

# REFLECTIONS

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

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

November 2003



# Impact!

Students, faculty and alumni make their mark at SHU and in life.



## The Inside Scoop

### From the Editor

#### IMPACT!

Impact is a two-way concept at SHU. The University — its mission, values, people and programs — has an impact on students that is sometimes life-changing. We know this because our alumni tell us so and because, now and then, we see it happening right before our eyes. But impact happens in both directions: Inspired by their professors, students return the favor, exciting their teachers with new questions and ideas. Alumni have a huge impact, too, shaping Siena with gifts of time, talent and financial support.

In this issue of Reflections, you'll meet some of the students, faculty, and alumni making an impact at Siena today — as well as some of the legendary Adrian Dominicans whose impact will be felt for generations.

As editor of Reflections, I hope I've had an impact, too. It's been a privilege and a joy to bring the University to life in the pages of this magazine for the past eight years. I've appreciated hearing from many of you — an editor always likes to know someone's really reading out there!

I know Siena has had an impact on me. I've been inspired by the Adrian Dominicans, energized by our mission to be "competent, purposeful and ethical," and invariably delighted by my meetings with Siena alumni and friends around the country.

Because of all of that, I am pleased to be starting a new chapter at Siena as director of the SHU alumni relations office. In this new role, I am focusing my energies on outreach and service to Siena Heights alumni. I welcome your suggestions, invite your ideas, and look forward to meeting many more of you in the months to come.

With the completion of this issue, I will hand Reflections to a new editor-in-chief, Debbie Myers, who has been my capable colleague in communications for the past two-and-a-half years. I will remain involved with the magazine, but in a contributing capacity.

Thanks for reading Reflections these past eight years. Let's stay in touch!

Jennifer A. Hamlin Church

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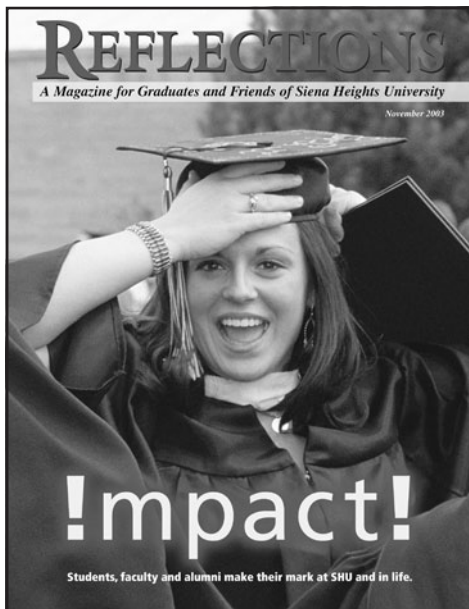
Jere Righter '93

# REFLECTIONS

A Magazine for Graduates and Friends of Siena Heights University

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### On The Cover

Commencement made a big impact on this Siena Heights graduate. "I was really excited," recalls Frankie (Frances) Palazzolo '03. And she deserved to be! A theatre major who was involved with "oh, 16, 17, a lot" of productions during her four years on campus, she also worked full-time, putting herself through SHU with help from financial aid and supportive faculty. "Every time I thought I couldn't make it, Mark DiPietro helped me find a way," she remembers. After starring as Tina in "Tony and Tina's Wedding" last spring, Frankie decided her heart is with improvisational theatre. She recently moved to Chicago to study with "Second City."

## SHU Alumni Association Board of Directors

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Mabel Pye '01 (Southfield)

Daniel Robinson '99 (Battle Creek)

Sr. Jodie Screes, OP '53

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Christa Marsik, OP '59

Mary Phillips '71

Sr. Pat Schnapp, RSM, Faculty Representative

Carol Krueger '04, Student Representative

Office of Alumni Relations

Jennifer Hamlin Church,

Associate VP for Advancement:

Alumni Relations

## 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.

# A Powerful Impact

## Making A Difference for Today's Students

Oh, the things we take for granted! The northeast power outage reminded millions of our minute-to-minute dependence on electrical power and of the necessities and conveniences of modern living that require reliable sources of power to keep us comfortable and connected.

An incident at the end of this past academic year provided me a powerful insight that we often are not aware of the impact we have on others, forgetting that what we say or do everyday can make a difference. In May, I received a very kind, hand-written note from a student, thanking me for displaying courage and character during a difficult year for the University. Unknown to me, she was making mental notes about leadership and I'll be forever grateful and humble that she shared her observations with me. I realized that my distant actions as president were imprinted on her leadership

have chosen to honor these teachers/mentors by endowing scholarships that will help future generations receive a quality and personalized education, and at the same time, place into perpetuity the memory and legacy of special people.

I encourage others who have been affected by their educational experiences at Siena Heights to create new scholarship endowments as a means of honoring individuals (teachers, parents, loved ones) who have had an impact on you. We are blessed when those who have been touched by us tell us in the present. More often, it seems part of our human nature to postpone those moments of reflection and action, and wait for the opportunity to arrive (but it never does) to express that appreciation. Here then, is a way for you to convey that message today. You can add to existing endowment funds, create your own, or continue to make contributions to the annual fund and special campaigns.



education. Imagine the impact of the daily, close interactions our students have with faculty, coaches, advisors, and support staff.

This issue of *Reflections* is about IMPACT. For the many women who were educated at St. Joseph's College/Siena Heights College, their lives were indelibly influenced by the Adrian Dominican Sisters who served as faculty and support staff throughout the decades. You will read about alumni who

Your support to the University gives evidence that your life has been touched by Siena Heights and we thank you for this concrete testimony that our mission is living and has an impact.

Richard B. Artman

## President's Message 1



**Top:** President Artman poses for pictures with 2003 Metro Detroit graduate Karl Kessler.

**Left:** Parents Council co-presidents Ronald and Kathleen Sill of Commerce Township celebrate daughter Anne's 2003 graduation.

Among the family and friends attending graduation was Anne's sister Amanda Sill Fylan '99 (second from left).



# Commencement!

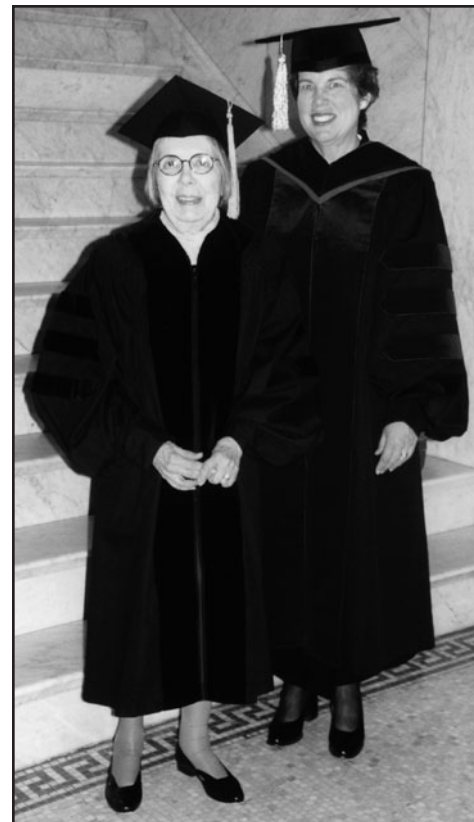
## Not A Day But A Season At Siena Heights

The graduation season started on May 4, a day of bright sunshine and cool breezes. Degree candidates from our degree-completion centers in Port Huron, Monroe, Southfield, Jackson and Lansing joined their Adrian counterparts for a day of well-earned celebration on the Adrian campus.

This year's main campus commencement included speeches from three graduates representing the three colleges of Siena Heights University: Meghan Vigeant, receiving a B.A., spoke on behalf of the College of Arts and Sciences. Tod Skrzynski, receiving a B.A.S. degree through the Jackson Center, represented the College for Professional Studies. Deborah Keller, one of the first eight recipients of the new Specialist of Arts in Educational Leadership, spoke for The Graduate College (related story on p. 7).

In addition, two Siena Heights alumnae received special honors from the University.

Student commencement speakers (from left)  
Deb Keller, Tod Skrzynski, and Meghan Vigeant.



Clinical psychologist Dr. Donna J. Markham, OP '70 received the Siena Medal, the University's highest honor, given to individuals who have helped transform the social and political world, enabling others to live in dignity and peace.

Anna Bakeman Tompert '38, author of more than 30 children's books and a life-long learner who at 85 will publish three more books this year, received the honorary degree Doctor of Humane Letters.

The first cohort of students in our Port Huron program also graduated this spring. The Port Huron students participated in the main campus Commencement, but also were honored at graduation ceremonies at St. Clair County Community College, where the Siena program is headquartered.

The Commencement season continued with graduation celebrations in Battle Creek on May 17 and in Benton Harbor on May 18.

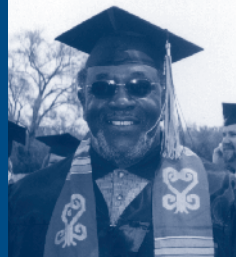
**Congratulations to all graduates!**



**Top right:** special honorees Ann Tompert (left) and Donna Markham. **Right:** Mother and daughter grads Sue (right) and Amanda Gerhard.

## Blindness No Obstacle To Active Siena Heights Graduate

## From the Heights 3



“The Lord gave me strength.”

Jo Ann Sheehan of Lansing is one of Siena's newest alumni, having completed her bachelor's degree in community service this summer with SHU at Lansing Community College. She participated in Commencement on the main campus in May, walking with her leader dog, Misty.

Jo, as she is known to her friends, has been legally blind for 17 years, but this has not kept her from pursuing her goal of helping others with disabilities.

She first enrolled at Siena Heights three years ago after earning her associate's degree at LCC. Her Siena instructors were very helpful, she said, allowing her to tape record class lectures and discussions. Professors often sent exams by e-mail (she uses special voice recognition software to translate messages) or read test questions aloud to her.

Jo Ann began losing her vision in the 1970s and was declared legally blind in 1986. “Through my faith, the Lord gave me the strength and courage to go on with life, even though I couldn't see,” she says. “I learned Braille and used a white cane for five years.”

In 1991, she got her first leader dog, a golden Labrador named Sadie. When Sadie “retired” because of arthritis in 2001, Jo Ann returned to Leader Dogs for the Blind and received her current companion, Misty, another golden lab.

Jo Ann is active in the community, especially with the Briton Woods Lions Club which supports Leader Dogs for the Blind. A member of the club since 1996, she is a past president and now serves on the board of directors. She often spotlighted the Lions Club in her community service classes at Siena, reports friend and fan Deborah Clark '02 of Charlotte, also a graduate of the SHU Lansing program.

Jo also serves in social ministry at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish. Through the Catholic Diocese of Lansing, she is a member of the Council on Aging. She volunteers for the Michigan Association for the Deaf, Hearing and Speech, and has been active in disaster services and diversity efforts focusing on people with disabilities. She works out regularly in the gym, too!

With graduation festivities out of the way, Jo Ann is applying for jobs and hopes to find a position serving others with disabilities. She also has enrolled in a graduate counseling class at Siena Heights. She presented a two-day workshop on disabilities at LCC in August, and was preparing for a trip to Rome with others from her church earlier this fall. “Misty is not going with me.” (A friend will “doggie sit.”)

“Jo is an inspiring lady whom I much admire,” says Siena classmate Deborah Clark. “She and Misty are something special.”



## Adrian Dominicans Welcome West Coast Congregation



In front of Madden Hall, a rangoli symbolized the merger process. A rangoli is a traditional Indian art form in which a colorful design is made near the entrance to a house to welcome guests. The merger rangoli included ecological artifacts native to areas where the sisters reside.

The Adrian Dominican Sisters, founders and sponsors of Siena Heights, officially welcomed the Dominican Sisters of Edmonds, WA, into the congregation at ritual merger celebrations held in Washington state in June and in Michigan in August. Symbolic of the merger, both congregations renewed their vows as Adrian Dominican Sisters.

The two congregations share similar traditions, values and charism; and spent more than two years considering the merger before the 55-member Edmonds community voted to officially join the larger Adrian congregation.

The Adrian Dominican Sisters have more than 1,000 vowed members and associates ministering worldwide in the areas of education,

health care and social justice. Each sister has an “OP” after her name, signifying the Order of Preachers and honoring the heritage of the order and its 12th century founder, Dominic de Guzman.



## Alumna Is Among First Recipients Of Specialist Of Arts Degree

By Debbie Myers



For Deborah Carrington Keller '74, '75/MA, earning a specialist degree at Siena Heights was a natural way to gain more knowledge on the road of lifelong learning.

Deb was among the first group of working professionals to earn the Specialist of Arts degree in educational leadership. At commencement May 4, she represented The Graduate College by giving a speech and later joined her seven fellow students in receiving Siena's first-ever Specialist of Arts diplomas.

Deb, principal at St. Joseph Academy and an Adrian resident, has a long history with Siena Heights. She earned her Bachelor of Arts here in 1974. During the second semester of her senior year, she began taking classes for graduate credit. She completed the master's in 1975.

Returning to the classroom as a student after more than 25 years was a bit daunting, she said, even though she had continued her professional development through conferences and seminars. "The first day I wondered if I could do it," she recalls. Some folks told her it should come naturally to her as an educator, but Deb said earning the degree was challenging and rewarding.

"The instructors challenged us. They had expectations, but were also very supportive," she said. "It was an awesome experience."

The program "really broadens you, pushes you and gives you new network opportunities," Deb said. "There is a desperate need in education today to have educational

leaders," she added, noting the program is not just for those who want to become principals or superintendents.

The Siena alumna recommends the specialist degree program, noting that now "there is something higher than a master's" to earn at Siena.

"I knew all along of Siena's wonderful tradition of excellence in education at the master's and undergraduate levels. Siena put together a great program for the specialist degree," Deb said. "The program was well organized and none of us ever doubted the quality."

For Deb, Commencement 2003 had even more meaning because she was graduating with her oldest son, Matthew, who earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Siena—making SHU a family tradition. Deb's husband, Dave, is also a '75 graduate.

For more information about the Specialist of Arts in Educational Leadership, contact The Graduate College at Siena Heights University, 517-264-7666.



## Graduate College Adds Degree In Liberal Studies

A Master of Arts in Adult Liberal Studies is the newest addition to the graduate degree offerings at Siena Heights.

According to Bob Gordon, dean of the Graduate College, the liberal studies program "is designed for the intellectually curious adult student who wants to advance his or her life-long learning interests in a community of scholars." The degree is intended to be a personally stimulating and broadening academic journey, rather than a stepping stone to professional advancement, he explained.

The required 30 hours of credit include independent research and a travel-study experience as well as seminars in five areas: humanities; social, behavioral and management sciences; science and mathematics; information technology; and fine and performing arts.

The liberal studies program brings to six the number of Master of Arts degrees offered by Siena Heights at various Michigan locations:

- Community Counseling (Adrian, Rochester Hills, Harper Woods)
- School Counseling (Adrian, Rochester Hills)
- Graduate Teacher Education (Adrian)
- Health Care Administration (Southfield, Harper Woods, St. John Health Care System)
- Organizational Leadership (Adrian, Southfield, Harper Woods, Battle Creek)
- Adult Liberal Studies (Adrian)

The Graduate College also offers the Specialist of Arts in Educational Leadership on the Adrian campus. The specialist degree is a more advanced degree for individuals who already hold a master's in education.

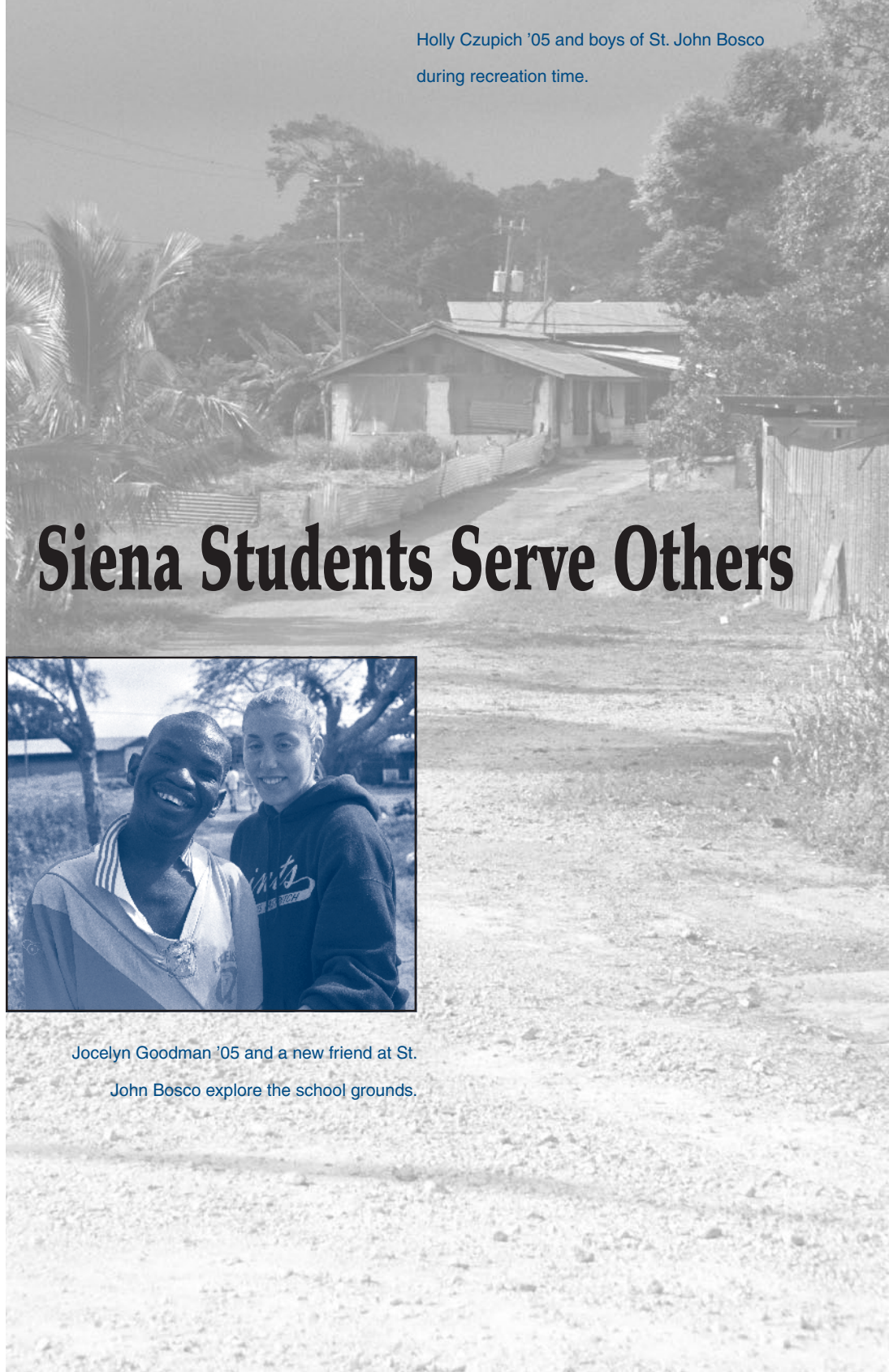


## From the Heights 6

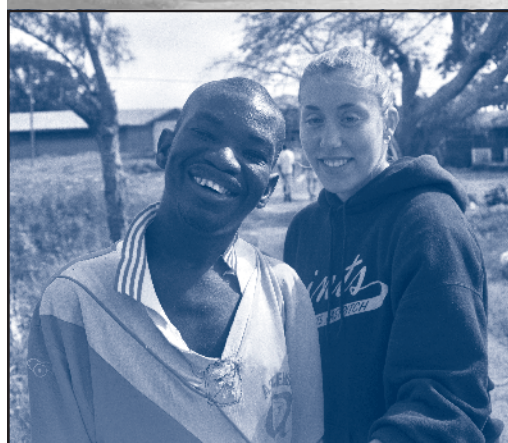
A group of students and recent alumni, led by Sister Pat Schnapp, RSM, spent two weeks in Jamaica in May, volunteering at St. John Bosco Boys School in Hatfield, about 60 miles into the mountains from Montego Bay. The group spent most of their time painting the facilities—including painting several murals in the dormitories—and organizing recreational activities with the residents of the school, abandoned and delinquent boys between the ages of 3 and 18 who have been removed from their homes by the government. “I am grateful for this opportunity to experience a much different culture,” said participant Holly Czupich '05 of Temperance. Sister Pat led a similar Siena work trip to St. John Bosco several years ago.



Holly Czupich '05 and boys of St. John Bosco during recreation time.



# Siena Students Serve Others



Jocelyn Goodman '05 and a new friend at St. John Bosco explore the school grounds.



Damon Sloan, director of residence life, works in the backyard of a Habitat for Humanity house.

The third annual Siena Serves Day took place August 23 during Welcome Weekend, with students and staff volunteering together at locations throughout the Adrian area. Service activities ranged from office work to yard work, and almost everything in between. Coordinated by the Campus Ministry Team at Siena Heights, the service project gets first year students involved in the community as soon as they arrive on campus. The volunteers assist agencies as diverse as the Catherine Cobb Domestic Violence Shelter, the Humane Society, the East Side Community Coalition, and the Lenawee Intermediate School District, among many others.

# from Michigan To Montego Bay

Christi Meredith, a freshman at Siena Heights, cuddles a cat at the Lenawee Humane Society.



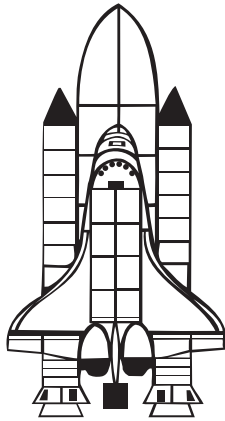
## Upward Bound, McNair Receive Renewed Funding

Siena Heights recently received notification that Upward Bound and the Ronald E. McNair Post Baccalaureate Achievement Program received renewed funding from the U.S. Department of Education.

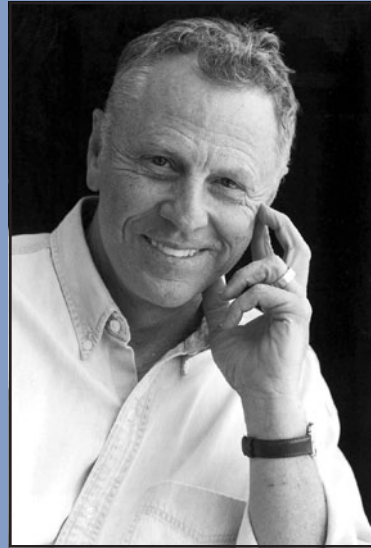
Upward Bound, which recently celebrated 30 years on the Siena Heights campus, helps high school students from low-income families prepare to enroll and excel in college. The program serves 9th – 12th grade students who are potential first-generation college-bound students. Annita Galnares '77, '87/MA directs Upward Bound at SHU.

Siena Heights has hosted the McNair Program, named in memory of an African-American astronaut lost aboard the space shuttle Challenger, for 10 years and has been re-funded for another four years. The program prepares and motivates current college students to continue their education beyond the baccalaureate level and pursue master's or doctoral degrees. Students in the McNair Program are low-income first generation college students and/or from groups under-represented in graduate school. Dr. Nellie Branch Kanno directs the McNair Program.

In addition to Upward Bound and McNair, Siena Heights hosts the Student Support Service program. Also funded by the Department of Education, Student Support Services helps to retain Upward Bound alumni and other "at risk" students once they enroll at the University.



## 3rd Annual Ethics Lecture Brings Morris Dees to Siena Heights



The search committee for the Chiodini/Fontana Endowed Lecture Series chose Morris Dees to share his message, "Voices of Hope and Tolerance," on Nov. 12.

The son of an Alabama farmer, Morris Dees witnessed racial discrimination and prejudice at an early age and has dedicated his life to battling the men and women who give it rise. Co-founder of the Southern Poverty Law Center, Dees and his associates have waged several successful legal battles

against the Aryan Nation, the Ku Klux Klan, and various other hate groups across the country, winning multi-million dollar settlements for the victims of racially motivated attacks and deaths. In 30 years of service, Dees has come to believe that we can be a tolerant and free nation in the face of domestic terrorism, and more importantly, he believes that we can ensure civil liberties and personal freedom in this new era of international terrorism. His beliefs are an inspiration to many.

A graduate of the University of Alabama Law School, Dees has received numerous accolades in conjunction with his work at the Center. His honors include being named a "Trial Lawyer of the Year" by the Trial Lawyers for Public Justice, and receiving the National Education Association's Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Award.

In addition to his work fighting for racial equality, Dees has also devoted his time to educating people about America's radical militia movement. In his 1996 expose, *Gathering Storm: America's Militia Threat*, Dees explores the dangers these groups represent. In addition to *Gathering Storm*, Dees has written two other books: his autobiography, *A Lawyers Journey*; and *Hate on Trial: The Case Against America's Most Dangerous Neo-Nazi*.

Mr. Dees addressed the community of Siena Heights University, including students, faculty, and alumni, in the Francoeur Theatre of the Performing Arts Center. His lecture was followed by questions and answers, and a reception.

The Chiodini/Fontana endowed lecture series on ethics was inaugurated in 2002 by human rights activist Kerry Kennedy Cuomo. This past spring, Randy Cohen addressed students, faculty and staff on the topic of everyday ethics. Instituted to bring prominent speakers to Siena Heights University, the lecture series was established through the current capital campaign with support from the Reuther family, the Knabusch Trust and other donors. If you would like to offer your support for this important program, please contact Tom Kavanagh, vice president of advancement, at [tkavanagh@sienahts.edu](mailto:tkavanagh@sienahts.edu) or 517-264-7148.

Siena Heights University

# 25<sup>th</sup>

## Madrigal Dinner Reunion

December 13, 2003

Come, come ye sons and daughters of Art! Come, come away and join all former Madrigal Dinner casts in a celebration of 25 Years of Madrigal Dinner Concerts at Siena Heights University. Calling all singers, instrumentalists, trumpeters, jesters, ladies in waiting, lords of the household, page boys, stewards, litter bearers, and all of you who helped make Madrigal Dinner a Magical Dinner. Imagine, singing the table music, reminiscing and telling stories, standing behind your costume, and meeting and greeting friends. Contact your classmates today to join us in this 25th Anniversary Reunion.

### **Madrigal Dinner All-Cast Reunion**

Saturday, December 13, 2003  
Benincasa Dining Hall, 8:00 p.m.  
\$35 per person.  
Reservations required.

### **25th Annual Madrigal Dinner Concerts**

Friday & Saturday, December 5 & 6, 2003  
Benincasa Dining Hall, 8:00 p.m.  
\$35 per person.  
Reservations required.



From the  
Heights  
9



**For further information, contact the  
Madrigal Dinner Secretary:**

Amy Sturtevant  
Verheyden Performing Arts Center  
Siena Heights University  
1247 E. Siena Heights Drive  
Adrian, Michigan 49221.  
Email: [asturtev@sienahs.edu](mailto:asturtev@sienahs.edu)  
Telephone: (517) 264-7890



# *of the* The Beauty Mountaintop

*By Anthony Butler '04*

Editor's Note: Anthony Butler, an elementary education tri-minor from Deerfield, is in his second year as president of Student Senate. Although not Catholic when he arrived at Siena in 2000, he became active in the social justice side of Campus Ministry early in his freshman year. "The good work of helping people and standing up for things I believe in" drew him into discussion with Siena's Campus Ministry Team, where he discovered that the Adrian Dominican value system "spoke to who I am." Earlier this year, he completed the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults and was baptized and confirmed in the Catholic Church.

**H**ave you ever been to the mountains? Have you stood in the mist and looked out over the lush scenery below? Have you ever felt you could just reach up and grab the clouds? Have you felt you were as close as you could get to God without being in heaven?

Recently I had the opportunity to experience all of this and more in majestic Colorado Springs, CO.

The Aquinas Institute of Theology in St. Louis, with a generous gift from the Lilly Endowment, sponsors 20 undergraduate students each spring for Ministry in the Mountains. The program is designed to give students who are interested in min-

istry within the Church the opportunity to deepen their understanding of what ministry means. Students participate in presentations and discussions with Aquinas faculty and each other. The presentations range from systematic theology to preaching to leadership. The students are able to see how theology is necessary for ministry, as well as seeing the constant threads that run through the various areas of theology.

This year's students (who attended the program free of charge) came from different universities. Kristen was from Providence College. Amy was from University of New Mexico. Many were from the Midwest. All were connected



Anthony Butler (below right) explored Catholic values with new friends from around the world.



to the Dominicans. I am proud of my Dominican connection and hope it will continue to strengthen.

Our days were intense, but we had ample time to reflect on our experiences. Breakfast was followed by mass in a makeshift chapel; then presentation and discussion, followed by lunch. Next, more discussion and then liturgy planning—and then time for a bit of rest or exploring or whatever else we might enjoy. I usually read, but also walked the mountain. Relaxation was followed by more large-group time through dinner and into the evening. The day ended with praying the Liturgy of the Hours.

Our discussions were filled with questions of every kind, always followed by insightful thoughts. Through the week, we found where students landed on the spectrum of Catholicism. That was not the intent of the retreat, but it caught my attention as I, too, am trying and learning to place myself on this diverse continuum. We often use the terms liberal, moderate, and conservative, but I'm not sure those terms are descriptive enough. I like to think of myself as a dynamic Catholic.

There were many different opinions, but we were able to listen to one another; not just casual listening, but genuine and respectful listening. We learned that listening is essential to ministry, even before ministry begins.

At one of our last communal moments, we affirmed each other's gifts and had the opportunity to say anything else we wanted about our week together. I piped up and thanked everyone for making a neophyte feel so welcome. I never once

felt I was not "Catholic enough" for the retreat or that I did not know enough to contribute. I asked the students to look around the room and then said, "This is the Church," knowing that we all had different opinions about our faith. The fact is, it is our faith. We had spent the week listening to one another about our faith. Because we were all able to listen, and not only listen but value one another, I have great hope in the future of the Church.

We do not know God's plan for us, though we are often given glimpses. I believe, however, that everything happens for a reason. Jesus revolutionized the world with 12 named followers and several others who are unnamed. Ministry in the Mountains was 20 college students. We, too, can revolutionize our world by implementing the mission of Jesus again. The future is ours for the taking, and I am ready for whatever is in store.



# Teaching Awards Honor Three for Impact In the Classroom



Claudia Blanchard

Three faculty members in the College of Arts and Sciences received the Eileen K. Rice Award for Outstanding Teaching at Honors Convocation on the main campus this past spring.

**Claudia Blanchard**, associate professor of marketing, was honored as “an excellent listener who demonstrates respect for the thoughts and opinions of students” and who is “always approachable and available for guidance and direction.” She was recognized as a role model for the Siena mission for her insistence on putting learning into action.



Marilee Ewing, OP

**Marilee Ewing, OP '65**, assistant professor of education, was honored for “creating an atmosphere that promotes confidence, understanding, and professionalism.” She was applauded for helping her students embrace personal growth, constructive criticism, and ever-more-challenging goals in order to become exemplary educators.

**Melissa Sissen '77**, associate professor of library science, was recognized as “that dependable and knowledgeable librarian who is willing to go the extra mile” to help students locate critical resources. Her encouragement and support inspire students to “persevere and succeed in the face of very daunting research challenges.”



Melissa Sissen with Dean Sharon Weber

## Staff Honored for Effort and Impact

Two Siena Heights University employees were honored this spring with the annual Staff Excellence Award:



Bridget McKeon, secretary in the advancement office since 1997, was recognized for being reliable, cheerful, friendly and flexible, especially through periods of major change in the department.



Cindy Birdwell, director of security since 1999, was honored as someone who implements positive change, fosters teamwork, and focuses on customer service. This spring she took on added responsibility for conferences and facilities.



## A POETRY READING TOUR

### English Prof Takes His Poetry On The Road, Around The World

By Saleem Peeradina  
Associate Professor of English

Earlier this year, an invitation from American College, Madurai, took me to South India where I conducted a poetry workshop and did readings of my work in local colleges. The trip was an eye opener in many ways.

Founded by American missionaries way back in 1881, the college has a sprawling, shaded campus and is now part of the larger Madurai University system. Within the college, it was the Study Center for Indian Literature in English and in Translation (SCILET) that was my host.

The Center has one of the largest libraries and databases in Asia for the study of Indian Writing in English. It serves not only local students and faculty, but scholars from other parts of India as well working on their M.Phil. and Ph.D. degrees. It publishes one of the three surviving poetry journals in the country and invites distinguished writers under its Visiting Writers program.

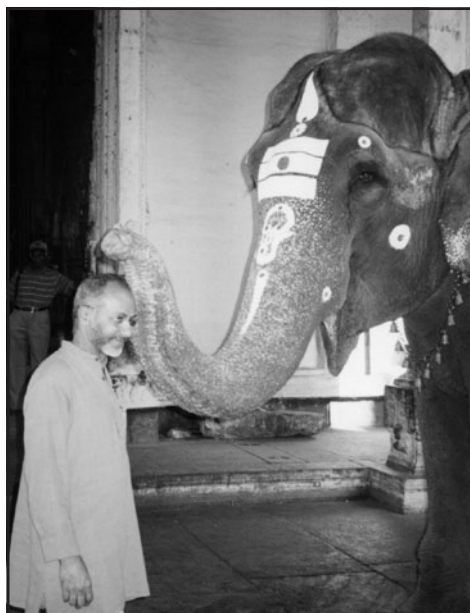
The moving spirit behind SCILET is Paul Love, a teacher of English from Michigan, who first went to India on a cargo ship at the age of 25 in 1954. Madurai has been his home now since the mid-eighties.

The city offered two other surprises. One was Shansi, a program funded by Oberlin College in Ohio, which provides a home for some of its graduate students desiring an Indian experience. Shansi (first started in the city of Shansi, China, for which the program is named, and later expanded to include Madurai, India) originated long before “multiculturalism” became a catchword. The Madurai portion of the program was celebrating 50 years while I was there in January.

The other program, SITA (South India Term Abroad), associated with American College, brings American students to the city for a semester’s stay involving academic study, fieldwork, and home stay with middle class families. I was invited to speak to the group, and was amazed at the initiative and courage of these students—wearing Indian attire, learning Tamil (the state language), eating the food, observing the customs—to immerse themselves in a culture which is alien even to North Indians!

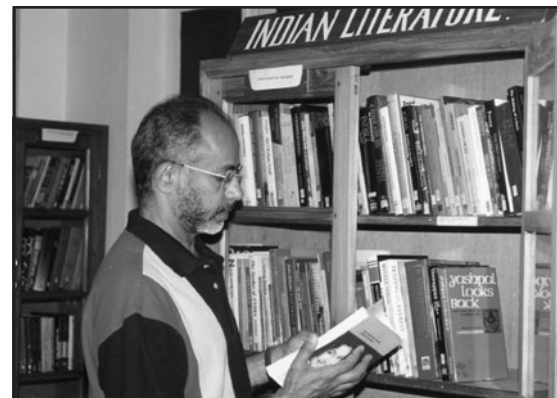
As for the workshop itself, I had a group of 14 which produced some sharp, average, and some pretty bad verse—no different from what students produce elsewhere, including in the US. It is easy to underestimate these students. City-slick Indian students have a tendency to put down these small town students but I found them well-informed, inquisitive, imaginative, politically sensitive, and, what touched me most, very earnest.

This was especially evident in the enthusiastic response to my poetry readings. Since my third book of poems had just been released, I had an additional reason to undertake this trip. After my Madurai stint, which included five readings in local colleges, I set out on my poetry reading tour.



My books have been in circulation in India for 30 years and it was reassuring that faculty and older readers were familiar with my work, even though I have been an expatriate for the last 14 years. The college-going generation was studying selections from my anthology in courses on Indian Writing. Over two months, I traveled to six locations to make 18 presentations and the adulation I received everywhere—Indian audiences are generous in the appreciation they show—was most gratifying.

Running into old friends, classmates, former students—many after 20 years—is a recurring phenomenon on my travels. In Bangalore, which is fast becoming the IT capital of Asia, an American woman now living in India, came up to me after a reading and said she was from Ottawa Lake and would I give a message to her old friend, Mary Rose (Weeber), from Blissfield? Small world indeed!



*Saleem Peeradina, considered one of the leading Indian poets writing in the English language, has been a member of the English faculty at Siena Heights since 1989 and was the 1992 recipient of the Eileen K. Rice, OP Award for Outstanding Teaching. He spent the 2002-03 academic year on a sabbatical leave; after his extended stay in India during the fall, he spent spring semester as Writer-in-Residence at Lenoir-Rhyne College in North Carolina. Peeradina’s most recent book of poetry is titled Meditations on Desire (2002). His earlier books include First Offence (1980) and Group Portrait (1992). Peeradina’s books are available in the Siena Heights Bookstore.*



## Endowed Scholarships Perpetuate the Memory Of Sisters Who Helped Shape Siena Heights

Alumni and friends recently initiated fund raising for new endowed scholarships named in memory of three legendary Adrian Dominican Sisters: Helene O'Connor, OP, Mary Philip Ryan, OP, and Miriam Michael Stimson, OP. Six other previously endowed scholarships honor the memories of other Adrian Dominicans (see box and sidebar).

In earlier years, the Adrian Dominicans were visible everywhere at Siena Heights: in classrooms, residence halls, offices, even the gym. Today, with fewer sisters on campus, "it is increasingly important to find ways to keep the Adrian Dominican spirit alive and well," says Sharon Weber, OP, dean of Siena's College of Arts and Sciences.

"These endowed scholarships ensure that future students will know the great names of our past," Weber adds. "And scholarships are a great tribute to women who believed passionately in the transforming power of education."

Gifts are welcome to strengthen these scholarships. For information, or to start a new endowed fund, contact the Advancement Office at (800) 693-0506.



# Ensuring the Adrian Dominican Legacy

### Endowed Scholarship Q & A

**What is endowment?**

Endowment is money that is not spent but instead is invested to produce interest that can be spent. An endowed scholarship generates annual income specifically for student aid. Like the enduring influence of the Adrian Dominicans, a gift to the endowment is permanent and powerful.

**What does it take to endow a scholarship?**

A minimum of \$10,000 is required to endow a scholarship. Smaller gifts are held in a restricted fund until the minimum endowment is reached.

**What's the impact of a \$10,000 endowment?**

A \$10,000 endowment typically will provide an annual scholarship of about \$500. A larger endowment will generate more or larger scholarships.

**What's a good goal for an endowed scholarship?**

A \$50,000 endowment fund can generate about \$2,500 in annual financial assistance, enough to make a significant difference for one or more talented students.

**Can anyone contribute?**

Absolutely. Typically, a scholarship endowment is initiated with a lead gift from one or more individuals and then built up with contributions from many other people.

**Why are scholarships a good way to honor the Sisters?**

The Adrian Dominicans welcomed students without regard to financial means. If a student wanted to learn and wanted to be here, the Sisters found a way. Endowed scholarships enable Siena Heights to "find a way" for students who need help.

## Sister Helene O'Connor, OP Endowed Scholarship

Mary Jo Stolpmann Fleming '47, one of many alumnae art majors shaped by Sister Helene, has taken the lead in establishing a scholarship honoring the first art professor at Siena Heights. The scholarship will encourage future generations of aspiring artists and help to maintain the Studio Angelico tradition of excellence started by Sister Helene.

**Progress Report:** Gifts and commitments totaling \$7,660 have been received to date for the Helene O'Connor scholarship endowment.

## Sister Helene O'Connor, OP '34 (1909-1992)

Siena Heights' first professor of art (1936-56). Founded Studio Angelico on the fifth floor of Sacred Heart Hall (1938). A demanding teacher and lifelong friend to her students. Later taught high school math and science and conducted research for the Atomic Energy Commission. Poet, philosopher, and universal scholar.

## Sister Mary Philip Ryan, OP Endowed Scholarship

The family and friends of "Mary Phil" have initiated a scholarship endowment honoring the Sister who was a pioneer in the Congregation's foreign missions and became senior historian of the Adrian Dominican Sisters. The scholarship will support students from the Philippines or of Philippine descent who are majoring in the humanities.

**Progress Report:** Gifts and pledges have passed the \$9,700 mark.

## Sister Mary Philip Ryan, OP (1901-2002)

Adrian Dominican novice director (1933-45) and Siena Heights English instructor. As a missionary, established schools in the Dominican Republic and a congregation in the Philippines. Principal of Rosary High School (Detroit). Author of *Amid the Alien Corn* (1967), an account of the early years of the Adrian Dominicans.

## Sister Miriam Michael Stimson, OP Endowed Scholarship

Karen Erickson '60 made a leadership pledge and was joined by Dr. Donita Sullivan '52, both honoring their mentor Sister Miriam Michael Stimson, also

known as M<sup>2</sup>. The new scholarship will assist juniors or seniors with financial need who are aiming for graduate or professional school.

**Progress Report:** The University has received \$15,035 in gifts and another \$9,000 in pledges, for a total of \$24,035 committed to the Stimson scholarship fund.

## Miriam Michael Stimson, OP '36 (1913-2002)

Chemistry professor (1939-1968). Established research lab and conducted independent research, including funded cancer research, for 30 years. Director of graduate programs (1978-91). Developed addiction counseling master's program. As professor emerita, actively involved in academic life well into her 80s.

## More Sisters Who Shaped Siena

Endowed scholarships already have been established honoring these Adrian Dominicans:

Sister Patricia Hogan, OP - Sister Pat Hogan (1924-1991) taught philosophy and history from 1966 to 1973; then returned to Siena as director of the philosophy program from 1979 to 1991. She was known for her sense of humor and concern for international students.

Sister Jean Cecile Hunt, OP - Story on p. 16.

Sister Jeannine Klemm, OP - A giant in Studio Angelico history, Sister Jeannine (1917-1991) was professor and chair of the art department, 1957-1982, and was a driving force behind the construction of the current art building. She was named professor emerita in 1989.

Sister Denise Mainville, OP - A talented composer, pianist and organist, Sister Denise (1905-2000) taught music and chaired the music department at Siena (1954-61 and 1970-71). Many of her compositions are used today in Lumen Chapel.

Sister Rita Noeker, OP - Although never a member of the Siena Heights faculty, Sister Rita (1918-2000) was well known to many Siena Heights graduates who knew her during her 35 years teaching choral and orchestral music at Dominican High School.

Sister Eileen Rice, OP - Professor of education and director of the education program from 1975 to 1994, Sister Eileen (1944-1994) was a teacher's teacher and a learner's learner, known for her boundless energy. She also served as president of the Alumni Association.

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Sister Helene O'Connor, OP '34  
(1909-1992)



Sister Mary Philip Ryan, OP  
(1901-2002)



Miriam Michael Stimson, OP '36  
(1913-2002)

## One Family's Response To the Kindness of an Adrian Dominican

### Sister Jean Cecile Hunt, OP Cusick Family Endowed Scholarship

#### Editor's Note:

Special thanks to Katherine Cusick for significant assistance with this story.



Jean Cecile, shown right with Joseph Cusick '88, had "a humble and attentive nature that drew us to her," says Katherine Cusick '84, '91/MA.

Sr. Jean Cecile Hunt and the John and Elizabeth Cusick family of Lansing began a lifelong friendship in September of 1962 when Mary Cusick Brya '69 first entered St. Joseph Academy to begin her high school education. Two sisters, Julie and Christine, would follow and graduate from the academy in 1966 and 1969, respectively. Christine would follow in 1969.

With the encouragement and mentoring of Sr. Jean, Mary and Julie entered the Dominican order and later graduated from Siena Heights. A decade later, two more of the Cusick children were encouraged by Sr. Jean to attend Siena, and in the 1980's Joseph and Katherine graduated from Siena Heights.

"To say Sr. Jean Cecile answered God's call to be a mentor and friend to the Cusick family is an understatement," says Mary. "Encouraging young minds to seek a value driven education based on developing the individual was indeed Sr. Jean doing God's work."

Principal of St. Joseph Academy from 1960 to 1972, Sr. Jean Cecile went on to become a legendary student advisor and director of advising at Siena Heights beginning in 1974. Upon her retirement in 1990, she was named professor emerita. Known to hundreds of students as a loving friend, demanding teacher, and remarkable counselor, Jean Cecile was committed to the education and growth of each student she served.

The Cusicks were drawn to Sr. Jean almost immediately. In the early years, when visiting at St. Joseph Academy, they could count on Sr. Jean to greet them with a warm welcome and shared conversation.

"On one occasion, we arrived at the Academy late in the night. Sr. Jean welcomed all of us in—and at that visit there were 9 of us. She took us to the kitchen and pulled out treats enough for everyone and visited with us as if we were enjoying a scheduled afternoon tea," Julie recalls.



Sister was quick to share a piece of chocolate or a Butterfinger candy bar, Julie remembers. "This was Jean's way of turning an advising session into a visit amongst friends. And what a friend she was!"

Jean developed a friendship with Joseph Cusick '88 that he will forever cherish. "Sr. Jean held Joe as a baby when our family made the first trip to the Academy," Joe's mother Elizabeth, explains. Jean watched him grow over the years and then, 17 years after that first meeting, "she again held Joe's hand as he began his college career at Siena."

Joseph recalls many afternoons in Sr. Jean's office, visiting and discussing world events. He found, as so many Siena students did, that with Jean, no request went unheard or undelivered. "No matter what the need, she would find some way to meet it."

When a student was homesick or in need of direction, Jean always took time to listen and provided unwavering counsel. "She was our 'light in the storm,'" says Mary, noting that Sr. Jean Cecile was an educator who understood that to develop a person's mind, you must first comfort and elevate the person's spirit.

The Cusicks have remained in touch with Siena. Katherine returned to earn a master's degree in 1991. A few years ago, Julie Cusick returned to Siena—this time to the SHU center in Lansing—to complete a degree she'd started years earlier. Through the years, their respect and affection for Sr. Jean Cecile Hunt has grown deeper.

"Our hearts will be forever grateful for the loving kindness Sr. Jean showed to young developing souls such as ours," Christine adds.

"Jean Cecile once said if she could lead one person to follow Jesus she would have completed the work God had sent her to do," she adds. "Well Sr. Jean, you have completed the task. You led not only one life to follow Jesus but a whole family."

Following Sister's death in 1999, the Cusick family decided to honor this Adrian Dominican educator by endowing a scholarship in her name.

The motivation was very simple, they say: "In loving memory, the Cusick Family is endowing a scholarship to say 'Thank you, Sr. Jean!'"

# Kresge Challenge Update

It's official – Siena's Fieldhouse will be bigger and better after a \$1.7 million renovation and expansion project is completed next spring.

"With the recent momentum of the campaign, we are confident of receiving the Kresge challenge grant for the Fieldhouse project and the Board of Trustees has authorized the commencement of the project," President Rick Artman said recently. "We look forward to meeting, and exceeding, our goal for *The Campaign for Siena Heights University*."

The \$12.5 million campaign concludes December 31, 2003. All gifts (and multi-year pledges through 2005) received by

that date will count toward the campaign total — including annual fund support as well as gifts designated for specific campaign projects.

"It would be terrific if we were able to reach \$13 million or go even further," Artman added. "There is always so much we want to do at the University, so many ways we would like to strengthen Siena's Education With a Mission and improve service to our students across the state."

When qualifying gifts and pledges to all projects reach \$12.5 million, the Kresge Foundation will contribute \$750,000 to Siena Heights for the Fieldhouse expansion project.

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## Make it happen!

Use the return envelope in this magazine to send your annual fund gift or pledge to Siena Heights. To learn more about giving opportunities, contact any member of the University Advancement Staff at (517) 264-7140 or toll-free at (800) 693-0506.



## Expanding the Fieldhouse

Opened in 1978, the Fieldhouse is home to the successful Siena Heights Saints intercollegiate athletic program. A hub of activity on the main campus throughout the school year, the Fieldhouse is also used extensively by the community for meetings and special events, and by students and faculty for general fitness activity. Expansion of the Fieldhouse will equip the facility with an up-to-date fitness center, and bring all athletic offices together in one location. Plans also include improved rest rooms and public areas, a spacious new lobby and a modernized training center. An outdoor entry plaza will feature commemorative bricks recognizing all donors who contribute \$1,000 or more to the Campaign.



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# Successful Sports Administrator Credits — and Supports — Siena

**M**ike Vollmar '88 is now assistant athletic director and director of football operations for Michigan State University. He's held those responsibilities since 1996. His duties include overseeing the internal and external operations of the football program plus supervising the athletic department's equipment program. He also serves on the American Football Coaches Association's national committee for Directors of Football Operations.

Almost 20 years ago, he came to Siena ready to participate in athletics (he was a runner for the Saints) and take advantage of the small college atmosphere that would allow him to make a difference in his courses as well as on the field.

Former track and field coach Pat Palmer remembers "how hard Mike researched and worked on his pro-

*By Jere Righter '93*

Before moving to MSU, Mike Vollmar '88 worked in football administration for five years at Syracuse University and three years at The University of Michigan.



"Siena Heights, and the teachers and coaches I had there, provided me with experiences and opportunities that went well beyond the classroom or the athletic field. As I worked through my classes, I was also afforded an opportunity to work in athletic administration, which was the career path I wanted to take following graduation. There is no question that these experiences helped me outside of the classroom.

"Pat Palmer, who recruited me to Siena, allowed me to work on a project outlining how Siena Heights might establish a football program. Fred Smith allowed me to work in the area of sports information for a semester. Just observing my track coaches, including Tim Bauer, gave me insight on the administration of an athletic program. All of these things gave me a taste of what athletics administration was about at the collegiate level.

"Without question, Siena Heights had a strong influence on my career path."

posal for a Siena Heights football team. Obviously football was his passion, and I am really proud of his accomplishments since graduation. He was a hard worker with a really great attitude to go after the things he wanted."

Mike recently chose to make a contribution to *The Campaign for Siena Heights University: Education with a Mission*. Like many former athletes, he earmarked his gift for the impending expansion of the SHU Fieldhouse.

"I understand what it's like to recruit student-athletes and how competitive that process is," he adds. "This is an opportunity for me to give something back to Siena so we can continue to attract top student-athletes and current athletes can become even better in their athletic endeavors.

"It is important that Siena Heights continue to field successful competitive programs. These improvements in the Fieldhouse – meeting that Kresge Challenge – will help make that happen."

In his career—which has taken him to Michigan, Syracuse and, for the last seven years, Michigan State—Mike has been a part of some of the greatest college football traditions in the country. "I've been able to experience things at the highest level of college football. I'm fortunate to have been a part of conference championships and 10 major bowl games," he says.

"The older I get, the more appreciation I have for what has gotten me where I am today," he adds. "My father, who is a former high school athletic director and football coach, is my role model and he certainly gave me some guidance in my decision to attend Siena. Once I was there, Siena helped me grow in the classroom and grow in life. The more I look back on it, the greater appreciation I have for what the institution did for me."

With a career that often keeps him away from home many hours during the week, Mike still focuses on what he calls his "priorities in life." His wife, Tami, whom he met while they both were students at Siena, and his young daughter, Bailey, have been supportive as his career developed.

"Besides faith, my family is the most important thing in the world," Mike says. "My profession takes up a lot of time and we have sacrificed at some points but we've shared a lot, too."

In terms of his hopes and aspirations for his alma mater, Mike still thinks fondly of that football program he proposed back when he was a student, but he adds with a smile, "I wish every program the best success."

"Now let's get that Fieldhouse finished!"

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### Class Notes from the Sites

**Terry Lewis '83** (Southfield) lives in Minneapolis, MN, where he is on the graduate faculty at Augsburg College, serving as clinical coordinator for the master's degree Physicians Assistant Program. Terry is on his second career, having retired in 1994 from a full and distinguished career in the U.S. Army as a physician assistant.

**Thomas Shelvy '88** (Southfield) is a senior die designer for GM Metal Fabrication Division Die Engraving Services.

**Michelle Green '97** (Southfield) lives in Saint Clair and writes: "Siena Heights gave me the foundation of a wonderful undergraduate education that made graduate school easy." She earned a master's in counseling from Central Michigan University.

**Ethel D Saxton '97** (Southfield) and her husband, Clyde, are living in Ponce Inlet, FL. A registered nurse consultant, Ethel is completing a master's degree in community health and plans to continue on to earn a Ph.D. in health.

**Cathy Schiel '00** (Jackson) of Brooklyn welcomed her second child, son Eli Christopher, on April 23. Cathy and her husband also have an older son, Kyle (5).

**Ralph Wight '00** (Lansing) of Portland received the Outstanding Adult Learner Award this spring from the Capital Area Higher Education Network in Lansing. Ralph earned a B.A.S. in industrial technology from Siena Heights several years ago. Now he's back at SHU working on a second bachelor's degree, this time in community services. In addition to carrying a 3.77 grade point average, Ralph has been caregiver for 14 years for his wife, Judy, who has multiple sclerosis. He also has worked for GM for nearly 30 years. On top of all this, he volunteers for the Knights of Columbus, the Lansing Regional Food Bank and "Meals on Wheels," and spearheaded the "Golden Opportunity Drive" for the Multiple Sclerosis Society. Ralph was nominated for the CAHEN award by Christina Deland, one of his SHU Lansing Center professors, who noted that Ralph has been largely responsible for raising his and Judy's two children, Zack (17) and Hanna (14) – and often seeks advice from his classmates on topics such as how to French-braid his daughter's hair!



Ralph Wight received the Outstanding Adult Learner Award.

**Deanna McCreary '01** (Southfield) writes from Stockbridge: "I started my own business the first of the year called Zircon Aviation Services L.L.C. I am based out of the Mason Airport. Since it is very new I can't say how well it is going, but I'm hoping for the best."

**Melissa Baldwin '02** (Battle Creek) works for Bath and Body Works in Grand Rapids.

**Yvonne Dean '02** (Benton Harbor) of Hartford, MI, writes: "I am in the throes of my first year at Concord Law School. I sit for my 'baby bar' next year and plan to finish up in 2007 with an LLM at Thomas Cooley." Yvonne is regional vice president, investments for Thrivent Investment Management, Inc.

The Metro Detroit Staff poses with President Artman at graduation in May.





Impact!

## Alumni Profile 20

# From Chem Lab To Cancer Research: Karen Erickson's Career Began With "M<sup>2</sup>"

By Jennifer A. Hamlin Church

It was a long way from the Upper Peninsula to Siena Heights College in 1956.

Traveling from Sidnaw, a tiny town of 200 at the base of the Keewenaw Peninsula, to St. Ignace, across the Straits of Mackinaw by ferry (no bridge back then), then down the long road south to Adrian, was a major excursion. But 17-year-old Karen Erickson was ready. Tired of "being treated as a second-class citizen" in an environment where "everything revolved around the boys," Karen was excited by the prospect of leaving home to attend a women's college.

As it turned out, leaving home was only the first step into a distinguished career in chemistry. The trip from Sidnaw to Siena was the beginning of a journey that would lead Karen Erickson '60 into a distinguished career in education and international research.

Her guide and mentor on the journey was the late and legendary Dr. Miriam Michael Stimson, OP, a professor of chemistry known as "a stern taskmaster" with a no-nonsense approach.

"I first met M<sup>2</sup>, as everyone called her, when I was a green freshman undecided about whether to study science or English," Karen recalls. "She told me if I wanted to do science, I had to get started on it early. And so I did. It was the best advice I could have received."

Professor of chemistry at Clark University in Massachusetts for the past 38 years, Karen also has done research in Hawaii, New Zealand, and Australia. She has been a visiting scientist at the National Cancer Institute in Maryland, a special fellow with the National Institutes of Health, a visiting research professor at Arizona State University. She has published more than 50 research studies in the *Journal of Organic Chemistry*, the *Journal of the American Chemical Society*, *Tetrahedron*, and other scientific periodicals. She holds an honorary degree from Siena Heights and is a member of American Women in Science, American Chemical Society, and Sigma Xi.

It all started in Sacred Heart Hall.

Sister Miriam Michael "set high standards for her students and expected us to live up to them," Karen remembers. In addition, Miriam "was an excellent lecturer, superb at bringing difficult concepts down to mundane levels by her clever use of analogies. She also made ample use of in-class demonstrations, today a lost art but in my view so important for attracting students to chemistry," says Karen.

"I use many of her techniques in my own teaching because they were so effective in my learning and loving chemistry."

M<sup>2</sup>



Karen Erickson '60 has taken the lead in establishing an endowed scholarship in memory of M<sup>2</sup>. See page 15.

As a student, Karen worked part-time in Miriam's research lab in the basement of Sacred Heart Hall. That experience enabled her to win competitive summer research positions at the Argonne National Laboratory after her junior and senior years.

In 1964, four years after graduating from Siena, Karen received a Ph.D. in organic chemistry from Purdue University. She dedicated her thesis to Miriam Stimson. After a post-doctoral year at Cornell University, she joined the faculty at Clark University where she has taught ever since.

Karen has focused her own research in two areas of organic chemistry.

First, in the area of reaction mechanisms, which involves "devising ways to experimentally determine why and how a given chemical reaction takes place," she has introduced "a new way to view a well-known reactive intermediate which may lead us to understand some puzzling reactions in the chemical literature."

Her second research focus—"structure elucidation of marine natural products"—has taken her to Hawaii, New Zealand and Australia, and has produced findings with implications in the fight against cancer and AIDS. This work deals with "isolating, purifying and assigning structures to as-yet unreported chemicals produced by marine organisms." These chemicals, obtained from sponges, corals and algae, often have

unorthodox structures, unlike those derived from terrestrial organisms. Some of these compounds have been found to display anti-tumor or anti-HIV activity.

Karen takes particular pride in her discovery of an Australian sponge metabolite "with potent and selective anti-melanoma activity." The metabolite is also the first substance known to selectively inhibit specific enzymes that are "implicated in a host of human diseases," she reports.

In her research as in the classroom, Karen has turned to M<sup>2</sup> as a model. Miriam's example of "struggling to keep her hand in research under difficult circumstances served as an inspiration for me during similar difficult times," she says.

Karen—who enjoys hiking, biking and cross country skiing in her spare time—remembers that Miriam also emphasized development of "the whole individual." She brought classical music into the chemistry lab, for example, and always insisted on good writing.

"I still quote her words to my own chemistry students," Karen says. "English is your most important tool. Use it precisely and concisely."

The small-town girl from the U.P. was never a "second class citizen" and Miriam Stimson knew it. M<sup>2</sup> just expected Karen Erickson to go places. And so she has.

# Class Notes

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## 1930s – 1960s

Priscilla Piche '37 (formerly Sister Robert Louise), a faculty member who taught English at Siena Heights from 1951 to about 1972, has published a book titled *Out of the Habit*. The book is a personal memoir about her call to become an Adrian Dominican Sister, the impact of Pope John 23rd and the Second Vatican Council, and her decision ultimately to rejoin the secular world after 36 years as a Sister of St. Dominic. Still a dedicated woman of the Catholic Church, Priscilla has written articles for the Michigan Catholic and other periodicals, and has published her poetry in *The Poetry Review*. She is the author of a book of poetry titled *Even the Rocks Confer*. *Out of the Habit* is available from the Ingram Book Company, Barnes & Noble and Amazon, or from Jeanette Lampe Burrell '61 (jclampe@juno.com) who is acting as an agent for Priscilla.

Julia Rodriguez Ramonez '57 lives in Lubbock, TX, where she chairs the Lubbock County Historical Commission. She was in Adrian in June and visited the Siena Heights campus with her husband, children and grandchildren.

Alice Robie Resnick '61 of Toledo, OH, was honored by the YWCA of Greater Toledo at its annual "Milestones: A Tribute to Women" celebration in March. Alice is a Justice on the Ohio Supreme Court.

Christine Wilhelm Clark '63 of Deer Park, WA, began a new position this spring as clinical laboratory scientist at Inland Northwest Blood Center in Spokane, a regional blood center accredited by the American Association of Blood Banks. Recalling that her first job was with Bixby Medical Center in Adrian, Chris notes that now, "Transfusion testing is improved with better testing materials and practical time saving techniques. FDA regulations have increased in number and complexity." Chris came to Alumni Weekend this fall to celebrate her 40th reunion.

Nancyann Turner, OP '63 is program coordinator for children's programs at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen in Detroit. In the position, Sister Nancyann, an artist, registered art therapist and certified teacher, has implemented the Rosa Parks Children's Art Studio and Library,

which operates on the philosophy that creative activities and art expression can be strong deterrents to violence within a person and within a neighborhood.

Tirabul Vichairom Krisadapong '67 lives in Bangkok, Thailand, where she is a consultant for the Princeton Review Thailand. She has two sons and a daughter, all married, "but no grandchild as yet." Tirabul is part of a business partnership operating a franchise of the Princeton Review, which is a test preparation company. "We teach students how to take tests" such as the TOEFL, GMAT, SAT, GRE, etc. She would love to hear from Siena classmates (tirabul@tprthai.com).

Jean Hunter Lyon '68 of Portland, OR, just completed her master's in teaching after 32 years in the high-tech industry. She plans to start teaching math this fall.

## 1970s

Margaret O'Neill '71 lives in Minneapolis, MN, where she is a pre-press/print buyer in the corporate offices of Target Corporation, overseeing all "hard" signage for Target stores. She moved from Michigan to Minnesota in 1988 after teaching art in Grand Rapids in the

mid-1980s. An art major at Siena, she remains actively involved in art today, both through her career and at home on her potter's wheel.

Margaret (Peggy) McCaffrey Aniol '73 of South Lyon is an accounts receivable specialist for Cequent (formerly Draw Tite) in Plymouth. She enjoyed seeing friends at Alumni Weekend: "I can't believe it's been 30 years!"

Linda Mohr Brennan '73 is a teacher in the Adrian Public Schools. She and her husband, Michael, have five children: Jason (24), Matthew (20), David (18), Sarah (17) and Ryan (15).

Deb Carrington Keller '74, '75/MA, '03/SA and Margaret Scholz Noe '75 were two of the four "celebrity chefs" who served dinner to Siena Heights students in Benincasa Dining Room in April. Margaret is an Adrian attorney and SHU trustee. Deb is principal of St. Joseph Academy and a member of the SHU Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Joan Troy '75 lives in Dallas, TX. She holds a law degree from Southern Methodist University.

Gary Durnell '76 lives in Sidney, OH, with his wife, Judith. "I would like to contact students who attended in '74-'76."

Tina Prond-Bennett '77/M.A. writes from Lexington, SC: "Michael and I married January 19, 2001. Mike is from Gisboro, England, but has lived here about 10 years. My longtime friend from Siena Heights, Colleen Lavelle Hennessy '77, came from Cleveland to share in our wedding festivities. Colleen was able to leave her six, yes I said six, children at home and made the trip down to SC for rest and relaxation. We are anxiously awaiting our step son Peter Jr.'s return from basic training at Knox and pray he will not be deployed to the Persian Gulf as his unit was deployed the day he left. Jennifer graduates this year and will be attending the University of South Carolina. Abigail enjoys singing, swimming and being a 10 year old. Spencer starts kindergarten this fall but cannot wait to visit Grandma and Papa at the lake in Michigan. I look forward to seeing our friends and family in Michigan this year at our annual 'Southern Low Country Boil' at Manitou Beach." Tina is a major account executive at IKON Office Solutions.

Francesca Heningburg Johnson '78 lives in Yuba City, CA, with her husband, Kingsley, and three children: Asahel (19), Gabrielle (17), and Hannah (3).

## 1980s

Debra Gorman Cagle '80, '88/MA of Adrian is beginning her 24th year of teaching at St. Joseph Academy/Montessori Children's House, and her 22nd year as a Montessori teacher trainer. She was honored to be recognized in *Who's Who Among America's Teachers*, 2002.

Lisa Giebrich Brady '81 writes from Georgia: "Currently, I am looking at going back to school to get my teaching certification. I teach children computers at a Catholic school in Atlanta. I spent most of my previous career in retail working for major department store chains L.S. Ayers, Macy's and Hahnes. I then left retailing and worked for Dansk as a sales representative for close to 10 years. With two small children, I found that teaching would give me more time with my own children, so I started teaching preschool and now I am in an elementary school." Lisa, husband Rick and sons Bill (14) and Matthew (9) live near Atlanta in Norcross, GA.

Geraldine Williams-Griffin Boykin '81 published her first book of Christian poems, titled *The Promise of God*, in April 2002 and is working on her first novel. She is a treatment specialist at Boyssville in Clinton.

Patricia Ceglio Bishoff '82 wrote last spring: "I hear there's a 20 year reunion in the works, even though I certainly have not aged since I left the hallowed halls." Patty is director of operations for CoolWorks.com in Gardiner, MT. She and her husband Steve live in Yellowstone National Park, WY, with their two daughters, Sarah and Emily.

Art Erbskorn '83 of Morenci was "looking forward to the 1983 class reunion" when he wrote last spring. "It will be a chance to see classmates whom I haven't seen in years!" Art is a tool and die supervisor at Visteon in Monroe. He and his wife, Jo, have a daughter, Jacquie, and a son, Nick.

### We want to hear from you!

Class Notes are compiled from letters, news-clippings, e-mail and website contributions, and the reply cards included in each issue of *Reflections*. We do not announce engagements or pregnancies, but gladly report marriages and births after they have occurred. Send us your news — or call the alumni office: toll free at (800) 693-0506 or direct to Jennifer Hamlin Church at (517) 264-7143. You can also e-mail us directly at: [alumni@sienaheights.org](mailto:alumni@sienaheights.org). Information received after mid-July will appear in the next issue of the magazine.

### Did we miss your news?

If you sent information this spring through the Siena Heights website and it does NOT appear in the Class Notes below, please accept our apologies. A combination of computer glitches and personnel changes led to several months of web confusion. If we have missed your update, please send your news again to: [alumni@sienaheights.org](mailto:alumni@sienaheights.org).



# Class Notes

## Continued

Michael Morgan '83 sent greetings from Manchester, CT, then came himself for the 20th reunion. "My first trip back to Siena since 1988! Would love to hear from others. Let me know how you are doing!"

James '83 and Pamela Pierson Schwartz '83 wrote from Naples in sunny Florida. Jim works for Collier County Sheriff's Office as a Sergeant in the Crime Scene Bureau. Pam works for the city of Naples as the Assistant Human Resources Director.

Gail Sliwinski '83 of St. Clair Shores has joined Trinity Continuing Care Services as the new administrator at Fraser Villa.

Kenneth Kops '84 married Young Sun Jeong Aug. 19, 2002, in Clayton, NC. They are living in Fayetteville. Ken is a Major with the U.S. Army infantry.



Ann Belote Weir '84 of Ossineke is a freelance writer: "I left the work force to concentrate on my writing. Though I am having more luck with online sites and e-zines than the printed market, I haven't given up hope! Most recently I had an article printed on the NYFansOnly site ([nyfansonly.theinsiders.com/2/95116.html](http://nyfansonly.theinsiders.com/2/95116.html)). I don't write about sports much anymore, but this was a fun one! As a writer, I use my maiden name, mostly for my mom. I am also a grandmother. He is the most beautiful baby I have seen (of course!). He is just over a year and keeps my daughter Jessica busy. For those doing the math, Jessica and her brother, Nathan, were a package deal when I married their dad 11 years

ago. All in all, life is good." Ann and her husband, Bill, also have a third child, Dylan.

Joan Bayer '85/M.A. of Toledo, OH, founded Concept Rehab in 1984. A former physical therapist and licensed professional counselor, Joan established the company to provide occupational, speech and physical therapy to patients in nursing homes.

Gregg Milligan '85 of Canton was promoted this spring to director of systems engineering for Deloitte & Touche in Detroit.

Ken '87 and Linda Ziegler Groch '87 live in Ottawa Lake with their two daughters, Rachael (12) and Rebecca (10). Ken completed his master's degree at the University of Toledo and has taught in the Springfield Schools for 13 years, also serving as varsity baseball coach for the last decade. Linda recently returned to Siena to get her teaching certification.

Kim McMullen Berry '88 lives in Warren and is a project manager for Compuware Corp., Ford Account.

Dan Buba '88 of Carmel, IN, was inducted as a Distinguished Fellow by the Indianapolis Bar Foundation last fall. He also was elected as a board member for the Indianapolis Bar Association.

Rick Morissette '88 writes: "Business is still going well with SYSCO, selling in the Detroit and Grosse Pointe market. I moved in July to a bigger house and it's a good thing!" Rick, his wife Carolyn and their son, Richard Gray Morissette III, live in Grosse Pointe Farms. Rick works in sales and marketing for SYSCO Foods of Detroit.

## 1990s

Sean Jorgensen '95 is a community service representative for Bay Corrugated Container, Inc., in Monroe. He lives in Lambertville with his wife, Lisa Lauber Jorgensen '93 and their son Rory (3).

Chad Mannlein '95 lives in Burtchville and teaches English in Port Huron.

John Murray '95 of Farmington Hills is director of sales and marketing at Radisson Suites.

Barry Babcock '96 writes from Grand Rapids: "Hello! Life does have its ups and downs. With a heavy heart I report my mother's diagnosis of ALS in 1996 changed many things in my life. Due to her terminal illness (and recent death), I postponed my graduate school studies. Now, I find myself working for Nordstrom. This was an unexpected detour; however, it is one for which I am thankful. I am uncertain if I will pursue graduate work in the West Michigan area. Only time will tell." Barry is an assistant customer service information manager for Nordstrom.

Khristine Henson-Jones '96 is in an executive MBA program and anticipates completing her master's degree in early 2004. She is currently a manager at Jackson Community College. She lives in Adrian with her husband Erik, son Michael and daughter Taylor.

Jim Plowman '96 of Saline writes: "I did four years of Winston Cup Racing, traveled the country and saw many great things. Now I am a musician in the area and I enjoy meeting new and interesting people. I am thankful for Siena Heights and their creed of making people more competent, purposeful and ethical."

Kelly Hess Zwierzchowski '96 of Warren recently concluded 12 years of teaching Head Start for Macomb County, in order to "stay home and support my two beautiful boys. My oldest is in the third grade and my youngest is in kindergarten." Husband Phil rounds out the family.

Rebecca Reaume '97 is "very busy with the saddle company (Schleese Saddlery Service). I travel all over North America and Europe. I am currently working with several members of the Olympic team which is very exciting. I am still involved with the horses. I usually have five to seven in training, and I give about eight lessons a week. Things are moving right along with the horses, and I am very excited about where I am going with my chosen profession." When she's home, Rebecca lives in Howell.

Brad Densmore '98 is working on his master's in creative writing. He writes: "My new book (first novel) Thursdays with Moses is now available across our fair land. I just signed a deal with

Zondervan for a third humorous Bible Trivia book, which is finished, and will come out in the fall." Brad and his wife, Cathy, live in Osseo where they spend "lots of time with our two grandkids."

Timothy Slowik '98 earned a master's degree in security administration from the University of Detroit Mercy, then went on to work for Pinkerton Security and Investigations as a branch manager. He currently works for Securalex in Southfield as Michigan regional manager. He and Heather Molson '99 recently purchased a condominium in Harrison Township.

Sarah Devlin-Tremble '98 writes from Pasadena, MD: "After three years teaching art in Michigan, I quit to stay home with my kids. We moved to the Baltimore area and love it. I am painting and working on my MFA." Sarah and Joe have a son, Michael (3), and a daughter, Brianna (1).

Victoria Fox '99 lives in San Antonio, TX and works for the Fair Housing Council of San Antonio.

Rachel Thompson lott '99 is a teacher at Madison Elementary School in Adrian and is pursuing her master's degree at Siena Heights. She married Kevin in July 2002.

Heather Parker '99 married Jeremy Smith Nov. 2, 2002, in Adrian. Heather is a sixth grade teacher at Onsted Middle School; Jeremy is an electrician. The Smiths live in Cement City.

Jennifer Pauli '99 is a Key Privilege relationship manager with Key Bank in Monroe. She lives in Erie.

Jason Preston '99 of Adrian works in Ann Arbor as a graphic designer and associate art director for an annuity technology firm. "I started a graphic design business in 2002 that specializes in helping small businesses market themselves professionally and inexpensively, [www.jpdesign.com](http://www.jpdesign.com). My wife, Kerr, is working as an LPN and we recently had our first addition to the family, a beautiful baby girl."

Constance Rose Sellers '99 works for the Adrian School System and is attending graduate school part-time at Eastern Michigan University. She has a son, Max, and a daughter, Loren.

# Class Notes

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## 2000s



Erin Kurowicki '00 graduated from Rutgers University School of Law on May 23 with high honors. While studying for her Juris Doctor degree, Erin worked as a reference librarian, wrote for the Rutgers Journal of Law and Religion, and was on the Dean's list every semester. She is a trained mediator and worked on community dispute resolution. Erin has clerked under several attorneys in New Jersey and wrote the 2003 pocket part for the New Jersey Practice Series, Local Government volumes. She currently works in a practice that specializes in local government, land use, and estate planning.

Ryan Robinson '00 lives in Adrian and works in Ann Arbor as a staff accountant/consultant at Info Plus Accounting, P.C.

Jen Somers '00 reports from Cleveland: "Well, I am just finishing up my third year of Podiatric Medical School with only one more year of school left (then I only have my residency!). I cannot believe how time flies when you are doing something that you really love. Cleveland is slowly growing on me, but believe me, I cannot wait to get back to Michigan!"

Deloris Clark-Osborne '01 of Adrian works full-time at The Daily Telegram as a photographer. She married Michael Osborne on Sept. 15, 2001.

Bradley Horn '01 is employed by the Adrian Police Department. He lives in Adrian.

Kelly Klump Bush '02 is a middle school teacher for the Morenci Area Schools. She and her husband, Kevin, were married in August 2002. They live in Tecumseh.

Jesusa Arnett '02, who is working toward her master's in social work at Eastern Michigan University, has been accepted for the social work Ph.D. program at the University of Michigan

Jill Cherry '02 married Rodney Cornett June 21 in Lumen Chapel on the Siena Heights campus. The Cornetts live in Addison. Jill works as operations manager for The Sound Doctor Inc. in Brooklyn.

Attention Metro Detroit Program Alumni:

### Spread the Word about SHU!

The best compliment we can receive from an alum is to refer a friend or family member to Siena. If you know someone who is looking for a place to complete his or her degree, Siena may be the perfect fit! If you are interested in making a referral or if you'd like to have a member of the Metro Detroit Program staff present a program to your place of employment, contact Cheri Betz, Recruiter/Admissions Representative at (248) 799-5490 ext. 226 or cbetz@sienahts.edu. The value of your Siena Heights University degree increases with every successful student...refer a friend, family member or co-worker today!

Sallie Layne Guy '02 says, "Things are wonderful." Sallie is an art teacher for Jackson Public Schools and lives with her husband Daniel in Eaton Rapids.

Jennifer Letherer '02 recently completed a filmmaking internship at The Performance Network in Ann Arbor, and is heading to Boston University for graduate school.

Bonnie Jean Lijewski '02 married Shane Schmidt April 12 at St. Joseph's Shrine in the Irish Hills. Bonnie is a teacher and Shane is a truck driver. The Schmidts are living in Manitou Beach.

Lamont Mitchell '02 is a graduate student at the University of Michigan and working towards his MSW degree.

Michael Woolford '02 of Lambertville writes: "I finished my degree finally. It was only 10 years late. But it was well worth the time and effort it took to complete." After seven years working as an assessor in the Monroe County equalization department, he recently was appointed Equalization Director effective in January when the current director retires. In the position, he will be responsible for setting the cash value of Monroe County property. "I love equalization and assessing," he told the Monroe Evening News. "I like being able to explain to citizens this is how I did it and why." He and his wife, Dawn, live in Lambertville with sons Devon (7), Riley (5) and Collin (3).

Marci Hartwig '03 of Carleton is working for Mirab USA in Taylor.

## Deaths

Agnes Joseph Connerton, OP '33 passed away April 26 at the Dominican Life Center at the age of 96. She was an Adrian Dominican Sister for 74 years, and spent 60 years teaching in Adrian, Dearborn and Detroit, as well as in Florida and Illinois.

Patricia Marie O'Rourke, OP '35 died Jan. 23 at the age of 92, in the 73rd year of her religious profession. For 44 years she ministered in education in Michigan and Illinois. She was secretary for the Central Services at the Motherhouse in Adrian from 1970-1991 and was a volunteer from 1991-1993. Since 1993, she had lived in the Dominican Life Center.

Marie Matthew Devine, OP '38 died April 23 at the age of 94 in her 74th year as an Adrian Dominican. She spent 56 years ministering in elementary education in Michigan, Ohio and Illinois, and later assisted as a school computer volunteer. In 1995, she retired to the Dominican Life Center.

Betty Hartley Worthington '38 of Virginia Beach, VA, passed away Feb. 28, 2003.

Ann Noreen Ryan, OP '39 died March 12. She was 95 and in the 74th year of her religious profession. She graduated from St. Joseph Academy before earning an English degree at Siena Heights. She spent 51 years ministering in education in Michigan and Florida. In 1979 she became pastoral associate at St. Jude Parish in St. Petersburg, FL, a position she held until coming to the Dominican Life Center in 1993.

Ann Kathleen Fisher, OP '41 died March 13. She was 88 and had been an Adrian Dominican for 68 years. She came to Siena after graduating from St. Joseph Academy, and spent 44 years ministering in education in Michigan, Illinois, Ohio, New York, and in the Bahamas. Sister enjoyed being a member of the Activities Department at the Dominican Life Center from 1979-88. She retired in 1989.

Hilda Marie Gelegan, OP '42, a past professor and alumnae director at Siena Heights, died July 6 in Santa Cruz, CA, at the age of 87. She spent 42 years ministering in education in Michigan, Ohio, Illinois and California, including 10 years as supervisor of Adrian Dominican schools. She joined the Siena faculty in 1965 and taught English until 1971, when she became alumnae director for public relations, and development. She subsequently served as superintendent of schools for the Diocese of Monterey, CA. She also wrote the "Christina Courtesy Series" for the Chicago Archdiocese and the "English Composition Grammar Series" for Laidlaw Brothers Publishing Company. Since 1988, she had lived at Dominican Oaks in Santa Cruz, where she volunteered in many capacities.

Rita Schaefer, OP '42 (formerly Sister Mary Albertus) died June 7. She was 82. A chemistry major at Siena, she earned master's degrees in chemistry and Christian spirituality, then spent 23 years in high school education in Michigan and the Dominican Republic. She was academic dean at Barry University (1970-75) and administrator of Holy Family Religious Education Center in Adrian (1977-80). After serving as a pastoral associate in the Lansing area, she came to the Dominican Life Center in 1989.

Catherine Mann, OP '44 died Jan. 19 at the Dominican Life Center. She was 95 years of age and in the 67th year of her religious profession. She ministered in elementary education for 44 years in Michigan, the Dominican Republic and Florida. She returned to Adrian in 1994.

Suzette Scholtes Shaffstall '45 died Feb. 3 in Munising at the age of 78. A veteran of the U.S. Navy, she and her husband, William, raised six children. Her husband and five children survive. Sue worked at the Munising Credit Union from 1965 to retirement in 1980. An active member of her parish, she also was the first woman on the Munising City Commission. She was active with the Girl Scouts, the Hospital Board and the Alger County Commission, and was a member of the Alger County Historical Society and American Legion Auxiliary. She loved golf, duplicate bridge and her 12 grandchildren and three great grandchildren.



Merici Valgoi, OP '45 died Jan. 29 at the age of 87. She was in her 65th year as an Adrian Dominican. After studying math at Siena Heights, she earned a master's in education at University of Detroit. She spent 50 years ministering in Michigan, Florida, and Ohio, then retired to the Dominican Life Center.

Ann Louise Tatreau, OP '46 died March 10 at the age of 92 and in the 73rd year of her religious profession. She ministered in elementary education for 39 years in Illinois, Michigan, New Mexico and Arizona. In 1970, she began assisting at the Immaculate Conception Provincial House in Detroit, retiring in 1971. She came to the Dominican Life Center in 1985.

Robert Joseph Bailey, OP '48 died May 29 at the age of 80 in her 63rd year of her religious profession. She ministered in education for many years, then spent 34 years on the staff of St. Rose Dominican Hospital in Nevada. She came to the Dominican Life Center in 1997.

Anita Hengesbach McClure '48 of Lansing died April 20. She had worked as an administrative assistant for The Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Michigan and retired from the Michigan Commission for the Blind. She also was an active member of the Resurrection Church.

Arlene Zerfus Royal '49 of Battle Creek died June 2 at the age of 76. She was an elementary school teacher before becoming a social worker with Veterans Affairs Medical Center. She retired in 1992. An enthusiastic bridge player, she volunteered for the Battle Creek Health System and was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church.

Barbara Oess Dumouchelle '51 of Grosse Ile died May 18 following a heart attack. She was 71. Barbara served on the State Board of Education for many years, 1973-87 and again 1989-92. She also taught for five years in Catholic and public schools, and served for most of the 1990s as a public member of the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan board of directors. She enjoyed reading, gardening, playing bridge and traveling. Barbara's friends and family have established a memorial scholarship in her name at Siena Heights University; contributions may be sent to the SHU advancement office.

Virginia Rose Heroux, OP '51 (formerly Sister Francis Margaret) died March 17. She was 88 and in the 64th year of her religious profession. She spent 34 years ministering in education throughout southeast Michigan and northwest Ohio; then ministered with her culinary skills in several locations. She came to the Dominican Life Center in 1998.

Iris "Vi" Davila Echelberger '53 of Tampa, FL, passed away Sept. 2, 2002, at the age of 71. She worked as a registered dietitian for over 40 years, and pioneered the development of Professional Dietary Consulting in Indiana in the 1960s and 1970s. She was past treasurer of the University of Southern Florida Women's Club, an elder and active member in the Presbyterian Church, and was honored as a Paul Harris Fellow by the Rotary International Foundation. "Vi was always very proud and appreciative of her Siena Heights experience," wrote her husband, Wayne.

Mary Anne D'Haene Stone '58 of Marine City died Jan. 13. She taught and counseled students at Lake Shore Public Schools from 1958 to 1991. She then counseled students in adult and community education programs at St. Clair Shores until 2002. Her counseling services continued at Holy Cross Catholic Church in Marine City. For 20 years she also provided adoption counseling services at Macomb County's Catholic Social Services.

Diana Marie Pellegrino, OP '59 of Santa Cruz, CA, died March 22 at the age of 69. She ministered in education for 40 years in Michigan, Ohio and New Mexico, and in California where she was principal at St. Louis Bertrand in Oakland from 1973 to 1989. She worked in health services and accounting at Dominican Santa Cruz Hospital for 10 years until her death.

Mary Ann Breidenich, OP '65 died April 18. She was 64 and in the 47th year of her religious profession. She ministered in Illinois, Michigan, Indiana and California. She was assistant treasurer for Central Services in Adrian from 1970-78, and worked in hospital accounting in Indiana and California for 20 years. She came to the Dominican Life Center earlier this year.

Ita Cronin, OP '67 (formerly Sister Denis Eileen) died Jan. 16 at the Dominican Life Center, where she had lived since 1994. She was 79 years of age and in the 49th year of her religious profession. An alumna of St. Joseph Academy, she earned a home economics degree from Siena Heights and spent 29 years ministering in elementary education in Ohio, Illinois. From 1987 to 1994, she volunteered as a tutor and ministered as a home care companion.

Gayle VanHavel '76/MA of Morenci died July 13. She owned and operated Almost Home Adult Foster Care Home for many years, taught at Fayette High School and in the Toledo Hospital nursing program, was licensed in insurance sales and estate planning, and was the first CPR trainer in Morenci. She was active in the Morenci community where she was named Kiwanian of the Year, and also served on a number of Lenawee County boards. Gayle was a past president of the Siena Heights Alumni Association and the 1986 recipient of the St. Dominic Award. Survivors include her husband, John VanHavel '69/MA.

Marilee Birdwell '99 of Tecumseh died May 15 at the age of 56. After earning her social work degree from Siena, she joined the staff at Boysville in Clinton, where she was employed until her death. Previously, she worked as a crossing guard for the city of Tecumseh for 31 years. She was an active community volunteer and a Sunday School teacher at St. Peter's Episcopal Church. Among her survivors is daughter-in-law Cindy Birdwell, director of conference services and campus security at Siena Heights.

Burton R. Leathley, a former Siena Heights trustee and longtime friend of the University, died June 1 in Port St. Lucie, FL. He was 87. He retired in 1983 as vice president of the Oliver Instrument in Adrian. He was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church for more than 50 years. He also was a member of the American Machine Tool Association and past president of the Lenawee County Country Club. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth (Betty), a long time friend of the University.

## Smiling on the Corner

How many classmates and friends do you recognize in the corner photos of Reflections? The pages of this issue include a few faculty and administrators, a few 2003 graduates, and lots of Alumni Weekend '03 attendees. See how many you can identify without help from our handy list below!

Inside Front Cover: Reflections editor Jennifer Hamlin Church.

- 1: President Rick Artman.
- 2: Battle Creek alumna Denise Washington '00, '03/M.A.
- 3: Lansing graduate Ron Clark '03.
- 4: Judy Lavelle '58, volunteer coordinator for Alumni Weekend liturgy.
- 5: Benton Harbor alumnus and faculty member Earl Reber '88.
- 6: Sister Pat Schnapp, English prof and Alumni Board faculty representative.
- 7: Dennis Reeder '78.
- 8: 25th reunion chairman Vince Houle '78.
- 9: Al Ballenberger '74, shown here at a past Madrigal Dinner.
- 10: Sister Claudia Hinds, OP, at the Alumni Weekend Sisters' reception.
- 11: Judy Hill '74 at Alumni Weekend.
- 12: Jeremy Frew '95, director of Siena's Lansing center.
- 13: Kathy Forner '73 at her 30th reunion.
- 14: Kathy Wersell '71 at Octoberfest.
- 15: Bob Diber '90 at Prayer Brunch.
- 16: 30th reunion alum Claire Lubaway '73.
- 17: Alumni Board member Amy Cousino '96.
- 18: Paul Zdanis '81, relaxing before the 20th "era" reunion.
- 19: Michele DeNardo Bodenmiller '03.
- 20: Julia Franko Opalek '63 celebrating her 40th reunion.
- 21: Christine Pearson '78 celebrating 25 years.
- 22: Kellie Brogan Schneider '88 celebrating her 15th at Octoberfest.
- 23: Octoberfest bartender Joe Balusik '90 serving with a smile.
- 24: 25th reunion celebrant Patricia Collins Pattison '78.
- 25: John Keefer, OP '72, former campus minister (1969-1978) enjoying Alumni Weekend.

# Alumni Weekend 2003

Bridget Cottrell sends the ball to the plate at the faculty v. alumni softball game.



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Varsity volleyball player Abbie Riddle '07 and Craig Bayer celebrate the volleyball team's Alumni Weekend victory.



Alumni Association President Keith Rusie '99 congratulates the lucky winner of one of the 50/50 drawings at Octoberfest.



Remembering times past: Jacquie Marshall '83, Bill Marshall '78, Sister Magdalena Ezoe '55, Denise Meray '78 and Frank Meray '78.



Those were the days! Members of the 50th and 55th year classes after breakfast: (seated, from left) Mary Ann Senkmeyer Kitchen '53, Connie Winters '53, Barbaradell Way Kelley '53, Clare Wrona Marcyan '53, Joyce Jacobi Gohl '53, Katharine Rink Suydam '48; (standing) Rose Barbara Danich, OP '53, Estela Cintron Kuptzin '48, Gloria Kapsa Doyle '53, Jodie Screes, OP '53, Jane Korte Waldo '53, Mary Magdalen Boff '53, Jean Annette Rudolph, OP '53, Carole Sporer Stroh '53.



## Come Home to the Heights!

Lots of alumni did — making Alumni Weekend Oct. 3-5 a big success.

The 50th reunion attracted a good group of former classmates and friends; Jane Korte Waldo '53 and Jodie Screes, OP '53 helped plan the event. The 25th reunion generated a lively turnout thanks to the efforts of Vince Houle '78. The 20th "era" reunion brought a large group together for beer and brats; Mark DiPietro '83 worked hard on the event with help from Mo Brady Leonard '83 and Patty Ceglie Bishoff '83.

Father John Keefer, OP '72 brought his welcoming spirit to Alumni Weekend mass, where he was joined by alumni musicians including Bill Marshall '78, Kathy Frank '81 and Brenda Young Waters '79 for a glorious and moving liturgy. John also led a lively spirituality discussion at Sunday's first (annual?) Alumni Weekend prayer brunch.

In another "first (annual?)" event, President Rick Artman (background photo) stepped up to the plate and biology prof Jun Tsuji hit a homerun—but the alumni still beat the faculty-staff team in the Alumni Weekend softball game.

There were miles of smiles at Siena Fest, Celebrate with the Sisters, reunion dinners around campus, the Saints Hall of Fame induction banquet, Saturday night's Octoberfest and Sunday morning's golf scramble.

If you missed it this year, plan now to be here for Alumni Weekend '04. We're planning even more next year, in celebration of Siena's 85th year. So mark your calendar: Friday-Sunday, Sep. 24-26, 2004

For more coverage of Alumni Weekend '03, please visit the Siena Heights website.

## Once a Saint Always a Saint!

Graduating senior Amber Biniker '03 of Toledo, OH, sent that message with her mortar board at Commencement in May! A pitcher who wore the #12 as a member of the Saints softball team, Amber earned a spot on the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference Academic All-Conference Team this spring. Amber graduated with a major in general studies.

Saints of all years should mark their calendars for next year's Alumni Weekend: Sep. 24-26, 2004. See inside for coverage of Alumni Weekend '03.



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

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