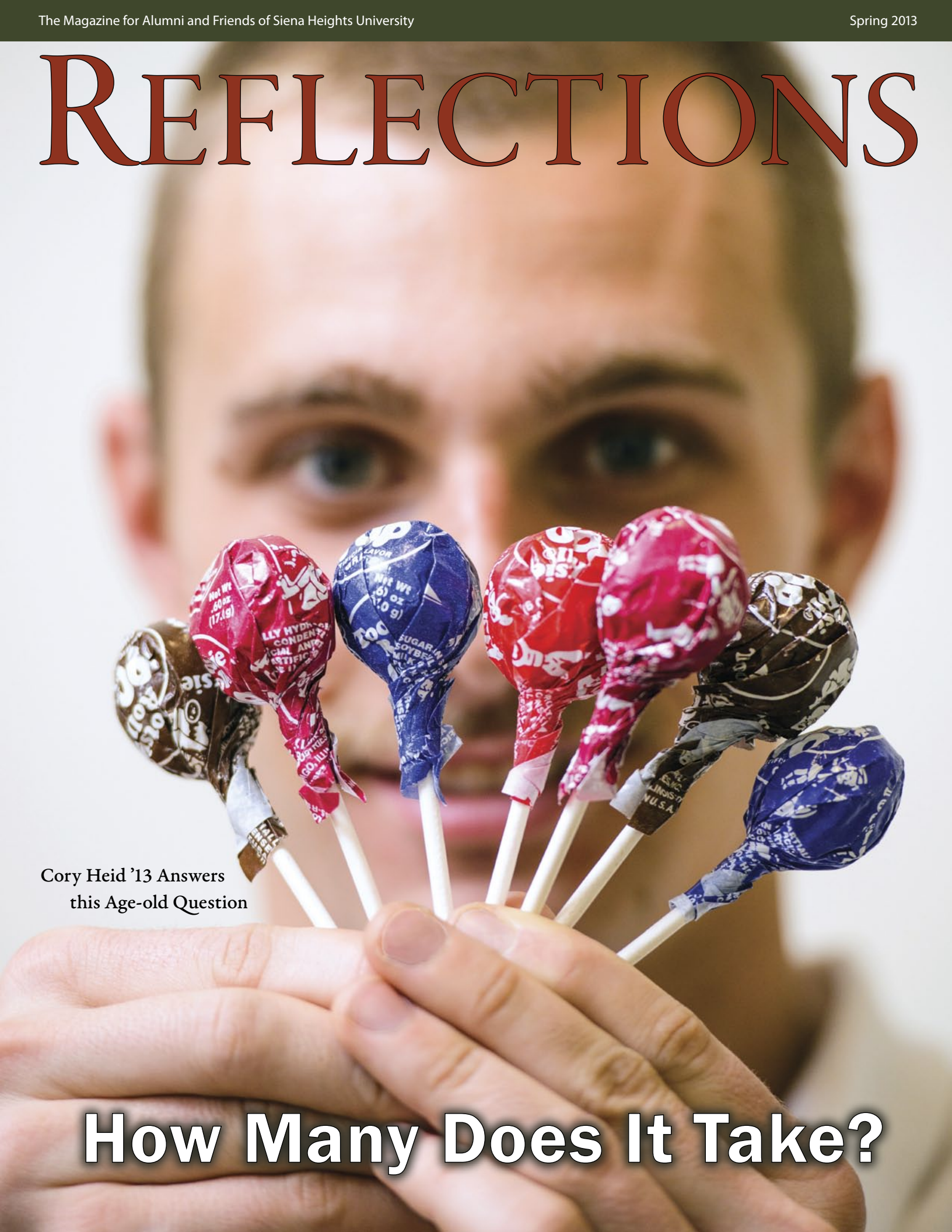


REFLECTIONS



Cory Heid '13 Answers
this Age-old Question

How Many Does It Take?



from the president



The Siena Way

This year has been somewhat of a somber one so far at Siena Heights.

In 2013, we have experienced an unusual amount of deaths in the extended Siena family. Some have hit very close to home, like the passing of longtime art faculty member John Wittersheim, who lost his fight with cancer in March. Before that was the tragic loss of custodian Linda Guzman, who was killed in a freak automobile accident. Both were fixtures on the Siena campus, and we still are mourning their loss.

There have also been a string of passings to family members and friends in the Siena community. Most seem to have occurred one right after the other. Factor in the chill of winter lasting a bit longer than usual, and it wasn't hard to see why many were struggling to find the "silver lining" in the gray clouds that seemed to be hovering over campus.

We do our best to show all the "happy" things happening at Siena Heights. We obviously want our alumni and friends to "feel good" about their University, and let them know about the excitement and energy that's being generated by everyone here. Sometimes, though, we need to share some of the sadness that eventually occurs, because it is times like these that truly reveal the strength, support and character of the Siena community.

The response by the people at Siena when these tragedies occur is remarkable. Maybe it is just a sympathetic email or phone call to ease the hurt just a bit. Or perhaps it is something more, like picking up some job responsibilities of that person to help them through the grieving process. Or visiting someone at home just to talk. I have witnessed many of these selfless acts of charity over the past few months, and it reaffirms the goodness that is Siena Heights University.

We all try to live the Siena Heights mission of being more competent, purposeful and ethical, however, you can also include terms like compassionate, empathetic and thoughtful when speaking about the Siena community. It is all those qualities and more that drives me each day, and makes me proud to serve as its president.

As I look out my office, there's a hint of spring—and hopefully cheerier times—ahead. After recently celebrating Easter and the Resurrection of Christ, I'm reminded that Jesus also promises of more glorious times ahead for those who believe in Him.

In the meantime, here at Siena Heights, we will celebrate the good times, and support each other during the bad. It's just the Siena way.

Sister Peg Albert, OP

Sister Peg Albert, OP, PhD
President

REFLECTIONS

SPRING 2013

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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.

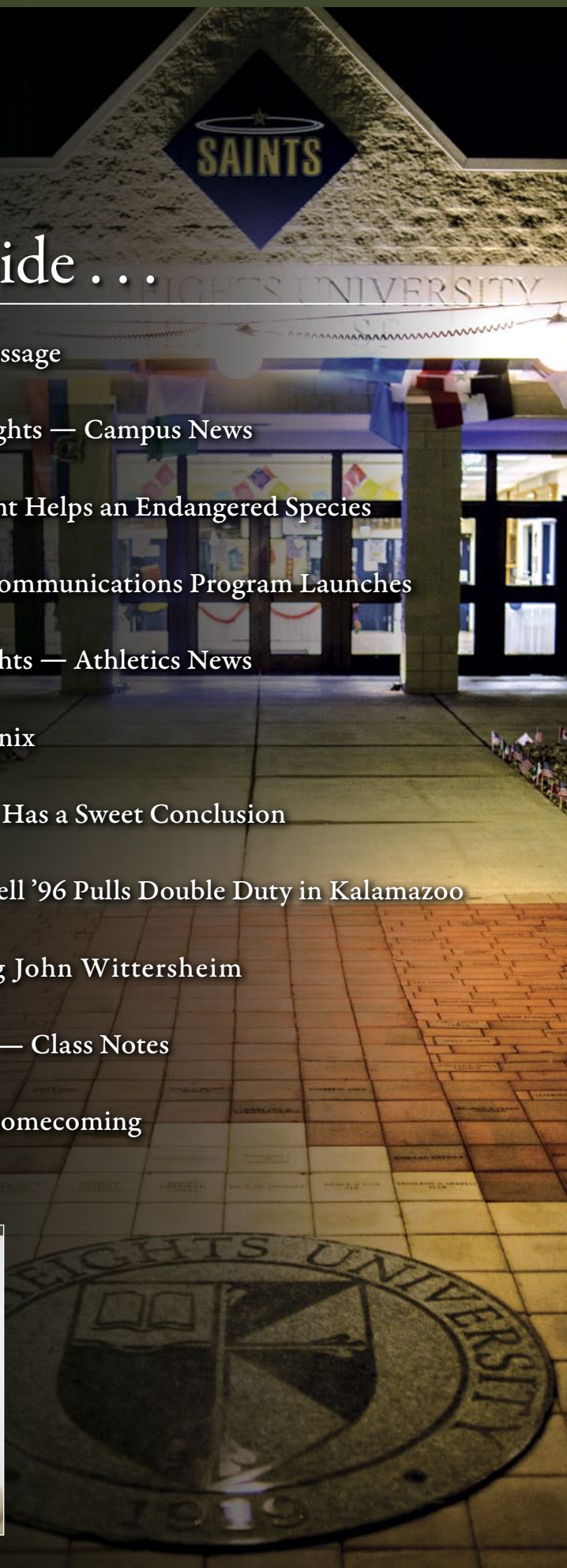
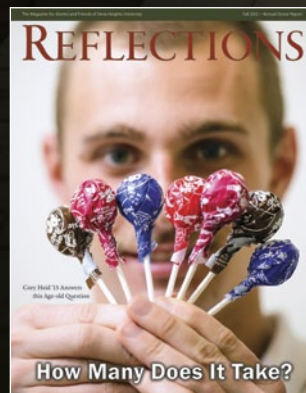
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On the Cover

SHU math student Cory Heid '13 turned an age-old question into his senior project: How many licks does it take to get to the center of a Tootsie Roll Pop? He learned the answer first-hand, and will share it with the rest of the world at an international math conference in Montreal, Canada this summer.

on the inside . . .

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from the editor



It's All the Way for Ray

Though my waistline tells a different story, I like to think of myself as a regular visitor to the Dawson Fitness Center on campus. One of the job perks is using our fitness facilities to work out the stresses of the day.

Most of the time I share the space with many of our student-athletes, who (hopefully) tolerate my presence. I'm sure they often wonder why I waste my time. Oh well. However, I do get a chance to even talk to a few of them from time to time. One of the things I've learned is I don't call our 6-foot-9, 250-plus pound basketballer "Vinny." It's "Vince." Yes sir, Mr. Schantz.

But most of the time, I silently observe our student-athletes go through the process of maximizing their potential. There was one in particular who caught my attention a couple of summers ago. He was a big guy, probably a football player, I thought. His name was Ray.

Ray would always be there when I walked in the door. Usually, he would be camped out at the squat rack, a place I carefully avoided. Just looking in that direction would give me a hernia. But there would be Ray, several 45-pound plates on each end of the bar, throwing it around like an Olympic power lifter. Six hundred pounds, you say? "Wow, he's going to make a good offensive lineman," I thought at the time.



I later found out that he was actually a thrower on the track and field team. And at the end of that summer, big Ray Carney (left) was significantly smaller. And stronger. Much stronger.

In fact, whatever fat he carried on his body was replaced by pure muscle. His transformation was so surprising that I didn't even think it was the same person.

Then, I started hearing about Ray on the field. A self-described "scrub" on his own track team at nearby Blissfield High School, despite his inauspicious beginnings, he still promised Siena Heights coach Tim Bauer that he would one day win a national championship. That day may be coming real soon.

In fact, Ray finished third at the NAIA indoor championships in the 35-pound weight throw in February to earn All-American honors. However, he raised even more eyebrows when he turned in one of the best throws in the nation this season. In fact, he was ranked in the top 20 nationally (professional and amateur) and earned a berth to the U.S. Indoor Championships.

Get this: Ray turned down that opportunity so he could concentrate on his goal of winning a NAIA national title—and keeping his promise. That's Saints Pride.

He still has hopes of accomplishing that goal during the outdoor season. Ray has one final chance this spring at outdoor nationals. After graduating with his multidisciplinary studies degree, he plans on enlisting in the U.S. Army and will continue his throwing career as part of the Army World 50 program. Who knows, Ray just may set his sights on the 2016 Olympic Games in Brazil? From what I've seen over the past couple of years, I wouldn't under-estimate him.

In trying to realize a promise he made to Siena Heights when he arrived on campus, Ray has ultimately fulfilled the promise in himself. Here's hoping you go all the way, Ray!

Doug Goodnough
Editor

from the heights



Ethics Lecture Addresses “The Quest for the Common Good”

The 12th annual Chiodini/Fontana Lecture Series on Ethics on April 10 featured guest speaker Dr. Jean Keller (**above**). Her lecture was entitled, “The Quest for the Common Good.” Dr. Keller is a philosopher who teaches courses in ethics and feminist theory at the College of St. Benedict and St. John’s University, two Catholic, Benedictine institutions in central Minnesota. Her interest in the common good stems from discussions with students in her ethics classes, her research on the German philosopher Jurgen Habermas and her observations on the recent elections. Keller’s professional writing has primarily focused on the ethics of interpersonal relationships. She has published articles on friendship, autonomy, motherhood, adoption, care ethics and the teaching of men’s studies. This event tied into the academic theme of “The Common Good” the University adopted this year. 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. The series explores theoretical issues in ethics, current issues of moral importance, and the nature and meaning of Catholic identity. The endowed Chiodini/Fontana series is funded by Catherine Reuther and Warren Reuther, with additional support from the Edward M. and Henrietta M. Knabusch Trust.

Biology Students Earn Research Awards

SHU Biology students Stephen Porter and Kelci Schock were awarded first and third place, respectively, after presenting the results of their research projects at the regional Beta Beta conference at the University of Dayton. For their research projects, Porter examined the effects of a mutation on the growth and seed germination of the plant *Arabidopsis thaliana*, while Schock studied the diversity of dragonflies and damselflies in Adrian. They were joined by Michael Balinski, Phil DeVries, Becky Elliot, Ryan Gumbleton and Maggie Morrison, who also presented at the research conference along with more than 100 students from 10 universities representing three states.



Michigan Campus Compact Honors Siena Heights Students

Eight SHU students were honored by the Michigan Campus Compact at the 17th annual Outstanding Student Service Awards Celebration April 13 in East Lansing, Mich. Vijay Caplon (**above middle**) was one of only 33 students statewide to receive the Commitment to Service Award. It recognizes students’ breadth or depth of community involvement or service experiences. Abraham Battjes, Julia Cassell, Koreena Hemker, Abby Norris, Linda Pancone and Jessica Rinehart received the Heart and Soul Award, which recognizes students’ time, effort and personal commitment to their communities through service. The Michigan Campus Compact is a coalition of college and university presidents who are committed to fulfilling the public purpose of higher education.

Nowinski Accepted as Fellow to Holocaust Summer Institute



SHU Assistant Professor of History Sheila Nowinski has been accepted as a Fellow for the 18th annual Holocaust Education Foundation Summer Institute on Holocaust and Jewish Civilization at Northwestern University. According to the program description, this renowned program is an intensive two-week course of study designed to broaden and deepen the background of current and prospective Holocaust educators. It is open to faculty at the college or university level and to graduate students who are pursuing a Ph.D. Approximately 25 Fellows are selected annually, each of whom receives free room, board and tuition during the program.

Warner Accepted Into Summer International Drama Program

Assistant Professor of Theatre and Youth Theatre Director Joni Warner was accepted into University of Maryland’s summer intensive “International Approaches to Drama in Education” program at Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland. The international focus of this program will give the opportunity to further develop frames of reference regarding approaches to drama in education as well as pedagogical and transnational priorities in integrated arts education. She will participate as a teaching artist, student and educational arts practitioner.



Spectra Launches New Website and Logo

Spectra, SHU’s student newspaper, has launched an updated version of its website at www.shuspectra.com. Articles are currently being published several times a week. Please follow Spectra on Facebook or Twitter (SHUSpectra). Spectra also recently unveiled a new logo.



Griffith Visiting Artist Exhibits Fiber Works at Studio Angelico

Griffith Visiting Artist Julie Tourtillotte conducted a demonstration of the Shibori dye techniques on Sept. 19, 2012, in Gallery 10 of Studio Angelico. Her visit was part of Siena’s Art Department hosting the exhibit “Fabrications: The Fiber Works of Anne Lemanski and Julie Tourtillotte,” in the Klemm Gallery on the Adrian campus (**above**).



Justin Verlander’s Parents Visit Campus for Book Signing

The parents of American League MVP and Cy Young award winner Justin Verlander visited SHU on Oct. 25, 2012, to promote their newly released book (**above**). Richard and Kathy Verlander signed their book “Rocks Across the Pond,” and led a discussion. In “Rocks Across the Pond,” the authors tell the story of raising Justin and younger son, Ben, starting on the front lawn, where father and son threw their first pitch together, to Comerica Park, where Justin now pitches as a member of the Detroit Tigers. The book explains the joys and pitfalls of raising a modern day superstar. The book signing was sponsored by the Student Engagement Office.



International Dinner a Big Hit on Campus

The International Dinner, the grand finale of International Education Week, was Nov. 18, 2012, in the Fieldhouse. There was food featuring 48 different dishes from countries all over the world. Those involved with SHU's International Club provided one or two dishes from their homeland. As in previous years, there was also musical entertainment featuring a variety of different cultural genres and a fashion show in which traditional clothing from various countries were modeled (**above**).

Porath Receives National Advising Award

SHU Director of Academic Advising Wiona Porath received the 2012 Outstanding Advising Award in the Academic Advising-Primary Role category from the National Academic Advising Association. This award is presented to individuals who have demonstrated qualities associated with outstanding academic advising of students or outstanding academic advising administration. The Academic Advising-Primary Role category includes those individuals whose primary role at the institution is the direct delivery of advising services to students.

"A Hunger Game" Helps Annual Siena Heights Food Drive

The Siena Heights men's and women's basketball teams tipped off at the 8th Annual Siena Heights Food Drive Nov. 17. The Saints played conference rival Aquinas College in an event billed as "A Hunger Game." The kick-off event for the drive, which ran from Nov. 26-30, 2012, raised even greater awareness for the drive—and area hunger. The color orange, for hunger awareness, was the "adopted" spirit color for the games.

Walter Named New Religious Studies Chair

Sister Pat Walter, OP was named the new chairperson of the Religious Studies Department, effective Jan. 7, 2013.

Caplon Honored with MLK Jr. Service Award

The Martin Luther King Jr. Service Award selection committee announced that this year's Siena Heights award winner is Vijay Caplon. Caplon was honored as part of the Martin Luther King Community Dinner Jan. 21. Caplon was also honored by the Siena community during the special program "Dr. King: His Legacy, Our Future" Jan. 21 on campus.

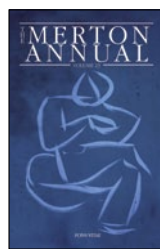
SHU Jazz Ensemble Performs at Jazz Festival

The SHU Jazz Ensemble performed at the Liberal Arts Jazz Festival Feb. 16 at Hillsdale College. The festival included guest artists Sunny Wilkinson and Paul Ferguson.

Acapelicans Compete at Regional Competition

The Siena Heights Acapelicans again competed in the ICCA varsity vocals quarterfinals competition this winter in Stamps Auditorium on the campus of the University of Michigan. SHU competed against teams from Michigan, Central Michigan and Oakland.

Raab Appointed Editor of "Merton Annual"



SHU Associate Professor of Religious Studies Dr. Joe Raab was recently appointed as editor of the "Merton Annual" by the International Thomas Merton Society at Bellarmine University. The "Merton Annual" is a peer-reviewed academic journal published by Fons Vitae Press in Louisville, Ky. Dr. Raab begins his tenure with Volume 25, which was published in March.

Barst Article Published by "Pedagogy"



Siena Heights University Assistant Professor of English Dr. Julie Barst published the article "Pedagogical Approaches to Diversity in the English Classroom: A Case Study of Global Feminist Literature" in the Winter 2013 issue of the peer-reviewed journal *Pedagogy* (volume 13.1, pages 149-157).

SHU Named "Military Friendly" for Fourth Consecutive Year



Siena Heights was named a "Military Friendly School" by Victory Media for the

fourth consecutive year. The 2013 list honors the top 15 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools that are doing the most to embrace America's veterans as students. The 2013 list was compiled through extensive research and a data-driven survey of more than 12,000 VA-approved schools nationwide.

SHU Group Participates in 27-hour National Anti-Slavery Event

The College Life group hosted a 'Stand for Freedom' event on March 12 in which at least one student stood at all times in a highly populated area of campus throughout a 27-hour period to help shine light on the 27 million slaves worldwide. The event culminated with a human trafficking speaking event March 13 on campus (**below**).



SHU Math Department Again Hosts Conference

For the second consecutive year, the SHU Math Department hosted the Michigan Undergraduate Math Conference. Undergraduate mathematicians from across Michigan and Ohio were at Siena to share their work and experiences. The day was filled with talks, poster presentations and activities. This year's keynote speaker was Bowling Green State University Professor Jim Albert, whose research interests include Bayesian statistics and analysis of sports data.

SHU Recognized Again by Michigan Gift of Life College Challenge

For the third time in five years, Siena Heights University won an award in the 10th annual Michigan Gift of Life Campus Challenge. SHU registered the most people as a proportion of the student population, with 4.13 percent. SHU also took home a trophy in 2010 and 2009. The Gift of Life Campus Challenge is the largest college-based organ donor registry drive in the nation and has been recognized by the United States Department of Health and Human Services for its success.

Past Issues of Reflections Now Available Online!

The past 40 years of Reflections, SHU's magazine for alumni and friends, have been digitally archived and are now available for public viewing. All 77 issues are available online in PDF form by visiting www.reflections.sienaheights.edu and clicking on the "Archive" link.





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Siena Bids Farewell to Longtime Employees

Siena Heights University bids farewell to several longtime employees who are retiring or moving on to different career paths.



Pat Palmer is retiring in June after more than 30 years at Siena Heights. He has served the University in many ways over the years, including as a coach, athletic director, faculty member, dean and most recently as the vice president of Enrollment Management.



English faculty member Saleem Peeradina retired in December 2012 after more than 23 years at SHU.



Rick Smith retired in March 2013 as director of the custodial staff after more than 10 years at SHU.



Director of Admissions Sara Johnson '02 took a new position at Jackson Community College after nine years of working in the Siena Heights Admissions Office.



SHU Chaplain Father Tom Helfrich is also leaving the University after accepting his new role as pastor of St. Rita's Catholic Church in Clarklake, Mich.



Anne Hooghart is also pursuing a different career path after serving as a faculty member and most recently as dean of the SHU Graduate College.



Finally, English faculty member Davin Heckman is leaving SHU after accepting a similar position at Winona State (Minn.) University.

Singing in the New Year

SHU Vatican Choir Has Memorable Visit to Italy

Most people consider New York City's Times Square to be the ultimate place to ring in the new year.

Beth Tibbs may disagree. She and a small group of Siena Heights University students, faculty, staff and alumni and friends spent New Year's Eve in Italy as part of the Vatican Choir. The group performed before Pope Benedict XVI as well as at several other holy sites during the 11-day trip, which Tibbs called "amazing."

In fact, she said her group was so excited they often broke into song during the trip.

"We would stop periodically and just start singing," said Tibbs, associate professor of music and choir director at SHU. "People would jump in front of us and want to get their pictures taken with us."

This was the second time Tibbs took a choir to perform at the Vatican. In 2010 she led a youth choir from Arizona. During that trip, she befriended the Vatican's head of music.

"He invited us back whenever I wanted to bring a group," Tibbs said. "When I got the job at Siena (in August 2011), I thought it would be a perfect fit for us to go to Italy and perform. I thought it would be really important for us to include all the different things that are connected to Siena Heights."

The trip started in Florence, the cultural center of Italy. After first performing at a church, the choir performed at the home of St. Catherine of Siena (Siena Heights' patroness), as well as in her chapel. They even sang a piece written and composed by Adrian Dominicans Sister Magdalena Ezoë (former SHU music faculty member) and Sister Nadine Foley (former SHU faculty member) based on the Dialogue of St. Catherine.

At a performance in the local university chapel, Tibbs said the choir received several standing ovations and an invitation to return.

After spending New Year's Eve in Florence, the group performed at a New Year's Day Mass in Assisi, the hometown of St. Francis. SHU Chaplain Father Tom Helfrich, who was part of the choir, was a co-celebrant at Mass in Assisi and a couple of other Eucharistic celebrations during the trip including St. Peter's Basilica.

It was then on to Rome, where after a bit of sightseeing, one of the most special parts of the trip occurred. Tibbs said performing at an all-volunteer elderly home was a heart-warming experience.



"They just started singing along," Tibbs said of the residents, who recognized the Disney-themed pieces the choir performed and often chimed in. "I think people felt really uplifted, and the students did, too."

The apex of the trip was performing at the Vatican, the capital of the Catholic Church. Tibbs said after the choir was announced, they started singing for the pope, who was blessing the other visitors that day.

"He started blessing people, and so while he was blessing people, we became his blessing choir," Tibbs said, laughing. "We just sang and sang and sang."

That was not the end of the performances, however. Later that day the choir performed at Mass in St. Peter's, and later for the Swiss Guard, the elite group that provides security for the pope. Tibbs it was a very rare privilege, and afterwards, choir members were given official Swiss Guard hats as mementos.

Tibbs said the trip accomplished its mission on many levels. "Musically, I hope that they will aspire to push themselves to their limit, to the best of their ability," she said of her choir members. "They need to aspire to not just learn the notes, but realize that once they really learn it...it becomes alive. It becomes something more than just notes and words. It's actual music."

She said the trip also touched on the bigger picture. "Just realize that the world is so much bigger than what we know," Tibbs said. "Realizing that there is good everywhere, and they need to focus on that. ... It's part of our liberal arts and something I love to share with people."

"It was a great event for Siena Heights and the music program." ♦



Photo by Mike Dickie—Adrian Daily Telegram

Bird of a Different Feather

Editor's Note: This is an edited version of a feature that ran in the Adrian Daily Telegram in October 2012. Used with permission.

By John Mulcahy—Daily Telegram Staff Writer

McNair Student's Research Helping to Save Endangered Species

A small, green and yellow songbird with a distinct white ring around its eye has become an important part of Siena Heights University student Olivia Smith's life.

Called the Saipan bridled white-eye, the native of the Mariana Islands in the northern Pacific Ocean is an endangered species thanks to the brown tree snake, introduced to Guam shortly after World War II. The bird no longer exists on Guam and is found only on three other Mariana islands.

Smith, a biology major at SHU, has been studying the bridled white-eye at the Toledo Zoo, where nine of the 24 members of the species in captivity live. The goal is to help the birds successfully reproduce and raise offspring in captivity, a safeguard in case the species goes extinct in the wild.

“What I’m focusing on is the captive (bird) conservation effort,” Smith said.

Smith was invited by Toledo Zoo curator of birds Robert Webster to present her findings at an Association of Zoos and Aquariums Avian Scientific Advisory Group passerine (song bird) workshop Oct. 12-14, 2012, in Denver, an experience Smith called “really great.”

Smith was an intern at the Toledo Zoo in summer 2011, stayed on as a volunteer, then asked if she could do research there. She is focused on what conditions the bridled white-eye needs to successfully produce offspring that make it to adulthood. So far, that has not happened with the birds in captivity.

Smith’s main technique has been observation, plus she visited zoos in Louisville, Ky., and Memphis, Tenn., two of the three other zoos that have the bridled white-eye. She also conducted a survey on how the birds are fed, housed and taken care of at other zoos that either have or had the birds.

So far, steps taken to help the birds successfully reproduce include providing the right nesting material, simulating the Mariana rainy season through misting, and now, embarking on a program of breeding crickets, fruitflies, mealworms and bean beetles to feed the birds.

“If they don’t have the right diet, they’re not healthy and they can’t reproduce,” Smith said.

Other strategies have been keeping the birds off exhibit and separating breeding pairs from the other birds to relieve stress.



Recently, a bird at the Toledo Zoo was discovered sitting on two eggs, Smith said.

Webster said Smith’s contributions have been important to the zoo, especially providing the observation that other zoo staff may not have time to do.

“Olivia has observed things that I never thought of,” Webster said.

For instance, he said, she observed two hens with the same male companion sitting on one nest. That kind of information could be important in the effort to help the birds in the wild.

“Cracking this particular code will take all the brains we can get, and Olivia has a wonderful brain,” Webster said.

Smith also is in Siena’s McNair Scholars Program, which helps low-income-first-generation and minority college students, and which paid for Smith’s trip to Denver. She was a 4-H member and her family had rabbits, ducks, chickens, dogs, a parakeet, hamsters and, for a while, a horse as she grew up, she said.

“I really loved animals,” she said of her decision to study biology.

Patricia Wallace, director of SHU’s McNair Scholars program, said she sometimes finds conferences at which McNair students present research, but Smith’s case was different.

“She was invited by the Toledo Zoo to do this,” Wallace said. “That’s a whole different level.”

Smith, who will graduate in May 2013, is applying to medical schools, but she also is considering a career in bird research.

“I think I might be better off going that route because I’m more passionate about it,” she said.

Smith thinks it’s important that the white-eye be saved from extinction, particularly since it was humans who introduced the snake that almost wiped it out in its natural environment.

“I think it’s important we take responsibility for it,” she said. ♦



A New Media Mix

Digital Communications Program To Take Full Advantage of Today's Technology Innovations

In the age of user-generated content, a new program at Siena Heights University is tapping into the innovation of its students to drive the curriculum.

The Digital Communications program was approved in fall 2012 and will be offered as a new major and minor beginning in fall 2013. According to program director Dr. Davin Heckman, Digital Communications is a combination of old and new concepts. However, the ultimate outcome is to equip students to discover new approaches to communication in a digital age.

“The program is built around the strength of Siena’s fine arts curriculum,” said Heckman, who is a considered a leader in the emerging field of electronic literature. “There are many digital media programs built around studio arts, but this one is designed to basically draw its strength in the interests, energy and abilities that students bring to the major from their areas of concentration. If there is something uniquely Siena about the program, I’d say that it is built around the tradition of Studio Angelico (SHU’s art program) and much of the program is driven by the particular contributions of the student as an individual.”

The curriculum allows students to develop practical skills for creating and packaging content in digital formats. Courses such as web design and advanced animation and video will provide stepping stones into time-based and interactive electronic media while providing practical skills in digital tools.

Students will develop design and digital media skills through Studio Angelico, home to a community of highly skilled visual arts professors.

“Ideally, students will use their time in the studio to develop something that communicates content from their area of concentration in a new and engaging way,” Heckman said. “These students will look for jobs in professional fields that require creativity, teamwork and problem-solving, specifically using digital tools.”

He said he expects many students to add Digital Communications as a minor or second major to enhance the many existing academic programs SHU currently offers.

“I also see select students being competitive for specific communication jobs where specialized knowledge in a topic is an advantage,” Heckman said of potential career outcomes. “I predict a number of these students, particularly those with humanities minors, will go to graduate programs in digital humanities.”

Heckman said social media will also play a role in the program.

“Communications courses deal with social media and its implications,” Heckman said.

Below: Assistant Professor of Art Erin Zerbe (right) was recently hired to help teach for the new Digital Communications program at Siena Heights University. The program’s ultimate outcome is to equip students to discover new approaches to communication, including animation, videography and user-generated content such as social media, in a digital age.



“Increasingly, fine artists, both in literary and visual fields, are also responding to, creating and critiquing social media practices. However, I think it is the students, many of whom are growing up in this milieu, who will drive the formal experimentation in the program.”

In fact, students may come to class with a greater understanding of social media channels

such as Twitter and Instagram.

“We want to encourage them to think about new ways of thinking and doing,” he said. “The Digital Communications program cannot do all things for all people, but for the right student – the creative, intrepid and dedicated student – we can at least propel them forward into a future of their own making.” ♦





saints highlights



Football

Sophomore tight end Donovan Campbell (**above**) was named to the All-Mid-States Football Association Mideast first team after a vote of league coaches. Campbell caught 41 passes for 514 yards and six touchdowns this season. Sophomore receiver/back Raphael Dunson was named to the second team, with junior defensive back Sederick Dunbar, junior punter Kyle Timmis, sophomore defensive lineman Kyle Connors, sophomore defensive back Derek Head, sophomore linebackers Trent Bragg and Tyler Karcher and freshman defensive lineman Joey Mravec earning honorable mention. Five Saints were named to the Capital One Academic All-District Team by the Collegiate Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA). Junior Sederick Dunbar (criminal justice) and sophomores Jake Helsel (biology), Paul Jacobs (education), Drew Milligan (accounting) and Lyle VanFleteren (biology/chemistry/math) each made the team. Dunbar and fullback Spencer Revenberg, both juniors, were named Daktronics NAIA Scholar-Athletes. They are the first Saints to receive the honor in football. The Saints finished their first varsity season 4-6 overall, 2-3 in the Mideast League of the Mid-States Football Association.

Soccer

Women: Seniors Daniela Dedvukaj and Hannah Ulrich (**right**) were named to the All-Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference first team. Dedvukaj is a defender who started every game this season. Ulrich, a midfielder, scored

two goals this season. She was also named a NAIA honorable mention All-America for the second consecutive year. Senior Mackenzy Hickner, sophomore Natalie Behnke and Carlee Pallett earned honorable mention. Ulrich, a special education major, also was named to the Capital One Academic All-America Third Team, which is chosen by the Collegiate Sports Information Directors of America. In addition, Ulrich and Vagnini were named to the Capital One Academic All-District Team, which is chosen by the Collegiate Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA). Five Saints were named Daktronics NAIA Scholar Athletes. Hoff, Ulrich and Vagnini were each honored for the second



consecutive year, while senior Mackenzy Hickner and junior Lynn Hendricks were honored for the first time. Ten Saints were named to the conference all-academic team, including Ulrich, Dedvukaj, Hickner, Katelyn Combs, Hoff, Vagnini, Hendricks, Alli Howard, Megan Traynor and Jessica Saunders. Hoff was chosen as the team's Champions of Character recipient. The Saints finished 10-6-2 on the season.

Men: Senior Shane Patterson (**below**) was named to the All-Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference first team after a vote of league coaches. Patterson had two goals and three assists for SHU. Earning academic all-conference honors were Matthew Robinet and Lucas Sagaert, while Patterson also was the team's Champions of Character recipient. The Saints finished 4-9-3 overall, 2-6-2 in the conference.



Cross Country

Justin Bateson was 106th in the men's race while Beth Heldmeyer was 177th in the women's event at the NAIA national championships in Vancouver, Wash. Bateson ran a time of 26:12 on the 8K course. Heldmeyer was the lone Saint woman to qualify, running a time of 20:05 on the 5K course. The women finished sixth in the conference, with Heldmeyer earning second team all-conference by placing 12th overall at the conference meet. She was also the team's Champions of Character recipient. Katelyn Boulton and Morgan Choszczyk were each named NAIA Scholar Athletes for the

women, with Melanie Glinski, Choszczyk and Boulton academic all-conference. The men placed fourth at the conference meet, with Bateson earning second team all-conference honors with an eighth place finish. Bateson and Brett Smith earned academic all-conference honors, with Zach Widner receiving the Champions of Character award.

Men's Golf

Adam Schmaltz was named to the first team and Joe Forest to the second team for the Saints after the final Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference Jamboree in the fall. The Saints finished sixth at the jamboree and fifth in the conference standings. Forest fired a 79 to place 10th overall, with Nick Campbell 17th with an 81.

Indoor Track & Field

Doug Dawson and Lenzey Stidham each claimed national championships in their respective events as men finished fourth in the nation at the NAIA Indoor Track & Field Championships in Geneva, Ohio.



Men: Dawson (**left**), a senior, won the 400 meter dash on a bad foot in 47.8 seconds to lead a bevy of All-Americans for the Saints. Rich DePalma was second in the pole vault (16 feet, 6 3/4 inches) and Calvin Sullins second in the heptathlon (5,258 points) in a school record effort. Other All-American performances for the men included Logan Moore in the 60 hurdles (6th, 8.17), Ray Carney in the weight throw (3rd, 63-1/4), Ryan Hopson in the long jump (6th, 23-3/4) and Chris Schurr in the heptathlon (4,803). Dawson and DePalma were named the Most Outstanding Performers as the Saints placed second in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference indoor championships at Trine University. Dawson won both the 200 (21.97) and 400 (48.82), with his 400 time setting a conference record. DePalma also set a new conference mark and school record in winning the pole vault with a vault of 16 feet, 9 1/3 inches. Carney won the weight throw (65-6 1/4) and set a new conference mark while Gauge Aebersold was first in the shot put (54-8 3/4).



Women: Stidham, a senior, won her second national title in the pole vault with an effort of 12 feet, 11 1/2 inches. She was the outdoor champion in 2012. Phoenix

Duncan was second for the second straight year in the high jump, earning All-American honors with a 5-7 jump. Cassie Keeping earned All-American status in the pentathlon, finishing eighth with 3,127 points in the five events. Kasey Renshaw was the other All-American, placing sixth in the weight throw (57-0). The women placed 10th in the final team standings. Stidham and Duncan also led the way for the Saints to a third place finish at the WHAC indoor championships. Stidham won the pole vault (11-0 3/4) and Duncan the high jump (5-6). Renshaw set a new school record in the weight throw with a distance of 58-8 1/2.

Basketball

Men: The Saints finished 9-19 overall, 9-13 in the conference under first-year coach Joe Pechota. Guard/forward Ryan Hopson led the Saints in scoring with 10.1 points per game, with guard Jamison Webster received the team's Champions of Character Award.

Women: The nationally ranked Saints (23-10) received an at-large bid to the NAIA Division II National Tournament, its first appearance ever, and played 14th ranked Briar Cliff (Iowa) in Sioux City, Iowa. SHU lost to Briar Cliff 94-77, but completed one of the most successful seasons in the program's history. Sophomore guard Morgan Warfield (**right**) was named to the All-Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference first team. She led the Saints in scoring at 11.7 points per game. Senior forward Amanda Duke and junior guard Grace Howrigan were honorable mention selections, with Duke, junior Jen Jasinski and senior Taylor Langenderfer earning academic all-conference recognition. Langenderfer and Jasinski were also recipients of the NAIA's Scholar-Athlete award, with Langenderfer also the Champions of Character recipient. The Saints finished 16-5 in the WHAC and was ranked 23rd in the final national poll, their highest ranking ever. Several career marks were also set. Duke set the mark for career field goal percentage (56.7) and single season field goal percentage (58.2), while Langenderfer was second in career 3-point shooting percentage (36.5), with teammate Warfield currently first (40.8). Finally, Howrigan again set the single-season record for assists (206) and had a single-game record of 12 this season.

Softball

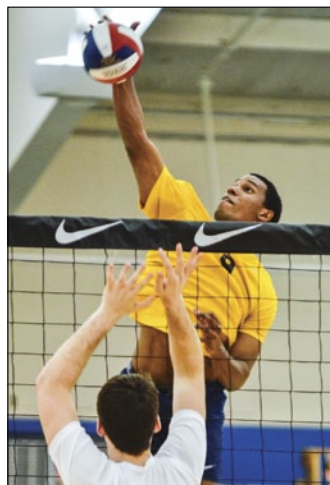
The Saints were named to the NAIA Scholar Team by the National Fastpitch Coaches Association. SHU had a team grade point average of 3.36, which was 14th in the nation. Also, the National Fastpitch Coaches Association named nine Saints to its All-America Scholar Athlete team for 2012.

Those honored were Tonya Berta, Natalie Huntoon, Jessica Lampkowski, Ashley O'Leary, Brittney Rhodes, Jenn Sylvester, Bitty Treece, Morgan Warfield and Lizz Wilson.

Volleyball

Men: The Saints finished 10-13 overall, 2-10 in the Mid America Men's Volleyball Intercollegiate Conference East Division. Juan Paternina-Villero (**right**) of Columbia was named first team all-conference and was also the Freshman of the Year. He led the team in kills and aces. Seniors Brandon Bowers and Juan Sierra, junior Stas Motornaks and sophomore Max Field earned academic all-conference recognition, with Bowers and Sierra receiving honorable mention all-conference honors.

Women: Sophomore outside hitter Lindsey Adams (**right**) was named to the All-Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference first team after a vote of league coaches. Adams led SHU in kills with 391 and was second in blocks (48) and aces (34). Sophomore hitter Halie Baker and freshman setter Carly Tillotson each earned honorable mention, with junior Lauren Baker receiving the team's Champions of Character award. Adams was also named NAIA All-Mideast Region Honorable Mention by the American Volleyball Coaches Association. Juniors Lauren Baker, Blaire Hondzinski and Lesley Klenner were each named Daktronics NAIA Scholar-Athletes. The Saints finished 17-11 and advanced to the quarterfinals of the conference tournament. It was the program's highest win total since the 2002 season.



Competitive Cheer & Dance

In just their first year of competition, the cheer and dance teams both qualified for the National Cheerleading Association/National Dance Alliance NAIA Invitational April 10-14 in Daytona Beach, Fla. The dance team placed second (**below**) at the north regional and the cheer team fifth to earn their spots. The Saints were coached by Angie Sword.



Bowling

The men's and women's bowling teams earned their first invitations to the xbowling Intercollegiate Team Championships, which were March 9-10 in Smyrna, Tenn.

Men: The Saints competed at the first Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference tournament, going 0-2 in team games. James Hughes was chosen as the team's Champions of Character recipient.

Women: Coach Charles Cain was named the Coach of the Year after leading the women to a 1-2 mark at the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference tournament and a sectional berth. Laura Robinson was named to the all-conference honorable mention squad, carrying an average of 168.4. Hillary Weiss was the recipient of the team's Champions of Character Award.

Women's Lacrosse

Second-year coach Cindy Hill was named the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference Coach of the Year. Other conference honors for the Saints included Stephannie Gonzalez and Erin Kehn, who each were chosen to the conference honorable mention team. Earning academic all-conference honors were Mackenzy Hickner, Alessia Vagnini, Tayleen Marowell and Gonzalez. Hill was chosen the Coach of Character while Hickner was the team's Champions of Character recipient. The Saints finished 2-15 on the season.

Flight of Phoenix



By Doug Goodnough

Rising from the Ashes of Personal Tragedy, Duncan Soars to New Heights



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.

She was named after a mythical bird that arises to new life from the ashes of its predecessor.

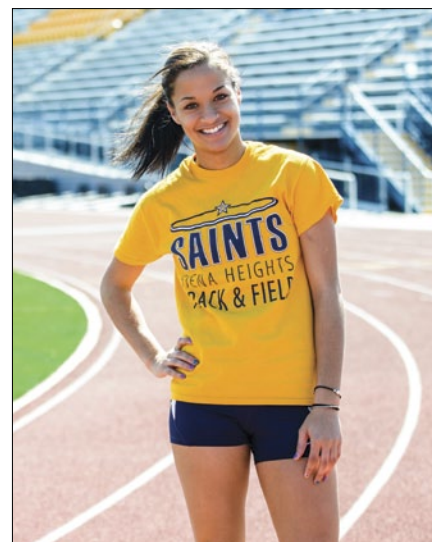
An orphan at the age of 16 after watching both of her parents die from drug- and alcohol-related liver diseases, Phoenix Duncan had a decision to make. Was she going to follow the same self-destructive lives of her parents, or would she overcome her painful past?

The 19-year-old Siena Heights sophomore has answered that question emphatically. Not only is she a dean's list student who is headed for a career in nursing, Duncan is also rising above the competition as a high jumper on the women's track team. In fact, in three NAIA national championship meets, she has finished runner-up all three times and already is one of the unquestioned leaders on campus.

Dealing with Death

Duncan and her older brothers were in foster care when they got the word their father was dying of liver failure due to years of drug and alcohol abuse. She was just 10 years old.

"We just got a call that he had passed away during the night," said Duncan, who knew her father was dying but was still caught off guard by the news. "Having this mindset of 'OK, we'll see him again,' then all of a sudden (he died), it is just completely changing. That affects you."



A month later, she and her siblings were back living with her mother, who was dealing with her own addiction issues. Family life was OK for awhile, but when her mother relapsed, Duncan also changed for the worse.

"It's almost like, 'OK, if you're relapsing, then I'm also just going to be a rebel,'" Duncan said of her negative reaction to her mother's struggles with addiction. "We were both going down the path where I was doing stupid things, she was doing stupid things. We were just neck-and-neck."

During Christmas break more than three years ago, Duncan's mother told her she was dying. Four days after Duncan's 16th birthday, her mother passed away. But she said dealing with her mother's dying and eventual death was a transformational experience.

"No more bad Phoenix," she said of the 180-degree turn she made. "I didn't have bad grades, but I didn't have grades that were up to my potential. I just didn't care. I wanted to prove to (my mother) that I was in control."

... continued on the next page

Duncan was definitely in control, but moving in a much better direction.

“Once I realized how serious it was, that both of my parents were about to be out of my life, it was a transformation,” she said. “That’s when my attitude completely changed on life. I was more dedicated. You take everything one step at a time. You learn to appreciate things more.”

Her college coach, Kirk Richards, who entered the picture during Duncan’s senior year at Morenci High School, calls her “an old soul.”

“She’s mature because of what she’s gone through personally,” he said. “She didn’t let it bring her down. Some people try to escape that through addiction. Some try to escape it through other means, burying themselves in bad things. She learned from every bad experience, every hurtful experience.”

Jumping into Action

As an eighth-grader in Morenci, Mich., Duncan decided one day to try the high jump as a “joke.”

“I thought me being the race I am (African American), it would be funny to make a joke,” she said. “I’m black so I have to be able to jump. I jumped over the (high jump) bar and it was just a freak of nature that I had form without knowing at all how to jump.”

But her natural talent was no joke, and by her senior year, she was one of the best in the state in her division.

Richards, whose specialty is coaching jumpers and pole vaulters, was introduced to Duncan by Morenci’s track coach, and spent some time with Richards training indoors in the SHU Fieldhouse.

“The first time we met, I razzed her about how good she was and how good she wanted to be,” Richards said. “I’d razz her and she would razz me.”

However, Duncan made it clear that Siena Heights was not in her future college plans.

“I was dead set on (the University of) Michigan,” she said. “No one could tell me otherwise. I was going to Michigan because we had set up a plan there.”



“I didn’t realize how much Siena Heights affected me until I actually enrolled here . . . Siena is my home away from home. I love it here. There’s not a place I’d rather be. I’m so happy I got to go here.”

Duncan had it all worked out. She was going to Michigan to compete in track and work on being a pediatric oncologist. Plus, one of her brothers had attended Siena and she wanted to do something different.

“He swore up and down he was going to recruit me,” she said of Richards. “I said, ‘No, you’re not going to recruit me.’”

However, Richards wouldn’t take no for an answer.

“I forecasted how far a positive, ambitious and athletic person can go, and the sky is the limit,” he said. “(I said) ‘We are going to give you everything you need. . . . I think if you do this right it will be a very, very affordable for you to come (to Siena Heights). And I don’t know if another school is going to see that in you, but I do. This isn’t a gamble for me. This is a wise choice.’”

To prove his point, Richards sent a letter to Duncan detailing exactly what Siena Heights could do for her. Inside she discovered that Richards had put together a financial aid package for Duncan to think about. She did, and her plan soon changed.

“It covered more than what Michigan was going to cover for financial aid,” she said. “It was clear that (I was going to Siena Heights). This was the place for me.”

A Siena Sensation

Since arriving at Siena Heights, Duncan has been a rising star. During her freshman year, she competed for a national title in the high jump – twice. She lost in a jump off during indoor season to place second, and later in the season, again finished in the runner-up spot at the outdoor nationals. Along the way, she shattered SHU’s high jump record, setting a new mark of 5 feet, 10 inches at SHU’s inaugural Kleinow Memorial Invitational.

That mark was also good enough to earn a spot at the U.S. Junior Nationals at Indiana University last summer. The only jumper from an NAIA-level school at the 19-and-under meet, Duncan finished tied for sixth place.

In February, she again just missed a NAIA national title, finishing runner-up for the third time in as many tries. She is again poised to try for that elusive national title this May.

“It was definitely a good first learning experience of getting the title just literally taken from you,” she said of her close calls at nationals. “Of course you’re disappointed, but then you have to be optimistic about it. I was second in the nation as a freshman. . . . I wanted the title, but I’ll try next year. And here we are.”

Richards sees her potential, and sometimes has to refocus her energy and competitive drive.

“Every meet has to be a new record,” Richards said of Duncan’s jumping mindset. “You have to pace yourself. Right now she’s in muscle-building mode.”

“(Losing) doesn’t go over well with me,” said Duncan, who dons her headphones and immerses herself in music to help cope. “No one ever really sees how angry I get. . . . But you get over it. You have to.”

In the classroom, Duncan has altered her future plans a bit. Instead of pursuing the career as a doctor, she is now hoping to become a pediatric oncology nurse. She is completing pre-requisites to be a member of SHU's nursing program next fall.

"I've always wanted to work with kids. I always have loved kids," said Duncan, who has an ultimate career goal of working for the prestigious St. Jude's Children's Hospital. "I'm going to change some kids' lives. My life was changed by many people by just being there. You don't realize how much impact you can have on a person with a terminal disease."

A Natural Leader

Duncan has had such an impact on the track program that she was named one of the team captains as a freshman. This almost unprecedented move was not a tough decision, according to Richards.

"She leads by example," he said. "If there's something in a team meeting that needs to be said to the freshmen, she'll say, 'Coach, get out of here.' And I'll leave and she'll say something.... Her attitude is kind of the team's now. She planted a seed and it's come to fruition with success. (Her teammates) hold on to everything she says."

At times, so does Richards, who admits he has a special bond with her.

"She helps me evaluate talent and look at recruits," he said. "There's not something we wouldn't talk about. It's far beyond a coach/athlete relationship.... It's as close as I am with anybody on the planet."

Richards said he admires what Duncan has overcome, and believes that is what makes her such a natural leader.

"The things I know, the pain, I don't know how she endured," he said of Duncan's past. "But she turned it into such a positive.... And her emotions aren't hardened. She's still delicate and sensitive and caring and generous more than anybody I know. It didn't give her a hard edge. It made her determined, motivated. I've never seen anything like it. If she could put in in a book or bottle it, we'd all be buying it."

The Next Level

Duncan not only has a NAIA national championship in her sights, but a possible berth in the 2016 Summer Olympic Games. She has adjusted her schedule at Siena Heights so she will be in prime position to make a bid for the ultimate prize.

"There's no days off. If you're going to do track and you have Olympic aspirations, it's a 12-month dedication," Duncan said. "It's always in the plan."

With a season best jump of 5-9 $\frac{3}{4}$, the 5-foot-9-inch tall Duncan is only about two inches away from the U.S. Olympic Trial qualifying standard in the event. She is also only about four inches from touching the 10-foot-high rim on a basketball court.

"How high can she go?" said Richards of Duncan, whom he calls a "Division 1 talent." "She doesn't have the 6-foot-1, 125-pound prototype Olympic high jump build, but she's got this last step-and-a-half that's so explosive.

We have to rely on quickness and a little more power. She has the finesse that a lot don't have. She just needs to plain get stronger and jump higher in the air."

Still Grounded

Duncan said she has a strong support system in place both on and off campus. She currently lives with her guardian and former high school coach, Kim Irish.

"She kind of took me under her wing when my mom died," Duncan said of Irish. "I couldn't ask for a better guardian."

And she still visits with her brothers, Noah and Lloyd, who live in the Adrian area. But she also considers Siena Heights part of her extended family.

"I didn't realize how much (Siena Heights) affected me until I actually enrolled here," Duncan said. "It truly helped me, because I didn't realize that I needed that at the time.... Siena is my home away from home. I love it here. There's not a place I'd rather be. I'm so happy I got to go here."

Duncan said she hopes her story will inspire others to overcome life's obstacles.

"As cliché as it is, it gets better if you have the mindset that you want it to be better," she said of her positive outlook. "I went down the path that 'my life sucks. My life is horrible.'... Some people go down the route that it just isn't worth it anymore. But it's always worth it. There's always something better down the road. It just takes some time and some patience. Time heals all. It does." ♦



By Doug Goodnough

Licking A Problem



Senior Project Has a Sweet Conclusion for Cory Heid '13

Something just didn't add up for Cory Heid.

Heid, one of a dozen or so math students, faculty and graduates from Siena Heights University who attended the largest math meeting in the world in San Diego, Calif., was originally scheduled to do a poster presentation at the January event.

However, upon arrival at the Joint Mathematics Meetings, Heid learned the expectations had multiplied.

"He can't find himself in the poster session," said SHU math professor Andrew-David Bjork, who helped organize the trip. "So (Heid) looks at the page where his name is, and they gave him a talk. So in four days he had to prepare a Powerpoint presentation on his senior project to give a talk to a live audience."

A live presentation involves much more preparation than a poster presentation. However, Heid, who completed his coursework in December, first had a problem to solve: the research on his senior project was not complete.

"It was done, but it wasn't 100 percent completely done," Heid said. "I was doing last minute fine-tuning."

And the topic of his senior project certainly could be called unique.

"It's 'How many licks does it take to get to the Tootsie Roll center of a Tootsie Pop?'" Heid said. "Just like the 70s (television) commercial."

He had the data, but not the proper tool to organize it. So Heid and the math faculty enlisted the help of a representative from the statistics software company Minitab, who was exhibiting at the conference. The rep agreed to let Heid use the Minitab software to "crunch it out," Bjork said.

"I maybe finished it five minutes before I was supposed to do it," Heid said of the last-minute preparations before presenting.

"He just nailed it," Bjork said of Heid's presentation. "He did a great job. That was just exciting to us, because none of us saw this coming, and out of nowhere this opportunity knocks. ... He was put on the spot, and he delivered."

Heid's presentation was a highlight of the conference, which Bjork said was an overall great experience for the SHU contingent.

"We get a lot of technology ideas," said Bjork of the conference, which had more than 3,000 talks and 7,000 people attend. "A lot of talks focus on what is the newest and latest. There's a whole bunch of sessions that are just dedicated to ideas in teaching, which as faculty members, we love."

Bjork was joined by SHU math faculty members Tim Husband and Jeff Kallenbach and students Vijay Caplon, Terri Johnston, Taylor Radtke, Christie Erhart, Alyssa Hoff, Cody Weiss, Kyle Peters and Heid. SHU alum Amanda Mitchell '12 also made the trip, which was funded in part by student club allocations, faculty travel grants as well as some additional funding from donors and the University.

"Some of these people had never left the tri-county area, and for two people, it was their first time flying," Bjork said.

The group rented a house, which made for a "communal" experience, Bjork said.

They had a chance to visit the famous San Diego Zoo and also take in some of the other sites of southern California during the week.

The whole experience is valuable in many different ways," Bjork said. "There's a sense of knowing each other, a sense of learning together."

Bjork also presented the talk, "A final project in a mathematics of games class: create your own new game!" and Hoff, a senior, also had an abstract accepted at the meetings.

Heid, who actually finished his senior project this spring, isn't finished as a presenter quite yet.

The Minitab representative attended Heid's presentation and liked it so much, she invited him to present at a math conference in Quebec this summer. He recently received confirmation from the company that his presentation was accepted.

And he certainly "licked" the data collection process of his senior project.

"Originally, I wanted to try to make a mathematical model of licks and try to find the center (of the Tootsie Roll Pop)," Heid said of the data collecting process. "But I couldn't find any other way to do it other than just get people to do it."

He and several classmates licked through dozens of lollipops, with Heid applying and measuring several variables such as flavor, body temperature, pH levels of saliva and the force of the lick.

So, how many licks did it take to get to the center?

"My number was 356 (licks)," Heid said. "That was the average we were able to get from people at Siena. I felt pretty confident about how well I did."

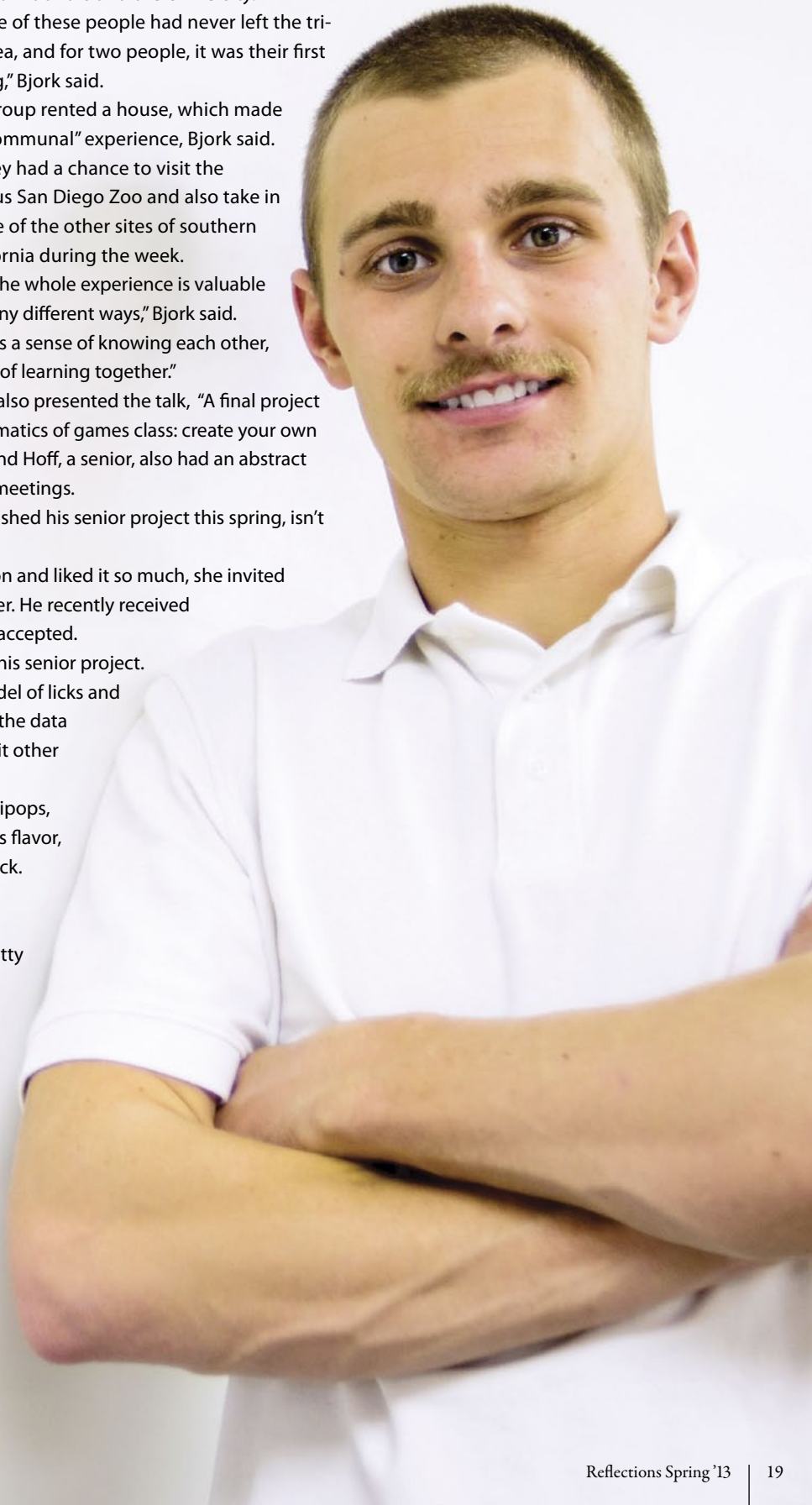
Heid said several other universities such as Harvard and Swarthmore have conducted similar research, and called the results "all over the board" from 140 to more than 2,300 licks.

He said his favorite flavor was pomegranate, and called banana "terrible."

"I would lick until my tongue was raw," Heid said.

Bjork said Heid is an example of what impact Siena Heights students can make if given the opportunity.

"I think our results say that our scholars are attractive nationally," he said. "The things we do aren't just local. We are relevant in the big picture." ♦



By Doug Goodnough

Double Duty

Bobby Hopewell '96 Balances Full-Time Job, Mayor of Kalamazoo

If there was an award for the Busiest Person in Kalamazoo, Bobby Hopewell '96 would be a shoo-in for it. In fact, there are a couple of Tigger plush animals sitting on a shelf in his office that friends gave him because "I bounce around" like the famous Disney animated character, he said.

The 49-year-old Siena Heights University graduate balances his full-time job as director of Hospitality Services at Kalamazoo's Borgess Medical Center while also serving as mayor of the southwest Michigan city with a population of approximately 75,000 people.

Two jobs. One person. How does he do it?

"It takes a lot of time and energy and attention," Hopewell said. "You've got both of these worlds that's got (many) of the same things going on. They're similar, but different, and they take a lot of time and energy. Both roles are a labor of love."

First, a glimpse inside his hospital "world." The former EMT and paramedic worked his way up the health care ladder, working first in an ambulance and later running ambulance operations at Gull Lake Ambulance and Life EMS. For the past nine years he has worked at Borgess, Kalamazoo's main health care provider. He currently is responsible for approximately 250 staff members and supervises 15 managers in areas like food and nutrition, mail, switchboard and other connective services. He recently was also put in charge of emergency management, and next year will transition into a new position as of director of the new \$26 million outpatient care facility currently under construction in Battle Creek.

"Meetings are a huge part of what I do here," Hopewell said of a typical day at Borgess. "Sometimes my day starts off with back-to-back meetings."

And every weekday at 9:20 a.m. sharp, he conducts a safety meeting to brief hospital personnel on any potential areas for concern. Then, he focuses on not only the job at hand, but his sometimes overlapping duties as mayor.

"Not much is out of alignment (between Borgess and the city of Kalamazoo)," Hopewell said. "But there are times I have to have a voice for the city. We distinctly stay in contact with all of my leadership here. ... I do what I have to do. There was an understanding of that when I took on this opportunity as mayor ... that there could be some rough times. But we'd worked through those as they occur. We haven't had much."

Currently in his sixth year as mayor, Hopewell said he treats the office like a full-time position, even though it isn't.

"I'm not paid hundreds of thousands of dollars to do this (be mayor)," Hopewell said. "Actually, I'm not paid \$10,000 a year to do this. I feel that there's so much going on, it's such a dynamic community, that I have to participate."

That means going to events, meeting with community leaders and participating in civic duties that seem to never end.

"People say I'm at everything but I'm not at everything," Hopewell said of his life as a public servant. "But I think it's important that your mayor is doing as much as he or she can be done to promote and be the chief cheerleader and champion and bottle washer for Kalamazoo."

Hopewell, who started his political career as a city commissioner in 2003, said he is very proud of the accomplishments Kalamazoo has achieved during his tenure in office.

He points to an early employee retirement plan that helped erase a recent \$6 million budget deficit to the downtown business and cultural environment that is part of a "reinvention" of city government. He also said Kalamazoo was only one of two cities in Michigan to experience economic growth last year.

He also helps promote and nurture the Kalamazoo Promise, a 2005 pledge by a group of anonymous donors to pay up to 100 percent of tuition at any of Michigan's state colleges or universities for graduates of the city's public high schools.

"(Education) is the most important economic development tool that we have," said Hopewell, who was also recently part of a mayors conference call with President Obama to discuss summer youth employment opportunities. "We still have a lot more work to do."

He also views himself as an example of what education can do.

"It's important as an African American that you have an opportunity to step up and be an educational role model, especially in urban communities," he said. "Personally it gave me a sense of pride that getting that four-year bachelor's degree was something that my mother had stressed. ... I knew that there was an expectation and a path."

He said Siena Heights was "the right fit" for him. Hopewell received his bachelor's degree in Public Services from SHU's Battle Creek campus and said "I couldn't be here (in his current position at Borgess) if I didn't have it. I would not be here if not for Siena Heights. I recognize that."

Calling his leadership style “collaborative and strategic,” Hopewell said he relies on a team approach to solve problems – in both jobs.

“I don’t typically force myself (on people),” said Hopewell, a former Eagle Scout who worked as a camp counselor in his earlier years. “(I want) to be involved in making something happen. We think through it and analyze and find the tactical way to move forward.”

He also doesn’t take himself too seriously.

“I take the office of mayor seriously as it needs to be taken, but I don’t take myself too seriously in that office,” he said. “I think humor has to be involved with everything.”

He said being a public servant also means being a public figure, and that means sacrificing some personal time.

“It can be challenging,” said Hopewell, who is single but considers his role with the city as sometimes “parental.” “I love people ... but everyone wants your voice, wants your time. ... I smile, because I think to myself ‘It’s part of the role.’ I try to put myself in their shoes.”

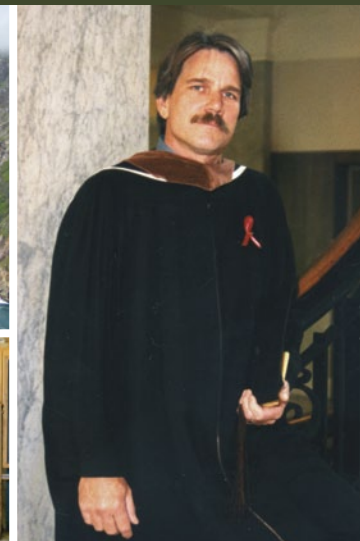
Hopewell said he has a strong group of friends and family who are supportive, and still finds some personal time to ride his bicycle, work out and watch science fiction movies.

“Some friends like introducing me as the mayor,” he said, smiling. “I try to stay connected to the people I love.”

He said he has no aspirations of running for state or national politics, and is happy where he is at.

“My passion is service,” Hopewell said. “I will serve where I am comfortable and where people feel comfortable with me serving. ... I have the best job in the universe, being mayor of the best city in the state of Michigan. I’m good.” ♦





Art Faculty Member John Wittersheim Left a Lasting Legacy at SHU

“He just was one of these guys who saw something that needed to be fixed, so he fixed it,” Conlon said. “I really learned that from him. If you see something, figure out how to fix it, or figure out how to make it. Even if nobody ever finds out, you had a blast doing it.”

Practical Professor

An allergic reaction eventually brought John Wittersheim to Siena Heights, and cancer took him away.

The man who spent 34 years teaching metalsmithing and sculpture in his “garage-like” studio on campus passed away March 17 after a long battle with cancer. He was 59.

After earning a bachelor’s degree from Eastern Michigan University and his Master of Fine Arts degree from the Cranbrook Academy of Art, Wittersheim took a job as a clay modeler with the Ford Motor Co. However, he had an allergic reaction to the special clay he was forced to work with at Ford, so he pursued other career paths.

The path he eventually followed led to Siena Heights, where he began as a faculty member in 1979. He quickly established himself with students and colleagues as a versatile, prolific and talented artist. His metalworking specialties included the creation of plumb bobs, a small, pointed brass weight on the end of a string used to determine a line perpendicular to a point.

Colleague and friend Bob Conlon said Wittersheim’s plumb bob creations typified his practical vision of art.

“(Plumb bobs) were so beautiful and artistic, but he’d like to talk about that they had a function,” said Conlon, an associate professor of art at SHU.

However, Wittersheim was also known for making musical instruments, even gaining national notoriety for the guitar-building class he taught for several years. In fact, Conlon said there probably wasn’t anything he couldn’t make or fix.

“He just was one of these guys who saw something that needed to be fixed, so he fixed it,” Conlon said. “I really learned that from him. If you see something, figure out how to fix it, or figure out how to make it. Even if nobody ever finds out, you had a blast doing it.”

That “fixing” mentality also overlapped into his relationships with students and colleagues.

“The first thing I remember about John was the first day I was here (at Siena Heights),” Conlon said of his arrival at Siena Heights. “He’s talking to me for a minute and he said, ‘Come into my office. Now, let me tell you how things work around this place.’ . . . He gave me the rundown on everything, and made me feel like I wasn’t lost. I’ll always remember that.”

Conlon said he often did the same with students, first offering some necessary constructive criticism, but then sometimes spending entire afternoons working side-by-side with them in his studio to help them get it right.

“He taught me to always do what needs to be done,” said one of his former students, Andrew Staton ’03. “Do the work, but don’t overdo it. Many times the beauty is in simplicity. The form will speak for itself. I will be forever grateful for the knowledge he passed to me in the little time I knew him and for the ability to apply it in everyday problems.”

Although unassuming and soft spoken, he was certainly not introverted, Conlon said.

“No matter how the conversation went, he would get you interested in some strange thing,” Conlon said. “I never met a guy who could talk about any topic in an intelligent way.”

Wittersheim received the Eileen Rice Award for Outstanding Teaching from Siena Heights in 1996, and Studio Angelico received an outpouring of sympathy from former and current students after his death. In fact, several notes were left on his studio door referring to Wittersheim’s favorite phrase to his students: “What are you trying to do with that?”

Conlon said Wittersheim never had a problem answering that question, either in art or in life.

“He was just always thinking,” he said. “I’m completely humbled and honored to have been (John’s) colleague. And he would be the first one to think that that was the stupidest thing to say.”

Wittersheim is survived by his wife of 23 years, Jamie Goode ’87, who is an adjunct art instructor at SHU. ♦

find us on facebook—search for shu alumni



from the alumni office



Outstanding Faculty: The Heart of Siena Heights

From its earliest days, Siena Heights has been known for the quality and caring of our faculty: demanding and dedicated, wise and wonderful.

In 50 years as a women's college, from 1919 through the 1960s, Siena teachers were almost all Adrian Dominican Sisters. Alumnae of those decades spoke (and still speak) with awe and affection of professors like Sisters Helene O'Connor and Jeannine Klemm in Studio Angelico; Sister Mary George in the business office; Sister Leonilla in the Little Theater; Sister Miriam Michael in the chemistry lab; Sister Ann Joachim in history class and on the basketball court.

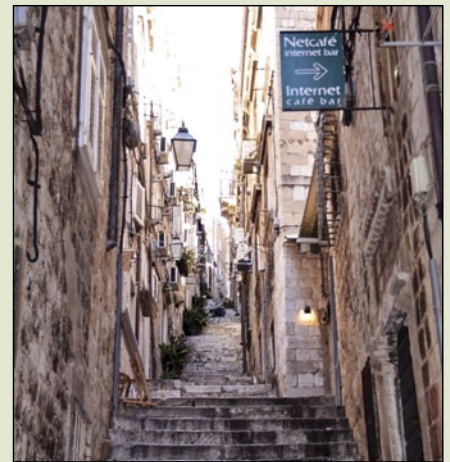
As Siena Heights transitioned into coeducation at the end of the '60s, men appeared in the faculty as well as the student body. Fr. David Van Horn, who taught art for almost 30 years, was the first male teacher to become a long-time legend of the faculty. In 1979, a young John Wittersheim arrived in Studio Angelico and began teaching metalwork.

John's death this spring, after 33 years in the sculpture studio and a one-year battle with bone cancer, reminded our community that Siena Heights continues to be blessed with teachers who are giants in and out of the classroom. Like so many teachers before him at Siena, John was a creative and committed mentor who guided and pushed, nurtured and nudged, critiqued, encouraged and demanded the best from his students. He will be sorely missed and long remembered.

Last fall's Alumni Awards ceremony spotlighted two other long-time faculty whose impact on students has been tremendous: Doug Miller in theater and Sister Pat Schnapp in English. Read about them on pages 24-25.

With our 100th anniversary just six years away, Siena continues to be a teaching and learning community distinguished and defined by outstanding faculty. Our students take classes on many campuses—or on no campus except their computers; but they study with teachers who are as dedicated and bright as their faculty forebears. Let me share two recent examples:

Alexander Weinstein, a second-year member of the main campus English faculty who is a writer, editor, and director of the Martha's Vineyard Creative Writing Institute, was the guest speaker at this spring's "Dinner & Theater" alumni event. After a fabulous meal and before the Theatre Siena musical production of *Little Women*, he spoke about "Fact and Fiction: Writing Your Way to Creative Truth." The dinner crowd can be boisterous—but Alexander captivated the group immediately. "The magic of fiction is that it often feels true," he said, "sometimes even more than life itself." Judging from the rapt attention he commanded and enthusiastic applause he received, this new professor may be a faculty legend in the making.



Mary Brigham '97, this year's outstanding teacher honoree at the Metro Detroit Center, teaches liberal arts seminars both on-the-ground in Southfield—and online for students who may be anywhere. She communicates daily with her online students, responding to discussions and papers, answering questions, clarifying assignments. But she, too, may be anywhere. This fall, Mary emailed from Dubrovnik, Croatia: "Here is one of the more challenging internet places I taught from last week." She attached a photo of an internet café tucked off a narrow winding stone staircase (**above**). "It was exactly 188 stair steps up and the street kept going uphill beyond." Wouldn't Siena's early profs have enjoyed teaching for Siena while traveling the world!

After 94 years, outstanding teachers are—still!—the heart of Siena Heights.

Jennifer

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

2012 ALUMNI STARS: Making the World a Better Place

The 2012 Alumni Awards provided an inspirational kick-off to last fall's Homecoming, as the seven honorees—competent, purposeful and ethical in their varied passions and professions—shared insights into the work they do and the enduring impact of their Siena Heights years.

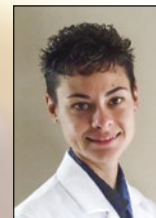
Recent Graduate Award

Lacey Wilmot Rao '02



An orthopedic surgeon and active community volunteer in Tucson, AZ, Lacey credited Siena Heights with some important lessons. "You don't go to college to learn 'things,' you go to learn how to learn," she said, noting how quickly things change in medicine. "The faculty at Siena do a tremendous job of teaching more than facts; they teach you how to seek knowledge. I encourage today's students to remember that much of what we know now will change. Try to focus on refining how to think and learn, as opposed to only memorizing facts." Her experiences as a student and athlete at SHU taught her that "working hard, knowing how to think, and working well with others will make you successful in life. But what will make you happy? The simple answer is, doing what you love and sharing your talents with the world. Choose to do the thing that excites you, that makes you feel proud of your work, and that makes you smile."

Traci Stewart '02



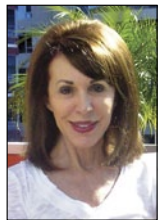
An advance practice nurse and doctoral candidate in Northville, MI, Traci majored in biology at Siena, certain she wanted to be a doctor despite her frustration with senior research. "On a few occasions, Prof. Carl Kaster, who knew me well, mentioned there were other things I could do with a biology degree, but I had my mind set. But it turned out medical school was not for me and I did not want to be a doctor. Not until I was sitting in a research nursing class did it hit me: 'I understand what they are talking about—this is how you use research in the real world—and I like it!' Suddenly, all the hours spent on my senior project became useful and everything I had learned working toward my biology degree was applicable. All those experiences formed a strong foundation—strong enough to make me successful now as a nurse practitioner and in the future as I continue my work—and research!—in women's health and health care disparities."

—The **Recent Graduate Award** is given to a SHU alumna or alumnus who graduated within the past 10 years. It recognizes and honors persons who exemplify dedication to Christian values through professional achievement, community involvement and/or civic commitment; and who represent the spirit of Siena Heights University in our world.



Sister Ann Joachim Award

**Anne Birnbryer
MacMillan Eichman '67**



Having spent her early career in education, advertising and marketing, Anne today is a consummate volunteer focusing on quality-of-life issues that affect everyone living in downtown San Diego, CA. Recognized for her persistence, intellect and can-do attitude, she has worked tirelessly to develop and sustain public libraries, after-school programs, and services to provide food, shelter and health care for the homeless. "Whatever is needed to make her community better, Annie will roll up her sleeves and go to work," said her nominator. "Her life embodies the values of Siena Heights and Sister Ann Joachim—whom we all admired tremendously," said her presenter and friend since freshman year, Mary Kay Kerschen. "Anne has consistently demonstrated leadership and concern for others throughout her adult life."

Patricia Siemen, OP '72



Pat is an environmental attorney in Orlando, FL, who has pioneered the field of Earth Jurisprudence, an approach to governance and law that reflects and respects the interdependence of nature, humanity and all of Earth's inhabitants. "Siena laid the foundation for my ministerial and professional service," she said. Just as the Adrian Dominicans shaped her faith in the spirit of the Second Vatican Council, "Siena opened my eyes to 'the signs of the times' around me." She credited many Siena mentors: Sister Mary Louise Hall's English class on "Letters from Prison;" Sister Jane Farrell's leadership of the Model UN program; Sisters Margaret Page and Carmelita O'Connor—"dear, dear Carmie" whose liberation theology class "taught us to listen to the voices of the 'underside,'" and Sister Teddy McKenna, whose Latin American history class taught Pat to ask "who benefits? and who pays? when assessing public policy."

—The Sister Ann Joachim Award is presented in memory of a legendary Adrian Dominican faculty member. It recognizes significant contributions to the University and/or community through activities that demonstrate strong leadership, the ability to get things done, and the capacity to confront challenging issues head-on while maintaining the image and spirit of the University.

**St. Dominic Award
Angela Susalla, OP '63, '70**



Sister Angela has spent a lifetime addressing poverty and discrimination, as a teacher, counselor, pastoral minister and, for the past 30 years, as a social worker in Tunica, MS, long the poorest county in the U.S. "Poverty was easy to see in Tunica," she said. Racism was evident immediately, because everything was segregated, "but it took longer to see how deeply embedded it was, and is, in all our systems—political, educational, judicial, economic, cultural. Inroads have been made, but progress is slow. Working in Tunica has shown me just how interconnected the heresies of poverty and racism are." Angela reflected with gratitude on her education at Siena: "Sister Jean Hitzeman gave me a love of biology. She and the other faculty gave me a love of learning. The Adrian Dominicans taught me the values of prayer, study, and the pursuit of truth and justice. All of these values are at the heart of my social service ministry."

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

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



Doug has been part of the Siena community for more than 40 years, including 33 as a member of the theater faculty. Now theater program chair and director of technical theater, he was honored for "creative excellence in theater and education" and for achievements that have "dazzled audiences near and far."

The 2013 Alumni Award Winners will be honored on Friday, Oct. 4, at the start of Homecoming 2013.

Erika Wolcott Henry '07 — Recent Graduate Award
Sister Jean Hughes, OP '68 — Saint Dominic Award
Michael P. Morgan '83 — Outstanding Alumni Award
Catherine Zick Robinson '69 — Sister Ann Joachim Award
Jason Sanderson '92 — Outstanding Alumni Award
Jennifer Hamlin-Church — Honorary Alumni Award

Doug has directed and/or designed several hundred productions—at Siena Heights and the Croswell Opera House, in New York, and on regional, national and international stages. He has led numerous theater trips for students, as well as international tours for students and alumni. As a director, designer, professor and mentor, he has influenced hundreds of Siena alumni, preparing generations of students for successful on-stage and back-stage theater careers." One of his nominators, Professor Emeritus Whit Hames, summed it up simply: "Doug Miller is star quality."

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

**Honorary Alumni Award
Patricia Schnapp, RSM**



A 26-year member of the English faculty, Sister Pat is well known as an inspiring professor, accomplished author, creative mentor, dedicated prison volunteer, tireless worker at "Share the Warmth" homeless shelter, irrepressible lover of literature, and faith-filled friend to all. Her record inspired many alumni to write in support of this award: "I will always be indebted to her," said Tod Marshall '90, an English professor himself, "for the model she offered: as a luminously passionate teacher and scholar who made it clear that the commitment to literature and students, to beliefs and ideas, to writing and thinking—that the commitment to all of these went far beyond the classroom."

"Teaching has been my joy," said Pat, "and I have learned more than I taught. At Siena, I've learned from students about sacrifice and sportsmanship and the amazing results hard work can produce. At the prison, I've learned that none of us deserves to be defined by the worst thing we've ever done. From homeless people, I have learned that no disability and no tragedy and no burden of guilt can block the workings of grace. For these learnings, all blessings, I will always be grateful."

—The Honorary Alumni Award recognizes non-alumni who demonstrate exceptional commitment to and support for the mission and spirit of the University. Individuals selected for honorary alumni status shall be inspirational role models who have made a significant difference for Siena Heights by sharing themselves through generous and sustained gifts of time, talent and/or treasure.

Sister Patricia Schnapp, RSM, Ph.D. Endowed Scholarship

In the months immediately after Sister Pat received the Honorary Alumni Award, her family elected to establish a scholarship in her honor. In awarding the scholarship, special attention will be given to students affected by homelessness or incarceration. Former students and friends may contribute to the endowment by making the designation "Schnapp Scholarship" at the time a gift is made. Questions may be directed to Jen Brocket '06, '10 at 517-264-7159.

class notes

From The Sites

SHU—Battle Creek

Rob Viland '97 was recently named executive vice president of Business Development for Post Community Credit Union. He has more than 20 years of financial institution experience. He lives in Kalamazoo, Mich.



Timothy Bourgeois '98 will represent local law enforcement after being appointed to a four-year term on the 14-member Mental Health Diversion Council by

Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder. The council will operate within the Michigan Department of Community Health. His term will expire Jan. 30, 2017. With more than 35 years of law enforcement experience, he currently is the chief of police for the Charter Township of Kalamazoo.

SHU—Jackson

Aaron Cartwright '09 recently graduated from flight school with the U.S. Air Force Reserve and is now a certified Black Hawk helicopter pilot through the Air National Guard. He completed 18 months of training at bases such as Fort Bragg in North Carolina and Fort Rucker in Alabama. Previously Cartwright served two tours as an Air Force firefighter in Qatar and Uzbekistan. Cartwright is currently a firefighter in Summit Township, Mich., and lives in Jackson with his wife, Carolyn, and their three sons, A.J., Amos and Chase.

SHU—Lansing

Tom Cochran '10 was elected to the Michigan state legislature during the November 2012 elections. He will serve as state representative for the 67th District. He resides in Mason, Mich

Misozi Houston '12 and her husband, Anthony, announced the birth of a daughter, Lily, who was born July 4, 2012. The family recently relocated to Pennsylvania.

SHU—Southfield



Suzy Manning '91, '95/MA is a radio talk show personality on the Military Mom Talk Radio network. She is also the creator of Sizzl, a motivational counseling program for women, and also the author of "Wise Women—Circle of

Wisdom" and "You Were Born Magnificent." The transitional coach and speaker also has the web site www.sizzl.com.



Steven Aggas '95 has carved out an impressive career in the engineering field. He currently owns 22 patents, and designed and built Arizona's largest, privately owned telescope. He also is founder/director of Apache-

Sitgreaves Astrophysics, and astronomers at the Catalina Sky Survey named an asteroid after him that is recognized by the International Astronomical Union. The name of the asteroid is 152533 Aggas (2007 AL26). He said completing his Siena Heights degree "made all the difference." He currently lives in Gold Canyon, Ariz.

Donna Cole '97 recently received her Master of Public Administration degree from the University of Michigan. While attending Michigan she received the Margaret Dow Towsley Scholarship from the Center for the Education of Women. She currently resides in Highland, Mich.

Main Campus

1950s

Sister Maria Rubio, MSCJ '58 is still active with the education pastoral of Apostolic Vicariate of Guapi, Cauca, which is located on the Pacific coast. She served the Catholic Church for 30 years traveling through jungles and writing guides of religious education for the native peoples. She currently resides at the Missionary Community of the Sacred Heart regional house in Medellin, Columbia.



1960s

Pat Hoffman Kostel '67 of Rock Hill, S.C., and **Tirabul Vichairom Krisadapong '67** of Bangkok, Thailand reconnected by email last summer in advance of their 45th reunion. They reunited at Siena for Homecoming 2012, and then got together again this winter when Pat and her husband, George, traveled to Thailand (above).

1970s

Charles Fort '74 published a series of poems entitled "We Did Not Fear the Father" by Red Hen Press. According to his bio, his other books include "Mrs. Belladonna's Supper Club Waltz, New and Selected Prose Poems," Volumes 1 and 2, and "The Town Clock Burning." Fort's poems have appeared in "The Best American Poetry 2003" and The Best American Poetry 2000." Fort has started writing his first novel: "The Last Black Hippie From Connecticut." He considers himself "semi-retired," spending summer 2012 writing in Paris, France. Previously he was a visiting professor at Oklahoma St. University. He also has the distinction of being Siena Heights' first editor of "Eclipse," and currently resides in Newington, Conn.

Leo Butler '75 was honored by the NAACP of Norwich, Conn., with the Excellence in Education Award in October 2012. He is currently the director of Diversity at the Norwich Free Academy. He and his wife, Karen, reside in Providence, R.I.

John Warner '76 and his wife, **Barbara '78**, recently returned from their son's wedding in Germany. John is employed as a senior lab technician for DSM Functional Materials in Elgin, Ill., where he is involved in 3D modeling, prototype design and function. Barbara is still employed as a teacher. The couple resides in Carpentersville, Ill.

1980s

The Rev. James Splitt '81/MA retired March 1, 2013, and he and his wife, Kathleen, relocated from Adrian to Axtell, Neb.

John Meszaros '82 and his wife, Amy, continue to take bicycle trips. In fact, they plan on taking one to either Chicago or Toronto this year. His brother, **Bob '85** and friends and alums **Jack Perion '85** and **Fred Vera '85** have traveled with them around the Midwest since 1995. John is employed as the director of Admissions at Holy Cross Children's Services in Clinton, Mich. He and his wife have two children, Sarah and John, and live in Adrian.

Michael Barbo '83 made an appearance in the television movie "The Makeover" Jan. 27, 2013. He appeared four times during the movie that included stars like Julia Stiles and David Walton.

Michelle Turk Leuthard '83 is employed in information technology for Consumers Energy in Jackson, Mich.

John Detro '85 recently changed command and is currently the deputy surgeon for the XVIII Airborne Corps, Clinical Operations/Training. His duties include all aspects of clinical medicine for the four divisions and separate brigades of the XVIII Airborne Corps. In addition, he mentors the several hundred Army physicians assistants assigned to the Corps. Recently, his fellow FST commanders nominated him and he was selected as an Iron Major for the Army Medical Specialist Corps. Later, he will travel to Washington, D.C., to take part in a week of leader development provided by senior members of his corps. He is currently completing the defense strategy course at the Army War College. Also, his daughter, Xaviera, is deploying to Afghanistan in the near future, and his three grandchildren have moved to North Carolina to stay with he and his wife, Moraima, until she returns. Although "moving slower," he still finds time to run five days a week. They reside in Fayetteville, N.C.

Rebecca King Roehm '89 is employed as an administrative assistant in the University Michigan's Biology Department. She maintains financial paperwork and accounts, purchasing, travel/hosting and payroll/employment for the department. She and her husband, Charles, have two children, Adam and Mary. They reside in Saline, Mich.

1990s

Rob Gordon '90 is a writer for the online website BaseballHQ.com. The site provides complete fantasy baseball analysis. He was a primary contributor for the 2013 Minor League Baseball Analyst, a book that integrates sabermetrics and scouting.



Members of the 45th Reunion Class of 1967 catch up with their Siena Heights choir teacher. Sister Maura Phillips, OP '39 (third from right), during a Homecoming visit to the Dominican Life Center.

Christopher Keivit '92 is employed as a real estate manager for Foresite Realty Partners. He resides in Chicago, Ill.

Catherine Yezak '92 is employed as a special education teacher at North Branch (Mich.) Area Schools. She resides in Dryden, Mich.

Don Dziuk '94 was promoted to assistant principal at Anchor Bay (Mich.) High School. Before that he was an honors English teacher and varsity boys soccer coach at Anchor Bay for 18 years.

Marc Daly '95, '01/MA is currently employed as an administrator at Battle Creek Christian School. He and his wife, Tennille, announced the birth of a daughter, Alexa, who was born Jan. 14, 2013. She joins siblings Jessica, Joshua, Sean, Krystyn, Bryce, Teagan (deceased) and Elise. The family resides in Jackson, Mich.

Kevin Sunderman '98 published the book, "Tales from the Unemployment Line," in November 2012. The book is a "truthful, hard-hitting, straightforward look at the United States today," according to a press release. The book is published by PublishAmerica.

Nathan Smith '99 works as a paralegal for Front Range Court Research. He lives in Denver, Colo.

2000s

Jennifer Bennett '00, '07/MA was named principal at Custer Elementary School in Monroe, Mich. She had been the assistant principal at Custer the past two years. She and her husband, Steve, have three children, Reganne, Brendon and Cole. They reside in Monroe.

Elizabeth Thompson Davis '00 is the MYOI coordinator for the state of Michigan's Department of Human Services. She and her husband, Zachary, and their two sons, Chase and Jaxen, reside in Adrian, Mich.

Michael Nelson '01 is currently the owner of a Home Instead Health Care franchise in Monroe, Mich. He and his wife, Sara (Bronidge) '00, have three children, Joslyne, Chloe and Katelyn. They reside in Toledo, Ohio.

Joe Danley '05 is currently employed as a financial advisor for Morgan Stanley. He and his wife, Melanie, reside in Detroit, Mich.



Arthur Zook '06 and **Kate Graham '06** were married June 16, 2012. **Jolynn Baldwin '06** officiated the ceremony. The bride completed her Master of Fine Arts degree in fiction from the NEOMFA by way of Cleveland

St. University in May 2012. She is employed as a content developer/technical writer for the Society of Manufacturing Engineers. The bridegroom completed his Master of Arts degree in literature from the University of Toledo and teaches college-level English courses for Tiffin University. The couple lives in the Cleveland, Ohio, area with their son, Garet.

Ricardo Valdez '07 is starting his fifth year working as a lay ecclesial minister at Holy Family Catholic Community. He and his wife, Luz, have three children, Diego, Santiago and Sofia. They reside in Frederick, Md.

Angela Edward Gbeyetin '09 recently moved to the Twin Cities area of Minnesota after living two years in Joplin, Mo., to attend graduate school. She and her husband, Gbedolo, live in Burnsville, Minn.

2010s

Christine Jankowski Averill '10 is currently a graduate assistant for SHU's Criminal Justice program under director **Elly Teunion-Smith '89**.

Samantha Zaucha '11 and Chad Barth were married June 30, 2012. The bride is currently employed at the Beach Bar.

Don LaFollette '12 recently was hired as entertainment coordinator at Give Kids the World, a resort near Disney in Kissimmee, Fla., that provides children with life-threatening illnesses and their families to a weeklong, cost-free fantasy vacation. LaFollette also works seasonally for Disney and resides in Davenport, Fla.

Harmony Mead '12 is employed as environmental coordinator for the MPS Group at the Chrysler Engine Plant in Dundee, Mich. She helps with the recycling operation, as well as educates employees on the floor about the system.

Deaths

Alumni

Sister Mary Burke, OP '45
 Sister Marie Decker, OP '46
 Sister Virginia Mullins, OP '48
 Marjory Thompson Iott '49
 Sister Clare O'Connor, OP '50
 Sister Mary Crimmins, OP '52
 Sister Jean Sporer, OP '54
 Sister Jean Librizzi, OP '57
 Sister Margaret Reardon '58
 Sister Margaret Stechschulte, OP '59
 Sister Mary Giacobelli, OP '62, '74MA
 Sister Miriam Mullins, OP '62
 Sister Marie Damian Schoenlein, OP '63MA
 Gloria Davila Calhoun '64
 Sister Lorraine Mordenski, OP '64
 Elaine Elliott '71
 (also SH adjunct counseling faculty member)
 Gail Derbyshire '73
 Margaret Case '76MA
 Kirby Langford '77
 Jane Chi '82MA

Friends

Sister Margaret Gray, OP—former bookstore manager.



Linda Guzman—Staff member (above).

Sister Jean Hitzeman, OP—former biology faculty member.

Dr. William McDermott—former faculty member, Metro Detroit Dean.

John Wittersheim—Art faculty member. See article on page 22.



Tell Us Your Stories about Sister Ann Joachim, OP

The Alumni Office wants to expand its memory bank about Siena's early faculty. We have dates and titles; but we want your memories—aneccotes and personal stories that help to bring those teaching legends to colorful life. Our first faculty focus is Sr. Ann Joachim.

Here's what we know now: Teacher of Social Science, 1931-32, '36-'38; Legal Counsel and Professor of History, 1939-71. Practicing attorney and the first nun admitted to practice law before the U.S. Supreme Court (1936). Known for her demanding oral exams ("If you don't hear it the first time, there's no second chance!"). Served as vice mayor and city commissioner in Adrian, 1971-75. Coached basketball. Also a tennis champion and licensed pilot. Fought to keep the Wabash Cannonball rolling up into Adrian.

What can you tell us?

Send your stories and recollections to:
 SHU Alumni Office
 1247 E. Siena Heights Drive
 Adrian, MI 49221

or email to alumni@sienaheights.edu

ALUMNI EVENTS: Mark Your Calendar

Thursday, June 6

After-Hours in Ann Arbor

5:30–7:30 p.m.

Sponsored and hosted by Kapnick Insurance

Thursday, June 13

Lansing Lugnuts Baseball Outing

Sponsored by Richmond Brothers

Friday, June 21

3rd Annual Siena Spectacular for Scholarships

Golf Outing and Dinner Auction

SHU Main Campus in Adrian

Thursday, August 1

10th Annual Toledo Mud Hens Baseball Outing

"Take SHU Out to the Ball Game!"

5:30 p.m., Fifth Third Field, Toledo, OH

Friday-Sunday,

October 4–6

Homecoming!

Alumni Awards, Reunions, Athletics, Arts
 SHU Main Campus in Adrian

find us on facebook—search for shu alumni



from the alumni association



Be Part of this Incredible Time at Siena Heights!

The night before I planned to write this column, I came home to my New York City apartment and found a card in the mail from SHU English professor Sr. Pat Schnapp, reflecting on what it meant to her to become an Honorary Alumna of Siena Heights at last year's Homecoming.

Nothing in recent memory has brought such a smile to my face. How appropriate it was—since I was already planning to write about Siena's effect on me over the past 13 years—to find this card from a long-time faculty member and recent alumni award winner in my mail.

It says so much about the Siena community that, almost 10 years after my graduation, I received a letter from Sister Pat. And that I had dinner recently with Doug Miller '74, another recent alumni award winner and chair of the theatre department, while he was in New York. And that, for the past few years I have had a constant online Scrabble game going with my acting mentor, professor and friend Mark DiPietro '83.

In New York, I meet many people who have had great training in whatever they studied; but when I tell them about my experience at Siena, they grow jealous. Siena Heights is unique in the sense of community it provides, even long after graduation. Years, or decades, after you walked across the commencement stage, you still have a home at Siena. Even if the faces in the halls have changed, you can always stop in or pick up the phone and find someone ready to welcome you with open arms. No matter when you enter Siena, you will, for life, be a member of the community.

In May, I spoke to one of the largest graduating classes Siena has ever seen. I quoted, as I have before in this magazine, the words to our Alma Mater. Siena choirs—under the current direction of Dr. Beth Tibbs, and the decades of direction of Sue Matych-Hager '68, and the direction of Sr. Maura Phillips '39 before that—have sung about our “long laughter-studded hours, with classmates fond and true.” Each time I hear or sing those words, memories come flooding back for me, as I'm sure they do for many other alumni.

I have been lucky: Through my role on the Alumni Association Board of Directors, I have never been away from the love and support of the Siena community. If you had told me when I first walked onto campus in 2001 to register for classes that a decade later I'd be president of the Alumni Association and writing this article, I probably would have laughed at you. Just one or two years into my Siena experience, though, I would have said it made perfect sense.

As I prepare to turn the reins of the Alumni Association over to my dear friend and colleague Mary Small Poore '76 at Homecoming, I know that I leave you a stronger Alumni Board than the one I joined right after graduation. As a group, we have been on a drive for the past few years to engage our current students and alumni in a stronger way. I am eager to see where Mary and future leaders will take us all. Because whether or not we realized it when we crossed the stage to receive our degrees, we are all lifetime members of an exclusive club: The Siena Heights University Alumni Association.

Thank you for trusting in me as your president for the past two years. I look forward to seeing you at Homecoming October 4-6—and at many Homecomings in the future.

Hail Siena and go Saints!

Michael Kirk Lane '05
President
Alumni Association Board of Directors
mlane1@sienaheights.edu

It's never too early to think about *your* legacy.



“Siena Heights University provided educational opportunities to our family that opened doors to successful careers. Through designating Siena as a beneficiary in a planned gift, we are able to express our gratitude to Siena while providing similar opportunities to others whose lives will be shaped by a Siena Heights education. A sound investment that delivers life-long returns!”

— *Chris, Lori '05, & Drew Timmis*

To learn how you can Leave A Lasting Legacy that will impact the lives of others, call (800) 693-0506 or email at advancement@sienaheights.edu



Leave your mark on campus!

Siena Heights University is offering our alumni and friends the chance to purchase a bench or a tree that will be placed around the Adrian campus. These will not only be reminders of your time at Siena Heights, but your donation will also help ensure opportunities for our future students! Order now, because locations are going fast! To order a bench or a tree, or for more questions, contact Kate Hamilton at (517) 264-7138 or khamilt2@sienaheights.edu.

Answer the CALL

Twice per year in October and March, Siena Heights calls on some of our current students to contact our alumni and friends during the annual Phone-A-Thon. These calls are not only to ask for your support of the University, but to also update address, phone number and email information so we can better share with you about what is happening at SHU. So if you see our number pop up on your caller ID, please pick up! We would love to speak with you!

Questions?

Contact Kate Hamilton at (517) 264-7138 or khamilt2@sienaheights.edu.



1—Siena's dance team posed with a young fan before leading Saints fans of all ages in support of the Siena Heights football team.

2—The student section of O'Laughlin Stadium was loud, loyal and full of life!

3—On-field honors: The 2012 Alumni Award winners joined the 2012 inductees into the Athletic Hall of Fame on the field at halftime of the Homecoming football game, for introductions and rousing cheers of congratulations from the stands.

4—Homecoming brings alumni from all SHU sites to campus: Jerry Ferrari '92 (Benton Harbor) and his wife Darlene enjoy the Friday night welcome reception in Studio Angelico. This was Jerry's 20th reunion year.

5—Members of the Class of 1967 came from the east coast, the west coast and as far away as Bangkok, Thailand, to reconnect for their 45th Reunion. A good time was had by all!

6—The new Siena Heights band made one of their first appearances at Homecoming. Music is back in a big way—the band, the choir and the Acapelicans performed throughout the weekend.

7—Alumni volunteers Judy Hill '74 and Leslie Love '93 are ready for work at the All-Alumni Reception Saturday night.

8—Members of the Saints football team burst through the tunnel onto Dawson Field in O'Laughlin Stadium for Saturday's Homecoming game. The men's and women's soccer teams also played Homecoming games in the stadium, competing under the lights Friday night.

SCENES FROM HOMECOMING 2012



1953

1958

1963

1968

1973

1978

1983

1988

1993

1998

2003

2008

SAINTS

REUNIONS

Art • Theatre • Music • Mass
Tailgates • Dinner • Octoberfest!

Saints Athletics: Football, Soccer, Volleyball

Dedication of McLaughlin University Center

40th Anniversary of Eclipse Literary/Art Journal

Homecoming Golf Outing • Sunday Celebration Brunch

Details, questions or to volunteer:

Siena Heights Alumni Office • (517) 264-7143 • alumni@sienaheights.edu

HOMECOMING

October 4–6

2013



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Siena Summer Spectacular for Scholarships

You won't want to miss this exciting, Caribbean Island themed evening at Siena Heights University!
Enjoy dinner including a silent auction, a live auction and raffles. You will have the opportunity to bid on fabulous items.

Golf Registration at 9 am | Shot-Gun Start at 10 am | Lenawee Country Club
Cocktail Hour at 5 pm | Dinner at 6 pm | Siena Heights University

All proceeds raised benefiting scholarships for Siena Heights University students.

Friday, June 21, 2013



Please RSVP by June 14, 2013

Golf and Dinner Auction - \$250
Dinner Auction - \$60

Register online at www.sienaheights.edu

Questions? Contact Lori Kunkel at 517.264.7148 or by email at lkunkel@sienaheights.edu