

# REFLECTIONS

*A Magazine for Graduates and Friends of Siena Heights University*

[www.sienahts.edu](http://www.sienahts.edu)

Spring 2002



## **Lively Learning Across and Beyond the Curriculum**

**Animated Philosophy • Greek • Online Learning  
Reading Groups • Learning at the DLC & more**



# Letters to the Editors 2

## Special Spring Issue

Surprised to find a new *Reflections* in your mailbox so soon after the last issue?

A variety of factors, including last September's terrorist attack on the World Trade Center, led to the planned "Fall 2001" magazine becoming the Winter 2002 issue. To get the production schedule back on track, we went to work on this edition of the magazine sooner, and faster, than usual—but with so much going on at Siena Heights, it wasn't hard to fill the issue! We hope you enjoy reading about some of the programs, events and accomplishments occurring in this busy University community.

Look for your next magazine in late summer. And plan to return to Siena Heights for Alumni Weekend, Oct. 4-6, 2002.

Jennifer Hamlin Church  
Editor

## Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

Congratulations to all involved in the latest issue of *Reflections*. It is out of this world. Thank you for the wonderful presentation of Siena that you make through this publication.

Anastasia Evelyn Capoun '48  
Toledo, OH

To the Editor:

Another job well done. You consistently put out an excellent product. The articles on 9/11 were very moving, rekindling in me emotions I felt on the day of the disaster. Tears came.

I have one little negative comment on "Speaking to Students" by Dr. Blessing: *The Washington Post* and *The New York Times* are not unbiased sources of information, nor is *National Public Radio*. They all have an exceedingly liberal bias.

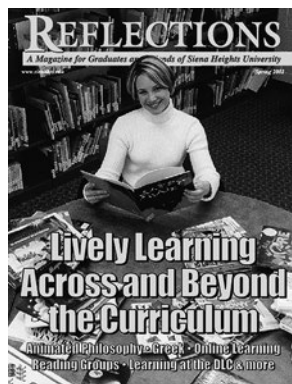
Anna Bakeman Tompert '38  
Port Huron, MI

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### On the Cover:

Kyle Homier of Defiance, Ohio, is surrounded by books from the children's literature collection as she studies in the library's new Farver Education Technology and Curriculum Labs. Kyle, who graduates in May with a degree in English: Children's Literature, is pleased with her Siena Heights education. "I love the dedication of the faculty and staff to Siena and to their students," she said. "And when I talk to my friends at state universities, I'm really glad I chose a liberal arts education." After working as a student assistant in the Alumni Relations Office this year, Kyle is considering a career coordinating special events

## The Mission of Siena Heights University

The mission of Siena Heights, a Catholic university founded and sponsored by the Adrian Dominican Sisters, is to assist people to become more competent, purposeful and ethical through a teaching and learning environment which respects the dignity of all.

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"The Simpsons" are © and ™ by Fox.

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# Role Models, Mentors and the Importance of Ethics



**M**y father passed away in early March. He was a gentle man and a gentleman. He raised his three boys “by the seasons”—baseball, football, basketball. That my brothers and I have a competitive spirit is no surprise, nor that we are inclined to play by the rules, to set goals, and to strive for excellence. Sportsmanship was sacred: play fair, be honest, treat your teammates and opponents with respect, win or lose. And when we sought his advice on problems, my father’s guidance was usually quite simple: do what is right. Good lessons from a good man.

Of course, he’s on my mind these days; can’t shake him from my consciousness.

Subconsciously, perhaps it was Siena’s mission—to become more competent, purposeful and ethical—that called me to Adrian eight years ago; because along with the Catholic trinity, this Siena trinity was the path to my adulthood. Ray Artman didn’t use the same words; only the younger of his many siblings had the opportunity for a college education. But he knew God’s word; and doing right was demanded of his family.

The University inaugurated its new endowed lecture series on ethics in February. A priority for our capital campaign, the lecture series will bring speakers to our campuses to help us live our mission. I’m most grateful to Catherine Reuther, to the Edward M. and Henrietta M. Knabusch Charitable Trust, and to individuals who have made substantial gifts to this endowment so that the lecture series will extend in perpetuity. We’ll invite ethicists, theologians, philosophers and

professors to stimulate campus and community conversations on contemporary ethical and moral issues. I’m proud we will have such forums. But I’m convinced it isn’t enough—necessary but not sufficient—if we are to have a significant impact on our students.

What matters more are our everyday behaviors. Those of us in leadership and positions of influence (teachers and parents) must demonstrate our commitment to live an ethical life by our daily actions. We must be truthful in all our communications, even when it reveals our human foibles. We must be faithful to our promises—as simple as returning papers and grades and keeping office hours as scheduled. We must be honest when we recruit students, avoiding the temptation to embellish our programs. We must admit our mistakes and errors, while forgiving

those who likewise falter. These are just a few daily tests of matching deed with creed.

Ethical behavior is not a one-way street. We tell our students to forego excuses and be honest if work is behind schedule. We expect students to admit transgressions and stand accountable for their

behaviors. We demand faithful documentation of research and references. We remind them that prayer and reflection are avenues to search their souls. We stand by to challenge and also to support.

One anecdote offers an indication that our efforts and actions have taken root. A recent graduate, enrolled in her first year of a mas-

ter’s degree in social work at another university, proudly told her Siena professor and mentor about an “A” on a paper. Her graduate professor said she had never read a better paper from a first year student on the ethics of the profession and wondered how the student prepared for her assignment. Our alumna noted with pride that her social work program at Siena Heights University incorporated ethical issues throughout the curriculum and that ethics was a core component of her undergraduate education.

Our faculty have adopted a code of ethics that guides academic life at Siena. In addition, professors in all areas are expected to focus discussion on the ethical dimensions and challenges within their disciplines. Our curriculum emphasizes professional standards and codes of ethics in accounting, social work, education, counseling and other fields.

This spring, the University celebrated our second annual Common Dialogue Day, a day for campus conversations on a single theme. Formal class time was suspended and keynote speakers and breakout sessions were held throughout the day and evening. This year’s topic was “Veritas,” the Latin word for truth. This was a wonderful opportunity for faculty and students to engage in discussion, across disciplines, about fundamental beliefs and values.

I often lament that many of today’s undergraduate students do not read a daily newspaper (although we have a newspaper readership program available at no charge in the residence halls), but some days I’m glad they don’t. Few students probably have read the full details of Enron’s collapse, or the allegations of misconduct at Arthur Andersen, or the plagiarism that has shamed several respected historians.

What our students DO see is how we behave, what we talk about, and what we value.

And I think Ray Artman is proud that his son has the privilege of serving in such a community.

Richard B. Artman





# FROM THE HEIGHTS

Adrian - Battle Creek - Benton Harbor - Jackson - Kalamazoo - Lansing - Metro Detroit - Monroe



## *Ethics lecture will be an annual event Kennedy Cuomo urges students to fight injustice*

“One person CAN make a difference,” human rights activist Kerry Kennedy Cuomo said Feb. 12 in the inaugural lecture of the Chiodini-Fontana Endowed Lecture Series on Ethics.

Kennedy Cuomo encouraged the audience of students, faculty, Adrian Dominicans, and area residents gathered in Francoeur Theater to “muster your anger when you see injustice. We must speak out when we see injustice in our world.”

“Even if you do nothing else but voice your condemnation of injustice, you will have a ripple effect.”

Kennedy Cuomo’s compelling and passionate presentation set a high standard for future speakers in the ethics lecture series, made possible through *The Campaign for Siena Heights University*.

The new series—Siena’s first endowed lectureship—was established with generous support from Siena friend Catherine Reuther and her family.

The program will bring acclaimed speakers to campus every year to reflect on matters of moral significance that touch the many dimensions of today’s society. The lecture series is intended to explore theoretical issues in ethics, current issues of moral importance, and the nature and meaning of Catholic identity.

The ethics program is intended to reach students at all Siena Heights locations; future speakers will likely travel to other SHU sites. For the inaugural lecture, a contingent of students from the Lake Michigan Center traveled to campus from Benton Harbor. They explored the Siena facilities and ate in Benincasa Dining Hall prior to the lecture.

“This was a great opportunity for students from our off-campus centers to feel part of the University—and it was a wonderful demonstration of our institutional values,” said Deb Carter, dean of The College for Professional Studies.

Kennedy Cuomo spoke eloquently about the problem of violence against women. She also noted some of the positive changes that have occurred in the world since she first became involved in human rights, such as the abolition of apartheid in South Africa and the end of sexual slavery in Ghana. These changes “came about because people with

few resources beyond their own determination fought for human rights,” she said.

She challenged listeners to “have the courage to commit yourself to a cause greater than yourself.”

The daughter of the late Robert F. Kennedy, Kennedy Cuomo is the founder of the RFK Center for Human Rights and author of the book, “Speak Truth to Power: Human Rights Defenders Who Are Changing Our World.”

Kennedy Cuomo made a special point of thanking Catherine Reuther publicly for her commitment to the cause of ethics.

“You can see a person’s values in how they spend their money,” she said. “We’re very grateful to Catherine.” The lecture series is named in memory of Catherine’s parents, Emilio Chiodini and Mildred Fontana.

Prior to the lecture, Siena Heights journalism students met privately to interview Kennedy Cuomo. The students also joined a group of faculty and staff for dinner with the speaker. Many students also lingered after the lecture to speak with Kennedy Cuomo and discuss the ideas in the lecture.

The Chiodini-Fontana Ethics Lecture Series endowment currently stands at \$382,500. Through *The Campaign for Siena Heights University*, SHU leaders intend to increase the lectureship endowment to \$500,000. Students and faculty already are planning next year’s ethics lecture. ■



Students from SHU at LMC visited campus for the ethics lecture.

# A New Kind of "Fun in the Sun" Volunteering in Florida

This story by Telegram reporter Jennifer Youssef originally appeared in the March 15, 2002, issue of The Daily Telegram and is excerpted by permission.

**S**pring break. For many college students, those words are synonymous with beach parties, kicking back and having a little fun in the sun.

Students from Adrian College and Siena Heights University spent their vacation in the sun, too—helping needy families in Florida build homes of their own. The students—26 from SHU and 20 from Adrian College—volunteered their vacation week in Florida with Habitat for Humanity, a nonprofit organization that builds houses for financially struggling families.

It's an awesome experience," said 21-year-old Jen Duraczyk, a senior at SHU. "Just doing something worthwhile with your free time. It feels good to help."

"I thought it was going to be stressful, but it wasn't," Siena Heights sophomore Lia Vitale, 19, said. "It encompassed a perfect amount of having fun and working."

Vitale said the Habitat foremen and supervisors encouraged the students to do their own work—no matter how difficult the task seemed—and they did not limit the students on what they could do.

The Adrian College group stayed in Lake County near Tampa while the SHU students helped build houses in Jacksonville Beach. The two groups tried to arrange the trip so that they could work together in the same city, but Habitat officials said they didn't have room to house such a large group, said Tom Puszczewicz, Siena Heights director of campus ministry.

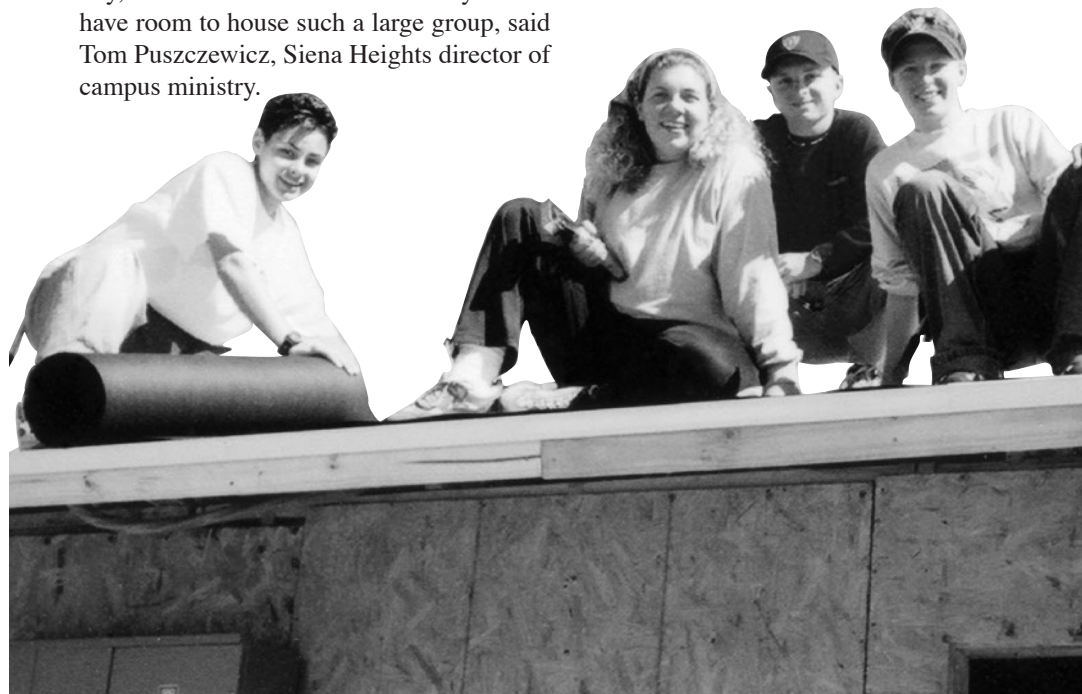


Puszczewicz made the 18-hour drive to Florida with the students in one of the three SHU vans the group took to Jacksonville. He said about twice as many students participated in the service trip this year as did last year.

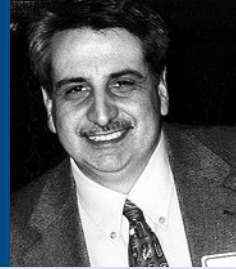
A group of SHU students went to South Carolina last year on a similar service trip, Puszczewicz said. The group last year worked on one house, whereas the students this year worked on a larger development...houses, barns and other structures.

Habitat for Humanity provides homes for low-income families at two-thirds the cost of a new house and an interest-free mortgage. Families who are granted a Habitat house must help volunteers build it. The students said they enjoyed working side-by-side with the recipients of the home.

"It was a great learning experience. I can't wait to do it again next year," said SHU freshman Becky Riddle, 18. ■



From the  
Heights  
5



## Siena Heights University senior promotes diversity

Senior Mindy Mohsen is this year's recipient of the Martin Luther King Jr. Student Service Award. Presented at the 14th annual Lenawee County Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast in January, the award recognizes significant contributions reflecting the goals and ideals of the late civil rights activist.

"As a future educator, I feel it is very important that all students, not only minority students, celebrate the birthday of Dr. King," said Mindy in accepting her award. "It's not just a day off from school, but it is a day to understand the struggles of another culture and to promote cultural awareness."

Mindy is a Dean's List scholar majoring in music, and an active campus and community leader at Siena. A 1998 graduate of Fordson High School in Dearborn, Mindy is the daughter of Imad Mohsen and Linda Jenkins of Detroit.

A resident assistant at Siena for two years, Mindy has assisted with the Hispanic Celebration for three years. As part of this year's SHU Raising Consciousness Series, she organized a program about Muslim women. She is president of Phi Sigma Sigma, whose many community service projects include an annual "sleep out" for the homeless and a chili dinner to raise money for the National Kidney Foundation.

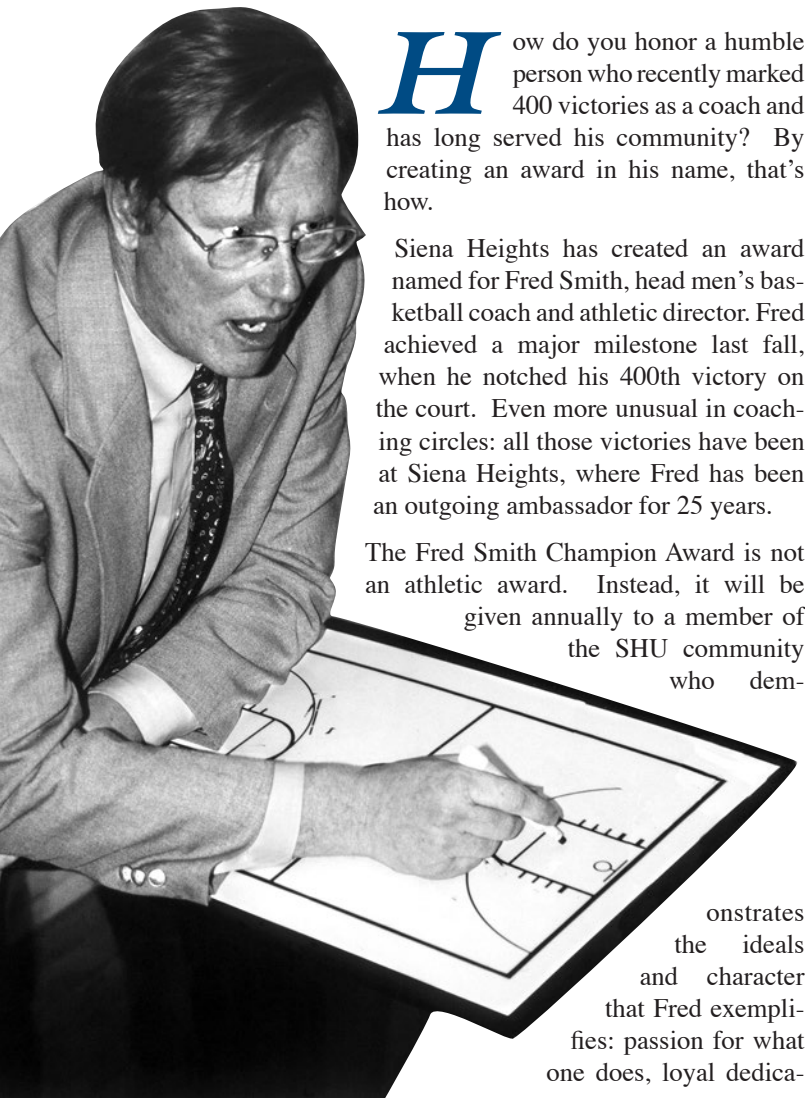
Mindy is also a tutor, member of Panhellenic Council and the Presidents Roundtable, and a volunteer at Adrian's Porter Center, working with children with learning disabilities.





# New SHU award honors Fred Smith

By Debbie Myers



**H**ow do you honor a humble person who recently marked 400 victories as a coach and has long served his community? By creating an award in his name, that's how.

Siena Heights has created an award named for Fred Smith, head men's basketball coach and athletic director. Fred achieved a major milestone last fall, when he notched his 400th victory on the court. Even more unusual in coaching circles: all those victories have been at Siena Heights, where Fred has been an outgoing ambassador for 25 years.

The Fred Smith Champion Award is not an athletic award. Instead, it will be given annually to a member of the SHU community who dem-

onstrates the ideals and character that Fred exemplifies: passion for what one does, loyal dedica-

tion to the University, responding positively to adversity, shouldering responsibility with humility and without complaint, caring deeply for others, and treating others with dignity and respect.

Recipients will receive individual plaques and will be listed on a permanent plaque that is displayed on campus.

"I'm overwhelmed, honored and gratified that anything like this would happen," Fred said of the new Champion Award. A firm believer in team effort, he admitted feeling slightly uncomfortable about the award since he considers himself part of Siena's team.

"As a coach and athletic director, I always go by the adage that the team overshadows the needs of the individual. That's the main thing. It's what's best for the team," he explained.

Fred began his career with Siena in 1976 as an admissions representative. He became assistant basketball coach in 1977, athletic director in 1983 and head men's basketball coach in 1985. He earned his bachelor's degree in business administration from Adrian College and a Master of Arts in counseling from Siena.

Under his coaching direction, the Saints have consistently qualified for the NAIA Division II national championship tournament. Among many coaching honors, Fred recently was named National Catholic Basketball Tournament Coach-of-the-Year.

Fred's influence extends beyond the basketball court and beyond campus. He works extensively with the community, especially scheduling use of the Fieldhouse. "We try to open the Fieldhouse up as much as we can," Fred said. "We partner with local high schools and the community." Among the groups he brings to campus are volleyball clubs, youth basketball and volleyball groups, the Hoopsters basketball program, and organizers of camps, clinics, and lock-ins.

"You can't believe how honored I am," Fred said. "I just hope I continue to live up to the ideals the award is for." ■

## Faculty/Staff Honors

**Saleem Peeradina** (English) spoke recently at "Other Voices," part of the Writers@Troy (MI) Public Library 2002 program, a five-month series of library activities featuring renowned authors. Peeradina is the author of two books of poetry (*First Offence* and *Group Portrait*) and a prose memoir. He also edited *Contemporary Indian Poetry in English*, one of the most widely used texts in courses on Indian writing in English. His poetry is represented in all major anthologies of Indian writing.

**Doug Miller '74** (theatre) received the 2000-01 PAGE Theatre Award for Outstanding Achievement in Set Design, in recognition of his design for the Plowshares The-

atre Company's world premiere production of "Full Circle." Last spring, Doug also designed the award-winning production of "Wit" for Performance Network, a professional theatre in Ann Arbor. Performance Network was the first professional company in the country outside of Broadway to get the rights to the show, making Doug the first designer off Broadway to design it. "I was really honored to have the opportunity," he said. "This was a very prestigious show and a very prestigious company." The production was a huge success, garnering critical acclaim in both Ann Arbor and Detroit, and earning "top show of the season" status from Performance Network subscribers. Doug also designed the Performance Network's production of "Stop Kiss" this past December.

**Tim Bauer '82** (track and cross-country) was named 2001-02 Cross Country Coach of the Year for both the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference and Regional District 8 & 9 of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics. He also is one of six finalists for NAIA National Cross Country Coach of the Year honors.

**Linda Easley** (pictured) (anthropology) received the Service-Learning Award for 2001 from the Michigan Campus Compact faculty-staff community. ■



# Veritas: Dialogue Day centers on truth

**T**ruth matters,” Dr. Kimberly Blessing said March 20 at the kick-off of Siena’s 2nd annual Common Dialogue Day, organized around the theme of Veritas.

“And the quest for truth matters”. Common Dialogue Day was all about that quest.

Blessing, assistant professor of philosophy, said the quest “begins and ends with philosophical inquiry. By nature, we desire to know. Learning begins with wonder.”

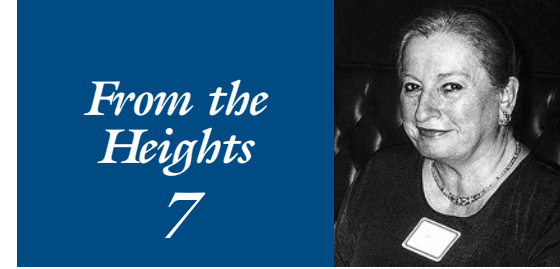
“There is no single approach” to the search for truth, keynote speaker Jamie Phelps, OP ‘69 said, but most Christian theologians “start with human experience and the simple questions of a 2-year-old: Why? Why? Why?” Dr. Phelps teaches theology at Loyola University in Chicago.

Drawing on the four foundations of Dominican life, academic dean Sharon Weber, OP

‘69 noted that the search for truth starts with *study* as well as *prayer*, and is pursued in *community* with others. “Our understanding of truth should lead to action, which is *ministry*; and finally, our reflection on the action should lead us back to study.”

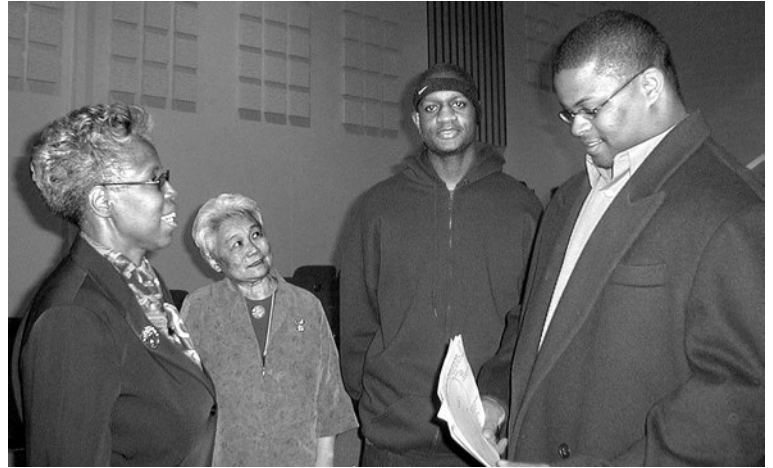
Veritas has been a core Dominican value since the 13th century, Dr. Weber said.

Before and after the lectures, students, faculty and staff participated in breakout sessions that explored truth from many perspectives including truth in history, wartime,



business, music, leadership, technology and the Bible.

Dialogue Day was a “tribute to the intellectual curiosity of the University community,” President Artman said afterward. ■



Students and faculty spoke with Jamie Phelps, OP ‘69 (far left) after her keynote presentation.

## All’s well with M<sup>2</sup>!

**D**r. Miriam Michael Stimson ‘36 is alive and well, but Patty Marr ‘72, ‘79/MA “sure had my doubts when I first saw the burned out shell of her little white house.” Sister Miriam Michael, professor emerita of chemistry and past director of graduate programs, now lives at the

Dominican Life Center. She still attends occasional research presentations on campus, but waits for a ride instead of walking.

The site of Miriam’s former home on Siena Heights Drive—which Patty remembered filled with plants and surrounded by flow-

ers—now welcomes visitors to the SHU softball field. The fire department demolished the house in a controlled burn last fall (pictured left).

### Do YOU have stories about Miriam?

Dr. Jun Tsuji of the Siena Heights biology faculty is working on a biography of Miriam Stimson, OP, and he’s looking for personal anecdotes, insights and recollections from Miriam’s former students and colleagues. Jun is particularly interested in hearing from Miriam’s chemistry students and others who knew her during her 29 years (1939-68) as a member of Siena’s chemistry faculty.

Forward your stories and reminiscences by mail to:

**Dr. Jun Tsuji**  
Siena Heights University  
1247 E. Siena Heights Dr.  
Adrian, MI 49221.

Or you may reach him by email (jtsuji@sienahs.edu). Questions? You may reach Jun at (517) 264-7649. ■





## ***Taking Alumni Weekend to the Adrian Dominican Sisters***

A new addition to Alumni Weekend this year will be a reception in the Rose Room of the Dominican Life Center (DLC), Saturday afternoon, Oct. 5, prior to the Alumni Weekend Liturgy in Lumen Ecclesiae Chapel. We look forward to welcoming and honoring all residents of the DLC and to providing an opportunity for returning alumni to visit their Adrian Dominican friends, especially former faculty and staff. Join us!

### **Former Siena Heights faculty now residing in the Dominican Life Center:**

<b>Present Name</b>	<b>Former Name</b>
Mary Jean Birney	Jane Dominic
Therese Craig	Rose Terrence
Mary Therese Crimmins	
Helen Duggan	Ann Charles
Dorothy Ferguson	Louis Marie
Rosemary Ferguson	Laurence Edward
Dorothy Folliard	Margaret Michaela
Irma Gerber	
Claudia Hinds	James Claudia
Molly Lorms	de Marillac
Theodora McKennan	Ellen Louise
Noreen McKeough	Mary Paul
Patricia O'Reilly	Charles Thomas
Mary Philip Ryan	
Jodie Screes	
Lois Spear	
Miriam Michael Stimson	

### **Former Siena Heights administrators now residing in the DLC:**

<b>Present Name</b>	<b>Former Name</b>
Betty Dolan	Mary Arthur
Mary Lourdes Fitzgerald	
Rita Gleason	Ann Catherine
Marie Irene Miller	
Irene Morence	John Marie
Patricia Marie O'Rourke	

In addition, many more Sisters at the DLC are proud to list St. Joseph College or Siena Heights on their ministry roster because they taught in the summer sessions before Siena went co-ed.

(Thanks to Sister Marie Irene Miller '36 for compiling this list.)



## *Alumni Weekend 2002: Reflections*

*October 4 - 6, 2002*

**“R**eflections of...the way life used to be.” Alumni of a certain age might remember Diana Ross crooning those words. Alumni of all ages are invited to Alumni Weekend 2002 to reflect on past times, new developments and future directions.

Plan now to be at Siena Heights in Adrian for a weekend with old friends and new faces. Here are a few highlights:

- **Alumni Board Reunion:** Present and past members of the Alumni Association Board of Directors are invited Friday evening, Oct. 4. Our records may be incomplete; let us know you served on the board and we'll send all the details.
- **Golden Years Reunion:** Members of the 50th Reunion Class of 1952 as well as the Classes of 1947, 1942 and 1937 will celebrate Saturday morning, Oct. 5. Look for details in your mailbox soon.
- **SienaFest!:** Look for the tent in front of the Fieldhouse. Meet friends for a cook-out lunch. Bring your young children for the kids' activities. Entertainment and fun for all ages Saturday afternoon, Oct. 5.
- **Celebrate with the Sisters:** Head next door to the Dominican Life Center and visit with former faculty, staff and friends at a Saturday reception with the Adrian Dominican Sisters.
- **Liturgy:** Join us late Saturday afternoon for Alumni Weekend Mass in Lumen Ecclesiae Chapel.
- **All-Siena Reception:** Meet, greet, sip and snack! Start your Saturday evening at this all-alumni party.
- **Athletic Hall of Fame:** All are welcome to attend the Saturday banquet celebrating the 2002 honorees: Shannon Bezeau '96, Joe Dettling '99, Ken Ferreira '90, Matt Geha '97, Dennis Szczechowski '94, Julie Tortora-Baechler '90, Coach Doug Mello, and the 1985 men's soccer team.
- **Saints Golf Outing:** Join us at a new time—Sunday morning, Oct. 6. Start working on your swing!

### *Plus:*

Varsity sports events, campus tours, art in Klemm Gallery, reunion get-togethers for classes ending in “2” and “7” and more.

### *Got an idea for your class reunion?*

Contact the Alumni Office: (800) 693-0506 or alum@sienahts.edu

# CAMPAIGN REPORT



## *Endowed Scholarships: Support Students Today and for Years to Come*

**T**he single item with the largest dollar figure attached to it in *The Campaign for Siena Heights University* is scholarship endowment, with a goal of \$2 million.

Scholarship endowment is one project, one goal, for one purpose: Enabling students with the ability and desire to attend Siena and become competent, purposeful, ethical citizens of our world—regardless of their economic circumstances.

Contributions to the endowment fund produce interest income, year after year in perpetuity, to support the purpose designated by the donor.

### *Assistance with impact*

Patrick Irwin '86 is a good example of the impact a scholarship can have. A successful human resource professional and passionate community activist in southwest Detroit, Pat serves on the steering committee for *The Campaign for Siena Heights University*. But when he arrived at Siena in 1982, no one could have predicted this future for him.

The son of an unskilled laborer with an eighth grade education, Pat Irwin was about to repeat the cycle of perpetual poverty when his high school counselor, an Adrian Dominican Sister, told him to “go to Siena Heights. They care about people there. Somehow they will find a way to make things work out.”

He came to Siena Heights; but even with loans, he could not cover his expenses. Sr. Irene Morence, Siena’s financial aid director at the time, decided to help. “Sister Irene’s help was the sole reason I made it through that first year,” Pat recalled. “She never told me where the money came from. She just told me to

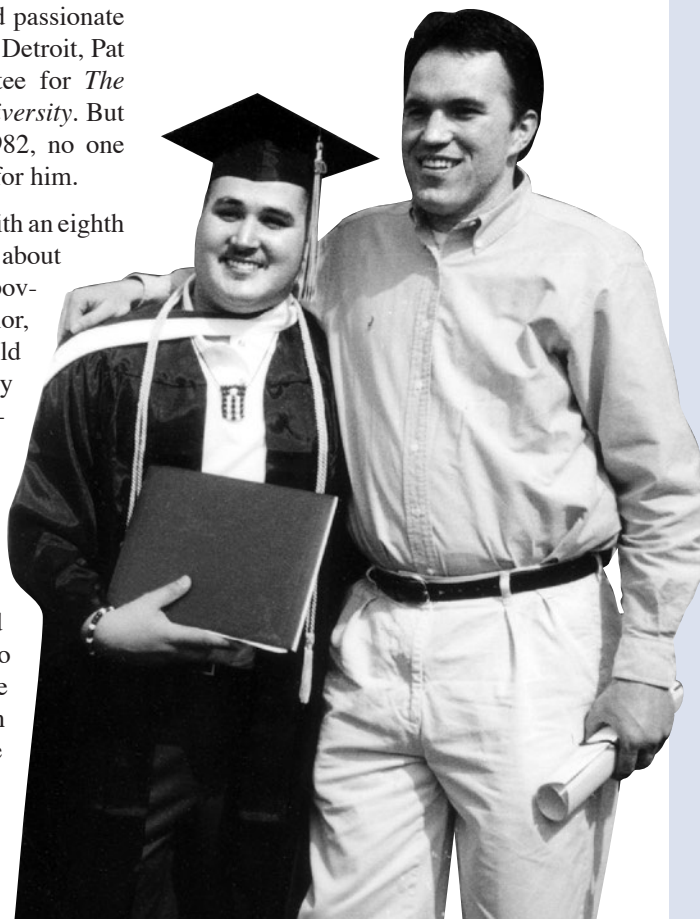
return the favor to others when my time came.

“I never forgot the lesson that Siena Heights supports students who work hard and are trying to make it.”

Pat Irwin was the first in his family to graduate from college—though he made sure his younger brother followed suit. Now, as an inner-city coach, mentor and charter school board president, he works to provide other young people with opportunities to become more competent, purposeful and ethical.

“What we do with our lives and our resources will determine whether Siena Heights continues to be able to support first-generation college students like me,” Pat told a group of campaign supporters last spring. ■

*Pat Irwin '86 congratulates Tony Galvan '01 of Detroit*



## *Scholarship gifts and opportunities*

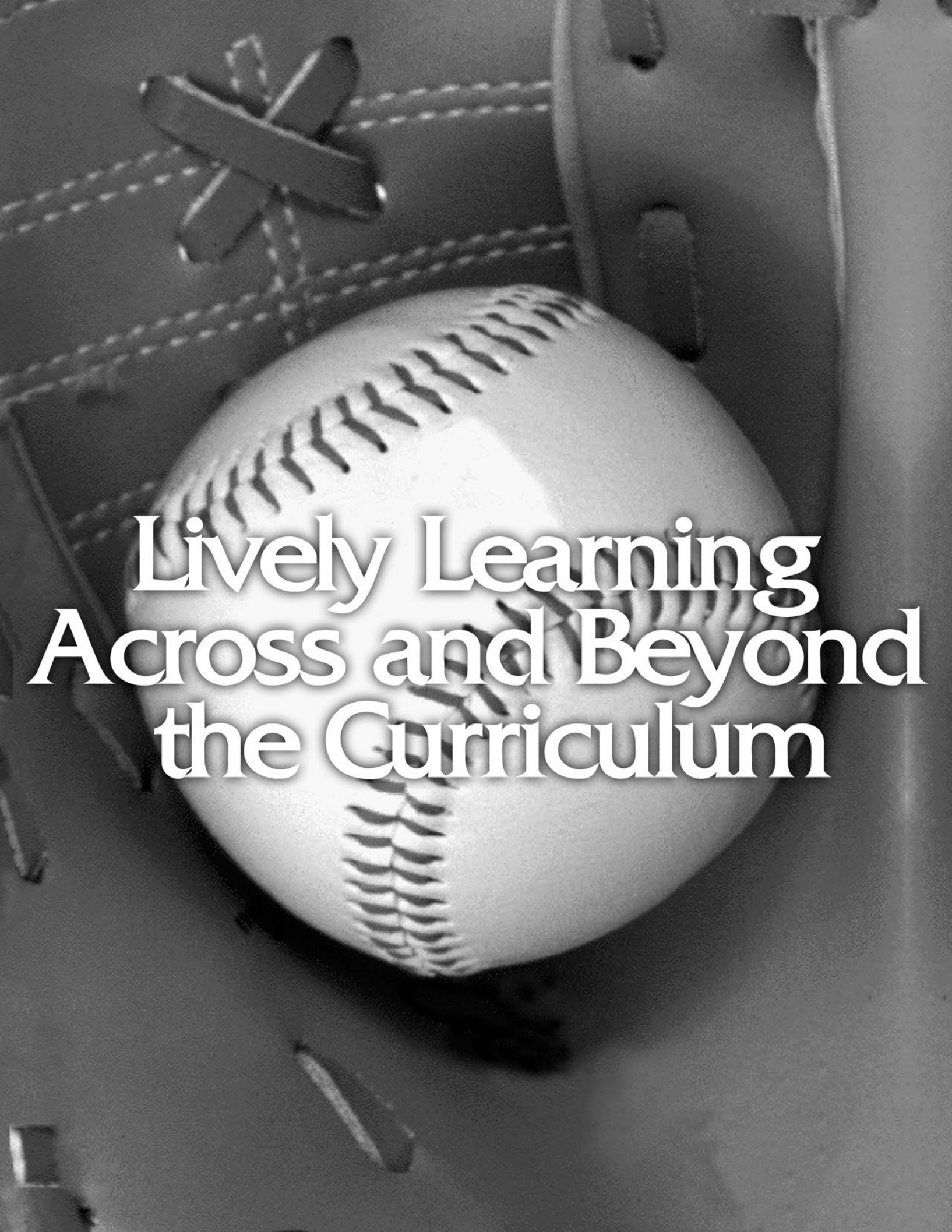
In the current *Campaign for Siena Heights University*, many alumni and friends already have chosen to establish endowed scholarship funds:

- Bob and Rosemary Price of Manitou Beach have designated their generous gift to support service grants for Siena Heights student-athletes.
- Doug and Mary Kapnick of Adrian have pledged their support for scholarships aiding Lenawee County students with leadership, academic ability, and financial need.
- Betty Cummings '82 of Ann Arbor has established a scholarship in Pat Irwin’s name to support at-risk students with substantial need and a desire to better themselves.
- Ruth LaFontaine '72 of Pasadena, Maryland, has directed her scholarship gift toward students from northwest Ohio where she grew up.
- Art majors from 1936 to 1956, and others who knew the founder of Studio Angelico, are establishing an art scholarship in memory of Sister Helene O’Connor.
- Scott Dienes '90 has designated his support to help build a scholarship in memory of Monsignor Dell Stewart of the Kalamazoo Diocese, who was a mentor to Scott.

These gifts demonstrate an attractive feature of named endowed scholarships: They can be tailored to match the interests of the donor. Scholarships may be designated for students in a certain major, from particular circumstances, or with specific career goals.

A named scholarship endowment can be established with as little as \$10,000, which will generate a \$500 annual scholarship.

Donors may contribute smaller amounts to the general scholarship endowment, which provides support for all financial aid recipients. Donors who share the interests of the original giver may also contribute to existing or growing scholarship endowments such as those mentioned above.



# Lively Learning Across and Beyond the Curriculum

**A**nimated Philosophy and Religion (aka the Simpsons Class see page 13) has garnered lots of attention this year, but it's not the only unusual learning opportunity at Siena Heights. Professors and students are constantly exploring fresh approaches to academia. Check out a few of our diverse curricular and co-curricular offerings!

### Play Ball! Read Books

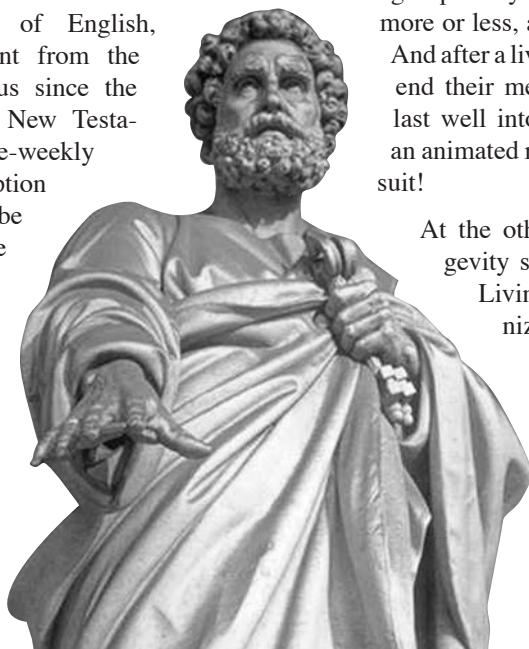
Literature and Baseball is an English class that starts with the recognition that the all-American sport is more than a game. Taught by Brother Frank Rotsaert, CSC, the class explores some of the myths about baseball as they occur in fiction and poetry: Is baseball the American game? Is it a meritocracy? Was baseball better before the '60s? Is it a rural or urban game? Is it truly inclusive now? Is baseball about teamwork? Has it been tainted by over-commercialization?

### Bird Brains

Every day is a field trip for students in Field Ornithology! Taught by biology professor Carl Kaster, science program coordinator and a birdwatcher for more than 30 years, field ornithology is a new summer class meeting 8 hours a day, four days a week, for the month of May. Students spend mornings observing, identifying and studying the behavior of birds in their natural habitat. Afternoons are devoted to discussion of bird anatomy and physiology, migration and plumage, conservation, ecology and other topics.

### Everything Old is New Again!

Greek and Latin are among the world's ancient languages. But they are new additions to the Siena Heights curriculum, making return appearances in academic life thanks to revived student interest. Daniel McVeigh, professor of English, teaches Greek, absent from the Siena Heights campus since the 1960s. Focusing on New Testament Greek, the once-weekly class is a non-credit option for now, but may be offered for credit in the future. Introductory Latin, on the other hand, carries four credits, meets four times a week and counts toward the foreign language requirement for Humanities majors.



Chemistry professor Anthony Scioly, who teaches the Latin class, already is scheduled to offer both Latin I and II next year.

### Reading between the Covers

Several campus reading groups meet regularly to explore new ideas through books. These groups exemplify the Siena Heights philosophy that teachers can be learners and learners can help teach, by bringing faculty and students together as equals for in-depth discussions unrelated to the curriculum.

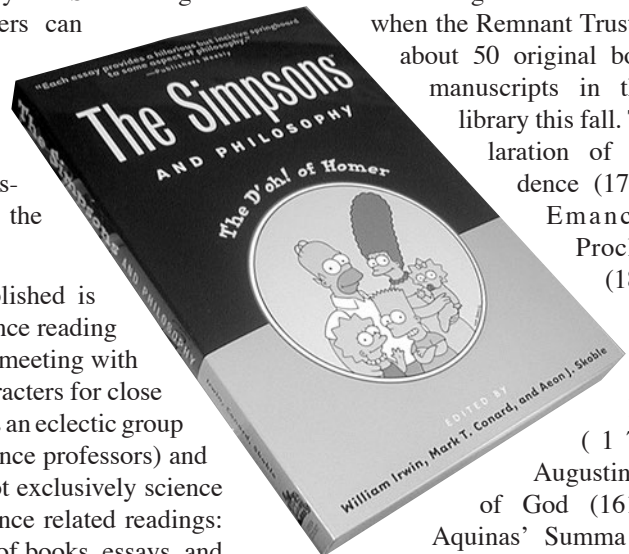
The most firmly established is SciENtiA, aka the science reading group, which has been meeting with an evolving cast of characters for close to 20 years. SciENtiA is an eclectic group of faculty (not just science professors) and students (mostly but not exclusively science majors) to discuss science related readings: whole books, chapters of books, essays, and magazine or journal articles. Selections have included biography and science fiction as well as philosophy, ethics, and contemporary developments in the sciences. Sometimes the whole group reads the same text; sometimes they explore a single topic independently, each reporting their findings to the group. They meet once a month, more or less, at members' homes. And after a lively discussion, they end their meetings (which may last well into the evening) with an animated round of Trivial Pursuit!

At the other end of the longevity spectrum is the new Living Lit Club, organized this spring "for English majors and minors who want to place their fingers on the pulse of contemporary literature." Faculty

and staff as well as students have joined the group, which meets monthly to discuss a recent piece of fiction and select the next month's title.

### Hands-On Reading

Students can get their hands on some of the world's great ideas—literally—when the Remnant Trust exhibits about 50 original books and manuscripts in the SHU library this fall. The Declaration of Independence (1776), The Emancipation Proclamation (1862), the



Rights (1789), Augustine's City of God (1610), and Aquinas' Summa Theologiae (1485) are among the documents that may be included. Students will be able to touch, hold, and study these books, selected from a collection of premiere first and early edition texts on liberty and dignity from the last 2,500 years. The Remnant Trust encourages hands-on involvement with the works, to show that "the great ideas belong to everyone."

### Ms. (and Mr.) Manners

In Business Etiquette, taught by Claudia Blanchard, coordinator of the Business Administration and Management Program, students learn how to conduct themselves in various professional environments and how to handle etiquette and issues of protocol in a practical and responsible manner. Topics include meeting and interacting with new and familiar people; appropriate behavior when dining and entertaining; cultural differences between American and international customs; and corporate dress, including appropriate "business casual" attire. ■



# No Limits!

## Learning and Giving are Joys at Any Age

by Jennifer Hamlin Church

**Y**ou must come see the new art exhibit," said the voice on the other end of the phone. She promised pencil, ink and watercolor creations, recent work by a group of promising new artists.

A local museum? A select gallery?

No, the exhibit in question was on view in the foyer of the Dominican Life Center; and the fledgling artists were Adrian Dominican nuns, some in their 80s, exploring perspective, shading, and composition for the first time under the tutelage of Patricia Lynch, OP '56 (photo above).

The art class was just one example of the lively learning that takes place daily at the Dominican Life Center.

"Our bodies may be going, but our minds are great!" said the voice on the phone—Marie

Irene Miller, OP '36—bright with enthusiasm.

The Dominican Life Center is home to about 250 retired Adrian Dominican Sisters, most of them Siena Heights alumnae, some of them former faculty and staff (see page 8). Many are in declining health. With an average age of 83, you might expect such a community to be somber, possibly sad.

You would be wrong.

The DLC brims with the joy and adventure of learning, growing and giving.

In addition to Pat Lynch's art

class, Clare Gleeson, OP '39 works daily in the art studio, producing pastel portraits and still life studies. Sister Clare Genevieve teaches ceramics in the ceramic studio. Colette Martin, OP sews and knits.

Other DLC residents can be found in the library and reading room, attending a lecture or scripture study group, working in the greenhouse or with the garden club. Still others will be in the resident kitchens trying a new recipe, in the exercise room staying in shape, or in the lobby working on a jigsaw puzzle.

Sister Marie Irene is one of many DLC residents who spend time regularly in the computer lab, sending and receiving e-mail, surfing the web, or learning new computer graphics skills, sometimes helped by student tutors from Siena Heights.

"You can always learn new things," said Marie Irene with a smile in her voice.

### Lives of study and ministry

It shouldn't be surprising that these women are so ready and willing to learn new things. After all, study is one of the pillars of Adrian Dominican life and the majority of the older Sisters spent their working lives involved in education one way or another.

Nonetheless, it is impressive to encounter lively political discussions, informed peace and justice debates, and passionate concern for current events, all in a community of women 50, 60 and 70 years older than the traditional Siena Heights undergraduate.

"These women are avid readers," said Rosemary Abramovich, OP '71, administrator of the DLC since 1998. "They stay current. They write letters to their congresspersons."

In addition, she says, although they are formally retired, "everyone in the DLC has

some mission, some ministry." Each contributes to the best of her abilities.

Some of the sisters tutor at St. Joseph Academy, or volunteer in the Congregation offices or at Weber Center. Others, more

#### **The DLC**

The Dominican Life Center, located just east of Madden Hall on the campus of the Adrian Dominican Motherhouse, is made up of the Maria, Regina and Roncalli buildings. Maria and Regina are residential facilities; Roncalli houses the administrative offices. The Motherhouse campus adjoins the Siena Heights University campus.

#### **History of the Sisters**

Established in 1884, the Adrian Dominican Sisters are founders and sponsors of Siena Heights University. Membership on June 30, 2001 was 1,039.

*cont. on page 15*

# Lively Learning Across and Beyond the Curriculum

## The Simpsons take SHU to “Today”

By Debbie Myers, Communications Specialist

This spring’s Animated Philosophy and Religion class, the topic of myriad newspaper articles and broadcast stories all through second semester, was featured nationally March 29 on NBC’s “Today” show.

Kimberly Blessing, assistant professor of philosophy, and Anthony Sciglitano, assistant professor of religious studies, were interviewed for the segment. They team-taught the class, based on the popular animated television show “The Simpsons.” The class will be offered again this fall.

“Today” show special correspondent Bob Dotson, a 30-year broadcasting veteran, was on campus Monday and Tuesday, March 11 and 12, to film the segment. He was accompanied by producer Andre Poulin from New York and two sound-and-camera crews from Detroit.

On March 11, the crew filmed Dotson’s interviews with Kimberly and Anthony, and then filmed the entire Monday evening class.

Students in the class were no strangers to television cameras, having been filmed previously by Fox TV teams from Grand Rapids and Chicago. (During the semester, they also hosted newspaper reporters from Adrian’s Daily Telegram, the Toledo Blade, and Ontario’s Windsor Star.)

After silently observing the filming of the class, Dotson asked students to remain for a few minutes to answer some questions. Among the things he wanted to know: did students have a difficult time convincing

their parents to let them take the class, what did they learn in class, and had anyone’s parents not allowed them to watch the show when they were children.

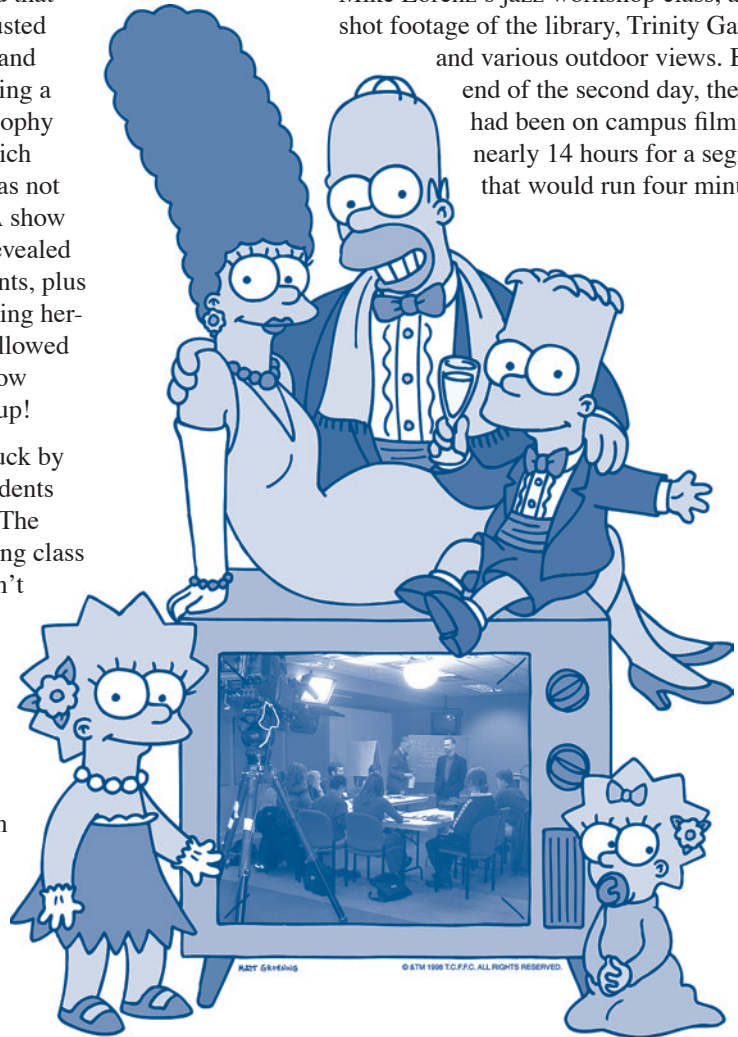
Students replied that their parents trusted their judgment and they were learning a lot about philosophy in the class, which they stressed was not an easy class. A show of hands also revealed that three students, plus Professor Blessing herself, were not allowed to watch the show while growing up!

Dotson was struck by the fact that students did not watch “The Simpsons” during class time— and didn’t even get extra credit for watching outside of class.

While at Siena Heights, Dotson also spent an hour with SHU journalism students, discussing his work in broadcast-

ing and promoting the profession of journalism.

The “Today” crew also interviewed President Rick Artman, taped a performance by Mike Lorenz’s jazz workshop class, and shot footage of the library, Trinity Garden, and various outdoor views. By the end of the second day, the crew had been on campus filming for nearly 14 hours for a segment that would run four minutes! ■



## More Animated Philosophy and Religion

### Selections from the Syllabus

Requirements for this two-credit class included class discussions, weekly quizzes, individual presentations and a final exam, along with weekly reading assignments from the texts. A few of the topics addressed during the semester were:

- American Anti-Intellectualism
- Aristotle and the Ethics of Character
- Kant and the Ethics of Duty
- Divine Imagery and Personal Prayer

### A Special Extra

William Irwin, author of the required text, “The Simpsons and Philosophy: The D’oh of Homer,” was a graduate school classmate of Dr. Kimberly Blessing, who arranged for him to visit Siena in April. In addition to meeting with the Animated Philosophy and Religion class, he gave a public lecture on the topic, “Philosophy and Popular Culture: Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Nothing But Were Afraid to Ask.”

### Other Texts and Internet Resources

“The Gospel According to The Simpsons: The Spiritual Life of the World’s Most Animated Family,” Mark I. Pinsky

#### A Dictionary of Philosophy

**Webster’s Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary**

**American Philosophical Association:**

[www.apa.udel.edu/apa/](http://www.apa.udel.edu/apa/)

**Guide to Philosophy on the Internet:**

[www.earlham.edu/~peters/philinks.htm](http://www.earlham.edu/~peters/philinks.htm)

“The Simpsons” archive: [www.snpp.com](http://www.snpp.com)



## Distance Education at SHU Blends Quality with Technology

# Lively Learning Over the Internet!

By Jennifer Hamlin Church

**G**oing to class on a computer? The notion may seem as far-fetched to alumni of the past as it is unsurprising to today's students.

Online education, also called "distance learning" because students can "attend" class from a distance, is no longer a new thing in higher education. Initially regarded with suspicion, online classes have moved into the mainstream, offering access to learning that transcends geography.

Twenty-five years ago, Siena Heights pioneered convenient degree completion for adult students, taking college *to the students* (in urban areas across southern Michigan) rather than making students come to the college. Other schools followed suit; where once Siena was the only degree-completion option in town, today SHU is one of 24 adult degree-completion competitors in Detroit.

Online education has taken convenience to a new level. Now students can "go to class" where and when they want or need to.

Guided by the University's mission and commitment to quality education, Siena Heights has developed its own approach

to distance learning, offering courses in a unique "blended online" format that combines face-to-face interaction with the 24/7 convenience of the Internet.

Available through Siena's Southfield center and in Port Huron, the "blended online" classes include several classroom meetings, with the remainder of the course taught on the Internet using the eCollege online learning platform.

Students typically meet together for the first session of the course and again at the end; the final in-person meeting is often used for exams or presentations.

"The blended approach helps people get to know each other so they can put faces with names when doing online discussions," said Steve Ott, marketing director for the off-campus centers.

The online component of instruction includes lectures and assignments posted weekly by the instructor, and class discussions on group discussion boards. Students may submit assignments online and receive feedback via email. Some professors include audio and/or video elements, as well as interactive exercises. Sometimes students take exams online; the computer program knows the allowed

test time and freezes at the end of the test.

There are textbooks, too, of course—with reading assignments posted online.

### In-depth lunch discussions

"I love the online classes," said Susan Gerhard, now enrolled in her fourth blended online course. "I can do the class work whenever I want—on my lunch hour, evenings, weekends, even holidays." But convenience is only part of it.

More importantly, she said, "I have learned more in my online courses than in any classroom."

Gerhard was skeptical before her first distance learning experience. "I have high standards," she said. "I am in school to learn, and I learn a lot from listening to other adult students. I was concerned that part of the experience would be missing."

Instead, she has "learned more from interaction with students online than I ever did in class." Asked why, Gerhard speculated that quieter students speak more freely on the computer.

"In a classroom, there are always two or three individuals who dominate discussions—but

online, everyone participates. You're required to post anywhere from 6 to 10 responses every week, and postings must be substantive, not just 'I agree' or 'you're right.'"

Students also may think more carefully about their responses before putting them in writing on the computer, she said, noting that online courses are very reading and writing intensive.

Professors provide feedback just as they would in a face-to-face discussion, writing their comments into the on-screen discussion. Teachers also can return papers over the Internet, complete with comments and a grade—added in red!

"I once got a paper back a couple hours after I submitted it," Gerhard said. The professor logged on, received the paper, reviewed, graded and returned it immediately.

### Siena's tradition of quality

Students like Gerhard are "wildly enthusiastic" about online education, according to Deb Carter, Dean of the College for Professional Studies. Faculty have urged caution, however, she said, raising appropriate concerns about the quality of online class interaction, the need to ensure integrity in student work, and the challenge of cultivating—through the computer—the sort of personalized learning environment for which Siena is known.

"We have an honored tradition of teaching and learning in community, based on the values and principles of the Adrian Dominican Sisters," Carter said.

"We are committed to

maintaining that spirit and tradition while developing online courses of distinction."

To that end, Siena Heights has established an oversight committee to monitor the development of online classes. The Distance Learning Core Group, made up of faculty and administrators, meets regularly to identify classes that could (or shouldn't) be offered in a distance format, develop qualitative measures of effectiveness for online classes, and ensure that faculty and students receive the support they need to succeed in this new environment.

The committee recently developed an online orientation class. The non-credit class is free and takes only about three hours; but it is

mandatory for students enrolling in their first online course. "This allows faculty to use the first in-person class session entirely for course content, rather than explaining the technology," Carter said.

### Meeting students' needs

Dr. Jim Sam, a full-time faculty member at Siena's Southfield center, has developed four online courses and is an enthusiastic advocate of distance education. "I'm really excited about online teaching," he said, adding that he learns new techniques with each class.

In an online class, the teacher "becomes a facilitator," Sam said. To guide and monitor discussions, Sam will visit the course website a few times a day, even on weekends, reviewing and responding to student input. "The professor needs to push and challenge.

"This kind of class really draws out the introverted student," he added.

Online learning is not for everyone, Sam said, and Deb Carter agreed. Not all students learn well this way, nor do all faculty have the "burning passion and enthusiasm" for this new endeavor. And, of course, not all classes or disciplines lend themselves to the technology.

But for some teachers and some courses, it can be a very good option. And for students in some circumstances, it may be the best, or the only, option.

For now, Siena Heights offers 15-20 classes in its unique blended online format. But the University continues to explore the poten-

tial of distance learning—how to build community online, how to harness the unique capabilities of the web for effective learning, how to advise and support students and faculty engaged in the process—and aims to do more of it in the future.

Deb Carter predicts our online offerings will be as distinctive and empowering as our traditional classes, with the added benefit of convenience for people who need it.

Ultimately, whether going to class in a classroom or on a computer, Siena Heights students should expect to "become more competent, purposeful and ethical through a teaching and learning environment which respects the dignity of all." ■

### No Limits continued from page 12

challenged by age, set up fresh flowers in the dining room. A 102-year-old resident "sits with those who are dying," so they are not alone.

Together, the entire DLC community "gives everyone a fond farewell" at the time of their death in the jewel-like Maria Chapel, Rosemary said. "This is a ministry that we offer the rest of the Congregation. And it's a wonderful ministry. Think of the people who have no one to celebrate their life."

### Gratitude, the greatest lesson

The DLC provides healthcare and residential service in a "continuum of care," from independent apartment-style living in Regina to supported living, assisted living, intermediate care and skilled nursing care in Maria.

"People are very grateful here," Sister Rosemary said. "They tell me, 'I don't deserve all this.' And I tell them they've worked very hard to earn it."

Like all aging adults, the Sisters sometimes are scared about losing their abilities, she added. They get lonely and depressed, "but they live a life of gratitude, and that helps them be joyful."

In her leadership of the DLC, Sister Rosemary says she tries to "create an atmosphere of home." And that is what it feels like, even to a visitor. Home.

The voice on the phone invited me into her home, to see what her Sisters were up to, so I could share it with *Reflections* readers.

"Let the younger people know what we older people are doing with our lives," Sister Marie Irene said with a chuckle. "We're not just vegetating over here!"

You can say that again. ■

### Become a Saints Career Contact

The Career Center is looking for alumni volunteers. If you'd like to volunteer your time, the Career Center is looking for alumni who can help students with job searches; become mentors, presenters and speakers; provide job leads, host internships or allow job shadowing.

If this sounds like a good match for you, fill out the enclosed return card or surf out to <http://www.sienahts.edu/~carr/>, and the Career Center will be in contact with you.

**"In a classroom, there are always two or three individuals who dominate discussions, but online, everyone participates."**

**Sue Gerhard**

# Bettering Our World

## The 2002 Alumni Award winners embody the spirit of Siena

Siena Heights marked Alumni Awards Day on Monday, April 8. Always a highlight of the spring semester, this year's celebration was no exception. Five accomplished graduates of the University met with students, faculty and the community, sharing insights and perspectives gleaned from lives of service and achievement. Meet this year's honorees.

### Outstanding Alumni Award:

## Karla Grohman Dunn '64

### Innovative Educator and Children's Advocate

Since graduating from Siena with a degree in English and earning her master's in English literature from University of Michigan, Karla has pursued dual careers in education and counseling. After teaching in Catholic elementary, middle and high schools in Michigan, she relocated to Texas. As director of the Family Life Office for St. Rose Parish in Houston, Karla provided counseling and education in the areas of family life and mental health. She then spent six years as coordinator of education at Houston's Center for Multiple Handicapped Children, a program for children 3-21 with intellectual levels from profound deficit to near normal abilities. She went on to serve 16 years as director of therapy services for the Harris County (Houston) Department of Education. In 2000, she retired after five years as principal of the Highpoint Middle/High Alternative School in Houston.

"Karla's dogged determination to develop programs of learning for the emotionally and physically impaired brought her into direct conflict with the civic leaders in education. This challenge sparked her sense of justice," says Marcine Klemm, OP. "She searches for truth and creative approaches for areas of special education where children's needs are so often misdiagnosed, misinterpreted and dismissed as being hopeless." Karla currently works part-time with "Safe Schools" evaluating safety and security in schools, and continues to volunteer with the AIDS Foundation of Houston.

*(Nominated by Marcine Klemm, OP '82/MA)*

### St. Dominic Award:

## Phyllis Kreiner, OP '65

## Loretta May, OP '58, '63

### Dominican Educators Dedicated to Individualized Children's Learning

Working as a team, Sr. Phyllis and Sr. Loretta have dedicated their careers to children through elementary education. Through their commitment to Catholic education, they have empowered teachers and children, developing personalized classroom programs that encourage both teachers and learners to be the best they can be. Together, they developed "the unique elementary program of departmental teaching now in place at St. Joseph Academy," their nominators wrote. This program "builds on the Montessori pre-school program by offering personalized instruction using all modalities of learning."

Sr. Phyllis today is an educational consultant for the Archdiocese of Detroit Catholic Schools. Her prior ministries, in addition to working at St. Joseph Academy, include developing and directing an adult literacy program in Lenawee County, initiating an elementary program at Rosarian Academy (W. Palm Beach, FL) and establishing an elementary program for the Holy Cross Brothers at Gilmour Academy (Gates Mills, OH).

Sr. Loretta today is an associate superintendent for the Archdiocese of Detroit Catholic Schools. Previously, in addition to working at St. Joseph Academy, she served with Sr. Phyllis at Gilmour Academy where, as director of the lower school, she worked with faculty to introduce a K-6 peace education program. She also has served as treasurer of

the Adrian Dominican Congregation and as a Siena Heights Trustee.

*(Nominated by: Joan Christie, OP '62, Deb Carrington Keller '74, Pat McCarty, OP '61, Frances Nadolny, OP '72, and Pat Stellmah, OP '64)*



*Pictured (l to r): Loretta, Karla, Margaret, Donna and Phyllis*

**Sr. Ann Joachim Award:****Donna Kustusich, OP '63****Theologian & Social Justice Advocate for Women**

A history major at Siena Heights, Sr. Donna went on to earn two master's degrees (in religious education and Catholic theology) and a Doctor of Ministry in theology. Her early career focused on education, including 14 years in elementary education and 15 years on the theology/education faculty at Siena Heights, where she won the Outstanding Teaching Award and established a theological peace studies minor. Since moving to El Paso, Texas, a decade ago, she has worked to improve opportunities for poor women on the Mexican-American border, involving herself as a writer and an activist in adult education, day care, problems of the homeless, and border justice. In Sr. Donna's words, she has "walked with a group of very poor women in their struggle for survival, liberation and self determination."

"Donna's concern about the economically poor and most vulnerable of our world, especially women who find themselves in deplorable situations, began many years ago during her years as both student and instructor at Siena Heights and continues today as she ministers in Mexico and Texas," says Marilee Ewing, OP. Today, Sr. Donna is director of Centro Santa Catalina, a women's center for the empowerment of economically challenged women and their children in Chihuahua, Mexico.

*(Nominated by: Marilee Ewing, OP '65)***Recent Graduate Award:****Margaret Smith Randle '99****Leader in Social Services and Welfare Reform**

Like many Siena Heights alumni, Margaret completed her education over an extended period of time, beginning in the 1960s and finalizing her humanities degree years later after marriage, family and professional success. She began her career with the Jackson

County Department of Social Services in Kansas City, Missouri, two decades ago, first in a part-time capacity as she raised four growing boys, later as a full-time professional. From that first job as a caseworker to the present, Margaret has concentrated on assisting and strengthening families and children. Since 1991, she has focused on welfare reform, progressing steadily to her current position as administrator of the Division of Family Services. Today, she oversees a staff of 900 responsible for all levels of income assistance and all services of the Child Welfare System (abuse and neglect, family centered services, foster care and training, and adoption). Under her leadership, the department partnered with the community to reform the welfare system, designing a nationally-recognized model of welfare-to-work that cut assistance rolls nearly in half.

Upon visiting Kansas City five years ago, President Clinton commented on welfare reform saying, "to help people live up to their God-given potential as parents and workers. We are going to have to learn from people who know what they are doing. These people in Kansas City know what they are doing. It is miraculous what they are doing." ■

*(Nominated by: Susan Conley Weeks '67)***Call for Nominations**

Alumni, faculty and staff may nominate graduates of Siena Heights University (including graduates of Siena Heights College and St. Joseph College) for awards consideration in 2003. Along with the nominator's name, class year, address and phone number, nominations should include the following information about the nominee:

- the nominee's current address and telephone number,
- a description of the personal qualities, characteristics and professional or volunteer accomplishments that qualify the nominee for award consideration;
- name, address and phone number of other person(s) or organization(s) who could provide further information about the nominee.

Nominations should be sent to: Office of Alumni Relations, Siena Heights University, 1247 E. Siena Heights Dr., Adrian, MI 49221 (by email to: [lhill@sienahits.edu](mailto:lhill@sienahits.edu)). To be considered for 2003, nominations must be received by August 1, 2002.





# CLASS NOTES

Class Notes are compiled from letters, news clippings, the reply cards included in each issue of the magazine, and contributions sent through the SHU website. We do not announce engagements or pregnancies, but we will gladly report marriages and births after they have occurred. Information received after February 15 will be included in the summer issue of *Reflections*.

Special thanks to Erin Fuller '05 for her work on this issue's Class Notes

## 1930s-60s

**Ann Bakeman Tompert '38** has written a new children's book. *The Pied Piper of Peru* is a retelling of one of the stories about St. Martin de Porres, a Dominican brother who lived in Peru in the 16th century. In 1998, Ann's picture book biography, *Saint Patrick*, was selected as one of Booklists top 10 religious books for children. She also has published a children's book about *Saint Nicholas*. She lives in Port Huron.

**Dorris Borradaile Wright-Walrose '44** is living in San Clemente, CA.

**Jane Patterson Kimball '58** is the director of planning and fund distribution at the United Way of Elgin, IL. "Hello out there. Anyone want to start a chat room?"

**Jean Masternak '65, '72/MA** and **Janet Masternak '65,**

**'72/MA**, identical twin sisters living in Lansing, retired in June 2000 after 35 years teaching at Lansing's Resurrection School. Upon retirement, they were given a vacation in Hawaii as a token of gratitude from school staff and parishioners at the Church of the Resurrection. "We had excellent professors at Siena," they remembered. "We felt so prepared in our teaching."

## 1970s

**Julianne Harris Cohoon '70** wrote recently from Riverview: "It was great seeing so many of our 1970 graduates at alumni weekend. Does anyone know where Cherie Murphy, who graduated in the 60s is these days? I think of her often."

**Carl Morton '71** is living in New York, NY, where he does some modeling. He was featured recently in a Timex watch advertisement in *Triathlete* magazine.

**Roger Scherger '73** and **Ruth Ann Dalton Scherger '68** are retired and have moved from Piqua, OH to Sidney, OH and built a new home on Dec. 21, 2001.

**Ken Thompson '77**, owner of Flatlanders Studio in Blissfield, is creating a sculpture that depicts the spirit of the Adrian Dominicans as reflected in the life of Sister Mary Philip Ryan, OP. Ken and his wife, **Mary Fitzpatrick Thompson '76, '91/MA**, are friends with Sister Mary Philip. Titled "Dominican Arch: The Beginning Was Casual," the sculpture will be 12.5 feet tall and 7 feet wide, and will be located in the cemetery on the Adrian Dominican campus. The sculpture is scheduled to be completed in time for Sister Mary Philip's 101st birthday in May.

## 1980s

**Bridgett L. Bradley-McClain '81** lives with her daughter Opal in Westminster, CA. She is a customs inspector at the Port of Long Beach.

**Michael Miron '81** lives and works in Jakarta, Indonesia, where he is a high school mathematics teacher at the Jakarta International School. He and his wife Dewi Sitaresmi are going to be back in the United States this summer. He tries to return every few years and misses his friends "from the Heights. Those were the best of many good times I have had in my life. If you are one of my old friends, drop me a line."

**Kelley Riser Hufford '85** writes: "I am in my 12th year of teaching at Fort Campbell Schools, KY. This year has been more of a challenge than the past because of the War on Terrorism. We are cur-

rently getting ready to have more Fort Campbell soldiers deploy overseas, so January should be very hard on our students as their parents go off to war. I am very proud to work with the United States Army and will continue to keep them in my prayers."

**Kay Belcher '86** now owns Vintage Treasures and Gifts, an antiques store. She also works at Delphi Automotive in Adrian as a packaging engineer.

**John Detro '86** is a physician assistant in the United States Army. "Hello, fortunately I returned from the Middle East in time for the holidays. We are having a partial family reunion in Florida. I will complete my tour with the Rangers in February. I will be moving back to San Antonio (Fort Sam Houston) to attend the Officer Advance Course (AOC) and the Orthopedic Physician Assistant Residency. Xaviera (my daughter) has recently become engaged to a soldier stationed at Fort Benning."

**Matt Meli '87** and his wife Angela are happily married and have a son, Nick. They are living in Dobbs Ferry, NY. Matt owns an advertising agency, Gallagher Group, and Angela is an RN. "Go Saints!"

**Barbara Ouellette '87** is a clinical chaplain, specializing in intensive care and bereavement counseling at Holy Cross Hospital in Fort Lauderdale, FL. She also was appointed chair of the ethics committee and consultation services and is acting director of spiritual care services. She has also been appointed to Barry University's Bioethics Consortium, to "address issues in biomedical ethics in light of Catholic moral theology and ethics."

**Susan Convery Kelsey '88** is "living in Toledo with my hus-

## Alumni Association Board of Directors

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**Faculty Representative**  
Pat Schnapp, RSM

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Julie Anderer '02

## Alumni News from **SHU in Lansing**

Siena Heights at Lansing Community College (since 1996)

**Julie Chesnut '00** married Arthur Weiss on Oct. 6, 2001, in Lansing. Arthur is a math and science teacher at Sparta High School. Julie is a registered nurse at Devos Children's Hospital in the neo-natal intensive care unit.

**Jonie Tobia '00** and Erik Every were married May 12, 2001. Jonie is a CAD technician at Design Phase and Erik is a site supervisor at TMN Builders. The Everys live in Holt.

band Dan and children Anne Marie and Nicholas." She is also "working part time and enjoying my family."

**Laura A. Orzechowski '88** works for the Eaton Corporation in sales. She "transferred with the company from Ohio to Minnesota in August."

**Igbal "Iggy" Roshd '88** is a franchisee and now owns six Tom Horton's restaurants in Toronto. He married Tanzila in 2001 and has two children, a son Yusuf, 5 1/2 and a daughter Nabila, 3 1/2.

**Colleen "Kellie" Brogan '88** married Pete Schneider Nov. 10, 2001. The Schneiders both work for United Airlines, Kellie as a flight attendant and Pete in ramp service. Kellie and Pete enjoyed an 11 day southwest Caribbean cruise for their honeymoon.

**Kimberly McMullen '88** and Dennis Michael Berry were married in Sedona, AZ, June 9, 2001, at Coconino National Forest. Kimberly is project manager on the Ford Motor Company account for Compuware Corporation and Dennis is the owner of the law office of Dennis M. Berry in Warren.

**Molly Bailey '89** is employed at the Center of the American West in marketing. She is "enjoying life in Colorado!" with her husband Eric Miller in Boulder, CO.

**Rebecca King Roehm '89** was employed as an administrative assistant at the University of Michigan Department of Biology after graduation; she maintained departmental financial paperwork

and accounts, purchasing, travel/hosting, and payroll/employment. Rebecca married Charles Roehm of Saline in December 1995 and became a first time mom in January 1997 with the birth of son Adam Louell. During the summer of 1997, Rebecca became a licensed childcare provider and started a successful home childcare business. Rebecca and Charles became second time parents in January 1998 with the birth of daughter Mary Eliza-

beth. Charles has changed positions within UM, and now works even harder for the Orthopedic Research Laboratory manufacturing surgical and research equipment, while also maintaining a livestock and agricultural farm with his father. Rebecca and Charles have just finished a 300 sq. ft. sunroom addition on their 10-acre ranch style home in Saline.

## 1990s

**Sybil Diccion '90** is a retired registered nurse and sings with a Dixieland group. She would love to hear from 1970 and 1971 class members. "Does anyone know the whereabouts of Mary Louise Stovicek (originally from Parma)?"

**Tod Marshall '90** lives in Spokane, WA, where he teaches English at Gonzaga University and

writes. His book of interviews, *Range of the Possible: Conversations with Contemporary Poets*, was published recently by Eastern Washington University Press. The book is a collection of penetrating conversations with 20 poets, including a former U.S. Laureate and winners of many of America's most prestigious literary prizes as well as lesser known writers. "Interesting and compelling for both the poetry enthusiast and the reader of general interest, this collection of voices offers a stimulating, informative and profoundly moving poets-eye view of contemporary art and life," according to EWU Press. This winter, Tod also received news that he has won the prestigious University of Georgia Press Contemporary Poetry Competition; the award

is given for an author's first book of poetry. Two manuscripts are chosen anonymously by the competition's judge, a poet of national stature. As a winner, Tod's manuscript, titled *Dare Say*, will be published by the University of Georgia Press this fall. The publisher has described "Dare Say" as "a fascinating, engaging, assured work of art. It is, in fact, astonishingly accomplished for a first book." Tod, who earned a master's in creative writing from Eastern Washington University and a doctorate from the University of Kansas, worked on the manuscript for eight years. Tod

## Class Notes 19



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## Class Notes 20

has two sons in elementary school.

**Ronald Schmidt '90** and his wife **Barbara Devantier Schmidt '86** have three children, Amy (12), Eric (9) and Anna (6). Ronald teaches physical education, computers and fifth grade math at Deerfield. He also coaches baseball, basketball and football. Barbara is substitute teaching and hoping for a permanent position. She had taken off six years to be a full-time mom and "I enjoy attending our children's school and sporting events."

**Heather Woodworth '90** of Algonac would like to say "Hi to all my old college buddies. I'm in the Detroit area now, so give me a call."

**Clark Trowbridge '92** has received his M.A. and is working on his Ph.D., both in pastoral counseling. He is looking forward to teaching at IPFW in religious studies. He is currently a pastoral counselor/minister for Christian Counseling Services.

**Christine Reiff '93** was appointed by Jackson Community College to be the director of the new Center for Student Success.

**Jennifer Sisson Bennett '94** and Jeff Bennett were married on Sept. 23, 2001 in Grand Ledge, where they now live. "I would love to hear from any class members that I have lost track with." (jsisson2@yahoo.com)

**Steve Emmert '94** and his wife Dana welcomed Tyler Chad Emmert into the world on June 6, 2001. Chad is an account executive at Pilot Industries.

**Barbara Ernst Lawrence '94** and her husband **Brett Lawrence '95**, are the proud parents of two children, Noah Henry (November 1999) and Maximillian Keaton

(April 2001). Barbara is the installation manager for Ford's North American FCN Network. Brett is a technical illustrator/graphic designer for SPX. Barbara and Brett enjoy working on their 100 year old home in their spare time.

**Robert Puckett '94** and his wife, Nicole, were married Nov. 26, 2001. Robert is a police officer for the city of Wayne.

**Julie Erhardt Walton '95** and **Jason Walton '96** hope everyone had a "wonderful holiday season. We were in Vermont with Jason's family and I felt like I was in a Currier and Ives painting! It was beautiful and fun; I would like to go back every year. I'm still loving the library." Julie and Jason have two children: Spencer will be 4 years old in April and Cooper is one year.

**Mary Jane Dopp '96** now lives in Burbank, CA. She is the coordinator of records and prospect research at the Providence Hospital Foundation in Burbank. Like Siena, the hospital is also involved in a multi-million dollar campaign. Mary Jane's oldest daughter is expecting her first child and Mary Jane cannot wait to become a grandma.

**Amy Trosino Eggers '96** of Medina, OH, showed recent illustrations in an exhibit titled "On My Way" at the Medina County Public Library last October. Amy, who earned her MFA at the Savannah College of Art and Design in Georgia, currently teaches art to children at her own studio and art school, Artventure Studio and Gallery, in Medina. In her own work, she specializes in illustration, drawing, painting, portfolio and gallery design.

**Billy Houghteling '96** is now a technology development officer at North Carolina State University. He is also working on his MSM (an MBA with a science management focus which stands for Master of Science Management).

**Matt Ostapowicz '96** corrected a few errors in the class note from the last *Reflections*: Matt's father is Daniel, not Ray; and Matt has been with the Grand Rapids Police Department for seven years, not three; and was promoted to sergeant in October 2001. He and Amy, his wife of five years, have two children: Tyler (almost 4) and Calli (11/2).

**Jolene Herr Stafford '96** was married to Allen Stafford, May 12, 2001 in Fayette, OH. She works at Buckeye Veterinary Hospital in Edgerton, OH. Jolene and Allen live in Edon, OH.

Katherine Catron into the world on May 26, 2001. "Let's get together."

**Jason Fylan '97** writes from Lakeville: "After receiving my master's degree from the University of Dayton, I moved to Los Angeles and set up contacts in the entertainment industry. Now I have moved back, and I commute to and from L.A. to do business. I was fortunate enough to have the lead in an independent feature film, called 'Sleep,' information of which can now be found at the web site [www.coppergreyfilms.com](http://www.coppergreyfilms.com). I am glad to be back in the greatest

### Alumni News from **SHU in Monroe**

*Siena Heights at Monroe County Community College (since 1990)*

**Deborah Weaver-Funk '93** of Monroe writes, "I survived a merger/takeover of Warner-Lambert by Pfizer. I've been promoted to supervisor of the Project Assistants in Clinical Studies Management and Monitoring. Project Assistants ensure regulatory compliance during the conduct of cardiovascular, central nervous system, oncology, and metabolic disease clinical research studies. It's challenging, but also rewarding!"

**Amy Sims '95** and **Cory Solomon '95** were married Dec. 29, 2001, at Greenfield Village in Dearborn. Amy is manager of program management and administration at Tenneco Automotive in Monroe. She was featured in the Monroe County Community College Winter 2002 edition of Career Focus as a "Double-Transfer Success Story." Amy received her associate's degree from Monroe County Community College, her bachelor's degree from Siena Heights, and her master's from the University of Toledo. Cory is pursuing a master's degree in criminal justice at Michigan State while working as records systems supervisor for the Monroe Police Department.

**Mark Allen Durivage '98** of Oregon, Ohio, is the chairperson of Manufacturing and Industrial Operations at Owens Community College. He received his master's degree from Eastern Michigan University.

**Linda Kuehnlein '99** is currently working at La-Z-Boy Inc. in Monroe.

**Eric Baldwin '97/MA** was featured in the Jackson Citizen Patriot on Jan. 21, 2002. Shortly after receiving his master's in counseling from Siena Heights, he became a counselor at the Jackson Area Career Center. That same year, Eric adopted two young boys, now ages 4 and 5.

**Heather Kandler Catron '97** and **Sean Catron '99** welcomed

state in the U.S. I invite all old friends to contact me."

**David Oudbier '97** and his wife **Darcie Williams Oudbier '98** welcomed son Ethan Charles into the world on July 18, 2001. David is a fifth grade math/science teacher at Sparta Middle School.

**James Plowman '97** is an account executive at St. Claire

## Alumni Spotlight



© Cathy Nolan 2001

# Cathy Nolan '92

## New York Illustrator pays homage to 9/11

New York artist and illustrator Cathy Nolan '92 works in product development at Scholastic Entertainment, in an office not far from the site of the World Trade Center. On September 11, she walked home to Brooklyn; "my faith really helped me through that frightening day," she says. The next day, she recalls, "I needed something to do that would not only help me cope with the situation but also honor all of the souls that sacrificed their lives" in the WTC disaster. So she began sketching "Never Forgotten" (shown left). The finished mixed media piece (gouache, pastel and ink; 32"x22") was part of the "Prevailing Human Spirit" exhibition at the Society of Illustrators' gallery in January. About 400 artists participated in the show, raising \$25,000 for 9/11 victims.

Cathy also creates animated eCards for companies including Amazon.com and Barnes and Noble. She will show her work in May at the National Surtex Show in New York, "in hopes of licensing out my cartoon characters and designs onto greeting cards, gift wraps and products."

Life since Siena has been "one big adventure" for Cathy, who hopes to go to Brazil to teach teenagers how to use art to express themselves. "A big hello to all my Siena colleagues, especially the RAs with whom I worked."

See more of Cathy's work at [www.cathynolan.com](http://www.cathynolan.com).

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## Class Notes

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Inc. and lives in Ann Arbor. He says: "I have spent the last four years within the Winston Cup ranks as a chassis consultant. I worked very closely with the most famous drivers and teams in the industry. I enjoyed much success in the racing biz. Also, I am playing in some rock 'n roll bands as a singer, drummer and guitarist."

**Julie Tortora Baechler '98** and her husband Tim recently celebrated their 10th wedding anniversary. They have two sons, Brocton (June 2001) and Lou (February 2000). Julie runs a motorcycle dealership, and her husband teaches and coaches football at Plymouth-Canton High School.

**Melissa Bone '98** is a care manager at Region II Area Agency on aging in Adrian.

**Genet Cherkez '98** is currently employed with Mount Clemens Community Schools at Martin

Luther King Academy.

**Nicole Rogowski '98** is currently working at Hutzel Hospital in Detroit.

**Wade Writer '98** is employed as a network administrator at Merillat Industries where his wife, Elizabeth, is an interior/showroom designer. The couple were wed November 3, 2001, in Adrian.

**Darcy Fitchko '99** is supervisor of the Digital Photography

is a police officer for the city of Pontiac.

**Richard Stein '99** is the editor of *U.S. Foreign Policy Since the Cold War*, published recently by H.W. Wilson Publishing Company, a publisher of academic and reference books. He works for Wilson and lives in Brooklyn, NY.

## 2000

**Denise Clark '00** was featured in the Jonesville Independent on Nov. 23, 2001. She is a first grade

**Robert Czeiszperger '00** and his wife Angela celebrated the birth of their first child, Amber Joan, on Jan. 22, 2002.

**Erin Nimitz '00** teaches art K-12 for Breckenridge Community Schools.

**Karla Pennington '00** received the employee of the month award from Lenawee Bancorp, Inc. in July 2001. She was chosen for this award because of "her many contributions to the corporation and its community activities." Karla was on several committees this past year for the Bank of Lenawee Grand Prix. She is a marketing representative at the Bank of Lenawee.

**Brenda Skinner '00** and **Daniel Thompson '02** were married Sept. 8, 2001 in Adrian. Brenda is an accounting manager at Nuestro LLC in Adrian and Daniel is a programmer at Venchurs Inc. in Adrian.

**Sarah Sottile Venier '00** is a second-grade teacher at Madison Elementary School in Adrian. She was married in June 2001 to Christopher Paul Venier, a former Siena Heights student who is now a field service engineer for

**Alumni News from**  
**SHU in Metro Detroit**  
*Siena Heights Metropolitan Detroit Program (since 1977)*

**Jesse Astalos '80** is an infrastructure manager at Pfizer. He works in the Shinjuku Nomura Building in Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo, Japan.

Department at Park West Gallery.

**Amy Gillin '99** and **Charles Janczarek '98** were married Oct. 6, 2001, in Waterford. Amy is an art teacher at the Pontiac Academy for Excellence and Charles

teacher at Williams Elementary in Jonesville. The reporter wrote, "The staff and students have welcomed Clark into the Williams family; her enthusiasm and sparkling personality have brightened the hallways at the school."

# Alumni Event

## "Brunch and Broadway" in Chicago

Eric Parker '92 enjoyed a successful run this winter starring as Che in "Evita" at the Drury Lane Theatre in Oakbrook, IL. He also "starred" in a Siena Heights alumni event that gathered 45 alumni and friends for Drury Lane's famous Sunday brunch, insights from the Theatre Siena faculty, and a performance of "Evita." Eric joined the group after the final curtain to talk about the production. As a result of his success in "Evita," Eric was invited to stay on for the Drury Lane production of "Anything Goes."



American Medical Vision Technologies in Monroe.

## Deaths

**Mary Mullins, OP '33** (formerly Sister Patrick Jerome) died Jan. 15 at the Dominican Life Center. She spent 35 years ministering in Illinois, Florida and Michigan. During her career, she taught at Siena Heights University and Barry University. She also served as religious education coordinator in Detroit, associate vicar in Miami, pastoral minister in Fort Lauderdale and catechetics teacher and library assistant at Barry University. She was also Novice Mistress in Adrian from 1952 to 1965 and came to the Dominican Life Center in 1989.

**Evangeline Marie Loveridge, OP '38** (formerly Sister Mildred Cecilia Hildebrand) of Adrian died Jan. 19 at the age of 98. A teacher for 51 years, she taught in Michigan, Illinois and Florida. In 1975, she retired from teaching. She came to live at the Motherhouse in 1983.

**Imelda House OP '42** (formerly Sister Marie Imelda) died Jan. 15 at the age of 94. In her 42 years of teaching, she taught in Illinois, Michigan, Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico and Iowa. She came to the Motherhouse in 1974 and worked as a secretary for one year.

**Priscilla Snell OP '45** (formerly Sister Marie Virginia) died Feb. 11 at the Dominican Life Center. She spent 21 years teaching in Michigan, Puerto Rico and Florida. Sister was editor of Motherhouse publications (1967-1968) and she also was media collaborator for the Diocese of Saginaw, Michigan (1971-1972). 1972-1981, she served as secretary for the Diocese of Saginaw, the Archdiocese of Detroit and Immaculate Conception Province in Detroit. She then devoted her time to freelance writing in Detroit (1981-1987) and creative writing in Dominican Oaks, Santa Cruz, CA (1988-1995). Sister came to the Dominican Life Center in 1995. She was 88 at her death.

**Jean Philip Lucid OP '50** (formerly Sister Helen Theresa) passed away Dec. 22 at the

Dominican Life Center. She spent 55 years ministering in education in Michigan, Illinois and Florida. From 1972-1987, she served as religious education coordinator in Miami Shores, FL. In Grosse Pointe Farms, MI, she worked in parish ministry from 1987 to 1993.

**Murielle Scott Frautschi '61** of Manitou Beach passed away Jan. 15. She taught for three years in Canada and 28 years at Addison Community Schools where she was a teacher and administrator. Murielle retired in 1982 and was a member of Addison United Church, the Michigan Elementary and Middle School Principal Association, the Michigan Association of Retired School Personnel and Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. She was 81.

**William C. Dunn '79** of Jonesville, died at the age 48 Dec. 2, 2001. Bill received a business education degree from Siena Heights and went on to Hanover, Horton and Homer where he taught and coached. He came to Jonesville in 1985, where he was the head basketball coach and assistant football coach. Bill's basketball accomplishments as a coach include: a seven-time winner of the Pat Patterson Holiday Tournament, seven-time Big 8 Champions and six-time District Champions. He received the Jackson Citizen Patriot's Coach of the Year award in 1981, Hillsdale Daily News All-Area Coach of the Year in 1988, and Region 6 Coach of the Year in 1994.

**Bronson Wayne Mansfield '03** died Dec. 27, 2001. Bronson was a junior at Siena Heights and was studying for a bachelor's degree and pilot's license. He co-owned Suzy Q's Car Wash, was a member of Evangelical Free Church and Young Life, and played basketball on the Adrian City Men's Basketball League. He also was involved in the Hot Rock Summer Camp. He was 21.

**Beverly Lynn Perritt '03** passed away Feb. 5 at age 38 after a short illness. A non-traditional student, she was working toward a degree in accounting.

## Alumni News from SHU in Battle Creek

*Siena Heights at Kellogg Community College (1992)*

**Rebecca A. Squires '97** was a candidate for the City Commission of Battle Creek. She was first elected to the City Commission in 1999. Becky is currently a branch manager for AAA Michigan.

## Class Notes 23



## Numbers, Names and Faces

The corner photos in this issue of *Reflections* picture alumni and friends who attended February's "Brunch and Broadway" event in Chicago (see story, page 22). The names that match the faces are:

- 2: Tracy Church '93 and *Reflections* editor Jennifer Hamlin Church
- 3: Marilyn Francoeur, OP '62
- 4: Camila DiPietro '87
- 5: Mark DiPietro '83, theatre faculty
- 6: Margaret Mehigan, OP '55
- 7: Josephine "Pat" Finn '61
- 8: Joan McCoy '76
- 9: Ann Mrugala, OP '62
- 18: Doug Miller '74, '83/MA, theatre faculty
- 19: Deb Carter, dean of the College for Professional Studies, with daughters Sarah and Emily
- 20: Tom Kavanagh, vice president for advancement
- 22: Audrey Parker, former English faculty
- 23: Bob Parker, former SHU registrar

## Photos shown opposite

(clockwise from left):

Eric Parker '92 with the theatre faculty: Trudy McSorley '70, Mark DiPietro '83, Doug Miller '74

Phil and Ann Johnston Hughes '82, trustee

Loretta Glanz, OP '68 and Mary Meegan, OP '46

Joann Phillips '93 (LMC) and Anne Guinan, OP '64

Patricia Spangler, OP '60, with Margaret Loretta Drexler, OP and her sister-

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