

REFLECTIONS

The Ripple Effect



Celebrating Our 2009 Alumni Award Winners



from the president



Alumni Award Winners Reach The Top of Higher Education

I once again had the pleasure of participating in this year's Alumni Awards Day, which was March 19. As always, it is inspiring to see our graduates return to campus to share their experiences both past and present—as well as a little bit of their wisdom – with our current students, faculty, staff and administration.

Higher education is ultimately about outcomes, and to have some of our most successful graduates on campus is a powerful testimonial to the lasting impact a Siena Heights degree can make.

Many of our students graduate from Siena Heights and enter the professional or business field – which is outstanding. Our job is to prepare our students for any kind of career path they may choose, and give them the tools to succeed. However, what I find unique about this year's class of alumni award winners was their common link to higher education. Four of the five award-winners is or has been a faculty member at an institution of higher education, meaning they have used their Siena Heights education to “pass it on” to the next generations of college students.

It's amazing to think of how many young minds they have touched!

Gabrielle Davis, our Sister Ann Joachim Award winner, is now a distinguished law professor at the University of Toledo. However, when she was ready to graduate from Siena, law school was not even on her radar until her advisor, the late Sister Pat Hogan, gave her a “gentle” push in the direction she needed to go. Now, she is shaping young minds and is a champion for victims of domestic violence in the Toledo area.

Tod Marshall, one of our Outstanding Alumni Award winners, didn't even like college when he entered Siena Heights as a wayward soccer player from Kansas. However, Siena helped him reach his intellectual potential, and now he is an award-winning poet and faculty member at Gonzaga University.

Dr. Jacob Chi and fellow Adrian Dominican Sister Mary Beaubien have made comparable impacts as faculty members at their respective institutions of higher education. And while our other alumni award winner, Anthony Butler, is not currently in higher education, the work he is doing with youth involved with the Dominican Volunteers of America is significantly similar.

Each of these honorees has carved out remarkable careers, and I would like to hope Siena Heights provided that “spark” that ignited their love of learning and teaching. In Dominican circles it is called “sharing the fruits of your contemplation.” Using their Siena Heights education and mission as their foundation, they are now shaping the next generations of college students.

I probably am sounding like a proud parent, but for a small institution to turn out such an illustrious group of teachers and mentors is a testament to Siena Heights' academic tradition. And we are certainly proud of that tradition.

As President of Siena Heights University, I see our current students daily trying to ascend that intellectual mountain toward the ultimate goal of a college degree. For some, that sometimes can be a very steep climb. That's why it is heartening for all of us to occasionally hear from some of our graduates who have already “reached the top.” They are the examples that it can be done—and in the process are blazing the trail for others to follow!

Peace,

Sister Peg Albert, OP

Sister Peg Albert, OP, PhD
President



on the inside . . .

SPRING 2009

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

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REFLECTIONS

On the Cover

Siena Heights University honored its 2009 Alumni Award winners in March with a ceremony on campus. This year’s class includes (clockwise, from far left): Tod Marshall, Anthony Butler, Sister Mary Beaubien, OP, Gabrielle Davis and Jacob Chi.



from the editor



Spread the Word About Siena Heights University

Have you ever heard of Siena Heights University? Obviously, since you are reading this, of course you have.

However, it's a question I ask quite often when I am out and about in the community at-large. I consider it part of my job as the chief marketing and communications officer for the University to gauge the public's awareness.

During my first two years here at Siena Heights, gauging that awareness was more anecdotal than scientific. I discovered there really wasn't much data that showed whether Siena Heights is "well-known" in the minds of its key audiences—prospective students and alumni donors.

Last fall, I decided to find out. Using a higher education research consultant, my office commissioned a study to test a couple of key audiences to see just how well-known Siena was.

This study asked a pool of prospective students as well as a list of alumni donors about the perception of Siena Heights University.

By and large, the results showed the Siena Heights reputation was strong in the minds of people who knew who we are. In fact, the alumni we surveyed provided the following feedback:

- 67 percent said they had either a "strong" or "moderate connection" to Siena Heights;
- 98 percent said they either had the same "good" or "better" opinion of Siena Heights over the years;
- 92 percent said they would rate their Siena Heights experience as "good" or "very good";
- 95 percent said they would either "definitely" or "probably" recommend Siena Heights to a friend or relative as a place to attend college.

I'm interested in talking about that last point a little bit more. Our consultant told us that that number was one of the highest they had ever recorded for an institution of higher education. The fact that our alumni had such a positive experience that 95 percent would recommend their alma mater to others is a testament to our past and present administration, faculty and staff. It is great to see how much passion there is out there for Siena Heights.

However, another part of the survey that asked prospective students about Siena Heights showed we have a ways to go in the awareness category. Many only knew Siena Heights as a "small school" or a "good school." According to our consultants, those descriptors often indicate Siena Heights is not very well-known, and these are "fall-back" phrases.

We are working on increasing that awareness through a reputation-building campaign my office hopes to launch sometime this year. We know Siena Heights has great stories to tell (just read the rest of this issue), and we will tell as many as we can.

Now, I've got a favor to ask. Most of you said you would be willing to recommend Siena Heights to someone. Could you go out and do it? In this age of social media, personal relationships are more important than ever. Personal testimony from you, our alumni, is much more powerful than a newspaper or billboard ad could ever be in spreading the message of Siena Heights.

Got a Facebook page? Mention Siena Heights.

Twitter? Tweet Siena Heights.

Or, try the "old-fashioned" way: just talk to someone about Siena Heights.

One of this year's alumni award winners, Gabrielle Davis, said a friend mentioned Siena Heights to her after she returned home from another college she was attending. She decided to give Siena Heights a try, and... well, you can read for yourself how her story turned out.

So spread the good news that is Siena Heights University!

Doug Goodnough
Editor

from the heights

SHU Alumna Receives Acclaimed Awards



Denise Washington '05, who teaches at SHU's Kellogg Center, recently received the President's Volunteer Service Award and the Dorothy Richardson Award. The President's

Council on Service and Civic Participation created the President's Volunteer Service Award program as a way to thank and honor Americans who, by their demonstrated commitment and example, inspire others to engage in volunteer service. The Dorothy Richardson Award for Resident Leadership is an honor bestowed annually in recognition of outstanding contributions by dedicated community leaders. The award is named in honor of Dorothy Richardson of Pittsburgh, a pioneer in the community-based development movement who was the driving force behind the establishment of the first Neighborhood Housing Services resident-led partnership, the forerunner of today's NeighborWorks network.

Siena Professor Gives Keynote Address



SHU Associate Professor of Philosophy Dr. Tad Dunne gave the keynote address March 26 at a 2-day conference on "Theology Outside the Classroom" at Concordia University in

Montreal, Quebec, Canada. His address was titled "How the Christian Watches the News and Prays." The following day, the conference featured six presentations by graduate students and recent graduates on topics ranging from "Why the recent dramatic increase in Christian youth groups in Romania?" and "Report on using 'Sensory Sacramental Stations' in the liturgy." Each presentation was followed by responses from Dr. Dunne and experts in the related fields. In other news regarding Dr. Dunne, Marquette University Press has accepted his book for publication in December. The book, entitled *Doing Better: The Next Revolution in Ethics*, relies on the work of Bernard Lonergan's *Method in Theology* as it applies to method in ethics.

SHU Fraternity Turns Cardboard Into Cash

From March 24-27, a Siena Heights University fraternity turned cardboard into cash with its "Homeless for the Homeless" event. The Alpha Omega chapter of Pi Lambda Phi spent 67 hours outdoors (photo below) living in cardboard shacks to raise awareness—and support—for the homeless. Fraternity member Stephen Smith said he and his brothers lived and slept in cardboard shacks in front of Ledwidge Hall, leaving only to go to class or work. The only food they ate was from what they were given from passers-by. "We're hoping to give the students on campus a closer look at what the homeless, not only in big cities, but in places like Adrian, have to go through on a daily basis," Smith said. "We hope that it will mean something more to them when it's someone they know and not an anonymous face asking for food or change." The fraternity collected food items that were donated to the Daily Bread of Lenawee as well as clothing for Associated Charities of Lenawee County.



Partnership Agreement Signed With Hudson

Qualified Hudson Community Schools graduates will receive a guaranteed minimum of \$5,000 in financial aid and scholarship commitments totaling more than \$500,000 from Siena Heights University after a recent partnership agreement was signed. Under the partnership that runs until Sept. 1, 2013, Hudson students who attend Siena Heights on a full-time basis following their high school graduation are

eligible for several designated scholarships, including five Trustee Scholarships (\$10,000 per student per academic year), five Presidential Scholarships (\$8,500) and five Dean's Scholarships (\$6,000) for qualified students attending directly from Hudson Community Schools.

Siena Program Captures National Award

SHU's Distance Learning Program has received the Dennis Franz Memorial Partnership Award as part of the 10th Annual Pearson eCollege Users Conference. According to Pearson, Siena Heights' commitment to quality has had a tremendous impact on student learning and program retention, as well as advancing the teaching and learning experience over the past decade. In fact, Pearson executives said Siena Heights' 98 percent course and 94 percent program retention rates are one of the highest of all their clients.

Business Honor Society Inducts New Members

The Siena Heights University chapter of Sigma Beta Delta, the business honor society, inducted new members during a March ceremony. Those Siena Heights business students who were inducted include: Michell Armstrong, Kyle Beaudrie, Emilie Brasher, James Eitzen, Beth Graf, Golda James, Kerry Long, Kevin Mizzi, Ashley Moreland, Ryan Robinet, Chelsea Sauers, Jake Simon, Danielle Squiers, Kaylin Tiede, Wendy Thompson, Jason Williams, Ashley Wilmoth. Sigma Beta Delta is an international honor society for students in business, management and administration and serves institutions which offer baccalaureate and graduate degrees in business, management and administration where the institution holds accreditation from one of the six regional accrediting bodies but not specialized accreditation in business.

Math Graduate Degree Gains Momentum

SHU's Graduate Teacher Education Program is beginning its second cohort of its new Mathematics with Emphasis on Technology MA degree program at the Adrian campus. This new program is under the direction of Math Department Chair Professor Tim Husband and Assistant Professor Jeff Kallenbach and will

begin coursework this summer. This 33-credit-hour Master of Arts program involves linked content area and technology methods courses in geometry, statistics, calculus and other higher math courses. It is intended to equip secondary- and college-level mathematics instructors to teach effectively using current technological innovations, from the latest graphing calculators to SMART Boards, SENTEO clickers, TI-InterActive and more. Students generally complete the degree in two years, by taking one to three courses per semester.

New Director of Residence Life Hired



Siena Heights University has hired Michael Orlando as the new director of Residence Life. Orlando comes to SHU from Bowling Green State University, where he recently served as the

residence hall director for Kohl Hall. His official start date was May 13.

Art Student Named a Finalist in Photo Contest



SHU art student Christina Martin was recently named a finalist in the 29th annual College Photo Contest sponsored by Photographers Forum Magazine and Nikon. Martin's photo (left) was

one of 100 finalists out of approximately 3,000 student entries received.

Summer Study Abroad Opportunities Available

The SHU Business program is offering two study abroad opportunities this summer in France. The first opportunity will be from June 22-July 17 in Nice, France. The second opportunity is from June 29-July 24 in Paris.

The Metro Detroit Program has a for-credit summer class, "Theater and Culture Studies in New York City," that includes a trip to New York City this summer. The trip is from July 22-26 and includes round trip airfare, five days hotel accommodations, seats to three Broadway shows and a seminar in NYC.



Ethics Lecture Features Spirituality in Nursing

One of the leading authorities in identifying spirituality in nursing was the featured speaker at the 8th annual Chiodini/Fontana Lecture Series on Ethics. Sister Mary Elizabeth O'Brien, SFCC, PhD, RN, FAAN, spoke on the topic: "The Call to Servant Leadership in the 21st Century." Her speech addressed the contemporary meaning of the concept and philosophy of servant leadership. It also included a description of who is a leader and the ethics of leadership in general and of servant leadership specifically. Sister Mary is seen above (left) with director of the SHU nursing program, Sue Idczak.

Former Student Featured in Magazine Article

Siena Heights University graduate and former Kellogg Community College student Dan LaRue was featured in a special report by U.S. News & World Report titled "50 Ways to Improve Your Life in 2009." The article, which came out in January, featured a series of ideas for the average person to easily improve his or her life. LaRue is featured in a section titled "Get Some New Job Skills" that emphasizes inexpensive ways to gain new jobs skills. Since his graduation from SHU in 2007, LaRue has received three promotions and is now branch manager for Kellogg Federal Credit Union's Second Street branch in Battle Creek.

Professor Co-Authors Electronic Literature

SHU Associate Professor of English Davin Heckman has co-authored a piece of electronic literature that was recently published in the New River Journal. The piece is called "Endings Eventually End" by Jason Nelson (who visited Siena Heights a couple years ago) and Heckman. It can be found at the following address: <http://www.cddc.vt.edu/journals/newriver/08Fall/index.html>. New River is notable because it is the first journal dedicated to digital art and literature, and, as a result, is widely respected in the Electronic Literature community.

Professor of Sport Management Honored

SHU Assistant Professor of Sport Management Dr. Peggy McCann was honored with the Faculty/Staff Community Service-Learning Award by the Michigan Campus Compact at the 13th annual Institute: Service-Learning and Civic Engagement Feb. 12. This prestigious annual award is the highest MCC bestows on faculty and staff in the state of Michigan. McCann was designated by peers as the faculty/staff person on campus who has made the most outstanding contributions in service-learning and community service. This award recognizes her influence on and the engagement of students to be involved in community service or service-learning through modeling, influencing or instruction. She was nominated by SHU Professor of Anthropology Dr. Linda Easley. McCann has worked with Sport Management program faculty, students and the staff at the Boys & Girls Club of Lenawee (photo below) to develop courses that organize a popular co-ed fall flag football program, a family night and an annual community Halloween Party. She is currently initiating a course called Coach Psychology for Youth which also involves partnering with the Boys & Girls Club of Lenawee.



McNair Scholar Receives Student Service Award



SHU McNair Scholar Kevin Mizzi received the Student Service Award at the 21st Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Dinner Jan. 19 at Adrian College. Mizzi, who was nominated for the award three times, and Adrian College's Kevin Totty (also a McNair student), were both honored for providing leadership and demonstrating the qualities King represented. SHU's first Multi-cultural Advisor assists all students in embracing and understanding diversity in the residence halls. The senior Business Administration major is also involved in Student Senate and carries a 3.48 grade-point average. He has been a peer mentor for Student Support Services and has served on the executive board for SHU Habitat for Humanity, the Business Management Association and Residence Hall Council. He also is involved in the SHU Leadership Program, the National Residence Hall Honorary and Boys for Success. He has previously been nominated for the St. Catherine of Alexandria Award and is listed in Who's Who Among American College Students.

Stubnitz Foundation Funds New Mac Studio

The Mac Studio has completed a move from the third floor of Dominican Hall to Studio Angelico's Studio 8. The computers are the same, however, everything else is new. The project was funded from a grant from the Stubnitz Foundation. Also, the Dominican Hall Windows Lab has moved to the old Mac Lab in Dominican Hall. An open house celebrating the Mac Studio was April 22.

Art Professors Celebrate Work Online

SHU Professor of Art **Christine Reising** had one of her collaged cards published in a book titled, "1000 Handmade Greetings, creative cards and clever correspondence" by Laura McFadden and Deborah Baskin. There is a small color illustration of her work and the mention of her shop on Etsy, <http://www.moonmothpress.etsy.com>. Also, SHU Assistant Professor of Art **Robert Conlon** has just released a new CD entitled, "Last Day of Autumn." All the songs were written and performed by Conlon. It is located at: <http://www.manikinhead.com/lastdayofautumn.html>.

Jeremy Frew Promoted



Jeremy Frew '95 has been promoted to the position of assistant dean for Community College Programs. In this capacity, he will oversee the Siena Heights programs at Jackson Community College, Lansing Community College, Lake Michigan College and Kellogg Community College.

SHU Recruiter Attends Obama Inauguration

SHU's Angela Pinkett, who is an advisor/recruiter for the Metro Detroit Program, had a chance to attend the Jan. 20 Presidential Inauguration (photo below) in Washington, D.C. She called the experience "breathtaking" and said, "I could not have a better memory of my first trip to Washington D.C."



Spring Break Trips Visit Tuscany and London

Over spring break, separate Siena Heights contingents ventured to Tuscany and London to learn and experience the art, architecture and culture. Pictured above and below are the groups of SHU students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends who made these treks overseas.



SHU Press Conference Spotlights Congressional Support for Nursing

U.S. Sen. Carl Levin (D-Mich.) and U.S. Rep. Mark Schauer (D-Mich.) voiced their support for the Siena Heights University Nursing Initiative at an April 8, 2009, press conference (photos right) on the Adrian campus. In March, Siena Heights University learned it received \$428,000 in Congressionally directed federal funding for its Registered Nurse degree completion initiative. The funding came from the passage of H.R. 1105, the Omnibus Appropriations Act—2009. The Siena Heights Nursing Program is approved for registered nurses to return to college and earn a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. The first class of RN to BSN classes began August 2008 in the Nursing Building on the Adrian campus. SHU Director of Nursing Dr. Sue Idczak said some plans for the Congressionally directed funds include purchasing PDAs for use in health care settings. Reference textbooks can be downloaded to these PDAs—pharmacology manuals, lab and health care dictionaries—so nurses can be on the cutting edge of health care knowledge right at the bedside. More computers and database support will be purchased for student usage. More full-time faculty will be hired and supported through this grant. "I further dream of a classroom of the future—here in Adrian—to teach nurses who are in classrooms at some of Siena's site campuses like Benton Harbor, Monroe, Battle Creek, Jackson, Lansing or Southfield," Idczak said.

Siena Faculty Members Speak at Conferences

Last fall, **Dr. Sharon McGuire, OP**, from the SHU Nursing Department co-presented with colleagues from the states of Washington and Wisconsin at the 136th annual meeting of the American Public Health Association in San Diego. The theme for this meeting, attended by 30,000 public health professionals from all over the world, was "Health Care Without Borders." The title of Dr. McGuire's presentation to the Public Health Nursing section was: "Public health nursing and undocumented immigrant populations: Seeing through media hype on 'illegal' immigrants, or what's in a word?"

Four faculty members in Siena Heights University's Distance Learning program presented at a national conference focusing on online education. Their topic, "Retention Techniques for the Remote Student in a Totally Online Course," was presented at the 10th Annual Pearson eCollege Users Conference in Denver, Colo. According to Jim O'Flynn, SHU's coordinator of the Distance Learning Program, this is the first time Siena Heights has been asked to present at the conference, which is also called CITE. SHU's Gail Ryder, Dr. Jim Sam and Michael Winstrom joined O'Flynn in making the presentation. O'Flynn said the focus of the presentation was how institutions need to anticipate students' needs in order for them to be successful in an online program. Faculty and courses have to be developed to meet those needs. It also discussed how to monitor the quality of the learning experience, as well as student satisfaction and program viability. Instead of the usual conference format, SHU's presentation was delivered as an online class, showing a variety of course material alternatives. "eCollege executives have told us that our 98 percent course and 94 percent program retention rates are one of the highest of all their clients," O'Flynn said of SHU's online program.



Study Tour Visits Dubai

Siena Heights University sponsored a study tour to the Middle Eastern country of Dubai from Nov. 22-Nov. 30, 2008. The tour's focus showcased the accomplishments of creating a world-class city in an unlikely locale. Highlighted were several of the country's major attractions and projects, including Dubai Chairy City, Dubai University City, Dubai Financial Sector, Healthcare City, Internet and Media Cities, Jumeriah Mosque, Palm Island, property developments, hotels and tourism sites. A secondary purpose of the trip was to dispel the many myths associated with the Arab world. Interviews were conducted with local emirates and expatriates working and living in Dubai. Those who attended the tour had the experience of interacting with local people.



Siena Heights Wins Gift of Life Challenge

Siena Heights University had the highest percentage of donor registrants to win this year's Michigan Gift of Life Campus Challenge. Siena Heights was presented with a traveling trophy (**photo above**) during its Honors Convocation April 24 that it will display on campus for one year. Siena Heights competed with 17 other Michigan colleges and universities in a life-saving organ donor drive. The annual Gift of Life Campus Challenge was a six-week contest to see which school could get the most people to sign up on the Michigan Organ Donor Registry. Despite being Siena's first year competing in the event, SHU registered 12.82 percent of its



community members (faculty, staff, students) to take first place. The next closest was Wayne State University's School of Medicine with 9.17 percent. SHU faculty member Danielle Teunion-Smith '89 organized the drive on campus. She helped register 144 people, which was the sixth highest total of all the participating institutions, beating out much larger schools such as Western Michigan University (127) and the University of Michigan (38).

Exchange Agreement Signed with Yanshan University in China

Siena Heights University has officially entered into an exchange agreement with Yanshan University in China. This agreement will enable students from Yanshan University to take classes at Siena Heights University at reduced rates and students from Siena Heights University to take discounted classes at Yanshan. The five-year agreement will foster and develop a cooperative relationship between the two universities by means of the exchange of teaching staff/scholars, undergraduate and graduate students, and post-graduate students.

2009-10 Academic Year Marks 90th Anniversary

Beginning with the 2009-10 academic year, Siena Heights will celebrate its 90th anniversary. Future issues of Reflections plan to mark this milestone, and we are looking for your input. Do you remember a Siena person, place or event that you would like to share with our readers? We would like to hear from you. Please email Editor Doug Goodnough at dgoodnou@sienaheights.edu with your information (please keep wording to 200 words or less) and include pictures if applicable. You can also mail information to this address:

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Theatre Siena Completes Successful Spring Season

Theatre Siena completed another successful spring season, including performances of William Shakespeare's classic "A Midsummer Night's Dream," (**photo above**) the Tony award-winning "The Secret Garden" and the Creative Stages' world premieres of "Beyond the Path" and "Cafeteria Clash."

Holocaust Trip Planned

An 11-day European Holocaust trip is being planned for March 2010. This trip is open to everyone: faculty, students, alums, family members and friends. Any questions, please call Doug Miller '74 at (517) 264-7894.

Siena Student Receives Clinton Scholarship



Siena Heights University student Rebecca Seitz was one of only 10 in the nation to receive a full tuition Clinton Scholarship to study at the American University of Dubai this spring. Seitz,

a junior art major from Lathrup Village, Mich., was chosen by the William Jefferson Clinton Foundation for her academic excellence and leadership abilities. She is a member of Habitat for Humanity and is president of the SHU Visual Artists Society. In addition, Seitz serves as a mentor for Student Support Services and also is active in student government on campus. Seitz began classes in Dubai in January and returned to the U.S. in April.





Honors Colloquium Ignites Discussion and Debate

Does Manifest Destiny truly represent the American Dream? Is the economic crisis a product of greed or regulation? Does technology stimulate or stunt intellectual activity?

Those are just a sampling of the topics debated by a group representing the wide array of the Siena Heights educational spectrum. The group, called the Honors Colloquium, met each week (**photo above**) during the academic year in the university library to deliberate on topics related to “Speaking of Faith,” a National Public Radio show hosted by Krista Tippett.

Dr. Robert Gordon, director of the SHU library, said he has been a fan of Tippett and her program since 2003. He helped bring Tippett to campus in 2006 when Siena Heights awarded her an honorary degree. He has since kept in contact with her, and after discussing the idea of starting a colloquium with fellow faculty member Sister Pat Schnapp last summer, Gordon said using Tippett’s radio program as a catalyst for discussion made sense.

“We both agreed that would be a good idea,” Gordon said. “It was intended to be an opportunity to engage in seminar format about ideas. It’s a free-ranging discussion about ideas.”

Gordon said a small group of faculty, students and staff current comprise the colloquium, which began meeting in September. However, anyone in the Siena community had an open invitation. Those participating were asked to listen to Tippett’s show, then a member of the group facilitated discussion.

Religious Studies faculty member Ian Bell led a recent discussion based on Tippett’s show about late American theologian Reinhold Niebuhr, an important contributor to modern “just war” thinking who is also attributed to creating the “Serenity Prayer.”

“I think my strong reaction against (Niebuhr) is because I think he’s right,” Bell said, grinning as the discussion turned to Niebuhr’s philosophies.

Over the course of the hour, the conversation turned in many different directions, with students Brad Lorenz and Kelly Jackson livening up the room debating America’s role in the world. On that particular afternoon, Tippett was even scheduled to join the discussion by phone, however, her radio duties called her away. Gordon said Tippett will be part of a future conversation.

Gordon said colloquium attendees “run the range of society,” and includes people from different belief systems, including Christian, Jewish, Daoist religious traditions—even mythology and agnosticism are represented.

Gordon, who has a history background and was the former dean of the Graduate College, is part of a diverse faculty grouping that includes areas like English and mathematics.

Gordon, who is currently working on a more formal honors program for the university, said this colloquium is a good starting point for a larger, more structured program.

“It’s a way to talk to each other, instead of past each other,” Gordon said. ♦

Freshman Orientation

SHU Hosts Hudson High School Ninth-Graders in Unique Pilot Program

On Jan. 21-22, Siena Heights took the concept of freshman orientation to a new level.

Working with the Lenawee Intermediate School District, Siena Heights hosted approximately 70 freshmen students from Hudson High School and their chaperones for a pilot program called “Freshmen Focus: What Is College All About?” In a time where students are beginning the college search process as early as junior high school, SHU Assistant Director of Admissions Sarah Baker Korth said Hudson ninth-graders who attended the program received an early preview of college life.

“The program went well,” said Baker Korth of the two-day “sleepover” designed to introduce the notion of college to high school freshmen. “People were willing to buy into what was kind of a sketchy vision and think outside the box. That’s the part that was really gratifying to me.”



Baker Korth said this type of an event had never been attempted in the Lenawee County area. Working with Connie Barth, career prep coordinator at the LISD, as well as Hudson counselors Karen Cheney and Sue Mansfield, on developing the program, she said “Freshmen Focus” begins to educate high school students on what they can expect from college academically, culturally, socially and emotionally.

“There are a huge percentage of first-generation (college) students in Lenawee County,” Baker Korth said. “I think the fact that we were willing to take this on and get other people on board sends a really strong message to Lenawee County that Siena Heights does care about kids.”

Hudson students arrived on the SHU campus on the morning of Jan. 21. During their time on campus, ninth-graders attended a specially designed class, learned about career options and visited with current college students, faculty and staff. The group also attended the SHU women’s varsity basketball game, undertook a campus scavenger hunt and had dinner in the campus cafeteria. After spending the night on campus, the group participated in several other activities before returning to Hudson on Jan. 22.

“I think it went better than I thought it would go,” said Cheney, middle/high school counselor at Hudson who helped coordinate the program. “It changed my view as a counselor. Prior to this experience, I always assumed the kids had some working knowledge of what a college campus was because my own (children) had that because I’ve probably talked about that at home. I think I won’t assume so much when I’m working with kids. I’ll ask more questions, and I think it will change how I counsel them.”

“I am wondering why we didn’t do it sooner,” said Hudson High School Principal Mike Osborne. “Students who previously were not curious about college, and maybe even struggling in high school, were asking the kind of questions to show us they (have) an interest in college. It’s really exciting.”

Baker Korth said the sleepover (students and their chaperones spent the night in sleeping bags in some conference rooms on campus) helped complete the experience.

“Even though it may have been a teeny-weeny bit uncomfortable for those who slept over, it was a good thing,” she said.

Hudson freshman Burke Hart, 15, said three of his older brothers had attended college, so this experience was not so new for him. However, as a three-sport athlete who has aspirations of college scholarship, he said his time on Siena’s campus was helpful. “It hasn’t really changed my perspective (of college),” said Hart, who wants to study agri-science in college. “But I (now) know what I have to do to get into a college and get a scholarship.”



However, for 14-year-old Samantha Merillat, who wants to enter the health care field one day, the visit was her first to a college campus. “I thought it was fun learning about everything,” said Merillat, who was impressed with the food in the college cafeteria. “I know what to expect now.”

“When they went on the scavenger hunt, it became really apparent to me that these kids hadn’t a clue what a college campus was like,” Cheney said. “They didn’t know how many buildings were involved, how many staff was involved. When we went into the library, they were amazed it was three stories.”

Baker Korth said the program’s career focus was a key element. It helped high school students realize they need to start the college search process sooner rather than later.

“I think their eyes were opened that they can’t just wake up one morning in their junior year and decide this is what I’m going to do,” she said of the college decision-making process. “There is some planning and preparation for it. Having that career focus tied closely into this helped them to begin to think more concretely (about college).”

“I think it’s a great first step,” said Osborne, who thinks this type of program could even work at the middle school level. “It’s great to show them what (college) is like so they get a better feel for it.”

Baker Korth said there were measures in place to track attitudinal changes in the ninth-graders before, during and after their campus visit. Students recorded their experiences in journals that also provided feedback for the presentations and overall process.

There is future talk of expanding the program to include other area schools, Baker Korth said. However, because of the intense planning and preparation involved, she said they may not all include sleepovers.

“People have asked me if this is a success,” she said. “I’ll let you know in four years.” ♦





“Hands-On Technology”

By Doug Goodnough

Siena Heights Students Unite to Create Multi-Touch Computer Screen

Imagine the iPhone on steroids.

That is a concept a new, technology-oriented student group at Siena Heights University is developing.

Using what is called multi-touch technology, students from different academic disciplines have joined intellectual forces to form Computer Physics United (CPU). Recently they created a “hands-on” computer screen that operates with a touch of a finger.

“Multi-touch in a way is like an iPhone,” said group organizer Joel Parrish of the cellular phone that has revolutionized the mobile phone industry. “Its principles are the same. You do computing with multiple touches. You can look at pictures, and instead of clicking on a button to zoom in, you just take your fingers and pinch or pull, like you would in real life. It’s more about making the experience more natural.”

Parrish, a junior Computer and Information Systems major at SHU, first thought he could create the multi-touch screen on his own, but soon realized he needed help in areas like physics, mathematics – even art. He and fellow CIS major Daniel Pitts and physics major Nick Voicechovski formed CPU in the hope of accomplishing common goals.

“We started from scratch,” Voicechovski said. “We’re not part of a company. We’re just three guys who put our heads together and decided to go with it.”

“Joel was interested in what I was doing in 3-D modeling,” said Pitts, a former Marine attending SHU on the GI Bill. “He told me about the group he was putting together, and, of course, I was really excited to get into it.”

Using a trial-and-error process, CPU recently created its first multi-touch screen—for less than \$200.

“Everyone has a part in it,” Parrish said of the project process. “Everyone has different skills they bring, and through that we worked out all the kinks and got a working model.”

Voicechovski addressed the physics, chemistry and mathematical elements of the project, while Pitts contributed his video gaming expertise. They credit Parrish as the “genius” behind it all.

Although the CPU group is just a few months old, members have already attracted the attention of the NUI Group, a national interactive technology media organization. NUI invited CPU members to its Interactive Displays Conference April 21-23 in Silicon Valley, Calif.

“I’ve never been this excited,” Pitts said of attending the conference.

Group members said the collaboration of diverse academic interests has had unexpected benefits. After completing a web design class last fall, Parrish, a hard-core programmer, said he has a new appreciation for art.

“It made me think on the art side of things,” he said. “Art students, and teachers, too, give you the next idea, the next big thing.”

That next big thing could be a program Parrish is writing. Still in the early stages, he said it could take the concept of a “smart” phone to the next level.

“You can set your phone on the (multi-touch screen) table, and it will connect to your phone and will drop your pictures on the table,” Parrish explained. “If another person puts their phone on the table, you can take the picture with your finger and drag it to their phone, and it will be put on their phone. It’s a new way of sharing.”

Voicechovski said the group’s main goal is to increase its numbers.

“We don’t want to stop,” he said. “We want to pull more minds together and keep going and see how far we can get.”

“There’s really no limit right now with what you can do with multi-touch,” Parrish said. “The only limit is your mind. It’s really emerging. People are thinking of new things to do with it.” ♦



CREATIVELY HANGING OUT

Siena Heights' Community-Based Learning Program Works as a 'Gift Exchange'

She calls it “creatively hanging out.”

For the past nine years, Siena Heights University Professor of Anthropology Linda Easley has embedded her sociology and anthropology students into local elementary schools and youth organizations to participate, observe, learn and then report on their experiences. For eight weeks, two hours per week, Siena Heights students visit and document their experiences with elementary students, teachers and staff.

Siena Heights students first worked with students at McKinley Elementary. Efforts shifted to Michener Elementary when McKinley closed. Nine years later, the program has expanded. Siena Heights now has students from other programs such as sport management and psychology—six classes in all—participating with not only Michener, but also with the local Boys & Girls Club and The Daily Bread of Lenawee.

Easley said this is not an internship or a volunteer program, but a required part of her classes. The results have been informative—if not transformative. “A community organization defines what they need,” said Easley, who prefers the term “community-based learning” over the more common “academic service learning,” to describe the program. “Yes, students benefit, but by and large this is a partnership between the university and the community organization. But it is defined by the community.”



“Students come in and observe behaviors and conversations,” said Annie Howard, the art teacher at Michener. “They basically are in my room to interact with the kids and be positive role models.”

“They work with students who may need a little extra help mastering academics or just having an older brother or sister (figure) to give them some extra attention,” said Michener Elementary Principal Deb Risner of SHU’s students. “The kids just hang on the students; that’s how much they’ve bonded with them. ... The kids just love spending that time with them. It’s really cool to watch.”

Easley learned about this community-based approach from the Michigan Campus Compact, an organization that promotes Michigan college students to be more civically engaged citizens. She decided to focus on the east side of Adrian, Mich., typically more ethnically diverse

than other areas of the city. Fifty-one percent of Michener’s 374 students are either African-American or Hispanic, and that diversity has provided a cross-class, cross-cultural experience for her students, Easley said.

Because of the hands-on philosophy of community-based learning, Easley has cut her reading requirements for her classes in half.

“I’ve always had an applied component to my classes, which means students were always doing something with their information and learning from applying,” Easley said.

Students must also keep reflective journals of their visit experiences, and then present summary reports of those journal entries both written and orally to the elementary teacher and principal at end of the semester.

“That’s probably the key thing that makes this such a different (program), is the reflective piece,” Easley said. “You reflect on it and think about it in light of your discipline.”

According to Risner, that reflection/feedback is invaluable.

“It’s a great tool for me to look at,” Risner said of the students’ reports. “Sometimes it’s made me and the teachers sit back and reflect, ‘Is this how we are perceived?’”

“We provide them with data that points them in some new directions,” Easley said. “It’s unique. We take. We give. It’s reciprocal.”

Easley said her students benefit from the learning “gift exchange” in many ways.



“Our students say they are really surprised, because they are treated as an adult for the first time in their lives there,” Easley said. “And they are ambivalent about that. ... My students learn as much from the teachers there as they do from anything else.”

“(SHU students) come in very shy and need direction,” Howard said. “But at the end, I find they are conversing with the kids. There is no hesitation. They’re into it.”

Easley said community-based learning has room to grow at Siena Heights, possibly involving the university’s international student population.

“The whole philosophy behind this is that how you come to know something is as important as what you know,” Easley said. “Hopefully our students become better citizens. The aftermath is they become more socially engaged.” ♦

Previous page photo: Professor of Anthropology Linda Easley (at right) calls the interaction between her anthropology/sociology students and Michener Elementary School students “creatively hanging out” in the hope that co-learning can occur between the two groups.

Above photo: Siena Heights anthropology student Brittani Wilson (back, at left) and international student Vera Alvarez (at right) hosted Michener Elementary School fourth-graders on the SHU campus this fall as part of the community-based learning program.



The Qualification of Passion

SHU Special Education Program Meeting a National Need

How great is the need for special education teachers?

School districts in places like Texas are offering signing bonuses to lure the best and brightest special education teachers to their areas. Locally, statistics showed in 2006 that approximately 12 percent of all school-age children in Lenawee County, Mich., receive special education services.

Siena Heights University recognized this need – and responded to it – when it started a special education bachelor’s degree program approximately two years ago. It has since added a master’s degree program. Although the program is still developing, the initial response has been overwhelmingly positive, according to program director Dr. Martha Carroll.

Carroll, who taught and was the chair of the Education Department at the University of Toledo before retiring in 2000, said Siena’s program started with a learning disabilities (LD) concentration to allow teachers the greatest career flexibility. Carroll said there is one prerequisite every student must have before entering the SHU program.

“You have to meet the qualification of passion,” she said. “You either have the passion or you don’t. That’s one of the things I look for. Don’t just mark the time, because you are going to be out working with children. If you have difficulty, change majors. And I encourage change when there is not a fit.”

SHU junior special education major Sydney Estrada said she has that passion. “I took a special education course and knew instantly that special education was a great fit for me,” Estrada said.

And for those who find out they don’t have that passion for special education, Siena Heights allows students the ability to switch directions early on in the program. If a student realizes special education isn’t the right fit, then he or she can move into an elementary or secondary education path seamlessly.

Trudy Kelly, a SHU special education graduate student, is currently taking a full course load of and working full-time as a kindergarten teacher. She said the personal attention Siena’s program has given her has made all the difference.

“It has been very demanding, but I am still alive,” said Kelly, whose husband is also enrolled in the special education graduate program at SHU. “It is a lot of reading and a lot of presentations. But I am breathing a sigh of relief because it seems like I can actually accomplish what I need to do. ... This is the friendliest university I have ever witnessed!”

Carroll said what also makes Siena’s program distinctive is its heavy field component.

“When you get students out in the field, you build excitement,” she said of the hands-on learning experience.

“What I like most about Siena’s special education program is the amount of time spent out in the field, actually gaining first-hand experience,” Estrada said. “I apply what I learn from my instructors when I observe in a classroom. When I am able to apply what I learn, I have a better understanding for the material.”

Special education is not just about educating the student, but educating families as well. “We spend a lot of time with the family,” Carroll said. “Students learn families as a system and how the interactions go, what the needs are and what the functions of the family are. If the university student can have a handle on that as a teacher, then they can better work as a partnership with the family. It’s not the teacher saying, ‘Here’s what you need to do as a family.’ It’s the teacher listening to the family. What are your needs?”

Carroll said teachers with elementary or secondary certification who want to enter special education can complete six credit hours of special education courses and receive an emergency certificate. In fact, Carroll said the need is so great that California currently has approximately 4,000 people teaching special education with emergency certificates. She said there’s a similar need in Michigan as well, and Siena Heights is helping to meet that need.

“We wanted to develop an excellent program, and we did,” said Carroll of the development of SHU’s program. “I think we have something very unique.”



SAINTS

saints highlights



There's a New Dog In Town

Siena Heights University Athletics introduced its new mascot Dec. 3, 2008. "Halo," a husky dog, was the winning choice from three finalists. "Halo" will represent Saints Athletics at home games. He made his debut at the Dec. 3 men's basketball game between Siena Heights and cross-town rival Adrian College.

The winning concept was submitted by senior sport management major Matt Larson. SHU President Sister Peg Albert awarded Larson a \$250 grand prize for having the winning entry. According to SHU faculty member Joseph Raab, here is why the dog makes sense for Siena: "The Dominicans were often called the "Dogs of the Lord" because the word 'Dominican' is close to a compound of 'dominus'—Lord and 'canine'—dog. Since the Dominicans were appointed by Rome as the guardians of orthodoxy and truth, they were known as the 'watchdogs' of truth."

Halo is seen above (left) with friend and fellow team mascot Hooper from the Detroit Pistons. Below Halo poses with two SHU students at a pep rally for the men's basketball team.



Men's Track and Field

The Siena Heights University men's 4x800 relay successfully defended its national championship this spring at the NAIA National Indoor Track and Field Championships. The foursome of Kent Laskowsky, Jesiah Rodriguez, Adrian Simmons and Luke Pawlaczyk (**photo below**) ran a time of 7 minutes, 36.64 seconds to win the title for the Saints. Three of the four relay team members returned from last year, with Rodriguez taking the place of the graduated Robert Banks. Also earning All-American honors for the Saints



was senior Chris Bullard (**left**), who placed third in the high jump with a leap of 6 feet, 10.75 inches. The SHU men's track & field team also claimed the

Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference title behind league MVP Bullard. The Saints won nine events, with Bullard, a senior, named the Most Valuable Performer of the meet by winning the high jump in a school record 6 feet, 11.25 inches. He also won the long jump (22-10.5) and was second in the 200 meter dash and third in the 60 meter dash. Pawlaczyk won four events, including the 600 meter, the 1000, the mile and was part of the 4x400 meter relay to earn All-WHAC honors. Simmons claimed the 400 and 800, Brad Monahan the pole vault and Lance Reed the triple jump. The SHU women placed fourth at the meet, with Kim Cramer taking the 600 for the Saints' only first place finish.



Men's Cross Country

Sophomore Alex Russeau (**below**) was named the All-Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference



cross country team after leading the Saints with a fourth place finish at the WHAC meet. Earlier in the season he won the Bowling Green Falcon Invitational and placed seventh at the National Catholic Meet. Junior Mike Glinksi was named as an All-WHAC Scholar Athlete and a Champions of Character representative. Russeau, Glinksi and Jesiah Rodriguez each competed at the NAIA National Championship Meet Nov. 22. The Saints placed third in the WHAC.

Men's Golf

The men's golf team finished fifth place overall in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference, averaging 316 strokes per meet. Jack Garswood was named to the honorable mention All-WHAC team after leading the Saints with three top five finishes and six top 20 finishes. Freshman Kyle Beaudrie was the Saints' representative for the WHAC Champions of Character team, and coach Mark Dooley was voted as the WHAC Coach of Character by the fellow league coaches.

Men's Basketball



Brian Champine (**left**) and Curtis Stephens highlighted the Saints honorees as both were named second team all-conference. Stephens, a junior guard, led the Saints in scoring this season 13.7 points per game. He was second on the team in steals and third on the team in assists. He also passed the 1,000 career point mark and now is in 24th place in scoring with 1,158 points. Champine, a senior forward/center, averaged 12.3 points per game and had a team-high 54 blocks. He was also second in rebounding. Champine was also selected as a member of the All-WHAC defensive team. Junior forward Courtney Smith was named to the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference All-Newcomer team after averaging 6.5 rebounds and 6.9 points per game. Senior Stephen Dunn was named to the conference's all-academic squad, while senior O.J. Jones represented the Saints on the Champions of Character team. The Saints finished 15-16 overall, 6-8 in the WHAC.

Men's Soccer

Senior Joe Zanni (**photo below**) was named as an NAIA honorable mention All-American after being selected as the Defensive Player of the Year in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference. The midfielder and defender was an all-league performer, starting all 17 games for the Saints. He was second on the team in goals (five) and points (11). Zanni started out the year as a central midfielder but also saw time as a central defender when injuries hit the team. Sophomore forward Joel Parrish was named second team all-conference with eight goals and 18 points, while freshman John Faraj was an honorable mention All-WHAC selection. The Saints had academic all-league performers, including Ryan Hansinger, Andy Klenner, Ryan Robinet and Zanni. Senior Andrew Hensley was recognized as the Saints' Champions of Character representative. The Saints were 6-9-3 overall and 4-7-1 in the conference, good for fourth place.



Men's Volleyball

The Siena Heights men's club volleyball team capped off its inaugural season with a 27-8 record, including a perfect 5-0 home mark. The Saints recorded wins against much larger schools such as Pittsburgh, Michigan State, Michigan, Grand Valley State, Eastern Michigan and Bowling Green. Matt Mitterholzer led the Saints with 350 kills, with Adrian Rutt adding 268. Juan Sierra had a team-high 884 assists and 62 serving aces. See story on page 19.



SAINTS

visit our athletics website at www.shusaints.com



Women's Soccer

Siena Heights' women's soccer team stunned Madonna on its home turf, handing the Crusaders their only league loss this season by pulling a 2-1 double overtime upset in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference Tournament championship Nov. 14, 2008. With the win, **(photo above)** the Saints (11-6-4) qualified for the NAIA National Tournament for the second time in three years. They eventually lost to top-ranked Lindsey Wilson College 1-0 in the opening round. The Saints made their fifth appearance at the NAIA National Tournament, and their third since Oliver took over the program in 2001. Seven Saints were recognized by the NAIA. Junior midfielder Allison Septer and sophomore goalkeeper Haley Mancini were named honorable mention All-Americans. Both players were first team All-WHAC selections and were also named to the NSCAA All-Region team. Septer **(photo above right)** led the Saints in scoring with seven goals, nine assists and 23 points in only 21 games.



Mancini **(left)** led the Saints in goal with 11 wins, five shutouts, and a goals against average of just 0.97. Seniors Amanda Marinello,

Kati Saul, Kim Stoutenburg and Ashley Wilmoth along with junior Stephanie Hayden earned NAIA Scholar Athlete honors. All five players carry above a 3.5 grade point average.

Women's Track and Field

Deanna Payne competed in three events at the NAIA national meet. She participated in the long jump, 200 meter dash and the 4x400 relay with Brande Simmons, Kim Cramer and



JoRanda Chapman. Chapman also ran in the 400 meter run, while Cramer competed in the 600. Senior Jessica Stasa also competed in the weight throw. The Saints placed fourth at the WHAC meet, with Payne and Cramer earned all-league honors in their respective events.

Women's Basketball

Junior Tanci Levit **(photo right)** had a breakthrough year for the Saints and was honored as a second team all-conference performer. Levit averaged 10.9 points per game. The Saints also had four players receive recognition as academic All-Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference performers. They were senior Kara Crossett and juniors Erin Cassidy, Autumn Caughern and Levit. Junior Lauren Crockett was recognized as the Saints' Champion of Character representative. The Saints finished 11-20 overall, 5-9 in the WHAC.

Women's Cross Country

Kim Cramer and Rachel Ham were named to the all-conference Academic Team. Cramer is a junior art major while Ham is a junior biology major. Cramer **(left)** was also named as the Saints' representative on the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference Champions of Character team. The Saints finished fifth in the conference.

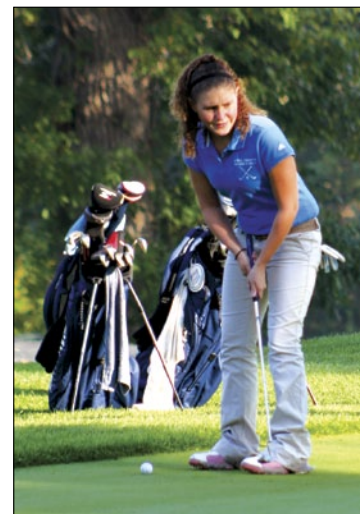


Women's Volleyball

Juniors Jessica Brown and Melissa Hall were named to the academic all-conference team for the Saints. Lauren Kurtz was chosen to the Champions of Character team. The Saints finished 9-25 overall, 1-13 in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference. Athletic Director Fred Smith recently named Mike Watkins the new head coach of the women's volleyball program. Watkins, an assistant for the SHU women's program the last two seasons, is currently the head coach of the first-year Saints' men's club volleyball program. He will continue those duties, Smith said. Watkins coached the Adrian College women's volleyball program from 1998-2005. He currently works with the Premier Volleyball Club of Toledo, Ohio, the M-Juniors Volleyball Club in Ann Arbor and the Excel Volleyball Club at Siena Heights. Watkins and his wife, Kerry, reside in Adrian with their three children.

Women's Golf

The Siena Heights women's golf team finished fourth place in conference play. The team was led by first-team all-conference performer Kelly Sawyer, **(photo below)** who carried the second lowest scoring average in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference at 85.7. She placed in the top 10 in all eight of her appearances this season, including three top five finishes, to earn her second straight all-league honor. Sara Porter was named to the WHAC Champions of Character team, while Sydney Estrada and Kaendall McVicker earned All-WHAC Academic Team mention.



Spiking Interest



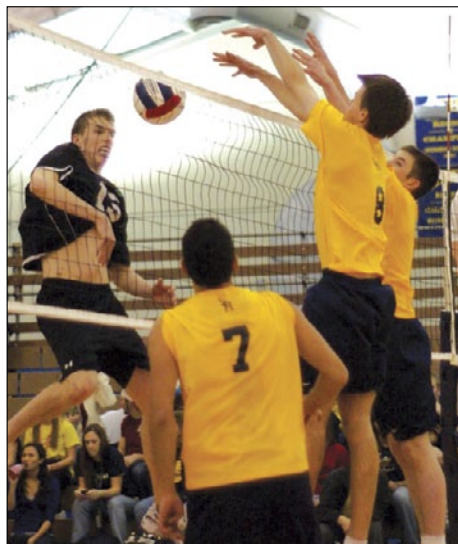
By Ashley Brainerd '10 – Student Writer

Inaugural Men's Club Volleyball Team Finishes 27-8

As the assistant coach in the women's volleyball program, Mike Watkins first introduced the idea of a men's volleyball team at Siena Heights University. When the university approved men's volleyball as a club sport last year, Watkins now has a chance to see his idea come to fruition as the head coach of the first-year program.

Since no other school in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference has a men's team, Siena has filled its schedule with NCAA Division I club teams such as Ohio State, Michigan State and the University of Michigan. The Saints have held their own so far this season, starting off the year with a 3-2 record, including a victory over Michigan State Jan. 23 in their home debut.

Before a curious home crowd in the SHU Fieldhouse, the Saints defeated MSU the first two games 25-20 and 25-11. The Spartans won the third game before Siena came out swinging in the fourth game to seal the match with a 25-20 victory. With performances like that, Watkins believes Siena will serve as an example for other schools in the area.



"I think that some of the colleges in the WHAC are watching to see how this works and are interested in starting programs in the near future," he said.

Freshman outside hitter Matt Mitterholzer (Berea, Ohio) is excited to show the Siena community, as well as the state of Michigan, what men's volleyball is all about.

"It's very different (from women's)," he said.

Freshman defensive specialist/setter Tim O'Brien (Beavercreek, Ohio) said he thinks this initial season is the most important if they hope to build a successful program. Watkins concurs.

"The goals for this year are simply to improve and build the foundation for the future," Watkins says. "We (want) to prove that (having a men's team) can be done."

O'Brien and Mitterholzer said their goals are even higher – a winning season. Teammate Juan Sierra, however, shakes his head and smiles when asked what his goals are for the team.

"I want to win all games," he said.

Sierra, the team's captain and an international recruit from Bogotá, Colombia, said he has another personal goal in mind this year: learning to speak better English. The outside hitter and setter originally came to the United States on what he found out later was a bogus scholarship offer. He had no way to attend college in America until Watkins helped recruit him to Siena Heights.

While the language barrier may at times be a challenge in the classroom and around campus, Sierra said it is not a problem once he steps on the volleyball court.

"I don't need language to play volleyball," he said. "Volleyball is my language."

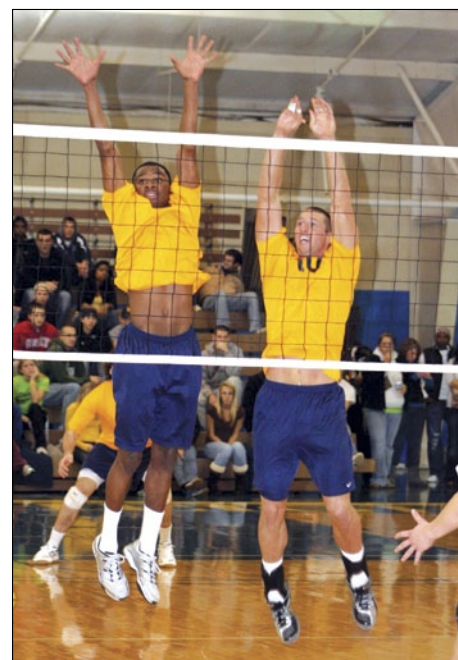


With only four of his 10 players hailing from Michigan, Watkins has concentrated his recruiting efforts in Ohio, which has a deeper men's volleyball talent pool. He also attracted a player from Hawaii – 6-foot-1 sophomore John Ka-hoohanohano – who is from Maui. The Saints have seven freshmen and only one senior on the roster.

Watkins said once his program becomes an intercollegiate sport – hopefully as early as next year – his expectations are ambitious.

"My (goal is) to compete for national championships in the NAIA," Watkins said.

The Saints finished the season 27-8 overall, including a perfect 5-0 at home. ♦



By Doug Goodnough

The Ripple Effect



They were attracted to Siena Heights for different reasons.

For one, it was a chance to escape a self-destructive cycle of behavior. For another it was supposed to be a temporary stop between destinations. Or Siena Heights was a chance to live and experience the American Dream.

This year's Alumni Award recipients may have taken different roads to Siena Heights, but all were recognized March 19 for their common paths to success. And they are using their success to help others succeed. In fact, four of the five have taught/are teaching at other institutions of higher education, while the fifth is the director of a national volunteer service organization. What can you do with a Siena Heights degree? Just ask Sister Mary Beaubien, Anthony Butler, Jacob Chi, Gabrielle Davis and Tod Marshall, this year's honorees.

Think Higher, indeed...

Sister Mary Beaubien, OP '55

Saint Dominic Award Winner

Of all of this year's Alumni Award winners, Sister Mary had the shortest distance to travel to get to Siena Heights. Born just a mile or so away from campus, the Adrian native was raised on a nearby farm and eventually entered the Adrian Dominican Sisters congregation at the end of her junior year of high school. She began studying home economics at Siena Heights just after her 16th birthday, and spent the next several summers taking classes to work toward a degree.

And work she did.

To help pay for her tuition, she and the other Sisters had jobs around campus. "We worked and sometimes we forgot to go to class," Sister Mary said. "We didn't participate much in campus events. We went to class and that was it. We didn't have all the other opportunities (of today's students), but we learned the same values because we learned the Adrian Dominican values."

When she finally graduated in 1955—more than a decade after entering Siena, she had completed a whopping 200 credit hours. "Evidently, I got a good education here," Sister Mary said.

She eventually received her master's degree and PhD and went to teach at three different universities over the next 30 years. Nineteen of those years were at Youngstown State University in Ohio, where an endowed scholarship was established in her name.

After retiring from teaching, Sister Mary focused on serving women and families around the world. She spent four years in South Africa, first building an elementary school library and later developing an embroidery business that provides women of that country with economic independence. She is still involved with that effort today.



However, her "other" job is working as a volunteer archivist for Siena Heights. "Most everything I know about Siena Heights I learned in the archives," Sister Mary said. "Sister Helen Duggan recruited me in January 1977. We have some stuff that's older than me, and that's why I like it."

Though she never had an opportunity to teach at Siena Heights, her current role gives her a chance to participate in the campus life she never had as a student.

"This university is a wonderful place to live and work, and lots of people have been here for 30 years or more," she said. "I never got to teach here, so I'm grateful to be a volunteer now. I brag about Siena all the time." ♦

"We didn't have all the other opportunities, . . . but we learned the same values because we learned the Adrian Dominican values."



Anthony Butler '04 Recent Graduate Award Winner

Tony Butler remembers the first time he heard the mission of Siena Heights.

"It was my first time on campus," Butler said of the freshman student orientation event he attended as a Deerfield High School senior. "Immediately the first presentation was about the mission. Every time there would be a large gathering of students, it would be the mission, the mission."

He said he and many of his classmates could recite the mission by the time they graduated, but he never really grasped its full significance until after he left Siena. Now, as the executive director of Dominican Volunteers USA in Chicago, he is living the Siena Heights mission on an everyday basis.

"Working on the south side (of Chicago), it was very different from my experience of being in Deerfield and Adrian," said Butler, who started with Dominican Volunteers as a recruiter. "What does it mean to be more competent, purposeful and ethical? ... It comes from the history of the Adrian Dominican Sisters."

He said that Dominican education has prepared him well for his current position.

"The one thing I really found interesting about (the Adrian Dominican Sisters) was their commitment to social justice," Butler said. "How do we treat people fairly? Not only the poor and destitute, but folks who are right next door to us."

In fact, he said that philosophy was a factor in his decision to attend Siena Heights.

"I had worked on campus with the food service," Butler said of his high school job. "There were catering events at places like the president's house, with all the 'movers and shakers.' To me, they always treated me with a lot of respect. Just because I was a dish washer or some runner at some event, that didn't matter. They always treated me as a colleague, really, in a lot of ways. Not a subordinate. ... That really stuck out."

Butler now has had a chance to "pay it forward." After spending a year as a DVUSA volunteer working with middle school students, last summer he was appointed to lead DVUSA, an organization placing women and men in year-long service to some of America's poorest families.

He credits Siena Heights for putting him on his current career path.

"I had had some teachers in Deerfield who were Siena grads," said Butler, who majored in elementary education at Siena Heights. "When I look back, those were the teachers I remembered the most. Those were the best ones I had. ... There was this culture that said, 'this was the place you want to be a part of.'" ♦

"What does it mean to be more competent, purposeful and ethical? ... It comes from the history of the Adrian Dominican Sisters."

Jacob Chi '85

Outstanding Alumni Award Winner

Why me?

After more than 25 years, Dr. Jacob Chi is still asking that question. Former President Dr. Louis Vaccaro had the answer when he offered the Chinese musical prodigy a scholarship to come to Siena Heights.

“He said, ‘Look, everybody in the world deserves an opportunity. I thought you were the best (person) to receive it.’”

The youngest concertmaster in the Beijing Opera Company’s history at age 17, Chi was a 28-year-old accomplished violinist and composer when he arrived at Siena Heights.

He already had immense musical talent, however, there were some things he didn’t have that Siena Heights could provide.

Following the path to America and Siena Heights that his aunts, Margaret and Jane, took, Chi spent his early days on campus learning the English language.

With the yen, the Chinese currency, about 1/8 the value of the American dollar at the time, Chi said money was always a priority. Along with the scholarship he received, Chi worked as a dish washer in the school cafeteria 20 hours a week to help pay his expenses.

Graduating magna cum laude from Siena Heights, Chi was a standout in the classroom. However, it was the lessons he learned outside the classroom that remain with him today.

“The value system Siena was trying to teach me has benefited me the most,” Chi said. “Even though today I am a Chinese American, I will say I am an American now. I am an American citizen. I pay taxes. I like what Americans like. ... You can call yourself middle class, but are you a citizen or not? You (may) have a house, you have two cars, you have all this, (but) it’s what you do that is your identity. That is the most important thing.”



“You (may) have a house, you have two cars, you have all this, (but) it’s what you do that is your identity. That is the most important thing.”

And Chi is doing plenty. He is currently professor of music at Colorado State University-Pueblo. He is also the director of the Pueblo Symphony and the Marquette (Mich.) Symphony. He guest conducts at musical productions around the world, and applauds Siena Heights’ renewed focus on bringing international students to campus.

“Is it the right thing to do?” Chi said. “I would say, yes, it’s the right thing to do because now we call it a global economy. As a higher education institution we have to take the challenge.”

Nearly 30 years after arriving at Siena Heights, Chi is still grateful for the opportunity Dr. Vaccaro gave him.

“I asked (Dr. Vaccaro), ‘What do I have to do to thank you for this?’” Chi said. “He said, ‘Be a good person.’ I think this is Americanism. Now I tell people that who I am helping, I am passing it on.” ♦



Gabrielle Davis '85

Sister Ann Joachim Award Winner

Gabrielle Davis' Siena Heights experience was only supposed to last one semester. Davis, a Toledo, Ohio, native, was attending Oberlin College but had to return home to deal with a medical issue. She didn't want to fall behind in her classes, so when a friend invited her up to nearby Siena Heights to visit, she accepted.

"I enrolled with the intention of just being here a semester and going back to Oberlin," Davis said. "After I was here a couple of months, you couldn't have dragged me away from Siena. I don't know that I knew I was going to get my degree from Siena, but once I was here, I was sure of it."

It was another suggestion from someone at Siena that put her on her next career path.

"I was getting close to graduation, and I had a professor who I was very close to, Sister Pat Hogan," Davis said. "She said, 'What are you going to do when you graduate?' ... I said, 'I don't know. Maybe this. Maybe that.' She said, 'I think you should apply to law school. And, by the way, I've already written the letter of recommendation. So here's an application, fill it out and send it in.'"

When Davis resisted the notion, Sister Hogan's response was nothing short of prophetic.

"She said, 'You've had a lot of advantages in your life, and you really have an obligation to give back a little bit. And I can't think of a better way to do it than for you to go to law school and serve the people who need your help.'"

Now an accomplished lawyer and a professor at the University of Toledo's College of Law, Davis is using her legal expertise to help victims of domestic violence.

"Siena had such an enormous influence on me. I am who I am today because of the years I spent here at Siena."

"Many (domestic violence victims) were talking about their experiences through the criminal justice system," Davis said of her early exposure to the problem. "And those experiences were roundly negative. ... It broke my heart to think that people turned to the criminal justice system for help, and they were actually re-victimized through that process. I wondered if there was anything I could do that could turn the tide."

She started and currently directs UT's Domestic Violence Clinic that teaches and supervises students in assisting domestic violence victims in collaboration with many community services and organizations. Her efforts have been called groundbreaking, and she recently received the prestigious Jefferson Award for Public Service. However, awards are not what drive Davis.

"It's lovely to have your work recognized, but at the same time, when I look at all the work that needs to be done, it feels premature or undeserved," Davis said. "Maybe because there is so much work, so much change that needs to be made. It's very bittersweet. I just hope people being very generous rallying around me will translate into rallying around this cause."

Davis said receiving an award named after the first woman (Sister Ann Joachim) to argue before the U.S. Supreme Court is a "humbling" experience. It's also another reminder of the place where she "learned to love to learn."

"It's almost hard to put into words because Siena had such an enormous influence on me," Davis said of her Siena experience. "I am who I am today because of the years I spent here at Siena." ♦

Tod Marshall '90

Outstanding Alumni Award Winner

Tod Marshall doesn't know where he would be if not for Siena Heights. Actually, he has a pretty good guess.

"I probably would have ended up in jail," said Marshall, who was an underachieving, soccer-playing, trouble-seeking, drug-using high school student in Wichita, Kansas. "In high school, I was more or less a delinquent. It's a miracle that I graduated from high school, and it's a miracle I stayed alive in the few years after high school."

Not even taking a few classes at nearby Wichita State University could change lingering bad habits. After a year or so, Marshall knew he was at a crossroads.

"Some intuition inside of me told me it would be a good thing to get out of town," he said.

Siena Heights provided the escape route, via men's soccer coach Doug Mello and an athletic scholarship. Tossing his belongings in a couple of trash bags, Marshall journeyed to the Adrian campus ready to start a new chapter in his life. Helping to turn that page was the Siena faculty, especially the late history and philosophy professor Sister Pat Hogan.

"I was a good student, not a great student," Marshall said of his early days at Siena. "I had a couple of semesters of independent study with Sister Pat, to read one-on-one. One day before our meeting I was supposed to have done a reading, and I hadn't done it. ... I was in the library for something else and I came upon Sister Pat. She was bent over her notes and pouring over what we were going to talk about that day. Guilt is a good thing in some ways, because I felt so guilty that I never again dropped the ball in getting ready when I saw this teacher was putting so much time for me. Just for me. ... That shaped my attitude."



Marshall soon went from good to great as a student, eventually graduating from Siena with degrees in English and philosophy. He has been in higher education ever since.

After earning his Master of Fine Arts degree and a PhD, Marshall is now an award-winning poet and teacher. In 2007, Marshall received the Exemplary Faculty Award from Gonzaga University in Spokane, Wash., where he teaches English.

"I just kept building on that energy I first got (at Siena Heights)," Marshall said of his literary and academic accomplishments. "That energy came out of how the Siena community embraced me and made me feel good about who I was. ... There was something here that made me recognize ... that there's an excellence inside of me that others are seeing. It was wonderful. It was transformative." ♦

*"I just kept building on that energy I first got . . .
That energy came out of how the Siena community
embraced me and made me feel good."*

visit our alumni website at www.sienaheights.edu

from the alumni office



Getting to Know You, Getting to Know SHU

Several months ago, I spent 10 wonderful days exploring Tuscany, Italy, with 40 SHU alumni, students, faculty and friends. Perhaps it was the timing that made it so memorable: Siena's so-called "spring" break, coming when winter weighed heavily on my Michigan spirits. Maybe it was the art and architecture: the winding cobblestone streets of medieval Siena, the hill-top frescos of Assisi, the Renaissance wonders of Florence and the ancient remnants of classical Rome. Or it might have been the geography (gorgeous, even under our Tuscan umbrellas), the food (delicious), the wine (luscious and plentiful). But I think, more than anything, it was the people who really made a difference. The companionship of interesting and interested travelers of many ages, all with diverse connections to Siena Heights, made this a trip to remember.

As we roamed the hills of Tuscany, another SHU group was exploring the history and theaters of London. "It was so nice to be with Siena students and professors, even though I'd never met any of them before, that I'm thinking of doing it again some time," reported London adventurer Helen Simon '59. In fact, the "spring break" trips were so successful we're offering two more next year. Watch your mail (or call us) for details on "The Holocaust in Europe" and "Sunny Portugal." Traveling with Siena is a great way to explore the world *and* get to know the University in a new way.

Returning from Italy, I had the privilege of helping SHU recognize five amazing individuals at Alumni Awards Day. As you'll learn elsewhere in the magazine, the honorees—a musician, a poet, a domestic violence prevention advocate, a volunteer coordinator and a family development specialist—came to Siena for different reasons and went on to very different careers. And yet, there was a consistent theme in their remarks that day. For each of them, Siena Heights was a critical turning point. And all spoke eloquently about the influence and impact of their Siena professors. As Philosophy Professor Mark Schersten said afterwards, "This is always such an inspiring day. I listen to the alumni—and I remember why I teach, why I care, and why we do what we do: Because it makes a difference."

As the semester continued, other evidence of that "difference" was everywhere—in the exhibitions mounted in Studio Angelico by our graduating art majors, the senior research posters lining the math and science hallways, and the stage productions written, produced and directed by our senior theater majors. On any given day, prospective graduates were presenting senior projects: discussing Shakespeare and Streptococcus, the Supreme Court and post-traumatic

stress disorder, business ethics, interactive computers, and everything in between. If you ever wonder whether Siena Heights is still challenging students—and making a difference—just visit during March and April!

For 90 years, Siena Heights has been making a difference in the lives of students, who go on to make a difference in our world. We're proud of our alumni. You can be proud of your alma mater. And you can join us any time—at a campus event, a regional get-together, a world trip. We'll be happy to see you. And there's no better way to get to know your alma mater—all over again

Jennifer

Jennifer A. Hamlin Church
Associate VP for Advancement &
Director of Alumni Relations
(517) 264-7143
jhchurch@sienaheights.edu

Alumni Calendar

Events & Opportunities

Saturday, June 20: Alumni Picnic in Southfield
A family-friendly event at Civic Center Park.

Tuesday, August 4: Take SHU Out to the Ball Game!
Cheer the Mud Hens at Toledo's Fifth Third Field.

Friday-Sunday, October 9-11: Your Siena HOMECOMING!
It's family weekend, reunion weekend, alumni weekend!

**Late February–Early March 2010: Spend Spring Break
Traveling With Siena!**

- The Holocaust: Eastern Europe
- Sunny Portugal

Watch your mail or contact the alumni office for details on these and other alumni events in your area—
alumni@sienaheights.edu.

catching up

Siena Heights University Alumni Association

Board of Directors 2008-09

Deb Carrington Keller '74, '75 '02
President

Dennis Reeder '78
Vice President

Denise Baldwin '02 (Southfield)
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Katherine A. Cusick '84, '91
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Sarah Baker Korth '82, '97
Michael K. Lane '05
Harold J. Love '08 (On-Line Program)
M. Carleen Maly, OP '68
JoAnn Curtin Monaghan '65
Reginald Moore '83
Daniel Pena '01, '08
Mary Small Poore '76
Theresa Rahn '03 (Benton Harbor)
David G. Stevens '81 (Southfield)
John Stoyka '04 (Southfield)
Carole Sporer Stroh '52
Joanne Warner '83

Elly Teunion-Smith '89
Faculty Representative

Jennifer Heineman '12
Student Representative

Incoming Members for 2009-10:

David Ballenberger '72
Katie Hatch '07
Mary Helen Kloeckner Halley '89
Leslie Love '93
Chad Mannlein '95
Nicholas Oliverio '05



Siena Scenes: Here and Everywhere

1—Rome, Italy: Art professor Chris Reising (right) and Sara Chapman '95 of Chicago share a farewell toast at the end of this spring's "Discover Tuscany" trip.

2—Francoeur Theater: Joseph Mattausch '74 and Ursula Pohl were among the guests at the April 4 alumni dinner theater featuring Doug Miller '74's production of "The Secret Garden."

3—Florence, Italy: Tuscan adventurers Cindy Steih Gonyer '98 (left) of Petersburg, MI, and SHU Trustee Ruth LaFontaine '72 of Pasadena, MD, reach for good luck by touching the nose of the bronze boar before shopping in the Florentine marketplace.

4—Montecatini Terme, Italy: Eileen O'Brien '98 (right) of Denver, CO, was among the Italy travelers who dabbled in Tuscan cooking.

5—Fieldhouse: These future alumni got into the spirit while helping the Alumni Board set up for Siena's first-ever Winterfest on January 31.



class notes

From The Sites

SHU—Battle Creek

Terri Norris '97 was recently elected prosecuting attorney of Branch County, Mich. The attorney will serve a four-year term in the office. After completing her bachelor's degree at SHU's Kellogg campus, she earned a law degree from the Detroit College of Law. She resides in Sherwood, Mich.

SHU—Benton Harbor

Gwendolyn Finney '02, '08/MA was recently named care manager and utilization review nurse at the Borgess-Lee Memorial Hospital in Dowagiac, Mich. Before joining Borgess-Lee, she worked as an MDS nurse coordinator and in long-term care settings.

Shelley Klug '04 was named the executive director of the Southwestern Michigan Economic Growth Alliance. She has worked with the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission for the past seven years as a regional planner. SMEGA is a nonprofit economic development corporation that serves municipalities in the Buchanan, Galien, Niles and Three Oaks areas. She resides in Berrien Springs, Mich.

Sarah Pliml Truhn '05 and Ryan Truhn were married Oct. 25, 2008, at Jordan Tatter Hall in Benton Harbor, Mich. The bride is employed in patient relations at Telluride Medical Center in Colorado. The couple live in Mountain Village, Colo.

Tracy Zielke '06 is currently employed in the Graduate School at the University of Notre Dame in Notre Dame, Ind. She resides in South Bend, Ind.

SHU—Monroe

Angela Bomia '03 was appointed to the Board of Directors at Monroe County Community College. She is employed as an assistant vice president and branch manager at Monroe Bank & Trust and resides in Erie, Mich. Her appointment began Nov. 17, 2008, and is a two-year term.



Sara Everett Swiergosz '05 was promoted to assistant vice president in the retail division of Fifth Third Bank. She manages Fifth Third's two centers in Monroe, Mich. In addition, she is the retail market manager

for Monroe, which includes overseeing the daily operations of three Monroe area banking centers. She joined Fifth Third in 2001, and also serves on the board of directors of the Monroe branch of the American Red Cross. She resides in Monclova Township, Ohio.

SHU—Online

David Filipiak '07 was inducted into the Lapeer (Mich.) Community Schools' Hall of Honor Sept. 13, 2008. Filipiak is a longtime basketball coach for Lapeer West High School, and is owner of Sky Electric Co. He and wife, Michele, reside in Lapeer.

Jason Medina '07 is working as a paramedic for the City of Cleveland (Ohio) Department of Public Safety. He resides in Lorain, Ohio.

Darric Roesler '08 ran for a spot on the District 1 Muskegon County Board last fall. He is employed as a firefighter/paramedic for the city of Muskegon, Mich., and also is a part-time police officer for the city of Whitehall. He resides in Montague, Mich.

SHU—Southfield

Marie VanHuyse '99 is a health science teacher at Warren Woods-Tower High School and has helped organize a health science consortium with three other area high schools. VanHuyse is a registered nurse who has worked in labor/delivery units most of her nursing career. She is currently working on her master's degree at Oakland University.

Rebecca Cassel Sheridan '00 and her husband, Phil, announced the birth of twin daughters, Avery and Emelia, on Nov. 6, 2008. The family resides in Chicago, Ill.

Yolanda Gordon Crump '02 is employed as a budget and financial analyst with the U.S. Postal Service. She resides in Lathrup Village, Mich.

Main Campus

1940s

Betty Theisen '44 of St. Joseph, Mich., spent a morning in December with SHU Alumni Director Jennifer Hamlin Church and Dean for Professional Studies Deb Carter (**below**). During their visit, she shared her Siena Heights photo album, which was made for her as a graduation gift by theater professor Sister Leonilla, a mentor of hers at Siena. Betty taught high school English and drama in St. Joseph for 40 years before her retirement.



1950s

Liz Geyer '52 of East Marion, N.Y., connected with many other class members this past winter as they mourned the Nov. 21 death of Beatrice Decker Evans '52 of Warren. Bea was a huge Siena fan, calling her time at Siena Heights the best years of her life. Bea raised four children by herself, developed a late-in-life career teaching autistic children and was active to the end, Liz reports.

Jane Korte Waldo '53 and her husband, Rondel Waldo, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Dec. 27, 2008. Jane retired in 1992 from the Adrian Public Schools' Adult Education Program. She was also past president of the Siena Heights Alumni Association. The couple has three children and six grandchildren. They reside in Hudson, Mich.

Pilar Cruz Lujan '55 writes from Guam: "I'm extremely busy as president of the Government of Guam Association of Retired Persons (GGARP). My major project now is to acquire government property and build a multi-generational building to benefit the elderly. I am seeking federal funds through the "Obama Stimulus" package to make things happen. Years ago when I was in the legislature, I successfully acquired land and built a nice office and small assembly room. Hopefully, I can acquire the adjacent lot and build recreational and educational facilities for the ever growing elderly population."

1960s

Beatrice McGlone Player '61 writes from Australia with the sad news of the death of her husband, Murray, on March 21. "I am thankful for the 40 years of our happy marriage and the two sons (Mark and Adrian) that blessed it. Murray was a wonderful husband and father," said Beatrice.

Kitty Kelley Metzger '67 is employed as the district manager for the Atlanta region of e-Play, which is headquartered in Columbus, Ohio. Kitty and husband Mike celebrated their 40th anniversary at the beach with their family, including three daughters and six grandchildren.

1970s

Deborah Morisett Gugala '74 and her husband, Gary, (**right**) have been commissioned officers in The Salvation Army for 11 years, and were recently promoted to captains. The couple has served in appointments in Michigan, Iowa, Missouri and Indiana, and are currently stationed for one year of advanced training in Chicago. In June, they will become the administrators of an adult rehabilitation center somewhere in the Midwest, working with addicted men in various stages of recovery. The couple has three grown children. She said she is on Facebook under her married name and would love to reconnect with classmates.

1980s

John Detro '85 moved to Fort Bragg at the U.S. Army Special Operations Command. He will be the first military physician's assistant to ever attend the resident Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. The course will last one year. Detro is approaching 22 years of service with the U.S. Army and has no plans of retiring. He was recently presented with the Defense Meritorious Service medal for service to his unit and his third Bronze Star medal for his latest deployment to Iraq. He was also part of the 1983-84 cross country team that was inducted last fall into the SHU Athletic Hall of Fame. Detro was unable to attend the ceremony but spoke to those attending via phone from Iraq. He and his wife, Moraima, reside in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, with their three children.

Joseph Graves '87 was a candidate for the Genesee (Mich.) County Board of Commissioners last fall. Retired from General Motors, he is currently the co-owner J&D Select Properties and serves as clerk for Argentine Township.

Laura Clifford Ranson '89 and her husband, Jim, reside in Cadillac, Mich., with their four sons, Dylan, Ethan, Gavan and Aidan.

1990s

Scott Dienes '90 was elected president of the Berrien County (Mich.) Bar Association, a group which has approximately 200 attorneys. Dienes is a partner with DeFrancesco Dienes P.C. and focuses his practice on zoning and land use, municipal law and public finance matters. He is also a member of the SHU Board of Trustees. He and his wife, Amy, reside in Stevensville, Mich.

Crystal Mullins Van Sickle '90 ran last fall as a candidate for the Michigan State University Board of Trustees. She ran as a member of the U.S. Taxpayers Party and is employed as an accounting manager for SOAR Technologies in Ann Arbor, Mich. She resides in Wellston, Mich.



Vicki Luibrand '91 was recently recognized by Cambridge Who's Who, a publisher of executive, professional and entrepreneur biographies, for showing dedication, leadership and excellence in all aspects of spiritual healing. A healer for the Believe in Health center, which provides natural alternatives to improve health, she is also employed as a senior analyst in the Systems and Technologies division at Macy's. She also sits on the board of director of the Foundation for Paranormal Research. She resides in Lawrenceville, Ga.

Judith Holcomb '92 recently had her artwork displayed at the Crosswell Opera House Gallery in Adrian, Mich. The artist paints under the name "J. Ann," and has a particular interest in wildlife themes. She is employed as the education coordinator at the Lenawee Soil Conservation District. She and her husband, Mark, reside in Tecumseh, Mich.

Stay In Touch!

The Class Notes section is compiled from news clippings as well as your notes, photos, letters, emails and phone calls. We welcome updates from graduates of all SHU locations.

Send your news to:

alumni@sienaheights.edu

Or snail mail to:

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

Or call us anytime at:

(517) 264-7143 or (800) 693-0506

Lynne Rossi Duncan '93 is a teacher at Airport Community Schools in Carleton, Mich. She and her husband, Jason, have two children, Dominic and Isabella, and reside in Monroe, Mich.

Mark Haines '94 is the owner of a metalsmithing studio in the Midland, Mich., area. He is trained in everything from jewelry and fine metals to blacksmithing and fabrication. He has created many functional items for the home, but has recently branched out into sculpture.

The Rev. Dr. Susan King '94 is a new member of the Genetic Alliance Council. She is an ordained interfaith minister specializing in the connections between life sciences and society. In addition to years of experience in genetics and interfaith dialogue. Currently, the Rev. Dr. King is the associate director for the Life Science and Society Program at the University of Michigan. She specializes in ethical and social justice issues in genetics, on which she teaches and presents regularly. She is also an interfaith minister and spiritual counselor at the Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth. She is a member of the Genetics Equity Network and the American Public Health Association Genomics Forum. She earned her doctorate in ministry from the Graduate Theological Foundation, and anticipates completing a doctorate in pastoral psychology in 2009. She has been trained in shamanistic traditions and has also received fellowships from Oxford University.

Maureen Freshcorn '96 is teaching English at Blissfield (Mich.) High School. She and her husband, Josh, have two children, Connor and Emma.

Amy Cousino Hinkle '96 married Sean Hinkle last year in Las Vegas at the Venetian Hotel. The couple resides in Novi, Mich.

Jeff Condon '97 and his wife, Cara, announced the birth of a daughter, Ashley, who was born Nov. 14, 2008. The family resides in Adrian, Mich.

Russ Stringfellow '97 and his wife, Michelle, welcomed the birth of a son, Dylan, Feb. 6, 2008. Russ teaches at a charter school for girls in Detroit. The couple resides in Grosse Pointe Farms, Mich.

Kari Daggett Wright '98 is employed as a social worker. She and her husband, Dwayne, reside in Tampa, Fla.

2000s

Rachel Barrett Green '01 started art therapy classes last fall at Wayne State University. She is employed as a social worker, and recently completed a quilt project with eight adults living in her facility to help them socialize and increase their quality of life. She resides in Warren, Mich.

Michael Nelson '01 opened a franchise office of HomeInstead Senior Care in Monroe County that services seniors in the community. His wife, **Sara (Bronrige) Nelson '02**, is in her second year as a Gifted and Talented teacher at Timberstone Junior High School, Sylvania, Ohio. In spring 2008, she also received her master's degree in education from Bowling Green State University. The couple has two daughters, Joslyne and Chloe, and resides in Toledo, Ohio.

Nathan Bradford '02 was named the varsity girls basketball coach at Onekama (Mich.) High School. Before going back to his alma mater, he taught and coached at Benzie Central High School for the past four years. He is teaching elementary and special education at Onekama. He was a member of the Saints' men's basketball and track programs.

Amber Reau Hotary '02 and Kevin Hotary were married Sept. 7, 2008, at the Loranger Square Pavilion in Monroe, Mich. The bride is employed at the Monroe County clerk's office. The couple resides in Dundee, Mich.

Sadie Carrico '03/MA has started a new business as a career and life coach. She and her husband, Cary, reside in Adrian.

Becky Dore Moyer '03 is employed as an executive assistant and intellectual property manager for Walbro Engine Management. She and her husband, Nick, reside in Cass City, Mich.

Kelly Ostrander Whelan '03 and Chad Whelan were married June 21, 2008, at the First Baptist Church of Adrian. The bride is currently employed at Ann Arbor Greenhills Schools as a math teacher. The couple resides in Tipton, Mich.

Amy Beyer Rosas '05 and her husband, Michael Ryan Rosas, celebrated the birth of their first child, a daughter, Elizabeth Magdalena, on March 30, 2009. She was named for SHU Professor Emeritus Sister Magdalena Ezoe, OP. The couple works together as co-directors of Music Ministries at Raleigh Court United Methodist Church, where Ryan directs the adult choir, the handbell choir, the youth choir and the praise team and Amy directs the children's choirs and teaches music in the church's preschool. Both are also active in the Roanoke Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Ryan is battling cancer and is undergoing chemotherapy. Recent scans are encouraging. The couple resides in Roanoke, Va.

Lynn Beutler Worden '05 married Paul Worden Sept. 20, 2008, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Erie, Mich. Lynn is employed as the assistant materials and logistics manager at OMCC in Toledo, Ohio. The couple resides in Erie with their four children, Dylan, Christopher, Emily and Zachary; and two stepchildren, Britanie and Aaron.

Marina Apostolou '06 is employed as an assistant manager at David's Bridal Co. She resides in Long Beach, Calif.

Kellie Camahan '06 resides in Adrian, Mich., and is employed as a counselor.

Patrick Kaplan '06 made it to the Showcase Showdown on the Price Is Right television show. The episode aired Dec. 22, 2008.

John Gialanella '08 is employed at a local high school and is a freelance graphic designer in Buckeye, Ariz. He moved to Arizona upon graduation and is traveling around the southwest U.S. He was recently accepted into graduate school at the University of Arizona in the hope of one day becoming a teacher.

Alumni Focus

Jason Finley '03 recently received a \$100,000 fellowship from the Rowland Foundation, an organization that focuses on improving and transforming secondary education in Vermont.

Finley, the playspace educator for the Moosalamoo Center, a satellite campus of Otter Valley Union High School in Brandon Vt., was one of five Vermont educators to receive the honor. He will take a sabbatical from teaching beginning in September 2009 to focus on the development of a series of schools within a school.



This plan, to be started in January 2010, calls for students to first enter a freshman academy, where they will be encouraged to be "inquisitive observers within their natural and social communities," Finley said. The junior academy will find students immersed into that world through weekly field studies and community service to give them a sense of connectedness and understanding. Finally, in the third phase, teachers will cultivate students as advocates who better their communities through independent senior projects.

These academies will use an interdisciplinary team teaching approach to education with the curriculum based on the natural surroundings and local communities.

"I believe that the integration of academics and students' communities is essential," Finley said. "By providing a learning environment that encourages direct and personal connections between students, the communities that they come from, and their coursework, we hope to create and cultivate a deeper meaning and relevance in their educational experiences. But beyond education, students will also have the opportunity to discover a real sense of place—a sense of identity and belonging in the places they come from."

In 2008 Finley also received the ING Unsung Heroes Award for innovation and excellence in education. He is a member of Pi Lambda Phi.

Deaths

Sister Mary Meegan, OP '46
Sister Mary Bartholomew Kitko, OP '47
Sister June Marie Howard, OP '50
Sister Elizabeth Schindler, OP '50
Sister Marilyn Brown, OP '52
Beatrice Decker Evans '52
Mary Olsow Boff '53
Sister Mary Guigar, OP '55
Sister Maureen Lathers, OP '59
Rita Morrissey Iott '64
Mae Illeck '69
Theresa Szatalowicz '72
William Smith '87
Eugene Allossery '95

Sister Irene Morence, OP '39, formerly known as Sister John Marie Morence, died Feb. 1, 2009, at the age of 94 at the Dominican Life Center in Adrian, Mich. She received a Bachelor of Philosophy Degree in French from Siena Heights College (University) in 1939, and a Master of Arts Degree in Spanish from Catholic University in Washington, D.C. She spent 36 years ministering in education in the U.S. and the Dominican Republic, including directing the Siena Heights financial aid program from 1970-89.

Father John E. Keefer, OP '72, H'78, Siena Heights College chaplain for nine years (1969-78), died Dec. 17, 2008. He was 79 and in the 52nd year of his priesthood as a Dominican friar.



A creative and dynamic spiritual leader at Siena during a period of great change following the Second Vatican Council, Fr. Keefer also was an active participant in campus life, appearing frequently in college theater

productions and earning a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in ceramics. Describing the "beautiful things" he learned at Siena in a Reflections profile in 1978, he said, "The freedom we have enjoyed, of self expression and academic freedom, were freedoms that people struggled long and hard to give each other. I am so glad that I have shared them." He added, "Every moment and every day and every happening (at Siena), for me, has been a real blessing." He was awarded an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree in 1978. Twenty-five years later, he was a featured guest at Alumni Weekend in 2003, (photo above) when many alumni—including couples he had married—returned to hear him preach.

Fr. Keefer's ministry also included high school teaching, hospital chaplaincy, parish ministry and "itinerant" preaching in many parts of the U.S. For the last eight years, he served at Trinity University in San Antonio, TX, where, even in failing health, he continued to serve as a supply chaplain for various religious. Surviving family members include his nephew, **Michael Donovan '74** of Chicago, IL.

SHU Trustee Emeriti Andy Creamer '79, died Nov. 8, 2008, in his Mt. Pleasant, S.C., home. Creamer, a Korean War veteran, served on the SHU Board of Trustees from 1985-95. He was a longtime bank executive for the Bank of Lansing and the Northern State Bank. He helped orchestrate the merger of the Bank of Lansing with the National Bank of Detroit, now JP Morgan Chase, before retiring in 1992. The former chair of the Oakland County (Mich.) United Way, Creamer was also the former chair of the St. Joseph Hospital Board of Directors and president of the Pontiac Area Urban League. He is survived by four sons.

Give & Receive

In exchange for a gift of cash or appreciated stock, a Siena Heights University Charitable Gift Annuity provides the following benefits:

- guaranteed, partially tax-free, lifetime income stream with attractive payout rates
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- the ability to see your gift at work on the Siena Heights campus

For more information on setting up a Siena Heights Charitable Gift Annuity, call the Advancement Office at: (800) 693-0506.

Or email us at:
advancement@sienaheights.edu.



My Siena



Mary Small Poore '76

Member, SHU Alumni Association
Board of Directors

In many ways, I don't feel like I chose Siena Heights—it was chosen for me in the early 1970s. My oldest sister was an Adrian Dominican at the time, and so Siena Heights and the Dominican Motherhouse were very familiar to me. My older brother came to Siena in 1970—one of the first few men to live on campus.

When it came time for me to select a college, Siena just felt right. I'd spent time on campus with my brother, attending classes and staying in the dorm. My parents were also gently pushing me in the direction of coming to Adrian as well; I think they felt I needed the safety patrol of older siblings!

I've never regretted my decision. Siena Heights provided me with an incredible education – not just in the classroom, but in my day-to-day life.



As small as it was, I still found so much diversity, and my eyes were opened to so many new worlds and ideas. It taught me to be a more critical thinker. I've been able to be gainfully employed in my area of choice since graduation and feel I was totally prepared to do so.

Probably the best feature of Siena Heights University is the sense of home it provides you over the years. I have felt it myself every time I've walked back on campus, but saw it more deeply during Winterfest. My sister returned to campus after being gone for nearly 15 years. She was immediately enveloped by the love and warmth of so many friends and colleagues of her past. It was incredible to witness. She will be back soon! This truly confirmed why Siena Heights University is MY university. ♦

From the SHU Archives: Pictured above is a photo taken in 1957 of the Siena Heights Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Do you have an old Siena Heights photo to share? Do you have a Siena Heights story or testimonial to share? If so, we want to hear from you!

Please email materials to Editor Doug Goodnough at: dgoodnou@sienaheights.edu, or write him at:

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Homecoming!



Friday–Sunday, October 9–11, 2009

It's family weekend, reunion weekend and alumni weekend, all in one.

Things to Do: Saints athletics. Alumni sports. SienaFest! Games and fun for all ages. Savvy Seminars. Campus Tours. Theater, Art, Music.

People to See: Solid Gold Get-together for all 50+ Graduation Classes. 50th Reunion—Class of '59.

Class Reunions: All "4" and "9" Graduation Years. Celebrate with the Sisters.

Memories to Make: "Law&Order: SHU" – A Special Themed Reunion. Alumni & Reunion Banquet. Athletic Hall of Fame Induction. Octoberfest Saturday Night. Sunday Celebration Brunch. Annual Saints Golf Outing.

So Many Reasons to Come THIS YEAR! It's Your Siena Homecoming!

Questions?

SHU Alumni Office: (517) 264-7143 or alumni@sienaheights.edu.

