolate milk. I have been sleeping more the past week as I recover.”

The Boston Marathon touched both of their hearts significantly, and are considering running it again. Vinacco said it is one of his favorite races, and Ladue wants to run next year in honor of the 10th anniversary of the Boston Marathon bombing. In the meantime, they plan to continue to support their respective organizations in other ways.

“I am hoping to continue to run for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society and support people with Multiple Sclerosis in any way that I can,” Vinacco said, whose mother was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis in 2005, and motivated him to run the Boston Marathon for her. “I will also look at more local organizations to see what I may be able to provide in terms of fundraising, awareness, and support.”

As for Ladue, she is still fundraising for Boston Children’s Hospital and plans to support Boston Children’s in several other ways.

“Our fundraising (for the Boston Marathon) closes May 9th, my sister and I each must raise \$7,500 for Boston Children’s Hospital,” Ladue said. “Our last fundraiser is a dodgeball tournament on May 5th, at Game On in Fitchburg, Massachusetts. I will continue to support Boston Children’s Hospital for the rest of my life through volunteer work, giving blood, and donations during the holidays.”



Kenneth Vinacco on the marthon course on Monday.

Photo Courtesy of Matt Vinacco

Beat the #2 team in the nation? Show them some respect.

BY BELLA SANTORO

On April 23, the Stonehill Women’s lacrosse team took down #2, Adelphi University in an overtime (OT) showdown on W.B. Mason field. After a dominant second half for the Skyhawks, sophomore Molly Mae Hughes wouldn’t be denied in OT.

“I needed to stay composed and give it everything I had knowing how much of an impact that shot had,” Hughes said.

And that shot definitely made an impact.

Minutes earlier, the Adelphi University Panthers pulled off a penalty goal with seconds remaining in regulation making it the fourth time these two teams faced an overtime

showdown.

However, it was Stonehill’s defense that shut down the dominating Panthers and sealed a game-winner with 2:14 remaining in OT.

“Defense wins games. It starts from the back end and Sarah Faley, our goalie, played incredible and made great stops, making us on the offensive end step up and do all we can to create those scoring plays,” Hughes said. Sarah Faley finished with ten saves.

Both the Skyhawks’ offense and defense stepped up big in their OT win against Adelphi, but just like any great win, it all started with preparation. “At practice, during film and

come game time, all the girls were focused and knew what we needed to do to pull out that win,” Hughes said.

“The focus was to just play our game and stay composed. We knew how good they were going into the game but we just had to make sure that our defense was focused and that our attack was moving the ball the way we always do,” senior Emma Sullivan said.

The Skyhawks did just that, shutting down Adelphi’s key players with one-on-one defense, as well as locking on to cutters in the 8-meter forcing their offense to cause turnovers.

“It felt surreal. Honestly, we deserved it we have been

working so hard this season and waiting for a moment like that to prove it,” Sullivan said.

“It’s been a crazy ride, especially with Covid we were about to be very good in the 2020 season but we got shut down. However, this season we have such hard workers and great talent that flow so well together, and everyone is playing for each other and I think that is what makes the difference between a winning and losing team,” Sullivan said.

With a win as huge as Saturday’s, the Skyhawks aren’t getting comfortable. With the NE10 playoffs coming up, the girls are taking every day as it comes.

We’re working as a team

and staying focused on what is ahead of us and not what we’ve accomplished,” Hughes said.

The game winner gave Stonehill a 14-13 conference play win. With additional wins over Southern New Hampshire University and Saint Anslem to close out the regular season, the Skyhawks clinched the title share and the top seed for the NE10 tournament. Stonehill will play the University of New Haven on Wednesday, May 4 at 7 p.m. at W.B. Mason in a quarterfinal matchup.

Follow the Women’s Lacrosse Team @stonehillwlax on instagram!

BY CAROLINE BUNNELL

Stonehill’s sports broadcasting club “The Flyover” announced they will be starting a podcast called “The Flight Crew” about Stonehill Athletics, on April 22, through a social media post.

“We’re starting a podcast and we want to hear who YOU want to hear!,” the caption said.

According to Stonehill’s website, “The Flyover is run by students who want to pursue a future in sports journalism or broadcasting. The Flyover works in collaboration with the athletic department and

Skyhawk Vision to provide in-depth coverage on Skyhawk athletics.”

Flyover president, Joe Spadorcia, said that the podcast will give an inside look to Stonehill athletics.

“The focus of the podcast will be a unique perspective into those related to or involved with Stonehill athletics whether they have been part of the past, present, or future of Skyhawks Nation,” Spadorcia said.

The hosts of the podcast will be Lauren Moran, Anthony Bellomo and Bella Santoro,

according to Spadorcia.

Santoro said she doesn’t want to give too much of the details of the podcast away, but hopes they will be able to interview alumni that helped “put the Skyhawks on top.”

“I am super excited for this new series of the Flyover, especially because podcasting has become so popular and we are able to provide the Stonehill community with the latest on our athletes, teams, and of course, who doesn’t love some guest stars,” she said.

Moran said she also hopes to interview both students and

alumni, with the hopes to learn more about Stonehill’s traditions.

“I would love to talk to student athletes of all classes and sports to get an inside look into their season and or what goes into being a student athlete at Stonehill,” she said.

Spadorcia said that he hopes the podcast will be a legacy to leave behind.

“The idea for the podcast came after I found out through one of my classes that there is a podcast recording studio in the library,” Spadorcia said. “This is also something that we

plan on leaving behind after we graduate. We hope that the Flight Crew will be our legacy.”

The Flyover social media accounts posted on April 25 that the first guest will be Director of Athletics, Dean O’Keefe. The episode is expected to come out before the end of the semester, with new episodes coming out every other week.

“People should be excited to go beyond the games and get an inside look into the minds of athletes, coaches, athletics staff, and alumni,” Spadorcia said.



Equestrian Member to Compete in Nationals in May

BY RACHEL GALATIS

Junior rider Haley Whittaker is set to compete in the National Championship Horse Show at the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex & Expo Center in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

The show will take place from May 5-8, with events split evenly across the four days. Each day, competitions begin anytime between 6 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. and consist of events such as “Equitation Over Fences” and “Equitation on the Flat.”

“I am extremely excited and grateful to have the opportunity to attend,” she said.

The qualification process begins with accumulating 36 points in the normal show season in order to attend the regional competition. Whittaker, who won her first show of the season and earned seven points right away, went on to the regional competition and won first place in her class.

From there, she went on to compete in the Zone competition, which requires all first and second place winners from each region. If you win first or second place in the competition, you then qualify for Nationals.

“I was shocked and excited to place first at both Regionals and Zones and now have the amazing opportunity to attend Nationals,” Whittaker said.

There, Whittaker will be up among a class of 16 riders in the individual Novice Flat competition. She is preparing by practicing daily with head



Photo Courtesy of Zach Cash

coach, Kristen Redquest, and assistant coach, Molly Ladd, at Mor Linn Farm in Walpole.

At the farm, they have five horses they use in lessons. Whittaker said that one of the horses, Graham Cracker, has a special spot in her heart.

Whittaker said she is thankful

that some of her teammates are coming to support her at the competition.

“I also love meeting and having a great group of friends through the team,” she said, “Some of my best friends have come from the equestrian team.”

Last year, the team was unable to compete due to COVID-19 circumstances. This year, however, spectators are allowed at the event, and it will be livestreamed to those who cannot go in person.

Before the Zone competition, Rev. Tim Mouton, a member

of the Stonehill community, blessed Whittaker and gave her a necklace with the Patron Saint of the equestrian on it.

“I wore this necklace during Zones when I won and will continue wearing it for Nationals,” she said.

UPCOMING SPORTING EVENTS

Equestrian: Thurs, May 5-Sun, May 8

Baseball: Thurs, May 5 at 3:00 p.m.

Men’s and Women’s Track & Field: Fri, May 6

Baseball: Fri, May 6 at 12:00 p.m. & 3:00 p.m.

Men’s and Women’s Track & Field: Sat, May 7

Baseball: Sun, May 8 @ 1:00 p.m.

Men’s and Women’s Track & Field: Fri, May 13

Men’s and Women’s Track & Field: Sat, May 14

