The TEm of STEM Technology, Engineering & Math Options Flourish

**IF THEY ARE TO PROSPER, modern societies need the STEM disciplines—science, technology, engineering and mathematics.** The College’s accomplishments in educating a new generation of scientifically literate students are increasingly well known, but our significant progress in developing technology, engineering and mathematics options for our students has had a lower profile.

During the last three years, however, the eight members of the Math and Computer Science Departments have published three books, 15 academic papers and attended professional conferences on three continents. At the same time, the departments are highly student-focused, as these examples show:

- **Dual Degrees** Re-established in 1999 and expanded in 2009, our 3+2 engineering program with the University of Notre Dame is open to qualified students interested in all areas of engineering—computer science, civics, electrical, mechanical, aerospace and chemical. Three years in Easton followed by two in South Bend give students degrees from Stonehill and Notre Dame. At present, 22 students are in the program. According to Cathy Pieronek, assistant dean of academic affairs at Notre Dame’s College of Engineering, “Among our dual-degree programs, Stonehill certainly is the jewel in the crown. Stonehill prepares its students extremely well for the rigor of a Notre Dame engineering education, and students have found the transition between institutions to be an easy one, given the high standards that we share.”

- **Creativity** With Computer Science Professor Robert Dugan, Ryan Curtis ’10 and Scott Markoski ’10 created an interactive mobile touring application for their capstone project. A touring app that gives smart phone users an interactive option while visiting Stonehill, Gaido was designed to help Enrollment Management and Marketing expand its reach to prospective students. Daniel Ellis ’12 is now porting Gaido to the iPhone [right].

- **Student Presentations** Working with Math Professor Hsin-hao Su, Meghan Galardi ’11, Daniel Perry ’11, Patrick Clark ’12 and Daniel Bouchard ’12 have solved several advanced graph theory problems and presented at the Midwestern Conference on Combinatorics, Cryptography and Computing. Galardi and Perry have published their results in the *Journal of Combinatorial Mathematics and Combinatorial Computing,* while Clark and Bouchard are awaiting word on their submission.

- **Distinguished Teaching** In September, Professor Norah Esty became the third member of the Math Department to receive the College’s Louise F. Hegarty Excellence in Teaching Award. See page 12 for an interview with Esty, whose engaging approach is winning students to the challenge and joy of math. “Our offerings in computer science, engineering and mathematics are all vibrant and rigorous. Our well-prepared graduates get top placements in industry and attend some of the best graduate schools,” notes Ralph Bravaco, chair of the Math and Computer Science Departments.

**Alcohol Abuse**

*Five Ways Parents Can Help*

**MISSED CLASSES, POOR GRADES, personal injuries, opportunities lost, trouble with the law—on a weekly basis,** students’ behavior fueled by alcohol. Here, Dobrowski, who heads Stonehill’s Task Force on Alcohol, shares five tips for parents on how they can help their children navigate one of the most challenging aspects of college life today.

- **Keep Talking** Start an open and frank conversation about alcohol with your son or daughter. Explore the college’s expectations and rules on the topic with your children and encourage them to develop expectations for their own behavior.

- **Don’t Glamorize** Try to avoid reliving your “glory days” of drinking, as it could send mixed messages.

- **Know the Facts** Talk about the basic facts relative to alcohol and the potential negative effects associated with alcohol abuse.

- **Share Options** Contrary to many students’ beliefs, not all students drink. Therefore, be sure to talk about making the decision not to drink and how best to find alternatives on campus.

- **Be Available** Encourage open lines of communication so that your child knows you are available if he or she needs support around this issue.

To read an extended version of this interview with Dobrowski, visit www.stonehillalumnimagazine.org.

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**Speakers Corner**

**The United States** made a mistake in Vietnam by underestimating its enemy, said retired Marine Lieutenant Colonel James Zumwalt in the Martin Institute in November.

“I think our biggest shortcoming in Vietnam was not understanding the fact we were fighting their greatest generation,” Zumwalt said.

“Take a look at the generation of Vietnamese we fought—they overcame the Japanese, French, Americans, Cambodians and Chinese.”

A Vietnam veteran, Zumwalt is now an author and commentator on foreign policy. For his book *Bare Feet, Iron Will: Stories from the Other Side of Vietnam’s Battlefields,* he visited Vietnam more than 50 times.

One-Minute Profile

**Name** Assistant Professor of History Karen Teoh, Scholar of Modern Chinese and Southeast Asian History.

**Research** Chinese global migration and diaspora from the late imperial era to the present, examining how notions of gender, ethnicity and cultural hybridity have shaped the identities of groups and individuals.

**Experience** Taught at Bowdoin College, Northeastern University and Harvard University.

To read a full bio on Teoh and on all of Stonehill’s new faculty members, visit www.stonehill.edu/newfaculty.xml.

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