

REFLECTIONS

A Magazine for Graduates and Friends of Siena Heights University

www.sienahts.edu

Fall 2005

On The Road With Siena Heights!



Dominican Republic • Ireland • Italy • Mexico • South Africa



From The Editor

Throughout this issue of Reflections I invite you to travel with SHU from Adrian to Italy, from Mexico to South Africa and to many places in between.

Our Dominican heritage encourages us to be itinerant and to seek truth wherever it can be found. As travelers, our students, faculty and staff, alumni and friends learn much about our world and bring those experiences and heightened understandings back to our community. I am pleased to be able to share some of these excursions with you.

As you travel in your community, throughout the country, or around the world we hope you will remember to take Siena Heights along and to let us know what adventures you've had and what journeys you've taken of late.

Keep in touch and enjoy the trip!

Sara Bingham
sbingham@sienahts.edu



Reflections Staff

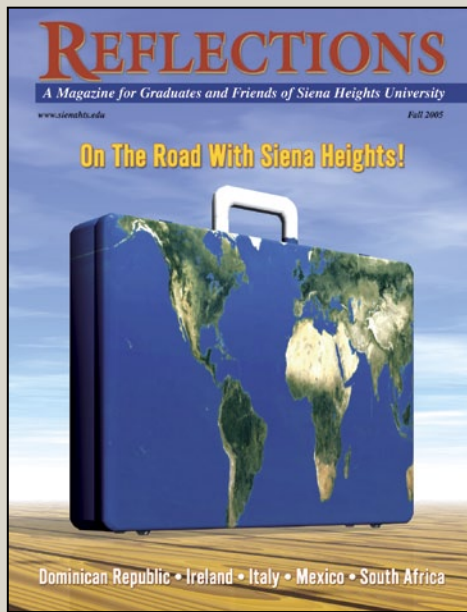
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In this issue. . . .

President's Message	1
Siena Heights News	2-4
Distance Learning	5
On The Road With Siena Heights	6-13
Alumni News	14-15
Class Notes	16-21



On The Cover

On The Road With Siena Heights. . .

Travel adds meaning to our lives and gives us important insights about the people, nature, cultures, thoughts, and ideals that make up this stunning world. Travel can change ideas, minds, hearts and lives!

"We must get beyond textbooks, go out into the bypaths and untrodden depths of the wilderness and travel and explore and tell the world the glories of our journey."

– John Hope Franklin (Historian)

SHU Alumni Association Board of Directors

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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.

From the President



“The World is a book, and those who do not travel read only a page.” – Saint Augustine

As an institution of higher learning, it is imperative that we expose our students, faculty and staff to diversity of thought and experience. One of the most exciting, profound and life-changing ways to learn is through travel. And, for a small University, we have always found a myriad of ways to collaborate with others to take some remarkable learning excursions!

In our vision and values statement we commit ourselves to foster truth, respect, community, collaboration, leadership and service. All of these values are fostered when Siena hits the road...

I invite you to travel with us throughout this issue of *Reflections*. You'll find a story detailing our Board of Trustees' trip to Siena, Rome and Florence. Joan and I were fortunate to participate in this wonderful adventure. The trip, which was undertaken at no cost to the university, offered board members and friends of SHU the opportunity to truly connect with the roots of our Dominican identity — especially that of our patroness, St.

Catherine of Siena. *Postscript to Italy – the trustees enjoyed the bonding and travel experience so much that they've endorsed a trip for the board, alumni, faculty, staff and students to Ireland in July 2006. More details will follow.*

Enjoy reading about our Campus Ministry sponsored trip to the Dominican Republic. This second annual service trip to the D.R. was another great learning experience for students as they experienced first hand another culture and a very different way of life. Also featured are articles about a summer graduate course in collaboration with All Hallows College in Dublin, our semester-abroad program in Mexico, and a thought-provoking reflection from Dr. Patricia McDonald, OP following her journey to a professional gathering in South Africa. We hope to encourage trustee Bo Parfet to write an account of his travels which are far from leisurely — he's on a quest to climb the highest mountain on each continent — four down and three to go.

We continue to sponsor a faculty and staff member to participate in a trip to Fanjeaux, France to learn about Dominican History. This annual program is available through collaboration with the 15 other Dominican colleges and universities in the U.S. In August, students traveled to World Youth Day in Germany and had the privilege of seeing our new Pope. Various academic departments will undoubtedly continue the tradition passed along from past Adrian Dominican faculty to sponsor specific travel/study opportunities connected to their disciplines.

Our alumni records show over 150 graduates living outside the United States. We thank you as you perform your important role as SHU ambassadors. As our trustees, faculty, staff, students and alumni travel the globe; perhaps you'd enjoy a visit? Our alumni office will be pleased to facilitate a connection to those willing to extend a welcome mat.

Travel and learning are trusty companions for Siena Heights! Many of you have shared your world travels with us and even posted websites for our viewing. Be sure to stay in touch and let us know what amazing adventures you're undertaking.

CIAO!

Richard B. Artman
President,
Siena Heights University

President Rick and Joan Artman at the Roman Colosseum. The Colosseum was one of many breathtaking and historic stops during the Board of Trustees' trip to Italy last fall.



Bricks Are Still Available In The New Saints' Plaza!

An inscribed brick in the new Saints' Plaza area in front of the Fieldhouse is a great way to honor a student, coach or teacher, or remember your time as a Saint! A gift or pledge of \$1,000 payable through December 2006, qualifies you for an inscribed brick in our Saints' Plaza. This unique addition in front of our recently improved Fieldhouse looks great! Fill out the envelope included in this issue of Reflections, or contact Jere Righter in the SHU Advancement Office for more information (800) 693-0506.

Grant Leads To The Establishment Of Minority Mentoring Program

Siena Heights University was honored recently to receive the Daimler Chrysler Minority Retention Award through the Michigan Colleges Foundation (MCF). The grant will allow Siena Heights to move forward with plans to initiate the Daimler Chrysler Mentoring Program for Minority Students.

The new mentoring program will allow Siena Heights to focus on the success of our minority students by connecting them with role models within the academic setting. A lack of academic role models is often cited as a factor in college drop-out rates. SHU's mentoring program will help to make connections that we hope will alleviate this challenge by offering students the opportunity to dialogue with successful local mentors.

The Daimler Chrysler Minority Mentoring Program has launched at SHU this fall.



SSS was recognized by Governor Jennifer Granholm, State Senator Cameron Brown, and local State Representative Dudley Spade. Spade presented a letter of tribute signed by the dignitaries to the SSS staff.

SSS Celebrates 25 Years Of Student Success!

Siena Heights University's Student Support Services recently celebrated 25 years of supporting the leaders of tomorrow...today! Current SSS students as well as successful SSS graduates joined SHU faculty, staff, and community members to celebrate the longevity and achievement of Student Support Services on the SHU campus with an anniversary luncheon.

The Student Support Services Program is designed to assist students to successfully graduate from Siena Heights University by: assisting in developing learning skills, facilitating students' academic progress, and addressing social problems that impact academic performance. Student Support Services is part of the TRIO umbrella of federally funded student assistance programs. All services are completely free to participants. Student Support Services is made up of several support initiatives.

United States Bishops Approve Ministry Program

The Diocese of Lansing has received final approval by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) for their Lay Ministry Program. The program was established in association with Siena Heights University. This distinction makes the SHU/ Diocesan venture the first fully Certified Program for Lay Ecclesial Ministers in the United States under the USCCB's newly established Common Standards.

In 1995, SHU began offering Theology Classes for those wishing to become Lay Ecclesial Ministers. In collaboration with the Diocese, Siena Heights has offered classes at various sites in Michigan including: Lansing, Flint, Jackson, Ypsilanti, and Adrian.



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Albert Honored by Barry University

Doctor Peggy Albert, OP – a member of the SHU Board of Trustees – was recently presented with the Spirit of Founders award at the Barry University Dwayne O. Andreas School of Law annual Black Tie Gala. When Barry University began talks to acquire the University of Orlando School of Law in 1998, Sister Peggy acted as the administrative liaison between Orlando and the main Barry, Miami Shores campus. Thanks largely to her day-to-day administration, the law school obtained American Bar Association approval in 2002.

Each year, the annual Black Tie Gala allows Barry's law school to celebrate its success and to publicly acknowledge those individuals who have given so much in service to the community in accordance with the mission of Barry University.



5000!

500 Wins for Coach Smith!

With an impressive 44 point (109-85) win over the Davenport University Panthers, Siena Heights' Head Men's Basketball Coach Fred Smith recorded his 500th career win on January 26th. After the win, the level headed and very grounded Coach Smith said, "500 is great but I want to get 501!"

Heading into last season Coach Smith's record stood at 485-176 and he ranked 14th among all active NAIA basketball coaches, and was 7th among all NAIA Division II coaches with that win total. At the beginning of the season, Coach Smith's winning percentage (.734) ranked 3rd among all active NAIA coaches with 400+ wins and second among NAIA Division II coaches.

Coach Smith has chosen to spend his entire coaching career thus far at Siena Heights University. His career at SHU started after he took over for Ben Braun, the current University of California head coach, in 1985-1986.

Under Smith's direction, the Saints have won two District 23 titles, eight WHAC titles, six WHAC Tournament Championships, and 31 regular or postseason tournaments. He has coached twenty-four 1,000 career point players, twenty-five NAIA All-Americans, and nearly 700 games.

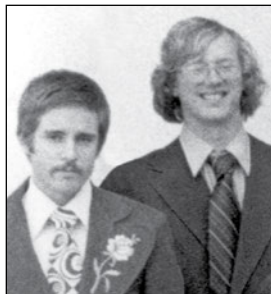
On top of that, he has also led the Saints to 12 NAIA National Tournament appearances, including nine consecutive appearances — the longest current streak in NAIA Division II. Perhaps the most impressive statistic about Fred's career is the fact that he has never had a losing season.

Former players, SHU faculty and staff members, and SHU basketball fans gathered to celebrate Fred's victory at a dinner and roast held in his honor this past Spring.



Photos courtesy of Lad Strayer, Adrian Daily Telegram.

Coach Smith and Coach Ben Braun in the late 1970's. Smith was Braun's assistant until the mid-80's when Ben left SHU to coach at EMU. Braun is currently the head men's basketball coach at the University of California Berkeley.





COMMENCEMENT '05!

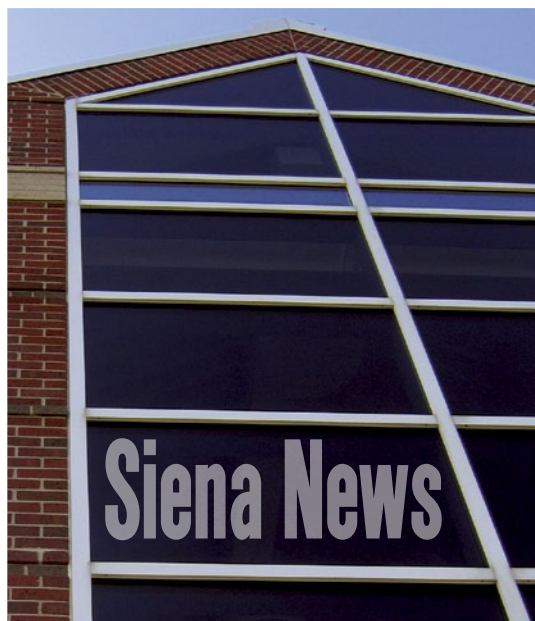
Kapnick Honored By Siena Heights University

Siena Heights recently presented long-time Board of Trustees member, Douglas Kapnick, with an honorary Doctorate. Mr. Kapnick was given the prestigious honor at a black-tie fundraising event held in celebration of his 20 years on the SHU Board.

During the evening, SHU President Rick Artman thanked Mr. Kapnick for his two decades of service on the SHU Board of Trustees saying:

"Siena Heights has benefited greatly from 20 years of servant leadership from trustee Douglas Kapnick; indeed a sparkling gem set in the three prongs of an effective trustee — time, talent and treasure. Through his work, his wisdom and his wealth, Doug has consistently supported and bettered his hometown community, and especially Siena Heights University. It is in honor and gratefulness for all of this that Siena Heights is proud to present to Douglas L. Kapnick the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa."

The event garnered over \$30-thousand dollars for the SHU Annual Fund '04-'05.



Graduates of Siena Heights University's Adrian campus and many graduates from Siena's off campus centers participated in the university's Adrian Commencement on Sunday, May 8, in the SHU Fieldhouse. Over 600 students graduated from SHU in 2005!

The Most Reverend Carl F. Mengeling, Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Lansing, was given an Honorary Doctorate at this year's commencement. The Doctoral Commendation read in part, "The community of Siena Heights University delights in honoring Bishop Carl F. Mengeling, who exemplifies in his life and ministry the qualities of prayer, study, community and preaching espoused by our Dominican tradition...For his care of the Church in our day and our diocese, Siena Heights University is proud to present Bishop Carl F. Mengeling with the degree Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa."

In addition to the May 8th ceremony in Adrian, SHU sponsored commencement events at our off campus sites.



Innovative Teaching Takes On A Whole New Subject: Distance Learning!

For more than thirty years, Siena Heights has responded to the needs of adult learners by providing degree-completion programs at various sites throughout the lower tier of Michigan. During this time, we've taken great pride in our ability to respond to the needs of our students with innovative teaching methods and unique opportunities for learning. In the time Siena has been offering degree-completion, technology has changed the world, including teaching styles and methods – and now Siena takes that evolution to a whole new level.

Siena Heights University has offered blended online courses for several years now, allowing students to convene in the traditional classroom setting for some of their class meetings, while participating in online learning opportunities for other aspects of the same course. And now, the persistence and creativity of several faculty members have made online courses, and in fact full degree-completion, fully available for SHU students! In the spring of 2004, Siena learned our application for full accreditation for our online distance learning program was accepted by the North Central Association, so we're able to provide these exciting courses, and completion of a Siena Heights University degree to students who live and work nearly anywhere in the world!

Distance learning at Siena Heights encompasses a set of classes where the actual course work takes place with the teacher and students separated by physical distance utilizing technology to bridge the distance gap. This type of course provides students, most often adult students, the opportunity to take college courses when they have a disadvantage related to time, physical distance or even physical disability. "It's a unique way to teach and a unique way to connect with students. I've found that each student has a different reason for choosing online courses, but they all feel it's working well for them, and providing an opportunity they couldn't easily get elsewhere," commented Jim O'Flynn, distance learning coordinator.

Distance learning is not like a correspondence course, nor is it self-paced. Online courses follow an eight week term, and most courses have deadline dates for assignments throughout the class. The expectation is that you participate in class discussions, online. Most of these discussions will be online in written discussion threads (asynchronous), meaning that you post comments at any time during the assignment. Some other discussions may be in real time (synchronous), as in a live chatroom or video conferencing situation.

You might be thinking this type of course work sounds easier than a traditional course at Siena. In actuality, distance learning courses are often more difficult and take more time than traditional courses. The presentation of the materials is different, of course, and the student may find more flexibility for their participation. However, students are expected to spend more time reading and researching than they normally would for other courses. Most distance learning courses require 10-12 hours per week to accomplish assignments, and for class participation.

Siena currently offers more than 25 courses completely online, with availability differing each term or semester, with plans to continue growing the opportunities. According to Jim O'Flynn, "We carefully select courses for the online or blended format, and realize that



not all classes can or should be offered this way. We plan to develop more online courses in the near future, including classes in Career Management, Health Care Management, Philosophy, and others. The online courses allow Siena to reach nearly anyone, while fulfilling our mission of developing competent, purposeful and ethical students while we respect the dignity of each of our individual learners."

One of the online cohorts beginning this fall consists of students from throughout the state of Michigan and even a student in Germany! The program is suited to students looking to finish their degree, as well as those who want to take an individual course or two. We're truly taking Siena on the road and around the world with distance learning!

If you are the type of person who likes to work at your own pace, in your own time frame, and you have good organizational and time-management skills, then distance learning might be right for you. People with busy work schedules, and/or family responsibilities will enjoy the flexibility distance learning gives them. But distance learning is not for everybody. You must have a high level of self-discipline and self-motivation to be successful in distance learning.

If you are interested in learning more about this unique opportunity to pursue or further your education with Siena Heights, or if you're interested in finding out if you're a good fit for an online course, you can find information and take our online self-assessments by visiting our website at www.shucpsonline.org. We also encourage you to contact Jim O'Flynn, faculty member and distance learning coordinator at jaoflynn@sbcglobal.net or Lori Timmis, director of distance learning programs at ltimmis@sienahts.edu.



This past spring, Siena Heights had the privilege of awarding the first ever Jack Bologna Innovation in Teaching Award to Jim O'Flynn, a member of the faculty in the College for Professional Studies, and distance learning coordinator. Established with a gift from an anonymous donor, the Jack Bologna Award is given annually to a SHU faculty member who demonstrates the use of innovation in the teaching-learning process.

Jim, an innovator in the classroom and in life, made a special announcement upon learning of his award. Jim is using the stipend he earned with the award, along with additional personal financial support to create an emergency support fund, especially for those students taking their Siena Heights course work online. Jim understands that sometimes circumstances arise that create an unanticipated financial burden for a student. The fund he has created will be able to support these small emergencies, on an occasional basis.

Funds can only be authorized by Deb Carter, dean for the College for Professional Studies, and Jim would like to see the fund fully endowed in the future. "There are many times when a student just can't come up with the money for a class – things happen. This fund will help bridge a small gap for a student, when they really need it," commented O'Flynn.

If you would like more information about the fund, or to make your own donation to support online learning at Siena Heights University you may contact Jim at jaoflynn@sbcglobal.net, or Tom Kavanagh, vice president for advancement at tkavanag@sienahts.edu.

Announcing Fund For Support Of Online Learning!





Deborah Carter, Dean of the College for Professional Studies, enjoys the view at the Roman Colosseum. Deb was the group's official photographer — furnishing photos for SHU publications and archives.



Siena, Italy

“Our time in Siena was filled with reflective and mystical moments imbued with the presence of St. Catherine.”

Sister Rosa Monique Peña, OP



A group composed of Siena Heights' board members, faculty, staff, alumni and friends visited Rome, Florence and Siena, Italy last fall. The group's mission was to further connect with the history and values of St. Catherine of Siena and St. Dominic Guzman, and to strengthen knowledge of and commitment to the ideals espoused by these important Catholic Dominican Saints.



When St. Joseph College changed its name in 1939 to Siena Heights College, the Adrian Dominican Sisters honored one of the Catholic Church's most significant women leaders, Saint Catherine of Siena, Italy (see biography of St. Catherine on page 8). The spirit of Catherine has influenced the mission and values of the university throughout its history, as have the traditions and charism of the Dominican Order.



Those who participated in the Italian excursion all commented that the experience far exceeded expectations. In Rome, the group was reminded of the historic significance of the city and culture, and of the incredible treasures of art, architecture and religion that shape our nation and university.

President Artman shared one of his favorite memories of Rome.

“The influence of the Dominican Friars is particularly evident in the early history of



the Catholic Church. During a memorable visit to the basilica of Santa Sabina (Rome), we walked the ground where St. Dominic and his followers lived in the early 1200s and we visited the cell where he prayed. A warm greeting from and a delicious espresso with three members of the Master of the Order’s General Council marked this special visit to Santa Sabina.”

Of course, the presence of St. Catherine was most visible in Siena, Italy – including her head and index finger that rest in the Basilica of St. Dominic. The SHU group was able to visit the Benincasa home where Catherine Benincasa (later St. Catherine of Siena) and her 24 siblings lived. The group was further privileged to see the tiny room where Catherine prayed in solitude for three years of her life.

Sister Rosa Monique Peña, Vicareess of the Adrian Dominican Sisters and SHU Trustee, explained that the group’s time in Siena was both insightful and spiritual.

“Our time in Siena was filled with reflective and mystical moments imbued with the presence of St. Catherine. The city of Siena helped me to fully enter into those moments: the cobblestone paths, the buildings - from Catherine’s era - still intact...the gentleness and roughness of the people



The SHU group visited several historic sites throughout Italy including the Roman Colosseum.

spoke so vividly of the environment in which Catherine moved and breathed and ministered.” Sister Rosa continued, “The trip helped me to understand the importance of stepping out of our provincial mentality and entering into a broad global mentality. The fact that Catherine, in such a small town, had a very global vision of the church and was able to move out of her small environment and into the global environment of her time should remind us all that we are called to do the same.”

President Artman and his wife, Joan, shared this reflection.

“While in Siena, we 39 visitors from Siena Heights University found much to be proud of about our patroness: her holiness, her role in the reunification of the Church in Rome, her devotion and dialogues with her God.”

The Siena Heights group ignored the century-old feud between the Sieneese and Florentines in order to enjoy their final days of sightseeing and shopping in Florence. Michelangelo’s magnificent statue of David and the frescoes of Dominican Fra Angelico (for whom our Art building, Studio Angelico is named) were among the memorable moments in one of Europe’s most beautiful cities.

The journey to Italy was undertaken at no expense to the University. The engagement of the 15 trustees with each other and their exposure to our Dominican and Catholic traditions have, according to President Artman, further strengthened our board and will yield dividends for years to come.

Father J. Patrick Murphy, Chair of the SHU Board, summed up the trip, “In brief, the value of the trip – besides the obvious vacation and educational benefits – was the personal connection we were able to make with each other as trustees. In addition, we now share a common experience of the Dominican and Catholic values, our roots in each tradition that we will use to build the future of the University and upon which we base our relationships with one another.”



Several folks from SHU visited the Dominican Friars at the Basilica of Santa Sabina. Over many decades the Basilica was home to many prominent Dominican figures including Saint Dominic himself.



“Faith will give you life and lead you in the way of truth.”

Saint Catherine of Siena

A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY OF SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA



Siena Heights University is named in honor of Saint Catherine of Siena (1347—1380). Eventually named a Doctor of the Church, Catherine Benincasa was a lay Dominican woman who worked for spiritual and social change. Her life was dedicated to a quest for truth and light in a world ravaged by war and scandal.

Saint Catherine was a devoted follower of the teachings of Saint Dominic Guzman, the founder of the Dominican order. Master, fr. Aniceto Fernandez, Master General of the Dominican

At the back entrance to Catherine's home – the statue in the background is the mold used to create a large metal statue that is on display in the city.

Pictured from left: Trudy McSorley '70, Pat Walter, OP '66, Sr. Beatriz (A Dominican Sister from Siena, Italy), Sharon Weber, OP '69, Rosa Monique Peña, OP and Deb Carter.



Order in 1970, summed up Catherine's devotion to the Dominican order with these words: "Into Catherine the whole soul of Dominic passed."

Saint Catherine grew up the youngest of 24 children born to Jacopo and Lapa Benincasa. When she was six years old Catherine began experiencing visions that forever changed her life; she is said to have seen a vision of Christ smiling in the sky above the church of San Domenico in Siena, Italy. From this point on Catherine devoted her life to God.

At age 16 Catherine joined the Mantellate, a group of lay Dominican women. She spent the next three years in almost complete seclusion dedicating herself to deep prayer, leaving her room only to attend mass. During this time Catherine developed a deep relationship with Christ. She often described her relationship as a dialogue with God "as one friend to another." With her life now deeply and completely rooted in God's call Catherine soon left her life of solitude and began a decade of public ministry.

Saint Catherine became a well-known figure in her home of Siena, Italy. In her first years of ministry she focused her efforts on assistance to the sick, poor, and imprisoned – those without a voice. It is during her time of active ministry that Catherine experienced a second series of mystical visions, manifestations of the Divine mysteries. At this point Catherine received a calling to an even more prominent public ministry.

She began to initiate communications with men and women, political and religious leaders. Catherine served as advisor and peace-maker, working to help Italy recover from civil war. In the late 1300's church states were at odds with the papacy. After the election of Pope Clement V, the papacy left Rome and moved to Avignon, France. In 1376, Catherine visited then Pope Gregory XI to request that he return the papacy to "its rightful place" in Rome. Catherine's persuasion was successful, the Pope returned to Rome soon after her visit.

At this point Catherine began work on her Dialogue, writings that include an account of Catherine's conversation

and dialogue with Christ. Saint Catherine's Dialogue provides a glimpse into her own theology and deep relationship with God.

Just a year after his return to Rome, Pope Gregory died. He was succeeded by Pope Urban VI. With the new Pope came new problems for the Catholic Church, and a new mission for Saint Catherine. The great Schism began when some Cardinals elected the anti-pope, Clement VIII. Catherine began to focus much of her energy toward healing the schism in the Catholic Church. She remained a strong supporter of Urban VI. He summoned Catherine to Rome and requested her help for his cause. The remainder of Catherine's life was spent working to further heal the church and bring unity to the Catholic family.

In 1380, at the age of 33, Saint Catherine died, surrounded by a group of devoted Dominican followers. Before her death she endured great physical suffering, but remained committed to daily prayer for the church. Saint Catherine was given the Stigmata of Christ but, by her request, it was not visible until after her death. Saint Catherine died after offering her life up for the church.

In 1461, Catherine of Siena was canonized by Pope Pius II. In 1939, Pope Pius the XII proclaimed her co-patron of Italy. In 1970, Saint Catherine of Siena was declared a Doctor of the Church by Pope Paul VI. No woman, before 1970, had ever been designated as a Doctor of the Church; this honor recognizes Saint Catherine's role as a teacher of doctrine relevant to the church as a whole for all time. Perhaps Catherine's greatest spiritual contribution is her insistence that love of God and love of neighbor are inseparable.

Bearing in mind the teachings of the Catholic Church, Saint Catherine of Siena, and the Adrian Dominican Sisters, we at Siena Heights work toward the development of the whole student. Siena Heights University believes that caring, compassionate people are the key to creating peace and social justice in our world.

Biographical Resource: "Catherine of Siena"
Mary O'Driscoll O.P., Éditions du Signe 1994.

SIENA GOES TO DUBLIN, IRELAND

Siena Heights University's Graduate College traveled to the Emerald Isle this summer! SHU offered GRS599 SA, Comparative Study of Health Systems, in partnership with All Hallows College, Dublin, Ireland. This provided our students with an international component in their graduate studies.

Instructors for the course were John Fick, Director of our Health Care Administration Program, Associate Professor and Dr. Patricia McDonald OP, Director of Graduate Studies, Associate Professor.

The class was treated to several guest speakers including Goretti Butler and Carol Thompson, representatives from Dublin who administrate hospitals, day treatment programs, and other mental health facilities within the city, and John Farelly, a national representative from Ireland who handles counseling and psychotherapy accrediting programs within the country.

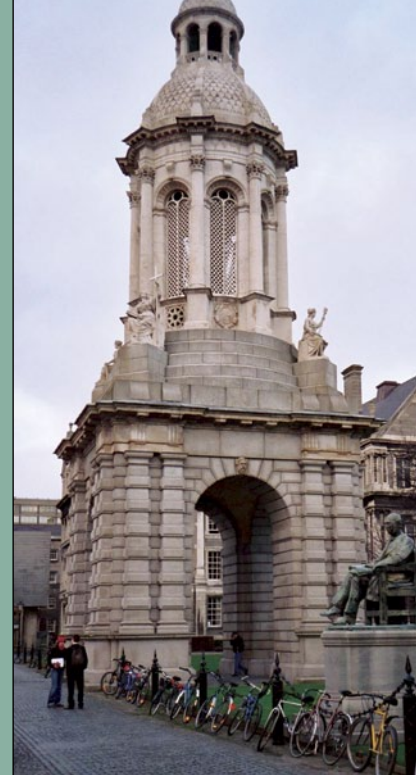
The course was designed to be an introduction to the structure, function and comparison of health care systems. It examined the history, organization, roles, and relationships of consumers and providers of health care services as well as the various types of facilities and organizations, historical trends, and current issues which impact the health care system. The content focused attention on the perspectives of health care, leadership and management, as well as the mental health practitioner.

19 students participated in this venture representing all of our masters programs. In addition to our SHU graduate students, other participants represented Masters' level social workers, a Michigan elementary school principal, and an employee who works for a Michigan state representative.

Dr. McDonald says that this opportunity to explore cultures beyond our own provided a greater understanding of our global reality and health care from multiple perspectives.

McDonald explained, "As we realize we are a one world community we benefit from the richness and experience of other cultures. Through this experience we will enhance our ability to study and contemplate and give to others the fruits of our contemplation. We help others to become more competent, purposeful and ethical as we relate, interact and participate in our world community."

Siena hopes to make this course an annual opportunity.



Ireland at Leisure with SHU

The Board of Trustees is planning a trip to Ireland as a way to engage trustees, alumni and friends in the history and values of our Catholic and Dominican tradition and to strengthen the group's knowledge and commitment to these ideals. Trustee Tom Conlin has prepared an exciting 10-day, all-inclusive, deluxe motorcoach tour that features many of Ireland's great places and hidden treasures - including visits to some of the oldest Dominican priories and parishes.

The group will travel to various parts of the Emerald Isle (see map below). Cost will be approximately \$1,985 per person, double occupancy. The trip is open to all SHU alumni and friends. Call Conlin Enrichment Tours at 888-426-6546 to request a complete brochure.



SHU Professor Speaks in South Africa



A monument and museum dedicated to the genesis of the Democratic movement in South Africa.



Robbin Island, the prison where Nelson Mandela was held for nearly two decades.

The Following article is a reflection written after Dr. Patricia McDonald OP, '69, Director of Graduate Studies at SHU's Metropolitan Detroit Center, returned from work in South Africa. Dr. McDonald was invited to attend a Mental Health symposium held in the country.

The United States and South Africa partnered in cultural exchange programs for a greater understanding of mental health concerns. This past fall I attended a two week program with the United States Delegation of Mental Health professionals at the invitation of our national office.

The opportunity provided direct exchanges with the South African government and their CEO of mental health services. We toured Soweto and stood in the city streets where Hector Peterson, a 13 year old young man, was gunned down in 1976 for demonstrating for better living conditions, and experienced first hand the magnitude of services needed to serve this part of the world.

In a nation of 33,000,000, the South African government has set up programs to serve their citizens in multiple parts of that nation. Given the fact that as a nation they are only 10 years old, they have already set up mental health centers and services in the vast sections of their nation. I was impressed by their efforts to serve their citizens.

I had the privilege and honor of visiting the homes of both Bishop Desmond Tutu and Mr. Nelson Mandela. Both men lived on the same street only a few blocks apart. Both these individuals have continually worked toward the betterment of their countrymen and countrywomen. They are men of nonviolence who strive for full inclusion of all human beings at all levels. Amazingly they lived on the same street which is the "only street in the world that boasts of two Nobel Peace Prize Winners!"

A personal high for me was visiting Robben Island, a few miles off of Cape Town, where Nelson Mandela was imprisoned for 19 years as a "political prisoner." I stood in the jail cell, and witnessed from his window his world for these 19 years. He never gave up his 'spirit' or his 'hope' for a better, more humane and equitable world for all people.

Following our visit to Robben Island, our group toured mental health treatment facilities, substance abuse programs, partial day treatment centers and the Cape Town psychiatric hospital. It was here that I gave a presentation to the psychiatric staff and our U.S. delegation on the topic of "Post Traumatic Stress Disorder." South Africa (and much of the world) is dealing with PTSD conditions, which need to be addressed. I spoke with a Muslim woman who is their only physical therapist. She indicated that they



welcome master's level students who want an internship experience. I also spoke with two Irish women who are in South Africa working toward completion of their masters in social work.

The coming together of two cultures for the greater good of the human race demonstrates new beginnings in the interconnectedness of all persons. As I left Cape Town, where two oceans come together (the Indian and Atlantic), I was in awe of Bishop Desmond Tutu, Mr. Nelson Mandela and the South African people. To have visited the only street in the world that can boast of housing two Nobel Peace Prize Winners was indeed an honor and a privilege!

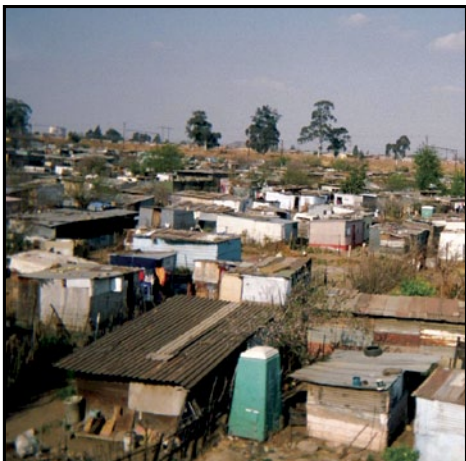
My trip to South Africa left me with several questions: What's happening where I live? How can I, how am I making a difference? To find these answers I know I must constantly seek truth, make peace, reverence life!

Patricia McDonald, OP holds a bachelor's degree in history and a master's degree in counseling from Siena Heights University. She also earned a doctorate in educational leadership from Western Michigan University. Sister Pat is a member of the Adrian Dominican Congregation and has spoken widely throughout the United States and abroad.



Dr. McDonald (right) and a colleague in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Soweto, South Africa is home to over 1-million people. It is considered to be one of the poorest cities in the world. Dr. McDonald and her colleagues visited the area during their travels throughout the country.



Perspectives in Action: Study Abroad in Mexico

What does it mean to spend a semester abroad? For Nick Kaplan '04 it was a chance to put his Spanish language skills to the test, to experience fully the Mexican culture and, perhaps most importantly, a chance to learn about himself.

Every semester, 3 to 4 SHU students have the opportunity to live with a Mexican family in Cuernavaca, Morelos, Mexico – a city located in the middle of the country about an hour from Mexico City. In 2003, Nick was one of the students who studied in Cuernavaca. A Junior Spanish major from Adrian, Nick was eager to have the opportunity to become fully entrenched in the culture of the country and people he had studied for so long.

Nick explained, "After studying Spanish at Siena I felt prepared to go to Cuernavaca. It was such a great experience, a chance to quit being a tourist and try to live like a Mexican. The day I realized I no longer needed my Spanish-English Dictionary was a real milestone."

Each Siena student lives with a family while abroad. Nick's family was typical. He lived with a host mother, father, grandmother, great-grandmother, several siblings, and even a nephew.

"It was important to my host family that I make myself at home. In the beginning it was a struggle to figure out what that meant. I remember one time I started washing dishes – my host mother wasn't very happy with me because in the Mexican culture a visitor would never do the dishes. So, I told her that if she wanted me to feel truly at home she needed to let me pitch in." Nick cheerfully explained, "After that, I really felt a part of the family."

Students pay their own transportation plus regular tuition and room and board charges to Siena, less their financial aid. SHU contracts facilities and instructors in Cuernavaca through the University of Cuauhnahuac (the ancient name for Cuernavaca). Tuition covers the bimonthly weekend excursions throughout the country. Courses in Mexican history, literature and language, and special classes in religion and Mexican cuisine are all a part of the students' curriculum.

A highlight for many students, including Nick, were the group's weekend excursions to destinations like Acapulco, Amatlan, Mexico City, and Teotihuacan. Nick fondly remembers one such trip to a Cenotes, an underground cavern with water – connected by underground rivers.

Nick reminisced, "We weren't exactly sure where we were going. We got on a mule train (yes, that's right an actual train pulled by mules) and ventured toward the area where we'd been told that Cenotes were. We saw two local men and asked them if they could point us toward the Cenotes. Not only did they point us in the right direction but they walked out of their way to



In Chichen Itza, on top of the Kukulkán Pyramid with the Temple of the Warriors in the background, is (from left to right): Angela Huston (SHU), John Simmons (Adrian College), Lori Mackinder (SHU), Amanda Escobedo (SHU), John Eipper (Professor of Spanish, Adrian college), and Christina Kreger (SHU).



bring us to the opening of the cavern. We climbed down this little hole into the Cenotes...there was this huge underground cave with a beautiful river...it was the purest clearest water I'd ever seen. Experiences like this taught me about the natural beauty of the land and the people."

When asked what the whole experience in Mexico meant to him, Nick explained, "It changed me. In our global world it is so important to gain perspectives. I can honestly say that my time in Mexico changed the way that I look at the world, the way I look at America, the way I view our politics, and most importantly... the way that I view myself as a member of the world community."

The success of our program is demonstrated by the language and cultural fluency of our students upon their return, and by the number of students who subsequently continue their studies in Mexico through other arrangements. A new fall semester program in the Yucatan Peninsula will be added this year to accommodate students who cannot participate during the winter term, such as students involved in winter/spring sports.

More information on Siena Heights Mexico Study Abroad experience is available by contacting Dr. Renato Gonzalez, Director of International Studies and Foreign Languages, (517)264-7691.

AN OASIS:

SECOND ANNUAL MISSION TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC



"I'm so glad I was able to take part in this trip — I am in love with these kids. . . I'd come back in a heartbeat."

— Colleen Lewis '04



Fe y Alegria is an elementary school established 10 years ago by Adrian Dominican Sisters Maurine Barzantni '59 and Renée Richie '60, MA '70. This May, a group of Siena Heights University students, Barry University students, staff members and Adrian Dominican Sisters traveled to the school to run an English camp for 5th and 8th grade students at the school, which is often described as an oasis in the midst of poverty.

The school in El Cruce teaches 1,200 children the basics of reading, writing, and mathematics. English is not a typical course taught at the school. However, in our world that seems to grow ever smaller as we become connected through technology, it is important for the Fe y Alegria students and our SHU/Barry students to better understand and experience diverse languages and cultures.

Left: Colleen Lewis '04 gets a big hug and welcome kiss from one of the Fe Y Alegria students. Colleen described her experience in the Dominican Republic as life changing.

Below: Students at the school were pleased to spend time with the SHU group. The children were always happy to smile for the camera!



Maria Crane '05 and children from various grade levels during recess.

The university students spent months planning educational, entertaining and interactive lessons for the English camp. At the same time, the Fe y Alegria students spent weeks anticipating the visit from their American friends.

Those who participated in the trip describe the experience as life altering. Ashley Gonzalez, a junior at SHU, said, "It was hard to leave the students after spending just 10 days with them, we felt connected on many levels. We really came to care for the students and their families. I learned a lot about myself and my priorities while in the Dominican Republic."

The trip is unique on many levels including the collaboration that it brings about between the SHU community, Barry University (our sister school – also founded by the Adrian Dominican Sisters), and the Adrian Dominican Sisters. Students, staff, and sisters have the opportunity to work together to further the mission and tradition of our institutions.

To make a donation or for more information about the Siena Heights University Dominican Republic Mission Trip or other Campus Ministry Programs, contact Campus Ministry at (517) 264 7192.



The SHU group introduced several classes to the school's new computer lab by means of a Spanish-English program. For many students it was the first time they'd ever used a computer.





From The Alumni Association

Dear Fellow Alumni Association Members,

As I conclude my term as your President, I'd like to take this time to express my gratitude for the opportunity to serve and for the experience this service has provided me. My service to Siena began soon after I arrived as a freshman in 1995, as a member of Residence Hall Council. The service opportunities Siena has provided, over the years, have deeply enriched my personal and professional life.

While your financial support is critical to advancing the mission and future of our Alma Mater, I strongly encourage you to consider the various ways in which you can make a difference. Perhaps your calling may be to join the Alumni Board, or to speak to a group of students about your career experiences. You may even wish to host an alumni event in your area.

There are several ways in which you can make a difference! Your Alumni Board and Alumni Director are committed to assisting you in realizing your calling. I've had the pleasure of interacting with individuals at all levels during my service to Siena. I've been deeply inspired. Commencement day reminds us all of why our service is so vital to our Alma Mater. You CAN make a positive difference in the future of our university!

Keith Rusie
Outgoing President, SHU Alumni Board

The Changing of The Guard

Outgoing Alumni Association President Keith Rusie and incoming President Joe Balusik pose on campus during commencement '05.



Alumni Focus: Carrie Chrisman-McClure

CHILD DEVELOPMENT GRADUATE 2005



After spending a decade at SHU, Carrie Chrisman-McClure is one of Siena Heights' newest alumnae. Carrie's adventure at Siena started in 1995 when she began work on a degree in elementary education. Over time, Carrie realized that her true calling was to work with preschool children, so she changed her focus and began pursuing a degree in child development.

As a working adult, Carrie had to balance career and school. So, she decided to take one or two classes each semester – she stuck to that commitment and received her degree at commencement exercises this May.

"There were times I really didn't think I'd make it, but the SHU faculty are so supportive. I'm happy to serve as proof that you really can balance it all – work, school, and family commitments!"

Chrisman-McClure says that without the support of her husband, employer and the faculty and staff at Siena she probably would not have persevered.

She said, "If I ever had any problems, questions or concerns I knew that faculty members would be there to help me. I was able to develop wonderful relationships with my professors. Mary

Griffin (Coordinator of SHU's Child Development Program) is one example of an amazing professor who will do anything to help her students become high-quality educators; she mentored me toward my goal."

Carrie attended a few other colleges and universities but says she never felt as comfortable as she did at SHU.

"I feel like I belong at Siena. I love the warm feeling I get when I walk on campus. People here know and support one another – I never feel like I am a number. I always feel right at home here," she explained.

Carrie grew up in a Catholic family and says that SHU's Catholic identity helped her to feel at home. She explained that the mission and tradition of the university reinforced beliefs and principles that were important to her. As a Siena Heights student, Carrie says she felt pushed to become a more compassionate, committed and well rounded person.

"It is such an amazing experience to be with people who are so committed to bettering themselves and their community," Carrie expounded, "I always felt called to think broadly and at a high level in my courses."

Carrie's advice to others: If you have the will you can make your dreams come true – if you want it, you can get it!

If Carrie follows her own advice it seems certain that she will accomplish her latest goals, to pursue an advanced degree in Child Development with hopes of teaching children and doing research in the field.

More information on SHU's Child Development program is available by calling Mary Griffin at (517) 264-7891.



From The Alumni Association

Dear Fellow Alumni Association Members,

Fellow alumni, growth and change come hand in hand with opportunity. When I graduated from Siena Heights College in the spring of 1990, becoming involved with SHU after graduation NEVER entered my mind.

How wrong I was. One day soon, many of you will change your thinking as I did. An opportunity to come home to Siena will present itself, and my hope is that you will embrace a change of heart and mind. As the President-Elect of your Alumni Association, my mission is to ensure that the momentum started by past presidents continues to move forward. In order to do that, I would ask each of you to seize an opportunity to serve with us on the Alumni Board; either directly, through committee work or Board membership; or by hosting and attending Alumni Events in your area.

During my time on the Alumni Board I have seen our membership grow from an Adrian-centric group to a vibrant and dynamic body that includes many members from our off-campus centers. That kind of representation is paramount to the growth opportunities of the University.

Every family is presented with change. Every family grows. These are not actions that necessitate fear. Instead, they should be embraced and nurtured. Siena is growing. Siena is changing. We, the members of the Alumni Association Board of Directors, would like to extend to each of you opportunities to be agents of change and growth. Please join us as we journey together.

Long journeys begin with small steps, and I believe that we must all walk together as a strong, passionate and committed family.

I extend my thanks to Keith Rusie for his leadership, commitment to Siena and willingness to embrace opportunities. I have spacious shoes to fill. However, because of the strength, passion and commitment of our current Alumni Association Board members, I have the confidence and spirit that we will continue to seize opportunities for growth and connection for the entire Siena Heights University Alumni community.

Best Wishes,
Joseph Balusik
President-Elect, SHU Alumni Board

ALUMNI STARS HONORED

Siena Heights recently honored our 2005 Alumni Award winners. The awards celebration, titled "Alumni Stars at Work in Our World," recognized Siena Heights alumni for efforts on behalf of peace, justice and betterment in inner city Detroit, in an impoverished region of the Dominican Republic, in the Catholic Church and in the local community.

The honorees spent a full day at SHU, speaking with students and meeting with classes. In addition, a formal awards ceremony took place in Siena's Rueckert Auditorium. This year's Alumni Award winners include:

2005 Sister Ann Joachim Award Carol Fowler (Chicago, Illinois)

The Sister Ann Joachim Award recognizes significant contributions that demonstrate strong leadership, the ability to get things done, and the capacity to confront issues head on while maintaining the image and spirit of the University.

After earning a B.A. at Michigan State, Carol Fowler entered the Adrian Dominicans in the mid-sixties and attended Siena Heights for two intensive years of study in theology and education. She withdrew from the Order several years later but has remained close to the Congregation and recently became an Associate Member. Carol's career reflects this grounding in Adrian Dominican values. After several years teaching elementary school, she became campus minister at Michigan State, earning national recognition for her leadership. Since 1991, Carol has served as Director of Personnel Services for the Archdiocese of Chicago, coordinating the work of 17 archdiocesan agencies and overseeing all human resource functions for laity, religious and the clergy. The only woman with a cabinet-level position in the archdiocesan structure, she has earned a reputation as a strong leader, consensus builder, and tireless advocate for justice within the church. She holds a Doctor of Ministry degree from St. Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore.

2005 Recent Graduate Award Mark and Mary Murray (Adrian, MI)

The Recent Graduate Award recognizes alumni who have graduated within the past 10 years who exemplify dedication to Christian values through professional achievement, community involvement and/or civic commitment; and who represent the spirit of Siena Heights University.

Mark and Mary Murray met and married while both were students in Siena's master's program in community counseling. Today, the 1997 Graduate College alumni draw on their SHU education as counselors in private practice together and as mentors and counselors at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Adrian. They are also entrepreneurs and small business owners, most recently adding a Beaner's Coffee franchise to the services offered at the Image Center. In addition, they are active volunteers in the community and the church. And, they are enthusiastic lifelong learners: Mark holds bachelor's degrees in business and in philosophy/religious studies; he also is a trained mediator and certified spiritual director and recently earned another BA, this time in ministry, through Siena's theological studies program. Mary, who has 25 years experience as a teacher and school counselor, is a certified trauma/loss specialist with advanced degrees in human development and psychological services, and teaches part-time at Siena Heights.

Below: The 2005 Alumni Award Winners: Carol Fowler, Mary Murray, Mark Murray, Nancyann Turner, Renee Richie, and Maurine Barzantni.



2005 Saint Dominic Award Nancyann Turner, OP (Livonia, MI)

The Saint Dominic Award recognizes an alumna or alumnus for commitment to Christian education in family, school or community. The award honors persons who embody the Dominican philosophy and the spirit of Siena, and who promote pride in Christian ethics and education.

Nancyann Turner is an artist and board certified art therapist who has worked with low-income families in rural Georgia, psychiatric patients at Walter Reed Hospital in Washington DC, and at-risk women and infants in Detroit. Since 1999, she has been director of children's programs and assistant chaplain at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen in Detroit, where she is creator and director of the Rosa Parks Art Studio and Children's Library, serving children from very poor and deprived areas of the city. With her leadership, the program has grown to include studio art, art therapy groups, individual therapy, reading, tutoring, computer workshop, a children's Peace Garden, choir and summer day camp. Nancyann also has held various leadership roles with the Adrian Dominican Sisters, including six years as a Chapter Prioress. A 1963 art graduate of Siena Heights, Nancyann also holds master's degrees in art education and art therapy, and an MFA in weaving and fiber design.

2005 Outstanding Alumni Award Maurine Barzantni, OP (Dominican Republic) and Renee Richie, OP (Adrian, MI)

The Outstanding Alumni Award recognizes graduates whose outstanding professional achievements and/or volunteer contributions promote Siena Heights positively to the community; who demonstrate strong leadership; and who embody the spirit of Siena Heights.

Maurine Barzantni, a 1959 Latin graduate, and Renee Richie, a 1960 history major who returned for an MA in education in 1970, are longtime advocates for peace and social justice. Like many Adrian Dominicans, they spent a number of years as classroom teachers, but in 1992, they began a new ministry in the Dominican Republic in the village of El Cruce. Their approach to the abject poverty in El Cruce was to build community, to enable local women to become leaders, and to empower the villagers to identify their greatest needs—which were water, medicine and education. In the 13 years since they arrived in El Cruce, Maurine and Renee—in partnership with the villagers and assisted by generous supporters—have created a K-8 school, a pharmacy and a medical lab. They have enabled women from the town to get the training needed to become the teachers, pharmacy assistants and nurses who operate the programs. Thanks to their efforts, El Cruce today has potable water, medical care and a school enrolling 1,300 students.

Class Notes



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

The Class Notes section is compiled from news clippings as well as your notes and letters; and includes updates about Siena graduates from all SHU locations. Information received after May 15 will appear in the next issue of *Reflections*.

Please note: We gladly publish wedding and birth announcements; but we do not announce engagements or pregnancies.

Send your news by email to jhchurch@sienahts.edu or snail mail:

Siena Heights Alumni Office
1247 E. Siena Heights Dr.
Adrian, MI 49221.

Or pick up the phone and call anytime: (517) 264-7143 or (800) 693-0506.

**ONE WAY OR
THE OTHER,
STAY IN TOUCH!**

From the Sites

Ann Arbor

SHU @ WCC

Jessica Moser '04 is working at Tenneco Automotive in Jackson.

Battle Creek

SHU @ KCC & Kalamazoo

Jennifer Stowell '98 of Battle Creek is mentor coordinator and class advisor for the Michigan Youth Challenge Academy.

Kimberly McGhee '99 of Center Line, MI, is a paralegal with H&R Block Financial Advisors, Inc. in Detroit. She also is working on a master's degree in business.

Melissa Faurot '03, a five year employee of Sand Ridge Bank in Hastings, has been promoted from assistant branch manager to mortgage originator. She and her family live in Vermontville.

Benton Harbor

SHU @ LMC

Bob Racklyeft '88 is a design engineer for Fast4M in Troy. He and his wife, Sharon, live in Brownstown Twp. They have a son (18) and a daughter (13).

Renea Brunke '99/MA lives in Chandler, AZ, and works as director of human resources for the John C. Lincoln Health Network in Phoenix.

Kimberly Ashley '03 married Brian Morlock April 17, 2004, in Watervliet. Following a honeymoon in Jamaica, they settled in Decatur. Kimberly is a radiology technologist at Borgess-Lee Memorial Hospital in Dowagiac.

Shebha Mangena '04 of Niles wrote recently to express her gratitude for the education she received at Siena's LMC center. "I met a pool of local and international students my age, younger and some older. I enjoyed the symbiotic cross fertilization of cultures from the diverse student body and a deliberately willing faculty. I benefited so much from all the classes I took."

Jackson

SHU @ JCC

Staff, students and alumni at the Jackson center mourned the unexpected death of Scott Hulen '04 in January. (See complete obituary on page 21.)

Monroe

SHU @ MCCC

Amanda Finley '01 married G.W. Phebus Aug. 18, 2004. They enjoyed a wedding trip to Jamaica then settled in Monroe. Amanda is a marketing administrator.

Jennifer Geiman '04 is head teller at the Monroe Bank and Trust in Carleton.

Angela Bomia '03 has been appointed manager of the South Dixie branch of Monroe Bank & Trust. She lives in Erie with her husband and son.

Joanna Duford '04 of Monroe is a tax analyst for Holcim (US) Inc., in Dundee.

Jane Wellington '04 of Newport is community relations manager in charge of membership for the Society of Manufacturing Engineers in Dearborn.

Christian Stumpmier '04 married Erin Burkhart Oct. 8, 2004, in Monroe where they settled following a wedding trip to Las Vegas. Christian works for the Frenchtown Township Water Department; Erin is a registered nurse at the University of Michigan hospital.

Southfield

SHU Metro Detroit Program

Frances Alexander '80 of Detroit has retired from a three-decade career as a nurse anesthetist at Sinai-Grace Hospital. She and her husband, Gerald, recently celebrated 52 years of marriage!

Thomas Pick '80 worked in aviation for 20 years after graduating but "September 11th brought my flying career to a halt." He returned to school and is now an elementary school teacher in Las Vegas, NV.

Ethel Johnson '87 is an attorney and shareholder in the Houston, TX, law firm of Ogletree Deakins, one of the nation's largest labor and employment law firms, with 22 offices across the country. Serving as advocates for management, the firm represents more than half of the nation's Fortune 500 companies. A 1991 graduate of the University of Texas law school, Ethel's practice focuses on the representation of management in all aspects of labor and employment law including complex employment litigation, employee benefits litigation and labor arbitrations. She also counsels clients regarding discipline and discharge issues, workplace privacy, medical leave policies, and many other human resources issues. Ethel is active in the American and Houston Bar Associations and is a frequent speaker at employment-related seminars.

LaJoyce Jones Brown '98 of Southfield is associate director for recruitment and outreach in the Wayne State University Office of Undergraduate Admissions.

Richarne Parks-White '04/MA of Eastpointe is working part-time for Professional Outreach Counseling Services along with another full-time job. She has recently traveled and done training work in several locations including Puerto Rico and Los Angeles. She hopes to begin doctoral studies in the near future.

Staff, students and alumni of Siena's Southfield program mourned the tragic death in April of long-time psychology professor Dr. Diane Michelle. (See complete obituary on page 21.)

Main Campus

1930s

Virginia Rose Johnston '39 of Boca Raton, FL, has received numerous honors for her contributions to education and the community. Once named Outstanding Senior Citizen of Broward County, she also has been recognized as one of Florida Atlantic University's most accomplished alumni. (She earned a master's degree at FAU in 1967.) Widowed at age 39 with three small children, Virginia began a high school teaching career in English, drama and speech. After "retirement," teaching took her around the world: to Africa with the Peace Corps, to Jilin College in China, and back to FAU where she initiated a Florida-China exchange program. Guided by a personal mission to "stay active and never stop achieving," Virginia has continued to participate in book clubs, international friendship groups, and volunteer reading for the blind and dyslexic.

1940s

Eileen Meely Heinrichs '47 of Stoughton, WI, wrote recently to report her excitement about attending a wonderful portrayal of St. Catherine of Siena presented by Nancy Murray, OP. "She did the most magnificent job and kept awakening memories of my days at Siena Heights, my visit to Siena, Italy, and all that I had read about St. Catherine. It was a real privilege to visit with her after the show." Note to Siena Heights alumni: You TOO can enjoy such a visit at Alumni Weekend '05, when St. Catherine of Siena, aka Nancy Murray, will be a special guest at the Prayer Brunch Sunday morning, Oct. 2. Join us and see what memories blossom for you!



Class Notes Continued



Rosemarie Van D'Elden Birman '47 and her husband, Paul, enjoyed a two-week expedition along the southeast coast of Alaska last fall, where they encountered glaciers and fjords, brown bears, bald eagles and humpback whales—not just from the rail of a small (73-passenger) cruise ship but also up-close from their kayaks! After wintering in Ft. Lauderdale, they enjoyed summer on Long Island, NY.

Condolences go out to Bette Jaminet Rose '48 of East China, MI, on the loss of her husband, Alfred, this past November 2004 after a long illness.

Mary Ann Beckman Krouse, who started at Siena Heights with the Class of '49, wrote recently from her home in Ottawa, OH. Mary Ann left Siena with only 18 hours left towards her degree in art; "Sister Helene was a stern taskmaster and I learned a lot from her, God rest her soul." Mary Ann and her husband, Dean, had 10 children, eight of whom are living. After daughter DeAnne Krouse '85, graduated from Siena, Mary Ann got back to the task of finishing her own degree, walking down the graduation aisle in 1988 with proud family in attendance! Mary Ann applied her art skills as a graphic designer for the newspaper for some years, and today makes original pressed-flower greeting cards. She remains active in her church and recently celebrated 55 years of marriage to Dean. The photo below is, from left: daughter DeAnne '85, daughter Kathy, and Mary Ann.



Joan Chopp Scheuermann '53 of Pleasant Ridge, MI, published a new book in March titled "Swords and Stiletos" (available through AuthorHouse). "Almost everyone has suffered from a careless comment or negative action. How people deal with rudeness can either weigh them down with unnecessary resentment or liberate them and make them stronger," the book announcement explains. "In Swords and Stiletos, a series of short scenarios portrays painful situations and reactions that can prevent lingering ill will." The stories are intended to inspire readers to forgive others, and also to recognize behaviors of their own that might be detrimental. Joan is an artist and writer who has seen her work published in local papers as well as Sideshow Magazine, Independent Review, Odessa Poetry Review, Poet Magazine and other journals.

Catherine Donovan DeGalan '55 lives in Crystal Lake, IL, about 60 miles northwest of Chicago. She and her husband have four children and eight grandchildren who have entertained them at dance recitals, band concerts, art shows and numerous sporting events! She also enjoys Chicago's professional cultural life including the Lyric Opera.

Helen Dompierre, OP '55 lives in Ft. Pierce, FL, and teaches at St. Anastasia Catholic School.

Magdalena Ezoe, OP '55 continued full-time music teaching at Siena Heights through the 2004-05 academic year. "I must say that I have the best group of students now even though I am getting absolutely 'silvery' and 'ancient!' She also arranges and plays at various liturgical activities for the Adrian Dominican Congregation.

Lois Flook '55 taught music as an Adrian Dominican Sister for many years, then left the community in the mid-1970s, moved to Chicago and began a real estate career. Since 1979, she has lived in Philadelphia, PA, continuing her work in real estate and maintaining active involvement in the arts.

Mildred Huber, OP '55 moved in December to the Dominican Life Center in Adrian, where she says "it is almost like old home week!" She participates in educational, inspirational and social activities and enjoys reading, needlework, music and playing cards.

Marcine Klemm, OP '55 of Adrian is in her seventh year as administrative assistant to Sharon Weber, OP '69, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Siena Heights University. "There is something about being in the midst of education and learning that keeps one young at heart," she says—and everyone who knows her would have to agree!

Anne Liam Lees, OP '55 lives in Miami, FL, after 10 years teaching in Puerto Rico and 19 years ministering to diverse needs of the elderly in the Dominican Republic. She reports she is still "in the process of returning to the reality of life in Miami."



Pilar Cruz Lujan '55 of Hagatna, Guam, has worn many hats during her professional career. Starting as a teacher, she went on to school administration, news broadcasting, and politics. Most recently, she served as a member of the Guam International Airport Authority Board of Directors for eight years, seven as chairperson. She is active in the Catholic church and enjoys her children and grandchildren, who help to fill the void left by the loss of her husband in 1992 and her oldest daughter in 1997. "I cannot believe our 50th reunion is just around the corner," she writes. "If God permits, I'll be at Siena to celebrate."

F. Jeannine Gunn Martin '55 of Cleveland, OH, enjoyed a career as a dietician. Retired since 1997, she now finds her greatest joy in "being a grandparent to my grandson."

Clara Patricks, OP '55 (formerly Sister Anthony Ann) reports that she is "Queen Mother" of the Red Hat Society. "We are Red Hat Sisters. There are 30 of us with the oldest being 97 years young!" She lives at the Dominican Life Center and does a lot of sewing and mending for others.

Laura Pesick, OP '55 has retired from full-time teaching (in Michigan, Ohio, Illinois and California) to tutor at Detroit's Dominican Literacy Center. She lives in Chesterfield.

Ruth Stechschulte '55 of Cincinnati, OH, finds retirement "ever busier." She volunteers at the Cincinnati Art Museum, spends time researching genealogy (teaching herself "rudimentary German" along the way), and travels as often as possible.

Shirley Thielk, OP '55 works at the Dominican Hospital in Santa Cruz, CA, where she lives now after a career that has taken her to Michigan, Ohio and East Africa. "Who knows where God will take me as I prepare for retirement one of these years!"

Marie Wiedner, OP '55 lives in Santa Cruz, CA, and volunteers at the local soup kitchen, hospital, volunteer center and parish.

1960s

Patricia Malane Gakstatter '69 of Armada, MI, retired this past spring after more than 35 years teaching elementary school, the last 18 at Armada Elementary. "I don't think you could find a teacher that would be more caring with all of the students and extremely involved. [Pat] will really be missed," said the Armada principal in a newspaper feature. Pat also is the founder and, until recently head, of Project Care which provides assistance to about 100 struggling families in the Armada school district each year. "I hope my legacy is that I cared," Pat said. "I cared about the youngsters and I cared about their families. I want to impart that caring so that they, in turn, will care about one another."



Marie Armada Garcia, OP '49 of Henderson, NV, was sorry to miss last fall's 55th reunion and would enjoy hearing from Siena friends.

1950s

Virginia Robertson Streat Buckle '53 is living an active life in Ventura, CA, where she is well known for her sculpture, available through the Buenaventura Gallery, and her stage work as an actress with several area theatre groups. Her "first" career was as a high school English teacher, but after retirement she began exploring sculpture, discovering "the beauty of color and design that lies within the rough stone." Her award-winning work has been exhibited throughout Ventura, Los Angeles and Santa Barbara counties, and is in private collections throughout the U.S.



1955 50th Reunion

Members and friends of the Class of 1955: It's been 50 years! Plan to celebrate at Alumni Weekend '05: Sept. 30-Oct. 2 on campus.

Mary Beaubien, OP '55 returned from Africa in May after almost three years in Kroonstad, in the Free State, working with an NGO whose mission is alleviating poverty through job skills training, job creation and community development. She will celebrate 60 years as an Adrian Dominican just a few months before celebrating 50 years as a graduate of Siena Heights!

Mary McDowell Bissonette '55 of Clinton Twp. taught in Michigan, California, Germany and Oklahoma before becoming an elementary librarian in Birmingham, MI, a position she held for 25 years until retiring in 1990. She and her husband now spend winters in Florida and enjoy their daughter and granddaughter in Arizona.

Paul Emelia Brown, OP '55 lives in Hobe Sound, FL, and enjoys pastoral ministry work at St. Joseph Parish in Stuart.

Rosemarie Togar Champagne '55 of Sterling Heights retired about 11 years ago after working first as a medical technologist and then as an urban high school science teacher. She and her husband now enjoy volunteering, traveling, entertaining and reminiscing. "I'm hoping to join the reunion of the 1955 Siena Survivors this fall!"

Class Notes Continued



1970s

Dusty Farnan, OP '72 is the new Co-Promoter of Justice and Peace for North America for Dominican Sisters International. Her three-year appointment (renewable for one term) began in March. As regional coordinator for North America, Dusty will collaborate with Fr. Carlos Azpiroz and participate in the International Commission of Justice, Peace and the Care of Creation.

Lee Benish '72 is a new member of Siena's Board of Trustees. Lee lives in Chicago with his wife, Kathy, but spends many days traveling in his capacity as vice president for marketing and strategic relationship management with the international firm AMEC.

Gail Derbyshire '73 was profiled in the Daily Telegram this spring for her 10 years of service as Precinct One chairperson for Madison Township, overseeing elections of all types, from millage votes and school board races to Presidential campaigns. A retired Sand Creek Schools substitute teacher, Gail's responsibilities include making sure everything is set up correctly on election day, ensuring that the machines run properly, and keeping the books accurately "so the numbers come out right at the end of the day," she said. She also makes sure candidates and press maintain proper distance from the polling place, and that no one stands too close to voters while they cast their ballots. Gail and her husband, Keith Derbyshire '74, live in Adrian.

William Small '73 is chairman, CEO and president of First Defiance Financial Corp. in Defiance, OH. Bill was quoted in the Toledo Business Journal this past fall when it was announced that First Defiance would acquire ComBanc and its wholly owned subsidiary The Commercial Bank, both headquartered in nearby Delphos, OH. "This acquisition allows us to expand farther south into the west central Ohio market and it adds the type of communities that have been very receptive to our approach to banking," Bill told the Business Journal.



John McGuire '73/MA lives in Manchester, MI, where he is principal at Klager Elementary School. He's been with the district as a teacher and administrator since 1972.

Robert Knox '76/MA retired recently from his position as a middle school principal in the Flat Rock school district, after 33 years as a teacher and administrator. He also is finishing up a two-year term as the first director of the Flat Rock Community Service Organization. A resident of Rockwood, MI, Robert also has written three novels with a fourth in progress; and paints portraits and scenes from the Maine coast.

John '76 and Barbara Polus Warner '78 live in Carpentersville, IL, and invite "anyone coming through Chicago" to look them up. "We are almost empty nesters," writes John. "Our children (a son and two daughters) have come into their own. Barbara is a personal financial planner for Prime America. I am still model making and having an interesting career with product development. Many of the projects I work on the general public will not see for, on average, 10 months. We prototype for quite a few of the Fortune 500 companies as well as military applications, aerospace and the auto racing industry."

Phil Hassenzahl '77 has joined the sales team at Harmon Real Estate in Fowlerville, MI, where he has lived for 27 years with his wife, Sue '79. Previously, Phil taught and coached in the Fowlerville school system. Phil and Sue have two sons.

Ken Thompson '77 has generated widespread media interest with his "Blissfield Corridor" outdoor sculpture exhibit which features more than three dozen large sculptures on either side of a stretch of US 223 just east of Blissfield. Each of the pieces, which will remain on view until October, is illuminated at night, so drivers can view the artwork any time of day. "It's not uncommon to see people slowing way down to get a better look," said Ken. Ken's Flatlanders Sculpture Supply and Art Galleries also continue to provide a showcase for many Siena Heights alumni artists. Marion Anderson '79, Jamie Good '87, Denise Keeley '88, Tracy Ladd '93, Ric Leichter '73, Tom Rudd '74 and Ken himself, as well as SHU art professor John Wittersheim, were all included in Flatlanders' "Wall to Wall: A Survey of Current Regional Sculpture" exhibit this past winter. And coming this fall, Flatlanders will host two alumni shows in conjunction with Alumni Weekend, presenting recent work by Allan Rodewald '80 and Ken Phillips '75.

Kathleen Schanz, OP '78/MA is executive director of the Lenawee United Way and Volunteer Center in Adrian. Kathleen is a past director of the Weber Retreat and Conference Center, past president of the Lenawee Chamber of Commerce, and a 2002 recipient of the ATHENA Award recognizing leadership mentoring and role modeling for community members, especially women.



1980 25th Reunion

Members and friends of the Class of 1955: It's been 50 years! Plan to celebrate at Alumni Weekend '05: Sept. 30-Oct. 2 on campus.

Pam Cardella Alachi '80 has lived in Holly Springs, NC, near Raleigh for 15-plus years. While working part-time from home as executive director of a professional association, she also sings in several choirs and manages a household of five including husband Tony and three sons age 11, 7 and 6.

Suellen Gross Bahleda '80 lives in Dubuque, IA, where she is a second-year student at Wartburg Theological Seminary studying for a Master of Divinity degree. She also has written or co-authored three books on American Sign Language. She and her husband, Bill, recently celebrated their 25th anniversary.

Terry Beurer '80 is director of the Monroe County Family Independence Agency. He and his family live in Deerfield where he is active in St. Alphonsus Parish.

Debra Gorman Cagle '80 of Adrian is "happy to be back at Siena Heights as an adjunct faculty member in education. I had my latest article published in the Summer 2004 issue of Montessori Life magazine. I also spoke at the national Montessori conference in Boston in April 2004." This year marks her 25th year teaching at the Montessori Children's House (next door to Siena) and the 20th anniversary of her marriage to Steven. Son Jake is 16; daughter Olivia, 13.

Renee Lapham Collins '80 began a new position this past fall as editor of The View, a weekly newspaper serving the Belleville, MI, community. For the previous 19 years, she worked at the Saline and Milan weeklies, serving as a reporter and then associate editor of the two publications. She and her husband, Bill, live near Adrian.

Kelly Girard Herta '80 teaches 7th and 8th grade business in Fort Worth, TX. She lives in nearby Arlington with her husband Gary and three sons.

Kathleen Cronin Jeffrey '80/AA lives in St. Clair Shores with her husband and four children and works as chief probation officer in 45-B District Court. "I am still in contact with my Siena friends E, Fork, Bird and Chris (you know who you are)!"

Robin Krouse '80 retired five years ago from a successful career in the auto manufacturing industry. He and his wife live in Adrian; both grown children work in health care and live within an hour's drive.

Class Notes Continued

Wanda Kutchan-Rueckert '80/MA lives in Clarklake and is a guidance counselor at Onsted High School.

Linda Hewlett Lucas '80 lives in Cleveland and works for the managing partner of a large downtown law firm. She is a sports fan ("Go Tigers! Go Browns! Go Cavs!") who enjoys reading, writing, crafts, home remodeling and raising her 14-year-old son.

Thomas Mc Canna '80 lives in Rochester, NY, where he works for Marshall's and runs his own job coaching business.



Bonnie Milliken '80 and her husband, professor emeritus Chuck Milliken, (see photo above) have moved south from Toledo's Old West End to Norway, SC, where they are enjoying life in "a small house on a large lot right on the Edisto River." Two dogs, two goats, a boat and a kayak all help keep life interesting. "We did not miss the snow this past winter."

Jennifer Ann Fischer Mitchell '80 has a private counseling practice about 25 miles south of Atlanta in McDonough, GA, where she lives with her husband Bobby and daughter Jill.

Susan Nichols '80 of Adrian is busy teaching full-time at Adrian College, leading a Girl Scout Troop (which includes two granddaughters), and maintaining a counseling practice at the Maple Hill Family Center, which she and her husband founded in 1988.

Bruce Philbrick '80 lives in Sterling, MA, with his wife Cindy and two sons. He is an exhibits, events and tradeshow manager for a medical device company. He still plays soccer ("in an over-40 league") and enjoys weekends with the family in Vermont.

Allan Rodewald '80 is an abstract artist, painter and mural artist living in Houston, TX. His public murals can be seen at the Aquarium in downtown Houston, River Oaks Grill and the Visitor Center in Houston City Hall. Learn more about his work at his website www.allanrodewald.com.

Steve Schwartz '80 changed jobs recently and is now support services manager for Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen & Hamilton, LLP in Washington, D.C.

Patti Weinlander Shafer '80 of Leslie looks forward in the future to retiring from Vandercook Lake Public Schools (after 18 years teaching business and career prep, she calls herself a "lifer") and assisting the elderly with financial and daily services.

Amy Lillywhite Sturtevant '80 is division secretary for Siena's Division of Visual and Performing Arts and Teacher Education and runs a boarding kennel with her husband, Gary Sturtevant '85, at their home in Addison.

Jewel Swindle '80 of Adrian volunteers as a driver, a visitor of shut-ins, and a foster grandparent in the schools. The mother of five, grandmother of seven and great-grandmother of four also enjoys "cards and bingo. I especially delight in playing pool at which I am extremely mediocre!"

Jane Broadbridge Yount '80 of Westminster, MD, is a disaster response coordinator for a religious organization that helps repair homes for disaster survivors. She and her husband Mark have two children.

1980s

Kurt Fleischhut '85 is a contract specialist for the Department of Defense, U.S. Army. He lives in Warren, MI, with his wife Jody. They have two children, daughter Meta Grace (5) and son Erich William (almost 1).

Bruce Lee '85 accepted a new position in April, leaving Toledo, OH, where he was president and CEO of Fifth Third Bank's Northwestern Ohio affiliate, for corporate headquarters in Cincinnati where he is leading Fifth Third Bancorp's Commercial Banking Division. A 24-year veteran of banking, Bruce joined Fifth Third in 2001.

Joseph Graves '87 of Linden, MI, is an engineering manager for General Motors.

Mary Hellner '88 lives in Chelsea, MI, with her two daughters, Hannah and Sophie, shown below before Christmas.



1990s

Scott Dienes '90 is a partner in the new law firm DeFrancesco Dienes, PC in Stevensville, MI. The practice focuses on real estate transactions, municipal law, zoning and land use, condominium law, business law, construction law, environmental law and estate planning. Scott and his wife Amy have relocated from Grand Rapids to Stevensville. Amy is a financial analyst for Whirlpool.



Kathy Morris Beekman '93, an artist and art educator living in Bailey, CO, recently took first place at the Colorado Art Education Association exhibit in Denver with a pastel painting titled "Pueblo de Juan de Dios." Kathy's paintings and drawings, known for vibrant color and strong design, include landscapes, Midwest and Southwest architecture, and geometric and animal abstracts. She is a member of the Pastel Society of Colorado, the Evergreen Artists' Association and the Art Students League of Denver. She is the illustrator for the Llano Grande and Navajas archaeological projects in Jalisco, Mexico, where her work was recently recognized by the Tala Museum. She is represented by galleries in Denver, Colorado Springs and Colorado's mountain communities. She teaches art for the Foothills Art Center, Evergreen Arts Center and K. D. Moore Gallery. Kathy reports that she is "an avid outdoors person who enjoys collecting stones while hiking and sipping hot cocoa on cold nights by the fire" with her husband, Chris. To view Kathy's recent paintings, visit her personal web page at: <http://members.aol.com/kathybeekman/>

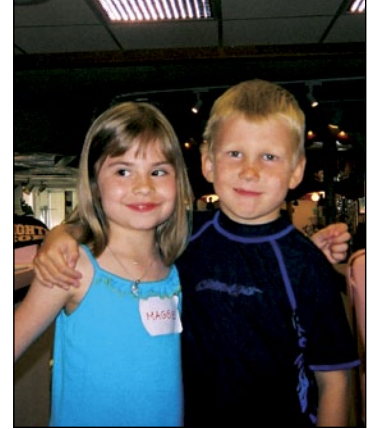
Mark Schroeder '93 and his wife, Judy, live in Jacksonville, NC, with their daughter Charlotte (1). Mark serves in the U. S. Marine Corps as a Major, and is currently deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF). Previously, he was deployed to Kuwait in 2003 for OIF and to Haiti in 2004 for Operation Secure Tomorrow. Recently, Mark and his family moved to Fort Leavenworth, KS, where he will attend the U.S. Army's Command & General Staff College.

Mary Boneville '95 of Grand Rapids, MI, is a training consultant with Foremost Insurance Group.

Sean Jorgensen '95 began a new job in May as director of advancement at St. Mary Catholic Central High School in Monroe, MI. Sean lives in Lambertville with his wife, Lisa Lauber Jorgensen '93, and their son, Rory.

Gary Newell '96 of Saranac, MI, was re-elected this past fall as State Representative for the 87th District. Previously, he spent 26 years with the Michigan State Police before retiring as the Post Commander at the Hastings Post.

Tim Griffin '96 of Haslett and his wife, Angela, enjoyed Christmas with their son Joshua. Josh turned one about two weeks later (see photo below).



Tracy Smith-Jackson '96 of Jackson, MI, opened her own art studio, "Whimsical Images," last summer and now teaches children's and adult art classes as well as working as a professional studio photographer doing weddings, family photos and portraits. She also teaches 2-D design and art history at Jackson Community College. Tracy and her husband, Gary, have three sons, Andrew (5), Bailey (3) and Nathan (1).

Andrew Schiller '97 lives in Broomfield, CO, where he is a recording artist and music instructor at the Rocky Mountain Center for the Musical Arts. Last August 2004, he married former Siena student Angela Lloyd. Others in the wedding party included Shannon Dumire '01 and Chris Matthias '04.

Lisa Novak '98 married Justin Love on New Year's Eve, Dec. 31, 2004. Among the attendants were Jeanine O'Brien Novak '96 and Michael Novak '97. The Loves live in Blissfield, MI. Lisa is office manager at Blissfield Family Care. Justin works for Shrader Tire and Oil.

Amy Siler Sellars '98 and her husband, Dave, celebrated their son's first birthday. Ronan Ayer Sellars was born March 12, 2004, a healthy 7 lbs, 8 oz (see photo below). The family lives in Mahwah, NJ.



Jill Rasmer '99 and Jeff Kindinger '99 were married in June 2003. They are living in DeWitt, MI, and both work in Lansing, Jill as a processing supervisor at Auto-Owners Insurance and Jeff as CPA manager at Maner, Costerisan & Ellis, PC. The Kindingers would like "to thank Bill Blackerby and Tim Leonard for being such exceptional professors and helping to prepare us for the real world!"

John Pass '99 is living in Tacoma, WA, where he is active as a member and officer of the Knights of Columbus and a volunteer with the Boy Scouts.

Class Notes **Continued**



Josh Reeber '99 wrote recently to say that "after four years, on July 18, 2004, I left the teaching field and entered the Michigan State Police Training Academy in Lansing (see photo below). On Dec. 2, 2004, after five of the hardest months of my life—physically, mentally, emotionally and academically—I graduated. I am currently a Michigan State Trooper assigned to the Ypsilanti Post in Washtenaw County." Previously, Josh taught elementary school.



Christopher Zimmerman '99 married Tina Stutzman Dec. 28, 2004 in Adrian. Chris is a psychologist and Tina is teacher. The Zimmermans will make their home in Naples, Italy.

2000s

Amy Cox '00 of Adrian is the school relations coordinator for the Lenawee Intermediate School District. She married Jeremy Palmer May 21 in Lumen Chapel. Jeremy is a systems engineer at Ixtlan Technologies.

Sara Miller '00 is living on the west side of Manhattan in New York City, working in sales for AV Imports.

James Ross '01 and Jennifer Baldwin were married July 10, 2004. James coaches girls and boys varsity basketball, and substitute teaches, at Willow Run High School in Ypsilanti. He also owns and operates Mr. Music Disc Jockey Service. Jennifer is an elementary library media specialist.

Pat Kehres '01 and Aimee Cashman were married Feb. 20 in the Dominican Republic. Pat is a supervisor at the University of Michigan Medical School. Aimee is a social worker.

Sarah Richardson '01 married Joseph Avis July 30, 2004. After honeymooning on Mackinac Island and Paradise, MI, the couple settled in Brooklyn. Sarah teaches elementary school for the Jackson Area Catholic Schools. Joseph, who served with the Army National Guard in Iraq, works for Comcast.

Sara Tripp '02 and Jeff Johnson were married Oct. 30, 2004, in Lumen Chapel on the Siena Heights campus. Sara is coordinator of transfer student services at Siena Heights and Jeff is a deputy for the Lenawee County Sheriff's Department.

Erin Collins '02 of Adrian works for Borders Group, Inc. in its international division.

Nick Kingsley '02 is pursuing a Ph.D. in chemistry at the University of Toledo.

Lisa Klok '02 of Kalamazoo, MI, has been working as a substitute teacher. Previously, she was a reporter for the State Line Observer in Morenci.

Fredric Lopeman '02 married Allison Lorenzen Nov. 20, 2004. After a honeymoon cruise in the Caribbean, they settled in Jackson, MI. Fred works for Photo Marketing Association International.

Ryan Bumpus '02 of Waldron married Christine Little April 30. Ryan is co-owner and operator of Idlewild Dairy Farm in Hudson.

Jeff Langton '02 of Monroe is an account executive with Citi Financial Mortgage.

Heather Hayford '02 was married Sept. 18, 2004 to Anthony Finkbeiner. They honeymooned on the island of St. Martin and are living in Adrian, where Heather is a senior teller at TLC and Anthony is a technician at Greg Bell Chevrolet-Oldsmobile-Cadillac.

Cazzie Steudle '02 is a second grade teacher at Lincoln Elementary School in Hudson, MI.

Melissa Yekulis '03 of Chelsea teaches kindergarten at Our Lady of Fatima in Michigan Center.

Sarah Taylor '03 and Joshua Taylor were married May 22, 2004 in Buchanan, MI, where they now live.

Andrew Donovan '03 is a human resource generalist for Pavilion Bancorp, Inc. in Adrian.

Drew Staton '03 of Ypsilanti, MI, starred as Brom Bones in the Crosswell Opera House's October 2004 production of "Washington Irving's The Legend of Sleepy Hollow," a musical written for the Crosswell by former Siena theater student Don Wilson.

Brigitte Rowecamp '03 is teaching art for Kalamazoo (MI) Advantage Academy.

Kylie Lyon '04 married Daniel Welling Jan. 22. The Wellings are living in Ann Arbor where Kylie works for the University of Michigan and Daniel is a doctoral candidate in space science and a research assistant for the U of M Air, Oceanic and Space Science department.

Daniel Morris '04 lives in Adrian where he is a program manager for Ixtlan Technology.

Lanetta Williams '04 spent last summer as a newspaper reporter in Richmond, VA, covering everything from West Nile Virus to the opening of "Fahrenheit 9/11." Returning to Detroit, she handled the education beat for the Dearborn Press and Guide for several months before accepting a position as a community reporter for The Detroit News.

Angela Risner '04 married Matthew Mentink Oct. 9, 2004 in Jackson, MI. Angie is a rehabilitation assistant for New Passages.

Deaths

Marie Edward Meyer, OP '34 died Nov. 13, 2004 at the age of 92. She spent 52 years ministering in education in Michigan, Ohio, California, Arizona and Florida. From 1985 to 1990, she was secretary and coordinator of medical records at Marian Health Care Center. She subsequently worked in the Motherhouse development office until 1999, when she became a resident of the Dominican Life Center.

Betty Burns Snearline '36 of Ann Arbor died March 6 at the age of 88. She is survived by three children and six grandchildren.

Helen Friedel Garvey '36 died of heart disease Nov. 4, 2004, at her home in Harper Woods. She was 91. An adventurer at heart, she learned to ride a wave-runner, canoed the Manistee River with one son, and rode on the back of a Harley with another son—all in her 80s. Helen is survived by her 10 children, 30 grandchildren and 30 great-grandchildren.

Ann Kearney, OP '38 (formerly Sister Ann Francesca) died Oct. 27, 2004, at the age of 92. She worked in education for 43 years in Michigan, Chicago, Florida and Illinois. She volunteered in several Detroit parishes for four years before becoming a resident of the Dominican Life Center in 2001.

Patricia French Byrnes '38 of Evanston, IL, died in January at the age of 88. The matriarch of a large and adoring family, she raised eight children with her late husband, Jack, spending many of their happiest family times on Michigan's Torch Lake. She is survived by her children, many grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Agnes Patrice Waldron, OP '40 died Oct. 10, 2004, at age 92. She came to Siena Heights from St. Joseph Academy and eventually spent 42 years in education in Illinois (including time at Mt. St. Mary's in St. Charles, Regina High School in Wilmette, Aquinas in Chicago, and Bishop Muldoon in Rockford), Michigan, Florida, and Iowa. Survived by one sister, she was preceded in death by another sister, Rita James Waldron, OP '43, and her cousin, Margaret Ellen Gordon, OP '42.



Dorothy Hemmert, OP '41 (formerly Sister George Mary) died March 1. She was 86. She worked in various education ministries for 53 years, including 18 years as adult education lab supervisor at Mott Adult High School in Flint, MI. She volunteered in Flint until earlier this year, when she came to the Dominican Life Center.

Wanda Langum-Jones '43 died Feb. 6 in Seward, NE, where she had lived for the past few years. Previously, she lived in St. Charles, IL, and had worked as a registered dietician. She was 83 at the time of her death.

Rita McDonough, OP '43 (formerly Sister Marie Martin) died Nov. 11, 2004 at the Dominican Life Center where she had lived since 1991. She was 85 at the time of her death. She spent 50 years ministering in education including six years as principal at Queen of Apostles in Riverdale, IL. Her survivors include a sister, Josephine McDonough, OP '47.

Dorothea Beuttenmuller, OP '45 (formerly Sister Rudolph) died at the Dominican Life Center Nov. 12, 2004, at the age of 79. She graduated from Rosarian Academy in West Palm Beach, FL, before coming to Siena, and later studied at Santo Domingo University in the Dominican Republic. She ministered in education in the Dominican Republic, Florida and Michigan; then served in several health care facilities in Florida. From 1996 to 2000, she was director of DePorres P.L.A.C.E. in Riviera Beach, FL, where she continued as a volunteer until 2004.

Dorothy Berg, OP '46 (formerly Sister Peter Marie) died Nov. 19, 2004, at age 85. Her 44 years in education were spent primarily in Michigan and Illinois. After coming to the Dominican Life Center in 1985, she tutored at the Adrian Training School for six years. She was preceded in death by one sister, Marie Arlene Berg, OP '43 and is survived by two sisters including Jane Elizabeth Berg, OP '49.

Elizabeth "Betty" Dolan, OP '46 (formerly Sister Mary Arthur) died Dec. 10, 2004 at the age of 84. Betty worked in education for many years before returning to Siena Heights in the 1970s as a teacher, advisor and director of alumni relations. From 1980 to 1992, she was parish minister at St. Mary in Jackson. She was a member of the Siena Heights Alumni Board in the 1990s and moved to the Dominican Life Center in 1998.

Jane Payette, OP '47 (formerly Sister Jane Thomas) died Oct. 19, 2004, at the Dominican Life Center. She was 83. During her 30 years in education, she served as principal of St. Mary in St. Clair, St. Paul in Grosse Pointe Farms and St. Margaret in St. Clair Shores in Michigan; and in Ohio at St. Mary in Defiance and Blessed Sacrament in Toledo. She was director of the physical plant at the Adrian Dominican Motherhouse from 1978 to 1987, and held similar positions at Mercy College and University of Detroit Mercy.

Class Notes **Continued**

Mary Ellen Meier Graham '48 of St. Clair Shores died Jan. 6, 2004 after a lengthy illness. Originally a member of the class of 1947, Mary Ellen took a year off to help her father following her mother's death; she returned to Siena the following year and graduated with the class of 1948. She is survived by her husband George, four sons, six daughters and 13 grandchildren.

Ita Marie Brennan, OP '50 died Jan. 20 at age 90 in the Dominican Life Center. Born in Ireland, she graduated from St. Joseph Academy before coming to Siena and spent 49 years in education, including six years as principal at St. Jude in St. Petersburg, FL and 21 years as religion education coordinator at Our Lady of Lourdes in Melbourne, FL. One sister survives in Ireland; another, M. Aidan Brennan, OP '41, preceded her in death.

Francis John Rzeppa, OP '50 died Nov. 11, 2004, at the Dominican Life Center. She was 80 years old. Her 41 years in education took her to Illinois, Ohio, New Mexico, Arizona, California and Nevada, including several assistant principalships.

Christine Hoffman, OP '50 (formerly Sister James Christine) died Oct. 30, 2004, at the age of 78. After 25 years in education, she spent 15 years in hospital ministry, as a medical technician in Wyandotte and hospital chaplain in Pontiac. She was a pastoral minister at the Dominican Life Center from 1987 to 2003. She is survived by three brothers.

Elizabeth Mary Regan, OP '52 died Oct. 13, 2004, at the age of 80. A graduate of St. Joseph Academy before coming to Siena, she worked in education for 44 years, including 10 years as supervisor and curriculum director at the Catholic Education Center in Nassau, in the Bahamas. She volunteered at Barry University for nine years before coming to the Dominican Life Center in 2000.

Erna Libke Hoover '53 of Ida died Jan. 30 at the age of 93. Erna taught elementary school for 31 years in Michigan, in the Ida, Whiteford, and Bedford public schools, and at Hollywood Elementary in Monroe. She was a member of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church where she was treasurer of Women of the Church and taught Bible school for 25 years and Sunday school for 10 years. She is survived by her two daughters, five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Catherine O'Reilly Miller '53 died Jan. 27 at her home in Saline. She was 72 and a devoted wife, mother, sister, teacher and friend. She was a member of St. Andrew Catholic Church in Saline. She is survived by four children and 10 grandchildren.

Betty Smith '55 of Adrian died Oct. 25, 2004, a week before her 79th birthday. She taught in one-room country schools in Lenawee County and in Clayton, and was a kindergarten teacher in the Bedford district for many years prior to retirement. She was active in Camp Fire Girls, volunteered at Bixby Medical Center, and was an avid golfer, bridge player and antiquer. She is survived by her daughter.

Nora O'Brien, OP '57 died Jan. 3 in Chicago, IL, at the age of 73. A graduate of Chicago's Aquinas High School, she spent 44 years in education including serving as principal at St. Philip Neri and Presentation/Precious Blood, and as administrator for 16 years at Our Lady of the Westside. She also worked at St. Dominic Provincial House and Bonaventure House, and volunteered at the Aquinas Literacy Center, all in Chicago. She is survived by four brothers and a sister.

Barbara Beerkle, Op '63 (formerly Sister Margaret Xavier) died April 22 at the Dominican Life Center at the age of 67. She earned both bachelor's and master's degrees from Siena Heights and spent 27 years in education in Michigan, including serving as principal of Holy Cross in Marine City, St. Ladislaus in Hamtramck, and Our Lady of Lasalette in Berkeley. She was a bookkeeper and accountant at Siena Heights for ten years (1974-84) and also worked in accounting at University of Detroit Mercy.

Fern Snyder '65 of Adrian died Oct. 19, 2004 at the age of 87. She earned both bachelor's and master's degrees at Siena. She and her husband farmed 182 acres together before Fern began teaching school in Onsted. She retired in 1982 after 20 years in the classroom. She was a member of West Adrian United Church of Christ, Walworth Woman's Club and the Rome Grange. Survivors include four children, 8 grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and daughter-in-law Sally Snyder of Siena's Student Support Services staff.

Mary Kehoe Griffin '68 of Evanston, IL, died March 11 after a two-year battle with cancer. She enjoyed a 30-year career in public service beginning in 1971 when she became a juvenile probation officer in Illinois' Cook County. She went on to hold a number of increasingly responsible positions, eventually becoming chief coordinator of the Bureau of Public Safety and Judicial Coordination, chairing committees that assisted children, domestic violence victims and those in need of job training. She retired in 2001. Survivors include her mother, four brothers and a stepson.

Daniel Dowling '70/MA of Perrysburg, OH, died Dec. 19, 2004, at the age of 87. He lived in Hudson for more than 35 years before moving to the Toledo area, and had a first career at Ervin Foundry. He then went into teaching, spending two years at Catholic Central in Adrian and the remainder of his classroom years at Addison Community Schools. He also taught catechism at Sacred Heart School. Survivors include his daughter, Grace Dowling Afridi '74, three grandchildren, two stepchildren and two stepgrandchildren.

Phyllis Gabriel Hoban '70 of West Bloomfield died March 6 after battling cancer for seven years. She was 57 years old. In a 33-year teaching career, Phyllis taught speech, theater and English to Detroit area high school students at St. Martin Deporres, Benedictine, Henry Ford, and Martin Luther King, Jr. In 1996, she was named an Outstanding Teacher by Newsweek magazine and WDIV-TV (channel 4) in Detroit. Survivors include her husband, Edward, two sons, and sister Itha Gabriel '77.

Rose Bassett Jordan '71 of Blissfield died March 15 at the age of 79. She was secretary at the Mutual of New York office in Blissfield for many years and was a member of First Presbyterian Church, American Legion Auxiliary and the Order of Eastern Star. She is survived by two sons and nine grandchildren.

Bridget Maier, OP '72 died April 24 at the age of 60. Her ministry included service as a pastoral associate in four Michigan parishes (St. Mary and St. Joseph in Adrian, Our Lady of Sorrows in Farmington, and St. Athanasius in Roseville), as youth minister at both Holy Redeemer in Burton and St. Francis of Assisi in Ann Arbor, and as pastoral administrator at Visitation /St. Joseph/St. Ann in Iliopolis, IL. She came to the Dominican Life Center earlier this year. Survivors include three brothers and six sisters.

Jacqueline Dowling '81 of Adrian died March 6 at the age of 63. She worked for many years as a substance abuse and mental health clinician. After retiring from the Sage Center at Bixby Hospital in 1999, she continued to work as a therapist and consultant. She was closely involved with the former Crisis Walk-In Center/Call Someone Concerned and the Catherine Cobb Domestic Violence Shelter. In addition to her husband, Dennis, survivors include daughter Shawn Dowling '88, son Patrick Dowling '95, another son and three grandchildren.

Edward Dean Briggs '83 of Adrian died Jan. 3 at the age of 58. A veteran of the U.S. Army and the National Guard, he was a long time employee of the City of Adrian Waste Water Plant. He was a member of the Deerfield American Legion Post, Lenawee County Conservation League, and several shooting leagues. He is survived by his wife, Debra Briggs '90, and many family and friends.

Susie Clark '85 of Toledo, OH, died April 25 at the age of 64. She moved from California to Michigan in 1972 and was a member of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Toledo. She worked for Consumers Power Company for more than 15 years, retiring in 1993 as head janitor. Survivors include four children and nine grandchildren.



J. Patrick Stapleton '87 of Swanton, OH, died Nov. 21, 2004, of neuroendocrine cancer. He was 40 years old. At Siena Heights, Pat was a founding member of the campus fraternity, Pi Lambda Phi. After graduation, he pursued a career in the insurance industry, eventually joining the family business, Stapleton Insurance Group, in 1994. Five years later, he and his brother acquired Insurance & Risk Management of Sylvania. He was a past president of the Anthony Wayne Toastmasters, and enjoyed boating, fishing and weekends with his wife, Ginger, at the family cottage on Round Lake. Survivors include his wife, his parents and many family members.

Byron Ritchie '90 (Southfield) of Shelby Township died Sept. 3, 2004, of lung cancer. He was 54. He was an electrical engineer for Ford Motor Company in Dearborn and was licensed as residential builder, general radiotelephone operator, and private airplane pilot. He enjoyed reading, genealogy, travel and home repairs. He is survived by his wife, Juanita, and three children.

Mary Wray Smith '91 of Adrian died Dec. 23, 2004, at age 49. In addition to raising four children, she worked as a dental assistant and x-ray technician. She is survived by her children, two grandchildren and many family members.

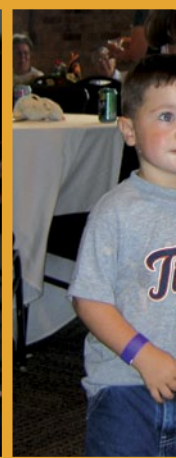
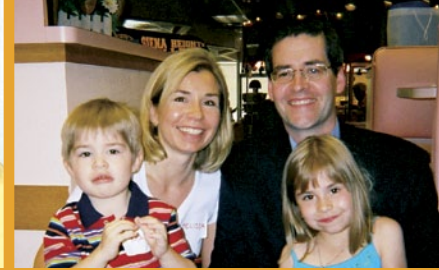
Beverly Kirkland '04/MA of Adrian died Jan. 19 at the age of 53. She was employed as a substance abuse counselor. Survivors include her mother, two daughters, one granddaughter and extended family.

Scott Hulen '04 (Jackson) of Brooklyn died unexpectedly Jan. 31 at the age of 33. He had just completed his degree in criminal justice in December and planned to participate in this spring's graduation ceremony. He was remembered fondly by his classmates at the spring graduation reception. Scott served in the U.S. Army Reserves and worked for the University of Michigan public safety department. A member of the Brooklyn Sportsman Club, Brooklyn Masonic Lodge and St. Mark's Lutheran Church, he was also a Civil War history buff, an active sports fan, and an outdoorsman who enjoyed hunting and fishing. He is survived by his parents, his wife, Thea, stepchildren and other family.

Faculty

Dr. Diane Michele, a psychology professor at Siena's Metropolitan Detroit Program for 17 years, was killed April 25 at her home in Rochester Hills. The news of her death, which was widely covered by the Detroit media, "shocked and saddened all of us," said Deb Carter, Dean of the College for Professional Studies at Siena. "Her death is a tremendous loss to us all."





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