

# REFLECTIONS

A man with short, light brown hair and a light beard is sitting on a wooden bench. He is wearing a dark navy blue suit jacket, a light blue dress shirt, and a patterned tie with silver, blue, and white swirls. He is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. The background is a blurred interior space with wooden chairs and a stone wall.

## Siena Saved Me

The Incredible Story of Gregg Milligan '85

2009 Annual Donor Report



## from the president



### Spread the Word About Siena Heights University

Being an Adrian Dominican Sister, I rely on the Congregation's mission and vision to guide my thinking. And one of our Four Pillars of Dominican Life is Community.

For me, at Siena it's always about creating community. How do we do that? Here are some ways we have done so in the past:

- From our institution's earliest days, we have accepted students from all races, religions and backgrounds—and eventually men—after Siena Heights decided to become coeducational in 1969.
- We were the first college or university in Michigan to offer degree-completion programs for working adults, opening a center in Southfield in 1975. Since then we have blanketed Michigan with degree-completion centers and have a distance learning program that allows an additional community of students the opportunity to earn a degree and better their lives.

- When the fieldhouse was constructed in the late 1970s, it was and still is a resource for not only our Siena community, but for a variety of local groups, teams and organizations.
- Our fine art programs have served as cultural beacons, sharing Siena's creativity and artistic expression with the rest of the world.
- Our academic programs, from criminal justice to psychology to social work to sport management—and now nursing—have provided community-based learning opportunities and met community needs for many years.
- On campus, we build community spiritually through Mass and other nondenominational worship opportunities that glorify God.

We have and continue to build community in so many different ways. Is football another potential community-building enterprise for Siena Heights University? In the near future, we are going to try to answer that question.

As you might have already heard, we are exploring the possibility of adding football as an intercollegiate sport at Siena Heights. To make sure we make the right decision, we have established a task force to investigate and weigh all the factors involved, including: potential start-up costs, facility upgrades, academic impact, additional supporting programs (marching band, cheerleading, etc.).

Fred Smith, our longtime athletic director, is heading this task force. I am confident that under his leadership the right questions will be asked—and answered—so we can make an informed decision.

I want to emphasize we are not starting football. Right now we are just exploring the possibility.

The key word here is “exploring.” The ramifications for the university are obviously many, and I'm sure opinions will vary greatly as we move through the process.

As our On Higher Ground capital campaign progresses, we have the framework to potentially have an on-campus facility in place to house a football program. Our proposed Outdoor Performance Stadium project has the ability to expand/adapt to add other sports, including football.

The excitement football can generate could be transformational for a college or university. It has proven to be the case at other institutions similar to Siena. Football may also hopefully give us the opportunity to influence more young people in a positive way.

When I arrived as President more than three years ago, I promised to “Be Bold” in the way I led the University. Adding football would certainly be a bold move, maybe as bold a move as Siena Heights' decision to become coeducational more than 40 years ago.

We may ultimately decide that now is not the right time to bring football to Siena Heights. But as we move through our 90th anniversary year, I believe the time is right to at least ask the question.

I hope you share my excitement about the many community-building possibilities that await Siena Heights University. It's what we are all about.

*Sister Peg Albert, OP*

Sister Peg Albert, OP, PhD  
President



# on the inside . . .

## SPRING 2010

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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

Internationally known child abuse prevention advocate and author Gregg Milligan recently released the book, "A Beautiful World," detailing his childhood of abuse and illiteracy. The 1985 Siena Heights graduate appeared on the "Oprah Winfrey Show" Feb. 15, 2010, to tell his story. Cover photo taken by senior marketing photography intern Laura Marsh '10.

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# REFLECTIONS



## from the editor



### Gregg Milligan: Mission Accomplished

Ask yourself this question: What were you doing at the age of 11?

I was probably playing in the back field, trading sports cards with my friends, going to the library with my dad or fishing with my grandfather—all while handling the usual academic workload of the seventh grade. All pretty much normal activities for a pre-teen boy in my day.

What was Gregg Milligan doing at age 11? Learning how to read, how to tie his shoes, and most shockingly—how to escape and overcome years of physical, mental, emotional and sexual abuse by a person who he was supposed to trust the most.

There have been stories that have emotionally moved me over the 20-plus years I have worked in journalism and communications. However, few have emotionally overwhelmed me. This was one. As Gregg calmly and eloquently recounted the unimaginable circumstances of his childhood, I could barely keep my focus enough to record his words; my fingers seized up on the keyboard at several points during the interview as I struggled to keep my composure. I was in shock.

The full story of Gregg's appalling and deplorable childhood can be found in his book, "A Beautiful World," which he released in the fall. My focus for this issue was to tell the 1985 Siena Heights graduate's "happy ending"—including his unlikely and remarkable path to conquering all these seemingly insurmountable obstacles.

But conquer he did, and Siena Heights played no small role in his success story.

Despite finally teaching himself how to read, then how to study, and finally graduating from high school—all while living from place to place to place—he didn't think a college education was within his reach.

Enter Siena Heights, specifically Pat Palmer, who was a track coach and a faculty member at the time. After a chance meeting between the two, Gregg got his opportunity to go to college. And he made the most of it. He graduated from Siena with honors and, as a member of the Saints' track team, even experienced the acceptance he craved so much. Nearly 30 years later, he is a successful member of society. And more importantly, he is a successful father. Last May, his son, also named Gregg, graduated with honors from Siena Heights, and I have the privilege of working with him each week as he helps develop our web site.

Many colleges and universities, especially the small, private ones like Siena Heights, claim to provide "personal attention" and their students are "not just a number." These messages are almost standard operating procedure for higher education marketing offices. And I'm sure at some level most deliver on those claims. However, I'll let Gregg tell you what separates Siena Heights and its mission from everyone else:

"I wouldn't have gotten this from any other university," he said of the opportunity Siena provided. "I did not apply to any other university because I knew I would not be accepted. Many others like myself don't realize what Siena does. They have given back to the world more than they realize. They are turning individuals like myself who are not contributing into people who are functioning members of society.... There is a direct financial and societal gain in what Siena is doing. I know for a fact because I'm it."

Wow! Talk about a testimonial.

Competent. Purposeful. Ethical.

Mission accomplished.

**Doug Goodnough**  
Editor

# from the heights



## Celebrate with Siena Heights University!

Siena is celebrating its 90th anniversary across the country this year! After hosting alumni and friends on campus at Homecoming and the President's Dinner, SHU took to the road with receptions in Michigan, Ohio, Florida, Washington, D.C. and California. Texas, New England, New York, and other locations are still to come (check the schedule on p.23). At the December Cleveland event, hosted by Joe Orange '82, Sr. Peg Albert shared a laugh with Jason Miller '03 (above left) and his wife, Maureen. In January, Gene and Virginia Blake Olsen '77 made the most of an evening with Siena friends in Sarasota, FL (above right). Join the fun when SHU comes to YOUR area!

## Inaugural Nursing Classes Begin at SHU!

Jan. 11, 2010, was a significant day in the history of Siena Heights University—it was the first day of nursing classes! The students have completed a minimum of 45 hours of courses in the sciences, English, mathematics, humanities and liberal arts, earning their way to being admitted to the nursing major. When finished with their nursing classes, these students will have earned the Bachelor of Science degree in nursing (BSN). Twenty students are enrolled in the new nursing program, which will be a five-semester, 78-hour program in nursing coursework. These students will join those already enrolled in the first Siena nursing program, the RN to BSN degree completion program. Siena was approved in 2008 to educate licensed registered nurses to complete the Bachelor of Science in nursing degree.



## Siena Junior Receives MLK Service Award



Vinnetta Sample (left), a junior majoring in social work, was the recipient of the 2010 Martin Luther King Jr. Student Service Award. Sample was honored at the 22nd

Annual Martin Luther King Dinner Jan. 18, 2010, in Adrian. SHU alum Antonio Galvan '02, the SHU 2001 award recipient, was the keynote speaker. Galvan is currently a federal agent for the Department of Homeland Security.

## Siena Heights Welcomes Blissfield Students

On Dec. 2, Siena Heights University welcomed the freshman class from Blissfield High School for a day-long visit to campus. Approximately 125 Blissfield students, staff and parent volunteers visited campus. The intent of the day was to acquaint the freshmen with the concept of going to college. Blissfield students were welcomed by members of the University's administration, heard presentations by the Admissions staff, Career Services and athletics, and also had an opportunity to ask a panel of current students what college is really like. A key component of the day was conversations with the faculty to learn about career opportunities in various disciplines and the required preparation for those careers. Blissfield students also participated in a scavenger hunt (right) and had lunch in Benincasa Dining Hall before the day ended.

## Partnership Agreement Signed With Addison

Qualified Addison Community Schools graduates will receive a guaranteed minimum of \$5,000 in financial aid and scholarship commitments totaling more than \$500,000 from Siena Heights University after a partnership agreement was signed this fall. With this signing, SHU has a partnership agreement with every school district in Lenawee County. Under the partnership that runs until Sept. 1, 2014, Addison students who attend Siena Heights on a full-time basis following their high school graduation are eligible for several designated scholarships as well as other financial aid.



## SHU Celebrates 27 Years in Benton Harbor

SHU's annual holiday season kick-off in southwest Michigan was Dec. 2, 2009, at Tosi's Restaurant in Stevensville, Mich. This year's 12th annual Alumni Holiday Party was also an anniversary celebration for Siena Heights. Alumni and friends from throughout southwest Michigan and northwest Indiana gathered to welcome the holiday season and celebrate Siena's 90 years of excellence in education—including 27 years in Benton Harbor on the campus of Lake Michigan College. Enjoying the evening's festivities (above) are Benton Harbor alumni Cheryl Sisson '08 and Beverly Astopenia '08.



## Food Drive Collects Record Amount

The sixth annual Siena Heights Food Drive to benefit The Daily Bread raised a record amount of food for those less fortunate. It was sponsored by the students in the Social Psychology class, Campus Ministry, the Psychology Club and Student Senate (photo below). The drive accepted donations of non-perishable food items, personal hygiene products, baby formula and other items.



## Celebrated Photographer Visits Campus

Noted photographer Shelby Lee Adams led an artist's talk Nov. 17 in Studio Angelico. Adams' visit was part of an exhibition entitled "Appalachian Images & Mountain Musicians" that ran from Nov. 9–Dec. 9 in Adrian. During his visit to the SHU campus, he also reviewed portfolios of SHU photography students.

## Siena Tradition Fuels Discussion and Debate

Common Dialogue Day was Oct. 8 on the SHU Adrian campus. Rob Miller, the director of the NAI's Champions of Character program, was the featured speaker for the all-day event. Common Dialogue Day is a Siena tradition allowing for a day of discussion, debate and reflection. Students are encouraged to participate with faculty, staff, alumni and administration to discuss different topics. This year's theme was "The Character of Champions."

## Michael Fox Honored

Siena Heights Coordinator of Student Services for the Upward Bound Program Michael Fox was honored this fall at the NAACP 100th anniversary celebration for his contributions to community service

## Siena Nursing Program Receives Final Approval of Accreditation

In October 2009 the Higher Education Learning Commission of the North Central Association granted final approval to Siena Heights University's Bachelor of Science in nursing pre-licensure degree program. SHU Director of Nursing Dr. Sue Idczak said now that this final hurdle has been cleared, Siena becomes one of 20 fully accredited approved baccalaureate nursing programs in the state of Michigan.



"At almost every turn there was a different step that had to be completed," Dr. Idczak (left) said of the thorough accreditation approval process that lasted approximately two years. "It still almost doesn't seem real. But it is." "This is the news we have been waiting for since we started the process of establishing a nursing program," said SHU President Sister Peg Albert, OP, PhD. "Getting final approval is the culmination and affirmation of a lot of peoples' efforts, including our administration, faculty and staff. Of course, Dr. Idczak has been the driving force in this process, and we are blessed to have her leading our program."

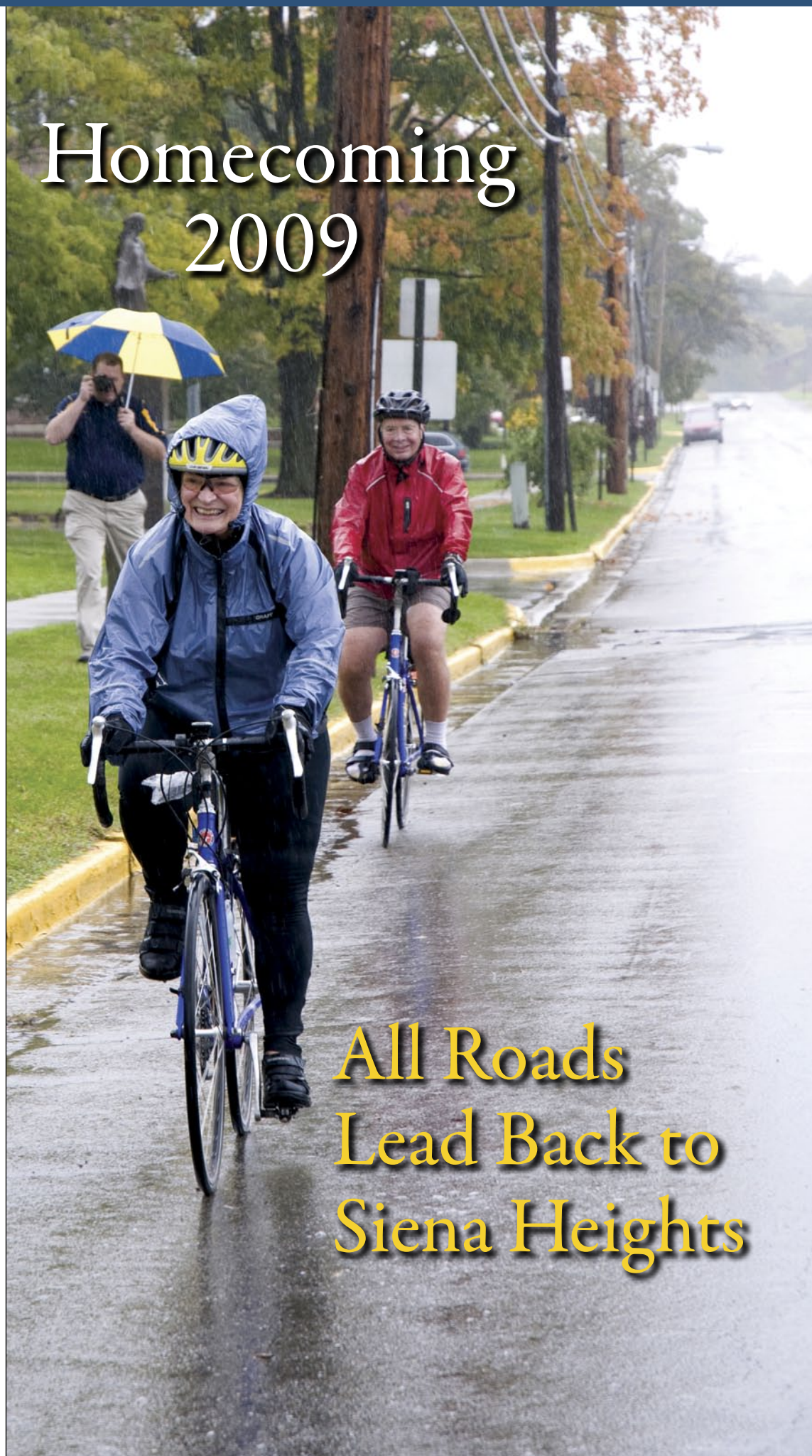
Dr. Idczak said Siena's nursing curriculum will be practical and relevant to today's health care environment. Siena nursing students will complete 78 credit hours of coursework in the nursing major after completing prerequisites in the liberal arts and sciences. The innovative curriculum includes classes like Ethical, Cultural and Spiritual Nursing Care; Pharmacology/ Pathophysiology; Health Policy, Systems and Informatics in Nursing; Community, Population, and Global Health Care; and Nursing Care of the Family: Men, Women and Children.

The program will also challenge a nurse to explore his or her values and beliefs about the profession of nursing, including concepts relating to diversity, spirituality, ethics, evidenced-based practice and leadership, Dr. Idczak said. The first four-year BSN students began their first classes Jan. 11, 2010.

## Professor of English has Poetry Published

Siena Heights Associate Professor of English Saleem Peeradina had his poetry featured in a two-page spread in the November/December issue of *World Literature Today*, the oldest—now going on 83 years—and most prestigious journal devoted to international writers.

# Homecoming 2009



## All Roads Lead Back to Siena Heights



### Angela O'Neill Bidlack '64

The rain was relentless. But so is Angela O'Neill Bidlack.

It was supposed to be a glorious, picture-perfect return to Siena Heights for the 1964 graduate, who was making her first visit back to campus in more than 40 years.

Instead, it was an inglorious, drenching, dreary day more suited for late November somewhere in eastern Europe rather than early October in lower Michigan.

However, it was a triumphant return nonetheless for Bidlack, who over five days bicycled nearly 300 miles from her home in western Pennsylvania to Adrian to participate in Homecoming Weekend festivities at Siena Heights.

Despite the inclement weather during the final leg of the journey, a small-but-enthusiastic group of Siena students, faculty and staff organized by SHU Director of Alumni Relations Jennifer Hamlin Church were there to greet Bidlack and her husband, Earl Benner, as they rolled down Siena Heights Drive at approximately 2 p.m. Oct. 9.

"I was overwhelmed," Bidlack said of the welcome reception she received, complete with balloons – and umbrellas. "I didn't expect



anything like that. There were two kinds of feelings I had: one was the excitement of seeing the school again; the other is when you're in this rain, which is just relentless."

Cross-country bicycling is nothing new for the 67-year-old grandmother. She and her husband have completed numerous similar trips, including a recent 500-mile trek through Northern Ireland.

"You wouldn't attempt a ride like this unless you were a conditioned cyclist," Bidlack said. "When we first started I thought five miles was a really long way to bike. You bike a little. You bike a little bit more, then you start to see the things you observe on a bicycle. ... It's a wonderful, wonderful way to see a country and meet the people who are there."

When deciding to make the trip to Siena Heights via bicycle, she mapped out a travel itinerary from her home near Pittsburgh to Adrian, carefully identifying which roads to traverse along the way. She bicycled as much as 76 miles in one day, with her husband traveling ahead by van to meet her at the scheduled stop for the day. Despite running into some unforeseen obstacles (road construction and a flat tire) during the trip, Bidlack said things generally went as planned.



"We enjoy it very much," said Bidlack, who retired after a 35-year career as a financial advisor.

"If you're walking, you can smell the smells and see the sights, but you can't cover much ground. If you're in a car, you're zooming along, but where do you park? You can't stop on a dime. When you're on a bicycle, you kind of combine the best of both worlds. You can really feel the environment. When you stop, you stop. And you can cover a fair amount of ground in a day."

Usually on such trips, it's more about the journey, not the destination. However, this time, returning to Siena was a special moment for Bidlack.

"It's a totally different feeling," she said of her impressions of today's Siena Heights, which was an all women's college when she attended. "I've talked to some of the alums whose children attended (Siena Heights) recently, and they're talking about the differences. I'm impressed. I think they've taken the good parts of the school when I was there and expanded to fit more in the real world. ... That just shows that somebody has a lot of foresight."

### Marilyn Smith Zimmerman '59

Marilyn Smith Zimmerman didn't arrive on campus by bicycle, but her return to the Adrian campus was no less special.

The 1959 graduate was visiting Siena Heights for the first time since she received her degree—celebrating her 50th class reunion during Homecoming Weekend Oct. 9-11.

"We moved 20 times and I was never around the area," said Zimmerman, explaining her reasons for not coming back to Siena before this year. "I tried to get back for the 45th (reunion), but it just didn't work out. I was most anxious to come to this one."

She said she recognized parts of campus, although she admitted "I don't know where I'm going."

"I've heard it was a beautiful campus, and it is an understatement," said the retired business teacher who has four grown children and eight grandchildren. "It's grown, and it's just as friendly."



However, reconnecting with her classmates was her primary motivation to return to Siena. "They're just a very special class," she said. "Everybody got along." Marilyn is seen above (left) enjoying homecoming with classmates **Nancy Bradford Leflar '59** and **Rochelle Bellegarde Weaver '59**.

Zimmerman was one of 13 non-Catholic students in her class. Instead of taking theology classes, she took character education, taught by Sister Leonilla Barlage.

"I think everybody should have to take character ed," she said.

She also remembers the trips to local restaurants and the pinochle games – as well as the strict rules of dorm living during those days, including nightly bed checks and afternoon study. "It was an altogether different world," she said.

Zimmerman and her husband, a retired Army officer, currently reside in the Upper Peninsula and spend their winters in Texas. She said she enjoyed her visit to campus.

"It's wonderful," Zimmerman said. "I'm glad to be here." ♦



# saints highlights



## Siena to Start Bowling in the Fall of 2010

Siena Heights University is beginning men's and women's bowling as an intercollegiate sport starting in the fall of 2010.



According to Saints Athletic Director Fred Smith (left), bowling is one of the nation's fastest growing high school sports, including in Michigan, where there are currently nearly 300

programs. Smith said hiring a coach to coach both the men's and women's programs is his first priority.

"We hope to attract a coach who can lead us in being a collegiate leader in bowling in the state of Michigan, the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference and the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics," Smith said.

SHU would compete under the United States Bowling Congress Collegiate program, which hosts championships at both the team and individual levels. The NAIA currently does not sponsor bowling as a sport, however, Smith said almost 30 NAIA schools are expected to offer bowling by 2010-11. He said conference members such as Davenport, Indiana Tech and Northwest Ohio are currently developing bowling programs.

The collegiate bowling season runs from October through February, with postseason competition in March, April and May. The USBC Intercollegiate Team Championships are conducted annually in April and bring in the top 16 men's and women's teams to compete for national titles. There are also individual championships in May. The NCAA currently recognizes the USBC Intercollegiate Team Championships as the national governing body championship for intercollegiate bowling.

USBC Collegiate membership entitles bowlers to participate in all certified intercollegiate conferences and tournaments. Standard collegiate competition utilizes a five-player team, with each team's regular travel roster consisting up to eight players, Smith said.

"I am anticipating that our ideal numbers for bowling will be 10 student-athletes for each team," Smith said. "One of the biggest advantages to adding bowling is not only enrollment, but also there are no on-campus facility requirements."

Smith said he is exploring the possibility of having the SHU bowling teams compete at a local facility. "This is a logical step in the development of our intercollegiate athletic offerings," said Smith, who currently oversees eight men's and seven women's intercollegiate sports programs at SHU.

## Champions of Character

Siena Heights University was again named a Champions of Character institution for the 2008-09 year by the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics. SHU has earned this distinction every year since this program began in 2001. The mission of Champions of Character is to restore character values and raise a generation of students who understand and demonstrate in everyday decisions integrity, respect, responsibility, sportsmanship and servant leadership. A total of 231 NAIA colleges and universities were named to the list.

## Fall Sports Highlights

### Women's Volleyball

The Saints ended their season 8-24. Senior Melissa Hall was one of five Saints to be honored with conference all-academic team honors. She was also the team's Champions of Character representative. Also earning all-academic mention were Jessica Brown, Brianna Chrenko, Hillary Day and Sara Ullenbruch.

### Women's Cross Country

Kim Cramer and Dominique Miller each qualified for the NAIA national meet by finishing fifth and eighth, respectively, at the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference meet. The Saints finished second as a team, just missing a national berth. Cramer earned

all-conference honors, while she, Rachel Ham and Karen Judd earned all-academic recognition. Ham was also SHU's Champions of Character recipient.

### Men's Cross Country

Mike Glinski and Jesiah Rodriguez finished fourth and fifth, respectively, at the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference meet to earn a trip to the NAIA nationals. The Saints placed third as a team. Glinski and Rodriguez were each named to All-WHAC team, while Glinski earned NAIA Scholar-Athlete recognition, all-academic honors and was the Champions of Character representative.

### Men's Golf

Junior Kyle Beaudrie was named to the 2009 All-WHAC Academic Team and was the team's Champions of Character representative.

### Women's Golf

Senior Kelly Sawyer was named a first team All-Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference performer after finishing no lower than fifth place in the conference jamborees. She averaged 85.3 for 18 holes. Senior Kaendall McVicker earned conference all-academic honors, while freshman Kristin Howard was the team's Champions of Character representative.

### Women's Soccer

Junior defender Lindsey Mancini was named a third team NAIA All-American after leading the Saints to a conference championship (below) and a national tournament berth. Mancini becomes the first Saint to be awarded higher than honorable mention All-American honors

since 1994. She was also chosen a first team All-Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference member and was voted the conference Defensive Player of the Year. Senior midfielder Gemma Cowperthwaite and junior keeper Haley Mancini were each named honorable mention All-Americans and first team all-conference



selections, with Coach Scott Oliver (left) named the WHAC Coach of the Year after leading the Saints to a 15-3-3 record, including 15 shutouts—11 in conference play. Senior Allison Septer

was also a first team all-conference pick, while junior Carla Cutino and freshman Hannah Ulrich earned second team honors. Finally, senior Stephanie Hayden earned NAIA Scholar-Athlete honors. The Saints were clipped by 10th ranked Northwood (Fla.) 2-1 in the opening round of the NAIA national tournament. SHU finished the regular season ranked 19th in the nation, allowing only eight goals the entire season.

### Men's Soccer

Four Saints were recognized by the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference. Junior midfielder Lindon Ivezic earned All-WHAC first team honors, while sophomore midfielder/defender Joe Deneweth was a second team honoree. Senior keeper Andy Klenner and John Faraj each earned honorable mention All-WHAC, while Klenner also was the Champions of Character representative for the Saints. Klenner and fellow senior Ryan Hansinger were both honored as NAIA Scholar-Athletes for the second consecutive year. SHU finished 5-9-3 overall and 3-8-1 in the WHAC.



By Doug Goodnough

# Siena Success Story

Gregg Milligan '85  
Overcomes Abuse,  
Illiteracy to Become  
Productive Member  
of Society

**G**regg Milligan '85 is the exception, not the rule.

The 46-year-old endured a childhood that could only be described as horrific. Beginning at age 4, he suffered through physical, emotional, psychological and sexual abuse from the most unlikely person—his own mother.

For the next seven years, his mother, an alcoholic-turned-prostitute, would beat him regularly, along with having an incestuous sexual relationship with him. To make matters worse, the men who would visit her home would also sexually abuse him, he said.

*... continued on next page*



At age 11 and illiterate, children's welfare workers finally rescued Milligan from his abusive environment. But the trauma of that experience lingered. A ward of the state, Milligan began a nomadic existence that included living with a combination of family, foster parents—even pastors—in his struggle for acceptance and a better life.

After attending four high schools in as many years, Milligan managed to graduate—no small feat. However, even his own family didn't believe he was college material. But Siena Heights was willing to give him the chance—maybe his only chance at the time. And he made the most of it, graduating with honors. Milligan now has a successful career, and last spring, his son also graduated with honors from SHU.

Last fall, after a nearly 10-year writing and editing process, he authored the book "A Beautiful World," that detailed the abuses of his childhood. His triumph over his past has allowed Milligan to become a powerful advocate for child abuse prevention, and his message has even attracted the attention of national media.

Although he can't forget his past, he now uses it as an example of how anyone can overcome abuse and illiteracy to become a productive member of society.

## Learning the Basics

By the time state children's welfare workers arrived and finally removed Milligan from his abusive surroundings, what they found was an 11-year-old boy who felt total isolation from the rest of the world. Emotionally scarred from years of physical and sexual cruelty, Milligan said he often felt "a feeling of dread" and even experienced what he called "hysterical paralysis" while trying to cope with what was being done to him.

Unable to read, tell time—or even tie his own shoes—Milligan went to live with his eldest stepsister, who first introduced him to the idea of learning.

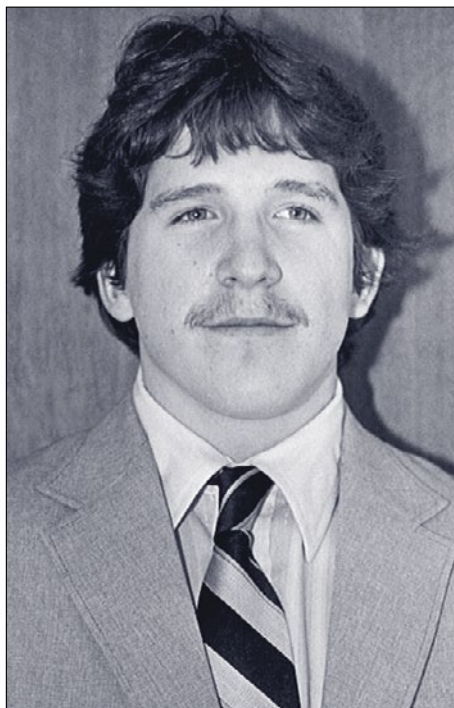
"It was the first time in my life I was ever exposed to a library," Milligan said.

The first book he attempted to read was Dr. Seuss' "Green Eggs and Ham." He liked it because the pictures helped tell the story.

"At the age of 11 it was very embarrassing to be reading this children's book, so I would hide the book if I was reading it in the library," he said. "When checking the book out, I would pretend it was for my youngest sister."

He spent most of the rest of that summer in the library desperately trying to catch up to children his age.

"I had a thesaurus and a dictionary at my side and was forcing myself to look up the words and understand what they meant," Milligan said. "At the end of the summer, my reading level was still far behind seventh-graders."



*"When I raised my hand and I knew the answer and the teacher was very positive, that began to drive that craving for affection that I never had."*

He called junior high a painful and humiliating time, with Milligan barely clinging to a D average while trying to hide his deficiencies from the rest of his classmates. He remembers spending eight hours trying to solve just one algebra problem. Despite his struggles, that determination and development of "severe study habits" would pay dividends later.

## "Something Amazing Happened"

After "squeaking by" junior high, Milligan entered high school barely able to read—but the fires of learning had been lit. Because of his unquenchable desire to learn and be accepted, Milligan said "something amazing happened."

Calling his learning process "exponential," Milligan said his grades went from Ds in junior high to As during the early years of high school as he experienced the positive reinforcement from his teachers. Learning was no longer a chore, but a passion.

"I was deprived of love and affection for the first 11 years of my life," he said. "No one had an interest in what I did. When I raised my hand and I knew the answer and the teacher was very positive, that began to drive that craving for affection that I never had."

Another motivating factor was his involvement in athletics. He joined the junior high track team and experienced "a spirit of accomplishment I never felt before."

"Just like academics, the more praise I received, the harder I tried and the harder I trained," said Milligan, who eventually made the high school varsity track team. "Literally, it was just the absolute craving to be accepted. At the core was the need to be normal. I was abnormal, and I knew it. The elation I felt when I was treated like all the other kids was by far the greatest compliment I got because it was normal. I just wanted to be accepted."



## A Step Backward

Being a ward of the state meant Milligan didn't stay in one location very long. In fact, after initially living with his stepsister, he spent the next few years bouncing around from foster home to boys homes—even living with ministers who took in wayward boys. That instability took its toll on Milligan's study habits. His grades fell, and even worse, attending four different high schools in four years sabotaged his emotional need to belong.

"I struggled at times dealing with the emotional aspect of living in a foster home or boys home," he said. "It was a difficult place to be in for a young male."

As he was preparing to graduate from Ypsilanti High School in the spring of 1981, Milligan, who was now living with his father, started thinking about his future.

"Leading up to my graduation from high school, I never dreamt of college," he said. "I wanted to go, but I never thought I'd be accepted. A month from graduation, everyone in my family was very against the idea. ... The loudest voice of all trying to talk me out of it was my father. ... He said, 'Do not go to college. It's a waste of time.'"

### "Show Me You're Worth It"

However, one day one of Milligan's sisters, who was in real estate, was showing a house to a man who happened to be a faculty member and track coach at a nearby college. She reluctantly mentioned her brother to Pat Palmer, who told her to bring Milligan to the Siena Heights campus for an interview.

"The day I sat down with Pat in his office was literally the beginning of my opportunity at Siena," he said. "He told me he was going to try to do his best, but I did not have the scores, did not have the grades (to get into Siena Heights)."

However, Palmer made him a deal: Come to campus over the summer to live and work scrubbing toilets and doing maintenance work to help pay his tuition—and maintain at least a B average—and Gregg would get his chance at college.



"Pat never minced words," Milligan said. "He said, 'You have to show me you're worth it.' ... You could see the harder I worked, the harder Pat tried to help me." Milligan said he thrived in the Siena environment. In fact, in many ways it became his new family.

"Pat actually was the father I never had," he said. "I honestly don't think he realizes how much he meant to me. He literally saved me."

An admittedly "average" runner, he received the Most Improved Runner award one year, and even learned to throw the javelin and the discus (photos left). But it was the team environment he enjoyed the most.

"It was a wonderful experience, being a part of the community of athletes, that family," he said. "It is some of my fondest memories."

Milligan said Palmer not only helped him get into Siena Heights, he helped him graduate, earning his bachelor's degree in public administration on May 12, 1985 (photos below).



*"Just like academics, the more praise I received, the harder I tried and the harder I trained... it was just the absolute craving to be accepted"*

... continued on the next page



## Siena's Special Role

Milligan not only acknowledges the role Siena Heights played in his success story, he said the institution and its mission have a unique place in society. He is living proof.

"I've told people in my personal and professional life that if it wasn't for Siena's mission to bring in kids like me and give them the opportunity to prove myself, we'd never be functioning members of society," he said. "I wouldn't have gotten this from any other university. I did not even apply to any other universities because I knew I would not be accepted. ... Many others like myself don't realize what Siena does. They have given back more to the world than they realize. They are taking individuals like myself who are not contributing (to society) and turning them into people who are contributing members."

In fact, Milligan's son, Gregg Jr., also discovered that for himself.

"I didn't push Siena," Milligan said of his son's college decision process. "When we toured Siena, for the first 15 minutes he stuck very close to me. Then he disappears with groups of students, and it was like he was there all by himself, talking to people. When we got home that night, he told me, 'I want to go to Siena.' And that was it."

In May 2009, Gregg Jr. graduated with honors from SHU with a degree in computer information systems, and currently works with the university in developing its web site.

"It wasn't until he graduated that I told him it was the best choice he ever made," Milligan Sr. said.

## Getting Out His Message

After overcoming his past to become a loving father and a successful executive in the computer information systems industry (he is a director of infrastructure for a major health care provider in Michigan), Milligan said he wanted to share his story. In 1997, he started researching his subject, and it took more than 10 years to finally finish his book, originally titled "God Must Be Sleeping."

"I changed (the title) because I wanted to focus on the possibility of perseverance," Milligan explained. "God's not going to do your homework for you. ... You have to accept responsibility for your own actions. When I began writing the book, I focused on the end result and worked backwards." He said the process was much more difficult than he expected.

*"He told me, 'I want to go to Siena.' And that was it. It wasn't until he graduated that I told him it was the best choice he ever made."*

"It was a very difficult, arduous process," he said. "I thought maybe it would give me an escape, to be somewhat therapeutic. In fact it made things worse. But I knew it was important to share the atrocities."

Now, he is using his story to help bring attention to child abuse. In fact, the Canton, Mich., resident is working with the City of Detroit's abuse prevention program. He also speaks publicly on the topic around the country at child abuse prevention organizations and events.

"I'm finding through my research and talking to these organizations that many men find it difficult to come forward and talk about (child abuse)," Milligan said. "I hope to see more people who have gone through any type of trauma finding my book helpful. Abuse was my cross. ... I'm the exception, not the rule."



## A Beautiful World

Milligan said education is an avenue for victims of child abuse to overcome adult tendencies like drug addiction and crime. He said the economic impact on society of a person who avoids these pitfalls is tremendous. In fact, he is planning to write a second book to explore that economic impact.

"When I sat down and started writing the book, that was the burning question: Why?" he said. "The only answer I could come up with that could suffice was there was something bigger and better out there. If you try, that will provide the possibilities of a beautiful world."

And Siena Heights helped him find that world.

"I went to the greatest university in the world," he said. "(Siena Heights) has that vision of community involvement and giving people that opportunity to prove themselves and be productive members of society. ... I don't know of any other university that does that and is as vocal about it as Siena.

"The reason we are here is to save one another. I learned that at Siena." ♦

## Giving to Siena Heights University

This report is intended to recognize people, foundations, organizations and businesses who contributed to Siena between July 1, 2008, and June 30, 2009. Gifts received after June 30, 2009, will be recognized in next year's report.

Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy in this report. However, if your name has been incorrectly listed or inadvertently omitted, please contact the Advancement Department by email at [advancement@sienaheights.edu](mailto:advancement@sienaheights.edu), or by phone at (800) 693-0506, or by mail at 1247 E. Siena Heights Drive, Adrian, MI 49221.

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

## from the alumni office



### Close Encounters of the Siena Heights Kind

You expect to meet other SHU grads at an alumni event, right? But in a cab? Or traffic court?

It turns out, mini-reunions happen all the time, in all kinds of circumstances. A few examples:

- Some years ago, Mary Duker Barker '39 got stuck in traffic on her way to Detroit Metro Airport. She was not concerned; she had left plenty early—but the taxi driver had another commitment. So he called another driver on an airport run and asked to transfer Mary into his cab. Mary obliged and found herself chatting in the back seat of the second cab with a bright and personable educator...who turned out to be Maureen Fay, OP, Siena Heights class of 1960! "What a small world," Mary recalled with a smile. "I told her she was a Valiant Woman."

- Keith '99 and Wendy Kirkbride Rusie '99 were moving Keith's uncle into a retirement community in Shelby Township a few years back when they chanced to meet the welcoming couple across the hall. They were delighted, and reassured, to realize what a caring community Keith's uncle was joining. Over several visits, they became quite friendly with Bill and Mary, and once mentioned they were heading to Adrian for an alumni event. "Imagine our surprise when we learned that Mary"—Mary Duggan Cassabon '48—"was a Siena graduate, too!"
- As administrative assistant at (and a graduate of) Siena's Lake Michigan site, Marie Suzor '99 keeps her young granddaughter in Benton Harbor outfitted in plenty of Siena Heights t-shirts. When the girl's teacher revealed that she was a graduate of "that college," Grandma Marie sought her out at the next school event—and hand delivered an invitation to the December '09 alumni holiday party. When Charlotte Ford Kalbfleisch '73 came to the event, we learned she was also best friends with SHU registrar Brenda Doremus '74—and the niece of an Adrian Dominican. Charlotte "plans on attending every year from now on," Marie reports.
- Deb Carter, dean of the College for Professional Studies, spends a lot of time driving between and among Siena's off-campus sites, the Adrian campus, and her Lake Michigan home. Late and in a hurry on her way home for the holidays, her speedometer crept up in Jackson County... Paying her fine a few days later, she emailed the court to assure them the check was in the mail. In a prompt and friendly reply, court services manager Kathleen Cavell Ellis '88 (who noted the email address) mentioned her own SHU

connection. "I am mortified that you are a Siena alum," Deb responded with good humor. "One imagines anonymity when dealing with the after effect of one's own stupidity!"

The moral of these stories is, quite simply, Siena alumni are everywhere—and close encounters can happen when you least expect them! If you were in Singapore over the holidays, for example, you might have run into Iqbal Roshd '83 and his family (**below**).



Still, the easiest way to bump into other Siena Heights people is to say "yes" to one of our alumni events—and this year, those events are happening in lots of places. Join us for a close encounter with Siena Heights. You never know who you'll run into—and how nice it might be.

*Jennifer*

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

# Valiant Women: Celebrating the 90s

By Jennifer Hamlin Church

## Alumni Profiles

**As Siena Heights celebrates its 90th anniversary, meet four alumnae who can point to their own “90 (plus) years of excellence.”**

In Siena’s early years, students (all female at that time) were encouraged to become “valiant women.” The reference, in Proverbs 31, describes a woman whose value is beyond measure and is sometimes translated as the “worthy wife” or “virtuous woman.” But the Adrian Dominicans embraced (and inspired generations of graduates with) the translation extolling “the valiant woman” with its connotations of strong leadership.

Meet Eileen Sanford, Ann Tompert, Mary Barker and Sister Clare Gleeson. As young women, they all attended St. Joseph College, graduating before the Siena Heights name appeared. As alumnae with a combined age of 370, they are living proof that being valiant is not just for the young. Survivors all, they have endured illness and loss, joy and achievement, relying on grace, wit and creativity to “meet life bravely, gallantly, by (their) faith kept unafraid” (Siena Heights alma mater). We salute them!

### Eileen Burns Sanford ’37

Greenwich, Connecticut

Raised in a large family in Bad Axe, Mich., Eileen went from Adrian to the University of Southern California to study writing, before relocating in suburban New York to raise her own large family with husband Bill. But she never stopped writing; her life and times are chronicled in countless poems. She has been an active volunteer for decades, and maintains a keen sense of humor. “I’ve been spending time being 18 again” is how she once described recalling “the wonderful times I had at Siena, way back in the dark ages!”

We reprint here the opening lines of one of Eileen’s poems, which seem particularly appropriate as we remember our history.

Eileen Burns Sanford ’37 and husband Bill



“Absent Friends”—by Eileen Sanford

From oldest to youngest  
we raise our glasses high  
in a toast to “Absent Friends.”  
It is a toast of broadest scope  
for those we love, and miss,  
and hope are well and happy...

### Anna Bakeman Tompert ’38

Port Huron, Michigan

“Why do you keep writing?” someone asked Ann a few years ago. “How could I not?” she answered. “That’s what writers do.” She should know. With 40-plus children’s books to her credit, Ann continues writing (longhand on a yellow tablet), sending manuscripts to agents, corresponding with publishers, speaking to groups when asked. This past July, she was a featured celebrity in the Port Huron International Day Parade and in December published an original short story. Raised by her widowed father on five acres at the corner of Vernier and Mack, on one of the last working farms in the Detroit area, Ann was a writer by the time she came to college to live in Madden Hall (as students did before Archangelus was built). “Bells awoke me in the morning; bells drove me to meals; bells beckoned me to classes, and called me out of them; bells even sent me to bed,” she wrote in the June

Anna Bakeman Tompert ’38



1936 issue of *The Adriannum*. An accomplished armchair traveler, Ann’s books for children explore diverse cultures, historic saints, and creative problem-solving. Firm in her faith, with a keen eye on contemporary politics, Ann continues to smile at life and at herself, often signing her letters “D.O.L.” for Dotty Old Lady...which she clearly is not!

### Mary Duker Barker ’39

Vero Beach, Florida

“We were a little devilish,” Mary said once, describing the temporary “theft” of the wake-up bell from the Madden Hall lobby, which she and several compatriots accomplished while living there as St. Joseph students. Guilt eventually overwhelmed the miscreants, she added; they returned the loot and paid the price. But the twinkle in Mary’s eye made one thing clear: She is still a little devilish! A non-smoker now, she loves recalling how—when smoking was prohibited for vulgarity rather than health—Siena girls smoked in the cemetery, where “we’d visit Jimmy Maloney. Or was it Johnny Mahoney? Anyway, there was a nice bench.” They also snuck into the attic above Sacred Heart Hall’s 5th floor: “We called it our ash tray,” she chuckles. “Must have been a terrible fire hazard.” Twice widowed, Mary is a stepmother whose children and grandchildren long ago lost the “step.”

Mary Duker Barker '39



Until this year, she commuted between summer and winter homes in Michigan and Florida. Her devilish sense of humor still intact, she recently opted for year-round warmth in a retirement community where she enjoys meeting friends for pre-dinner wine and cheese. Cheers, Mary!

### Clare Gleeson, OP '39

Adrian, Michigan

In the 1930s, lay students and Adrian Dominican novices often had classes together—but were not allowed to speak to each other. So it came as a humorous shock at a reunion, a few years ago, when Sister Clare revealed the startling news that lay students were not the only pranksters back then! Clare and a fellow novice had once sneaked into the Madden Hall tower to ring the bell...vigorously.

Clare Gleeson, OP '39



"People were so surprised," she recalled with a chuckle. "They thought maybe the Pope had died!" Clare taught school for 40 years—3rd and 4th grade in St. Joseph, MI, then high school Latin in West Palm Beach, FL—but in recent years, she has been better known as an artist. As a child on the south side of Chicago, she drew on the sidewalks. Decades later, in her Dominican Life Center studio, she works in pastels, focusing on portraits and flowers, often reproducing her work for notecards or small prints. Several of Clare's pieces hang in the Weber Center, and her portrait entitled "Big Randy" is part of the permanent collection at the Association of Homes and Services for the Aging in Washington, D.C. ♦

## SHU Alumni Awards to be Presented in October During Homecoming 2010

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

Who do you know—that we should know?

We will present this year's alumni awards during Homecoming weekend, October 1-3, 2010. Nominations are accepted year-round; and those received by March 31 will be considered for 2010.

The Alumni Association sponsors the Outstanding Alumni Award, the Sister Ann Joachim Award, the St. Dominic Award, and the Recent Graduate Award. For award descriptions, criteria and a list of prior recipients, visit the Siena Heights website or contact the alumni office: (517) 264-7143 or alumni@sienaheights.edu.

#### Nominations must include:

- A detailed letter outlining the qualities, accomplishments and characteristics that make the nominee worthy of recognition;
- A resume (if available) and other supporting materials as appropriate;
- Name(s) of additional person(s) who will provide letters of support. (It is the nominator's responsibility to solicit any such letters, and several are recommended.);
- Nominator's name, contact information and relationship to the nominee.

## Coming Soon: A New Siena Heights Alumni Directory

If you've ever wondered where an old college friend ended up, or what happened to that student you sat next to in class, you'll be pleased to know Siena Heights will be developing a new and up-to-date alumni directory during 2010.

SHU is partnering with "PCI: the data company" in Dallas, Texas, to produce the new reference.

PCI is the same company that worked on our last alumni directory 10 years ago. In addition to providing a useful resource for alumni, the project will help Siena Heights update its internal data system.

In the weeks and months ahead, PCI will contact alumni by letter, email and/or telephone to update contact information as well as family and career data. (Don't be surprised if your caller has a southern accent—remember, they're calling from Texas!) Alumni will have an opportunity to pre-order paperback or digital copies of the directory. Alumni also may provide information for Siena's records but stipulate that it not appear in the directory.

"We encourage everyone to participate by updating their records," SHU alumni director Jennifer Hamlin Church said. "This project will help us connect better with you—the alumni—and help you connect better with each other, too."

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

## Coming Your Way

### 90th Anniversary Alumni Outreach Tour

Join us this spring and summer—on campus or around the country! Watch your mail or contact the Alumni Office for details

#### Siena Heights Week in Texas:

- April 20: Houston area
- April 21: Austin-San Antonio area
- April 22: Dallas-Ft. Worth area

#### Siena Heights in the Windy City:

- May 17: Chicago

#### Siena Heights in the Northeast:

- June 8: New York City
- June 9: Northern New Jersey
- June 10: Greater Boston area

#### Take SHU Out to the Ball Game:

- July 29: Toledo Mud Hens @ Fifth Third Field

#### AND...

Other events yet to be scheduled! Locations to be announced.

#### Homecoming 2010: Oct. 1-3

"Bright Lights on the Heights"

## 2010 Alumni Board

### Siena Heights University 2009–10 Alumni Association Board of Directors

Dennis Reeder '78, President  
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 Nick Oliverio '05  
 Dan Pena '01, '08 (Benton Harbor)  
 Mary Small Poore '76  
 Theresa Rahn '03 (Benton Harbor)  
 David Stevens '81 (Southfield)  
 John Stoyka '04 (Southfield)  
 Carole Sporer Stroh '52  
 Joni Warner '83

Elly Teunion-Smith '89, Faculty Representative  
 Jennifer Heineman '12, Student Representative



# class notes

## From The Sites

### SHU—Benton Harbor

**Ronald Murdock '02** married Lisa Swets Aug. 8, 2009. The couple resides in South Bend, Ind.

### SHU—Lansing

**Lee Ritter '04** is currently serving overseas with the U.S. Air Force's Air National Guard. He resides in Hilliard, Ohio.

**Erin Buitendorp '05** is completing her final semester of the graduate program in counseling education at Western Michigan University. She is employed with WMU's Lansing site at Lansing Community College. She and her husband, **Paul Wozniak '07**, reside in Lansing, Mich.

### SHU—Southfield



**Michael Bennett '80** was reelected mayor of Aberdeen, Md., on Nov. 3, 2009. Bennett, a Vietnam War veteran, is a retired lieutenant with the Maryland State Police. He still serves the MSP as the civilian director of the Electronic

Systems Division, and is beginning his 38th year with the MSP. He is a life member of the Aberdeen Fire Department, formerly serving as chief, and also serves as the co-chair of the Local Government Service Committee to the BRAC Sub-Cabinet chaired by Maryland Lt. Gov. Anthony Brown. He and his wife, Elaine, have one grown daughter.

**Sheila Thomas '89** is retired from Wayne State University after working as a nurse for 34 years. She currently volunteers as a tutor for children in Detroit Public Schools.

**Randy Walker '02** was elected to a two-year term as mayor of Garden City, Mich., on Nov. 3, 2009. Walker is employed as a manager at the Ford Motor Co. and is a veteran of the U.S. Air Force. He served as a reserve officer for the Garden City Police Department from 1997-2003.

**Robert Ginther '06** was sworn in as the new public safety officer for the city of Farmington, Mich., Oct. 19, 2009. Ginther previously worked at the Lake Angelus and Beverly Hills police/public safety departments and has police, fire and medical first responder certifications. He currently serves on the teaching staff at Oakland Community College and at the County Combined Regional Emergency Services Training center. Ginther is also a member of the Oakland Community Medical Authority.

## SHU—Online

**Darric Roesler '08** was elected to a four-year term on the Montague (Mich.) City Council on Nov. 3, 2009.

## Main Campus

### 1940s

Former Alumni Award winner **Frances Bock Nowakowski '48** returned to Siena Heights Aug. 21, 2009, to thank her teacher and mentor, **Sister Marie Bentz, OP, '42 (photo below)**. Sister Marie, who is now living in Maria Hall of the Dominican Life Center, taught and guided Nowakowski—the only math major in her class—through Siena's rigorous math program from 1944-48. Nowakowski retired from a long career as a math teacher from Memphis (Tenn.) Public Schools and credits Sister Marie for her professional teaching skills. She and her husband, Aloysius, reside in Emmett, Mich., and spend their winters in Ft. Myers Beach, Fla. During her visit Nowakowski said she appreciated all the changes that have happened on campus and "will always be grateful to Sister Marie and her other friends at Siena Heights."



### 1960s

**Mary Alice Komar '67** is now self-employed as an artist/photographer. She also hopes to soon begin canvas work with oils and pastels. She enjoys horses and raises hay. She resides in Ossineke, Mich.

**Sandra Kotulis '67** was named the Outstanding Faculty Member for the downriver campus of the Wayne County Community College District. She is a professor in the biology department. She retired after 30 years as a teacher at St. Alfred School in Taylor. She was also named the Walmart Teacher of the Year in Taylor.

**Dr. Eileen Quinn Knight '69** was recently chosen the chair of the Golden Apple Selection Committee for 2010-11. The Golden Apple Foundation awards 10 sabbaticals to high school teachers in Illinois for work in teaching at Northwestern University. She is professor in the School of Education at St. Xavier University in Illinois and has taught both undergraduate and graduate courses for 24 years.

Dr. Knight's expertise is primarily in the area of development and math method courses to undergraduates and curriculum courses to graduate students. She is extensively published, including recently in the Teacher College Record published by Columbia University. She has also presented on issues of education around the world.

### 1970s

**Sister Judith Benkert, OP, '71** is a faculty member at the University of California-San Francisco School of Medicine in its Certified Nurse-Midwifery Education Master's Program. Last spring she and a group of students spent two weeks in Guatemala working with midwives and meeting with more than 90 women in various stages of pregnancy. Sister Benkert was elected chapter prioress of the Dominican West Mission Chapter March 14, 2009.

**Mary Phillips '71** has some of her recent artwork on exhibit at the new gallery space in Q's Café in Galesburg, Ill. Also, some of her work was on exhibit in the Holiday Showcase at the Galesburg Civic Art Center. She recently won the Juror's Choice Award for painting in the annual Art in the Park in Galesburg. She is currently busy working on exhibits of ancient artifacts for Monmouth College in Monmouth, Ill., where she works as curator of the College Art Collections.

**Charles Walzem '79 MA**, who died in November 2008, had decades of his artwork on display last fall at the doeGALLERY at the Bucktown Center for the Arts in Davenport, Iowa. Eventually, according to his family, his work may be on display in cities in various Asian countries where he taught for the past 10 years leading up to his death. His work can be viewed online at [heartfeed.com/profile/show/140](http://heartfeed.com/profile/show/140). He is the son of **William** (former Siena Heights business faculty member) and **Barbara '87 Walzem** of Rock Island, Ill.

### 1980s

**James Schultz '81** is now teaching in the Museum Studies program at Central Michigan University. He resides in Saint Johns, Mich.

**Maurice Chi '84** continues his career as a consultant for the Thomson Reuters Consulting Group in Boston, Mass. He also volunteers for the Greater Boston Chinese Culture Association, where he serves as a member of the executive committee in charge of its web newsletter edition and publication. GBCCA is a non-political and non-profit organization that for more than 50 years has helped generations of Chinese immigrants to settle in the American society while retaining their own culture identity and eastern heritage. He and his wife, Kinhou, reside in Wrentham, Mass.

**Garin Orner '84** began his first year last fall as the director of the Art Department at Adrian College. He and his wife, Pilar, reside in Ann Arbor, Mich.

**John Detro '85** started his new job teaching orthopedics at the Interservice Physician Assistant Program in San Antonio, Texas, in January 2010. The physician's assistant for the U.S. Army recently completed the Intermediate Level Education program at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and his second master's degree in adult education through Kansas State University.

**Virtus "Budd" Gale '86** was accepted into the "Portraits of Michigan" show at the Sage Center for the Arts at Hillsdale College, which was Sept. 12-Oct. 13, 2009. He was one of 12 artists to represent Michigan. He and his wife, Cecile, reside in Adrian, Mich.

**Wendy Watson Hutchison '87** is employed as a facility manager at Audatex. She and her husband, Scott, reside in Norvell, Mich.

**Robin Lugene Wagner '87** finished her MBA at Walsh College and is currently employed at University of Michigan-Dearborn as the senior financial manager for the College of the Arts, Sciences and Letters.

**Andrew Crawford '89** came out of retirement to play professional soccer for the Detroit Ignition of the Xtreme Soccer League. Crawford, a member of the SHU Athletic Hall of Fame, played in 16 of the 20 regular season games, scoring seven goals and adding six assists. The Ignition won the XSL championship in April 2009, the first championship for Crawford in his 11 professional seasons. The 42-year-old works as the soccer director at High Velocity Sports and coaches in the Canton Soccer Club. He and his wife, Trish, and their three children, Ian, Morgan and Caleb, reside in Canton, Mich.

**Mary Kloeckner Halley '89** is currently employed as a UniServ Director with the Michigan Education Association office in Adrian, Mich.

### 1990s

**Stacy Miletti Goodrich '90** is a Realtor with Real Estate One in Troy, Mich. Her husband, **Todd Goodrich '88**, is employed in IT sales at Inacom and serves on the school board for Troy Schools district. The couple has two daughters, Erica and Jordan.

**Rob Gordon '90** was the co-writer of the 2010 Minor League Baseball Analyst, a publication analyzing minor league baseball prospects. He is the son of SHU faculty member and library director **Dr. Bob Gordon**.

**Andrea Vasher Maccariella '90** is a preschool teacher at Toledo Christian Schools. She and her husband, Michael, have two children. The family resides in Maumee, Ohio.

**Jason Sanderson '92** started his 16th year at Bedford High School in Temperance, Mich., where he serves as assistant athletic director and curriculum chair in art. He attends weekly figure drawing sessions with his advanced students and has his own studio in downtown Toledo, Ohio.

**Clark Trowbridge '92** is employed as an executive chef for Sweet Valin's. He resides in Waterloo, Ind.

**Kristin Bradley Ettinger '95** is currently employed as a dental technician making ceramic crowns at Big Rapids Dental Health Care. She also creates mixed media sculptures and pottery and occasionally teaches at the local art center. She and her husband, Michael, have two children. The family resides in Evart, Mich.

**Tom Durbin '95, '08 MA** qualified to run in the 114th Boston Marathon scheduled for April 19, 2010, after competing in the Air Force Marathon in September 2009. Durbin currently is the middle school principal at Onsted (Mich.) Schools. He and his wife, **Doreese Ruesink Durbin '04**, and their two children reside in Adrian, Mich.

**John Jackson '99 MA** is employed as a regional intelligence analyst supporting the 6th Fleet Geo Cell at the Office of Naval Intelligence. He retired in January 2009 after more than 30 years of military service. He resides in Dumfries, Va.

**Carmen Art Laskay '99** is currently attending Defiance College to obtain a Master of Arts degree in education with licensure in language arts. She and her husband, Jim, recently started a photography business. The couple and their two children, Alexander and Antonia, reside in Hicksville, Ohio.

**Donna Wolf Robichaud '99, '06 MA** was accepted into the art therapy distance program with Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College in Indiana in July 2009. She is currently employed as a career manager for South Central Michigan Works. She resides in Adrian, Mich.

## 2000s

**Vicki Hayes Engling '01** announced the birth of a son, Sean Avery Engling, Nov. 2, 2009.

**Sister Aneesah McNamee, OP '01** graduated from Savannah College of Art and Design in Savannah, Ga., in August 2009 with a Master of Fine Arts degree in graphic design.

**Amanda Phebus '01** and her husband, G.W., announce the birth of a son, Westin James, on May 16, 2009. The family resides in Monroe, Mich.

**Christina West '03** was the recipient of the 2009 Southeastern College Art Conference Artist's Fellowship Award. West was selected from 58 applicants. The sculptural ceramic artist is assistant professor of Art at The Ernest G. Welch School of Art and Design at Georgia State University in Atlanta, Ga. She graduated with an MFA from Alfred University in 2006, and is currently preparing for an artist residency at the Bemis Center for Contemporary Art in Omaha, Neb., in 2010. During Homecoming Weekend 2009 at Siena Heights, Christina installed her solo exhibition "Where the Wild Things Are" in the Klemm Gallery. West has also recently been awarded the Mary L. Nohl Suitcase Export Grant in 2009, the New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship in 2007 and the George Sugarman Foundation Grant in 2007. Her work can be seen online at <http://cwestsculpture.com>.

**Tommy Herrmann '04** is employed as a web designer/marketer for Quicken Loans in the Detroit area. He resides in Northville, Mich.

**Lanetta Williams '04** is employed at WDIV-TV in Detroit.

**Angela Biniacki Goble '05** recently got married and moved back to the Monroe, Mich., area to pursue a digital imaging/graphic design position with Shutterbug Digital Studio. She and her husband, David, reside in Newport, Mich.

**Meghan Hartwig '05** is employed as a studio coordinator at Martin Blank Studios. She resides in Seattle, Wash.

**Katherine Nakonecny Waetjen '05** is employed as a business analyst for Ford/Percepta. She resides in Westland, Mich.

**JoAnne Golden '07** is currently employed as a policy manager for the San Diego County Taxpayers Association. She resides in San Diego, Calif.

**Kelly Papcun '07** and her husband, Brandon Burke, traveled to Thailand, Laos and Cambodia in January 2010 to explore her love of southeast Asian art and architecture. She is employed as a floral buyer/specialist for Whole Foods Market. The couple resides in Royal Oak, Mich.

**Jean Crillo '08 MA** was named the principal of Immaculate Conception School in Three Rivers, Mich.

## Deaths

### Alumni

Sister Dorothy Johnson, OP '41  
 Sister Mary Regina Eich '42  
 Sister Anne Mary Kirwin, OP '47  
 Sister Jane Elizabeth Berg, OP '49  
 Sister Gloria Kiefer, OP '50  
 Sister Joan Cecile LaCombe, OP '50  
 Sister Julia McCarthy, OP '50  
 Paula Harrington Carroll '52  
 Sister Mary Bernadine Softich, OP '53  
 Sister Marie Houle, OP '57  
 Sister Mary Lequier, OP '63  
 Barbara Morse DeLine '66 MA  
 Ethel Sims '67  
 Mary Lou Lepping Rickert '73  
 Albert Swindle Jr. '76  
 Charles Walzem '79 MA  
 Charles "Chuck" Schwartz '86  
 David Draper '99

### Friends

Longtime SHU faculty member **Terry Ferguson, 54**, who taught for the College for Professional Studies in Lansing, Jackson and Southfield, passed away Nov. 2, 2009. Surviving are his wife, Luanne, and their three children, Chrystyn, Lyndsey and Greyson. A memorial service was held Nov. 16 at University Christian Church in East Lansing, Mich.

Former SHU employee **Dawn Brooks, 53**, lost her long battle with cancer Nov. 7, 2009. Brooks worked as an administrative assistant for former SHU President Richard Artman and also in the Advancement office. Surviving are her husband, Danny, and two daughters, **Lindsay Lakatos '05** and **Sheila Brooks '08**.

SHU professor of Religious Studies **Susan Conley Weeks '67** died March 2, 2010 as Reflections was being produced. She taught at Siena for 23 years and helped develop the Pastoral Ministry Program serving the Dioceses of Lansing and Saginaw.



## Siena Scenes: Homecoming 2009

**Opposite Page Top**—Freshmen "First Year Experience" students volunteered at SienaFest during last fall's Homecoming Weekend.

**1**—The Valiant Women of the Class of '59 came from Texas, Georgia, the Upper Peninsula and all points in between for their 50th Reunion!

**2**—Members of the Class of 1964 came by plane, by car, by bicycle, by foot—whatever the transportation, the 45th reunion was worth it. (Attention reunion alumni for 2010: Get here any way you can!)

**3**—Families have fun at Homecoming! (Bring your family back to campus this fall.)

**4**—Members of the Class of 1969 celebrated their 40th reunion by performing on kazoo's at the Alumni Banquet. Ready to chime in are, clockwise from bottom, Caryl Widdowson (from Gray, Maine), Bernie Kramer Thompson (Sylvania, Ohio), Maggie Hamilton Stratton (Howell, Michigan) and Mary Ann McLinden Baunoch (Phoenix, Arizona).

# 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.

## Sample Gift Annuity Rates:

Age 65 - 5.3%	Age 70 - 5.7%
Age 75 - 6.3%	Age 80 - 7.1%

\* Based on current rates for a single-life annuity.

**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](mailto:advancement@sienaheights.edu).



# My Siena



## Christina Panczyk '74

I was inspired to write and tell you how much I enjoyed the Reflections “90 for the 90th” edition. And I began to have my own reflections that I wanted to share with you.

I was fortunate to have known some of the 90 of the 90th: Father David Van Horn, Sister Therese Craig, Doug Miller and Sister Jeannine Klemm. I attended SHU (aka Siena Heights College) from 1970-74.

Many of the young nuns returned to campus my first year of college in that fall of 1970 to finish their studies. So, I remember walking around on campus and people would say “Good morning, sister.” They thought that I was a nun! Also during my years at Siena men were accepted for study at the college.

I went to Italy with one of the first group of students under the leadership of Sister Jeannine Klemm and her sister, Sister Jean Agnes. Many a morning Sister Jeannine would knock on the doors of our Casa Del Lago pensione bedrooms and tell us to wake up and get out and go to the galleries—even on rainy days.

Father Van Horn was my art history teacher. I recall that many of us used to sit in fear during



Father Van Horn’s art history class. We feared that he would call on any one of us and ask the dreaded question “What do you see?” (in his raspy, deep voice) as he flashed an art slide on the projector screen.

I participated in Sr. Therese Craig’s Drama in Education Troupe (**photo above**) that visited schools throughout Lenawee County. We presented plays to elementary school children based on the British Child Drama techniques. Doug Miller (current SHU theater professor) was in the troupe. We had lots of fun and always got in trouble for “breaking character.” We had to sit with our backs facing the audience at the beginning of these performances. Sister Therese said that she could always tell when we were laughing because our backs would shake. One night we performed for the PTA and Sister Theresa threatened us with our lives if we “broke character.”

Also, Doug Miller was in my morning drawing classes with Father Van Horn. Some mornings Father Van Horn would have to call the dorm to get the boys out of bed. One hilarious morning Doug and Lenny Weinlander, another art student, came to class looking pretty disheveled and wearing their pajama tops! I also remember

a performance by Sister Magdalena Ezoe, another “90 for the 90th.” She gave a performance for my art class. We were studying Dadaism. Her performance was literally just sitting at a piano on the stage to illustrate yet another example of Dadaism. I think that it was the music of John Cage.

I have such rich, profound memories of my educational experience at Siena Heights College. I worked with so many great and talented teachers and had such fun with fellow students and friends! And, I spent much of my time in the art department as an art major. Also I spent much time in the library with all the beautiful art books.

Thank you, SHU, and Happy Birthday! How well you have aged with the years. I now live and work in Denver, Colo., and feel that I have had a fuller, richer life because of the college education that I received at Siena.

Oh, I must mention Father John Keefer before closing. I loved attending his Mass with his lively sermons and his handmade ceramic chalice and plates for communion!



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# Homecoming 2010!

## Bright Lights on the Heights! — October 1–3, 2010

### REUNIONS

**50th Reunion: Class of 1960:** Contacts—Yvonne Kramer Bushey (lybushey@comcast.net), Annette Rysiewski Gambell (636-256-4784), or Susan Franks Stieber (susan\_stieber@sbcglobal.net). **45th Reunion: Class of 1965:** Contacts—JoAnn Curtin Monaghan (jomonaghan@comcast.net), Kathy Howell Mackstaller (kam4300@yahoo.com), Judy Kramer Pawloski (rhpawloski@att.net), or Carol Kulish (ckulish8363@gmail.com). **40th Reunion: Class of 1970:** Contacts—Janice Osborne Cousino (cousino51@yahoo.com), Diane Moro Deveau (ddeveau17@comcast.net), or Carol Hrit Fox (fcfox@msn.com). **35th Reunion: Class of 1975:** We need a contact person! **30th Reunion: Class of 1980... and Friends:** Contacts—Michael Griffin (mgriffin@mail.barry.edu), Terry Beurer (beurer@michigan.gov). **25th Reunion: Class of 1985:** We need a contact person! **And Your Class?** Contact the Alumni Office if you'd like to help!

### HONORS & AWARDS

2010 Alumni Awards Celebration • Athletic Hall of Fame Induction

### SAINTS & SPORTS

Alumni Athletics • Varsity Competition • 5K Run • Annual Golf Outing

### ARTS & ENLIGHTENMENT

Theatre Siena • Alumni Art • Savvy Seminars • Mass

### SIENAFEST!

Games and Entertainment • Picnic Lunch • Kids Activities • "Volley Fuzz II" Volleyball

And a full weekend of fellowship, food and fun! Mark your calendar today.