

# REFLECTIONS



...The Dignity of All





## from the president



### Making Siena Heights a “Home Away From Home”

Students—and many of our graduates—often refer to Siena Heights University as their “home away from home.” And we try to be exactly that for them in so many ways.

But what about those students who arrive at Siena Heights on a one-way ticket? For them, Siena Heights is their home.

Are you surprised we have homeless students here at SHU? We do. It’s not something we advertise or want to promote, however, we certainly want to call attention to their situation. In fact, this issue of Reflections reveals the challenges of a few of our homeless students, from their day-to-day struggles to the long-term trials they often face. We not only nurture their physical, emotional and educational needs, but their spiritual as well.

And, just as important, we also want to highlight the sometimes-herculean efforts of our faculty, staff and administration to help these students succeed.

At Siena Heights, we take a proactive approach to homelessness on a variety of levels. We host an annual homeless conference each year that discusses these issues and helps connect community resources with these needy individuals. SHU faculty member Sister Pat Schnapp and Tom Puszczewicz of SHU Campus Ministry continue to head Siena’s participation in the Salvation Army’s Share the Warmth program that helps house and feed the homeless in Lenawee County.

Also, Beth McCullough, one of our outstanding graduates, is meeting the local homeless challenge head-on. Her work as the homeless liaison for Adrian Public Schools aids homeless high school students in achieving their college goals. You can read about her story in greater detail in this issue.

However, the work we do with our own homeless student population touches me on a very personal level. As a trained social worker, my heart is with these students, many of whom come to us with nowhere else to go. I tear up every time I think of these students. Every fiber of my being wants to reach out and embrace them, and tell them someone cares.

I firmly believe God brings these students to us. We are called to help in any way we can. Our uniquely Catholic and Dominican heritage demands it. Siena Heights represents a “birthplace” for them, a chance at a new life with new possibilities and opportunities. Some do not have the option of looking back; all that remains is what is ahead. I have learned a great deal from these students. They teach me what is really important in life, how much I take for granted and how much we need to be family to one another.

With the new McLaughlin University Center on the way in fall 2013 and other numerous improvements and additions to our campus facilities, we are mindful of making Siena Heights the best home we can for our students, especially those who are homeless. And the addition of new areas such as multicultural student services, restorative justice and mission effectiveness reinforces the already outstanding student support infrastructure already in place at Siena Heights.

Despite bringing overwhelming odds to Siena Heights, our homeless students are having remarkable success. They are not only graduating, they are excelling. Many have gone on to impact our world in surprising and wonderful ways. In fact, this May another group will leave their Siena Heights “birthplace” to find their new “home.”

To me, this is the ultimate evidence that Siena Heights University is indeed “Opportunity U.”

*Sister Peg Albert, OP*

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

# REFLECTIONS on the inside . . .

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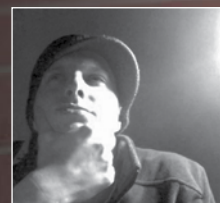
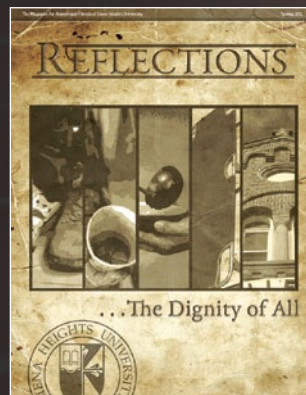
The mission of Siena Heights, a Catholic university founded and sponsored by the Adrian Dominican Sisters, is to assist people to become more competent, purposeful and ethical through a teaching and learning environment which respects the dignity of all.

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**On the Cover**

The *Reflections* staff asked student Nicholas Hullibarger '12 (**right**) to design the cover for this issue. Hullibarger, a senior art major, was recently awarded the Outstanding Student in Art by the SHU Art Department. He is an accomplished artist who already has had his own show. Last summer, Hullibarger exhibited at the Krasl Art Center in St. Joseph, Mich. Hullibarger is also a graduate of the McNair Scholars Program. This fall, the resident of Temperance, Mich., was accepted to the Massachusetts College of Art and Design in Boston, where he will pursue his Master of Fine Arts degree in sculpture/mixed media.

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## from the editor



### A Very Bright Future Indeed

My office is fortunate to host several student interns and additional work study students throughout the academic year. While many of our interns come to us with a special purpose or career aspiration in mind, such as graphic design or writing, others just show up looking for a resume-building opportunity.

As the office that helped develop and implement the “Opportunity U” brand, how can we not oblige? What we have discovered, however, is that these experiences are not just one-way opportunities.

In fact, one of the “perks” of being in a university environment is the interaction with the students. They not only keep you young (at least at heart), but they provide a long-forgotten perspective on life. We find ourselves engaging our students not only on a professional level, but a personal one. They become one of “ours.”

A common thread for these students is their drive to succeed. Some come from challenging backgrounds, others not so much. But they all have goals and dreams. Let me share some of our students with you:

**Brittney Rhodes**, a senior who has become a fixture in the marketing office the past two years, wants to work in college athletic marketing. As we have found out, if you give her a task, it gets done well and usually way ahead of deadline. As an academic All-American softball player, Brittney rarely has to be told anything twice. She will be missed.

**Kaitlin Ludwig** came to us more than three years ago as we were entering the arena of social media. She quickly showed us why she was a 4.0 student. She helped us build our network in Facebook, and her reliability is unquestioned. Kaitlin is now completing a (paid) internship in Boston before beginning her new job.

A trio of second-semester seniors joined us in January, and all three have made a quick impact on our office:

**Lyndsay Payne** you have probably seen in this magazine quite often as a standout cross country and track athlete. She is also an accomplished graphic designer who is as polite as they come. She is hoping to get a design job somewhere where the weather is a bit warmer than Michigan. My guess is she won't have much trouble.

**Kyle Armstrong** came to our office as an accomplished English student who was looking for a little career guidance. Two months into his writing internship, he is now working as a part-time sports writer for the local newspaper. And he throws a wicked shot put and discus, too.

**Barbara Crosby** entered my office last fall interested in an internship in the marketing office because “I want to work with people.”

Her outgoing personality has worked well as our student photographer and marketing assistant, and hopefully those skills will help her achieve her people-centered goals.

**Austin Harper** just wanted to write. She volunteered her services to my office a year ago, and last fall interned as a feature writer. Although she switched majors from English to more of a business focus, she is not far off from working as a newspaper or magazine feature writer right now.

Two non-traditional students, **Michelle Blackerby** and **Jay Nicols**, also impacted our office in different ways. Michelle juggled children and a full class load and still found time to complete a writing internship. Jay showed up at our doorstep a couple of years ago because he heard we needed some help with video editing. A self-taught videographer and editor, he quickly became an invaluable addition to not only our office, but in athletics as well. As producer of the Siena Heights Sports Network, I can honestly say SHSN would not exist without his efforts.

Finally, throw in our two work study students who played the role of Halo the Husky, the university's lovable mascot. **Logan Poskarbiewicz** and **Gerald Richardson** grew into their roles as the academic year progressed, and helped establish Halo as a campus favorite.

Whew. That's quite a list. And the impact they have on our marketing efforts is meaningful and profound. If they serve as a cross section of the kind of student Siena Heights produces, we have a very bright future indeed.

**Doug Goodnough**  
Editor



# from the heights

## Sister Schnapp Receives Award from Michigan Campus Compact



Siena Heights English faculty member Sister Pat Schnapp received the Michigan Campus Compact Community Service Learning Award. This prestigious award is given annually to faculty and staff of Michigan institutions who excel in community service and higher learning. It is the highest honor the MCC can bestow on faculty and staff in the state.

## Peeradina's Poetry Reviewed by World Literature Today

A review of SHU English faculty member Saleem Peeradina's latest book of poetry, "Slow Dance," was released in the November-December 2011 issue of "World Literature Today," one of the oldest magazines to feature International writing.



## SHU Nursing Hosts 2011 Miss River Raisin Festival Ashleigh Allen

The SHU Nursing Program hosted 2011 Miss River Raisin Festival Ashleigh Allen for a teen cancer awareness and prevention event Dec. 7 on campus. Allen (**above right**), a SHU senior fine arts major, spoke on her platform, "Target Teens: Cancer Awareness and Prevention." SHU Director of Nursing Dr. Sue Idczak also discussed the impact of nurses on teen cancer prevention/treatment as well as the many opportunities the SHU Nursing Program offers current and prospective nurses. Miss America 1988 Kaye Lani Rae Rafko Wilson (**above left**), a resident of Monroe, Mich., made a special appearance.



## Father Thomas Hughson Featured at Lecture Series on Ethics

SHU's 11th annual Chiodini/Fontana Lecture Series on Ethics Feb. 8 featured guest speaker the Rev. Thomas Hughson, SJ, PhD (**left**). His lecture was entitled, "Love and Citizenship: Catholics in an Election Year." Father Hughson, an associate professor emeritus of Theology at Marquette University, specializes in the social context of Catholic systematic theology. The Chiodini/Fontana series was established to provide students and the community the opportunity to reflect on matters of moral significance that touch many dimensions of today's society.

## Heckman Presents Paper; Named Editor

SHU English faculty member Davin Heckman, who is teaching and studying this year in Norway on a Fulbright Scholarship, presented a paper at the University of Barcelona (Spain) for the Mapping e-lit: Lectura i anàlisi de la literatura conference. His talk was on "Subversive Writing and the Digital Text." Also, he was recently named editor of "Electropoetics" at the Electronic Book Review. EBR is a peer-reviewed journal of critical writing produced and published by the emergent digital literary network. In continuous publication since 1994, EBR is among the longest running open-access, literary-critical journals on the Internet.

## Pettit Speaks at Mental Health Conferences in London, England

Linda Pettit, director of SHU's Counselor Education program and assistant professor of Counselor Education, spoke at two international conferences on mental health in London, England, last December. She shared an understanding about the spiritual principles behind the human experience that provide all human beings with the potential to access mental health (love and understanding, wisdom, common sense, compassion, humor, etc.) no matter what they have been through or what they are experiencing.

## Vietnamese Students Visit Siena Heights

In January, Siena Heights University welcomed a group of 11 students and two chaperones from the Olympia Schools, Hanoi, Vietnam. During their stay in Lenawee County, some of the students stayed on campus in the residence halls, eating meals in the dining room and sitting in on classes. Guests also visited several places of interest in southeastern Michigan.

## SHU Students Listed in Who's Who Publication

Several SHU students were listed in the 2012 Who's Who Among Students in American Universities & Colleges. They included: Kyrie Bristle; Brianna Chrenko; Lauren Coe; Marcella Ehmann; Randy Hanning; Mackenzy Hickner; Alyssa Hoff; Nicholas Hullibarger; Lauren Jagger; Amanda Martino; Abigail Norris; Linda Pancone; Tiffany Ruddy; Peter Sarnacki; Andrew Switzer; Alessia Vagnini and Amy Wicker.

## Frost Attends Education Seminar in Cuba

Siena faculty member Dr. Julieanna Frost attended an educational seminar on Cuban Politics and Culture from Feb. 4-11 in Havana, Cuba, with the Center for Global Education. The mission of the Center for Global Education at Augsburg College is to provide cross-cultural educational opportunities in order to foster critical analysis of local and global conditions so that personal and systemic change takes place, leading to a more just and sustainable world.



## Zonta Club Honors Sister Sharon Weber

SHU Vice President of Academic Affairs Sister Sharon Weber, OP, PhD, was honored by the Zonta Club of Lenawee County Feb. 2. She received the 2012 Amelia Earhart Award, which is given to a woman who exemplifies the pioneering spirit and the excellence in her field that were characteristic of Amelia Earhart, in addition to advancing the status of women in her community.

## Gordon to Exhibit at Immigration Museum

SHU Library Director Dr. Robert Gordon will have his photography exhibition "So I Come to America" shown from June 28-Sept. 3 at the Ellis Island Immigration Museum in New York City. From 1980-84, he interviewed and photographed 50 Detroit immigrants who came to the U.S. prior to World War I in 1914.

## SHU Students Shine at Biology Conference

SHU biology seniors (**below**) Maria Butler, Ciara Feko, Jared Pirkle, Kara Cripe, Lauren Coe, and Marcella Ehmann presented the results of their research projects at the regional Beta Beta Beta Conference at Purdue University and brought home gold and silver. The seniors were led by Lauren Coe and Maria Butler, who placed first and second, respectively, while competing against students from six universities representing four states. Ehmann, Pirkle and Coe were originally awarded grants from Beta Beta Beta to support their senior research projects.



Photo By Jun Tsuji

## Open House Celebrates New KCC Location

SHU's Kellogg Community College program had an open house March 14 in its new location in the Lane Thomas Building. KCC students, faculty and staff as well as the community attended, including KCC President Dr. Dennis Bona, who is pictured (**below left**) with SHU President Sister Peg Albert.



## Krokker Named Southwest Michigan Regional Director



The College for Professional Studies announced that LeAnn Krokker '90 is the new Southwest Michigan regional director. She oversees SHU's degree completion and graduate programs at Lake Michigan College and Kellogg Community College. She formerly served as the assistant director at LMC. Lesley Weidner '09 remains the Central Michigan regional director, and her responsibilities will now include the Jackson Community College and Lansing Community College undergraduate and graduate programs. Finally, Shelly Bruner transitioned to a full-time advisor/recruiter position for SHU's Jackson program.

## SHU Faculty Members Complete Doctorates

SHU faculty members Ken Kelso and Linda Campbell recently completed their doctorates. Kelso, who teaches in the criminal justice program, received his PhD in philosophy from Wayne State University with a concentration on family. Campbell, a business faculty member, received her PhD from the University of Toledo's College of Education in higher administration. Her dissertation was entitled, "A Study of Student Involvement Variables in Higher Education: Their Influence on Success on the Uniform CPA Examination."

## Join the New SHU Crew!

The SHU Crew started in 2012 and is a new spirit group on campus. The organization is open to students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends. Those interested in joining the group can contact Kate Hamilton at 264-7138 or khamilt2@sienaheights.edu.

## Acapelicans Compete at ICCA Tournament

The Siena Heights University Acapelicans competed in the International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella (ICCA) tournament Feb. 18. This is the only international tournament that showcases the art of student a cappella singing. The Acapelicans, directed by Michael Yuen, competed in the Midwest Region quarterfinals against groups from Grand Valley State, Central Michigan, Michigan State, Michigan and Oakland.

## Sigma Beta Delta Inducts New Members

The Business Administration division had its annual Sigma Beta Delta induction and honor awards. SHU alum Josh Burgett will be the guest speaker and was an honorary inductee into SBD. Those students honored were:

**Business Administration & Management**  
Brittney Rhodes, Isaac Ashong, Kelly Ferguson

**Accounting**  
Kimberlee Conolly, Kelby Allen

**Sport Management**  
Brett Kuebler

**Business and Management**  
Darrell Gudenau, Mariann Weiss

Students inducted into the Sigma Beta Delta were: Ruben Becerra, Debra Blohm, Kyle Hanson, Christopher Schurr, Isaac Ashong, Nana Ampong, Roselinda Odhiambo, Austin Harper, Ashley Tillotson, Thomas Koomson, Nathaniel Snyder, Adam Schmaltz, Leslie Grob, Kaitlin Ludwig, John Lyszczyk and Derek Henning.

## Creative Stages Summer Arts Camp June 18-29

Siena Heights University is offering a unique art immersion program this summer for students who love to create! The Creative Stages Summer Arts Camp is an addition to SHU's regular Creative Stages summer program and will include experiences in music and movement, visual arts and drama. The camp is from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Monday-Friday from June 18-29 on the Adrian campus. Through this summer's theme, "It's All Greek to Me," students in grades 1-12 will delve into a variety of myths, masks and merriment. Each day's creative experience will be guided by SHU teaching artists to seek out and expand students' creative potential. On the final day of camp, there will be a celebration of experiences. Some of the class varieties include youth choir, guitar, piano, musical theater workshop, book and paper making, a TASK installation art experience and 2D/3D design. Cost for the morning camp is \$105 per student. There are also additional afternoon classes available. For more information, contact Amy Sturtevant at 264-7890 or Program Coordinator Joni Warner at 264-7901.



## SHU Students Honored by Monroe Soroptimists

Tracy Sudduth and Billie Jo Dye, both students at SHU's Monroe County Community College center, were honored at the 17th annual "A Celebration of Women" event March 29 sponsored by Soroptimist International of Monroe County. The award is the Soroptimist's major women's education project. The award helps women get the resources they need to improve their education, skills and employment prospects. Sudduth received the Women's Opportunity Award for her efforts as a working, single mother who is working towards her bachelor's degree. Dye was named the second runner-up for the award. She is currently employed at the nonprofit Monroe County Opportunity Program.

## Morris New Director of International Studies

Dan Morris '04, '09 was recently named the new director of International Studies. His primary duties will be to not only grow the international student population at Siena Heights, but to act as a resource and support advocate for Siena's current international student population.

## SHU Choir Performs at St. Patrick's Day Event

The SHU Choir performed March 17 at the 178th Gathering of the Faithful St. Patrick's Day Mass and Pageant of Praise in Detroit. The event was at the Most Holy Trinity Church on Porter Street and is attended by many state dignitaries, including the governor and mayor of Detroit.

## Siena Students Receive Heart & Soul Award

Twelve SHU students received the Heart & Soul Award from the Michigan Campus Compact. Students earning the honor were Abraham Battjes, Rose Bonney, Corey Caldwell, Cecil Clark, Aubrey Crosby, Elizabeth Fertig, Justin Holubik, Daneille Lipa, Abigail Norris, Linda Pancone, Cody Ross and Amy Wicker.

## SHU Announces New Program Partnership

Students at Monroe County Community College can now earn a bachelor of arts in professional communication from Siena Heights University right on the MCCC campus. At a news conference in the La-Z-Boy Center April 11, MCCC President Dr. David Nixon and SHU President Sister Peg Albert officially announced the launch of the new program offered through the SHU Degree Completion Center, which is located in the Life Sciences Building on the MCCC Campus. Pictured (**above**) are President Nixon and President Albert.

## Holi Festival Celebrates Peace and Happiness

Several campus organizations sponsored the inaugural Holi Festival on the Adrian campus.



The India-themed event celebrated unity and a message of peace and happiness. The festival included Indian food with a showing of the movie "Slumdog Millionaire" and a traditional henna artist painted temporary tattoos on students (**above**). There was also a Ceremony of Bonfires with a powder distribution and the festival of colors (**below**). The festival was an effort of Residence Life, Student Activities, Multicultural Student Services, SPARHC and International Student Services.



# The “Core” of Siena Heights

## A New Approach to Liberal Arts Learning

**S**iena Heights University is taking an uncommon approach to a common focus for small, private college and universities: liberal arts education.

For many years, Siena Heights has taken a “cafeteria-style” approach to the liberal arts, which is a common path for many institutions. However, according to Dr. Joseph Raab, the new director of the Liberal Arts program, SHU is venturing in a new direction that will tap into its Catholic and Dominican heritage.

“We had an approach to liberal arts learning that was very common in higher education,” Raab said. “We call it a distribution model approach, which means students have to take a cafeteria-style assemblage of various courses and disciplines. And if they complete those, they are done. And that works pretty well in terms of exposing students to different questions and a number of different disciplines. But it’s a little bit lacking when it comes to helping the students put it all together in a meaningful way.”

Raab said SHU’s Committee On Liberal Arts (COLA) developed the new model that attempts to enhance critical thinking but also the ethical integration of that thinking. Students currently complete a liberal arts seminar course during their senior year that serves as a “capstone” course. However, under the new plan, students would take four liberal arts “core” seminars beginning as freshmen.

“It was based on several different observations and something that came from the whole Committee On Liberal Arts Education,” Raab said. “We’re hopeful it is going to be a positive change and give students a more engaging experience of liberal arts education.”



### The “Core” Seminars at SHU:

**Freshman**—LAS 141: Diversity in Community

**Sophomore**—LAS 241: Inquiry and Truth

**Junior**—LAS 341: Contemplation and Action

**Senior**—LAS 441: Justice and Peace

Each core seminar will have formalized content that will allow for greater consistency, regardless of who is teaching the material.

“We want to build those kinds of conversations, not just across the student body but also with faculty,” Raab said, “so that we’re really becoming a community of scholars who are able to speak together on a common set of questions.”

COLA is finalizing syllabi and texts, uploaded readings and organizing a digital warehouse. The first seminar course will start in the winter semester 2013, and Raab is charged with finding instructors for these seminars. Once all four are being taught, Raab said he will probably need 30 faculty members to teach those seminars.

An added boost is the news that Siena Heights recently received a \$14,000 grant from the Wabash Center that will fund a three-day workshop for faculty this summer. Raab said the workshop will allow for brainstorming about how the liberal arts seminars will be taught as well as integrate materials into the new format.

“We hope these changes reflect the will of the whole university,” Raab said. “The fact that some of these proposals were passed by the faculty unanimously show that it is embraced.”

With many colleges and universities becoming more career-focused, Raab said the liberal arts still play a vital role in higher education, especially with the changing economic landscape.

“Why some experts are saying (liberal arts) are more relevant today than ever is because fields change so rapidly today,” Raab said. “If you have an education that is too focused on providing a certain skillset to perform a certain task, by the time they graduate that task may no longer be needed. ... Liberal arts education teaches you to think critically and think creatively. It hones the types of skills that are going to serve you no matter what discipline or what field you find yourself employed.”

“We want our students to come out of this program with a sense and a real appreciation for the Catholic and Dominican character of the institution.” ♦



By Austin Harper—Student Writer

# Summer School

## SHU Biology Researchers Butler and Lemanski Participate in Prestigious Program



Last summer, Siena Heights University biology students Maria Butler and Joe Lemanski were part of a select few to participate in research programs sponsored by Research Experiences for Undergraduates.



REU is a competitive program that supports active research participation by undergraduate students in any of the areas of research funded by the National Science Foundation. Nearly 600 students apply for these programs but only 10 are chosen for each study; having two students from the same institution in one year is extraordinary, according to those familiar with the program.

SHU Professor of Biology Dr. Jun Tsuji, who is Lemanski's advisor, directed both students to a research internship database where they applied for their internships.

"We ask all of our biology juniors, as part of the BIO 395 and BIO 396 classes, to look into summer research internship possibilities," Tsuji said.

Butler started her internship in Oklahoma and finished in Turkey. The research project she participated in was the investigation of ethanol usage as a repellent of honeybees. Butler said the studies confirmed that ethanol could, in fact, be used as a deterrent. She remained in the U.S. for one week and then traveled with six other student researchers and two faculty members to Turkey, where the research continued.

"We spent the first two weeks in Turkey traveling and absorbing the culture," said Butler, a member of Beta Beta Beta, the national biology honor society. "We stayed in some really neat hotels. One in Istanbul looked like an old sultan's house."

After starting their work, students were given the choice to study free-flying bees or to perform lab research.

"Initially I thought I would like studying the flying bees, but after I tried the lab research I preferred that instead," Butler said.

In the lab, Pavlov's classical conditioning was used to see if ethanol had the same effect on European honeybees as it did on honeybees in the U.S. However, the results were different in Turkey: when a reward (sucrose) was associated with the odor of ethanol, the honeybees were still attracted to the reward, thus suggesting ethanol could not be used as a repellent, Butler said.

Butler's senior presentation was based on her findings. A member of the SHU women's soccer team and a recipient of the Martin Luther King Jr. Service Award, Butler is seeking a job in public health or epidemiology after graduation.

Lemanski, a junior biology major, performed his research in Galveston, Texas. It was based at Texas A&M University. He and 10 other students were there for 10 weeks last summer.

"We focused on the effects of the 2010 BP oil spill on deep Gulf of Mexico benthic macro fauna communities," Lemanski said. "Macro fauna are organisms that are larger than 300 microns. I studied these organisms that lived on the sea floor and the effects that the oil had on them."

Lemanski is also a Beta Beta Beta member and competes on the SHU men's golf team. He plans to eventually obtain his PhD in marine biology and pursue a career in deep sea exploration.

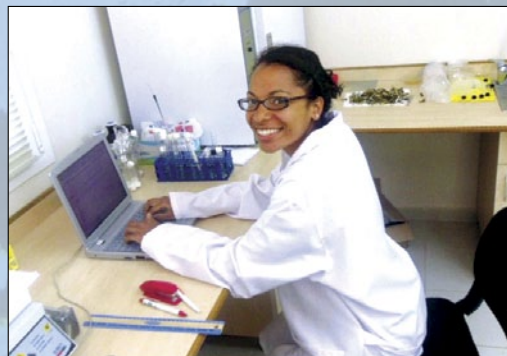
And next year, Siena Heights will also be represented in the REU program. Biology major Kelci Schock was accepted into the 2012 program and will spend her summer researching. ♦

**"We focused on the effects of the 2010 BP oil spill on deep Gulf of Mexico benthic macrofauna communities."**

**— Joe Lemanski**

**"Initially I thought I would like studying the free-flying bees, but after I tried the lab research I preferred that instead."**

**— Maria Butler**



# saints highlights

## New Men's Basketball Coach Hired at SHU



Joe Pechota was recently named the new men's basketball coach. Pechota (**left**) was the head coach for seven seasons at Brescia University, an NAIA school in Owensboro, Ky. Pechota led the Bearcats to appearances in the last two Kentucky Intercollegiate Athletic Conference finals. Prior to coaching at Brescia, Pechota was an assistant at NCAA Division I Indiana-Purdue Fort Wayne for six seasons, and also was an assistant at Ferris State and Alma. Pechota was an all-conference player at Concordia, graduating in 1995 with a degree in physical education. He earned his master's degree in sport administration from Central Michigan University in 2001.

## Competitive Cheer and Dance Begins in 2012

Siena Heights announced the addition of a competitive cheer and dance team to its athletic department. The new squads will start in the 2012-13 academic year, bringing the university's total number of athletic teams to 20.



The Saints named Angie Sword (**left**) as their first cheer and dance coach. Sword was most recently the coach at Adrian College from 2008-12. Sword brings a strong background to the

Saints' new program. She is a certified member of the American Association of Cheerleading Coaches and Administrators. The NAIA has identified cheer and dance as an emerging sport. A total of 93 NAIA teams are competing in 2011-12.

Along with competing, Sword will have the program involved in projects both on campus and in the community. "On campus, we want to promote school spirit," she said. "We want to help keep people on campus and get more fan support. We want to keep that spirit and energy level up. We'd also like to get out there and do things in the community and work with different interest groups. We want to

get people out to sporting events and get more exposure for Siena Heights in general."

Sword graduated from Purdue University in 1991 with a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. As a Boilermaker, she was the Girl-in-Black—one of two twirling positions in the Purdue Marching Band.

### Football

The Saints (8-1) under head coach Jim Lyall finished their inaugural season by defeating Robert Morris (Ill.) 14-3 at O'Laughlin Stadium. SHU played primarily a club and junior varsity schedule, outscored its opponents 348-99 and allowed just 212 yards per game on defense. However, a highlight was an impressive 28-26



victory at NCAA Division II Kentucky Wesleyan. Travis Damron (**left**) led a very balanced Saints rushing attack with 420 yards and eight touchdowns, while quarterback Matt King

threw for 704 yards and seven touchdowns. On defense, the Saints were led by Chris Vann, who had 9 1/2 sacks and two interceptions as a defensive end. Derek Head had a team-best 31 1/2 tackles, while SHU intercepted 13 passes and recovered 10 fumbles. Next fall, the Saints will compete in the Mid-States Football Association, one of the top NAIA conferences in the nation.

### Soccer

**Women:** Alessia Vagnini (**below**) scored the game-winning goal with 1:38 remaining to lift Siena Heights to a 2-1 upset win of host Aquinas and claim its third consecutive Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference tournament title. The Saints (13-8) advanced to the NAIA national tournament for the fourth time in six years, falling to 10th-ranked Spring Arbor 1-0.



Juniors Alessia Vagnini and Hannah Ulrich were named to the All-Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference first team. Vagnini had eight goals and 19 points and Ulrich seven goals for the Saints. Junior Daniela Dedvukaj and senior Katelyn Hawarny were named second team as defenders, while freshman Crystal Wilcoxon was named at keeper. Mackenzy Hickner and Carlee Pallett were tabbed to the honorable mention team, while earning academic all-conference were Ulrich, Vagnini, Katelyn Combs, Hickner, Alyssa Hoff and Amanda Martino. Martino was also the team's Champions of Character recipient. Ulrich, a midfielder, was named an NAIA honorable mention All-American.



**Men:** Senior Doug Dawson was named second team All-Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference after a vote of the coaches. Dawson leads the Saints with six goals and 15 points. He also

was named to the all-academic team. Senior Joe Deneweth was tabbed to the honorable mention squad, while junior Nana Ampong and seniors Darrell Gudenuau and John Faraj also earned spots on the all-academic team. Ampong, a native of Ghana, was chosen as the team's Champions of Character recipient as well as being named to the Capital One Academic All-District Team, which is chosen by the Collegiate Sports Information Directors of America. Ampong, a junior accounting major, is also a Daktronics-NAIA Scholar-Athlete. The Saints finished 6-10-3.

### Basketball

**Women:** The Saints (20-12) recorded its first 20-win season since 1978-79. SHU was stopped by top seed and sixth-ranked Davenport in the conference tournament semifinals.



Senior forward/center Nikki Hughes (**above**) was named second team All-WHAC after averaging 11.8 points and 6.8 rebounds per game. Senior Raina Chambers was named to the third team, while freshman Morgan Warfield was chosen to the All-Newcomer Team. Sophomore guard Grace Howrignig also surpassed the team's single-season assist mark. Earning academic all-conference honors were Hughes, Taylor Langenderfer and Samantha Wolford, while Kendall Acho was the recipient of the Champions of Character Award.

**Men:** Sophomore Cecil Clark was named to the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference's All-Newcomer Team. He led the Saints in scoring at 14.1 points per game. Zack Craig and Danny Calcaterra were each named to the academic all-conference team, while Dan Pollock was selected as the Champions of Character representative. The Saints finished 7-24 under interim head coach Bobby Plumer.

### Golf



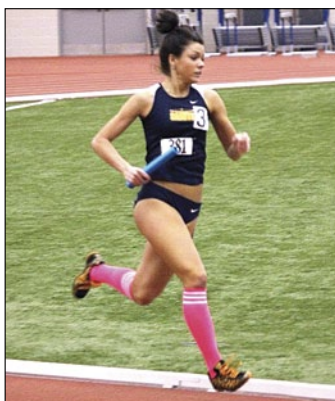
Al Sandifer will serve as the head coach for the Siena Heights men's and women's golf teams. He has previously served as head coach for the Saints' softball, men's golf and men's basketball programs. Most recently, Sandifer was the Saints' men's basketball head coach for four years. He led the Saints to a 61-64 overall record before taking a medical leave of absence from the program in 2011-12.

### Volleyball

**Women:** The Saints (15-16) won their first two matches in the conference tournament, including an upset of second seeded Cornerstone, to advance to the semifinals for the first time in many years. The Saints' tournament run came to an end as Northwestern Ohio ousted SHU. Freshmen Halie Baker and Lindsey Adams were honored by the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference. Baker, a setter, was named second team All-WHAC, while Adams, an outside hitter, was chosen the conference's Co-Freshman of the Year. Senior Nikki Hughes earned academic all-conference honors while Bailey Mutter was the team's Champions of Character recipient.

### Indoor Track & Field

**Women:** Freshman Phoenix Duncan missed a national title by a championship jump-off, finishing second in the high jump at the NAIA national indoor track and field championships. Duncan (**below**) jumped 5 feet, 7 ¾ inches to earn All-American honors for the Saints. Lenzey Stidham also earned All-American honors after placing fourth in the pole vault (11-9 3/4). SHU finished 19th as a team. Duncan was also named the Most Valuable Performer of the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference indoor championships. The Saints finished third as a team. Duncan set a school record in the event with a jump of 5 feet, 8 inches. Other conference winners for SHU were Stidham in the pole vault and the 4x400 relay. Morgan Choszczyk earned the Champion of Character award while Lyndsay Payne, Choszczyk, Carrie Zubke and Kelly Ferguson were academic all-conference.



**Men:** Doug Dawson broke his own school record in earning yet another All-American accolade at the NAIA nationals. Dawson ran a time of 47.33 seconds in the 400 finals to place third. Logan Moore didn't make the finals in the 60 meter hurdles but shattered the school record time with a clocking of 8.19. The final school record was set by the distance medley foursome of Zach Widner, Jesiah Rodriguez, Calvin Sullins and Ryan McElyea. They combined to break a 28-year-old record with a time of 10:01.1. SHU finished 21st as a team. Behind Most Valuable Performer Calvin Sullins and Coach of the Year Tim Bauer, the Saints continued their conference dominance by winning their fifth straight Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference indoor title. Sullins was second in the long jump, third in the triple jump and 60 hurdles and fourth in the high jump to earn MVP honors. Claiming individual championships were Dawson in the 400, Justin Bateson in the 3,000 and Logan Moore in the 60 hurdles. The 4x800 team also took first place. Bauer was also the Champion of Character coach, Sabin Enerson received the Champion of Character award while Kyle Armstrong, Doug Dawson, David Weeks and Josh Madden earned academic all-conference.

### Cross Country

**Women:** Senior Lyndsay Payne (**left**) was 68th (19:09) and Beth Heldmeyer 176th (19:53) for SHU at the NAIA national meet. Payne and fellow senior Kelly Ferguson were each named Daktronics-NAIA Scholar-Athletes. The women placed fourth at the conference championships, with Payne (third) and Heldmeyer (fifth) earning all-conference honors.

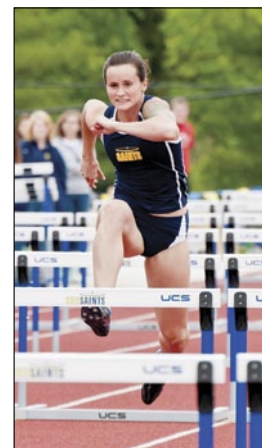
**Men:** The Saints were led by All-American Jesiah Rodriguez, who finished 29th at the NAIA cross country national championships at Fort Vancouver, Wash. Rodriguez finished in 24 minutes, 50 seconds, placing within the top 30 requirement to earn All-American honors. David Weeks was 55th (25:18) and Justin Bateson 122nd (25:55) as the Saints placed 15th. SHU was second at the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference meet, with Rodriguez placing second and Weeks fourth. Both were first team all-conference. Justin Bateson was eighth to earn second team honors.



## Inaugural Track Meet Honors Coach Don Kleinow



Siena Heights University honored its former longtime coach at the inaugural Don Kleinow Memorial Invitational April 14 at O'Laughlin Stadium. There was a special ceremony in which the track was dedicated and blessed, and members of the Kleinow family and current and former track and field athletes ran a lap in memory of Kleinow, who passed away in 2011. The Saints also debuted a new raised runway pole vault pit, one of only a few in the Midwest. SHU's Lenzey Stidham and Ricky DePalma took full advantage, winning the collegiate portion of the vault. Freshman high jumper Phoenix Duncan also set a new school women's outdoor record at the meet by jumping 5 feet, 10 inches.



# (La)Crossing New Territory



## New Women's Program Focuses on Fundamentals and Team-building

Cindy Hill knew it wasn't going to be easy. When Siena Heights University hired the former Tecumseh High School coach to start its women's lacrosse program in the fall 2011, Hill recognized her first priority.

"The big thing was recruiting," she said. "Getting a team ready in eight months was a huge challenge."

Hill fused her first recruiting class with some current SHU students on campus to form her first team. Although the results on the field have been predictable for a first-year program, Hill said the Saints' first team is one to remember.

"I just told them to go out and do their best," Hill said. "They've just really impressed me with their stamina, work ethic and their character. They knew they were doing their best and they were true sportsmen."

Hill knew a startup program needed to have a sense of teamwork before even taking the field. She decided to take the fun route, hosting player sleepovers, paintball tournaments—even mini golf—to build that sense of camaraderie.

"I'm a kid at heart, and that's just a good excuse for me to play with them," Hill said of the offseason social events. "That's all part of build-



ing a team. You have to do fun stuff like that together. It forms bonds and relationships.”

According to her players, it worked.

“We have a blast wherever we go,” said sophomore Tayleen Marowell, a former high school athlete who decided to go out for lacrosse.

“We’re like one big family on and off the field.”

Marowell is one of several first-year players on the roster who had to learn the sport from scratch. Hill said there are also currently four SHU women’s soccer players on the roster—including goaltender Alessia Vagnini—who have also been quick studies.

“We had to go back to square one,” Hill said. “The soccer kids already had the field vision. They knew how to play. It was just a matter of getting the throwing and catching down. A few times they tried to kick that (ball) and they got in trouble because the whistle goes off the minute the ball touches any part of your body.”

Vagnini, who is used to roaming the field as a high-energy soccer player, has had a difficult transition to playing a stay-at-home goalie in lacrosse, Hill said.

“She’s used to being out on the field and running,” Hill said of Vagnini. “We’ve got a goalie who we can’t keep in goal.”

Marowell, a four-sport standout at nearby Lenawee Christian High School, said learning lacrosse was a blend of soccer and basketball skills.

“And I had to use a stick instead of my feet,” she said. “Once you learned to catch, you pretty much get it. One day it clicks.”

“Those kids who came in brand new, they are awesome,” Hill said.

Freshman Sam Skodi, a member of the first recruiting class from the Chicagoland suburb of Naperville, Ill., said she feels like a coach on the field at times. And she doesn’t mind one bit.

“It’s a lot of fun to get it started, and I love teaching,” said Skodi, one of the team’s leading scorers who is in her seventh year of playing. “I’m usually a coach back home over the summer.”

Hill said variety is the key to training her youthful players. She has enlisted a strength and conditioning coach to work with her players a couple of days a week, and also makes games out of many of her practice drills.

“You don’t want to run the same drill over and over again,” Hill said. “I really try to make the drills fund and add some variety to them. Every time we do it, we try to get better and better.”

The Saints have only one won game this season; however, there has been progress.

Making it even more challenging is that SHU only has two home matches this season, including its home opener against defending national champion Indiana Tech. Hill decided to take her team on the road, playing top programs in Savannah, Ga., Chicago and St. Louis. She said her team benefited from the experience.

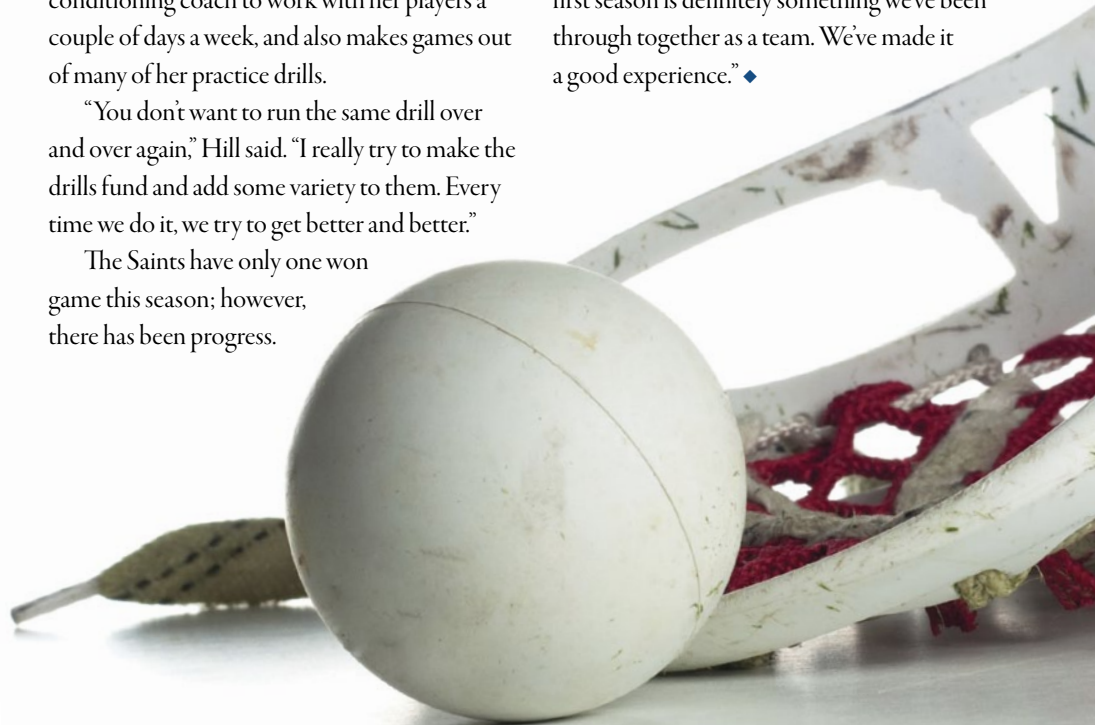
“At Robert Morris (in Chicago) we had two games in a row. That’s 120 minutes with only one sub,” Hill said. “By the last 30 minutes of that (second) game, they dominated the other team, who was playing their first game. That’s really a true measure of a team, especially when you’re down a lot. I was really proud of them.”

“It’s a challenging season, but it’s not frustrating,” Marowell said. “We all know we are learning and we know that half of our team is brand new. We’re working really hard, so it’s encouraging to know that we are building something really strong.”

“I love it here. Lacrosse has been awesome,” said Skodi, who cited playing her older sister’s team, Indiana Tech, as the highlight of her season. “It’s been really fun just to get to know people. It’s a learning experience. You just have to roll with it.”

Hill said help is on the way. Now with a full year to recruit, the Saints already have a bumper crop of prep student-athletes on the way. In fact, Hill said she has commitments from players in several states, including Colorado, Connecticut, South Carolina, Ohio and Michigan.

“The talent will improve,” Hill said. “The first season is definitely something we’ve been through together as a team. We’ve made it a good experience.” ♦



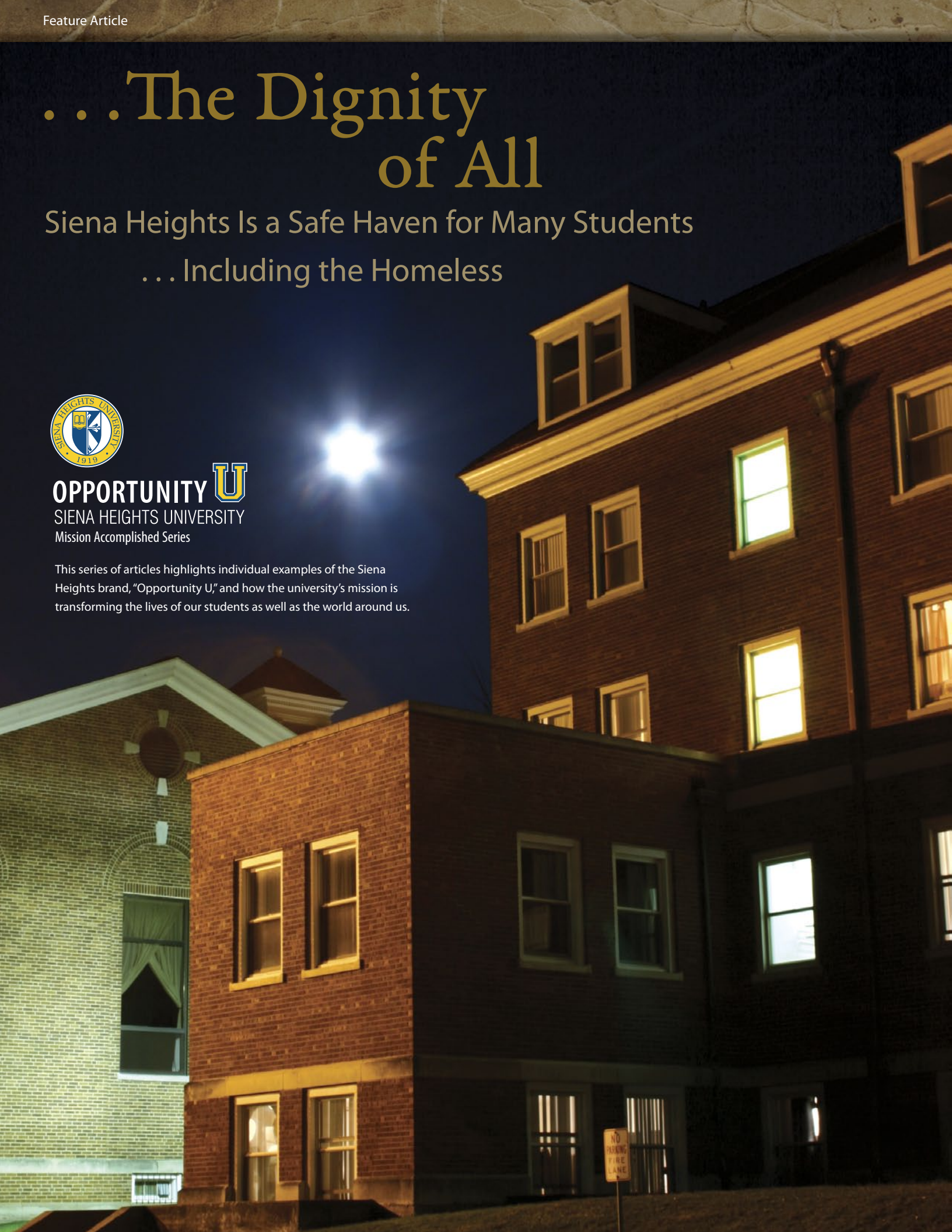
# ...The Dignity of All

Siena Heights Is a Safe Haven for Many Students  
... Including the Homeless



**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.



By Doug Goodnough

Editor's Note: Because of the sensitivity of the issue and privacy concerns, the names of the students who were interviewed for this feature have been changed.

## Siena Heights University ends its mission statement with the phrase, “... respects the dignity of all.”

**T**hat’s a bold statement to make. But Siena Heights has a history of educating students of all backgrounds, traditional and non-traditional alike.

However, there is another, almost invisible, group that also must be educated. It’s those students without a place to call home. Maybe they are victims of circumstances, a bad family experience, or just abject poverty. Society often shows little mercy on these students, leaving them to fend for themselves, bouncing from house to house, place to place, with little or no hope of escaping their fate. And the cruel irony is they don’t want to be seen, don’t want to be heard. In fact, many are embarrassed to even ask for help, often victims of their own fierce pride.



Enter the safe haven of Siena Heights. We sometimes serve as the Ellis Island of higher education for these students. If the United States of America is the Land of Opportunity, Siena Heights is the University of Opportunity. These students come to our doorstep, sometimes unwittingly, looking for a break. A chance. And through some creative financial aid, compassionate faculty and staff and leaning on the words of the mission, Siena Heights casts its safety net to these homeless students, reeling them into the safe, nurturing environment that only a small, personalized community can provide.

These students all have their own stories to tell. Reflections interviewed some of them to provide a cross-section of what these student experience on campus. And we also highlight what Siena Heights does—many times behind the scenes—to help these students, both on and off campus.

**Siena Heights University is truly “Opportunity U.”**



“It was very difficult to deal with. But for some reason, being at school was a huge comfort. Siena Heights gave me a good feeling as soon as I came in the doors.”

— Andrea

# THE DIG

## A One-Way Ticket to Siena Heights

A college education was something not only discouraged in Andrea's family, it was not permitted. So when Andrea graduated from high school, her father gave her an ultimatum—if you go to college, don't bother coming home.

“They thought it was stupid,” Andrea said of her father's and stepmother's opinion of a college education. “They said it was pointless.”

However, Andrea, who moved in with some friends after graduating, felt the call to do something better with her life, and she believed college was the right path.

“College was always talked of highly in high school,” she said. “I always saw the signs on (students') lockers saying what college they were going to.... I was directionless, but I knew I wanted to do something college-wise.”

One day the friends she was staying with visited Siena Heights, and Andrea decided to tag along.

“We went into admissions, and they asked me, ‘Are you interested in going (to Siena Heights)?’” Andrea said. “I said, ‘I don't have any money and my parents don't want me.’ ... They started talking about ways I could come to Siena.”

That “way” was financial aid, and Andrea needed a lot of it. Without her parents to rely on, Andrea said, admissions, financial aid and some caring faculty helped her not only get to Siena Heights, but stay here.

Andrea paid another, steeper price for attending Siena Heights. She was, in essence, homeless, because of her decision. In fact, until this spring, she has not had any direct contact with her parents for nearly five years, meaning her ticket to Siena Heights was one way.

“I knew that I couldn't go back,” Andrea said. “It was very difficult to deal with. But for some reason, being at school was a huge comfort. Siena Heights gave me a good feeling as soon as I came in the doors.”

She embraced her new adopted Siena “family,” getting involved in campus life as much as possible. Holidays and breaks were difficult, hanging out in the residence halls and working at a local retail store to pass the time.

“I stayed in the dorms and went to work and back,” Andrea said. “I wouldn't tell the whole world I didn't have anywhere to go.”

During those breaks, Andrea discovered there were several students in similar situations. In fact, she said they called themselves “lobby rats,” hanging out in the sitting rooms outside the residence halls. Sometimes they would play games like hide-and-go-seek around campus, other times they would spend hours in heart-to-heart conversations about life.

“We share a common bond,” she said of her fellow “lobby rats.” “When you can relate to someone a little bit like that about who you are, it goes a little deeper. ... Everyone has their own story, and everyone brings something different to the table.”

She said at times some SHU faculty and staff members became parental figures, especially when she needed it the most.

“I feel like the teachers here definitely want to connect with you,” Andrea said. “I didn't tell my story many times to people, but for some reason, (faculty and staff) treated me with much more compassion.”

Now, she is ready to “pay it forward.” Andrea will graduate in May, and although she isn't quite yet sure what career path she will take, she knows it will involve helping others.

“I love people, just the interaction with them,” she said. “I want to affect one million people in a positive way. ... I plan on giving back. I do plan on making a fund or doing something for students who are in a situation like me.”

“Ideally, I want to end up in an orphanage. I feel like the orphans are at a critical age. ... If I'm around kids that age, I can help them become better adults.”



“Trudy was there, and she took me under her wing right away. She knew I was in trouble and having difficulties . . . She was an angel in disguise.”

— Norman

Andrea said Siena Heights did that for her, helping her become more sociable, more compassionate, and, most importantly, a better person. In fact, she has recently reconciled with her father and stepmother, as well as with her estranged birth mother. She now has a place to go during breaks and holidays, although she said she still considers Siena Heights her home.

“I’ve thought about everything that has happened at Siena Heights University, which I would say is my life,” Andrea said. “I do feel like I’m home.”

### An Angel in Disguise

Getting hit by a car turned out to be one of the best things that could have happened to Norman.

Mostly due to financial difficulties, Norman’s family moved out of state before he started his freshman year at Siena Heights, leaving him to fend for himself. Norman stayed with friends near the Adrian campus, and his bicycle was his only means of transportation. While riding in town one day, he emerged from the sidewalk behind some bushes and never saw the car that intersected the path of his bike. He suffered some bumps and bruises, but his bike did not survive the accident.

“Pretty much my transportation was shot,” said Norman, who now had no way to get to either school or work, except on foot. “I had to start walking back and forth. I had to spend my day here on campus and wait it out before I could actually go and get anything to eat.”

At the time it happened, it was a seemingly devastating blow. But the accident drew the attention of the right person, who quickly came to his aid.

“Trudy (McSorley) found out about this and was very concerned,” Norman said of SHU’s then Dean for Students. “She started talking about getting me here on campus. She said, ‘We can’t have you living in a situation like that.’”

Norman soon moved into the residence halls—even though he did not have the money to pay for on-campus housing.

“(Trudy) was there, and she just took me under her wing right away,” he said. “She knew I was in trouble and was having difficulties. . . . She was an angel in disguise.”

With his family living too far away to visit on holidays, Norman stays on campus during breaks. He said campus life has enriched his college experience.

“I always thought I was going to miss out on the living-on-campus experience,” he said. “One of the things college is about is getting out on your own and living among other people.”

Now a junior, Norman is involved in the theater program, both in acting and as a playwright. He said the people at Siena Heights who know about his situation treat him with compassion, not pity, which he appreciates. And Norman has found other students on campus who do not have a place to call home.

“I feel like we found each other,” he said. “There’s people around campus who know what the difficulties are like. They don’t have to put a façade around each other. . . . A lot doesn’t need to be said.”

Norman said he isn’t sure he would have stayed at Siena Heights if he didn’t move on campus. He is appreciative of the opportunity he was given, and knows it was a financial sacrifice for Siena Heights.

“It’s special because I think they would give me the help even when they are not able to do it,” Norman said. “Someone could say it would be smart to just let this one go. . . . People were just so willing to help.”

Norman said his experiences have given him a determination to make the most of his education.

“It would be terrible to waste,” he said. “Wherever I go (after graduation), there’s always going to be a piece of me that knows I can come back here, and there’s going to be people here who are excited to hear what I’ve done. And I’m going to be excited to tell them. Wherever I go, I’m going to be taking Siena with me.”



“Siena helped me out with things I couldn't afford . . . Books, calculators. They just did whatever they possibly could to make sure I was OK.”  
— Derek

# THE DIG

## Is this Heaven? No, it's Siena Heights

Most people don't know what it's like to sleep on the steps of an office building.

Derek does.

Growing up in a city, Derek was estranged from his parents during most of his high school years. He bounced around from house to house, friend to friend, just to have a warm place to lay his head. And sometimes he was homeless.

After graduating from a performing arts high school, Derek had few options. So he worked several low-paying jobs, just enough to afford a low-income apartment, but not much else.

“I worked to save money, but the best job I could get was minimum wage,” Derek said. “I needed to do something with my life. I needed to find some other way to get into college.”

This went on for three years, until a friend told Derek about the small, private school he was attending. That school was Siena Heights.

“He said, ‘You need to go to Siena. They might be able to help you. Why don't you just show up?’”

Derek did, and Siena did the rest.

“They guided me through everything I needed to do,” he said. “Scholarships. Grants. Eventually I got here.”

Getting to Siena was one thing, staying was another. Several years out of high school, Derek had to re-acclimate himself to the learning environment. He eventually did, and now is studying to become an actor.

“I ended up falling in love with (acting),” he said. “The people from the (theater) program took me in and guided me through. That's what I plan on doing for the rest of my life.”

However, living on campus was an easier transition.

“It was heaven. It was great,” he said. “It was definitely security. I feel like I kind of accomplished something. It is my home now. I now have hope.”

He said his age difference can be isolating at times, but he said he combats loneliness with reading and other activities. And he is focused on the task at hand.

“I want to get my education. I want a bachelor's degree,” Derek said. “I'm really passionate about it. I'm a survivor, and I try to get where I can.”

He said the environment at Siena Heights has allowed him to thrive. And when he needed help, it was there.

“(Siena) helped me out with things I couldn't afford,” Derek said. “Books, calculators. They just did whatever they possibly could to make sure I was OK.”

Derek said he now has a future, something he wasn't so sure about a couple of years ago.

“I felt like I was off the radar,” he said. “Nobody knew anything about me until I got to Siena. . . . Once I graduate I'll know I'll have that bachelor's degree in my hand and I'll be above the minimum wage.”

## The Safety Net of Siena

When Trudy McSorley started teaching at Siena Heights in 1973, there was no such thing as a homeless student.

“It was \$225 to live in the residence halls and \$750 per semester to go to school here,” McSorley said. “It didn't break anybody's back.”

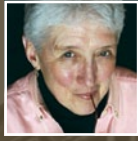
But things have changed. As a faculty member in the theater department, McSorley started to become aware of students who did not have a place to go during holidays and other breaks.

“When I said goodbye to our students, I began to be aware of the fact that they all didn't have a nurturing home to go to.”

To help these students, Siena hired them to work in public safety or maintenance, allowing them to stay on campus. McSorley said Director of Public Safety Cindy Birdwell even brought a holiday feast to campus for these students to give them a taste of home.

When she was promoted to Dean for Students in 2003, she realized there were not only homeless students on campus, but the problem was more widespread than she thought. There were students who were not necessarily homeless, but because of family conflict and strife, they didn't want to—or couldn't—go home.

“What I wanted to do was to feed them all,” McSorley said. “It was my Polish nature.”



“ Somehow we catch them in this wonderful safety net of love and bring them in so at least here, they’re safe. It’s what we are as an institution. ”

— Trudy

She certainly tried. A kitchen was installed in the residence halls to allow students to prepare their own meals. And McSorley often negotiated with the university’s food service to scrounge whatever food she could get.

When Sister Peg Albert was named SHU President in 2006, McSorley soon found another ally. In fact, McSorley quickly wore a path to the president’s office when she found a student in need. And the answer, not surprisingly, was always “yes.”

“You network with faculty, you network with students. You find out that way and you try to provide for what their need is,” she said. “We need to be there for them so we know what they are going through and they are going to be supported and sustained. If we aren’t doing what we say that we do, that building of community, that’s how you find out.”

McSorley said the Siena Heights “safety net” is cast beyond just the faculty and staff. She has seen alumni and board members step up to help homeless students in need, paying for things such as tuition, room and board—even eyeglasses.

“This is what we do,” McSorley said. “(Students) probably get lots more than they would have gotten elsewhere because someone went to bat for them.”

McSorley, who retired as dean last year but is still serving the university as a special assistant to the president for Mission Education an Identity, said she is still plugged into the needs of students. In fact, she has even more time to concentrate on those who need a little extra help.

“Their pride is what sustains them,” said McSorley of the common thread these students possess. “They’re survivors. They’re real resilient and real determined to make it. I think they’ve found here the encouragement to be strong.

“One of the values about Siena Heights is that we’re small and we catch them in this net. There’s all these nets. Somehow we catch them in this wonderful safety net of love and bring them in so at least here, they’re safe. It’s what we are as an institution.” ♦

### **Siena Heights is also actively involved in homeless issues in the community. Here are a couple of examples of its involvement:**

- **Share the Warmth** is the name of an ecumenical homeless shelter that is open nightly in Adrian during the winter months. The building belongs to the Salvation Army, but the shelter stays open with help of volunteers, including Siena Heights faculty, staff and students. Guests are men and women over the age of 18 looking for a safe, warm place to stay for a night. The shelter opens daily at 7 p.m. Sunday to Saturday, and averages approximately 12 guests per night. Siena Heights staffed the shelter for two weeks in 2012. Each day is split into two shifts.

The first shift runs from 6:45 to 11 p.m. The second shift runs from 11 p.m. to 8 a.m. The first way to volunteer is to take a shift. Volunteers provide supper or supply food, snacks, or soups for the guests. Share the Warmth also helps provide paper products like towels, toilet paper and cleaning supplies. The coordinators of Siena Heights’ volunteer efforts are Sister Pat Schnapp and Tom Puszczewicz.

- Each November during Homeless Awareness Month, Siena Heights University hosts the **Lenawee County Homeless Education Conference** in Dominican Hall. This half-day conference is for educators, students, homeless education liaisons, grant writers, service providers and others who work for or are interested in the issue of student homelessness. This is the eighth year this conference has been conducted, and the SHU social work program is involved in the planning of this event, along with the Lenawee Intermediate School District. At the conference, the Sister Norma Dell Courage to Care Award is presented to a group or individual who made significant improvements in creating and coordinating homeless prevention services, advocating for the homeless or providing homelessness prevention services in Lenawee County. Sister Dell, OP, is a 1957 Siena Heights graduate who was the first director of the Lenawee Emergency and Affordable Housing Corp.

# Reporting for Duty

## Beth McCullough '86 is on the Front Lines of Homeless Education with Roadmap to Graduation Program

**B**efore 2001, there weren't many students reported homeless in Lenawee County.

However, Beth Friedline McCullough knew there were, plenty of them, in fact, when she started as the homeless liaison for Adrian Public Schools more than 11 years ago.

"Some people politely said, 'We didn't have homeless people until you came.'" McCullough said. "I said, 'That's not true. It's just because nobody counted.'"

Last year, more than 600 students were reported homeless in Lenawee County. The 1986 Siena Heights University graduate has made it her mission to make sure these students are counted—and count. Since she helped start the unique Roadmap to Graduation program more than seven years ago, 87 percent of those homeless students go on to attend college—and 100 percent graduate. In fact, two of her 13 students last year were valedictorians of their graduating class.

"This is for seniors who are on track to graduate," said McCullough, who works with Catholic Charities to place homeless students—most of whom are 17 and 18 years of age—into foster homes during their time in school. "When you take a kid out of poverty and put him basically into a middle class home, you learn all of these unspoken rules that you didn't know."

McCullough often works as a social "translator" between students and the host families to help ease the transition, which can be difficult at times. One student didn't want to put clothes in a dresser because if he needed to leave in the middle of the night, he could just grab two black trash bags (one for clean clothes, the other for dirty) and go. The compromise: shelving. Shelves allowed him to see all of his clothes but still keep them organized.

"I learn something every single week," McCullough said. "Poverty teaches some very interesting things."

Most of the students in these situations were put there by family issues, including incarceration and domestic violence.

"Hopefully (students) go to somebody's house. But that doesn't always happen," McCullough said. "I have kids sleeping outside this year. ... One kid lived in three different places during the school year. This is her stability. This is her home. This is where she is going to see the same people every day. It's probably the safest place they can be."



McCullough, who taught in the Montessori program after graduating from college before becoming a therapist, instructor and domestic violence shelter director, pulls several pieces together to form the Roadmap program. Catholic Charities is already licensed to place children in homes and also provides a small stipend to host families. She also works with outside agencies to provide counseling for these students, as well as help with the legal issues and paperwork.

And it is her job to make sure the students trust her and the program—not an easy task. She calls the numerous students who visit her meager-looking office on the back side of the high school "a parade of pain."

"Sometimes I have to sit down and say 'Good things happen in this office. This is really all worth it.' ... (We are) dealing with hard questions. Hard situations."

However, McCullough said the payoff is well worth it.

"If you put them in a stable environment, it's amazing what happens," she said of the homeless students. "The Roadmap to Graduation is cheaper than prison. It's cheaper than a shelter. It's cheaper than a dropout. It's a lot of bang for your buck."

While McCullough's position is funded thanks to a government mandate, the Roadmap program is another matter. Resources are "maximized" thanks to the continued role of Catholic Charities and by keeping the parameters of the program focused on older high school students. But she said the students themselves are why the program is ultimately successful.

"The kids I'm working with absolutely can drop out of school and they don't," she said. "They sleep outside and come in the next day. Those are incredible kids. They will sit there and tell you plainly, 'I have to graduate and I have to go on to college, because it's the only way I can do better than what my parents offered me.' And they get that."

McCullough and her program are gaining national notoriety. Last year she presented at a national conference on homeless education, and also testified at a Congressional caucus on homelessness. She said Siena Heights mentors such as Sister Eileen Rice and Sister Anthonita Porta were instrumental in developing her passion for social justice.

"They said to go out and change the world, and I did," she said. "My prayer in the morning is 'I'm reporting for duty.' Siena taught me that." ♦

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

## from the alumni office



### Landmarks, Milestones and Alumni Stories

What a spring of new beginnings and milestone anniversaries:

- On a brisk April afternoon, SHU fans cheered the Saints to a 10-4 season-opening victory over Adrian College on Siena's sparkling new baseball field near the Fieldhouse.
- Three days later, Siena Heights—whose past track teams captured so many honors but always competed “away”—hosted our first-ever home track meet in O’Laughlin Stadium.
- Behind the stadium bleachers, the Mary and Sash Spencer Athletic Complex takes shape with each passing day.
- Next to Dominican Hall, construction is underway on the McLaughlin University Center, due to open in 2013.

As I write, we prepare for a landmark Commencement, bringing all sites and degree programs together for the first time. We'll welcome many graduates for their first visit to campus—and encourage all grads to come back soon. We'll also celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Kente ceremony, started by a handful of African-American students and today involving 60+ graduates.

Across the University, soon-to-be alumni are celebrating degrees completed and opportunities ahead. Just a few examples:

- Theater students Meghan Van Arsdalen and Paul Karle are two of 18 actors nationwide heading to NYC for graduate study at the New School.
- The 18 future nurses graduating in Siena's first-ever pre-licensure nursing class volunteered at six area hospitals this spring, earning accolades for top-notch critical thinking and reasoning.
- Metro Detroit graduate LaVon McLeod is already in St. Louis starting his “dream job” with General Motors. “Might this promotion have anything to do with Siena Heights?” I asked him. “It has everything to do with Siena Heights!”

As these new grads go out into the world, alumni bring memories back to campus.

“I had a pet fox in my dorm room,” Mary Embach Mapes '64 told me when I found her gazing at the old class photos in Sacred Heart Hall. “A baby fox, a kit—I called him Dammit. When he made noise at night, I pushed him under my bed and lay there saying ‘Shush, Dammit.’ If a Sister came to investigate, she quickly forgot the noise and focused on me!”

I was delighted with Mary's stories of the fox she kept in Archangelus, the horse she kept at the fairgrounds, and the late nights she spent making art on the fifth floor of Sacred Heart Hall. “See you at your 50th reunion in a couple years,” I told her as she headed out.

I heard another good story from Terry Bucciarelli '82 and his wife Diana, who made a special effort to visit Terry's old dorm room while on campus for the spring production: In his student days, Terry once opened his door to an alum, a previous resident of the same room, who “gave me \$20 just because I let him see his old room. That made a big impression on me,” Terry said. “Now I do the same thing whenever I get to campus.

“See you at your 30th reunion this fall,” I said, as we left the Performing Arts Center.

Whether you are approaching a landmark reunion, or you'd like to see the new beginnings at Siena, or you've simply got your own stories to tell, come back soon. The welcome mat is always out at Siena Heights.

*Jennifer*

Jennifer A. Hamlin Church  
Associate VP for Advancement &  
Director of Alumni Relations  
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# Spreading Goodwill in West Michigan



Photo By Adam Bird—The Grand Rapids Press

## Kathy Crosby '93, '06/MA Has Spent Her 30-Year Career Helping Others

Editor's Note: This is an edited feature that ran in the November 2011 issue of Women's Lifestyle Magazine. This is used with permission.

By Sara Catlett

**"I can't think of anything that makes me feel better about myself than being generous with others . . . that is where real happiness comes from."**



# Alumni Profile

**"Y**ou can never be too kind or too generous." These are the words of Goodwill of Greater Grand Rapids CEO Kathy Crosby's screen saver, which set the pace for her work each day. Her 30-year career with Goodwill has been motivated by these principals from the start.

Crosby '93, '06/MA started her career with Goodwill in 1980 as an office clerk in Detroit. A self-proclaimed late bloomer, she started college in her 30s, earning her Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration from Siena Heights University's Metro Detroit Program. From there she went on to earn her master's degree in Organizational Leadership from SHU. In the late 1990s, she transferred to the Goodwill office in Bethesda, Md., where she won a scholarship to the University of Maryland Smith School of Business, earning her executive MBA in 2006.

She arrived in Grand Rapids and took over as CEO in December of 2006. Her successes were widely acknowledged after receiving the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce ATHENA Award in July 2011. Crosby was also honored this spring by the West Michigan Business Journal as one of its "50 Most Influential Women."

Goodwill Industry's mission is to "change lives and communities through the power of work." The organization works to create jobs and provide training and support while employees transition into permanent positions in the community.

Crosby truly believes that "given income, independence, and the ability to feed their families," communities can be transformed. She has witnessed this in Grand Rapids firsthand, as Goodwill Industries of the greater Grand Rapids area successfully transitioned 1,300 people into other businesses in 2010.

Goodwill is most often recognized by their donated goods stores, which generate profit to fund the employment programs. The stores themselves create 20 jobs per store. Among many other initiatives, Crosby has been working for the last three years to implement the Achieve program, a long-term employment program created to train employees with intensive skills workshops and follow participants for a full year in their new careers. The organization celebrated the program's first successes last fall.

The mission of Goodwill is close to Crosby's heart because it is a continuation of her mother's advice to her. Crosby says, "Generosity is the most important core value that I hold. I attribute much of that to my mother."

Her mother exemplified that generosity by always giving their best to others, and not only giving away what they didn't want. In her family, that often meant giving time, talents, laughter and enthusiasm instead of money. Crosby blogs the importance of her mother's intentional generosity on the Goodwill website, and she loves to share it.

Crosby also encourages the Goodwill employees to participate in giving in the same vein as the mission of the organization and the wise words of her mother. Opportunities to work with Access of West Michigan's food bank, United Way's Day of Caring, and The Mental Health Foundation of West Michigan's walk to Stomp Out Stigma, among others, are consistently offered as ways employees can continue to be generous toward the community. Goodwill also works to be giving toward employees by offering paid tuition reimbursement, paid time off to go to school, and flexible work schedules. Making Us Great, their internal program for employee suggestions, rewards every comment with a mug of M&Ms.

The most familiar way to contribute to Goodwill's cause is to donate used goods, and Goodwill pledges to get the greatest good from each item to put back into their programs. The organization also values volunteers to help with responsibilities ranging from leading mock interviews to clerical or specialized office work. For those generous with cash donations, the contributions augment their support services and technical training for program participants.

The future of Goodwill looks bright as Crosby continues to "keep a strong eye on what the community needs for tomorrow."

With increased donations of used goods, cash, and volunteered time, she is building Goodwill's impact in the community.

"I can't think of anything that makes me feel better about myself than being generous with others . . . that is where real happiness comes from," Crosby said. ♦

# Change A Life . . .



## Doug Dawson

Junior, Roseville, Mich.— Criminal Justice Major  
Two-sport Athlete, NAIA Track All-American

Dawson, the school record holder in the indoor 400 meter dash, is also a standout on the Saints' soccer team. However, as a senior at Roseville High School north of Detroit, he was originally headed to community college before a scholarship allowed him to attend Siena Heights.

"Without the scholarship, I don't think I would have come here or anywhere else at first," said Dawson. "I probably would have ended up working and going to school to save up money. The scholarship allowed me to jump right in and stay in school. I have a chance to do something I like, get a scholarship for it and go to school on top of it. Thank you for the opportunity to allow me to experience all this and have a chance."

## . . . through an endowed scholarship



## Call the Advancement Office

(517) 264-7140 or

toll-free at 1 (800) 693-0506

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

Please Consider Naming Siena Heights as a Beneficiary in Your Will or Trust.



# class notes

## From The Sites

### SHU—Online



**Michael Douglas '10** is currently employed as a loss prevention technician at Navistar in Garland, Texas. He is currently pursuing a MBA at Amberton University. He resides in Addison, Texas.

### SHU—Battle Creek

**Michael Rodgers '08** is employed in forensic psychiatry with the State of Michigan. He resides in Ypsilanti, Mich.

**Isaac Wyatt '05** is employed as a marketing operations manager for the Blue Jeans Network in Mountain View, Calif. The start-up company facilitates and enhances video conferencing. He recently received his MBA and currently resides in Sunnyvale, Calif.

### SHU—Benton Harbor

**Jennifer Reinhardt '04** married Douglas Wall Nov. 19, 2011, at Trinity Lutheran Church in St. Joseph, Mich. The bride is employed as an office manager with Custom Tool and Die, St. Joseph. The couple resides in St. Joseph.

**Jayne Neumann '07** was recently hired as a business development officer with Edgewater Bank. She will be responsible for attracting and retaining small business, non-profit and retail clients to the bank. She previously worked as a marketing and design group manager for the Whirlpool Corp. She resides in St. Joseph, Mich.



**Jon Wallace '09, '11/MA** was recently named president of Marketing Partners, Inc., which is based in St. Joseph, Mich., and Orlando, Fla. He previously served as vice president and co-owner of Carter-Wallace in St.

Joseph. Wallace has served on several executive boards, including as board chair for the United Way of Southwest Michigan, Lakeshore Rotary and Cornerstone Chamber Services. In 2004, Wallace received the Margaret B. Upton Volunteer of the Year award. United Way and Lakeshore Rotary have also honored him with volunteer of the year awards. He has been recognized nationally for customer service improvement and business development work by the Radio Advertising Bureau and Bank of America, and is a former Artist in Residence at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. Wallace also is an adjunct faculty member in SHU's Graduate College.

### SHU—Jackson

**Carla White Losey '10** organized the Jackson/Clarklake Polar Plunge for the law enforcement torch run Feb. 18 that benefitted Special Olympics Michigan. Losey is an office assistant for the Michigan Department of Corrections.

### SHU—Lansing

**DeMarquis Battle '09** will graduate from Grace College and Theological Seminary in May with a Master of Arts degree in ministry studies. He was also named youth pastor at his church in November 2011. He is employed as a financial aid counselor at Davenport University. He resides in Lansing, Mich.

### SHU—Monroe

**Manuel Hoskins III '03, '06/MA** was honored in February 2012 with the 2012 Black History Living Legends Award by the Carey Chapel AME Church in Monroe, Mich. In 2011 Hoskins was named the first African American chief of the City of Monroe Fire Department. He is also a U.S. Air Force veteran.

### SHU—Southfield

**Chad Grant '99** was recently named COO of the Detroit Medical Center Children's Hospital. Previously he was vice president of DMC's Cardiovascular Institute and cardiology services. He started at DMC in 1995 as a nuclear medicine technologist. The 37-year-old Grant was also named to the Chain's Detroit Business '40 under 40' class of 2011.



**John Lyman '11** was recently promoted to fire captain/paramedic of the Waterford Township Fire Department in Waterford, Mich. He has served with the department since 1988, and currently resides in White Lake, Mich.

**Rory Wagner '03/MA** is currently employed as a case manager for Easter Seals of Michigan. He currently resides in Clinton Township, Mich.

## Main Campus

### 1970s

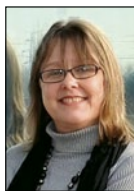
**Frank Pesta '75** recently authored the book "Why, Lord, Why?" The book is about a teen in distress who eventually tries to take his own life. It shows the signals being sent out by young people that are often not seen or heard by others. The book is available via Amazon or Barnes & Noble. Pesta resides in St. Clair Shores, Mich.

### 1980s

**Thomas McCanna '80/AA** is employed as a sales clerk at Marshall's in Rochester, N.Y. He resides in Pittsford, N.Y.

**Jacqueline Battalora '88** is an attorney and associate professor of Sociology and Criminal Justice at St. Xavier University in Chicago, Ill. She teaches social theory and sociology of law, with a focus on critical race theory and social inequality with specialization in the racial construction of whiteness in U.S. law and society.

**Darwin McClary '88** is employed as an administrative officer for Garden City, Mich. He resides in Ferndale, Mich.



**Kathryn Sworden Slusher '89, '10/MA** was named the new executive director of Family Counseling and Shelter Services of Monroe County in January 2012. She oversees the four divisions of FCCSS

which include the Children's Center, the Counseling Program, Domestic Violence Emergency Response Team and the Sunrise House. Her duties include realigning the organizational structure to better serve the agency's mission, forming collaborative relationships with other human service agencies in the area, securing new sources of funding and promoting the organization.

**Rodney Terwilliger '89** was named as advisor to the Youth Advisory Council of the Huron County Community Foundation in Bad Axe, Mich. Terwilliger has worked in the fundraising and philanthropy field for the past 15 years, most recently teaching in Grand Valley State University's School of Communications. He is also a member of the Association of Fundraising Professionals and the Michigan Nonprofit Association and is a professional consultant for nonprofit organizations.

### 1990s

**Lennie Alcorn '94** was recently appointed additions counselor at the Caring Alternatives Counseling Center in Monroe, Mich. He will provide assessments, interventions and treatment in the areas of addictions, substance abuse and domestic violence accountability.

**Brett Lawrence '95** was one of the contributing photographers for the book "Coney Detroit" that celebrated an iconic part of Detroit's past and future success. Lawrence's photo Kerby's Coney Island in Troy, Mich., was selected for the cover. The book went on sale in April 2012 and is available at the Wayne State University Press and Amazon.com.



**Josh Reeber '99 (above)** married Dora Wong on June 18, 2010, at the Detroit Golf Club in an outside ceremony. The bridegroom is employed as a Michigan State Trooper at the Taylor Post. The couple resides in Livonia, Mich.

## Alumni Focus

**Dr. Jeffrey Morissette '90** was named the director of the Department of the Interior's North Central Climate Science Center located at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colo., in December 2011. Dr. Morissette is the first permanent director of the new



center, which is one of eight regional Climate Science Centers being established. The NC CSC is a partnership involving the Department and nine universities, led by

Colorado State University. The national network will provide land managers in federal, state and local agencies access to the best science available regarding climate change and other landscape-scale stressors impacting the nation's natural and cultural resources. They will be managed by the National Climate Change and Wildlife Science Center located at the U.S. Geological Survey's headquarters in Reston, Va. Previously, Dr. Morissette served collaterally as the assistant center director for Science and head of the Invasive Species Science Branch Center at the USGS Fort Collins Science Center. He first joined the USGS in 2008 and has conducted applied research in earth sciences with an emphasis in habitat modeling and land surface phenology. Dr. Morissette formerly worked for NASA as a physical scientist. Besides having a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Siena Heights, he also earned a master's in applied statistics from Oakland University and a doctorate in philosophy/forestry and remote sensing from North Carolina State University. Dr. Morissette also attended the International Space University in Vienna, Austria.

## 2000s

**Anissa Sutherland '02** was recently honored at the 17<sup>th</sup> annual Motor City Tattoo Expo in Detroit. Her tattoo design of the famous flag-raising scene of Iwo Jima during World War II earned the "most patriotic award." She is owner of Ink Fever tattoo shop in Adrian, Mich.

**David Herriman '03** recently was named to the board of Associated Charities of Lenawee County. He is employed at the Kemner-lott Insurance Agency and resides in Adrian, Mich.



**Halette Burgess '06** recently took part in The Fourth Wall's production of "Nunsense" in Jackson, Mich. She's also an active member of the After Dark Players comedy improv troupe. Burgess teaches religion at Jackson Lumen

Christi High School and is also pursuing a master's degree in theology.

**Tracy Northcott '06** married Gary Pixley June 24, 2011, in Toledo, Ohio. The bride is employed as an art teacher at Clinton Middle School. The couple resides in Metamora, Ohio.

**Faith Stover '06** is self-employed as an attorney at the Law Office of Faith Stover in Detroit, Mich.

**Lisa Vander Putten '06** is currently employed with Olympia Entertainment at Joe Louis Arena in Detroit, Mich. She was previously employed with Palace Sports & Entertainment at the Palace of Auburn Hills. She currently resides in Keego



Harbor, Mich. She is pictured with her dog, Halo, (above) named after the SHU mascot, who was nine months old on March 11.

**Elizabeth Nicholson '07** is part of a three-person new business start-up called Front Range Fusion. The business features handmade artistic designs using glass, photography, and in the future, ceramics. Front Range Fusion offers a Christmas collection with tiles and ornaments, and has a web presence at [www.frontrangefusion.com](http://www.frontrangefusion.com).

**Olajuwon Pinson '07, '09/MA** was named the head varsity basketball coach at Eau Claire High School in November 2011.

**Dr. Erika Wolcott '07** graduated in December 2011 from Life University in Atlanta, Ga., with a Doctor of Chiropractic degree. She was offered a position with Anchors Chiropractic in Dunwoody, Ga. Her research on infertility and chiropractic was recently published in the latest edition of the Journal of Pediatric, Maternal & Family Health ([www.chiropracticpediatricresearch.net](http://www.chiropracticpediatricresearch.net)).

**Andrew DuBay '08, '10/MA** recently volunteered for a term with Americorps and served at the United Way of Southeast Alaska. He is currently employed as a behavioral health associate with Juneau Youth Services and resides in Juneau, Ak.



**Nick Angel '09** was named principal at Beach Middle School in Chelsea, Mich. in June 2011. He previously had served for three years as the assistant principal at Chelsea High School and spent five years as a teacher at Blissfield

High School. He resides in Milan, Mich., with his wife, Laura, and their daughter, Brooklyn.

### 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.

**Emilie Brasher '09** was recently hired as an accounting and tax specialist at the GreenStone Farm Credit Services branch in Adrian, Mich. Brasher was expected to complete her master's degree in accounting from the University of Toledo in December 2011.

**Betsy Schroeder '09** married **Justin Norlock '08** July 11, 2011, in an outdoor ceremony at the Grand Traverse Resort in Traverse City, Mich. The bride is employed as a middle school math teacher in Coppell, Texas. The bridegroom is a police officer in Dallas, Texas. The couple lives in Carrollton, Texas.

## 2010s

**Hillary Day '10** married James Harrington Dec. 19, 2011, in Ochos Rios, Jamaica. The bride is currently attending Thomas Cooley Law School.

## Deaths

### Alumni

Isabelle Seel Hoover '41  
Joan Burns Lane '44  
Sister Virginia Hafe-Wells, OP '47  
Barbara Cohan Schowalter '47  
Dr. Donita Sullivan '52  
Hazel Holubik '56  
Sister Kathleen Buechele, OP '58  
Sister Loretta Hanson, OP '60  
Joyce Aarsen Cohen '66  
Ruby Schuler Wendell '67  
Luva Mae Addleman Kutzley '68  
Sheila Powers '72  
Michael Jaeger '74  
Molly Younglove '82  
Scott Preuninger '83  
Eldene Finkbeiner '87  
Kenneth Colpaert '93  
Sean Catron '99

### Friends

**Robert "Bob" Soller**—former Siena Heights theater faculty member.

**Barrie Gartrell FitzSimons**—honorary degree recipient in 1985.

## Corrections

In the last issue of *Reflections*, it was incorrectly reported that **Nina Albera Stallkamp '60** was deceased. We are happy to report she is alive and well. We deeply regret this error.

Also in the last issue of *Reflections*, a beautiful panoramic photo of O'Laughlin Stadium during Homecoming (**below**) was used without giving credit. The photo was taken by **Paul Zdanis '81** who was a photography student at SHU.



Photo By John Madill '91

**Say, "Degrees!"**—This year's graduates of Siena's Lake Michigan College Center in Benton Harbor celebrated together two weeks before Commencement.



# Alumni News

## Homecoming! October 5–7, 2012

Make plans now. Homecoming 2012 is less than six months away; so before you get distracted by summer vacation, mark the dates, reserve your hotel room (always ask about Siena's Homecoming room block), and call a friend.

## What's so special about the years "2" and "7"? Reunions in 2012!

Everyone is welcome at Homecoming, no matter when you graduated; but if this is a reunion year for you, jump on the bandwagon, call your friends and help us make it extra-special. Contact the Alumni Office for info or assistance.

- Class of 1962: 50th Reunion
- Classes of 1966 & 1967: Combined 45th Reunion
- Class of 1972: 40th Reunion
- Class of 1977: 35th Reunion
- Class of 1982: 30th Reunion
- Class of 1987: 25th Reunion
- Class of 1992: 20th Reunion
- Class of 1997: 15th Reunion
- Class of 2002: 10th Reunion
- Class of 2007: 5th Reunion

## Batter Up, Again! 9th Annual Mud Hens Event Set for August 13

Once again, Siena Heights is planning a grand slam alumni event at Fifth Third Field in Toledo, OH. Join us on Monday, August 13, for baseball with the Toledo Mud Hens and SHU fun with several hundred alumni, faculty and friends. Enjoy a picnic supper in the Roost, great seats on the Porch, and family summer fun as the Mud Hens take on the Durham Bulls. Watch your mail, email and Facebook for details. Or call the Alumni Office with questions.



**The Winner! Tina DiGiorgio Forsythe '93** and her son accepted last year's Mud Hens prize basket from SHU President Peg Albert, OP and alumni director Jennifer Church.

## Alumni Directory: Coming Soon to Your Mailbox

If you ordered a copy of the 2012 Alumni Directory, you should find it in your mailbox any day now. Publication (by PCI of Dallas, TX) and mailing are scheduled for late April/early May. If you have questions, or if you have not already received any gear or extras you ordered, please call the PCI customer service desk at: (800) 982-1590.

## SHU Choir Traveling to the Vatican. You Come, Too!

The Siena Heights University Choir will travel to Italy Dec. 27, 2012-Jan. 6, 2013. The group will perform at a Mass in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican and have an audience with the Pope, as well as exploring (and sometimes performing in) Rome, Florence, Siena, Assisi, and Pompeii. Alumni are invited to join the group for this exciting adventure in Tuscany. Those reserving a place after May 1 are invited to make their own flight arrangements to/from Italy, meeting the group at their arrival point in Florence. The trip fee (without airfare) is \$2,500 and includes 3-star accommodations in double rooms (extra charge for single supplement), private motor coach, breakfasts daily plus 8 dinners, sightseeing and entrance fees, and group tips. For details, contact Dr. Beth Tibbs at etibbs@sienaheights.edu or (517) 264-7896.

## Attention: Alumni at Home and Abroad—Help Us Build a Global SHU Community



New director of international studies **Dan Morris '04, '09/MA**, has exciting plans for building the international dimensions of Siena Heights. He looks forward to connecting with all alumni living outside the United States, international

alumni living in the United States, and anyone else with experience or interest in global outreach and awareness. "We would like to reconnect with our entire international alumni community," he said recently. "As graduates of Siena Heights, you are the most powerful voices and proponents of our international growth."

Dan, who was born in the U.S. but spent 16 years growing up in Brazil, served for two years as coordinator of international admissions at Siena Heights before accepting his current position. He invites letters, emails and phone calls from alumni interested in building international awareness and understanding at SHU.

"One key event for everyone to keep in mind is the International Week Program that the International Club and the Office of International Studies put on each November," Dan said. "Watch for details this fall on the website and through SHU email. And don't miss the fabulous International Dinner!" Contact Dan in the Office of International Studies or at (517) 264-7001 or dmorris@sienaheights.edu.



**Alumnae Leaders:** Academic VP **Sharon Weber, OP '69**, Trustee **Betty Cummings '82, '09**, and Alumni Board VP **Mary Poore '76** helped break ground for the new University Center.

## Remembering the One- Room Schoolhouse

Attention alumnae from earlier decades: Are you one of the many teachers who once nurtured young minds of many ages in a one-room schoolhouse? The Alumni Office wants to hear from you! In the first half of the 20th century, the rural Midwest was home to many one-room schools. If you have memories of teaching in one of those schoolhouses of yore, we invite you to write a note, type an email, or pick up the phone and call us at: SHU Alumni Office, 1247 E. Siena Heights Dr., Adrian, MI 49221 or (517) 264-7143 or alumni@sienaheights.edu. We look forward to hearing from you!

## What do You Know About This Book?

Five members of the 50th reunion Class of 1962 — (below) from left, **Judith Hoppa Sasaki, Margean Kastner, Anne Carney, Agnes Simone Hotchkiss** and **Joan Attai**—gathered around a beautiful hand-lettered music book at some point during their years at Siena. Sometime after that, the book was relegated to a storeroom and... forgotten. Almost five decades later, the book was "discovered" again in the closed collection room of the Library. Identified as a medieval (circa 1450) Graduale, a book containing chants for the celebration of the Mass, the book (right) was then given to the Adrian Dominican Sisters and is displayed in Holy Rosary Chapel.

The Archives is interested in learning about the origins of the Graduale and how it came to be at Siena Heights. If you have any information, please contact Mary Beaubien, OP in the Siena Heights Library Archives at (517) 264-7648, or by email at mbeaubien@adriandominicans.org.



## Cheer On SHU Award Winners At Homecoming!

Celebrate this year's alumni honorees during Homecoming weekend. Alumni Awards will be presented Friday afternoon, Oct. 5. The Athletic Hall of Fame banquet will be Saturday night, Oct. 6. Honorees will be recognized throughout the weekend.

### 2012 Alumni Award Winners:

Recent Graduate Award:  
**Traci Stewart '02**

Sister Ann Joachim Award:  
**Anne (Birnbryer) MacMillan Eichman '67**

Sister Ann Joachim Award:  
**Sister Patricia Siemen, OP '72**

Saint Dominic Award:  
**Sister Angela Susalla, OP '63, '70**

Outstanding Alumni Award:  
**Douglas Miller '74, '83**

Honorary Alumni Award:  
**Sister Patricia Schnapp, RSM**

**Note:** The 2011 Recent Graduate Award winner, **Lacey Wilmot Rao '02**, who was unable to be here last year, will also be honored this year.

### 2012 Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees:

**Sam Skeels '02** (soccer)

**Sean Carlson '02** (basketball)

**Dee Koppelman Stalker '96** (softball)

**Gary Gill '83** (baseball)

**Paul Bodenbach '84** (athletic trainer)

**The 1995 Softball Team**



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## from the alumni association



### My Siena, My University: Then...and Still!

#### Flash back . . . Labor Day weekend, 1972.

A young lady from northwest Ohio arrives at Siena Heights College as a freshman. What a growing year this will be for her – and Siena. For only the third year, men will be living in the dorms...4th floor only! Siena will have its first male intercollegiate baseball team. Prior to her graduation, more changes will occur. New academic programs are added, including a criminal justice program with many of “Adrian’s finest” enrolled at Siena Heights for the first time ever. More sports are brought on campus, including wrestling and basketball. Home games are played in small, local venues. Weekend life includes parties in Sage Union (does anyone really know how to spell Wapa-toola??), traying down the hill in front of Ledwidge Hall, movies in Benincasa, Sunday night Mass in Ledwidge Ballroom.

**Fast Forward . . . April 13, 2012.** This same, not so young lady is driving to Jackson, MI. As Vice President of the Siena Heights University Alumni Association, she will be welcoming some of the newest alumni to the association – graduates from the Jackson, Lansing, Battle Creek and Distance Learning programs. Siena Heights University now consists of seven sites around the state of Michigan, as well as an online program. The university now boasts 50+ undergraduate programs, including a new top-rated nursing program, and more than 20 graduate programs. Graduates of the performing arts program are accepted to top national graduate programs. Alumni, students and staff participate in community service projects around the country, giving back to others in need. In the past year, football has come to Siena Heights—along with an incredible multi-sport performance stadium which also hosts its men’s and women’s lacrosse, soccer and nationally-ranked track and field teams. The baseball team has just dedicated its new field. The University Center is rising up on the west end of campus, near the Campus Village apartments which house many of our students.

In this 40-year mental review, so much has changed at Siena Heights. The University name, population mix and numbers, academic offerings, intercollegiate athletic teams and physical plant have all morphed and grown over the years. However, a common thread runs through these same years. Siena Heights has never lost its Dominican tradition. Teaching and learning continue in all venues, not just inside the classrooms. Even with its growth, there is a feeling of family-like warmth, compassion and concern on campus.

One just needs to read the biographies of past years’ Alumni Award recipients to see the story of a university that has played a major part in developing people who are committed to being competent, purposeful and ethical in all they do.

As alumni, we can continue to be a part of carrying on this strong tradition. I ask each of you to share your time, talents and treasures with the university. The 2nd Annual Summer Spectacular, coming on June 22, will be a wonderful opportunity for you to visit Adrian, see all the positive changes, feel the energy and spirit, and financially support this fine institution. Monies raised from this event will help sustain our traditions by providing scholarships to future generations. Continue your involvement by attending Homecoming in Adrian October 5-7. Come home to Siena, bring your family and encourage your friends. Start creating new memories for yourself.

I look forward to seeing you on campus soon. I’ll be the “not so young” girl who just can’t stay away from Siena Heights! Blessings!

Mary Small Poore '76  
Vice President  
Alumni Association Board of Directors

## People Person



### Terry Beurer '80 Takes on Statewide Leadership Role in Michigan

By Doug Goodnough

“Siena prepared me very well . . . Siena has been very influential in my life. The spirit of what the Adrian Dominicans represent, I try to live each day.”



# Alumni Profile

**T**erry Beurer '80 considers himself to be a people person. As someone who supervises staff in Michigan's 83 counties, drives approximately 4,000 miles per month and has to be able to respond at a moment's notice, he has to be.

Beurer, who was named the director of Field Operations for the Michigan Department of Human Services in January, said he is ready for the new challenge his promotion offers.

“In my job, it's something new every day,” said Beurer, who served as acting director for six months before being named permanent director. “I am heavily involved in labor relations and personnel issues (as well as) the day-to-day operations of the county offices to make sure we are pushing forward the mission and the vision of the department.”

Beurer has been working for the state since 1978, when he started at the Adrian Training School. He then went on to the Lenawee County DHS as a child protective services worker, and later supervised CPS and foster care. In 2004 he was promoted to the Monroe County director's position, and has also served as director of Urban Child Welfare Field Operations and the deputy director of the Children's Services Administration.

Since the promotion, he said he is wasting very little time implementing new initiatives for his department.

“We are moving very quickly,” he said. “We are in the process of developing and introducing a new business model. We want to get our workers in the field. Wherever the client populations are, we want to be there.”

That includes being online.

“(Areas like) Medicaid, daycare, cash assistance can all be applied for online, and we are strongly encouraging that,” Beurer said. “We are rolling out electronic data management. We are converting everything electronically, which will help us all over. Our clientele, they are a mobile population.”

Although he wants to improve electronic accessibility, he still believes in face-to-face interaction with his county directors.

“I need to be responsive to what their needs are,” he said. “I need to be supportive of them, and sometimes that involves face-to-face contact. I try to get out as much as I can. I don't ever want to lose sight of the fact that I worked in the field at one time.”

Beurer said his career in human services started “by accident.” A business major at Siena Heights, he hired in part-time at the Adrian Training School while still a student and “fell in love with the work.” He took additional classes in Human Services before graduating, and said his Siena Heights education still helps him to this day.

“Siena prepared me very well,” said Beurer, who lives near the Adrian campus in Deerfield, Mich. “Siena Heights has been very influential in my life. The spirit of what the Adrian Dominicans represent, I try to live each day.”

He said he has worked with interns and faculty from Siena Heights over the years, and has noticed a common thread.

“They just bring with them a work ethic,” he said. “But they also bring a compassion for people. You see that throughout the whole university atmosphere. You just can't help but notice.” ♦



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For more information on setting up a Siena Heights Charitable Gift Annuity, visit us on our website at: [www.sienaheights.edu/GivingToSiena.aspx](http://www.sienaheights.edu/GivingToSiena.aspx).

Or call the Advancement Office at (800) 693-0506, or email us at [advancement@sienaheights.edu](mailto:advancement@sienaheights.edu).

**Give & Receive**



# The Arts at SHU

The Arts are alive and well at Siena Heights! This spring, Theatre Siena had a full production schedule, including "August: Osage County" and "Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street" (below left). The annual alumni dinner theater around the Sweeney Todd production had nearly 100 people attend. The newly created SHU Choir (left) has had a busy first year, performing at numerous venues both on and off campus. They are scheduled to perform at the Vatican next winter. Music will again be offered as a major this fall. Spring is also time for many senior art exhibitions in the Klemm Gallery. These shows are the pinnacle of the art program and feature the best student art Siena Heights has to offer. Pictured (below right) is a piece entitled "Reprogram" from Lyndsay Payne's senior show titled "Analysis." This summer will be a busy one on campus in the fine arts, including the Creative Stages Fine Arts Camp in June for area youth.



# From the SHU Archives



## Serving Sisters

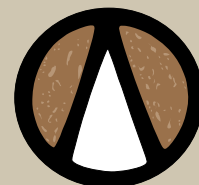
Several Adrian Dominicans Sisters were well-known for their service to Siena Heights:

- **Sister Bertha Hominga** was the first Siena Heights registrar and seemed to have memorized the transcript of every student.
- **Sister Laurine Neville** (above right) was very devoted to working with the migrant farm workers in Lenawee County, and she always involved the students in this ministry.
- **Sister Irene Morence** was dedicated to finding financial aid for every student who needed it. Sister Raphael McDonald was the director of Finance and Planning from 1973-78, a time of major changes at Siena Heights.
- **Sister Jeannine Klemm** (above) was named head of the Art Department in 1957, when there were 20 majors. By 1982, the number had grown to 200. She first worked in Studio Angelico on the fifth floor of Sacred Heart Hall.



But she knew the space could accommodate neither the new techniques (such as metal-working with blow torches) nor the increase in the number of students. So Jeannine, as she travelled to various workshops and master classes, studied art studios to get ideas for the one she wanted. Told only one floor was planned, she raised the roof! Then she raised the money for the second floor by soliciting donations from local industrialists and by printing greeting cards and selling them and other art works. In 1992 *The Catholic Weekly* states, "Sister Jeannine has never allowed limits set by others to keep her from achieving what she believes is right. The building in which she works is a good example. It rises from the surrounding rolling pasture like a piece of sculpture. Best of all, according to her, 'You can walk right in.'" ♦

**From the SHU Archives:** Pictured above is a photo taken in 1968 of Sister Laurine Neville working with students in the Language Lab.





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Friday, June 22, 2012

Siena Heights University is proud to present the second annual

# Siena Summer Spectacular for Scholarships



Featuring a Golf Scramble and Dinner Auction

Siena Heights University will host the second annual Siena Summer Spectacular golf scramble and dinner auction event on Friday, June 22, 2012. 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).