

# REFLECTIONS

## 90 for the 90th SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

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## from the president



### Raising the Profile of Siena Heights

First of all, I would like to wish you a happy 90th anniversary! During the 2009-10 academic year we are planning to celebrate this special occasion on many different levels. I hope you are able to join us in recognizing the history and tradition of Siena Heights in this extraordinary time.

Can you keep a secret?

OK, it really isn't much of a secret. It's more like a low-key plan at this point. Over the summer our Board of Trustees approved moving forward with a capital fundraising campaign that will target a couple of specific facility needs for the University.

One of these needs is a new outdoor athletic field and track facility that is long overdue for this campus. The other is a new "university center" concept that will serve as a student union and more for our students. Both of these concepts rose to the top of the "need" list that was developed over the past 2 ½ years or so as part of a master planning process for the university. You will be hearing much, much more about this campaign in the coming months. But as I tell our faculty, staff and students, I like to operate in a spirit of transparency, and that includes our alumni and friends as well.

That being said, let's talk a little more about the present. I recently celebrated my three-year anniversary as President, and as I stare out my office window, I reflect on my time here at Siena Heights with pride.

I think I've been proactive in dealing with some of the challenges the University has faced. Despite tough economic times, we've managed to upgrade our campus facilities, expand our academic and athletic offerings and cement

our status as a community partner and leader. To see a prime example of this progress, all you have to do is look a little ways down Siena Heights Drive to our Nursing Building.

Three years ago, a nursing program was nothing more than an ambitious goal. Now, it is close to reality. Last fall, our RN to BSN degree completion program began its first classes, and we should hear very soon if our four-year program has been accredited. In the meantime, SHU nursing has received two separate federal grants. Within the last six months we've had both of Michigan's U.S. senators (Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow) as well as our local U.S. Representative Mark Schauer on our campus to tour the nursing facility.

Through this and other initiatives, we are raising the profile of Siena Heights, and that is a good thing. Three words a college or university president does not want to hear about his or her institution is that we are a "best-kept secret." In this case, secrets are meant to be shared.

I can't tell you the amount of positive feedback I've received from the community about our efforts as an overall institution. As we venture into a new academic year – and our 90th anniversary year as well – my hopes for the future couldn't be higher. Siena Heights University is poised for greatness—and that's no secret! May God continue to bless us in bountiful ways!

Peace,

Sister Peg Albert, OP, PhD  
President



### On Higher Ground

A Campaign for Siena Heights University



# on the inside . . .

## Fall 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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## On the Cover

Siena Heights University celebrates its 90th anniversary during the 2009–10 academic year. To help commemorate the event, a “90 for the 90th” list of people past and present was compiled and included in this issue. Pictured is the patroness of Siena Heights University, St. Catherine of Siena.

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# REFLECTIONS



# from the editor



**90**  
Years  
of excellence  
1919–2009

## 90th List: A Siena Heights History Lesson

It was one of my most daunting tasks as a small-town sports editor. At the end of each high school sports season, I had to sift through statistics, coaches' recommendations and the occasional parental phone call to choose our newspaper's all-area team.

Basically, I had mixed feelings about the whole concept. On one hand, these "all-star" teams were always one of the most anticipated sections our paper produced. To see your name on this list was probably the high point for many of these athletes, whose sports careers often ended at high school graduation.

And I certainly understood that. My goal was to try to have each school represented as fairly as possible as I made my final judgments.

So when the concept of the "90th List" was first discussed by the committee formed to help plan Siena Heights University's 90th anniversary, my mind quickly reverted back to those sports editing days.

How do you choose just 90 people to highlight over a 90-year period? The list could easily have been 900. Our committee cheated a bit by including a couple of families, a husband and wife and even twin brothers in this list. But again, this list was meant to serve as a cross-section representing Siena Heights' past and present; certainly not intended as an "all-star team."

As you browse through this list, I hope you appreciate all the people who have made Siena Heights what it is – whether they are on this list or not. Having been at Siena less than four of those 90 years, while helping to gather the information for this list, I experienced a sort of accelerated orientation.

I learned about the brothers who led a student protest to keep the library open longer hours (they won).

I learned about the numerous Adrian Dominican Sisters who were (and are) truly pioneers and innovators in building Siena Heights into what it is today.

I learned about graduates from our several degree completion centers who are impacting their communities in remarkable fashion.

And I learned about members of our faculty and staff—past and present—who change the lives of our students for the better.

It's humbling, to say the least, to read through this list. Sort of a Clift notes version of Siena Heights history.

As the University embarks on its 90th anniversary during the 2009-10 academic year, I hope this issue will help you reflect on the slice of Siena history you experienced during your time on campus.

Looking at the past always give me hope for the future. And what a past it has been for Siena Heights!

Is it time to select the 100th list yet?

**Doug Goodnough**  
Editor

# from the heights

## Siena Hosts Creative Writing Workshop

A fiction writer and a poet both performed readings from their work as part of Siena Heights University's Creative Writing Workshop, "Writing with the Pros," which was June 24-28. Authors Philip F. Deaver, from Rollins College in Florida, and Siena Heights University faculty member Saleem Peeradina shared the microphone. The event was followed by a question-and-answer session and book signing.



Deaver, (left) writer in residence and director of the writing program at Rollins, publishes widely, and his short stories have appeared in many literary magazines.

His first collection, *Silent Retreats*, won for him the Flannery O'Connor Award for Short Fiction. His work is included in *The Best American Catholic Short Stories*. In addition, Deaver has published a book of poetry (*How Men Pray*) and edited a volume of creative nonfiction essays about America's favorite sport, titled *Scoring from Second: Writers on Baseball*. He returned to Siena this summer to teach the Workshop session on the short story.

Peeradina is the author of three books of poetry: *First Offense*, *Group Portrait*, and *Meditations on Desire*. His work is found in major anthologies of Asian American and World Literature, including *Living in America* and *Contours of the Heart*, and he has read his poetry and given workshops all over the world. Peeradina, a native of Bombay, India, recounted many of his early, formative experiences in his memoir, *The Ocean in My Yard*, published by Penguin Books. He has taught on the Siena faculty for 18 years.

## SHU and MCC Establish Agreement

Siena Heights University and Flint's Mott Community College recently established an articulation agreement that will allow Mott graduates to enter SHU's Bachelor of Applied Science degree program. This agreement is specifically for those Mott Community College Associate of Applied Science graduates who desire or need to complete a baccalaureate degree. "We are pleased to offer Mott Community College graduates the opportunity to

complete their bachelor's degree with Siena Heights University," said SHU President Sister Peg Albert, OP, PhD. "We are excited about this collaboration with Mott Community College." The Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) degree builds on the AAS degree Mott students have completed through college study, work experience and/or training. Degrees are available in allied health, public safety, technical and other specialized occupational fields.

## Emergency Services School Held on Campus

Siena Heights hosted the first Lenawee County Emergency Services School July 11-12. Emergency First Responders throughout southeastern Michigan and northwestern Ohio were invited to earn continuing education credits in a variety of fire and medical seminars designed to better enable them to perform vital functions in their communities. The goal was to offer these educational opportunities at no cost to the participants. The Services School was a concept developed by Siena Heights University, ProMedica Transportation Network, Adrian City Fire Department and Huron Valley Ambulance. This program was also made possible as a collaborative effort with The Lenawee County Fire Chiefs Association and The Lenawee County Medical Control Authority Board. There were more than 40 seminars offered during the two-day school.

## SHU and Leeds Trinity Make Agreement

Siena Heights University has officially entered into an exchange agreement with England's Leeds Trinity All-Saints University. This agreement will enable students from LTASU and Siena Heights to take classes at the other's institution at reduced rates. Min Li, a representative from Leeds Trinity, visited the Siena Heights campus in early June to help formalize the partnership. "We are pleased to partner with Leeds Trinity and look forward to the many opportunities this agreement provides," said SHU President Sister Peg Albert, OP, PhD. "This continues Siena Heights' goal of promoting peace through increased global awareness. These types of agreements will help us continue to build new cultural and educational bridges around the world." "Siena Heights encourages its students

to engage in international study and travel in order to increase their exposure to different cultures and languages," said SHU Director of International Studies Dr. Jennifer Hanson. "The 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." Siena Heights has similar agreements with Yanshan University in China, and Dar Es Salaam University in Tanzania. SHU also is in the process of negotiating agreements with institutions in several countries in South America.

## Siena Substance Abuse Prevention Taskforce Receives State Award

The Siena Heights Substance Abuse Prevention Taskforce received the 2009 State Model Prevention Project Award by the Prevention Network. The award recognized the strong partnership with the county prevention coalition and the late night activity in November 2008 that attracted more than 200 students to an alcohol-free event on the Siena Heights campus during high-risk drinking hours for college students. The event provided information about using The Domino Strategy to reduce alcohol-related problems such as missing class or getting into a fight, and about increasing personal safety and well-being. There was also free food, games and a raffle to encourage students to participate in the all-night activity. The Taskforce, in partnership with the Lenawee Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition, The Lenawee Community Foundation, Adrian Noon Rotary and FACE, supported bringing the The Domino Strategy for Responsible Alcohol Use to Siena Heights and the broader Adrian community. As a national pilot study, The Domino Strategy works to educate current and future users of alcohol in understanding and applying concepts of responsible alcohol use. "The university was honored to be selected to participate in this project," said SHU Dean for Students and Taskforce Chair Trudy McSorley. "As the only college in the pilot study, we hoped to be able to reach our student population with real techniques they could use to stay safe."

## Honorary Awards Given At Commencement

Commencement ceremonies at Siena Heights University were conducted May 3 in the SHU Fieldhouse on the main campus. This was the official celebration for students on the Adrian campus and for students in Siena's Southfield, Monroe, Port Huron, Battle Creek, Ann Arbor, Jackson, Lansing and Distance Learning programs. Receiving honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degrees at this year's ceremony were Dr. Musun David Li and Dr. Vincent Murray, while Father Gustavo Gutierrez, OP, received the university's highest award, the Siena Medal.



Dr. Li, a native of China, has had a distinguished teaching career in the areas of electronic engineering and computer technology and has worked to foster greater international and intercultural understanding with his students.



Dr. Murray is the co-founder and executive director of the Bagley Housing Association, a Detroit-area organization that provides housing options for low and moderate income families.



Father Gutierrez, a native of Peru, is known as the Father of Liberation Theology, a concept which takes into account the experience of the poor and oppressed in light of the Gospel.

A separate commencement ceremony was also conducted in Benton Harbor.

## SHU at JCC Holds Annual Public Safety Appreciation Event

Siena Heights University at Jackson Community College sponsored its second annual Public Safety Appreciation Event July 15 at the Summit Township Fire Department in Jackson. Those attending were treated to a barbecue lunch and also learned about all of Siena's public safety degree opportunities.

## Honors Convocation Applauds Students, Faculty and Staff

Siena Heights conducted its annual Honors Convocation April 24 in Lumen Ecclesiae Chapel. Psychology faculty member Jeffrey Lindstrom received the Eileen Rice Award for Outstanding Teaching, while seniors Kati Saul and Kim Stoutenberg were named the Outstanding Undergraduate Students. Gail Ryder was chosen for the Jack Bologna Award for Innovative Teaching. Two retiring faculty members, Sister Jeanne Lefebvre, OP, and Ann Lauderdale, were given faculty emeriti distinction, while earning this year's Staff Excellence Awards were Jeremy Frew and Doris Hubbard.



Jeffrey Lindstrom, winner of the Eileen Rice Award for Outstanding Teaching, with Sister Sharon Weber, OP, Vice President for Academic Affairs.



Seniors Kim Stoutenberg and Kati Saul, winners of the Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award.



Gail Ryder (right), winner of the Jack Bologna Award for Innovative Teaching, with Deborah Carter, Dean for the College for Professional Studies.



Doris Hubbard and Jeremy Frew, winners of the Staff Excellence Award.

## Battle Creek Faculty Member Releases e-book



Trish Knight, an adjunct faculty member at SHU's Battle Creek center, has released a new e-book entitled *Living a Life of Integrity in 10 Daily Steps*.

In this self-help book, Knight imparts her opinion and perception about a life of integrity. She entwines daily actions with experience, humor and example. Knight opened a training and consulting business in 1997, and specializes in helping small business and non-profits to create comprehensive communication plans. At Siena she teaches Communication Skills for Managers.

For more information visit her website at: [www.knightconsultingandtraining.com](http://www.knightconsultingandtraining.com).

## Siena Heights Offers Fall Teaching Conference

The Siena Heights Teacher Education Program invites high school juniors and seniors to "Teach and Reach," a mini-conference exploring teaching options and opportunities, Nov. 6 on the Adrian campus. The conference will help students learn of the options and opportunities available to individuals pursuing careers in teaching. The all-day workshop includes several sessions as well as "mock college classes" that will allow those attending to get first-hand experience with college subjects in which they might be interested. Cost is \$15 per student, however, teachers are invited to attend with their student at no extra cost. The deadline for registering is Oct. 23 or until the workshop is full. To register, or for more information, please call (517) 264-7890.

## McSorley Honored with Athena Award



Siena Heights University Dean for Students Trudy McSorley was honored with the Athena Award May 19. The Athena Award, chosen each year by the Lenawee Community Foundation,

honors women and men who excel in their chosen field, have devoted time and energy to the community in a meaningful way, and who also open paths so that others may follow. Mentoring is a significant part of the award criteria. McSorley has been involved in many community initiatives, including chairing the Adrian Area Chamber of Commerce's Town and Gown initiative, which focuses on areas of collaboration between the colleges and the community. She was also instrumental in the Athena Lenawee mentoring program at Siena.

# saints highlights

## Men's Volleyball Goes To Intercollegiate Level

Siena Heights University's men's volleyball program will compete in a conference as it becomes an intercollegiate sport next year. The Saints will make the jump from club to intercollegiate program in 2010 as a member of the Mid-America Men's Volleyball Intercollegiate Conference. The MAMVIC includes schools from throughout the country, including Wisconsin, Iowa, Missouri, Illinois, Florida and Colorado.

The Saints have 15 varsity athletic programs that compete in Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference, however, the WHAC does not currently offer a conference championship in men's volleyball. With Siena Heights' addition, the MAMVIC will have 13 member schools divided into East and West divisions. "This is a great opportunity for the men's volleyball program to join MAMVIC, which is the top conference in the NAIA and one of the best in



all of small college athletics," said SHU Athletic Director Fred Smith. "This is a big step for our young program, but under Coach Mike Watkins' leadership, we have shown that we can compete successfully at the club level. It is now important that we continue to raise our level to compete in this fine conference."

The men's program, which operated as a club sport during its inaugural season last spring, finished 27-8 including victories over larger schools such as the University of Michigan, Michigan State University, Bowling Green State University and the University of Pittsburgh. Smith said joining this conference will allow the Saints to compete in the NAIA's national invitational tournament, which may eventually become a national championship event under the NAIA. "Joining the MAMVIC gives our program instant credibility," said SHU men's volleyball coach Mike Watkins. "The opportunity to compete for a conference championship will give our volleyball team a direction and a purpose that staying independent would not have been able to provide."

## Fred Smith Selected as the WHAC Athletic Director of the Year



SHU Athletic Director Fred Smith was selected the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference (WHAC) Athletic Director of the Year for 2008-09. The honor is voted upon annually by all athletic directors in the conference. Smith has been at the helm of SHU athletics since 1983 and oversees a department of 27 coaches and staff. It is the second time Smith has won the award; the first was for the 2000-01 academic year. Along with facility improvements, branding has been a major focus for Smith this year. With the renovation of the lockerrooms, Smith added strategically placed logos and signage. He also gave approval for a new athletics Web site to better represent the programs. Smith introduced two new sports and full-time coaches for each sport. Men's volleyball and men's lacrosse participated as club teams before becoming full varsity programs in fall of 2009. At the national level, Smith is an active member of National Association of College Athletic Directors (NACDA) and NAIA-Athletic Directors Association. He serves on the national oversight committee for men's basketball. Regionally, he was an integral part of the selection committee for a new WHAC commissioner.



visit our athletics website at [www.shusaints.com](http://www.shusaints.com)

## Baseball Program Gets Most Wins in 10 Years

The Saints' baseball program recorded more wins in more than a decade, finishing 19-33 on the season. Junior outfielder Mark Pauwels (**at bat below**) led the way, batting .337 with four home runs and a team-high 33 RBI to earn first team All-Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference honors. He was also named to the conference's Gold Glove Team.

Two freshmen, shortstop Cory Lehman and pitcher Brett Kuebler, both from Toledo (Ohio) Central Catholic High School, were chosen to the league's honorable mention squad. Junior pitcher Chris Boertje (read more about Chris in this issue of Reflections), earned the team's Champions of Character award from the conference. Finally, junior first baseman Nelson "Spike" Holliday was named as an NAIA Scholar Athlete for the second straight year. The Toledo, Ohio, native is a social studies education major. NAIA Scholar Athletes must carry a cumulative gpa above 3.50 and must be at least a junior academically. Holliday also earned a spot on the WHAC All-Academic Team.



## Saints Softball Players Collect WHAC Honors



Junior catcher Jess Singletary led the Saints' softball team in almost every offensive category last spring to earn first team All-Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference honors. Singletary (**left**) batted .354 with seven home runs, 10 doubles and 33 RBI in 54 games. Sophomore Tami Ross was named the team's Champions of

Character, while SHU head coach Laura Klutsarits was selected as the Champions of Character coach. Junior outfielder Hillary Day also earned a spot on the WHAC All-Academic Team. The Saints finished 13-46 on the season.

## Track Ends Year with Strong Performance

The Siena Heights track and field team ended its year with a strong performance at the NAIA National Outdoor Championships. The highlight for the Saints was the men's 4x800 meter relay team of Kent Laskowsky, Jesiah Rodriguez, Adrian Simmons and Luke Pawlaczyk. The foursome shattered the previous school record by four seconds, ending in a time of 7:36.64 to finish third. Their effort earned them All-American honors.

For Pawlaczyk (**leading left**), a senior, it was his ninth All-American honor, which is a Siena Heights athletics record. Pawlaczyk also finished third in the 800 meter run with a time of 1:50.22, while senior Chris Bullard finished 10th in the high jump. For the women, Sierra Brown finished 11th in the high jump and Jessica Stasa 14th in the discus.



## New Class to Be Inducted into Hall of Fame

The Saints Athletic Hall of Fame will induct five individuals and a team into its ranks during Homecoming festivities Oct. 10. The inductees are:

### Cleo Hayes '80 (Men's Basketball)



Considered the first "great" player in Saints men's basketball history, he is the only four-year captain in the program's history and was also a member of the first men's team. Hayes was the MVP of the 1979-80 season, Siena's first winning season, with a record of 24-6. Hayes finished his career ranked second in all-time points with 1,246 and had many assists and steals.

### Byron Johnson '00 (Men's Basketball)



Johnson was a part of the best guard duo in SHU history, paired up with fellow Hall of Famer Anthony Staffney. Johnson helped the Saints win three straight conference championships and finished 58-16 in his final two seasons. In 1996-97, Johnson was a part of the Saints team that finished second in the NAIA. Johnson still ranks highly in nearly every statistical category, currently eighth in scoring, fifth in steals and 11th in assists.

### Kelly Canino Lupo '91 (Women's Soccer)



Lupo (Canino) was a prolific scorer, ending her career with 40 goals and 113 points. She led the Saints in scoring for two seasons and was a member of the only team in SHU history to be ranked No. 1 in the NAIA national poll. She was one of two SHU players to be named to the 1988 NAIA National Championship All-Tournament Team. She was honored as a second team NAIA All-American in 1988.

### Kathi Frank (Coach)



Frank coached and taught at Siena Heights for 17 years. She is the winningest women's volleyball and women's tennis coach in SHU history. She coached the volleyball team to two second-place finishes in District 23 and coached two No. 1 singles players and one doubles team to the NAIA National Championships. The volleyball team still gives out the annual Kathi Frank Award to the upperclassman who best exemplifies the spirit of a competitive athlete coupled with high achievement in the academic environment.

### J Nyack '99 (Men's Track and Field)



Nyack was the 1999 NAIA national indoor track champion in the 200 meter dash. Ten years later, Nyack still holds the school record in both the indoor and outdoor 200 events. In 1998, Nyack was honored with his first NAIA All-American honor after finishing fourth in the indoor 200. He is one of only five SHU student-athletes to win an indoor national track event.

### 1996-97 Men's Basketball Team



The 1996-97 squad was the third team in SHU history to win 30 games in a season and made it to the NAIA national championship game, eventually finishing second in the nation.

The Saints were ranked in the top 10 nationally the entire season, won a share of the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference regular season title and also claimed SHU's 10th Maple City Classic Tournament championship.

# From the Ballfield to the Battlefield

Story written by Scott McNeish — The Adrian Daily Telegram



## Chris Boertje Returns from Tour in Iraq to Pitch for Saints

**H**ear the stories, the terror tales, the emotional overload, and it becomes clear why his coach sees increased awareness since his return.

Over there, far away, he had no choice but to develop it. Not if he wanted to stay alive.

Even on a simple drive, he had to keep a sun-blinded eye on everything bordering the baking street. Every clump of trash. Stones. Bushes. Bundles of sticks. Boxes. Forgettable objects that likely wouldn't threaten most U.S. citizens.

He had to pay attention. Because he never knew when one might explode.

"There were some really scary times," he said.

Siena Heights starting pitcher Chris Boertje traded his cleats for boots, ball cap for a combat helmet, gold jersey for desert camouflage. His new teammates donned body armor, instead of chest protectors.

Years back, on the athletics fields of Livonia Franklin High School, he was a Patriot hero.

For almost a year on the battlefields in Iraq, this young man became a heroic patriot. He escaped a jam unlike any other.

"All we could do was try to support him, pray for him, and keep our fingers crossed that he would return to us," Siena Heights baseball coach John Kolasinski said. "Fortunately, he has."

### The Day He Found Out

Military work is the roots of the Boertje family tree. Chris' father, grandfather and great-grandfather served in the armed forces. His father, Michael, did 20 years active duty in the U.S. Army, spending 11 1/2 years in Germany.



It seemed natural for Boertje to join.

"Growing up, my dad always came home wearing a uniform," he said, "and I thought that was pretty cool."

After graduating from Franklin High, he decided to join the National Guard, which requires work on weekends during the school year and several weeks in the summer.

"I joined for a few reasons," Boertje said. "One, to do my part as a civilian and as a soldier. There's not a lot of soldiers out there, so the more the merrier. Two, I had something to fall back on if something happened with school."

"I ended up getting a scholarship to Siena Heights. Me and my dad talked about joining the Guard, and I signed up for six years."

He completed basic training in the summer of 2007. The day he finished, though, after finalizing necessary paperwork, he received some news. Life-changing, unavoidable news.

"They said we would be deployed over to Iraq on November or December of 2007," Boertje said. "Once the war started going on over there, I kind of figured it out that it was going to happen. I played it by ear and did what I was told to do."

At home in Westland, Michael Boertje felt pride for his son. But some nerves, too.

"When I was in Germany, there was still aggression over there, but there were no gunshots or anything like that," he said. "Now it's a different scenario because of 9/11 and the policies of the Bush Administration to take action against the terrorist acts. He would have some action. I never did, so it was a totally different scenario than it was for me."

Everything in Chris Boertje's world suddenly stopped. School. Baseball. Friends. It all went on hold while he packed for three months of U.S. Army pre-mobilization training in Texas. They prepared for specific missions and possible obstacles in the Iraqi deserts. Upon completion of the pre-mob training, the unit received a four-day vacation before its sendoff ceremony and an uncertain future.

"A lot of emotions right there," Michael Boertje said. "He's my only son. I was proud of him. I had pride in him. A lot of fatherly love there."

Next stop: Iraq.



## The Day He Got There

There's only so much Chris Boertje can tell.

He couldn't reveal many specifics. Most classified as top-secret information and punishment would ensue should they end up in print. The information he could give, however, painted a clear picture of both the everyday danger and saddening detachment from family and friends.

He still remembers his first steps on Iraqi soil. The desert sun caused the ground to roast. He trudged into the thick, damp heat and scanned the foreign landscape.

"We had to look out for obstacles anywhere, in the road or on the side of the road. It was scary," Chris Boertje said. "I had butterflies in my stomach. I was able to talk myself down and prepare myself, knowing what could happen and what can happen."

"All the training we did prepared us for anything that could happen, so we knew what to do. So that made me feel a little better."

He still remembers the patrol drives. His unit considered every inanimate object a potential threat.

"On the main road, there's stuff all over the side of the road," Chris Boertje said. "You don't know what it is. It could blow up. It could destroy your vehicle. Bad stuff could happen. There was a lot to worry about just driving down a road."

His family and friends still remember the diluted conversations via telephone or Internet. He couldn't say much, just that he was doing OK.

"It was difficult at times, because our conversations were very limited," Kolasinski said. "He didn't always have email access, and what he could say, he had to be very careful in what he said. He could only hint that he was coming back at such-and-such a time. He couldn't give any dates, because they would eliminate that from an email in case it fell into the wrong hands."

Kolasinski hung Chris Boertje's No. 4 jersey in the Siena dugout every game during the 2008 season. He said the situation put life into perspective for him and his team.

"Difficult things happen," Kolasinski said. "When you're involved in athletics, you have a close group, and then suddenly you have to look outside the team box. It's part of the growing-up process. You realize there are other things than baseball going on. Someone in their family can serve, or they can serve, there can be deaths—lots of stuff. "It isn't all fun and games. There's a completely different world."

Chris Boertje maintained communication with friends through instant messaging. He credits close friend Ashley Hubbard with helping him most.

"He probably talked to people back here about once a week," Hubbard said. "He couldn't say what was going on, but it was better than no confirmation at all."

"He talked about all the wear and tear he was going through. He would work something like 18 hours on his missions and not get a lot of sleep. He always said how tired he was. He wasn't getting sleep, and he was getting really stressed."

Chris Boertje talked to his parents by telephone. The calls, though, weren't predictable. Michael Boertje and his wife, Andrea, would sometimes hear from him every few days, while other times, he would call every few weeks.

And the worst part: He couldn't say when he could call next. His parents waited and wondered.

"It's like a puzzle, and you have to put the pieces together," Michael Boertje said. "You can read the news, watch the news on TV. Sometimes you can pick up on the military terminology. You put the pieces together, and you come up with a possible scenario about what's going on."

After almost a year of service, Chris Boertje finally learned a timeframe for his return to the U.S. Nothing official, though. Some time around December 2008. But it at least hinted that he neared the finish line.



"It wasn't official until we actually got on the plane to come back," he said.

Chris Boertje's return timeframe didn't cause his mother and father to exhale just yet. Twenty years in the military taught Michael Boertje otherwise.

"I was not going to be excited until I learned his plane had landed in the United States," he said. "Anything could happen. I had a friend in Germany who I knew for about three years, and he had the weekend off and you come back Monday and the guy's dead. I had another friend who died in a military motor vehicle accident. It tipped over on a road that was next to a ravine, and something went wrong, and just like that he was underneath a 12-ton vehicle."

"Once I learned his plane landed in the state of Maine, that's when I had tears of joy in my eyes."

## The Day He Came Back

The plane did land, but the experience did not end when the wheels halted.

"It would be another week or so before I stepped foot in Michigan," Chris Boertje said. "We had to go through all the outprocessing. There was a lot of classes we had to go through, a lot of medical things we had to go through again. It went by really smooth. It was very exciting just to be back."

*continued on the next page*

*continued from page 9*

A welcome home ceremony took place at the Light Guard Armory in Detroit. A crowd of approximately 500, including Chris Boertje's parents, grandparents and Hubbard, watched as each platoon made its entrance.

Chris Boertje's unit marched in first. Tears flowed. His family could finally exhale.

After introductions of each platoon and a guest speaker, the soldiers were released. Some, as Michael Boertje pointed out, had new surprises.

"I saw other men there and their wives were holding 9-month-old babies," he said. "When they left their wives were pregnant. And when they came back they had another child in their hands."

Chris Boertje greeted his family and friend with a big smile, and he spent a stress-free first day back.

After all, he earned it.

"I'm very proud of him," Michael Boertje said. "He's got something over me that I never did in 20 years. He was in combat. I can't say nothing to him now. I'm a bit too old to go out there and play in the sand."

Boertje has made a seamless transition back to his normal routine, and he said baseball is a key reason. Last spring he reentered the Saints' rotation and led the team in innings pitched and strikeouts, finishing with a 3-6 record.

College baseball also gave him a 50-person support group. That's where Kolasinski noticed, aside from enlarged upper-body muscle mass, Boertje's increased awareness.

"You can see a concentration level that he didn't have before," Kolasinski said. "And one of the other things I've noticed is he's much more aware of what's going on around him. College players in their first or second year, their minds can drift. He's very, very focused. He's very aware of what's going on around him."

More importantly, though, he made Siena Heights more aware of the world around it.

"It makes us see that our problems that we deal with everyday in our office aren't anything compared to what's going on out there," SHU Athletic Director Fred Smith said. "What's starting a volleyball team or whatever compared to what they're doing?"

"It puts things in perspective for everybody, and we're glad he made it back OK." ♦



## 90 for the 90th

Many people have shaped Siena Heights since its beginnings in 1919. In celebration of the institution's 90th anniversary, meet a cross-section (in no particular order) of some of those who have helped make Siena Heights University what it is today.



1

### St. Catherine of Siena

The name Siena Heights honors St. Catherine of Siena, a 14th century Italian Dominican who dedicated her life to a quest for truth and social responsibility. St. Catherine was one of the most brilliant theological minds of her day, although she never had any formal education. She is the patroness of Siena Heights University and a Doctor of the Church, and her letters, and a treatise called “a dialogue” are considered among the most brilliant writings in the history of the Catholic Church. She died in 1380 at age 33.



2

### Rick Haller

Rick Haller '07 completed his bachelor's degree and certificate in Theological Studies from Siena Heights in 2007. He is president and COO of Detroit-based Walbridge, one of the largest construction companies in the country. He has put his experience and knowledge toward working with other colleagues to influence their business practices, especially in regard to ethics. He is someone who has a deep understanding and conviction of what it means to live as a Catholic Christian serving his family, his parish and his work in an ethical and exemplary manner.



3

### Rosemarie Van d'Elden Birman

After growing up in Germany where her father worked for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Rosie's family got out just in time; and in 1943, she was on a train to college in a new “foreign” land: Michigan. Studying at Siena Heights during World War II, Rosie '47 forged lifelong friendships. “My English wasn't very good, but everyone helped me.” So after successfully pioneering her way as a woman in the emerging field of computer technology, Rosie has helped Siena, volunteering time and talent, and generously supporting today's students and technology.



4

### Father John Keefer

Father John Keefer served as Siena Heights chaplain for nine years from 1969-78. Known as a creative and dynamic spiritual leader at Siena, 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. He was awarded an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree in 1978, and 25 years later, was a featured guest at Alumni Weekend, when many alumni – including couples he had married – returned to hear him preach. He died Dec. 17, 2008.



5

### Sister Peg Albert

Sister Peg Albert, OP became the first Adrian Dominican Sister to serve as president in nearly 30 years when she arrived in 2006. Her mantra of “Be Bold. Think Higher.” included a focus on academic excellence. In fact, one of her first initiatives was beginning a nursing program that is currently instructing its first students on campus. Someone who prefers to greet people with a hug instead of a handshake, Sister Peg is a believer in global education. Her focus on international students and peacemaking has also marked her presidency.



6

### Mike Dawson

Dr. Mike Dawson is a current SHU Board of Trustees member who had a long and distinguished career as an orthopedic surgeon. He has served as the long-time team physician for the Saints, and his generosity allowed the university to complete the Dawson Fitness Center, which was named in his honor. He continues to be a strong supporter of the university.



7

### Robert Price

Robert Price is a former Board of Trustees member who has been one of the most supportive friends of the university for many years. The owner of the Adrian-based Primore/Sedco businesses, Price currently is a Trustee Emeritus who continues to stay involved with Siena Heights. Through his generosity many university projects and initiatives have been completed, including the recent renovation of the athletic locker rooms.



8

### Pilar Cruz Lujan

Pilar Cruz Lujan '55, a native of Guam, has distinguished herself not only as an educator, but also as a legislator, civic and church leader in her native country. For five decades, she served the people of Guam, helping to guide and shape her country's government. She was elected six times to the Guam Legislature, and has authored legislation ensuring the rights of women, children and victims. She helped establish the appellate Superior Court of Guam, and received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from SHU in 2006.



9

### Sister Pat Schnapp

Sister Pat Schnapp has become one of the most recognizable faces on the Siena Heights campus for more than two decades. The longtime English professor, author and poet has made her mark as an outstanding teacher, however, she is also known for her work outside of the classroom. She was a major factor in beginning the Share the Warmth project in Adrian that helps the homeless. Sister Pat is also active in prison ministry. She teaches English classes to prisoners at the nearby Gus Harrison Correctional Facility in Adrian.



10

### Margaret Scholz Noe

The Honorable Margaret Noe '75 served as an assistant prosecuting attorney for more than 20 years, working to prosecute neglect and abuse cases. In 2005 she was appointed Lenawee Circuit Court probate judge by Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm. In 2008 she was elected Lenawee County Circuit Court judge. She currently serves as the chair of the SHU Board of Trustees. Because many of the cases she has presided over involve children and family issues, she is focused on improving the educational system. Noe also is an adjunct faculty member at SHU.



11

### Joel Parrish

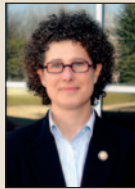
Joel Parrish '10 has already established himself in the computer industry even before his graduation from Siena Heights. Last spring he helped start the Computer Physics United student group on campus that garnered national attention for their work with multi-touch computer screen technology. He is known as one of Siena's best and brightest students, and works part-time in the Computer Services and Systems department at SHU. He also is a standout on the Saints' men's soccer team.



12

### Denise Washington

Denise Washington '00, '05/MA is a true Siena Heights success story. As a non-traditional student raising four children in Battle Creek, she completed both her bachelor's and master's degrees from Siena's Kellogg Center. She is currently a leader in the Battle Creek community, serving on the boards of Neighborhoods Inc., the United Way and the Battle Creek Community Foundation. Last spring she received the President's Volunteer Service Award and the Dorothy Richardson Award for Resident Leadership. She also is an adjunct professor at SHU's Kellogg Center.



13

### Gabrielle Davis

Gabrielle Davis '85 is an accomplished lawyer and a professor at the University of Toledo's College of Law, and is using her legal expertise to help victims of domestic violence. The 2009 Sister Ann Joachim Award winner 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.



14

### Richard Artman

Siena's 9th President entered Siena Heights in 1994 preaching an atmosphere of "Betterment." A tireless worker who took Siena's fundraising to a new level, Dr. Artman helped transition Siena Heights from college to university in 1998. He also completed a successful capital campaign and modernized the Adrian campus, including installing a new phone system. Siena Heights became the first wireless college or university in Michigan under his leadership. He had a knack for remembering faces and names, especially SHU students. He currently is president of Viterbo University in Lacrosse, Wis.



15

### Father David Van Horn

Father David Van Horn was an iconic faculty member in the SHU Art Department. In the words of one of his former students, "he inspired his students to learn and expand their thoughts and thought processes." Known as the "Father of Art history" at Siena, he taught at Siena from 1971-97, and was named Professor Emeritus. After his death in 1999, the Van Horn Memorial Garden outside Studio Angelico was constructed and dedicated, with alums, friends and colleagues of Siena donating to the project.



16

### The Pinheiro Family

Marco Pinheiro '82 is a graduate whose family continues to impact Siena Heights' international emphasis today. After completing his degree in business administration, he used his Siena education to become a successful businessman in his home country of Brazil, where he and his family reside. He was also a member of the Saints' men's soccer team. Pinheiro's son, Raphael, and daughter, Carolina, have both attended Siena Heights to continue the family legacy.



17

### Mother Augustine Walsh

Mother Augustine Walsh, OP served from 1924-33 as the institution's second president. She continued the growth of St. Joseph College with the addition of Old Walsh Hall, which is currently Sage Student Union. The music hall was considered one of the top facilities in the area, known for its acoustics. It now serves as the university's student union.



18

### Sister Beth Butler

The daughter of a former Detroit police officer, Sister Beth Butler, OP '63 is credited with helping begin the criminal justice department at Siena Heights. In fact, she headed the department for several years and developed a reputation for teaching English classes to prisoners at Southern Michigan Prison in Jackson, Mich. Cheerfully calling herself "the nun with a gun," she has long been a proponent for change in the American prison system. In recent years, she has handled security for Dominican Hospital in Santa Cruz, Calif.



19

### Robert Eick

Robert Eick is a 2007 graduate of Siena Heights' Distance Learning Program. He began working for the Port Huron Fire Department in 1978, and after working his way up through the ranks, was appointed chief in 2003. He majored in fire science and multi-disciplinary studies at Siena while still maintaining his position with the department.



20

### John Detro

John Detro '85 was recently named the Army's Physician Assistant of the Year. A veteran of several combat tours in Iraq and the first combat tour in Afghanistan, he also received the Defense Meritorious Service medal for service to his unit and his third Bronze Star medal for his latest deployment to Iraq. He is the first military physician assistant to ever attend the resident Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth. He was a four-time All-American runner and is a SHU Athletic Hall of Fame member and Outstanding Alumni Award Winner.



21

### Rebecca Seitz

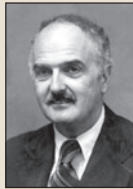
Rebecca Seitz '10 was only one of 10 in the nation to receive a full tuition Clinton Scholarship to study at the American University of Dubai. The Siena Heights art major spent the winter 2009 semester in Dubai. She was the first Siena Heights student ever chosen by the William Jefferson Clinton Foundation for her academic excellence and leadership abilities. She is a member of Habitat for Humanity and is president of the SHU's Visual Artists Society. In addition, Seitz serves as a mentor for Student Support Services.



22

### Sister Jeannine Klemm

Sister Jeannine Klemm, OP '44 chaired and taught in the art department from 1955-88. She was a leading influence in the construction of Studio Angelico in 1966; art students of that era remember carrying equipment to the new building under her direction! Reminders of her artwork remain on campus; several of her metal crucifixes adorn rooms around campus, including the Stimson Science Lecture Hall. The Klemm Gallery was named in her honor. She also established an art-semester-in-Italy program that was coordinated by faculty colleague (and sister) Jean Agnes Klemm, OP.



23

### Louis Vaccaro

Dr. Louis Vaccaro continued the push towards community outreach when he took over as the 7th President of Siena in 1978. The "father" of the Fieldhouse, he helped raise the funds to get Siena's on-campus athletic facility built. A hands-on leader, Vaccaro was a believer in international education and actively recruited students to Siena Heights from around the world, especially China. He helped grow enrollment using a strong business approach, and also built a strong board presence from the corporate world. Dr. Vaccaro is still active for SHU, helping Siena recruit students from China.



24

### Doug Miller

Doug Miller '74 has been a longtime fixture at Siena Heights, starting as a student when he was one of the first male graduates of the college, also affectionately known as the "Dirty Dozen." Miller has since helped build a national reputation for Siena's theater program and currently serves as its program chair. An internationally known set builder, Miller has traveled the world constructing performance sets in locations such as London, England.



25

### Sister Leonilla Barlage

Sister Leonilla Barlage, OP was a professor of English, speech and drama for many years at Siena Heights. Known as an innovator, she established Siena's first radio studio that broadcasted for a local radio station. Sister Leonilla also directed many campus productions, including the annual Lenten play. She also started the "Little Theatre" for class productions.



26

### Jim O'Flynn

Jim O'Flynn '98/MA is an assistant professor of management and has taught at Siena since 1999. He has been Distance Learning coordinator for SHU's College for Professional Studies and has been instrumental in the rapid growth of Siena's online programs. A certified online instructor, he retired from IBM after 30 years. His background in information technology has allowed him to work with a number of positions in marketing, consulting, education and technical support with national and international assignments.



27

### Darrell Issa

Darrell Issa '76, a native of Cleveland, Ohio, has served in the U.S. House of Representatives for California's 49th Congressional District since 1991. Before taking office, he was a successful businessman, starting Directed Electronics, a company that makes the "Viper" car alarm. He attended Siena Heights on an ROTC scholarship and served in the U.S. Army, reaching the rank of captain. The Republican is currently one of the few Arab-Americans in Congress. The former SHU Trustee currently resides in the San Diego, Calif. area.



28

### Deb Carter

Deb Carter joined Siena Heights in 1982 as director of the new degree-completion center in Benton Harbor. Fondly known as “Mother Carter” by early alumni of SHU’s Lake Michigan College Center, Deb taught and advised students while administering Siena’s first on-site partnership with a community college, establishing the model used later in Monroe, Battle Creek, Lansing and Jackson. Now, as Dean of the College for Professional Studies, she is “on the road” constantly, crisscrossing the state overseeing a vibrant and expanding network of off-campus undergraduate academic programs.



29

### Sister Benedicta Marie Ledwidge

Sister Benedicta Marie Ledwidge, OP, who served as Siena Heights president from 1957-65, was known as being very close to her students. So close, in fact, that she and other early faculty members slept in the student dormitories in the early years of St. Joseph College. She was the academic dean from 1934-51, and then was vice president until being named 4th President of the college. During Sister Benedicta’s tenure new facilities were constructed such as Ledwidge Hall and the Science Building.



30

### Martha Hans Palmer

Martha Hans Palmer ’88 is in a class by herself in the history of women’s athletics at Siena Heights. The former hurdler is the only female athlete in Saints history to win a NAIA national championship, doing so as a senior in the 60-yard hurdles in 1988. Martha was a four-time NAIA All-American hurdler from 1986-88 and was a four-time NAIA All-American Scholar-Athlete. She holds every school record (indoor and outdoor) in the hurdle events for the Saints, as well as two fieldhouse records in the 55-meter and 200-meter intermediate hurdles.



31

### Mother Camilla Madden

Born in Ireland in 1854, Mother Camilla Madden came to Adrian in 1892 when she was asked to take over as head of the St. Joseph Province. Originally charged with opening a hospital for railroad workers, her vision expanded to one day to beginning a school. St. Joseph College opened its doors to 29 students in 1919, with Mother Camilla serving as its first president. During Mother Camilla’s presidency the college expanded its facilities, building Sacred Heart Hall in 1922. She served as president until 1924.



32

### Lucas Wells

Lucas Wells went from an impromptu video tape audition to a spot in the cast on the first national tour of Broadway’s No. 1 musical, “Spring Awakening.” While still a sophomore at Siena, the theater/speech and communications major from Lambertville, Mich., earned a spot as an ensemble member and understudy to two leads in the national tour of the Tony Award-winning musical. Wells continues to take classes at Siena while still performing, and has built a national following for his work on tour.



33

### Renato Gonzalez

Renato Gonzalez was a longtime professor of Spanish who developed Siena’s successful Mexico Experience study abroad program. He was the first state director of Bilingual Education in Michigan and the first president of the Michigan Association of Bilingual Education. He taught Spanish since 1963, and his life’s mission was to promote global understanding and peace through language learning and an appreciation of cultural diversity. He encouraged everyone to consider studying a second language. He also helped create the Middle East Studies minor. He passed away Nov. 27, 2007.



34

### Sister Eileen Rice

Sister Eileen Rice, OP ’68 was professor of Education and director of the Education program at Siena Heights from 1975-94. One of the most popular faculty members in the institution’s history, Sister Eileen was known as “a woman of boundless energy” who loved to teach. She had an equal love of cats. The original multi-tasker, she was known to cheer the Saints energetically from the bleachers while simultaneously grading papers and reading a book. The Sister Eileen Rice Award for Outstanding Teaching is named in her honor.



35

### Carl Brown

The only two-time NAIA national champion in the history of Siena Heights athletics, Carl Brown ’95 earned back-to-back national titles in the discus in 1994 and 1995 at the NAIA Outdoor Track & Field Championships. His winning distance of 174 feet in 1995 set a school record. During his Siena career, Carl earned NAIA All-American honors five times, also a school record. He was a runner-up in the shot put at the 1995 NAIA nationals and competed in two U.S. Olympic Track & Field Trials in 1996 and 2000.



36

### Jack Bologna

Jack Bologna was a faculty member at Siena Heights for more than a decade. He was a strategic planner and the SHU Business Department’s “go-to” person for international business and business ethics fundamentals. He also was a recognized expert in forensic accounting and computer-based fraud. However, those who worked and learned with him remember him first and foremost as a dedicated and innovative teacher. In 2004, Siena Heights University established an award in his name honoring his innovative teaching style. He passed away in 2006 at age 77.



37

### Halo the Husky

Halo the Husky arrived on campus Dec. 6, 2008, during a pep rally before the annual Adrian/Siena Heights men's basketball game. He officially became Siena's first athletic mascot, being chosen after a vote from the student body. Halo has rapidly developed a loyal following and is becoming a fixture not only at athletic events, but in the community as well.



38

### Anthony Scioly

Anthony Scioly is in his 24th year at Siena Heights as professor of Chemistry. Known as a challenging but fair instructor, according to former and current students, Scioly tries to teach in a fun and relaxed fashion—even handing out candy in the classroom! He is a true liberal arts professor who also teaches Latin and Greek, and received the Sister Eileen Rice Award for Outstanding Teaching in 1998-99. He is also former chair of the Computing, Mathematics and Sciences Division.



39

### Doug Kapnick

Doug Kapnick is a former chair of the SHU Board of Trustees who was honored with an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree for his contributions to Siena Heights. After taking over his father's insurance firm in 1974, he grew it to one of the largest full-service insurance brokers in the midwest with more than 125 employees and offices in Adrian, Ann Arbor and Southfield. He is a community leader in Lenawee County who is involved in many charities and organizations, and sponsors scholarships each year for Lenawee students at Siena Heights.



40

### Sister Therese Craig

Sister Therese Craig, OP '48 was a Siena Heights theatre professor who founded the child drama/theatre programs in the 1960s as an after-school endeavor. It quickly grew into much more, teaching problem-solving, critical thinking and independence vital not only to the development of children, but to potential teachers in Siena's teacher education program as well. That link between teacher education and theatre remains at SHU to this day. The Alberta (Canada) Playwrights Network honored her as one of the top 100 theatre practitioners of the 20th century. She taught from 1965-75 and died in 2008.



41

### Pat and Carliene Palmer

Pat and Carliene Palmer arrived at Siena Heights more than 30 years ago, and for most of that time they both have been fixtures on campus. Pat has served the university in a multitude of roles, including coach, athletic director and faculty member. He currently serves as SHU's vice president of Enrollment Management and the dean of the Graduate College, and has been instrumental in starting programs such as Homeland Security. Carliene served as the Business and Management Division chair and is currently an associate professor of Business Administration.



42

### Sister Pat Hogan

Sister Pat Hogan, OP '46 taught philosophy and history at Siena Heights from 1966-73, and was director of the philosophy program from 1979-91. A renowned advisor and mentor, she put numerous students on successful career paths during her tenure. She was known for her sense of humor and concern for international students. After her death, friends and family established the Sister Pat Hogan Memorial Scholarship.



43

### Sister Carmelia O'Connor

Sister Carmelia O'Connor, OP always had a smile on her face and was one of the most recognized faces at Siena Heights for nearly two decades. A professor of Theology and Philosophy for 17 years, Sister "Carmie" was known as a beloved mentor who often led student volunteer groups to serve in Appalachia for approximately 15 years. She was known for tidying up campus grounds as she passed through. Her two favorite words were "beautiful" and "wonderful." Sister Carmie Day, a campus beautification day, still occurs each spring on campus.



44

### Bill Blackerby

For more than 30 years, Associate Professor of Business Management, Bill Blackerby has been a mainstay at Siena Heights. The faculty member has been involved in almost every aspect of the university, from teaching to enrollment to athletics to mentoring – Blackerby has done it all. He continues to play a vital role in the SHU business department, and has helped build a business curriculum that develops life skills rather than just areas of content. He continues to be a faculty member beloved by many current and former students.



45

### Larry Richardson

Larry Richardson '76 became the first African-American to serve as Lenawee County sheriff after retiring from the City of Adrian Police Department as a detective in 2000. He is a past member of the Alumni Board and a current member of the SHU Board of Trustees, and has taught classes at Siena and was instrumental in starting Siena's criminal justice program. He received the Recent Alumni Award from SHU in 1984.



46

### Norm Bukwaz

Norm Bukwaz has served Siena Heights in a variety of capacities over the years, including as director of Admissions and dean of the off-campus and transfer programs, now known as the College for Professional Studies. Bukwaz helped develop the concept of the bachelor of applied science degree, which has become a very successful program for Siena's non-traditional students. Known as an innovator and someone who enjoys debating the issues concerning higher education, Bukwaz currently serves the university in a consulting role as CPS' director of New Ventures.



47

### Alice Robie Resnick

In 1988, The Honorable Alice Robie Resnick '61 was only the second woman elected to the Ohio Supreme Court. She served 19 years on the state bench, and also worked as an attorney, county prosecutor, municipal judge and district judge. She founded and co-chaired the Ohio State Bar Association/Supreme Court of Ohio Joint Task Force on Gender Fairness which addressed issues of gender in the courts and in domestic relations cases. Her honors include induction into the Ohio Women's Hall of Fame and the Sister Ann Joachim Award from SHU.



48

### Ben Braun

Currently regarded as one of the winningest basketball coaches in the nation, Ben Braun '81 got his collegiate start (and a master's degree) at Siena Heights. In just his second year in 1979, he guided the Saints to the program's first winning season. The 1979 24-win campaign started a string of seven straight winning seasons for Braun before his departure to Eastern Michigan University. He also has coached at Cal-Berkeley and is currently the head coach at Rice University. Braun ranks in the top 10 in NCAA Division I active coaches in career wins.



49

### Sister Petronilla Francoeur

Sister Petronilla Francoeur, OP was the last Adrian Dominican Sister to be chosen president until Sister Peg Albert's arrival in 2006, serving as 5th President from 1965-69. In 1969, she helped to make Siena Heights a coeducational institution, responding to the changing times and the social transformation taking place in the country. She also was a well-liked professor of French, Spanish and English from 1946-51. Her tenure as president was cut short due to serious injuries suffered in a car accident.



50

### Margaret "Betty" Rueckert

Margaret "Betty" Rueckert never attended Siena Heights, but most people know her name! Generations of students have received Margaret Rueckert Scholarships; and everyone is familiar with Rueckert Auditorium. Less well known is the annual philanthropy Betty and husband Charles provided year after year. It was Betty's appreciation of the Adrian Dominican Sisters (who taught their daughters in Florida) that connected her and Chuck with Siena and inspired their exceptional generosity. Betty was a Trustee and Trustee Emerita for almost 30 years. She died in 2007, but her legacy still shines brightly.



51

### Hugh Thompson

Dr. Hugh Thompson was the first non-Adrian Dominican to serve as president of Siena Heights. In the mid '70s, he was part of the decision to open up the first off-campus degree completion centers in metro Detroit and Toledo, a revolutionary concept at that time. This was a time where Siena Heights made a targeted effort to educate working adults, beginning what now has become one of the staples of the institution, the College for Professional Studies. Our 6th president, he was known as an aggressive leader.



52

### Leslie Love

After earning her theater degree, Leslie Love '93 (formerly Leslie Gladden) worked as an actor, director and stand-up comedian across the U.S., overseas, and on BET's Comic View. Today, she is theater manager at Marygrove College and an activist in Detroit politics. It all started at Siena where, as a minority on a majority-white campus, she thrived by working for positive change: She lobbied for minority faculty and staff, helped found SHAAKA, and started the Kente program. Now, as a member of the Alumni Board, she's still working to help SHU think higher!



53

### Sister Helene O'Connor

Sister Helene O'Connor, OP '34—founder, professor, and chair of the art department from 1936 to 1956—established Studio Angelico (then on the fifth floor of Sacred Heart Hall) as a nationally recognized liturgical art center. She built a broad curriculum that included calligraphy, painting, sculpture, metallurgy, weaving and ecclesiastic art. A demanding mentor who was both loved and feared, she expected only the best from her students. She was also a gifted stained glass artist; some of her windows can be found today outside Holy Rosary Chapel.



54

### Sister Dorothy Browne

Sister Dorothy Browne, OP was a nationally recognized educator who chaired the Siena Heights education department from 1938-42. She said, "All those titles—I really didn't know what it was about, but I did my work, and plenty of it, day by day." She was totally devoted to preparing excellent teachers, both Sisters and lay students. She served as dean from 1957-63, during which time television receivers were installed, and these facilities received four educational channels. In addition, a closed circuit channel was established for campus classrooms and facilities.



55

### Karen Johnson

Karen Johnson '04 always had a special connection to Siena Heights – her great aunt was the legendary Sister Ann Joachim. However, Johnson, who visited the Adrian campus quite often in her childhood days, decided to complete her degree at SHU's metropolitan Detroit site. She completed her degree in 2004 and remains active with the university, including serving as a member of the Siena Heights Alumni Association board.



56

### Sister Miriam Stimson

Sister Miriam Michael Stimson, OP '36 was the legendary professor of chemistry who distinguished herself in the area of research. After establishing a research lab at Siena Heights in 1939, she conducted research for more than 30 years, including funded cancer research. Known at Siena as "M", she introduced micro methods and undergraduate research to the classroom. In 1953, she became the first woman since Marie Curie to lecture in science at the Sorbonne in Paris. Sister Miriam also was director of Siena's graduate programs from 1978-91, starting an addiction counseling program.



57

### Sister Sharon Weber

Sister Sharon Weber, OP '69 joined the chemistry faculty in 1974, teaching for 12 years before leaving Siena Heights to serve on the General Council of the Adrian Dominican Sisters. She rejoined the faculty in 1993 and was tapped soon after as academic dean. Now dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and Vice President of Academic Affairs since 2006, she is an administrator in love with the classroom, dedicated to student growth and achievement. She has been a driving force in establishing Siena Heights' nursing program.



58

### Terri Grierson

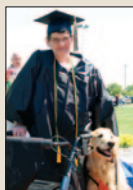
Terri Grierson, a current student in SHU's Saginaw Theological Studies program, is director of the Office of Christian Service for the Catholic Diocese of Saginaw. Her office is responsible for public discipleship, grief recovery, legislative advocacy and outreach to parish Christian service commissions. She also works with economically disadvantaged women in the community and serves on the local Child Abuse & Neglect Council. She represents the diocese on the Michigan Catholic Rural Life Coalition and is a community leader in social justice issues.



59

### Donita Sullivan

Dr. Donita Sullivan '52 received her medical degree in 1956 and served as a faculty member in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Michigan for 37 years, where she pioneered the emerging field of pediatric rheumatology. Dr. Sullivan was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Humanities degree from Siena Heights in 1980, an Outstanding Alumni Award in 1992, and also the Miriam Stimson Award for Excellence in Science and Mathematics in 1992. She also served on the Lay Advisory Committee and on the Board of Trustees at Siena Heights.



60

### Jo Ray and Bravo

When Jo Ray '06 received her bachelor's degree in business administration in 2006 at the age of 50, it completed a chapter in the remarkable life of this non-traditional Siena Heights student. Ray endured a debilitating medical condition to complete her bachelor's degree, and is on target to complete her master's degree with Siena this winter. Ray and her trusted four-legged companion, Bravo, are a familiar sight around the Adrian campus as they head to class.



61

### Gertrude "Trudy" McSorley

Gertrude "Trudy" McSorley '70 has been a fixture on the Siena Heights campus for five decades, first through the theater department. For 31 years McSorley guided the ultra-successful child drama program, which is currently called Creative Stages. She helped establish Siena's theater program as one of the top in the area until taking over as Dean for Students in 2005. She currently serves in that capacity and is known for her loyalty to Siena Heights and is a staunch defender of the institution's Dominican and Catholic tradition and heritage.



62

### Denise Keeley

Returning to college for a BFA after raising eight children, Denise '88 fell in love with stone sculpture and graduated as Outstanding Art Student of the Year. In her work, she embraced the strength and beauty of stone to explore the human condition, especially the struggles of women and the tragedy of AIDs. Denise was a tireless arts advocate, energetic supporter of Studio Angelico, co-founder of the Lenawee Council for the Visual Arts, and recipient of SHU's Recent Graduate Award. Today, a scholarship in her memory supports other non-traditional art students.



63

### Fred Smith

Fred Smith has been athletic director at Siena Heights since 1983. However, he is probably better known as a basketball coach. Smith was inducted into the NAIA Hall of Fame in 2006 as a men's basketball coach after being named Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference Coach of the Year on four occasions. A fiery and intense competitor, he coached the Saints to 21 consecutive winning seasons and stepped down with more than 500 career victories. Smith, who earned a master's from Siena in 1986, now focuses his attention on running the athletic department.



64

### Cindy Schutze Kinney

Cindy Schutze Kinney '91 has been the director of the Mainstage Theatre on the campus of Lake Michigan College since 1997. She graduated from Siena Heights' Lake Michigan College campus with a degree in business administration in 1991. During her time as director of the Mainstage Theatre, acts that have played there include Bill Cosby, The Russian National Ballet, national Broadway touring companies of Chicago and "Hairspray." She also works with many non-profit organizations, assisting with planning and organizing community events.



65

### Phil Abele

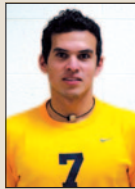
Phil Abele '79 completed his degree as a non-traditional student at Siena's Southfield campus, graduating with a bachelor of applied science degree in electronic engineering technology. He carved out a successful career in the Metal Fabricating Division at General Motors and was honored with SHU's Recent Alumni Award in 1992. He has served on Southfield center advisory committees and was the first off-campus president of the Siena Heights Alumni Association.



66

### Scott Hephner

Scott Hephner '07 began his college career at the age of 43, and nearly five years later, will complete his master's degree with Siena Heights. He received his bachelor's degree from SHU's Jackson center, and last spring was honored as one of the top students in SHU's Graduate College. A 22-year member of the Hillsdale Police Department, Hephner is a field training officer for HPD who will be one of the first graduates of Siena's new master's concentration in Homeland Security.



67

### Juan Sierra

Current student Juan Sierra, a native of Colombia, took an indirect path to SHU after originally falling victim to a volleyball scholarship scam. However, after Saints coach Mike Watkins discovered Sierra playing club volleyball at Grand Valley, he recruited the setter to Siena, where he became a key contributor to the Saints' first-year program that finished 27-8. He led Siena in assists and service aces, while recording the fourth most kills. He symbolizes the new focus on international students on the Siena Heights campus.



68

### Claude LeBlanc

Claude LeBlanc '09 was the 2009 CAHEN (Capitol Area Higher Education Network) Outstanding Adult Student Award winner. LeBlanc, also the 2009 outstanding adult learner from Siena's off-campus program in Lansing, graduated last spring with a Bachelor of Arts degree in multidisciplinary studies, finishing with a 4.0 GPA.



69

### Sister Anthonita Porta, OP

Sister Anthonita Porta, OP '63 is a nationally recognized name in education, having founded the Adrian Dominican Montessori Teacher Education Institute. She started in Montessori education in 1969, before that serving 18 years as an elementary teacher. She founded four Montessori schools and has presented at hundreds of national workshops and seminars. She received an honorary doctorate from Siena Heights in 1991. She also established the "At Risk Scholarship Fund" to help pre-school children attend a Montessori school, and was the first recipient of the Lenawee Chamber's Athena Award. Sister Anthonita died unexpectedly September 9, 2009 as Reflections was being designed.



70

### Sister Ann Joachim

Sister Ann Joachim was an educator and attorney who gained national prominence by becoming the first nun admitted to practice law before the U.S. Supreme Court in 1936. A powerful presence on campus, Sister "AJ" was an accomplished tennis player and Siena's early basketball coach. As an educator, she was known for her demanding oral exams. Later in life, she led a campaign to save the Wabash Cannonball railroad line. In fact, Siena's athletic teams were known briefly as the "Cannonballers." She also served on the Adrian City Commission from 1971-75.



71

### Mother Mary Gerald Barry

Mother Mary Gerald Barry had the task of being both the prioress of her congregation and the college's 3rd president—at the same time. And she handled both jobs well. A woman "of formidable presence," Mother Mary Gerald was known for her love of the arts and scholarship. In 1939, she was part of the renaming of St. Joseph College to Siena Heights College. She served as president from 1933-57. Barry University, founded in 1944 in Miami Shores, Fla., was named after this Adrian Dominican.



72

### Connie Berube Binsfeld

Connie Berube Binsfeld '45 was elected Michigan's first woman lieutenant governor, serving from 1991-99. She earned a special place in state history by becoming the first woman to hold a position of leadership in both the executive and legislative branches of state government. She served four terms in the Michigan House of Representatives and two terms in the Michigan State Senate. Binsfeld authored domestic violence legislation and in 1996 started the Binsfeld Children's Commission. She also spent 10 years on the Great Lakes Commission that worked to preserve the Great Lakes.



73

### Harold Love

Harold Love '08 serves as captain and commander of the Michigan State Police Second District covering southeast Michigan. He oversees the operation of seven posts covering the counties of Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair, Washtenaw and Wayne. Love previously served as a section commander and public information officer in the MSP Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division. Love joined the MSP in 1988. In his 20-year career, he has served at several MSP posts, as well as the Fire Marshal division and Emergency Management and Homeland Security division.



74

### Tim Bauer

Tim Bauer '82 took over the track and cross country program as head coach in 1984, after completing a distinguished running career for Siena Heights. He has coached more than 100 All-Americans, 50 Academic All-Americans and nine NAIA national champions. The Saints running programs have won more than 45 championships, including 26 Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference titles. The 1982 graduate is known as a tireless recruiter who is also the "Voice of the Saints," serving as public address announcer at fieldhouse athletic events.



75

### Patrick Irwin

Patrick Irwin '86, director of Human Resources for Henry Ford Hospital, has made a significant impact in his Southwest Detroit community. He coached and served on the board of Detroit's Holy Redeemer High School, and helped establish the Cesar Chavez charter school. While a student, he helped found the Pi Lambda Phi fraternity. After his graduation, a Siena Heights scholarship was created and named in his honor. He received the Recent Graduate Award from SHU in 1997.



76

### Sister Cathleen Real

Sister Cathleen Real, CHM, was the eighth president of Siena Heights College from 1985-93. She established the President's Task Force on Race and Ethnic Issues which focused primarily on Hispanic and black students. The Comprehensive Computer Task Force was organized to plan major expansions in computer usage. Vision 2000 was inaugurated in 1992 to bring up-to-date technology to campus and to build a new facility, Dominican Hall. President Real said, "This building is for our students; to help them live out the mission of the college."



77

### Kasha Lowe

Kasha Lowe '06 received a Bachelor of Arts degree in multidisciplinary studies from Siena's Lansing campus. A member of the Lansing Police Department, she has actively been involved with "Shop with a Cop" program that provides underprivileged children an opportunity to buy holiday presents for themselves and their family members. She also mentors new LPD recruits by counseling them when needed, and assisting in their professional development. Lowe was Siena Heights' 2007 recipient of the Capitol Area Higher Education Network (CAHEN) Outstanding Adult Student Award.



78

### Sister Regina LaLonde

Sister Regina Marie LaLonde, OP was one of the original faculty members of St. Joseph College. A professor of languages for nearly 50 years (1922-71), Sister Regina Marie used Army surplus materials to build one of the first recognized language labs in Sacred Heart Hall. She also served as the assistant to President Hugh Thompson from 1971-75.



79

### Iqbal "Iggy" Roshd

Iqbal "Iggy" Roshd '83 is the owner of more than 10 Tim Horton's franchises in the Toronto, Canada area. He credits good advising from his SHU professors for getting him into the restaurant management industry in 1995. His stores currently generate more than \$10 million in revenue and employ approximately 300 staff and management. He was honored by Siena with the Outstanding Alumni Award in 2006 and is a member of the SHU Board of Trustees.



80

### Sister Nadine Foley

Sister Nadine Foley, OP '45 has served Siena Heights in a variety of roles for more than half a century, including as a professor, Board of Trustees member and interim college president. As an Adrian Dominican Sister, she has served on the General Council for the Adrian Dominican Sisters, as Prioress for the congregation, and currently has the duty of congregational historian. Her academic studies and congregational work have taken her all over the world, and she has published many papers, articles and books.



81

### John Massengill

John Massengill '08 graduated magna cum laude from Siena Heights University's Monroe campus with a bachelor of applied science degree in industrial technology. The Monroe County resident is employed by DTE Energy in the skilled trades department. He also serves as a bargaining and grievance officer with the Utility Workers Union of America, Local 223. In 2008, he was awarded the DTE Energy "Walter J. McCarthy Jr." volunteer leadership award for his efforts at various nonprofit agencies in Monroe County. He also is active on numerous advisory boards.



82

### Leo and Leslie Butler

There once was a student strike at Siena. It was the 1970s and the issue was ... a proposal to close the library on Sunday nights. Identical twins Les '75 and Leo '75 Butler, President and Vice President of Student Senate, were outraged. They marshaled student support and marched on Sacred Heart Hall shouting "The library is the heart of the college!" The students won. The library stayed open! Leo and Les were the first of five Butler siblings to attend Siena Heights. The twins both majored in history, going on to careers in education and government.



83

### Sue Idczak

Dr. Sue Idczak has been the architect behind the establishment of Siena Heights' nursing program. Arriving from Lourdes College in 2007, Dr. Idczak has shepherded the program's accreditation process. In fall 2008 the first RN to BSN degree completion students started classes, and Idczak's nursing philosophy of treating both the body and spirit of a patient meshes well with Siena Heights' mission. SHU nursing has already received two federal grants, and both of Michigan's U.S. senators have visited the nursing facility in 2009 to show their support of the program.



84

### Sister Bertha Homminga

Sister Bertha Homminga, OP was a founding faculty member who was an advisor, science instructor and registrar from 1920–65. She was known for her warmth, efficiency and extraordinary memory, especially as registrar. In fact, it was told that she often stopped students as they passed her in the hallway, reminding them from memory of the class requirements they still needed to complete their degree.



85

### Sister Magdalena Ezoe

Sister Magdalena Ezoe, OP '55, a native of Tokyo, Japan, taught music at Siena Heights for almost 50 years before her recent retirement. During her tenure, she has received many awards, including the Sister Eileen K. Rice Award for Outstanding Teaching in 2005. Sister Magdalena has also served on the boards of the Adrian Symphony Orchestra and the SHU Youth Symphony. She is an accomplished pianist, recognized composer and an outstanding accompanist. She coached and directed the SHU Chamber Ensemble and served as instrumental music director for 25 years of Madrigal Dinner concerts.



86

### The Chi Family

Sisters Margaret '82 and Jane '82 Chi were established educators when they left China to pursue master's degrees, but their journey began when they were much younger, with a scholarship offer from Siena Heights. China's Cultural Revolution intervened, however, delaying their arrival on campus by 30 years! Nephews Maurice '84 and Jacob '85 Chi followed, graduating with honors in mathematics and music, respectively. All non-traditional students who learned English while earning degrees, the Chis have made an indelible mark, both on campus as students and far beyond SHU as distinguished professionals in education, business and music.



87

### Robert Gordon

Dr. Robert Gordon has been a fixture in the academic community at SHU for more than 32 years. Besides being a full-time faculty member, Gordon also served as Siena's dean of the Graduate College as well as Academic Dean and Provost. He currently is the director of the library. An avid photographer, his photos adorn many parts of campus.



88

### Deb Carrington Keller

Deb Keller '74, '75/MA, '02/SA has done it all at Siena—with enthusiasm! A New Jersey native who arrived in 1970, she's a three-degree grad (one of the first to receive the Education Specialist degree), married to one Siena alum, and mother of another. As long-time principal at St. Joseph Academy, she mentored hundreds of Siena students and taught even more as an adjunct education professor. Now ending two years as president of the Alumni Association, she's a central figure in SHU life as executive assistant to President Albert. Deb's favorite phrase? Go Saints!



89

### Norma Baldwin

Affectionately known around the Adrian campus as "Nurse Norma," Norma Baldwin served as Siena's director of Health Services for more than 23 years before retiring in 2008. With her main responsibility being the health and well-being of Siena's students, she was known for her rapport with students, as well as being a positive female role model. She is still active on the Siena Heights campus, volunteering to help in SHU's new nursing program.



90

### Susan Matych-Hager

A star on the Walsh Hall (Sage) stage as a student, Susan Matych-Hager '68 joined the music department as associate professor in 1973–74. She chaired the Performing Arts and Education division from 1990–95. Under her direction, Siena students sang with the Toledo Symphony (1994), at Carnegie Hall (1993) and at the Masonic Temple in Detroit. She initiated, coordinated, costumed and directed the Madrigal Dinners, which were a high point of Siena's Christmas season for 25 years. She also established the Children's Chorus and was also a motivator behind the Youth Symphony before retiring in 2007. ♦

visit our alumni website at [www.sienaheights.edu](http://www.sienaheights.edu)

## from the alumni office



### Everything Old is New Again!

1919 + 90 = 2009. Siena Heights is 90! Less than a century, but certainly enough years to celebrate. And celebrate we will, at annual events and alumni gatherings throughout 2009–10.

What a difference 90 years make! Early photos of Trinity Garden show rolling orchards where Benincasa, Archangelus, Studio Angelico and the Performing Arts Center now stand. Parking lots, critical for everyone on campus today, were non-existent in early decades. Students haven't worn uniforms in 40+ years; and there's nary a habit in sight—the handful of Sisters on the faculty look just like everyone else.

Several years ago, Mary Duggan Cassabon '48 shared her copy of the student handbook she received as a freshman in 1944. We chuckled over directives such as “Ink bottles should not be carried about the buildings, nor to and from classrooms” and “Rooms must be ready for inspection at 8 a.m.” and (for girls—there were only girls in 1944) “Slacks may be worn only for picnics, hikes, etc. They may NEVER be worn on the streets.”

But then there was this, in reference to the (one) dormitory telephone: “Students may not put in nor receive telephone calls during class...(and) are expected to notify their parents and friends as to the time when they may receive calls.”

Today, when virtually every student has a phone with them at all times, almost every professor says something like this in his or her syllabus: “Turn off all cell phones before class begins.”

And consider this 1944 admonition: “Smoking is not in keeping with the high standards of womanly dignity which it is the aim of Siena Heights to maintain...(students will) refrain

from this vulgar and unhealthful habit.” Today's handbook skips dignity and vulgarity to focus on health, prohibiting tobacco use of any kind in all SHU buildings and vehicles, and everywhere on campus except for a few “designated smoking areas.”

Today's College for Professional Studies—Siena's network of off-campus and on-line degree completion programs that enrolls more students than the main campus—seems evidence of our “new” focus on working adult students. But in fact, the Adrian Dominican Sisters were the original “non-trads”: From the earliest years (back before degrees were mandatory for teachers), many Siena students were Sisters who taught in Dominican schools across the country all year, then spent summers on campus engaged in “degree completion.”

Siena Heights at 90 still provides dedicated teaching, personalized learning, and innovative academic programs. Still lives and breathes Dominican values and the journey of faith. Yes, we've seen plenty of changes, but nine decades have *not* changed heart and soul: Siena Heights is still Siena Heights.

If you have a Siena story to share—about what has changed or what has not—I would love to hear from you! In the meantime, let's have a rousing chorus of “Happy Birthday!”

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# LAW & ORDER

## SIENA HEIGHTS UNIVERSITY

More than 30 years ago, Siena Heights' criminal justice program began as a simple suggestion. In the aftermath of the Detroit riots, then City of Adrian police officer and current SHU board member Larry Richardson pitched the concept to Siena Heights leaders, who decided to start a program to fill a community need.

Sister Beth Butler, OP, the daughter of a Detroit police officer, was tapped to begin the program, and she used her energy and experience to quickly grow the program. Over that time, the program has turned out a remarkable number of law enforcement leaders, including police chiefs, judges, sheriffs—even Secret Service agents.

During this year's Homecoming Weekend, Siena welcomes back its criminal justice graduates as part of a special "Law & Order: SHU" reunion theme.

By Doug Goodnough

## The Good List

### After Near Fatal Car Crash, Road to Recovery Leads Elly Teunion-Smith Back to Siena Heights

In law enforcement, they call it the “John Wayne Syndrome.”

It’s that mentality some new police officers have when they join the force. They’re going to change the world. Make a difference. A feeling of invincibility.

Count Elly Teunion-Smith ’89 in that category. When she joined the Michigan State Police as an on-the-road trooper, she thought she found her calling.

“It was the hardest thing physically, mentally, I’ve ever dealt with in my life,” said Teunion-Smith of the training to become a state trooper. “I was in the military, and it made boot camp look like a picnic. But I loved it.”

For five years, she lived and breathed law enforcement, loving the job and everything that came with it, including the banter and camaraderie with her fellow officers.

Then, in her frank, sometimes brutally honest, words, “stuff went to crap real quick.”

It started out as just another dark night in a cramped patrol car working the third shift for Teunion-Smith. She and her partner were called to the scene of a personal injury accident in a remote rural location. En route to the scene, her partner, who was driving, rolled through a stop sign on a country road when a 17-year-old boy driving his Corvette smashed into them. Her partner was killed instantly, and Teunion-Smith suffered injuries so severe that a Michigan State Police report at the time said she probably would not make it through the night.

But she did make it, though she faced a daunting recovery. “(The accident) totally screwed me up physically and mentally for more than two years,” Teunion-Smith said. “I had a pretty severe head injury.”

That injury frustrated her the most, as she experienced cognitive problems such as memory loss and neurological issues. “I didn’t even remember getting married,” Elly said. “A lot of things never came back. A lot of memories are gone.”



Eventually, so was her career as a state trooper. Unable to pass multiple neurological exams, Teunion-Smith was told her law enforcement career was finished.

“After the state police, I said ‘What am I going to do now?’” she said. “I remember my husband saying, ‘Why don’t you be a teacher?’”

She initially dismissed the notion, but after the Michigan State Police offered to pay for schooling to retrain herself, she decided to give it a try.

Already having a bachelor’s degree in English from Siena Heights, Teunion-Smith went on to earn her BA from University of Michigan-Flint in criminal justice and sociology, then completed her master’s degree in sociology from Wayne State University. Then she started to work on her doctorate

She stayed on at Wayne State, teaching her first sociology course to a class of 75 students. “I kind of fell in love with it,” she said.

When Siena Heights was looking for a director for its criminal justice program, Teunion-Smith didn’t hesitate at the chance to return to her alma mater.

Since her arrival, the criminal justice program has grown from approximately 30 majors to 60. Her ultra-practical, in-your-face teaching style and focus on coordinating curricula at both the Adrian and Jackson campuses have been successful in reshaping the program. And she

has tried to develop the same rapport with her students she had with her fellow troopers.

“I let my students know that I’m a person and you’re a person,” Teunion-Smith said. “That humility is so important that they know you are a person. That’s hard to teach, but they get it. ... And they absolutely adore the (police) stories. They love those real stories.”

Her emphasis on bringing the law enforcement experience into the classroom has also paid dividends. She has recruited judges, police chiefs—even prison wardens—to teach CRJ courses at both the Jackson and Adrian campuses.

“We’ve got some of the best adjuncts, I think, that Siena Heights offers,” said Teunion-Smith, who is the lone full-time criminal justice faculty member. “They practice and teach it. I think it’s real important that we bring experience into it.”

During her road to recovery, she was having a hard time dealing with the fact her police career was over. Now, she is helping shape the future of law enforcement.

“I remember going to this counselor,” she said. “I told her ‘I’m never going to get over this (accident). I’m going to be a freak for the rest of my life.’ She said, ‘I want you to get a piece of paper.’ She made me split it down the middle and said, ‘write the good on one side, and bad on the other.’ ... This list, I kept it forever.

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*continued from page 23*

I never had anything good on there for a very long time. I had all these bad things. I lost my job. I lost my partner, lost this and lost that... It took many years but the good list came out.

"I've got a great marriage. Great kids. And I have a bunch of trooper friends of mine who (now) say, 'Man, I wish I was you. You have a great job.' Nobody wanted to be me 15 years ago, but they all want to be me now. It all came out in the wash great."

## "Self-Thinking" Police Officer

### Scott Hephner Says Education Is Becoming Law Enforcement's Tool of Choice

Scott Hephner had already achieved his career goal of becoming a police officer when he decided to go back to school.

In fact, the 48-year-old had risen quickly up the ranks of the Hillsdale Police Department, first as an auxiliary officer, then a dispatcher, finally to sergeant, the position he currently holds which includes field training responsibilities for new officers.

"My parents never really talked to me about going to college," said Hephner, who married a couple of years out of high school and started a family. "It wasn't a big topic at that time, and there wasn't need. You could go out and get a job (without a college degree)."

So what kept gnawing at him? Seeing all three of his children pursue a college degree, as well as the officers he trains, made him feel a bit hypocritical. "Every police we hire either has an associate's degree or a bachelor's degree," he said. "The personal feeling for me is that I had to go back and do this, too."

And he did, deciding to enroll at Jackson Community College, then completing his four-year degree at Siena Heights University's JCC center. Despite working various shifts ("I never had the same days off every week"), Hephner was able to progress his way towards his bachelor's degree in criminal justice.



"One thing about Siena Heights, they do a great job picking their faculty," he said. "Their professors, whether they are full-time or adjunct, it's almost like it's individualized instruction, even though it's not."

At first, Hephner felt a bit out of place in the classroom, often being the oldest student in class. "But once I got into it and started and realized I could do the work... for me that was not just an objective," he said. "It's not doing just the minimum. ... There are frustrating moments, but I know it was always on me. You just do what you need to do."

Hephner thought his educational goals were complete with a bachelor's degree when he met Pat Palmer, SHU's dean of the Graduate College, at a graduation reception. Palmer told him Siena was starting a new master's degree concentration in Homeland Security.

"That's what a lot of our training is geared towards, things related to Homeland Security, especially since 9-11," Hephner said. "I'm very, very interested in that. ... As soon as I heard they had the Homeland Security program, I was in. I was in the whole way."

Two years later, Hephner is just finishing up his master's degree thesis, and will be one of just three students in the first class to receive the Homeland Security concentration at SHU. Last spring, he was honored as one of SHU's top graduate students

A 22-year member of the Hillsdale Police Department, a 16-member force that protects and serves a community of approximately 8,000 people, including a college, Hephner said education has "opened my mind."

"It changed my thought process to see things in a different manner," he said. "I see more of the big picture. It really assists you in dealing with things. ... Just being able to think like that and not just to apply it, but to be able to share it, it's helped."

In a community where an officer's most important cases may not even involve a police report, skills such as conflict resolution and negotiating sensitive situations often come into play, he said.

"We have everything here the big city has," said Hephner, referring to the types of criminal activity, "just not the number. Smaller cases may be a family situation that just wasn't being taken care of and (the officer) intervenes and makes it better. It may not show up anywhere on paper, but when you know you've done some good... that is way more important."

He said "understanding the world around you" is becoming more important in law enforcement, and education is a tool that helps with that. He calls it being a "self-thinking" police officer.

"We have to recognize what's going on and formulate the correct response to deal with it," Hephner said. "I already have that instilled in me and use that over and over to develop other police officers."

To illustrate that point, one night on duty Hephner was called out to a parking lot bar fight in progress involving about 20 people. When he pulled into the parking lot, it was more like 50 people, and most had been drinking.

“What’s the right thing to do here?” he said. “I turned on the overhead lights, pull into the parking lot and walk into the crowd. Obviously everyone stops fighting, but are you going to try to arrest 20 or 30 people? And they’re drunk people. I said, ‘How about we make a deal? Anybody that’s still in the parking lot in three minutes is volunteering to go to jail.’ I’ve never seen a parking lot clear out that fast in my life. You carry a lot of tools in your car and on you, but your mind, your brain, is still the best one.”

Though he enjoys his current position with the HPD, he said completing the Homeland Security program has him thinking about the future.

“My immediate goal is to advance in administration,” said Hephner, who is interested in possibly pursuing opportunities at the federal level some day. “The education I received at Siena Heights has opened a lot of doors for me. ... I’m holding more of the cards now than I was before.”

## Captive Audience

### Sister Pat Schnapp Sees the Value of Learning—Even in Prison

What is Woman?

That is a question one might not want to ask in an all-male state prison. But Sister Pat Schnapp not only asked it, she conducted a 12-week literature course on the topic.

Schnapp, a longtime English faculty member at Siena Heights University, has been teaching inmates at Adrian’s Gus Harrison Correctional Facility for more than 15 years. It may be considered a prison ministry by some, but she genuinely views it as “the highlight of my week.”

“Now you know what a miserable social life I have,” joked Schnapp, in the irreverent style of humor that endears her to her students, including the “captive audience” of some half-dozen prisoners who attended her class.

Humor aside, along the way there are plenty of reminders of the setting’s seriousness.



Before entering the main prison facility, visitors go through a vigorous screening process, including the removal of shoes—and socks—just to make sure. The guards, while cordial, are also very businesslike. One gets the impression they’d rather not bother with any outside interruptions.

The slow, methodical walk across the yard to the other side of the prison draws the curious eyes of many of its residents. Once in the classroom, which could pass for an average high school setting, prisoners stroll in, one by one, carefully scanning their surroundings before taking a seat.

However, when Schnapp begins her lecture, the navy blue and orange jumpsuits are sometimes the only reminders this is not a normal classroom environment. Also added to the mix on this occasion are three current and former female Siena students Schnapp “recruited” to take part in the discussion.

The prisoners—five African-Americans and one Latino—engaged Schnapp and her students in the coursework, which this particular week was the short story “A Jury of Her Peers” by Susan Glaspell.

The debate was thoughtful, the discussion lively. According to the prisoners, this was not only a reprieve from the restrictions of their confinement; the class was also an opportunity to better understand their past mistakes.

“Me and my wife discuss a lot of this,” said Roberto, a Latino who said he had problems

with anger issues, especially with women, that led to his troubles with the law. “I send stories to her. ... I took (this class) to enhance the communication and the relationship with my wife.”

Rodney, a former Detroit high school basketball standout who, after injuring his knee got into trouble that landed him in prison, said he will be released next year. He said before entering prison he was just 12 credits short of completing an associate’s degree. Taking Sister Pat’s class, he said, has inspired him to pursue his education after he has served his time.

Laurin Tuxbury, a junior social work major who was one of the three SHU students who participated in the class, said the experience was not what she expected.

“That bubble (screening process entering the prison), that’s an intimidating experience,” Tuxbury said. “But not sitting in class with the guys. I thought (the guards) were scarier.”

“In class (at Siena Heights) Sister Pat would talk about her experience with (the prisoners),” said recent SHU graduate Sarah Wyse. “I’m really glad I came. I think it adds a good perspective because I want to teach in inner-city schools.”

The prisoners said the students’ interaction was appreciated. But Schnapp’s reputation as an interesting and engaging instructor was what gave her credibility with her prison students.

*continued on the next page*



# catching up

*continued from page 25*

“I appreciate the manner in which Sister Pat presents the subject matter,” said J.W., a prisoner of 32 years who completed his second class with Schnapp, his hint of grey hair a partial confirmation of his length of confinement. “She’s a tremendous educator.”

In fact, her relationship with her prison students is so deep that she was able to include writings from three inmates in the spring 2009 edition of *Eclipse*, the SHU English department’s annual literary publication. Schnapp is also working with SHU’s criminal justice department and Gus Harrison officials on a possible prison outreach program.

At the last class session, Sister Pat personally presented each prisoner who attended 10 of the 12 sessions with a certificate. Completing the class also goes into the inmates’ parole board records, though it does not count as college credit.

“I thought I knew women,” said inmate James, another class attendee, reflecting on the “What is Woman?” topic. “I thought I had it figured it out. I was kind of wrong.”

For Schnapp, these classes bring more of a personal satisfaction than fulfilling a professional or vocational obligation.

“I hate the last class,” she told her students. “I hate leaving this class because you are wonderful students. You are here because you want to be, not because you have to take the course.” ♦



## Take SHU Out to the Ball Game

The annual “Take SHU Out to the Ball Game” alumni event with the Toledo Mud Hens again hit a home run at Fifth Third Field (**pictures below**). Nearly 300 SHU alumni and friends attended the Aug. 4 gathering, which has become a Siena Heights summertime staple. SHU President Sister Peg Albert joined in the fun, giving “Muddy,” the Mud Hens’ mascot, her trademark welcome hug. The good time included a full picnic supper, beverages, great seats for the ball game—and lots of SHU extras.



## A New Decade Means New Alumni Directory for Siena Heights

“Wonder where my old roommate is these days. Anybody know what happened to that student who sat next to me in class? I wonder if any other Siena alums live near me. . . .”

If you’ve ever had those thoughts, you’ll be pleased to know Siena Heights is partnering with PCI: The Data Company in Dallas, Texas, to produce a new and updated alumni directory. Siena last produced an alumni directory 10 years ago after SHU changed its name from “college” to “university.” This new project, which is part of the 90th anniversary celebration, will help Siena Heights update its internal data system.

In the coming weeks, PCI will be contacting alumni by letter, email and/or telephone to update contact information as well as family and career data. Alumni will also be able to pre-order paperback or digital copies of the directory.

“This project will help Siena Heights reconnect with ‘lost’ alumni,” SHU alumni director Jennifer Hamlin Church said. “And the finished product will help alumni find each other.”

Questions regarding the alumni directory may be directed to the alumni office: (517) 264-7143 or email [alumni@sienaheights.edu](mailto:alumni@sienaheights.edu).

## How Much Is Your Degree Worth To Your Kids, Sibs and Grands?

Did you know that children, grandchildren and siblings of Siena Heights graduates qualify for a special Legacy Grant if they enroll at SHU?

That’s right. Incoming students with an alumni parent, grandparent, brother or sister can receive a special “Legacy Grant” from Siena Heights on top of their merit and need-based financial aid.

Encourage family members to continue your legacy at Siena Heights. Contact the Admissions Office for information about enrollment and to schedule a campus visit day: (517) 264-7180 or (800) 521-0009 extension 7180, or email [admissions@sienaheights.edu](mailto:admissions@sienaheights.edu).

## 2010 Alumni Award Nominations Open

### Help Us Honor Siena's Best and Brightest!

Nominations for the 2010 alumni awards will be open through the fall semester—so now would be a great time to get started on YOUR nomination of an outstanding graduate of Siena Heights! Help us put the spotlight on a deserving alumnus or alumna. The Alumni Association presents up to four awards each year: the Outstanding Alumni Award, Sr. Ann Joachim Award, St. Dominic Award and Recent Graduate Award. For specific award criteria, questions, or a list of prior recipients, refer to the Siena Heights website or contact the alumni office: (517) 264-7143 or email [alumni@sienaheights.edu](mailto:alumni@sienaheights.edu).

The 2010 Award recipients will be selected this winter; the awards will be presented next fall during Homecoming/reunion weekend.

#### Nominations must include:

- the name, graduation year, mailing address, phone number and email address of the person you are nominating;
- a detailed letter outlining the qualities, accomplishments and characteristics that make the nominee worthy of recognition;
- a resume or vita if available (the vita is helpful but not required);
- any additional materials that would enrich the nomination;
- the name(s) of any additional person(s) who will provide letters of support. (Note: The nominator must solicit any such support and ask that it be sent to the Alumni Office.)
- and finally, your name, contact information, and your relationship to the nominee.

## Letters from the Past!



If you were a student on campus at Siena Heights from the late '60s up to 2008, letters from home (or from your honey) landed in a mailbox with a combination lock and a distinctive

brass and glass cover—through which you peeked optimistically, looking for those missives. (Alumni in the earlier decades found letters behind the door a lot more frequently than those in recent email generations!) Now you can have your own memento of those days gone by!

Modern mail slots in Ledwidge have replaced the mailboxes of old—but you can get a cover of your own from the Alumni Office for \$15 (\$10 for each additional cover) plus \$10 for shipping and handling of up to six covers. To order yours, contact the Alumni Office.

## Coming Your Way! The Anniversary Alumni Outreach Tour

We're celebrating Siena's 90th anniversary by taking the University on the road, across the country, all through 2009-10. Plan to meet us for a great SHU evening in your town! Or join us in Adrian for one of our campus events. Watch your mail or contact the Alumni Office for more information and details: (517) 264-7143 or email [alumni@sienaheights.edu](mailto:alumni@sienaheights.edu).

**October 22, 2009**  
Columbus, OH—"Meet Us at White Castle!"

**November 12, 2009**  
Detroit, MI

**December 2, 2009**  
Stevensville, MI—"Holiday Gathering at Tosi's" Annual SW Michigan Holiday season kick-off

**December 8, 2009**  
Cleveland, OH

**January 18–21, 2010**  
SHU in Florida!  
1/18—Miami, Ft. Lauderdale, Palm Beach  
1/19—Vero Beach, Port St. Lucie, Orlando  
1/20—Tampa, Sarasota  
1/21—Naples, Ft. Myers

**February 2, 2010**  
Washington, DC

**February 13, 2010**  
Adrian, MI—2nd annual Winterfest on the Heights! Chili, fun and Saints basketball!

**March 23–26, 2010**  
SHU in California!  
3/23—San Francisco  
3/24—Los Angeles  
3/26—San Diego, CA

**April 13–15, 2010**  
SHU in Texas!  
4/13—Houston  
4/14—Austin, San Antonio  
4/15—Dallas, Ft. Worth

**April 22, 2010**  
Cincinnati, OH

**May 17, 2010**  
Chicago, IL

**June 13, 2010**  
Boston, MA

**June 14, 2010**  
New York, NY

**June 15, 2010**  
Northern New Jersey

## Travel with Siena Heights in 2009-10!



### Ghana, West Africa

**November 19 – 28, 2009**

The Siena Heights Office of International Studies invites alumni to join a cross-cultural study tour to Ghana, West Africa. Learn about Ghana's people, challenges and culture while visiting three of the country's 10 regions. Spend time volunteering in nursing, education, orphanages, conservation, churches and other settings, and visit sites such as Elmina Castle, slave dungeons, Kakum National Park and the capital city of Accra. Interact with students and faculty of Garden City University College, an international educational exchange partner of Siena Heights. Cost: approximately \$2,000, includes airfare, hotels and most meals. **For details contact the Office of International Studies at (517) 264-7001 or email [international@sienaheights.edu](mailto:international@sienaheights.edu).**



### Sunny Portugal

**February 26 – March 8, 2010**

Explore a land of great explorers! Visit coastal beaches on the "Portugese Riviera," the pilgrimage site of Fatima and the capital city of Lisbon on this 11-day visit to the Estoril Coast and the Algarve. With the Alumni Office and Collette Travel, enjoy ancient castles and Roman ruins, fishing villages and almond groves, excellent local food and wine. Hotel stays in Estoril, Algarve and Lisbon. SHU art professor Barbara Cervenka, OP '64 will enrich our appreciation of Portugese culture and language as "scholar in residence" on the trip! Cost: \$2,389 double occupancy, includes airfare, hotels, transfers and 15 meals. **For details contact the Alumni Office ASAP at (517) 264-7143 or email [alumni@sienaheights.edu](mailto:alumni@sienaheights.edu).**



### The Holocaust in Europe

**February 25 – March 7, 2010**

Gain insight into the long-term effects of WWII on Eastern Europe while visiting Germany, Poland and the Czech Republic. Learn about castles, cathedrals and the Cold War. Reflect on the impact of "the final solution" with visits to Auschwitz and Birkenau. SHU theater professor Doug Miller '74, along with Education First College Tours, will lead this exploration of historic landmarks and divisive wars. Hotel stays in Berlin, Warsaw, Krakow and Prague. Cost: Students (to age 22) \$2,380; Adults \$2,775 double occupancy, includes airfare, hotels, transfers and 13 meals. **For details contact Doug Miller in the Theater Department ASAP at (517) 264-7894 or email [dmiller2@sienaheights.edu](mailto:dmiller2@sienaheights.edu).**



# class notes

## From The Sites

### SHU—Battle Creek

**Kimberly McGhee Bachman '99** is a wellness and weight loss coach and is a distributor for Herbalife. She and her husband, David, reside in Battle Creek, Mich.

### SHU—Benton Harbor

**Darrell Metzger '08** was named vice president of sales and marketing for the Jarvis Caster Co. Previously Metzger was the global sales manager for the Shepherd Caster Co. in St. Joseph, Mich.

### SHU—Lansing

**Mark Vroman '08** was recently accepted into the Michigan Political Leadership Fellowship Program, one of only 24 people in Michigan to receive the honor. Those selected participate in a hands-on curriculum that incorporates personal leadership development, public policy process and analysis, effective governance and practical politics. Over the course of the 10-month program, Fellows participate in team and coalition-building activities to foster communication and the exchange of ideas. Practical skills training is emphasized. MPLP faculty are comprised of elected officials, political activists, university professors, labor, media and business professionals from across Michigan. Mark is a lieutenant with the Meridian Township Fire Department and serves as a vice chair of the Ionia County Board of Commissioners. He is also board president of ENRICH, a volunteer and information center in Ionia County. He serves on the Ionia County United Way Board of Directors, and sits on the MAC Human Services Committee. He resides in Ionia.

### SHU—Monroe

**John Massengill '08** was named an advisory board member for the community-based job training program funded by the Department of Labor at Monroe Community College. He also is an advisory board member for the apprenticeship training program at MCC. John is a union representative for Local 223 UJUWA for DTE Energy in Detroit, Mich. He and his wife, Melissa, and their three sons, Nicholas, Nathan and Noah, reside in Monroe.

### SHU—Southfield

**Adam Golchuk '87** is the manager for UPS and Two Men and a Truck in Livonia, Mich. He said he works side by side with his parents and younger brother. He also is in the Navy Reserve. He and his wife, Lori, reside in Canton, Mich.

**Yvette Latham '05** is employed as a bidding manager for Invescor, Ltd., in the firm's pricing and bidding unit. She is responsible for managing life settlement offers, maintaining the firm's relationships with providers and obtaining the highest possible offer on all life settlement transactions. Latham has a Michigan property and casualty producer's license, is an IRS certified tax preparer and is a notary public. She also is a volunteer with the Accounting Aid Society, preparing tax income returns for low-income families throughout the metro Detroit area.

**Wayne Corrian '07** was ordained a Permanent Deacon in the Catholic Diocese of Lansing May 16 at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church, East Lansing. Corrian has a bachelor's degree in theology from Siena. He and his wife, Sandra, have four children.

## Main Campus

### 1960s

**Magaly Rodriguez '67** is employed as a consultant for Volentum, a consulting company based in Minneapolis, Minn.

### 1980s

**James Splitt '81** and his wife, Kathleen, began as co-pastors of the First Presbyterian Church in Adrian, Mich., in August 2009.

**Jim Schwartz '83** was named the chief of police in Marshall, Mich, and will begin his new duties Sept 8, 2009. Schwartz served four years as Adrian's deputy chief. He also served four years with the Tecumseh Police Department and the Collier County (Fla.) Sheriff's Department.

**Scott Schmidt '85** is an administrator for the United Way of Jackson County, Mich. He and his wife, Leslie, reside in Brooklyn, Mich.

**Aimee Nemeckay '89, '91/MA** received the Spirit Award at the 10th annual Designs for Dignity Spirit Awards May 14, 2009, at the Chicago History Museum in Chicago, Ill. Nemeckay is employed with the Susan Fredman Design Group. Designs for Dignity provides pro bono interior design services to area nonprofits that serve marginalized or at-risk populations. She resides in Chicago.

### Stay In Touch!

Send us your notes, photos, letters, emails and phone calls. We welcome updates from graduates of all SHU locations.

Contact the Alumni Office with news: Call (517) 264-7143 or (800) 693-0506, email alumni@sienaheights.edu, or snail mail to:

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

### 1990s



**Kali Rose '90** was named July's Best Vocalist of the Month by SingerUniverse Magazine. Rose is a country/gospel singer based in Plymouth, Ind.

She received the award for her performance of her song "Through the Valley" which is featured on her most recent album "Brand New Day" which was released in January 2008. She performs at festivals, fairs and churches and has opened for such artists as Neal McCoy and Ricochet. She also works as a model in commercials, billboards and print advertising.

**Paulette Georges '93** works as an art department coordinator for feature films and television networks. She helps create set designs and graphics, and has worked on several films, including "Prayers for Bobby" starring Sigourney Weaver, "Meet Monica Velour" starring Kim Cattrall, "The Irishman" starring Christopher Walken and "Betty Anne Waters" starring Hillary Swank. She has just signed on to work on a TV series that will be filmed in Michigan. "I never thought a small-town Tecumseh girl could expand into what I have as a person and in my career!" she said. Georges resides in Royal Oak, Mich.

**Jennifer Schreer '94** is employed in the Student Activities office at Albion College. She resides in Albion, Mich.

**Mary Boneville '95** moved to Cambridge, Ontario, Canada, in 2008 and is employed as an underwriter for The Economical Insurance Group in Kitchener, Ontario. She enjoys playing recreational ice hockey and soccer in her spare time.

**Brett Lawrence '95** is employed as a graphic designer/photographer for Amphenol Sine Systems in Clinton Township, Mich. He lives in Warren, Mich.

**Jere Righter '95** took over Aug. 10, 2009, as the artistic director of the Crosswell Opera House located in Adrian, Mich. For the last year and a half she has been with the University of Michigan Health System, where she was the senior major gifts officer/associate director. She previously served as SHU's vice president of Advancement and director of Grants and Foundations.

**Rob Belegrin '96** was named the varsity baseball coach at Clay High School in Oregon, Ohio. Belegrin served as an assistant baseball coach at Clay, his alma mater, for the past 12 years.

**Seyed-Jalal Hosseini '96** earned his second master's degree in June from Harvard University, where he is employed at the Harvard School of Public Health. Hosseini continues his work in AIDS prevention and education in Africa, recently traveling to Nigeria, Botswana and Tanzania.

**Matt Hochleitner '99** had this interesting feedback regarding the arrival of Siena Heights' new athletic mascot, Halo: "I received the Reflections quarterly magazine and was surprised to see the new mascot of Siena. I graduated in 1999 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts. That year I bought my first dog, a Siberian husky that I named Siena (below). She has been a great friend throughout the years! What a great coincidence!" Hochleitner is the creative director for Monroe Bank & Trust.



### 2000s

**Heather Simpson Cattivera '00** and her husband, Tony, announced the birth of a son, Cameron. He joins brother, Dominic, and sister, Victoria. The family resides in New Baltimore, Mich.

**Chanda Filipek '00** was named the 2009 Outstanding Adviser of the Year at the University of Toledo. Filipek has been employed as the academic program coordinator in UT's Department of Chemical and Environmental Engineering since 2007. She was recently recognized at the Academic Honors Reception and as part of her award received \$1,500. Filipek worked in the SHU Admissions Office from 2000-07.

**Matt Bennett '02** is employed as a specialty sales area manager in south Florida for Cephalon, Inc. He resides in Jupiter, Fla.

**Rachel Campbell '02** would like to let her former classmates know she has recently won her battle with breast cancer and is asking for prayers for her current fight with sarcoma in her lungs. She is employed as a juvenile probation officer with the 44th Circuit Court in the family division juvenile unit. She resides in Pinckney, Mich.

**Tim Fortescue '02** is currently working in medical sales for Phadia Diagnostics, a company based in Kalamazoo, Mich. He resides in San Francisco, Calif.

**Christina West '03** was recently named assistant professor of ceramics at Georgia State University. The award-winning sculptor will present the exhibit "Where the Wild Things Are" this fall in the Klemm Gallery during Homecoming.

**Theresa Cannon Hammons '04** is completing her secondary art/teaching certification in Maple Falls, Wash. She will teach full-time this fall at a middle school in Bellingham, Wash. She married her long-term boyfriend, Josh, in June 2009.

**Carol Krueger '04** was recently promoted to theatre services manager for the Shakespeare Theatre Co. in Washington, D.C. She and her husband, Timothy Wilson Jr., live in Washington, D.C.

**Ryan Swierlik '04** and Andrea Twiss were married Sept. 27, 2008, at Divine Child Catholic Church in Dearborn, Mich. Ryan is employed at Auto Catalystr Recycling Corporation in Detroit. The couple lives in Dearborn.

**Kerry Hamilton-Smith '05/MA** was named the interim executive director of the Tecumseh Area Chamber of Commerce. She has more than 25 years of experience in public relations, marketing and event coordination and also serves as president of the Tecumseh Schools Foundation.

**Kelli Morrison Campbell '06** teaches mathematics and is the cheerleading coach at Jonesville (Mich.) High School. She and her husband, James, have two daughters, Lauryn and Madisyn. They reside in North Adams, Mich.

**Daniel Rutkowski '07** is employed as a lead customer service representative for First Federal in Tecumseh, Mich. He resides in Morenci, Mich.

**Olivia Rawson '08** married Curtis Shaw March 21, 2009.

**Curtis Parsons '09/MA** is the emergency management coordinator for Lenawee County. He and his wife, Gail, reside in Tecumseh, Mich.

## Deaths

### Alumni

Sister Marie Rachel Forster '39  
Jeanne Hall '46

Sister Francis Winifred Schnell, OP '55

Sister Anthonita Porta, OP '63

Sister Margaret Naber, OP '64

Kimberly Serling '65

Darrell Sternberg '67/MA

**Dorothy Tombaugh '65/MA**, who received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Siena Heights in 1982 for her pioneering work with the disabled, died July 3, 2009, in Denver, Colo. Tombaugh, 92, taught high school biology and chemistry in Adrian, Mich., and Euclid, Ohio, and also worked as a chemist and medical lab technician. She spent the last five years of her teaching career touring the country with her husband, Roy, to present seminars on teaching science to the disabled.

**Sister Lois Spear, OP '46**, who taught as an adjunct in the Humanities division at Siena Heights and edited the McNair Journal during the 1990s, died June 1, 2009, at the Dominican Life Center in Adrian, Mich. Her presence at numerous university events spoke of her interest in Siena Heights and was a walking testimony to life-long learning, according to SHU Vice President of Academic Affairs Sister Sharon Weber, OP, PhD.

### Friends

Thomas Kramlinger  
Jeannette "Jan" McCusker Kohler



# Give & Receive

**I**n 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
- immediate income tax savings through a charitable contribution deduction
- capital gain tax savings for gifts of appreciated stock
- the ability to see your gift at work on the Siena Heights University campus

A Siena Gift Annuity is a great alternative for donors who have bank stocks which no longer are paying dividends.

**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.

# Creative Design

## Faculty Profile

### SHU's Robert Conlon Balances the Business and the Artistic Realities of Graphic Design

Robert Conlon's teaching career originally wasn't by design.

In fact, the former theology student had sketched a different plan when he moved to Chicago to study for his doctorate degree in philosophy more than a decade ago.

However, because of his background in audio and video production – and to pay some bills – he accepted a job working as an art director for a small design firm. This eventually led to a marketing manager position for the movie company Paramount Communications. Eventually, he began teaching graphic design part-time at a local college. It was there he discovered his passion for teaching.

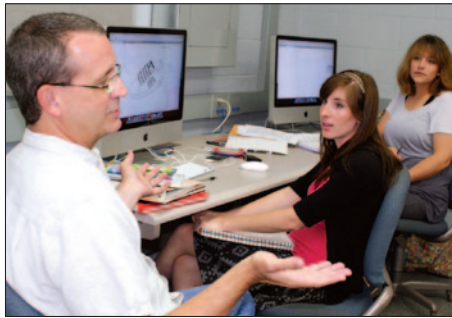
"I felt like I had found what I both loved and needed to do," Conlon said.

In 2007 Siena Heights University hired Conlon as a full-time faculty member to teach graphic design in its nationally recognized art department. At SHU, he has brought a combination of real-world practicality and artistic innovation to the classroom. Finding the right balance for each student is his goal.

"The first thing I want students to realize is that graphic design is a service," Conlon said of the "business" side of graphic design. "Students will be working for clients, and ultimately the only thing that matters is meeting the client's need."

However, he said employers also value designers' skills such as creativity and idea generation.

"I also like to make sure students don't forget they are artists," he said. "Nothing makes me happier than when a former student finances their 'art career' by working as a designer."



Conlon started in graphic design when tools like rubber cement and X-Acto knives were the norm. Now, they are primarily electronic, with computers and high-end software the industry standard.

"The tools are something that will always change, but being able to use one's creativity to generate exciting ideas is what will give someone a successful career in design," he said.

Gregg Milligan, a computer information systems major who graduated from SHU last May, completed two of Conlon's graphic design classes to help develop his creative side. These skills currently help him in his job with Human Element, a web site development company based in Ann Arbor, Mich.

"He'll give you a project, let you work on it and ask questions," Milligan said of Conlon's easygoing teaching style. "You have the freedom to expand. You're learning the material, but you're also learning to branch out and forge your own path rather than just being handed a syllabus."

Conlon said his students often have "free rein" during the creative process.

"I have a certain core of things I want students to learn," Conlon said of his teaching philosophy. "But the bottom line is, the best commodity students can take out of my classes is learning how to come up

with ideas. We are moving from the 'information age' into the 'idea age,' so finding that creativity within themselves may be the most important asset they will have for the future."

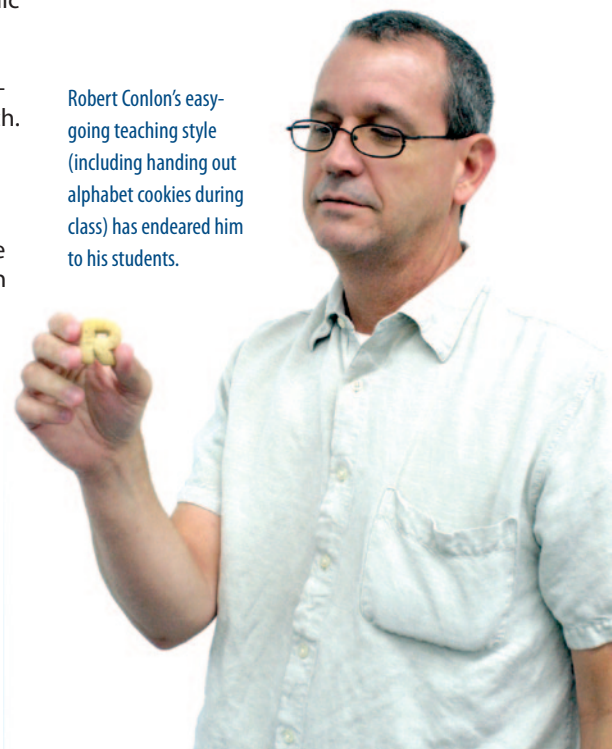
Conlon, also an accomplished musician, pushes the boundaries of his own creativity. Last fall, he taught his first animation class, and also led an experimental filmmaking class this past summer.

"Our emphasis was on good ideas rather than learning about all the technical aspects of animation," Conlon said of the animation class. "It was about pushing creativity into the realm of motion."

His students can also interact with him on Facebook, a popular Internet social media channel.

"I have a (Facebook) group for each class I teach," Conlon said. "There they can post pictures or comments and put up interesting links. It makes for more informal connections and adds some fun." ♦

Robert Conlon's easygoing teaching style (including handing out alphabet cookies during class) has endeared him to his students.



# My Siena



## Karen Johnson '04

Member, SHU Alumni Association  
Board of Directors

When I finished my associate's degree at Oakland Community College, the next step was to pick a university to complete the bachelor's degree. After some time of not really knowing where I wanted to go... it came to me: Siena Heights University! You see, as a child I had been a visitor many times to SHU because my great aunt was a Dominion nun. I had been raised by my grandmother and that was her sister, so you could say that I grew up knowing SHU and the Sisters. Sister Ann Joachim is my great aunt, and she played a major role in my life growing up.



When I picked SHU (I attended the Southfield center), I did it because it was my way to recognize and honor my great aunt. It was such a thrill to finish my studies where I had spent so much time as a child and with Sister Ann. I was delighted at the fact, thinking if she somehow knew I had done this, she, too, would have been delighted and proud.

Since that time I have been an active SHU Alumni Board member, and this keeps me coming back to this place full of wonderful memories, both old and new. ♦

**From the SHU Archives:** Pictured above is a photo taken on the tennis court of Sister Ann Joachim, OP. It was said that she had a fierce forehand shot.

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](mailto:dgoodnou@sienaheights.edu), or write him at:

1247 E. Siena Heights Drive, Adrian, MI 49221.



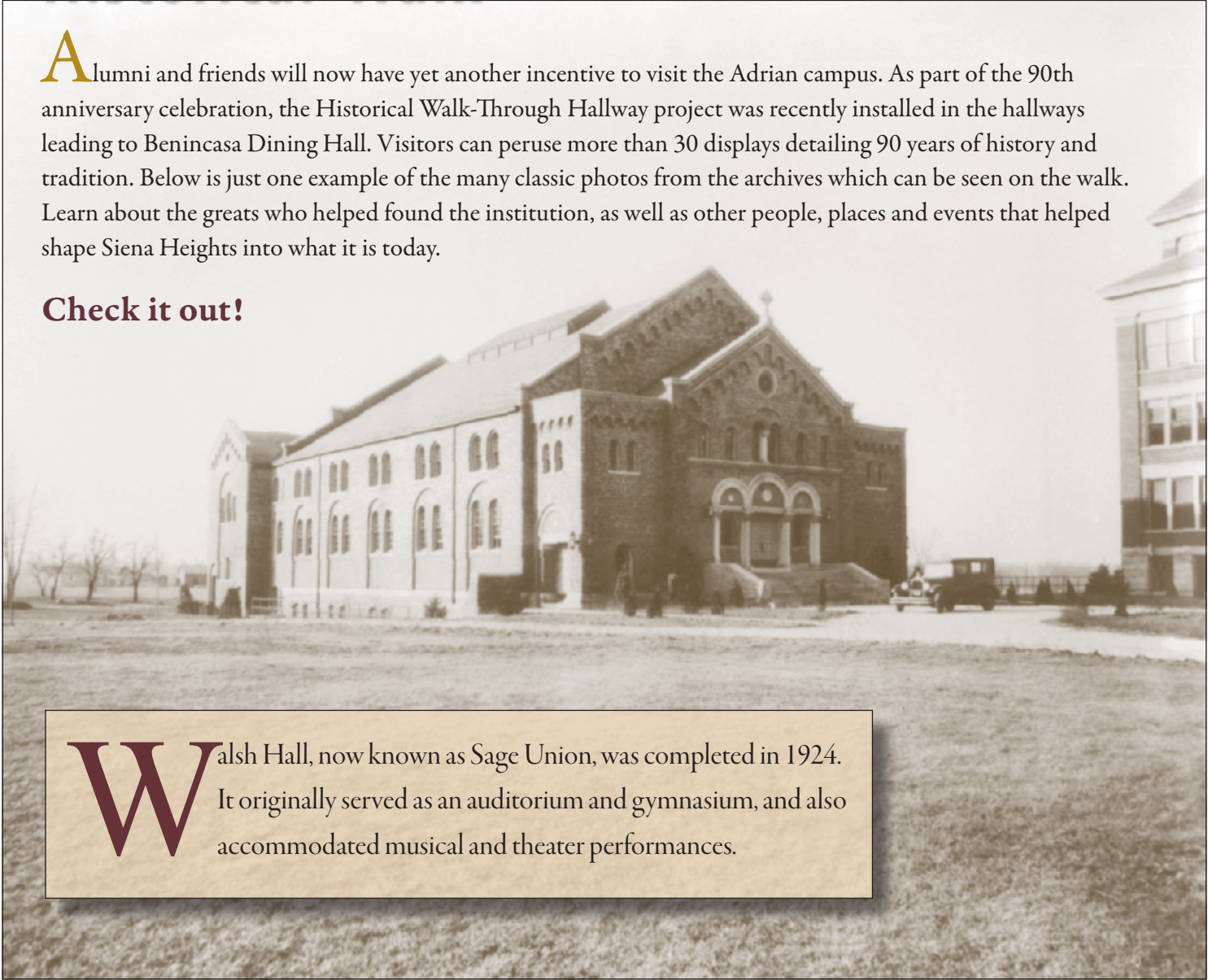
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# Historical Walk

**A**lumni and friends will now have yet another incentive to visit the Adrian campus. As part of the 90th anniversary celebration, the Historical Walk-Through Hallway project was recently installed in the hallways leading to Benincasa Dining Hall. Visitors can peruse more than 30 displays detailing 90 years of history and tradition. Below is just one example of the many classic photos from the archives which can be seen on the walk. Learn about the greats who helped found the institution, as well as other people, places and events that helped shape Siena Heights into what it is today.

## Check it out!



**W**alsh Hall, now known as Sage Union, was completed in 1924. It originally served as an auditorium and gymnasium, and also accommodated musical and theater performances.