Kerry E. (Sheehan) Gallagher '02
Academic Achievement Award

At a time when many parents and teachers wring their hands in worry over young people's shrinking attention spans and technology's innocuous and comprehensive power in people's lives, Kerry Gallagher has made it her ambition as a teacher and an educational leader to harness technology to enhance and enrich students' learning experiences in ways that others have yet to imagine. While her peers fret over "What is to be done?" Kerry encourages them to ask instead "What if?" And while others cautiously ponder "How can we use technology?" Kerry proposes a bold reimagining of learning by asking "What does technology make possible?" A 2002 Politics and Secondary Education major, Kerry graduated Magna Cum Laude while leading the Saint Anselm ski team as its captain and serving in several honors societies. Upon graduation she began teaching social studies and then complemented that demanding work with full-time law studies, earning her J.D. from Massachusetts School of Law in 2008. She began serving as a Digital Learning Specialist, and today is the Assistant Principal for Teaching and Learning at St. John's Prep School, as well as the Director of K-12 Education at ConnectSafely.org and an EdSurge columnist. Today Kerry is a sought after expert and engaging presenter on the topic of technology integration and has published a guide to media literacy and discerning fake news. Her willingness to responsibly and imaginatively embrace technology in educational settings and her passion for teaching have made her an effective leader who empowers teachers and learners with open education resources and who educates school communities about the potential benefits and hazards of the internet. Because she is a pioneer in an ever-changing educational landscape, a master teacher whose classroom has expanded to include entire communities of educators and parents, and because she can probably still cut an impressive groove down a ski slalom run, the Alumni Association is proud to award Kerry Gallagher with the 2018 Academic Achievement Award.