Students teach classes on campus

By Patrick Cabral
OPINION WRITER

As I sit in my classes during this last month or so I have left until graduation, I can't help but feel senioritis kicking in full force. Primarily, I find myself thinking, “Why do I have to do this?” as I listen to more lectures about information that really isn't interesting to me or pertinent to what I want to do. I would say that despite being a biology major, my favorite class this semester is piano, as it is the only class I took not out of necessity but out of a desire to learn. Taking a class just for the sake of learning seems to be an almost outdated idea at Stonehill; fortunately, a small group of students have taken on the task of revitalizing this idea head on.

Integrating a Democratic Education at Stonehill (IDEAS) is a group of students at Stonehill who have been teaching and facilitating different classes this past semester. These are not your typical classes however, as the teaching style and topics vary greatly across the program. Students were asked to create a class based on subjects that they were informed about, interested in, and, most importantly, wanted to share with their peers. From this sprang forth a variety of classes ranging from Nerd Culture, where they dissect the social aspects that surround being a nerd, to Chemistry of Cupcakes, where students learn the basics of chemistry by baking delicious treats. While the topics are supposed to be a breakaway from the traditional course offerings, the classes themselves also seek to break the customary lecture style in favor of discussion and activities aimed at engaging the students to not just learn, but also teach what they know to others. The pilot of the IDEAS program has been very successful, and as the semester winds down, the planning to continue and improve upon the program for next year is in full swing, and we are looking for even more students to join.

“We will be holding a series of events to share what IDEAS classes have been doing this semester with the Stonehill community. On April 24th in Martin 105 from 8:30-9:30p.m. students and teachers will present their projects. On April 27th we’ll have a table at Jamnesty to talk about democratic education, and on April 29th we’ll have a table in the Lower Commons from 11:30a.m.- 1:30p.m. to share more information. Please stop by and learn more about this exciting opportunity to share ideas with your peers!”

Patrick Cabral
-senior

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Cabral is a senior biology major