

“So many musicians and so few opportunities,” he muses.

Stuart often entertains at private events, balls and dances, as well as official gatherings. He has played for generals, heads of state and dignitaries of other nations. The ability to talk to anyone about anything is a decided advantage, he said.

“Part of our mission is to build relationships,” he said. “Music really is the universal language.”

In that regard, looking back, Stuart sees enormous value in Bridgewater’s liberal arts education.

“It was a much more well-rounded education, as opposed to that of a conservatory,” he said, adding that his time at Bridgewater provided a breadth of knowledge that enables him to communicate with anyone from high-ranking officers and foreign dignitaries to fellow soldiers.

“When you leave academia, you have to communicate with people from all walks of life possessing varying levels of education and world experience,” he said.

In addition to performing, Stuart continues to teach. As part of his group’s outreach, he conducts master classes for local students. “The military is about serving your community,” he said. One lesson he especially enjoys is teaching young musicians how to practice.

Hawaii has yet another draw for Stuart: He can live with his wife.

Katelin Staley—a 2009 Bridgewater graduate and saxophonist like her husband—was given a formal commission as an officer in the U.S. Air Force, while studying optometry. In the beginning, physical distance between their duty stations kept the couple apart.

“During the first four to five years of our marriage,” Stuart said, “we only lived together about 90 days.”

That changed when Staley, an Air Force captain and optometrist, was stationed at Hickam Air Force Base where she runs the optometry clinic. Stuart jumped at a chance to transfer to Army Music Hawaii. Now they live about a mile from the beach. Together.

When Stuart isn’t playing or teaching music, he likes to go “sponging” (“body boarding” to non-Hawaiians) or hop on his motorcycle to explore. Even here, his bent to teach emerges. “I’m the motorcycle mentor for my unit,” he said, “making sure they’re trained.”

In his seventh year of service, Stuart’s long-term goal is to teach in the U.S. Army School of Music, located in Virginia Beach, Va. While he may some day swap Hawaii’s trade winds for the Atlantic’s westerlies, Tim Stuart’s music will still play. —



## The Sculpture Bug

*Michael and Alden Hough '17, sculpturists*

by Karen Doss Bowman '91

Bridgewater junior Alden Hough received an unusual, yet memorable, gift for his 13th birthday. His dad, metal and ceramics sculptor Michael Hough, taught him to weld.

A couple weeks later, Michael came home and found his son perched on a ladder in the driveway, putting the finishing touches on an 11-foot dinosaur constructed out of old bicycle parts.

“I was tickled,” said Michael, an Associate Professor of Art at Bridgewater. “I was impressed. He got bit by the sculpture bug.”

Though Alden didn’t take art courses in high school, he often created metal sculptures to complement classroom studies for extra credit. During his senior year, for example, he constructed a nine-foot-tall Eiffel Tower for French class. Now a double major in art and physics at Bridgewater, Alden plans to pursue a career in engineering, with a special interest in developing electric vehicles.

“The design aspect of art mixes well with engineering,” said Alden, who is pursuing internships related to alternative energy.

The Hough home, the front yard scattered with metal sculptures, has become something of a landmark in the small community of New Hope, Va. Michael joked that he’s been dumpster diving since his college days, looking for scrap metal treasures that are the raw materials for his sculptures. Many of his materials also come from nearby scrapyards and local farmers who donate old metal pieces.

For both Michael and Alden, the biggest challenge of having two metal sculptors in the family is sharing space. But working closely together also provides opportunities for frequent exchanges of ideas about art.

“He works very big, and I work very big,” said Michael, who is in his 19th year teaching at the College. “It’s really neat to be able to talk to Alden about what I know, and he understands. There’s still teaching there, but, at this point,



we're more like colleagues. I tell him what I see [in his art], and he doesn't hold back about my work. If he has some ideas, he'll share. So there's a nice give-and-take when you have two sculptors sharing space."

Michael exhibits his work at numerous shows throughout the region, with shows scheduled to open soon at Charlottesville's Second Street Gallery and the Larkin Arts Center in Harrisonburg, Va. For now, Alden is focused more on completing sculptures for assignments and preparing for a Student Juried Show at Bridgewater in the spring. One of his current projects

is building a Mad Max-inspired go-kart out of an old self-propelled lawn mower. Both Houghs have shown their art at the Bath County Art Show for the past three summers. In 2015, Michael won Best in Show, while

Alden received the Best Sculpture award.

As an art educator, Michael believes art students should have a solid background in a variety of mediums and develop expertise in at least one. When he teaches pottery courses, for example, he doesn't just teach the basic techniques. He also shares with students the history of pottery and how cultures have developed new shapes and uses for clay over time. He also encourages students to talk to other clay artists about why and how they do their work.

"I am a strong believer in the creative process and how it can be applied to most parts of our lives," said Michael, whose 17-year-old daughter, Lydia, is an accomplished painter and drawer who plans to attend Bridgewater. "It's developing that understanding of what looks good and why we choose what we choose. It is the fact that students learn how to take a formless lump of mud and, in the end, turn it into a thing of beauty. I just love what I do." —