

# REFLECTIONS

## Siena's Shining Stars



Celebrating Our 2010 Alumni Award Winners



## from the president



### Spending Some Time on the Spiritual

We spend a considerable amount of our time focusing on the material. In other words, what we can see.

Our responsibilities, duties and needs often require it. As President of Siena Heights, I am constantly aware of this fact. Daily I deal with the material world of budgets, management, facilities and fundraising. It never stops.

In fact, lately I am even more aware of the material. Construction on O’Laughlin Stadium—our new outdoor performance complex that will house many of our athletic teams—has started. That means parts of our campus are in the middle of a physical transformation that will redefine our Adrian campus in new and exciting ways.

Most people realize these material improvements are important and necessary for the future success of Siena Heights University. However, do we realize that even more vital is what is unseen—that being the spiritual.

Our campus may have been built with bricks and concrete, but the University’s foundation was developed on spiritual principles. First, the vision of the Adrian Dominican Sisters led to the development of our mission, which continues to be the driving force behind this University.

What do we mean when we say we are a Catholic university in the Dominican tradition? That is a question we at Siena Heights University must ask ourselves every day. Are we living the Gospel? Are we a community of faith? Are we open and inclusive? Are we sharing the fruits of our contemplation? Are we competent, purposeful and ethical? The God of us all demands that we answer “yes” to all those questions.

As a member of the “Order of Preachers,” I am impelled to help spread that message of the Gospel. As a Catholic, Dominican University we also are impelled to reflect and preach the values inherent in our tradition such as truth, justice, prayer, service, community and study. We also have an obligation to provide opportunities for our students and our entire community to address their spiritual needs. This won’t happen by building new stadiums, classrooms or residence halls. It comes through each and every person’s commitment to living the mission and values of Siena Heights.

These material improvements to our campus will provide more students all the opportunities Siena Heights can offer. However, it is vital we provide that spiritual nurturing and direction so our students can continue to transform the world when they leave Siena Heights.

As we look to the future of Siena Heights and all the exciting changes we can see happening around us, let’s also strive for those things that are unseen. In fact, we must never lose sight of it. We know that in the long run our relationship with God, each other and our entire planet is and always will be the most important endeavor here at Siena!

God bless!

*Sister Peg Albert, OP*

**Sister Peg Albert, OP, PhD**  
President

# REFLECTIONS

# on the inside . . .

## WINTER 2011

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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 honored its 2010 Alumni Award winners in early October with a ceremony during Homecoming weekend. This year's class, posing to the right with President Sister Peg Albert, OP, includes (from left): Jamie Richardson, Gertrude McSorley, Harold Love, Sister Peg Albert, Allan Rodewald, and Gregg Milligan.

- 2 President's Message
- 5 From The Heights — Campus News
- 7 Long Distance Learner
- 9 Kelly Ruder Wins National Math Award
- 10 Saints Highlights
- 12 Tim Bauer '82 is a Blue Collar Coach
- 16 Our 2010 Alumni Award Winners
- 23 2010 Annual Donor Report
- 32 Class Notes
- 34 Alumni News



# from the editor



## A Litany of Siena Heights

By the time you receive this issue, you already have celebrated Christmas. In the spirit of the season, allow me to give thanks to my time here at Siena Heights. It has been almost five years since I transitioned from the journalism field into higher education. And with all that is currently happening around here, it is very difficult to find a moment to reflect on my experience.

As graduates, most of you who receive this magazine spent about the same time I have at Siena (a maybe a little shorter or longer, in some cases). So in many ways my timetable mirrors a student's when it comes to the changes and experiences that have occurred.

And what a time it has been. I have had the privilege to document almost all of these changes in my university duties. I would like to use the rest of this space to offer a "litany of thanks" to some of the people, places, things and experiences at SHU that often fall below the radar.

I am thankful for . . .

. . . the passion Deb Keller brings to her job as administrative assistant to the president.

Go Blue!

. . . the amazing talent our theater department churns out on a yearly basis.

. . . the women's soccer team's performance, both on and off the field.

. . . the energy and enthusiasm of CPS Assistant Dean Jeremy Frew.

. . . the easygoing and calming nature of Father Tom Helfrich.

. . . the new stadium. Long overdue.

. . . the generous spirit of faculty member Jeffrey Lindstrom and his SHU Food Drive efforts.

. . . Kaitlin Ludwig, our work study student who serves as our "social media coordinator" in our office. What a great kid!

. . . Bridget McKeon, who is the glue to our Advancement Department.

. . . Sister Pat Schnapp. Where do I begin? What a treasure to have in our midst.

. . . the inquisitive Norm Bukwaz, maybe the most analytical person I've ever met.

. . . those after-work workouts at the Dawson Fitness Center. Life-savers, literally.

. . . the members of my Marketing Team, who work miracles on a daily basis.

. . . the Mud Hens event, one of my favorite outings at SHU.

. . . all of our donors. It is not an easy time to give, but you allow us to do what we do!

. . . graphic design faculty member Bob Conlon, who has become a great friend to my office.

. . . the chance to throw batting practice to the baseball team every now and then.

. . . Sister Jeanne O'Laughlin. Do yourself a favor and meet her, if you ever get the chance.

. . . Sandy Warner and the Motherhouse print shop. They are the unsung heroes of the marketing operation.

. . . all those students who don the hot, sweaty, smelly mascot gear and bring Halo to life.

. . . "Mr. Slider" Jamie Richardson, whose humility and willingness to get involved with SHU's branding efforts made the difference.

. . . Brian Bertram and the maintenance and custodial staff, who have our facilities and grounds looking the best they've been in my time here.

. . . the one-person Career Services dynamo of Melissa Growden.

. . . our leadership's decision to begin football. Touchdown, Saints!

. . . online faculty member Gail Ryder, who consistently gets rave reviews from our distance learning students.

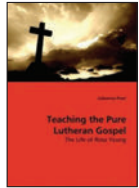
. . . Joni LeMay, the continual MVP of the SHU Athletics department.

. . . Sister Peg. Think about what has happened at SHU during her short time here as president. Amazing!

**Doug Goodnough**  
Editor

# from the heights

## SHU Faculty Member Publishes First Book



SHU Assistant Professor of History Julieanna Frost recently had her first book published. It is entitled, "Teaching the Pure Lutheran Gospel: The Life of Rosa Young." This biographical

study examines the life and work of Dr. Rosa Jinsey Young (1890-1971). As an African American, Young was raised in the African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) tradition and educated in their schools yet converted to become a Lutheran teacher and missionary in her home state of Alabama. In this role she was the founder of numerous Lutheran parochial schools as well as Concordia College-Selma. This study has implications for our understanding of race, religion and gender by showing how Young manipulated her multiple minority identities to allow for effective action in her community and church. It shows how historical events and challenges interacted with Young's various identities; it provides a detailed picture of private religious schools for black children in the Jim Crow south; it shows how a conservative Lutheran denomination engaged in missionary work in the Black community; and it provides an understanding of the complex reactions to the Civil Rights movement.

## Siena Tops in Trivia

Led by President Sister Peg Albert, OP, Team Siena took home first place at the Crosswell's Trivia Team Tournament. The team also included Stephen Smith, Mark DiPietro, Geoffrey Hill, Sister Jeanne O'Laughlin, David Blohm, Trudy McSorley and Lisa Wilkie (photo below).



## SHU Again Named "Military Friendly"

Siena Heights University was named a "Military Friendly School" by G.I. Jobs Magazine for the second consecutive year. The 2011 list honors the top 15 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools that are doing the most to embrace America's veterans as students. Schools on the list range from state universities and private colleges to community colleges and trade schools. The common bond is their shared priority of recruiting students with military experience.

## SHU Nursing Director Receives Appointment



SHU Director of Nursing Dr. Sue Idczak has accepted a two-year appointment from the Michigan Association of Colleges of Nursing as its representative to the Coalition of Michigan Organizations of Nursing, or COMON. COMON is the organization dedicated to the advancement of nursing in the state of Michigan. COMON is composed of nurse leaders from across the state who are appointed from a coalition of nursing organizations within the state of Michigan. Dr. Idczak began her new appointment in August. The Siena Heights University Nursing Program is a member of the MACN, an organization composed of deans and directors from the 20 schools offering baccalaureate or graduate nursing in the state of Michigan.

## Employees Recognized for Years of Service

During this fall's All-University Workshop, the following SHU employees were honored for their years of service to the University:

### 10-Year Award

Sister Marilyn Barnett, Linda Campbell, Donna Marowelli, Tom Puszczewicz, Magdalene Tobias, Sabrina Terrany.

### 20-Year Award

Margie Bacarella, Donna Baker, Deb Danielson.

### 25-Year Award

Tim Bauer, Brenda Doremus, Dan McVeigh, Chris Reising, Tony Scioly, Fred Shepherd.



## Michigan Supreme Courts Visits Campus; Hears Live Case

The Michigan Supreme Court heard a live case on the Siena Heights campus on Oct. 19. The Supreme Court, which normally hears oral arguments at the Michigan Hall of Justice in Lansing, heard oral arguments in King v. State of Michigan at SHU as part of "Court Community Connections," a Supreme Court program aimed principally at high school students. Students from Lenawee County high schools and Siena Heights attended the court session in Francoeur Theater (photo above). Students and teachers studied the case in advance with the help of local judges and attorneys. After the argument, students met with the attorneys in the case for a debriefing session. The event was the largest public audience in the Court's history.



## Gordon Photo Exhibit Displayed in Ann Arbor

SHU Library Director Robert Gordon had his photography exhibit "So I Come to America: Detroit Pre-WWI Immigrants" on display at the Ann Arbor District Library from Sept. 2-Oct. 14. The exhibit tells the story of pre-World War I immigrants through documentary photographs and text panels. Between 1980-83, Gordon interviewed and photographed 50 Detroit area immigrants who came to the U.S. prior to the outbreak of WWI in 1914 (photo above).

## Special Education Program Gets Michigan CI Endorsement

Siena Heights University's Special Education program was recently granted a cognitive impairment (CI) endorsement by the state of Michigan. Beginning this fall, the program will offer CI endorsements to undergraduate teacher education students who want to teach students with a cognitive impairment. The CI program developed by SHU's Special Education faculty was submitted to the state's Department of Education, which approved the endorsement. Students entering the program must complete an elementary or secondary certification. The program also includes course work on instructional methods, assessment, working with families, assistive technology and transition and career education. In addition, students must complete 120 hours working with students with cognitive impairments and a semester of student teaching. SHU added the Special Education program for the 2007-08 academic year.

## Fick Honored with Distinguished Award



This summer, SHU Associate Professor of Leadership Dr. John Fick received the 2010 American College of Healthcare Executives Regents' Distinguished Faculty Award at the Michigan Hospital Association meeting on Mackinac Island. Joseph Tasse, FACHE ACE regent for Michigan and president of St. John Macomb-Oakland Hospital, presented Fick with the award. Fick is the coordinator of the Graduate College's health care leadership program at the Metro Detroit Center.



## Graduate Class Studies in Ireland over Summer

A cross-cultural leadership graduate class from Siena Heights studied in Ireland over the summer. The class studied world health systems and learning about Ireland's system. During their trip they had a chance to see some of Ireland's top landmarks (photo above).

## Admissions Offering "Siena Spotlight Days"

The Siena Heights University Admissions Office is again offering its popular Siena Spotlight Days for high school students and their families. This program allows prospective college students to visit the SHU campus, enjoy a free meal in the dining hall, speak with faculty and staff about academic and extracurricular opportunities and learn about important areas like financial aid and campus life. Participants even receive a free SHU T-shirt! Here is the reminder of the schedule for the 2010-11 academic year:

- Saturday, Jan. 22, 2011
- Monday, Feb. 21, 2011 (President's Day)
- Saturday April 16, 2011

All programs are free and open to students and their families. To register online, please visit [www.sienaheights.edu/campusvisit.aspx](http://www.sienaheights.edu/campusvisit.aspx) or call the Admissions Office at (800) 521-0009, extension 7180.



## Photography Professor Has Photo Exhibition

Siena Heights University Professor of Art Deb Danielson had her sabbatical photography exhibition "Woods, Water, Seasons," this fall in the Klemm Gallery of Studio Angelico. Danielson conducted a gallery talk Sept. 15. The photo above is a print from her show.



## Theatre Siena Opens with "Children of Eden"

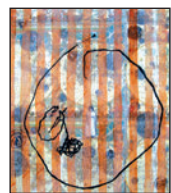
Theatre Siena at Siena Heights University opened its 2010-11 season Sept. 30-Oct. 2 with the musical "Children of Eden." Directed by SHU Professor of Theatre and Speech Communications Mark DiPietro, "Children of Eden" (photo above) is freely based on the biblical story of Genesis. It is a frank, heartfelt and often humorous examination of the age-old conflict between parents and children. Adam, Eve, Noah and the "Father" who created them deal with the headstrong, cataclysmic actions of their respective children. The show ultimately delivers a bittersweet but inspiring message: "the hardest part of love . . . is letting go."

## Peeradina Releases New Poetry Publication



SHU Associate Professor of English Saleem Peeradina conducted a book signing Oct. 6 of his new poetry publication, *Slow Dance*. The TFA-sponsored event had Peeradina do selected readings, answer questions and sign his book.

## SHU Hosts Griffith Visiting Artist Series



The SHU Art Department hosted "Roberta Paul: In Search of Lost Time," this fall as part of the Griffith Visiting Artist Series. The exhibition was in the Klemm Gallery, and represented works that were from larger bodies of her work produced since 1999, a mini-retrospective. She created the earliest work in this exhibition (above), a garbled image of a clock, after her father, Peter Paul, was diagnosed with a progressive neurological disorder that would eventually leave him bed-ridden and cognitively impaired. Her clock paintings were based on tiny drawings of clocks that her father created at Paul's request a few years after her father had drawn similar images as part of his medical diagnostic exams.

## Dan McVeigh to Publish Two Short Essays



SHU Professor of English Dan McVeigh is in the process of publishing two short essays. One is an entry on writer Oscar Wilde for the *New Catholic Encyclopedia*, online edition. The other

is a review of a recent book on Samuel Taylor Coleridge's influence on the Church of England during the Nineteenth Century, which will appear in the next *Coleridge Bulletin*, an English periodical that deals with the work, life and times of Coleridge.

## SSS Program Refunded Again Through 2015

The U.S. Department of Education recently announced that Siena Heights University's Student Support Services program was again fully refunded through 2015. The federal grant is valued at nearly \$1.5 million over five years. The SSS program will serve approximately 160 SHU students each year. The primary goal of SSS



is to increase the college retention and graduation rates of its participants. SHU's SSS Director Michele Buku said that happens at SHU in a variety of ways, including academic, financial aid and career advising, peer mentoring and a unique summer program for first-year SSS students, the Freshman Transition Scholars Program. Through a grant competition, funds are awarded to institutions of higher education to provide opportunities for academic development, assist students with basic college requirements and motivate students toward the successful completion of their postsecondary education. Student Support Services was first awarded to Siena Heights College in 1979. There are currently eight federal TRiO programs, and Siena Heights has three on its campus. Besides the SSS program, Siena Heights also has the Ronald McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement and the Upward Bound programs.

## View the Stadium Cam!

Construction of O'Laughlin athletic stadium is underway. This project was funded by the *On Higher Ground Campaign* and will provide a new home field for many of Siena's athletic teams beginning in the fall of 2011.



A special stadium webcam is up and running and can be viewed by visiting [www.shusaints.com](http://www.shusaints.com) and clicking on the stadium cam graphic.

## Bell Article Published in Spirituality Journal



SHU Assistant Professor of Religious Studies Ian Bell recently had the article "Contemplation and Social Justice," published in the journal, *Spirituality*. It ran in two parts, with the first part appearing in the July/August issue and the second in the September/October issue.

## Special Alumni and Staff Insurance Program

Siena Heights and Kapnick Insurance Group recently announced the introduction of the new Loyalty Advantage Program to help Siena Heights alumni and staff save on auto and home insurance. What makes this program especially exciting is that it provides a triple set of benefits: Policy holders can get some great insurance coverage; policies are available at a special alumni and staff 10 percent discount; and by becoming a policy holder, one aids the SHU Alumni Association through a percentage given back in support of the University.

Kapnick Insurance Group and Siena Heights are delighted to offer this extra-value insurance program through Citizens Insurance Company, one of Michigan's most respected insurance carriers. Alumni and staff can get an immediate quote by calling (866) 856-2081. We hope you'll take advantage of this great new insurance program. For more information, see the advertisement on page 35 in this issue of *Reflections*.

# LONG DISTANCE LEARNER

## Michael Douglas Completes Public Safety Degree While Working 13 Months in Iraq



Michael Douglas gave the term “long distance learning” a whole new meaning at Siena Heights University.

The 25-year-old firefighter recently spent a 13-month tour in Iraq as a civilian contractor for the U.S. Army.

During that time, he was able to complete his bachelor’s degree in Public Safety Studies, finishing his final class in August.

“The online classes were great,” said Douglas, who started at Siena Heights in August 2009. “The professors were understanding and willing to work with you. Their Internet (in Iraq) wasn’t always the best, but (Siena Heights) was always flexible and willing to help.”

Douglas, a full-time firefighter for six years, worked for the Army beginning in April 2009. He was employed as a firefighter/EMT at an Army base in southern Iraq near the Kuwait border.

“The Army no longer has its own fire department,” he said. “They want people with (firefighting) experience.”

Although he worked grueling 12-hours shifts, there wasn’t much to do outside of work, so he decided to try to complete his degree online.



“I was basically stuck in an office for 12 hours,” the Detroit native said. “But I had a computer with internet access, so I was able to get a lot of schoolwork done.”

Despite being isolated, Douglas said the online classes were very engaging.

“I personally liked the online classes because it seems like there was more interaction with the students and teachers,” he said. “Everyone gets to have their say, as opposed to the traditional classroom, where sometimes it’s dominated by one or two personalities. At least this way you are able to hear everyone’s opinion in the class. I think it made it a more interesting experience.”

He said faculty and students were interested in his Iraq experiences as well.

“I got a lot of ‘thank you for what you do,’” Douglas said. “That was really helpful and made being over there a lot easier. Most people were very appreciative, and some were curious about what it was like over there. I was happy to describe some of my experiences and share a few pictures here and there.”

And what was it like in Iraq? Hot, and mostly uneventful. He said he was surprised when he got over to Iraq how operations were organized.



“Half the forces are civilian contractors. It’s really just a bunch of large corporations,” said Douglas, who witnessed what he believed was government waste and abuse. “There are things that could have been done far more efficiently.”

Returning to the U.S. in May 2010, he currently lives north

of Dallas, Texas. Douglas said he would like to use his degree to get even more involved in public service, whether it is fighting fires or involved in politics.

“I just really would like to do something that would help the public as much as possible,” he said. “I truly believe in public service. It’s where I feel I belong.”

Douglas, nicknamed “Hollywood” by his friends for having the same name of his movie star counterpart, said SHU instructors such as Gail Ryder and Stephen Ball allowed him to expand his thinking outside of the field of firefighting.

“(Public Safety Studies) kind of covers everything and drew me towards Siena,” he said. “It’s a very unique program and I haven’t seen any other university offer it. ... I feel I’ve learned a great deal from Siena Heights. They taught me to think critically and look at all the issues. It was an enriching education.” ♦



**Right:** Posing for a photo in Siena's new "One Stop Shop" Financial Services office are (clockwise from left): Doug Betz '08, Lori Kosarue '03, Annette Sanderson, Linda Pancone, Stacy Schaffner, Mary Kruse '05, and Chris Howard.

## SHU's New Financial Services Office Helps Improve Efficiency

Mary Kruse '05 helped turn a classroom project into a whole new way of doing business this fall at Siena Heights University.

Kruse has been a fixture on the Siena Heights campus for more than 30 years, currently serving as the university's controller. A student in the Graduate College's Organizational Leadership program, Kruse decided to take a close look at how the university's Financial Aid and Business offices operated as part of a class project. The result led to the formation of the Office of Financial Services, which opened in August on the Adrian campus.

"It will be one place for the students to come instead of two places (Business and Financial Aid)," Kruse said of the new arrangement, which she will oversee. "It's going to be a much more streamlined process for the students. And only one place to call."

For years, Siena Heights had the Financial Aid and Business offices separated. Even reporting to two separate departments, Financial Aid staff dealt more with students and external financing options, while the Business operation handled the payment/accounts receivable side of not only students, but the entire university's budget expenditures. Many times, students and parents had to pinball from one office to another, depending on the task.



## Making Good Sense (and Cents)

"The staff even felt sometimes they were running in circles and never completing anything," Kruse said of the old system. "For my 30-plus years that I've been here, this is the way we've always done it. Is it the best way? Not necessarily. So let's streamline those processes."

Kruse said the "one-stop shop" approach will hopefully alleviate some confusion that has occurred at times as students and parents tried to figure out which office they needed. Relying on national research, trends and the cooperation of leadership and the staff members, the process of merging offices occurred over the summer. After both offices were remodeled and updated to handle the new demands, Kruse said employees in those areas were cross-trained so they could know everyone else's roles.

"As a group we looked at all the policies and procedures that we had," Kruse said. "We worked in teams to address a certain area. We wanted a more efficient process. There was so much duplication of duties."

Under the new setup, one office is staffed to handle more of the "external" functions, including financial aid packaging and awarding. The other office is for more "internal" duties, performing more "behind the scenes" processing and house accounts. Still two physical offices, but now one team.

"It will be a much easier process, so students get awarded quickly and get set up on the correct payment plan," Kruse said. "There's one person they can go to now instead of two offices, and that's exciting."

Because of increasing government regulations and restrictions, Kruse said it is even more important to simplify the financial aid process for students and their families.

"We have to be able to help a student finance their education," she said. "We want them to be able to work through the whole process so we can keep them here. We don't want financial to be the reason why they are leaving Siena."

This summer the university also unveiled a new online payment system for students. This allows a student to pay electronically via a credit card or e-check.

"Of course they can come in and pay us with a check if they want to do that," Kruse said. "We're just providing another option."

Kruse said new federal regulations regarding the student direct lending process recently went into effect, and the new Financial Services Office is helping guide students through this new process.

She said the initial feedback from this new setup has been positive, and should only get better as her staff settles into their new roles.

"We're all going to work together as a team," Kruse said. "It's a new concept, but we all work well together. Will there be growing pains? Yes. But I think all of them can be worked on and accomplished. I think we will get to where we need to be. I know it will all work out fine." ♦

# Scholarship a Plus for Math Major

## Kelly Ruder '11 Wins National Award for Siena Heights

Siena Heights' Kelly Ruder was one of only three students chosen nationwide to receive the 2010–11 Prospective Secondary Teacher Course Work Scholarship. Sponsored by the Mathematics Education Trust of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, the \$10,000 scholarship is supported by the Texas Instruments Demana-Waits Fund.

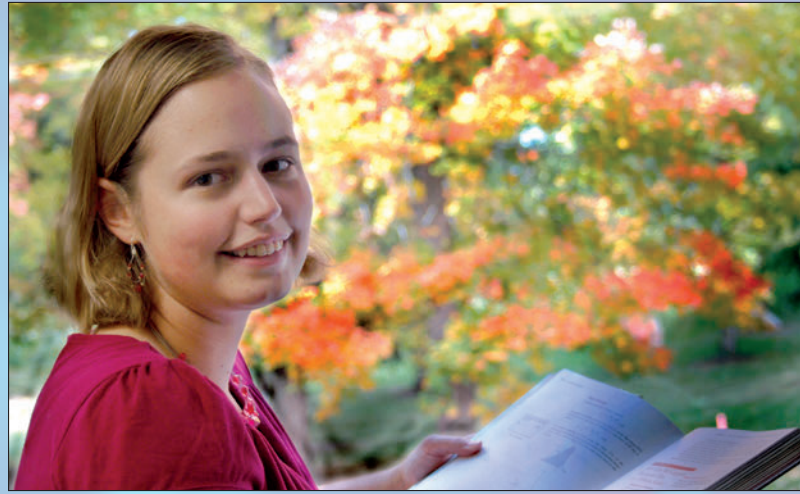
Ruder, the daughter of Dale and Susan Ruder of Osseo, Mich., earned the scholarship on the basis of her excellent academic achievement, extracurricular activities and volunteer community projects, all of which demonstrate the leadership needed by future math teachers. She is a mathematics major and chemistry minor at Siena Heights.

"I was really excited because that's a lot of money," said Ruder on winning the scholarship. "It was a huge relief for me financially. I was really honored because they only chose three recipients."

The scholarship was awarded to three full-time university students who are rising juniors and seniors preparing to become certified teachers of secondary mathematics. The scholarship provides funding for tuition, books and other academic expenses. NCTM is the world's largest organization dedicated to improving mathematics education in prekindergarten through grade 12.

"I like statistics class the best," said Ruder, who also enjoys photography and scrapbooking. "I'm not keen on probability, more on the analysis part."

Ruder's senior project is a math vocabulary and comprehension exercise. Using her statistics class, she will administer a pre-vocabulary and pre-mathematics anxiety test, monitoring their study time and test scores over the course's first three chapters. "And at the end I will give them two surveys to check for differences," she said.



Beyond the classroom, Ruder is a tutor in the mathematics tutoring lab on campus, is a Student Support Services mentor to freshmen students, and is beginning her second year as president of Pi Mu Epsilon, the university's mathematics honorary organization. Pi Mu Epsilon helps bring math and technology activities into the community. She also is a member of the McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program at SHU.

It is the second time in three years that a Siena Heights student has won the national scholarship. Former SHU student Tim Fether '09 earned the honor in 2008.

Ruder said she would like to teach either middle school or high school math when she graduates, and one day would like to be a college professor.

"I want to work my way up," she said of her future plans. "I want to be a good teacher at the lower level first."

She said she originally was planning to enroll at an engineering school until she learned about Siena Heights.

"Siena was not even on the radar when I started looking at colleges," Ruder said. "All of the engineering schools I visited just didn't seem to fit. And I walked on Siena's campus and it was kind of like, 'This is going to fit. I'm going to love it.' And it totally lived up to it. The people are what really make it." ♦

# saints highlights

## SHU Lacrosse News

### Women's Lacrosse Starts in 2011



Siena Heights will begin a women's lacrosse program in 2011 and named Cindy Hill as its first coach. SHU Athletic Director Fred Smith said the decision to add women's lacrosse completes a commitment that began with men's lacrosse, which SHU added two years ago and played its first games last spring. Hill, who brings a wealth of experience as the girls varsity lacrosse coach at nearby Tecumseh High School, began her new duties with the Saints Sept. 1. Siena Heights plans to begin its program in the spring 2011 and will look to compete in the Women's Collegiate Lacrosse League, a club league featuring more than 40 institutions from New York to Wisconsin.

### Men's Lacrosse Joins CCLA



The Siena Heights men's lacrosse program was recently admitted into the Central Collegiate Lacrosse Association beginning in the spring of 2011. According to SHU Athletic Director Fred Smith, the CCLA is part of the larger Men's Collegiate Lacrosse Association that oversees 10 Division 1 and Division 2 conferences made up of more than 220 colleges and universities throughout the U.S. Siena Heights was admitted into a Division 2 grouping that includes Michigan schools Aquinas, Calvin, Ferris State and Grand Valley State. There are three additional five-team groupings that comprise the 20 Division 2 teams in the CCLA. Eight teams qualify for postseason play-offs, with the winner of Division 2 advancing to the MCLA national championships.

### First Football Recruit Signs Letter of Intent

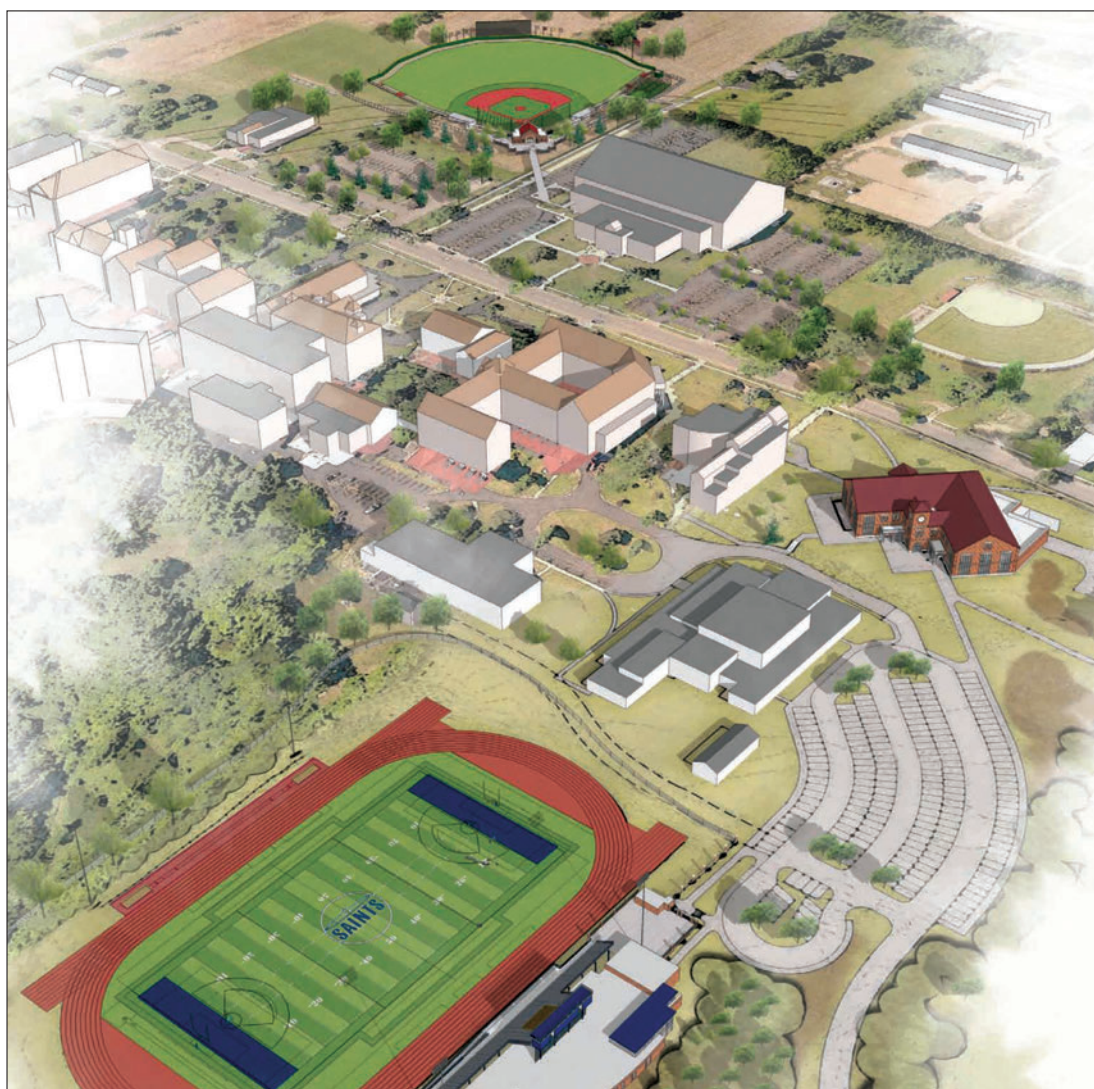
Kick returner/receiver Derek West from Detroit Renaissance High School recently signed a letter of intent to become the football program's first recruit. In high school, he accumulated more than 500 yards of total offense (300 receiving, 200 rushing) in his senior season.

## Special Ceremony Kicks-off Stadium Construction

Siena Heights University broke ground on a multimillion dollar outdoor performance stadium during a special ceremony on July 13 near the proposed site. With shovels in hand, SHU President Sister Peg Albert, OP, PhD, along with members of SHU's administration and other special guests conducted the ceremonial groundbreaking for the facility that will serve as a home field for several Saints athletic programs, including soccer, lacrosse, track and field and newly announced football. The stadium site will be located on the current baseball field. Construction started in September, and a targeted completion date is the fall of 2011. To view a live webcam of the new stadium construction site, go to [www.shusaints.com](http://www.shusaints.com).

President Albert announced the playing field will be named Dr. Mike and Lynne Dawson Field after the longtime SHU benefactors. Mike is a current member of the SHU Board of Trustees while his late wife, Lynne, was a longtime SHU supporter until her passing in 2009. Also, thanks to a generous donation from benefactor Mary Spencer, President Peg Albert announced the

stadium would be named O'Laughlin Stadium after 1958 Siena Heights graduate and Adrian Dominican Sister Jeanne O'Laughlin. Besides the artificial surface playing surface, a running track will circle the field. The stadium will also have bleachers to seat approximately 1,500 fans and there are plans to include additional parking and a concessions area.



## Athletic Teams Receive Academic GPA Honors

Three Siena Heights University athletic teams received a Scholar Team Award from the NAIA. The women's cross country, women's basketball and softball teams all received the honor after they each earned better than a 3.0 grade point average (on a 4.0 scale). Each team's grade point average must include all varsity student-athletes certified as eligible. The cross country team had a team GPA of 3.57, while women's basketball and softball had GPAs of 3.28 and 3.20, respectively. Since 1997, Siena has had eight teams qualify for the award. Cross Country has received the award five times. This is the second award for softball and the first award for women's basketball. These teams will be honored with a plaque in the Fieldhouse.



## Siena Heights Launches Online Sports Network

SHU launched a new online sports network on Oct. 20. The Siena Heights Sports Network (SHSN) provides free, live streaming broadcasts via the Internet of Saints athletic events. The new site, [www.shsportsnet.com](http://www.shsportsnet.com), also allows fans to watch archived video and audio broadcasts of past athletic events.

"In an effort to maximize the coverage of our rapidly expanding athletic programs, this network will allow fans to follow our teams wherever they are," said SHU Athletic Director Fred Smith. "With football on the way in 2011, SHSN is another way to engage our alumni, fans, friends, and families of our student-athletes." Siena Heights has contracted local radio personality Jerry Hayes to be the "Voice of the Saints." Hayes, a longtime talent for WLEN Radio in Adrian, is the lead announcer for the "Game of the Week" broadcast on the network. He also will handle SHSN's play-by-play duties for SHU football, which begins in 2011. "We are thrilled to have Jerry's expertise and professionalism," Smith said. "Starting this online network is in response to the growth and excitement our programs are creating. This hopefully will generate even more exposure for Siena Heights and our student-athletes."

To see the complete SHSN broadcast schedule, please visit [www.shsportsnet.com](http://www.shsportsnet.com). The network can also be accessed from the Siena Heights Athletics main website, [www.shusaints.com](http://www.shusaints.com).

# The Team that Time (Almost) Forgot

## The 1978-79 Women's Basketball Squad Enters the Siena Heights Hall of Fame after Recording Season for the Ages

It was a team time almost forgot. Heck, even some of the players on that team have a hard time remembering their accomplishments.

However, after more than 30 years, the 1978-79 Siena Heights women's basketball team finally received its due. The Saints, who rolled up a 27-2 record that season, were part of the 2010 class inducted into the SHU Athletic Hall of Fame Oct. 2 during Homecoming Weekend.

That same team, which averaged 72 points per game and scored more than 100 points twice, christened the then newly constructed Fieldhouse with one of the most successful seasons in the school's athletic history.

"We really had a lot of girls with a lot of talent," said Peg Mulherin '78 (below left), the SHU team's starting center and the only four-year player. "The team was always really fast-paced. And we played with a regulation ball. Now, these girls use a smaller ball."



Before the Fieldhouse opened, the basketball team practiced in the basement of Sage Union and played its games at the nearby Ptotter Center in town. Wendy Schwark of Palmyra, Mich. (above right), the other member of the team to attend the induction ceremony, said she has "special" memories of the team's first home court.

"To this day when I hear a basketball dribbling, I think of Salisbury steak and peas," said Schwark of the "community center" playing environment. "At first, coming (to Siena) was a downer. It was nice they caught up."

"When I came here, we didn't have the facilities. It was just an opportunity to continue to play ball," Mulherin said. "It was great being on the ground floor watching things grow and change in the four years I was here. It changed a lot."

The architect of that team was SHU Hall-of-Fame Coach Sister Mary Alice Murnen. She assembled a talented group of players from around the Midwest, including Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin. Her steadying influence and ability to get her players to work as a team was a big reason for that successful season.

"She really pulled us together," said Mulherin of her late coach. "She was a calming woman. She brought that to our team. She recruited people who filled in the gaps where we needed them. We loved her. She was a big reason why we came."

"She sounded like Anne Murray talking over the phone," said Schwark of Sister Murnen's persuasive recruiting style. "She was very sweet. She loved the game, and she loved that we enjoyed it."

Mulherin was the tallest player on the team and played for a championship high school squad in Mansfield, Ohio. Schwark also played for a state runner-up high school team in Three Oaks, Mich. In 1978-79, Mona White led the team in scoring, averaging 11.6 points per game and shooting an amazing 75 percent from the field. Point guard Deirdre Driver from Wisconsin added 11.3 points per game and had 46 steals. Carol Crissey also averaged 11.5 points per contest, with Mulherin chipping in 8 points and a team-high 9.5 rebounds a game.



"My main goal was to rebound," said Mulherin, a long-time teacher in Benton Harbor and for the past seven years at Caledonia (Mich.) schools. "They didn't want me shooting or dribbling. Everybody had to do their job."

Schwark came off the bench that season to chip in 6 points and 7.7 rebounds a game. Most of the players on the roster did not play basketball all four years because many were multi-sport athletes, including Schwark, who competed on the Saints' volleyball and softball teams. Women's athletics did not even have scholarships when she arrived, Mulherin said. "We went and advocated and Mary Alice gave us a work study (scholarship)," she said. "We were kind of the ground (floor) there."

The previous four seasons of the program's existence, the Saints won a total of just 31 games. However, that 1978-79 team recorded a season for the ages. That year the Saints won 23 straight games and made the school's first appearance in the Michigan Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women state tournament. Siena lost to Calvin College in the opening round, but later avenged that defeat and also beat top-ranked Spring Arbor. The 27 victories remain a program record.

"I was very surprised," said Mulherin when informed of the team's selection into the Hall of Fame. "This is my first time back on campus since I graduated. I thought, 'Wow, what a great honor. I needed to be a part of that.'" ♦

# Blue Collar Coach



By Doug Goodnough

# Tim Bauer '82 Has Built a Winning Tradition One Cheese Sandwich at a Time



## OPPORTUNITY **U** SIENA HEIGHTS UNIVERSITY Mission Accomplished Series

This series of articles highlights individual examples of the Siena Heights brand, "Opportunity U," and how the university's mission is transforming the lives of our students as well as the world around us.



Coach Bauer, circa 1992.

**T**im Bauer's 25-plus-year coaching career at Siena Heights can easily be summed up in two words: cheese sandwiches.

OK, probably not easily, but there's a story behind those cheese sandwiches. There's always a story with Bauer.

"We didn't have a whole lot of anything," said Bauer of his early coaching years at Siena. "We had sack lunches, which had two pieces of bread, a piece of cheese, packets of mayo and mustard, an apple and freakin' potato chips. And a bottle of water. That was lunch. That was all we knew."

He smirked while telling that story, indicating it probably now serves more as a badge of honor than a hardship tale.

Just like those cheese sandwiches, his no-frills, nothing fancy, get-the-job-done approach was exactly what Siena Heights needed to build its track and cross country programs when he took over as coach in 1984.

Raised in blue-collar farm country of mid-central Ohio, Bauer had a hard work and Ohio State football mentality branded into him. And that's the way he's coached. Using that "Us against the World" philosophy, Bauer has built the Saints into one of the top small-college track programs around. Never mind he hasn't had a home track—ever. Never mind that his program budget has not changed much over the years. Never mind that some of the doors on the school vehicles occasionally didn't work the way they should on the way to meets.



In the end, it was all about results.

In those 25 years, Bauer's teams have earned 28 conference championships, more than a dozen individual or relay national championships, 148 All-Americans and 70 NAIA Scholar-Athletes. But the pride and sense of accomplishment he has tried to instill in his athletes drives him as much as the athletic success.

At 52, Bauer shows no signs of slowing down, much less changing from his gruff-yet-engaging ways. Now on the cusp of having a new outdoor track and facility next fall, he is still a fixture at Siena Heights University.

### Welcome to Siena

Ironically, Bauer first stepped foot on Siena's campus wearing another school's uniform. A standout athlete at Colonel Crawford High School in North Robinson, Ohio, Bauer was poised to earn a college running scholarship until a bad leg injury derailed his senior year.

He decided to forego college, spending a year in the "family business"—helping on the family farm and working 7 days a week on the graveyard shift at the local factory. Eventually though, his competitive juices got the best of him.

"Finally, one day, I said, 'I'm done,'" Bauer said of his decision to stop working and attend college. "I'm tired of working seven days a week midnight til 8. I was out. It made my Dad mad, because I was making pretty good money."

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2010: Coach Bauer yells, "RUN FASTER!"



1980: Tim runs the mile at the NAIA Nationals at SHU, and earns All-American honors.



2009: Bauer poses with his defending National Champion men's 4x800 relay team.

*continued from page 13...*

However, Pat Palmer, the running coach at Findlay College, called and offered Bauer a scholarship. He remembers his first day of college cross country practice well.

"I hadn't run in a while," said Bauer, who admitted he spent most of the previous summer playing basketball. "Pat said, 'OK guys, 20 miles.' I go, 'Is that 10 (miles) now and 10 later?' He said, 'No, 20 miles.' ... That's how I started at Findlay."

In the fall of 1978, Findlay ran in a cross country meet at little-known Siena Heights. Siena was dedicating its new fieldhouse, and the race finished inside the facility to celebrate the occasion.

For starters, Bauer brought his running spikes, which was a problem since some of the race was going to be run on the asphalt road. And when he and a teammate were the first to arrive at the fieldhouse and the finish line, "I had to take my shoes off, because you couldn't wear spikes in the fieldhouse." Barefoot but unbothered, Bauer and his teammate finished the race first.

When Palmer was offered a job to coach at Siena Heights the next year, Bauer was one of the first people he called to join him. Now a Saint, Bauer earned honorable mention All-American honors in 1980, graduating in 1982 with the hopes of becoming a teacher and coach.

He spent a year or so pursuing that at Deerfield High School when Siena Heights offered him a graduate assistant coaching position in 1983. He helped then-cross country coach and current Athletic Director Fred Smith. Eventually, he was offered the full-time track coaching position. He has been at Siena Heights ever since.

"They offered me an apartment in the dorm along with a salary and room and board," Bauer said. "That wasn't bad at the time."

## The Tough Years

Sports like cross country and track are rarely considered "contact" sports. But Bauer coached like the Woody Hayes-led Buckeyes—which meant his athletes had to be tough both mentally and physically.

"What we sold our kids on was we were going to be tough," Bauer said of his early coaching philosophy. "We ran cross country like football: tough, hard-nosed and aggressive. It was a different era. We were tough on those kids in the day."

How tough? Former All-American and SHU Athletic Hall-of-Famer Don Jackson—a sprinter and middle distance runner—shared a story during his induction ceremony a couple of years ago. Jackson said Bauer brought some of the sprinters to a cross country meet and told them he wanted to build their endurance. Bauer told them the race was only a 5K (3.2 miles or so), and to sprint as much as possible to set a fast pace for his other runners. What Jackson and the other sprinters didn't know is that the race was 5 miles. When he and the others reached what they thought was the finish line, there was their coach, yelling at them to keep running. That was Bauer.

Another time he was upset his runners weren't using all their energy during a race. "I told the guys, 'I'm sick of guys who don't use their energy and they sprint the last 500 yards and pass people and end up 100th because it looks good in front of their parents,'" he said. "Today, if you don't use all your energy, I'm going to tackle you."

Just to make sure his team knew he was serious on his threat, he started chasing one of his runners, Paul VanSickle, as he neared the finish line. However, VanSickle was ready for him. "He said, 'Coach, I knew you were coming,'" said Bauer, who never made the tackle. "You could be a little crazy in the day."

However, Bauer knows he has had to change his coaching style with the times. "You must adapt," said a kinder, gentler (but still very loud) Bauer. "I pick my moments now."

## "A Hungry Dog Hunts Best"

Recruiting is a continuous process for any college coach, but especially Bauer. Because he often has to recruit against much larger schools, he has to work harder to find student-athletes.

"I went everywhere," he said of his recruiting strategy. "We went to meets where we would be the only coaches there. I figured that's what you have to do."

He also scheduled some meets where his athletes could compete against the best, which included many Division I programs. "I show them they're going to run against Notre Dame or Michigan," he said. "In track, you can do that. Those are the opportunities you say, 'I can run against them.'"

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**Below:** Coach Pat Palmer and the 1979 Men's SHU Cross Country team. Palmer brought Tim Bauer with him over from Findlay College in Ohio.





1995: Coach Bauer with discus National Champion Carl Brown.



1986: Tim (right) with All-American Wade Perry and National Champion Martha Hans Palmer.



2010: Bauer poses with Muddy the Mud Hen and President Sister Peg Albert.

*continued from page 14...*

As the results show, that strategy has paid large dividends for his program. And pulling out potential in his athletes has been Bauer's specialty.

Carl Brown was a 6-foot-5, 250-pound physical specimen who had decent performances at Jackson Community College in shot put and discus. However, Brown came from a very tough background and thought he was going to "do his own thing" when he came to Siena Heights.

Brown's first week at Siena Heights was almost his last. "One day I said (to Brown), 'Here is what you're doing today in practice,'" Bauer said. "He said, 'I don't want to do that today,' right in front of the team. That was it. I was explosive. And I wouldn't back down, and the kids knew that. ... After that, he figured it out, and ever since it was a great relationship."

**"There's something about Siena Heights . . . I've been here more than I've been at my home . . . something that holds us here. It's the Siena Heights aura."**

Brown went on to receive not only NAIA All-American honors, but after graduating became a U.S. throwing national champion and Olympic qualifier, just missing a berth on the U.S. team.

There are dozens of very similar success stories in Bauer's program. He said watching hurdler Martha Hans Palmer win Siena's first individual national championship was one of his proudest coaching moments. However, he said he still has a hard time dealing with disappointing performances by his team.

"When we have a bad weekend of running or throwing, my weekend sucks," he said. "The kids don't understand that. It shouldn't go that way, but that's just the way a coach is. You put stress on yourself because you worry about your kids."

Seeing his athletes achieve more than what they thought they could is what motivates him as a coach. "It's just so much fun for the kid and their family to think that they could do that," Bauer said. "Not everyone is going to be an All-American. If you're not, you're still going to have a great experience. Be somebody. A hungry dog hunts best. If you're hungry, you're going to go for it."

### More than a Coach

Surprising Bauer fact: "I love kids, even though I don't have any," he admitted. However, his athletes often see him as a parental figure, a person they can talk to when they think they can't talk to anyone else. He understands that while all of his athletes are Saints, not everyone is perfect.

"They know when they screw up," he said. "But you've got to remind them that they are here to be somebody. ... They're afraid to tell you, but I want them to tell me. I want to hear it from them instead of someone else. You get on them for a minute, but then you say 'Hey, I understand. You made a mistake. Don't do it again.' We tell them our door is always open. ... There aren't too many days go by that you don't have to deal with an issue."

He said providing students opportunities is what his program—and Siena Heights—are all about. "We've got our share of champions," he said. "But we like that guy or girl who has potential, who we know is going to get better. That's what's fun."

In fact, Bauer said he has turned down coaching jobs at other institutions because of his commitment to his athletes. "You get to a point where you think you've done as much as you can with what you've got," Bauer said. "But then I looked at it. I can't leave our kids. I can't leave our team."

### Here to Stay

Now with a long-promised outdoor track and field facility on the way, Bauer said he is reinvented as a coach. He still has his eyes on a team national championship, which he calls "the big trophy." "We've had years where we were in the hunt," he said. "But it's got to be perfect. If we never win a national title, it's not because we didn't try. It's hard to win the ultimate thing."

He said his athletes also sense what is coming next fall. "They're excited," Bauer said of the new track and field facility, scheduled to be finished next fall. "They want to be the first group to run on this. It's going to make a big difference. The thing is for the kids, people can watch them now. No one gets to see our kids. That's the biggest thing. People are going to get to see them perform. That means a lot to the kids."

However, he said having home facilities won't change his approach one bit. In fact, the tradition of toughness and hard work he has helped build grows stronger each year. "There's something about Siena Heights," he said. "I've been here more than I've been at my home. I give credit to all the kids before, all the old administrators."

And how long will he coach at Siena Heights? "I always said I would stay until we get a track and then retire," he said. "Now, we're getting it a little earlier than I thought. I'll stay for 40 years (total) and then I could be done. There's something that holds us here. It's the Siena Heights aura."

Or maybe it's those cheese sandwiches. ♦



# Siena's Shining Stars



*My Siena*

**They are the best and brightest.**

**Beacons of hope.**

**Glowing examples of what Siena Heights is all about.**

The 2010 Alumni Award winners are all "Shining Stars" in their particular fields:

- Jamie Richardson '87—A fast food marketing whiz.
- Gregg Milligan '85—A child abuse prevention advocate.
- Allan Rodewald '80—An award-winning artist.
- Gertrude McSorley '70—A longtime theater faculty member turned Dean for Students.
- Harold Love '08—A rising leader in law enforcement.

They all have different backgrounds and talents, but all were formed from one mission: to be competent, purposeful and ethical. This commonality was celebrated by the Siena community during Alumni Awards Day on Homecoming Weekend.

Meet each of the award recipients and read about their special "My Siena" experience.



## Harold J. Love '08

### Recent Graduate Award Winner

When I began my educational journey at Siena Heights University in 2006, I was not aware of Siena's mission "to assist people to become more competent, purposeful, and ethical through a teaching and learning environment which respects the dignity of all." I also had no idea that I would be joining a family of individuals so committed to carrying out the mission.

When I came to Siena, I was eighteen years into my career with the Michigan State Police (MSP), which has a mission to "Protect public safety while respecting the rights and dignity of all persons." Although I was not aware of the Siena mission, and the current MSP mission statement did not exist when I hired in, I believe it is no coincidence I was drawn to both of these outstanding organizations.

As a young man growing up in the City of Detroit, I learned several significant core values from my parents and other elders, which still have a heavy influence on my life today. Both of my parents showed me how to work hard for the things I wanted to have or make happen. They both also demanded I treat others with respect and showed me how to love and have empathy for all persons. My mother showed and taught me on many occasions to stand tall and never be intimidated when standing up for others in the name of righteousness.

After graduating from high school in 1982 and being on my own for a few years, I ultimately realized the need to do something in which my efforts made a positive difference in the lives of others. After working several jobs and taking numerous courses in community college, fate led me to a career with the MSP in 1988. I knew part of a trooper's job was to help people, but I had no idea the extent to which people needed help and how fulfilling my life would become through my interaction with people while performing my duties.

As a young trooper in Niles, Michigan, the values instilled in me by my parents began to manifest themselves as I dealt with persons from all walks of life on both sides of the law. Although I dealt with persons who displayed the worst and the best of human nature, I always sought a way to make a person feel or be better than they were when I first encountered them.



**Harold J. Love '08**—Recent Graduate Award Winner: The Recent Graduate Award is given to an alumna or alumnus who graduated within the past 10 years. This award recognizes and honors persons who exemplify dedication to Christian values through professional achievement, community involvement and/or civic commitment; and who represent the spirit of Siena Heights University in our world.

**“While earning my bachelor’s degree, I became more familiar with Siena’s mission . . . the spirit of Siena was always evident and made me proud to be a part of the Siena family.”**

This was sometimes accomplished during a single encounter or during multiple encounters over a period of time. While my way of treating people was unpopular among officers and sometimes gleaned ridicule from co-workers, it caused me to develop a reputation within the community of being firm but fair, professional, diligent, and caring. This reputation not only made me feel good, but also earned me the Fifth District Trooper of the Year and Leadership Award in 1992.

Fast forward to 2010, and my desire to make others feel or be better than they were when I first encountered them is as strong as ever.



As a captain and administrator in the MSP, most of my encounters are with subordinates and others in the public service community. However, I have made a conscious choice to remain personally involved with community organizations and school programs; still seeking opportunities to interact with persons from all walks of life.

While earning my bachelor's degree, I became more familiar with Siena's mission as it revealed itself to me through the faculty, staff, and students. Whether it was during my online classes or visiting the facilities at the Adrian campus, the spirit of Siena was always evident and made me proud to be a part of the Siena family.

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Upon graduation, I accepted an opportunity to become a member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors. I love being a member of this board as we work hard to full our mission “to be competent, purposeful and ethical in energizing alumni, students, faculty and staff to foster a sense of community and an environment of giving back through time, talent and treasure.”

When I was told I had been selected to receive the Recent Graduate Award, I was shocked. Then, as I sat on the stage during the ceremony with Trudy, Gregg, Allan, and Jamie, I began to realize the significance of this award. The thing I was most proud of during the awards ceremony was that every one of us stated or alluded to the fact that, “This is just what I do.”

Jesus said in Matthew Chapter 5: 14-16, “Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick, and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in Heaven.”

In the words of author George Bernard Shaw, “Life is no brief candle to me. It is a sort of splendid torch which I have got a hold of for the moment, and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations.” God has blessed me with gifts and talents that are not to be wasted, and I want to spend my life using them so that nothing is wasted. To God be the glory!! ♦

## Gertrude M. McSorley '70 Saint Dominic Award Winner

When I first learned of this award I was truly stunned and very humbled. It is especially significant to me because it is the St. Dominic award—named for the founder of the Order of Preachers of which our Adrian Dominican Sisters are a part. Coincidentally, my dear friend and colleague, the late Sr. Therese Craig '48, received this honor in 1987...so here's to you, Therese.

While I was thinking about this day and what I really wanted to say, a friend said, “Think about this as your last lecture.” So, not knowing if this



**Gertrude M. McSorley '70** — Saint Dominic Award Winner: The Saint Dominic Award recognizes an alumna or alumnus for commitment to Christian education in family, school or community. Named for the 12th century Spanish nobleman who founded the Dominican order, the award honors persons who embody the Dominican philosophy and the spirit of Siena, and who promote pride in Christian ethics and education.

is *IT* or not, I'll share part of my passion. Recently, at an Adrian High School ceremony honoring Julianne Dolan '76, my good friend and one of our esteemed alums, Julie said, “Live your passion.” I do believe those of us in the arts, and in education, have that very opportunity. When we are blessed to spend most of our life living our art through education, it is a double blessing—an opportunity to live our passion.

So when I was asked to move from my passion in theatre (child drama/children's theatre) to administration as Dean for Students, I asked myself, “So, what do you do about your passion?” The answer: it really didn't change. I was still about students and with students and hopefully continuing my role in some way as educator. I also often say that I still do theater—but every fifteen minutes, it's a different scene!

Now, the real theme for my “lesson plan” today is *the Mission!* How do we as a community live, exemplify, and share our Mission as an institution and individually? How do our alumni carry that Mission forward? How is the world we are all in a little different because of the Mission of Siena Heights University?

**“When we are blessed to spend most of our life living our art through education, it is a double blessing—an opportunity to live our passion.”**

You see, each precious word of that statement should be very significant for us: “Siena Heights University: a Catholic Dominican institution, sponsored by the Adrian Dominican Sisters, assists others to become more competent, purposeful and ethical in a teaching/learning environment that respects the dignity of all.” What a challenge! And that Mission is framed within the Dominican charism of study, community, prayer, and preaching /service. The particular joy of this is that in recent years that charism has become an integral part of the very spirit of our campus. And I firmly believe that all of this is underpinned by the Gospel of Jesus.

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This is our essence and who we challenge our students to know, believe and live and what we as alumni carry with us as part of this place we call home.

When I came to Adrian in 1961 to enter the Dominican Sisters as a postulant, the last thing on my mind was that I would begin my college career the next day! I had just graduated from high school two weeks before. None of this should have surprised me, though, since I had already spent the previous twelve years as a student taught by Adrian Dominicans, first at St. Brigid's School in Detroit and then at Rosary High School. Education was part of their ethos, and so the journey with Siena Heights began. I have always felt that my six sisters and two brothers should have been grateful to the Adrian Dominicans for their education because my parents saw firsthand how important that degree was as their first born was whisked into college as soon as she entered the community.

And now close to fifty years later that journey continues and not one day goes by that I don't remember the women on whose shoulders we stand and in whose footsteps I am blessed to walk; the women who have built, taught in, and sustained this wonderful academic institution, Siena Heights University. It is with deep gratitude to them that I accept this award. ♦

## Gregg T. Milligan '85

### Sister Ann Joachim Award Winner

When I decided to choose the path of higher learning, the thought received much attention; but actually being accepted into any university never seemed a real possibility. Especially a university as prestigious as Siena Heights. Up to that fateful day in June of 1981 when a gracious man by the name of Pat Palmer would allow me the limitless possibility of a new life, I felt as though I was pursuing nothing short of an empty dream. I had spent the first eighteen years of my life suffering at the hands of others, but burning inside of me was the quest for something much more. This quest drove me toward a better life and it would be Siena that would make it possible. It would be Siena that gave me so much more than an education in academia, but also turned me into an advocate of peace and goodwill.



**Gregg T. Milligan '85**—Sister Ann Joachim Award Winner: The Sister Ann Joachim Award is presented in memory of a legendary Adrian Dominican faculty member. This award recognizes significant contributions to the University and/or community through activities that demonstrate strong leadership, the ability to get things done, and the capacity to confront challenging issues head-on while maintaining the image and spirit of the University.

From those who molded my environment before Siena, I was taught nothing but hatred for myself and the human race. Pat Palmer and so many others at Siena never stopped teaching me that the world is a difficult place. However, in addition to my studies I was also taught not to seek shelter from the world's miseries, but instead to face them head-on in order to show others what it means to be competent, purposeful, ethical, while respecting the dignity of all. My reward, in the simplest terms, became what is now My Siena.

I blossomed under the care and guidance of faculty and staff. Their devoted participation in my overall education was woven into a tapestry of value for myself and the world. I was taught to extend myself mentally, emotionally, and spiritually (and physically under the strenuous track workouts of coaches Pat Palmer and Tim Bauer). I was pushed by this grand university to surpass every barrier, and in doing so, I was expected to give back to the world, to return the same hope and desire to all living creatures. Through academic study and a well-established mission based on an unrivaled value system, my education at Siena became the foundation of my faith that continues to flourish today.

**“This is the place where I still find those who saved me. This is, and will forever be, My Siena.”**

I am so grateful for the opportunities that began at Siena Heights which shone in my heart a light I never knew existed and proved to me, after so many years of shame, that I am worthy of love. The culture Siena fosters is one of higher learning, but it is molded by a vast spiritual consciousness. There are numerous reasons the university shines above so many others. Its collective heart beats to the same rhythm of faith and understanding within every scholastic course, activity, and organization by means of those within the university living the mission. I discovered, like wisdom, all endeavors at Siena must be earned through scrupulous examination based on a doctrine chiseled in the pursuit of collegiate instruction. And, these teachings never wither, as they are handed down gently but firmly to each and every student.

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My education as Siena was based on not only a choice, but a chance. Regardless of my past or reputation, I was both welcomed and encouraged every step of the way to prove myself. In the matter of Siena, we are all created equal and all who strive to be better will one day count themselves as esteemed graduates of this great university. I am one of those individuals and am humbled by the fact that my only child is also an alum. Siena laid the groundwork for all of my life's wonderful possibilities. The quality of life it has offered me is beyond reproach and the true goodness Siena cultivated within my soul allowed me to emerge more prepared, and more importantly, more compassionate. Siena is a reflection of hope and it is fitting the alumni magazine is called *Reflections*.

Because of Siena, I now fit into the web of creation and was given the opportunity to see the delicate link between education and salvation. This university was and still is my beacon of light in the darkness. It is a boundless ocean of higher learning abundantly prepared to make all who enter its hallowed halls better human beings. Fusing knowledge and wisdom, this eminent university made a once frail young man into someone more resilient. It sculpted me with its intangible hope and revealed to me a more beautiful world. This is the place where I still find those who saved me. This is, and will forever be, *My Siena*. ♦

## Jamie T. Richardson '87 Outstanding Alumni Award Winner

The other night I found myself wondering how I might find the right words to express my gratitude and love for Siena, when I overheard my wife, Kate, and oldest son Brendan discussing 5th grade religion homework—and my son's voice reading from Matthew, Chapter 25:

*"For I was hungry, and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me."*

Wow. There it was—40 words of sustenance, a perfect balance to what felt like 40 days and 40 nights wandering to find the right words.



**Jamie T. Richardson '87—Outstanding Alumni Award Winner:** The Outstanding Alumni Award recognizes alumni whose outstanding professional achievements and/or volunteer contributions promote Siena Heights University positively to the community. These alumni demonstrate strong leadership characteristics, serve as significant role models for others, and embody the spirit of Siena Heights University.

*"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink..."*

After high school, looking ahead to the Fall of 1984 I was absolutely certain I was going to be a Michigan State Spartan. Then along the path I met Chuck Milliken and Fred Smith and the next thing I knew, I was enrolled and ready to begin classes at Siena Heights. I remain incredibly grateful to them both – I didn't realize then the profound impact Siena would have on my life.

Those school days brought some tough times. Unfortunately my Grandfather, whom I was very close with, passed away suddenly; and shortly after that, my parents decided to divorce. With my parents splitting up, money was tight and if it wasn't for the work study opportunities, academic scholarships, and student loans Siena helped me procure, I might have had to drop out of school. I drove a car I kept together with bondo and duct tape and I learned how to use a can of lawn mower gas and empty Mt. Dew bottles to re-fuel my '72 Torino whenever the tank ran dry—which was often since the fuel gauge was broken!

**"I know for certain a Siena Heights education helps me tear down walls, helps me broaden my perspective. . . wherever I look, in everyone I meet and in everything that happens."**

While this wasn't the easiest time in my life, I was blessed with an incredible college roommate. This person was there for me no matter what and seemed to understand all I was going through. Her name was Eleanor Brillhart and she was my grandmother. When my Grandpa had died, I moved in with her at her home in the Irish Hills to help however I might—you see, my Grandma Eleanor was constrained physically to a wheel chair because of multiple sclerosis. But when it came to matters of the spirit, she encountered no constraints whatsoever.

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continued from page 20 . . .

Many a morning, before I would head to class, we would sit at her dining room table and talk about all the big wonderful things we would do someday. Then we would sip some more coffee and express our concerns and worries about whatever anxieties might be on our minds. Invariably she would look at me with her kind blue eyes, smiling, reaching for my hand with a quick reassuring squeeze, saying, “Jamie, if that’s the worst you ever have to worry about, everything will be okay.” My Grandma Eleanor died less than a year after I graduated from Siena; I cherish the time we spent together and know her love surrounds me now.

*“I was a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me...”*

In those early days at Siena, I wasn’t merely a stranger because I was new and didn’t know other students; in many ways, in hindsight, I was just beginning to get to know myself. “Being clothed” was quite literal – as in the chance to wear the Saints colors for cross country and track.

The camaraderie of running for Siena granted me the great gift of tremendous friendships that endure and strengthen with time. There’s no substitute for shared experience. Coach Smith, with that booming voice, would tell us if we didn’t run faster we’d get beat on like a snare drum, and Coach Bauer threatened “cheese sandwiches” as our meal choice if we underperformed at a meet. They said encouraging things, too, but those threats were attention getting and memorable!

And when it comes to being less of a stranger to yourself, and beginning to understand your own world view, there was nothing that could compare to American Political Values with Sister Peggy Burns. I was delighted to learn through her perennial questions and my answers that I leaned towards being a Libertarian-Conservative (values that shape my world view today) only to have Sister Peggy lean in and whisper as she was handing back homework, “Great paper. Strong arguments and well written. But you’re wrong, so I had to give you an A-.” And then she’d wink and walk away. Those debates and dialogues with her were something to relish—always a source of learning and joy.

*“I was ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.”*

I’ve often wondered about the prisons we make for ourselves. I know for certain a Siena education helps me tear down walls, helps me broaden my perspective—literally, to better open my eyes to see the presence of Christ more readily wherever I look, in everyone I meet and in everything that happens. More than anything, Siena awakened me to the simple notion we need God. I’m not sure I realized that was even happening while I was here. Thankfully, these great gifts from Siena Heights don’t come with an expiration date. Some, like seeds scattered and grown, take root later in life.

**“The camaraderie of running for Siena granted me the great gift of tremendous friendships that endure and strengthen with time. There’s no substitute for shared experience.”**

I want to share something that’s hard for me to talk about. Kate and I had been married a year and a half when we learned we were pregnant for the first time. We were overjoyed and just short of doing cartwheels with the great news; we let everyone know right away and started looking ahead to the incredible changes this would mean in our lives. At the 12 week mark we were at her doctor’s appointment together; this was an extra special one because we were going to get to hear the heart beat! We held hands and smiled giddily during the ultrasound.

As we sat and waited, we could tell the technician seemed troubled; she politely excused herself and said she’d be back with Dr. Lucas. Dr. Lucas smiled as she came in and right away when she applied the ultrasound we were relieved to hear a heart beat; but she looked perplexed and then explained we were hearing Kate’s pulse and that she was going to need a few more minutes—that maybe the baby was tucked into a hard position to hear from. Our anxiety mounted until she told us what we were most afraid to hear.

She couldn’t locate a heartbeat. “That can’t be right,” I said in disbelief; but both Kate and I knew something horrible was happening. We were at Mt. Carmel hospital a day later when a miscarriage was confirmed. It was December 5, 1998 and we were beyond crushed.

How could God do this to us? Didn’t God know how committed we were to being good parents? We heard from family and friends who tried to express their sympathies. But nothing could comfort us. We wondered if somehow this was a sign we weren’t meant to have children.

Exactly one year later on December 5, 1999, we were back at Mt. Carmel hospital. We had spent the night the evening before. Full of worry and anxiety that morning in the maternity ward, we awakened to beautiful birdsong, and as rays of sunshine peeked through the blinds we looked out to see the symbol of God’s covenant—a perfect rainbow—the most brilliant I’ve ever seen, before or since, or expect that I ever might. And the only one I’ve ever seen in December. Brendan Xavier was born—God’s promise made real for us.

We are given this incredible treasure of time to make the most of God’s gifts. As we ramble along, we encounter great joy and deep sorrow, sometimes in equal measure, sometimes not. There are good days and bad days but for me, through it all, the light of Christ shines true, allowing us to open our eyes, our ears and our minds to becoming the person God calls us to be. Without Siena, I know I would be less of that person. Thanks to Siena, my life has encountered in greater measure, faith, hope, and love.

*“For I was hungry, and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.”*

So to my brother and sister Saints, thank you for being Christ to me and to everyone you encounter. May God continue to bless you in all that you do. ♦

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## Allan E. Rodewald '80

### Outstanding Alumni Award Winner

My Siena is...Siena Heights College. I love the changes today, but it's been "College" for 30 years for me.

This year I was honored as one of Siena Heights University's "Outstanding Alumni." I received this accolade from Siena—but it is Siena that made me who I am today.

I grew up in Ottawa Lake, a small, rural, agricultural community in southeastern Michigan, a short 45 minutes from Adrian. Ottawa Lake was a great place for me to grow up. It was very small and safe. College was not a priority for many graduates at my high school and with absolutely no one in my immediate family ever attending college, I was very unfamiliar with the whole college process. I chose Siena because a recruiter informed me of an art competition for a scholarship to study at Studio Angelico.

The competition was supposed to end that day, but the recruiter informed me that he could still get me entered if he took my paintings directly to Studio Angelico that afternoon. I gave him three paintings and a couple weeks later I was informed that I won the scholarship, which was a whopping \$600 a year—this was very impressive in the mid-1970s. When it came time to select a school, I sat down with my parents one evening to discuss the options. We all agreed that if someone was willing to give me \$600 a year, I might as well go there. It was that simple. My parents and I had no experience in choosing a college, but I knew from my art teacher that Siena had a good art department. And they were giving me \$600. I might as well go there.

My freshman year I was very "green" to say the least; but as every semester passed I grew more and more. My education introduced to me a new way of creating art. In Father Van Horn's design course, as in many other classes, I really did not understand the lessons being taught at the time. It was not until a year later that his teachings finally came to fruition in my mind.

Instructors like Sister Barb Cervenka and Henrie Reimer pushed me to use creative processes that I still use in my studio today. Administrators such as Brother Ray Jarboe taught me about responsibility and respect.



**Allan E. Rodewald '80**—Outstanding Alumni Award Winner: The Outstanding Alumni Award recognizes alumni whose outstanding professional achievements and/or volunteer contributions promote Siena Heights University positively to the community. These alumni demonstrate strong leadership characteristics, serve as significant role models for others, and embody the spirit of Siena Heights University.

**“Siena has filled my life with friendships that continue to enrich my life daily . . . every week I hear from someone that I met while I attended Siena Heights.”**

During my sophomore year I was convinced by several of my fellow art students that I must take advantage of Studio Angelico's biannual spring study semester in Europe. I had never been on a plane to anywhere. The only thing on my travel resume at that time was a spring break drive to Ft. Lauderdale. My parents agreed that I should go to Europe. So in the spring of 1977 I took a trip that changed my life in a way that I wouldn't understand until many years later. Since that trip I have been to 22 different countries and painted in 17 of them. Within recent months I've shown my work in Monaco, Beijing, China, and Paris.

Siena has also filled my life with friendships that continue to enrich my life daily. I was introduced to fellow students who showed me their lives in

big cities and different states. I discovered new worlds because of my college roommates and friends from Siena. And now, every week that goes by, I hear from someone that I met while I attended Siena...and this is without Facebook!

In 1982 I moved to Houston, Texas, which is the third largest city in the United States. I am a small town rural Michigan boy who is prospering in a big city and an even bigger global world. Between Ottawa Lake and Houston, there were my five glorious years at Siena Heights. They were five years that prepared me both academically and socially to make it in this big world.

My memories of Siena Heights are memories that I live every day. ♦



**Above:** Alumni Award Winners gather at Homecoming with Alumni Board Vice President Mike Lane '05 (far left), Alumni Board President Dennis Reeder '78 (second from right) and SHU Director of Alumni Relations Jennifer Hamlin Church (far right).

## Giving to Siena Heights University

This report is intended to recognize people, foundations, organizations and businesses who contributed to Siena between July 1, 2009, and June 30, 2010. Gifts received after June 30, 2010, 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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 Elizabeth Birstihl '63  
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 Catherine Blaesing '94  
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 Richard and Jeanne '83 Blausey  
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 Geoffery Bontrager  
 Gloria Boozer '92  
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 Aldemis and LeeAnn '00 Boudreau  
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 Rosemary Bowen '46  
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 Derek and Geraldine '81 Boykin  
 Jack and Jean '61 Boylan  
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 Kyle Bradley  
 Doreia Bragg '99  
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 Joseph and Geraldine Bray  
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 Curtis and Debra Brendel  
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 Mercer and Barbara Brown  
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 Nancy Bruhn '67  
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 Larry and Amy Burnor  
 Gareth Burns '92  
 Marilyn Buss '90  
 Anthony Butler '04  
 Glen '82 and Melinda '82 Butler  
 Leo '75 and Karen Butler  
 Leslie Butler '75  
 Harold and Mary '84 Buttery  
 Gregory '99 and Susan '05 Butts  
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 Robert and Lori '94 Calkins  
 Elizabeth Callaghan '82  
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 James and Linda Campbell  
 Mary Campbell  
 Gary and Sherry Canty  
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 Manuel Carlo and Vivian Serra '67  
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 Patricia Carter '93  
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 Diane Clark '95  
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 Katie Clark  
 Larry and Amy Clark  
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 Thomas and Janet '50 Collins  
 Diane Colvin '05  
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 Frank and Mary '59 Conte  
 Agnes Convery Gray '81  
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 Robert '94 and Sandra Curtis  
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 Katherine Cusick '84  
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 Deborah Danielson  
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 Joseph and Paula '69 Dart  
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 Arleather Dixon '94  
 Nancy Dogan '57  
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 Bruno and Mary '60 Domzalski  
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 Patricia Donohue '71  
 Terrance Doolen '86  
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 Kristin Heinze '00  
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 Jeffrey Kindinger '99 and Jill  
 Rasmer-Kindinger '99  
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 Marilyn Kremer '07  
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 LeAnn Krokker '90  
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 Frances Martin '55  
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## from the alumni office



### Home is Where Your (Old and New) Friends Are

Allow me to share a few images from this fall's Homecoming celebration:

- The Butler brothers—twins Les '85 and Leo '85—catching up with Sr. Teddy McKennan '51, a favorite history professor from the 1980s. Smiles and laughter.
- Business professor Bill Blackerby welcoming returning soccer players, wryly admitting he was “glad to see some of you are alive!” More smiles and guffaws.
- Susan Franks Stieber '60 arriving for her 50th reunion brunch wearing a hat and gloves—because “that was what we did back then!” Even more laughter.
- Jerry Ferrari '92 (Benton Harbor) and Mary Jean Klebba '85 (Southfield), each exploring campus for the first (or almost the first) time, welcomed by one and all. More smiles.

Almost 500 alumni, former students and friends met on the Heights for Homecoming this fall. Some were here for reunions, some for alumni awards, some for sports or the Hall of Fame, some just because it was a good time to visit. The weather on Saturday was less than ideal...but no one cared: The faces of old friends reunited, and new friends discovered, were sunny enough.

Our alumni award winners provided inspiration for all. Returning faculty—also including Chuck Milliken and Sisters Beth Butler, OP '63, Jean Hitzeman, OP (Jean Walter) and Helen Duggan, OP '41 (Ann Charles)—brought memories into focus for many. SHU President Sister Peg Albert, OP, shared Siena's good news and her trademark hugs with everyone she met.

Less than a week after Homecoming, I looked up from my desk to find another alumna—Virginia Robertson Buckle '53—in from California, revisiting Siena for the first time in 50+ years. Touring the campus with Virginia and her husband Ed, I learned more (as I always do) about SHC heritage; while they learned all about SHU today. We laughed and smiled a lot, too.

And that's what it is all about: Siena Heights in 2010 is as exciting a place as it has ever been, but the leaders and lessons of Siena's past are the foundation upon which today's university is built. The story of this place—your Siena Heights and ours—is still being written. By next year's Homecoming, we'll be into a new chapter that includes a home football game for the Saints! But this will still be the place where you can come home, remember again what it was like to be “that young,” gaze at a stranger and discover the familiar face of your old roommate, or laugh with a new friend and discover the mission and values you have in common.

Thanks to all who “came home” this year. Visit us any time—and mark your calendar for next fall's Homecoming: October 7-9, 2011.

Jennifer A. Hamlin Church  
Associate VP for Advancement &  
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find us on facebook—search for shu alumni

## from the alumni association



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### Reconnect with Your Golden Days on the Heights

As I write this column, a few months after a record-breaking Homecoming, the cliché “home is where the heart is” seems very appropriate. For me, the capstone of that weekend was after the Sunday Brunch when a handful of alums, myself included, gathered in the lobby of Dominican Hall and began to sing the “Alma Mater.” I found it amazing that we still remembered the harmonies (hours in the choir room with Sue Matych-Hager must have paid off). Even more amazing was that, as we sang, all of the alumni still chatting in the room where the brunch was held were drawn out to the lobby. Some joined in, some even cried, everyone enjoyed. It was a fitting end to an amazing weekend, because we were all there, as the lyrics say, reliving our “sweet golden days of dreams” and “long laughter-studded hours with classmates fond and true.”

But you don't have to wait for next Homecoming to relive your own golden days of dreams. There are opportunities to reconnect with your SHU roots throughout the year.

First, I urge you to attend one of the Siena outreach events held across the country. That's right: even if you can't make it home to Siena, SHU will bring a piece of home to you! I had the privilege of attending two of these events last spring. As a resident of NYC these days, I was thrilled to meet the many alums, representing a 50 year time span, who gathered in midtown Manhattan last June. I also made the bus trip to meet with our alums in Boston. I think everyone who attended these events would agree that the passion and inspiration shared by Siena President Sister Peg Albert filled us with hope and pride for the things happening at Good Ole' SHU.

Second, consider this column your invitation to join our alumni group on Facebook. Search for “SHU Alumni” and join the over 1,000 alums who stay in touch via the wonders of social networking. The Alumni Office and Alumni Board will send information about upcoming events and ask for your input on new ideas. You may even run across a classmate you were hoping to reconnect with. While you're there, why not become a fan of the official Siena Heights Facebook page as well. Fill your news feed with exciting news from SHU.

Finally, be assured that you can always go home to SHU. Contact the alumni office to arrange a tour and see the changes since you left Adrian. Check the schedules of our athletic teams, theatre department, or art gallery and make your own mini-homecoming any time you want. Attend Winterfest for a basketball game and some amazing chili on February 5. Check out the opportunities for graduate study at Siena, including online options. If you find yourself driving down M-52, go that extra couple of miles and follow your heart onto Siena Heights Drive.

No matter the day, the season or the weather, you are always part of Siena and there is always someone waiting to welcome you home.

*“So in the deepest gratitude  
for years that too swiftly fly,  
we rise and give our thanks to you  
before we say goodbye.”*

Michael Kirk Lane '05  
Vice President of the Alumni Association  
mlane1@aol.com

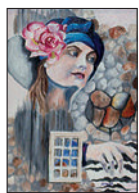


## From The Sites

### SHU—Battle Creek

**Tim Bourgeois '98** retired in July 2010 as the fire chief of Parchment, Mich. He spent 34 years with the city's fire department, the last 20 as chief. For the past seven years he has also served as Kalamazoo Township's police chief, a position he will keep.

### SHU—Benton Harbor



**Mary Stroba '97** had her "Time Threads" oil painting exhibit on display in July 2010 at the Alberta House Mini Gallery in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. Her work (left) focused on "both the rapidity of the ravages of time" and "time's natural effects." She resides in Sault Ste. Marie.

### SHU—Jackson

**Christopher Kuhl '05** was promoted from the rank of sergeant to lieutenant by the Jackson County Sheriff's Department in August 2010. Kuhl began working for the sheriff's office in June 1998 and earned numerous awards and citations. He has worked in traffic enforcement, crash reconstruction and officer training. He also served in the sheriff's office honor guard and detective bureau. In September 2006, he was promoted to sergeant and supervised road patrol deputies. He and his wife, Kristine, have five children.

### SHU—Lansing



**Jessica Cage '08** was recently hired as the new manager of Alison House in Delta Township, Mich. Alison House is the first barrier-free independent living apartment building built and managed by Lutheran Social Services of Michigan for low-income adults with physical disabilities. Prior to coming to Alison House and Lutheran Social Services, Cage worked for three years as a child welfare support worker for St. Vincent Catholic Charities in Lansing. She resides in Charlotte, Mich.

**Steve Blocher '10** was recently hired by Air Wisconsin, a regional carrier for U.S. Airways that primarily flies on the eastern seaboard. He will be flying right seat (co-pilot) in a CRJ 200, a 50-passenger twin engine jet. He is continuing to pursue his goal of flying for the Air National Guard.

### SHU—Monroe

**Beth Hammermaster '05** was recently hired as an administrative assistant to the superintendent at Mason Consolidated Schools in Erie, Mich. She previously was employed in customer service at TJ Maxx in Monroe, Mich., and in medical records at Mercy Memorial Hospital in Monroe. She resides in Newport, Mich.

### SHU—Southfield

**Norman McRae '00** works at the Wayne County Community College District. He lives in Detroit.



**William Hahn II '02** and Julie Bowen were married May 21, 2010 at a ceremony at the Eastern Yacht Club in Essex, Md. The bridegroom is a technician for BGE. After a honeymoon in Aruba, the couple lives in Forest Hill, Md.

**James Troeger '02** is employed as an electronics quality engineer with Brose North America, Inc., in Auburn Hills, Mich. He currently resides in Rochester Hills, Mich.

## Main Campus

### 1940s

**Rita Renn '42** (pictured below (right) with SHU faculty member **Jim Sam** and her daughter Lisa Schneider) attended the Kentucky Music Week Festival this summer in Bardstown, Ky. The festival was five days of all kinds of music classes and live music performances.



**Clara Maria Semidei de Serra '42** is currently living in the commonwealth of Puerto Rico near her daughter, Vivian. She said she welcomes communications from old friends and classmates via mail at: 7 Via Portica, Monte Alvernia, Guaynabo, Puerto Rico, 00969-0684. She said she remembers "the good times and wonderful friends during my years at Siena Heights!"

### 1960s

**Mary Alice Comar '67** had her photography exhibit (below), entitled "Great Lakes Fish Series", on display in August 2010 at the Thunder Bay Marine Sanctuary/NOAA in Alpena, Mich.



### 1970s

**Julianne Dolan '76** was honored by the Adrian Schools Educational Foundation with the Outstanding Teaching and Mentoring Award. She was Adrian Public Schools' first fine arts director. She began teaching at APS in 1986, and has been a kindergarten teacher, substance abuse prevention instructor, Winners Circle advisor, director of theater productions, education supervisor with Adrian Head Start, and early childhood program assistant. She is also involved with the Crosswell Opera House and lives in Adrian.

**John Evans '76** is employed as the director of Juvenile Justice with the State of Michigan in Lansing. He resides in Williamston, Mich.



**Terry Reynolds '77/MA** was inducted into the Florida State League (Baseball) Hall of Fame in June 2010. Reynolds has been the senior director of player development with the Cincinnati Reds since 2008, and first joined the Reds in 2004 as director of amateur scouting. Prior to joining the Reds, he spent 25 years in the Dodgers franchise, most recently as their coordinator of minor league scouting/special-assignment scout. As GM of the Class A Vero Beach Dodgers, Reynolds was named the Florida State League Executive of the Year in 1983 and the Florida Diamond Executive of the Year in 1986. He served as director of Dodgertown in 1988, assistant director of scouting for the Dodgers from 1991-98, as well as coordinator of winter baseball from 1993-96. He and his wife, Marie, have a son, Jonathan, and daughter, Kathryn.

**Michelle Stuck '79** retired in August 2010 from the Adrian post of the Michigan State Police after a 26-year career in law enforcement. She worked at Maurice Spear Campus as a juvenile detention officer, at the Adrian Police Department as an auxiliary officer, and at the Lenawee County Sheriff's Department as a corrections officer. Stuck enlisted in the state police academy in 1984, and started her MSP career as a motor carrier officer in Erie.



Sergeant Stuck then served at the Flat Rock and Detroit posts before she transferred to Adrian in 1990. She also taught academy courses in water safety, firearms and drunken driving enforcement.

**Janet Trowbridge Francoeur '79** has a large studio in downtown New Bern, N.C., where she completed work for a new exhibit on her 20 years in the city. She and husband Michael are owners of Carolina Creations Art Gallery (below).



### 1980s

**Maria Kortier Davis, PhD '83** was recently named vice president and dean for academic affairs at Olivet College. Davis was formerly an assistant professor of Biology at Olivet. She is pictured below (right) with her former teacher and mentor **Sister Sharon Weber, OP, PhD**, who holds the same position at Siena Heights.



**Michelle Turk Leuthard '83** is employed as a business support consultant with Consumers Energy. She and her husband, Gary, reside in Jackson, Mich., with their daughter, Leanne.

**Luke Somerlot '84** recently relocated from San Diego to the Phoenix area. He is employed as the director of Quality Control for Abraxis BioScience. He and his wife, Stephanie, have two children, Joshua and Sara Mari.

**Rebecca King Roehm '89** has been employed as a billing manager for the Center of Family Psychiatry in Saline, Mich., since 2007. Previously she worked in the home childcare business and with Mitsubishi Motors. She also is a Sunday school teacher and full-time "volleyball mom." She and her husband, Charles, resides in Saline with their two children, Adam (13) and Mary (12).

**Debra Parish Spann '89** is employed as a wireless telecom worker for Goodman Networks. She said that Siena has "always held a special place in my heart." She said if there are any Siena Heights class of 1976 grads in the Chicago area, please drop her a line at [divadebra50@gmail.com](mailto:divadebra50@gmail.com). She resides in Streamwood, Ill.

## 1990s

**Jack McGurk '90** was named assistant principal at Adrian Middle School 7-8 in August 2010. He came to Adrian from Jackson Northwest High School, and also taught at Jackson Catholic Middle School and North Adams-Jerome High School.



**Brett Lawrence '95** has launched his own business, Lawrence Creative, which is based on his graphic design and photography. In addition to his full-time marketing job with Amphenol, he is a contributing photographer and reviewer for local Detroit concerts and events for [www.motorcityblog.com](http://www.motorcityblog.com). He is also a founding member of the Detroit League of Photographers, a group whose goal is to document positive and negative aspects of Detroit using cameras as their canvas. He lives in Warren, Mich.

**Glen Taylor '95** is the recipient of the "Apple Exemplary Program Award" and is cofounder of the non-profit organization, Widening Advancements for Youth. The WAY program assists high school students who have dropped out or who are at-risk to attain their high school diploma. WAY combines personalized online learning experiences with face-to-face interaction. The program currently partners with 10 intermediate school districts in Michigan and an orphanage in Mexico. He lives in Saline with his wife, Heather, and their three children.



**Keith Rusie '99** got a chance to meet baseball legend Pete Rose during a recent event in Cincinnati, Ohio, for the Chevrolet Camaro. 27 limited edition "Hit King" Camaros were built for the Cincinnati market, and the owners of the vehicles were invited to have Rose sign each vehicle. Rusie (above, far left) is employed as a fixed operations manager with General Motors Corp. He and his wife, **Wendy '99**, reside in Liberty Township, Ohio.

**Daniel Scully '99** is employed as a financial services representative for Central States Financial Group. An office of MetLife, Central States offers financial products and services and is based in Maumee, Ohio. He resides in Adrian, Mich.

## 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](mailto:alumni@sienaheights.edu), or snail mail to:

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

**Kristin Baty Watts '99/MA** married Jay Watts Aug. 10, 2010, in a ceremony in Atlanta, Ga. The bride is employed as the director of Admissions at Trinity School in Atlanta. She formerly worked in the Admissions Office at Siena Heights. The couple resides in Smyrna, Ga.

## 2000s

**Jennifer Roberts Bennett '00, '07/MA** was recently named the assistant principal at Custer Elementary School in Monroe, Mich. She previously worked as a social studies consultant and taught upper elementary grades in the Monroe Public Schools district. She and her husband, Steve, have three children, Reganne, Brendon and Colin.

**Kenneth Janczarek '02** was recently named the principal at Schickler Elementary School in Lapeer, Mich. He previously taught fourth grade for seven years at Waterford (Mich.) Village Elementary.

**Sam Skeels '02** was recently named principal of Lincoln Elementary School in Adrian, Mich. He had been the assistant principal at Adrian Middle School 7-8. He and his wife, Sally, reside in Adrian with their three children, Sophy, Silas and Ayda.

**Christa Barstad '03** married Joshua Thomas July 23, 2010, at St. Michael Catholic Church in Monroe, Mich. The bride is employed at Affiliated Veterinary Emergency in Allen Park, Mich. After a honeymoon to the Bahamas, the couple lives in Newport, Mich.

**Stephanie Schaffran Casida '03** and husband, Ryan, announce the birth of their first child, a boy, Brendan, on May 13, 2010. Stephanie works in vendor management with Insight Title in St. Louis, Mo. The family resides in Lake St. Louis, Mo.

**Nancy Eaton '04** served as an intern with the Lenawee County Prosecutor's Office from January to April 2010. She currently resides in Lansing with her fiancé, Andrew Gordon.

**Anthony Butler '04** is starting master's degree classes this fall in the theology program at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. He will major in liturgical studies and minoring in systematics. He is planning to complete his degree in May 2012.

**Jessica Simon Murphy '05** recently reported the birth of her twin daughters, Charlotte and Kathleen.

**Tammi Schaefer Wachterhauser '05** works as an administrative assistant for the Office of Evangelization, Catechesis and Initiation in the Diocese of Kalamazoo, Mich. She also performs all of the accounting duties for the offices of Christian Worship and the Diaconate.

**Erika Wolcott '07** is currently enrolled in school to become a chiropractor in Atlanta, Ga.

**Amy Deanda LaPoint** is currently working on her master's degree in school counseling. She currently is employed as a child care worker for Lutheran Homes Society Family and Youth in Toledo, Ohio. She and her husband, Lance, reside in Toledo.

**Nate Parker '08/MA** was recently hired as the principal at Adrian Middle School 7-8. He previously was the principal at Morenci High School.

**Dawn Stewart '09** was hired as a third-grade teacher this fall at Michener Elementary School in Adrian, Mich.

## Deaths

### Alumni

Mary Duker Bundy Barker '39  
Molly Fochtman Walenta '46  
Geraldine Gibney Smith '50  
Dorothy Brandewie '51  
Sister M. Gerald Vietmeier, OP '52  
Sister Joan Donovan, OP '53  
Margaret DeLoach '55  
Madelyn Thornton '57  
Hannah Hays Dugan '58  
Vera Burt McFarland '58  
Sister Joan Brown '60  
Martha Ann Bonfiglio '60  
Katherine Blake '62  
Ann Hengstebeck Reicha '62  
Janice Lenore Schierhorn '69/MA  
Beatrice Dean Reynolds '70  
Regina Vasko '73  
Karen Ankenbrandt Reichmanis '78  
Donna Belle Cubberly '79  
Elizabeth Glasser '84  
Ullianna "Ulli" Dalton Szych '99  
Stacey Gregory Decker '99/MA

### Friends



Longtime Associate Professor of Political Science **Timothy Leonard** passed away very unexpectedly Nov. 24, 2010. He was 62. Leonard taught at Siena Heights for 34 years, and was currently serving as chair of the Social and Behavioral

Sciences Division. According to family and friends, he enjoyed traveling, and was especially interested in Middle Eastern history and politics. Each year, he was the featured presenter at a special Constitution Day program on campus. A memorial service was conducted on campus Dec. 6.



On Nov. 21, 2010, longtime women's cross country coach **Don Kleinow** passed away after a battle with cancer. The 2010 women's cross country season was his 27th at Siena Heights. During his tenure, Kleinow led the Saints

to seven Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference championships and three appearances at the NAIA National Championships. Kleinow's 2006 squad established a school record with a 10th place finish at the NAIA Nationals. The 1997 team that placed 11th at the NAIA Nationals was inducted into the SHU Athletic Hall of Fame. A master craftsman by trade, Coach Kleinow's talents and love for SHU and his teams are on display throughout the Fieldhouse. He designed and built the trophy cases and SHU Athletic Hall of Fame displays, as well as the track & field and cross country record displays. His children, Jon and Janna, both ran track and attended Siena Heights. Before his death, he was informed that he will be inducted into SHU Athletic Hall of Fame. He will be honored posthumously as part of the 2011 class during Homecoming Weekend Oct. 7-9, 2011. A scholarship fund will be established in his honor.

# Leave Your Legacy

The Heritage Society honors individuals who have made planned giving commitments to Siena Heights University. A planned gift is a great way to support Siena Heights. Whether it's a gift of real estate or life insurance, a deferred annuity, or an amount in your will, your planned gift establishes a legacy at Siena Heights University for generations to come. It can also offer you and your family substantial financial benefits and tax savings.



"Siena Heights made it feasible for me finish my undergraduate degree through their Presidential Scholarship program. When I was given the opportunity to further my studies, Siena made it possible for me to balance family, career, and course work because of the thoughtful structure of their graduate program. Yes, I am young by some standards to be making estate plans, but I want others to experience the blessing of being able to further their education and satisfy their appetite for knowledge. I know this type of gift will have the greatest impact in the number of people who will benefit from it. I am very proud to be a member of Siena's Heritage Society. Go Saints!"

— Andrea Bailey '03, '08/MA, Director of Development, Lenawee Christian Ministries

For more information on The Heritage Society, call the Advancement Office at (800) 693-0506, or email us at [advancement@sienaheights.edu](mailto:advancement@sienaheights.edu).



## Alumni Board Goes to Extremes to Serve Needy

The SHU Alumni Board this fall started what they hope will become a new tradition: participating in "Make-A-Difference Day," a national community service effort, in the name of Siena Heights. For the first three weeks of October, Alumni Board members collected new hats, gloves, socks and underwear for children, adults and families in need in their communities.

"Siena Heights Goes to the Extremes" was an effort to provide some winter warmth "for the extremities" of needy populations in communities where alumni live. The Alumni Board of Directors came up with the idea as a way to engage alumni in many areas in a common SHU service project. They plan to repeat the project next year and involve as many graduates as possible—not just Alumni Board members.

"Serving others is a core value at Siena Heights," said Alumni Board President Dennis Reeder '78 of St. Clair Shores. "This is a way for alums all over the country to serve their communities—and to show the world what it means to live the Siena mission of being competent, purposeful and ethical and respecting the dignity of all. We started with a pilot project this year in a few focused areas," Reeder said.

In Adrian, Board member Mary Small Poore '76 coordinated distribution of donated clothing to Associated Charities. In the Detroit area, Board members Reeder, Harold Love '08, Denise Baldwin '02 and Angela Pinkett '07, with help from Southfield Center director Cheri Betz, collected donations for Open Door Ministries in downtown Detroit and Catholic Social Services. In southwest Michigan, Bwalya Lupambo '06 collected supplies for Hope Ministries in South Bend, IN. Dan Pena '01 collected donations for the South Bend Center for the Homeless. In Illinois, Carole Sporer Stroh '52 provided hand-knit hats and scarves for the Lake County Catholic Charities Christmas Drive.

"We put this together pretty quickly this year and we learned a lot," Reeder reflected. "Next year, we hope to involve alumni from across the country. This is a great way to make a real difference for your own community while spreading the name and spirit of Siena Heights."

## Nominations Open for 2011 Alumni Awards

The 2010 Alumni Awards ceremony held during Homecoming weekend was a tribute to some remarkable graduates of Siena Heights—and a celebration of achievements that are possible with a Siena Heights education. Nominations for the 2011 awards will be accepted from now through April 1, 2011. Awards will be presented during Homecoming, October 7-9, 2011. For information about award criteria and nomination procedures, contact the Alumni Office: [alumni@sienaheights.edu](mailto:alumni@sienaheights.edu) or (517) 264-7143.

## Homecoming Reunion Volunteers Wanted

Attention alumni with a graduation year ending in "1" or "6": You have a reunion coming up at Homecoming next fall, Oct. 7-9, 2011. Enthusiastic volunteers within the class are the key to a successful celebration. So don't be shy; step right up. Contact the alumni office now to help make YOUR reunion a big hit!



## Visit Greece and Turkey with Siena Heights

Siena alumni and friends will visit the worlds of Socrates and St. Paul on an alumni trip scheduled Oct. 19-29, 2011. "Greece: In the Footsteps of Paul the Apostle" includes a three-night Mediterranean cruise (to the Greek islands of Mykonos, Crete and Santorini, plus the ruins of Ephesus in Turkey) and overland exploration of Athens, Corinth, Delphi, and Thessaloniki. Join the alumni office and Dr. Mark Schersten, SHU philosophy professor and humanities division chair, for an expedition to some of the most significant sites in the ancient and early Christian worlds. For information and the best rates, contact the alumni office today: [alumni@sienaheights.edu](mailto:alumni@sienaheights.edu) or 517-264-7143.

## Make a Date with Siena Heights in 2011!

### On the Adrian Campus

- February 5**—Winterfest on the Heights!
- April 9**—Alumni Dinner Theater: "Marathon 33"
- June 24**—Siena Summer Golf Spectacular
- October 7-9**—Homecoming Weekend

### "On the Road Again" Alumni Tour

- January 17-21**—SHU in Florida
- February 21-25**—SHU in Arizona & Nevada
- March 21-24**—SHU in Georgia & North Carolina
- April 11-13**—SHU in California
- May 23-26**—SHU in Indiana & Chicago
- June TBA**—SHU in New England & New York
- July 28**—SHU at the Mud Hens in Toledo, OH

## Eat Chili and Cheer the Saints at Winterfest 2011

Join us on campus Saturday, Feb. 5, for Mass, a chili supper in the Fieldhouse, the Saints' last home game in men's basketball, or a youth theater production. Our 3rd Annual Winterfest on the Heights will feature hot chili, ice cold beer and good times at an indoor tailgate party before the game or the play. Add your voice to the Saints' cheering section! Come early for special music and Mass. Mark your calendar!

## New Siena Alumni Directory in Production

It's been 10 years since SHU published its last alumni directory. Our new directory project is about to begin! Over the next few months, Publishing Concepts, Inc. (PCI) will be contacting SHU alumni via mail, phone and email to ask that you update your information. We know you don't provide such info to just anyone; so please be assured the PCI request is legitimate. Your information will be well-protected and will not be shared with anyone except Siena Heights. For more details, contact the SHU alumni office: [alumni@sienaheights.edu](mailto:alumni@sienaheights.edu) or (517) 264-7143.

## Show Your Spirit with SHU Athletics Apparel

SHU Athletics has a new website for purchasing apparel at: <http://teamsports.itemorder.com>. Enter the sale code "6NZTZ" to buy apparel for all SHU sports teams. Go Saints!

## Homecoming Highlights

What a weekend! Check out the bright faces of some 1970 alums (above) celebrating 40 years. From Friday's welcome reception to Sunday's golf outing and brunch, spirits soared and good times rolled. Food, fun, honors, sports, and spirituality—Homecoming 2010 had it all!



Solid gold grins from the 50th reunion Class of 1960.



Early arrivals for the 45th reunion of the Class of '65.



30th reunion 1980 alums still know how to party.



Three Mikes plus Trudy and Joni = fun!



Still kicking! Soccer alums with Hall of Famer Ridge Frew.

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# Save the Date!

Friday, June 24, 2011

Siena Heights University is proud to present the inaugural

## Siena Summer Spectacular

Featuring a Golf Scramble and Dinner Auction

Siena Heights University will host the inaugural Siena Summer Spectacular golf scramble and dinner auction event on Friday, June 24, 2011. The scramble will take place at the prestigious Lenawee Country Club in Adrian, Mich., with the dinner auction happening later that evening on the Siena Heights campus.

For more information call (800) 693-0506, or email [advancement@sienaheights.edu](mailto:advancement@sienaheights.edu).