

REFLECTIONS

SHU's New Crown Jewel!

The Donna E. and Delbert J.
McLaughlin University Center
Opens on Campus





from the president



Sister Peg Albert, OP, PhD
President

Success Comes in Many Forms

What's your definition of success? In higher education, it may depend on the person whom you ask.

If you're asking those in government, then it may be about student outcomes and the educational value that a college or university provides its students. I'm happy to report that over the summer Siena Heights was listed in several surveys that cited SHU as being a good return-on-investment. I certainly count this as a success story and reaffirms what we are doing as an institution. You can read more details about these honors in this issue.

For our students, I'm sure the answers will be all over the board. Many gauge success on what kind of grades they receive in the classroom. Others on the success of their athletic or extracurricular endeavors. Of course, we hope all of our students measure success when they are holding their diplomas in their hands!

For our faculty, staff and administration, their success is directly tied to our students' success. It is our mission to see our students become more competent, purposeful and ethical during their time at Siena Heights. We want our students to not only become successful in their future jobs and careers—but also in their lives. Our Catholic, Dominican tradition mandates that we prepare our students to be agents of change in the world. We want them to help transform the world for good. And that's a success story by anyone's definition.

For our graduates, the definition of success is just as complex. If you read through the pages of this issue, you see the examples of its many types. It could be Las Vegas elementary principal Katie Decker, who took a failing school and transformed it into an award-winning, fun place to learn. Or John Detro, who recently received a promotion in the U.S. Army and is doing heroic work as a physician's assistant. Or Matt Larson, who became the first SHU student to earn a PhD as part of the McNair Scholars Program. Finally, pick any of our alumni award winners, who are actively and passionately involved in their communities and living the mission of Siena Heights University.

What is my definition of success here at Siena Heights? For me, success is not always about the "big" things like new buildings, programs or initiatives. Sometimes I relish the "small" successes, too.

Let me give you an example: Recently, one of our students approached me and said, "I hear you cook a mean chicken dinner." He then went on to ask me if he could come over for dinner one night at my house. I was touched. I've always tried to build close relationships with students during my time at Siena Heights, but here was a wonderful, tangible example of that. I appreciated the student's boldness and the fact that he thought he knew me well enough to be able to ask that of me. That's a success in my book.

The internal transformation that takes place with our students during their experience at Siena Heights is another "hidden" success. They come here wanting more than knowledge. They're here to discover wisdom, truth and their own definition of success. And we will continue to do our best to help them find it at Siena Heights.

Sister Peg Albert, OP

REFLECTIONS on the inside . . .

FALL 2013

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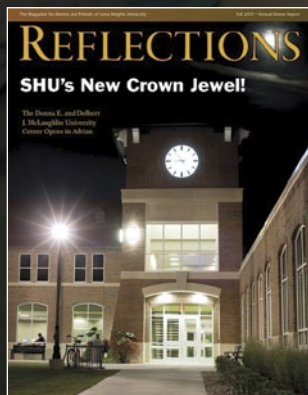
The mission of Siena Heights, a Catholic university founded and sponsored by the Adrian Dominican Sisters, is to assist people to become more competent, purposeful and ethical through a teaching and learning environment which respects the dignity of all.

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ON THE COVER

Siena Heights University dedicated its new McLaughlin University Center during an overflow Homecoming Weekend crowd in October. The \$9.1 million facility has quickly become the new student "hub" of campus. Photo taken by Laura Marsh '10.

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from the editor



Doug Goodnough
Editor

The Quest to Be Better

My old college baseball coach used to say, “You get better or you get worse; you don’t stay the same.” That phrase has stuck with me through my professional career, including my time at Siena Heights University.

After nearly eight years and 15 issues of being the editor of Reflections Magazine, it was time to take a fresh look at what we do with the magazine. It was not an easy decision. The reader feedback we have received on the magazine has been overwhelmingly positive. In fact, there has been no clear evidence that we need to do anything different with the magazine.

So, why did we change? We recognize the University has changed quite a bit over the past few years, and we want to be able to change with it. Our readership continues to change (and grow), and today’s readers have different preferences and patterns. For instance, last year we added an on-line version of the magazine to allow our more tech-savvy readers to access content in a more mobile and convenient way.

Because our nontraditional student population has grown quite a bit, the content of the magazine should reflect that. Notice that we’ve added some new features like “Center Stage” to highlight news around our degree completion centers and online program. I also like the “One on One With…” format that allows for a more personalized storytelling approach.

Also in our effort to “raise the bar,” designer Jeff Masse (who just completed his 10th year and 20th issue!) has freshened up the design and presentation a bit – while making every attempt not to compromise the familiarity and quality the magazine represents to our readers. I wouldn’t call what we’ve done a “redesign” or “overhaul.” More like a subtle “tweak.”

I think we have accomplished our goal, and we hope you agree. As always, we welcome your comments and feedback regarding the magazine. Feel free to drop me a line anytime at dgoodnou@sienaheights.edu.

Thanks for reading!

from the heights

SHU Welcomes Largest Freshman Class in History

This fall Siena Heights welcomed the largest freshman class in the institution's history (**above**). A total of 311 full-time freshmen began classes Aug. 26 on the Adrian campus, according to SHU Vice President of Enrollment Management George Wolf. "The largest freshman class in the University's history is further evidence that Siena Heights continues to develop itself as a highly valued college choice," Wolf said. "This large class continues the planned growth and development of Siena Heights University to offer an affordable and flexible high-quality education." The University also experienced record enrollment this fall in its degree completion centers, which include locations in Battle Creek, Benton Harbor, Jackson, Lansing, Monroe, Southfield and online.



Dr. Sue Idczak Honored with IU Alumni Award

Siena Heights Director of Nursing Dr. Sue Idczak was honored with the Distinguished Alumni Award from the Indiana University School of Nursing (**above**). The award honored her national recognition for "significant professional and academic contributions to the field of nursing." She also was recently published in "Reflections on Nursing Leadership," a peer reviewed international online nursing journal. The article was titled "Fall Into Presence."

Siena Heights Names New Graduate College Dean



Siena Heights University named Dr. Linda Sandel Pettit, Ed.D., as its new dean of the Graduate College on July 8. Pettit most recently served as assistant professor of Counselor Education and the program director for the graduate Counseling program at SHU. In her new role as dean, Pettit is responsible for leading Master of Arts programs in leadership, teacher education and counseling and for exploring opportunities to expand the University's graduate offerings. Pettit, a licensed psychologist, has a doctorate in counseling psychology from West Virginia University, a master's degree in counselor education from Siena Heights and a bachelor's degree in journalism from Michigan State University. Before joining SHU in 2011, her career spanned psychological counseling, life coaching, international speaking and training, consulting, teaching in higher education and public relations management. She has worked in hospital, community agency, private practice, business and academic settings.

Trudy Mohre Hired as New Director of Admissions



SHU hired Trudy Mohre to be its next director of Admissions. She began her duties at SHU July 15. Mohre's experience in the field of student recruitment and enrollment management spans more than 30 years and ranges from practitioner to leader. She most recently served as a private counselor, providing undergraduate and graduate college search guidance to students preparing for the next levels of education. Her other experiences included being the admissions dean at McMurry University, admissions director at Howard Payne University and senior associate director at Southwestern University, all in Texas.



Nairobi Chamber Chorus Visits Siena Heights

SHU's International Studies and Visual and Performing Arts offices hosted the national touring Nairobi Chamber Chorus on Aug. 7 (**above**). The voluntary group of young performers are drawn from universities and institutions around Nairobi and various tribes of Kenya. The Chorus has performed together with world-renowned musical companies, including the Guildhall Orchestra, London Adventist Chorale, Cape Town Opera and UK-based Opera House. The group recently represented Kenya in the celebrations to mark the diamond jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II in London.

Longtime Employees Honored by Siena Heights

SHU recently recognized several employees for their longtime service to the University. Here are the people who were honored at the University Workshop Aug. 19:

10 Year Award—Renee Bracey, Pam Howard, John Kolasinski, Jeffrey Masse, Khalilah Outlaw, Liliana Toader and Michael Winstrom.

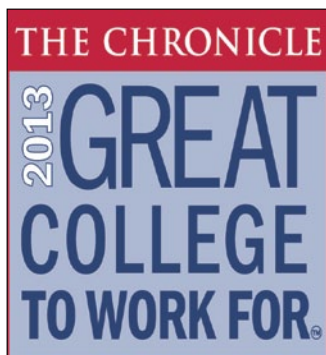
20 Year Award—Patricia Lemanowicz and Dean Ward.

25 Year Award—Doris Hubbard, Rita Moreno and Jeffrey Reinke.

SHU Named A Most Affordable Catholic College

Siena Heights University was ranked 24th among the top 36 "Most Affordable Roman Catholic Colleges with High Starting Salaries for Graduates" listing recently released by AffordableCollegesOnline.org. Siena Heights was one of only two institutions in Michigan to make the national rankings. To compile its list, ACO analyzed and leveraged authoritative data sets from the National Center of Education Statistics (NCES), the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), Carnegie Classification and Payscale.com. According to ACO, other key factors used to construct the list included institutions having a net price of less than \$20,000 per year and graduates having a starting salary of more than \$30,000 per year. According to the report, Siena Heights graduates earn an average starting salary of \$39,600, with its net price being \$15,026. The Affordable Colleges Online organization provides students with information about affordable higher education options.





SHU Again Named a "Great College to Work For"

For the second consecutive year, Siena Heights is one of the best colleges in the nation to work for, according to a new survey by The Chronicle of Higher Education. The results, released in The Chronicle's sixth annual report on The Academic Workplace, are based on a survey of more than 44,000 employees at 300 colleges and universities. In all, only 97 of those institutions achieved "Great College to Work For" recognition for specific best practices and policies. Siena Heights won honors in three categories this year: Respect and appreciation, Supervisor or department chair relationship, and Work/life balance.

The survey results are based on a two-part assessment process: an institutional audit that captured demographics and workplace policies from each institution, and a survey administered to faculty, administrators and professional support staff. The primary factor in deciding whether an institution received recognition was the employee feedback.

Tsuji Publishes Cell Research Findings



SHU Professor of Biology Dr. Jun Tsuji recently published his experimental research findings in the peer-reviewed journal "BIOS." The paper, titled "The

glabra1 mutation affects the stomatal patterning of Arabidopsis thaliana rosette leaves," describes original research data that support the hypothesis that epidermal cells share genetic components that determine cell fate and identity. This paper was co-authored with Lauren Coe '12, who is currently a second-year medical student at the Kent State University College of Podiatric Medicine.

Philosophy Professor Has Articles Published



SHU Assistant Professor of Philosophy Dr. Jeffrey Engelhardt recently has had manuscript accepted for publication in an upcoming edition of "Pacific Philosophical

Quarterly." The title of his manuscript is "What Is the Exclusion Problem?" Also, he had two articles recently published in the following publications: "Married Causes" will appear in the journal "Acta Analytica" and "Inattention and the Speckled Hen" will appear in "Teorema."

Fick Selected by HRSA



SHU Associate Professor of Leadership Dr. John W. Fick, FACHE, was selected by the Health Resources and Services Administration to serve as a HRSA grant

reviewer effective Aug. 7.

Nowinski Has Article Published in 'Fresh History'



SHU faculty member Sheila Nowinski had an article published in the current issue of the journal "French History" published by Oxford University Press. The

article is titled "French Catholic activism in Algeria between colonization and development, 1930-65" (pages 371-393). It examines the history of France's Rural Catholic Action organization in Algeria, which over the decades re-made itself from a Catholic association for European farmers to an external aid organization supporting a secular, Algerian youth group. This history exposes the continuities of French and Catholic civilizing missions across "decolonization." It also sheds light on the importance of French Catholics to the elaboration of post-colonial development programs.

DiPietro Involved at Crosswell Opera House



SHU Professor of Theater Mark DiPietro recently directed the production of "All Shook Up" at the Crosswell Opera House in Adrian. The musical featured the hits of Elvis

Presley. DiPietro also recently rejoined the Crosswell's board of directors and will be featured in an upcoming issue of Lenawee Magazine.

Barst Has History Article Published in Journal



SHU Assistant Professor of English Julie M. Barst recently published an article in "BRANCH: Britain, Representation, and Nineteenth-Century History," a peer-reviewed

extension of the online journal "RaVoN: Romanticism and Victorianism on the Net." The title of her essay is "The Molesworth Report and the Dissolution of Convict Transportation to Australia, August 1838."

Mesaros-Winckles Receives Dissertation Award



Siena Heights English faculty member Dr. Christy Mesaros-Winckles received the Dissertation of the Year Award from the Religious Communication Associ-

ation. Her dissertation was entitled "Only God Knows the Opposition We Face: The Rhetoric of Nineteenth Century Free Methodist Women's Quest for Ordination." She was honored at an awards banquet Nov. 22

Gordon to Retire from SHU in January After 37 Years



Dr. Robert Gordon will retire from SHU on Jan. 3, 2014, the 37th anniversary of his start date with the Siena Heights community. During those years, he has served

the community as director of Advising, chairperson of the General Studies Division, assistant dean, associate dean, dean of the College and Provost, dean of Graduate and Life-Long Learning, dean of the Graduate College and director of the Library. His service in those roles and on numerous committees has been marked by a commitment to the integrity of the liberal arts, the quality of our academic programs and the personal and professional growth of our students.

SHU Represented at Michigan Conference

SHU Biology professors Dr. Jun Tsuji and Dr. Thomas Wassmer and student Kara Bell-Brey '13 participated in the 2013 Michigan Academy of Science Arts and Letters annual conference March 22 at Hope College. There were a total of 450 participants who presented in 33 academic sections on many topics.

Wolf Begins as SHU's New VP of Enrollment



Siena Heights University hired George Wolf to be its next vice president of Enrollment Management. He began June 3. "George was the top choice for

the position by the search committee, and the Executive Committee of the Administration supported the committee's recommendation," said SHU President Sister Peg Albert, OP, PhD. "I firmly believe we have found the right person for the job. He believes in the mission and vision of the University, and has an impressive background in higher education enrollment." Wolf most recently served as the vice president and dean for Enrollment Services at Westminster College in Missouri and has more than 26 years of enrollment management experience with colleges and universities. Wolf has developed and implemented innovative models for enrollment management, financial aid leveraging, marketing and market segmentation, as well as developed reporting structures and predictive modeling for enrollment, yield, net revenue and price elasticity for institutional improvement and strategic success. Wolf, 50, completed his bachelor's degree in mass communications/public relations from Kentucky Wesleyan College in 1986 and his master's degree in human resource development from Siena Heights University in 2000.

SHU Again Earns 'Military Friendly School' Status

Siena Heights University was named a "Military Friendly School" by Victory Media for the fifth consecutive year. The 2014 list honors the top 20 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools that are doing the most to embrace America's veterans as students. Schools on the list range from state universities and private colleges to community colleges and trade schools. The 1,868

colleges, universities and trade schools on this year's list exhibit leading practices in the recruitment and retention of students with military experience. These schools

have world-class programs and policies for student support on campus, academic accreditation, credit policies, flexibility and other services to those who served.





center stage

"Inclusion on the 2014 list of Military Friendly Schools shows Siena Heights University's commitment to providing a supportive environment for military students," said Sean Collins, vice president at Victory Media. The 2014 list was compiled through extensive research and a data-driven survey of more than 10,000 VA-approved schools nationwide. The survey results that comprise the list were independently tested by Ernst & Young LLP based upon the weightings and methodology established by Victory Media. Each year schools taking the survey are held to a higher standard than the previous year via improved methodology, criteria and weightings developed with the assistance of an Academic Advisory Board (AAB) consisting of educators from schools across the country.

Award-Winning Author Speaks at SHU

Siena Heights hosted award-winning author and poet Chitra Divakaruni Sept. 18 in Francoeur Theater (**below**). Divakaruni is the author of "One Amazing Thing," a novel published in 2010 detailing how a group of people attempted to survive in a dark, debris-filled office after an immense earthquake hit. The book was the 2013 Summer Reader for freshmen students at SHU. Her themes include women, immigration, the South Asian experience, history, myth, magical realism and diversity.



Editor's Note: "Center Stage" is a new feature in this issue that highlights news of interest from around our College for Professional Studies degree completion centers statewide and online program.

Battle Creek

Scott Rubley '09 was recently featured in the Battle Creek Enquirer newspaper for an unusual achievement: He has never missed a day of school (kindergarten through college) or a day of work. Rubley, who received his bachelor's degree in business administration from SHU's Kellogg Community College center, told the newspaper his "get up and go" positive attitude as well as his family upbringing probably contributed to his feat. Rubley is currently employed with the Sturgis Bank and Trust in Climax, Mich.

Benton Harbor



Paget Mangold was recently promoted to assistant director of SHU's Lake Michigan College Center. Mangold earned her associate's degree from Lake Michigan College, her bachelor's degree from SHU and her master's degree from Aquinas College. Before her promotion, she was an advisor in the SHU@LMC Center. Mangold was previously employed in various student service capacities at LMC for 14 years before joining SHU. She's a member of the Race Relations Council of Southwest Michigan, United Methodist Women, the Staff/Parish Relations Committee and the Stevensville United Methodist Church. She also teaches pre-school Sunday school at SUMC as well as developmental writing and keyboarding classes at LMC.

Jackson

SHU@Jackson College recently moved locations—but it didn't go very far. The SHU office is now located in Room 127 of McDivitt Hall, just next door from its old location in Room 126. Also, Gina Gudowski recently joined the SHU@JC team as an advisor/recruiter.

Lansing



Rahman Shareef '02 was named the new CEO of NewYoung-Fathers.com, a Lansing, Mich.-based organization that empowers men under the age of 25

to become responsible fathers through community outreach programs, support, media and educational materials. Shareef was previously the organization's treasurer and also works as the public relations coordinator for the Ingham County Department of Transportation and Roads. He resides in Lansing, Mich.

Monroe

Students at Monroe County Community College can now earn a bachelor of arts degree in criminal justice from Siena Heights University on the MCCC campus. MCCC President Dr. David Nixon and SHU President Sister Peg Albert officially announced the launch of the new program last spring at a press conference on the MCCC campus. "We are seeing a greater demand for criminal justice graduates in our workforce—which is exemplified by a 95 percent job placement rate for our graduates in this area—and this opportunity provides students a seamless transition from Monroe County Community College to Siena Heights," said President Albert. "This collaboration is yet another fine example of the strong educational partnership we have with Monroe County Community College."

Online



Capt. Harold J. Love '08 retired from the Michigan State Police effective Aug. 31, 2013, after 25 years of service. Most recently, Love served as commander

of the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division (CVED), where he was responsible for providing leadership and administrative oversight of the department's statewide commercial vehicle enforcement operations and special programs.

He also serves as an appointed commissioner on the Governor's Traffic Safety Advisory Commission and the Michigan Truck Safety Commission. During his 25-year career, he has served at the Niles, Detroit, Paw Paw, Metro North, Groveland and Adrian posts, as well as the Fire Marshal Division, Training Division, Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division, Second District Headquarters and CVED. Throughout his career, Love served in a range of positions, including as an incident commander and public information officer for numerous critical incidents, high-profile investigations and special events. In 2005, he received two legislative special tributes and a Professional Excellence Award for his leadership role on the team of commanders deployed with the Michigan contingent of 95 officers to New Orleans for the Hurricane Katrina relief effort. He will complete graduate school in the fall 2013 with a master's degree in community counseling from SHU. Love resides in Clarkston, Mich., with his wife and two children.

Southfield

Tammy McCrory '12 formed a Social Service Agency shortly after her graduation from SHU that works with at-risk pregnant women and infants. The mission of the agency is to reduce the infant mortality and morbidity rate in the Wayne County and surrounding areas. It does so by promoting healthy pregnancies and positive birth outcomes and healthy infant development. Within a six-month period of time, the agency has enrolled more than 80 women. According to McCrory, her agency helps to empower the women and link them to commodities in their community. She currently serves as executive director, and is responsible for all day-to-day operations, including financial, human resources, marketing, contracts and community outreach. The office is located in Redford, Mich. "I can honestly testify how the Community Service curriculum played a vital role in the formation and success of my business," McCrory said.

Youth Movement



Willis Sowle III Begins Dominican Young Adults Chapter at SHU

Willis Sowle III '15 is part of a youth movement happening on the Siena Heights campus.

The junior Religious Studies major from Toledo, Ohio, attended a Dominican preaching in action conference in Chicago in May 2012. Soon after that experience, he had a revelation.

"As I began to engage in campus ministry in the fall, it seemed like there was a missing piece in the faith community on campus," Sowle said. "I came to realize that we are a Dominican university, and a vast majority of the students and faculty haven't really embraced that idea. (This) led me to the conclusion that we need a student organization that enlightens students to the truth found in Dominican life."

In October, Sowle helped form a chapter of the Dominican Young Adults on the Siena Heights campus. The DYA has replaced Sojourn, the campus ministry youth group that previously existed. He said the learning about the Dominican tradition and heritage has been a process.

"I began an action plan to educate all of our members, myself included, on Dominican tradition and the opportunities we would be presented with," he said. "The transition process consisted of four meetings, each week discussing and learning one of the four pillars of the Dominican tradition: prayer, community, study and preaching. These topics were taught to us by (Adrian Dominican) Sisters and professors from around campus."

At the end of the meeting process, SHU President Sister Peg Albert, OP, PhD, addressed the new group and gave them her presidential "seal of approval."

"I think it's fantastic what Willis and these students have done to highlight and preserve the Dominican tradition on campus," said President Albert. "Students are part of the future safeguards of that Dominican heritage at Siena Heights."

Some members are also part of the Campus Ministry Scholars program, however, it is open to all students on campus.

"Faith is a crucial piece to my experience at SHU," said Sowle. "As a 'new' Catholic who completed the RCIA program just two years prior to my freshman year, I knew that I needed an environment that would provide me opportunities to grow in my faith. Little did I know, however, how big of an impact the school would provide me. I have embraced a myriad of opportunities from retreats, to service, leadership, and a wonderful motherhouse to help my faith life grow and develop."

He said an early challenge to the group is helping to educate more students on not only what the Dominican tradition is, but how it can apply to them as a SHU student.

"Siena provides opportunities for each and every student to grow and learn further about the tradition," Sowle said.

He said scheduling some travel experiences around the world and also networking with other college and university DYA chapters are also on his agenda.

"DYA has some big plans in its future," Sowle said. ♦



SHU hosted a "Faith & Reason Symposium" Oct. 19 on the Adrian campus. Dr. Peter Feldmeier from the University of Toledo delivered the keynote address titled "The Assurance of God: A Response to Atheism and a Reason for Faith." Bishop of Lansing the Most Reverend Earl Boyea was one of more than 80 people to attend the symposium, which was open to the community, particularly Catholic college and university students, faculty and staff members.

“Faith is a crucial piece to my experience at SHU”



Team Player

McCann Honored with 2013 Eileen Rice Award for Outstanding Teaching

By Doug Goodnough

When Peggy McCann arrived on the Siena Heights campus in fall 2006, she meant business. The business of sports, that is.

McCann, an associate professor of Sport Management, was honored last spring with the Eileen Rice Award for Outstanding Teaching, which is selected by a committee of previous winners and students. She said she was “shocked” when she learned about the award and called the moment “emotional” when she heard her name announced as the winner.

“It wasn’t anything I was expecting,” said the soft-spoken McCann of the award. “You have to share this award, because you can’t say that you did it all yourself.”

McCann’s “team” approach has worked well in the Sport Management program, which prepares students for careers in the business of sport – including college, professional and recreational. The Illinois native was a former four-sport standout high school athlete who was inducted into her school’s hall of fame as a bowler. McCann realized early that she wanted to carve out a career in an area she is passionate about. The teaching part came later.

“While I was at Michigan State (completing her PhD), I found out I love to teach,” McCann said. “I wanted to get a position in a teaching college.”

And she wanted to stay in Michigan. She heard from a friend about an open faculty position at Siena Heights, and hand-delivered her application to Adrian to check out the campus.

“I liked the feel of campus,” she said of her early impressions. “It was so welcoming and nice. That’s what I wanted. It fits my personality.”

One potential issue was that the open position was in Sport Management, a relatively new field. Although she had a management background, McCann’s doctorate was in sports psychology, and she called her transition “a learning process.”

“There’s still so many people who don’t understand what the field is,” she said. “(I get asked) What do you do in sport management? It’s fighting through misconceptions.”

McCann said the program’s involvement in the local Boys and Girls Club, as well as its community-based learning philosophy and an emphasis on internships, have been successful strategies.

“We have to make it very clear at the beginning that it’s a business, too,” McCann said. “It’s not about playing sports. It’s much different when you’re organizing a basketball tournament instead of playing in one. . . . It’s a field that you’re going to work hard and going to work long hours. But if you love sports, you’re not going to feel the effects of it.”

One of the students who nominated McCann called her “a trusted guide.”

“Peggy embodies the values of Siena Heights University,” the student continued. “She is known for putting the success of her students and her central aim and their needs often ahead of her own.”

McCann said she cherishes the relationships with her students.

“The students have taught me how to be patient,” she said. “I’ve learned how to get to know them and what they need because I spend so much time with them.” ♦



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

Here Are Some Other Award Winners from Last Spring’s Honors Convocation:

Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award—

Seniors Andy Switzer of Pettsville, Ohio, and Abigail Norris of Tecumseh, Mich., earned the Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award. The Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award is the highest honor given to undergraduate students at SHU. Switzer graduated in May from SHU’s education program, with concentrations in English and history. He graduated magna cum laude with an overall grade point average of 3.88. Norris graduated in May from SHU’s psychology program. She graduated summa cum laude with an overall grade point average of 3.9.

Thomas A. Emmett Award

(Outstanding Junior Scholar-Athlete)—
Sederick Dunbar, Brianna Nordby

Team Academic Award—Women’s Soccer,
Men’s Golf

Division Outstanding Student Awards

Division of Business and Management—
Ruben Becerra, Zachary Stultz

Division of Computing, Mathematics, and the Sciences—Olivia Smith, Jessica Lampkowski

Division of Humanities—Kara Bell-Brey,
Andrew Switzer

Division of Nursing—Pre-Licensure: Morgan
Choszczyk, Taylor Langenderfer;
RN-BSN: Anita Brown

Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences—
Cassie Keeping, Abigail Norris

Division of Visual and Performing Arts and Education—Jenna Long, Jessica (Dilyard) Tillotson

Graduate College Outstanding Student Awards—Education: Amber Pedersen;
Leadership: Rachel Loftis;
Counseling: Karla Fisher

St. Catherine of Alexandria Medal—
Michael Lollo

Staff Excellence Award— Deb Keller,
Lori Kunkel

Jack Bologna Award for Innovative Teaching—Mary Brigham

Professor Emeritus—Saleem Peeradina

New Faculty for 2013-14—

Jean Dean (Nursing);
Michael Kolacz (Business Administration);
Michael O’Connell (Online Humanities);
James Loughran (Leadership-Graduate College)



Rays of Hope

SHU Volunteers Help Camp Sunshine Shine a Little Brighter



Several Siena Heights students and staff members gave up part of their summer vacation to give others a needed break from the concerns of a life-threatening illness.

A dozen or so from Siena Heights traveled by minivan to Casco, Maine, in July to work at Camp Sunshine, a non-profit operation that provides a retreat for children who are battling life-threatening illnesses and their families.

SHU Dean for Students Michael Orlando (left, below) learned about Camp Sunshine three years ago and involved Siena Heights through the Siena Serves volunteer program on campus. Orlando, his wife, Becky, and SHU Director of Counseling Sandy Morley joined nine SHU students from varying backgrounds on the weeklong experience.

“(Camp Sunshine) lets the families be treated as royalty and loves them as much as possible,” Orlando said. “It’s a way for everyone to come together with a sense of shared understanding.”

Siena was part of retinoblastoma week. Retinoblastoma is a rare form of eye cancer, and Orlando said volunteers are trained to help families spend a week having fun—and away from the worries of doctor and hospital visits.

“They can relax and just have fun,” Orlando said of the families hosted by Camp Sunshine. “You see a lot of kids who go in with ‘I don’t want to be here.’ But by the end of the week, they are crying and say ‘I don’t want to leave.’”

Volunteers often play the role of camp counselors, helping with activities such as canoeing, kayaking, Frisbee golf, swimming and arts and crafts. Camp Sunshine pays for all but \$125 of the volunteer expenses for the week. Orlando said funding from the Siena Serves program helped with all but \$25 of the volunteers’ costs.

Orlando said it was a bonding experience for the volunteers as well.

“What was really neat is that our group didn’t really know each other at the beginning,” he said. “We not only grew close with Camp Sunshine, but as a group collectively. ... You do feel like an extended part of their family when you go there.” ♦



WORLD CLASS

Educational Process Does Not Stop Over the Summer for SHU Faculty





King Guest Conducts at World Renowned Juilliard Music School

By Doug Goodnough



Wes King was in rare company last July in New York City. King, Siena Heights music instructor and director of Bands, was only one of 10 people worldwide to be selected to conduct at the Juilliard Conducting Workshop for Music Educators.

“I had thought about applying for it for a few years but I didn’t think I would be strong enough to get in,” said King, who is in his second year at SHU. “It was a big surprise for me and my family. It was just a really cool opportunity.”

King had to apply via a DVD audition. Required was a 15-minute performance and 15-minute rehearsal. For the rehearsal part of the audition, King used his work conducting a John Philip Sousa march with the Siena Heights band.

Out of more than 200 applications, only 48 were chosen. And only 10 were allowed to conduct at Juilliard, known as one of the finest schools for the arts in the world. He received another unexpected surprise when his younger brother, Greg, and his mother, helped fund his trip.

“You had people coming in from all over the world,” said King, who joined conductors from Japan, Scotland and South Africa among others. “And I was with people who had doctorates, who were working professionally. There were only a few band directors.”

King, who earned his master’s degree in music from Mississippi State University and spent some time with the University of Arkansas marching band before coming to SHU, said the four-day workshop was intense. During that time, he had to learn to conduct two separate, very different pieces of music. The first was “Symphony No. 104” by Haydn and the second was “Serenade Opus 40” by American composer Arthur Bird.

Learning the music was one thing, but the people King had the chance to learn from was what made it such a special experience.

JoAnn Falletta, a pioneer female conductor, was his instructor for the Haydn piece. She is the director of the Virginia Symphony Orchestra; music director of the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra and principal conductor of the Ulster Orchestra in Belfast, Northern Ireland; the Phoenix Symphony and the Brevard Music Center. King then had a chance to work on the Bird piece with Eugene Corporon, director of Wind Studies at North Texas University.

“She has studied with some of the great conductors of the 20th century,” King said of Falletta. “It was just really refreshing and insightful to work with two such inspiring and accomplished people.”

King also had a chance to conduct with current and former Juilliard musicians.

“Not only was I around these great teachers and great clinicians, I was also with these fantastic musicians,” he said. “Musicians are the best teachers you could ever have. ... Working with professional, world-class musicians was probably the best part of the experience.”





Educational Process Does Not Stop

When King wasn't conducting, he attended clinics and workshops and learned about new concepts and techniques that "I want to apply to my teaching," he said.

"Just being in fantastic facilities and seeing what's possible," King said of the workshop. "It was just inspiring to see that much passion and love and dedication to the arts."

There were some other SHU faculty members who continued the educational experience last summer in places all over the world.

writer said the goal was to create "an intimate program" that helped remove barriers between published and aspiring writers and nurture an artistic literary community. Entering its fifth year, the MVICW attracts nationally acclaimed authors and poets to teach.

Weinstein said students were selected by a panel of SHU faculty based on writing submissions and a letter of interest.

"We read the poetry/fiction looking for attention to craft, language and style," he said.

CREATIVE GETAWAY

Creative Writing Institute Branches Out to Include SHU Students

Martha's Vineyard has been a summer get-away for Alexander Weinstein since his childhood. Last July, the Siena Heights University assistant professor of English also brought some of his students along to enjoy the experience as part of the Martha's Vineyard Institute of Creative Writing.

"I founded the Martha's Vineyard Institute of Creative Writing due, in part, to my years of teaching writing on the Vineyard," Weinstein said. "I've spent summers at the Vineyard since I was born—my family has a house in Aquinnah—and the Vineyard is one of my favorite places in the world, so part of my dream was to create a center for writers in order to share the beauty and creativity of Martha's Vineyard with others."

Thanks to funding from a strategic planning grant, SHU students Erin Russell, Katelyn Boulton, Aaron Morgan and Jeffrey Conolly attended the seminar on scholarship.

Weinstein founded the nonprofit institute in 2010 and currently serves as its director. The award-winning fiction

SHU Creative Writing Program Earns National Recognition

Siena Heights University's creative writing program was recently honored as one of the top 39 in the nation by the fourth edition of "Creative Colleges: A Guide for Student Actors, Artists, Dancers, Musicians and Writers." Author Elaina Loveland researched programs from across the country and ultimately developed her list of programs to recommend to potential students. "Siena Heights University has an excellent creative writing program," Loveland said. "Its strengths are in its diversity of curriculum; not only are fiction, creative nonfiction and poetry course offered, but also screenwriting and playwriting. Furthermore, Siena Heights University's creative writing bachelor's degree includes a senior tutorial that requires a final creative writing project, which makes it distinctive."

One of the other main criteria was a student's passion for writing and "commitment to pursue creative writing as a vital part of their life/studies."

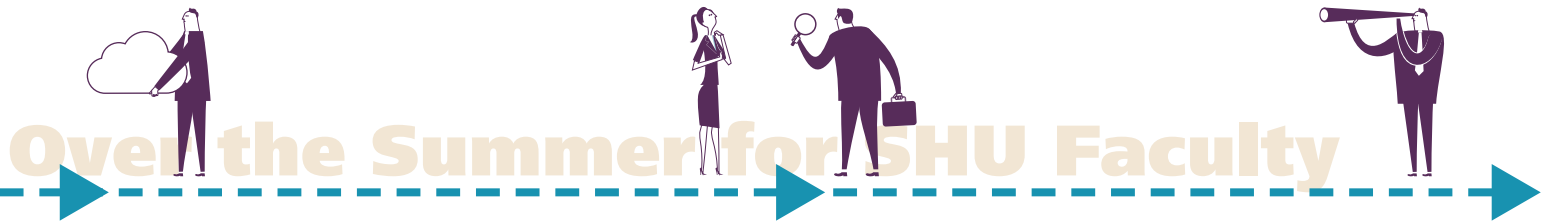
Each day participants attended workshops in areas like fiction, poetry and other specialties with the evenings filled with student and faculty readings—as well as celebratory dinners. Another focus of the seminar is to educate students about making creative writing into a lifelong profession.

During the week, panel discussions and workshops addressed how to seek publication of work, how to pursue an MFA and a discussion by visiting faculty of the practices that have allowed them to become successful, Weinstein said. "Our students got the opportunity to work one-on-one with visiting faculty and to have their manuscripts edited by professional publishers."

Michael Martone, an award-winning author of more than 20 books of fiction and poetry, was one of several renowned instructors who worked with SHU students. Weinstein said the networking opportunities was another benefit of the attendees, not to mention the recreational opportunities like pristine beaches and prime fishing excursions that Martha's Vineyard provides.

"Siena Heights students gained direct contact with institutions like MFA programs and literary presses, directly benefitting their professional development," he said. "Not only did they get





to see another aspect of the life of a creative writer, but they connected with national and global writers and scholars.”

Weinstein said he hopes to continue to grow the program, especially for his students.

“One of the big goals is to find individuals, alumni and donors who wish to fund one or more scholarships for (Siena Heights) students to attend MVICW,” he said. “It makes the opportunity possible for SHU students who otherwise wouldn’t have the possibility for this life-changing experience.”

For more information, visit www.mvicw.com.

SHU FACULTY TRIO TEACH IN CHINA

SHU Professor of Theater Doug Miller, Assistant Professor of Art Erin Zerbe and adjunct music instructor Michael Yuen traveled to China to teach at the China Youth University for Political Sciences from July 8-15. The hands-on workshop focused on drama performance, modern dancing, short film-making and photography. Former Siena Heights president Dr. Louis Vaccaro assisted SHU in making the connections with CYUPS. CYUPS is located in Beijing and was established in 1985. It typically offers courses and training in areas such as politics, administration, economics, management and sociology. However, by inviting professors from American colleges and universities, CYUPS is hoping to improve the artistic abilities of its students, according to CYUPS officials. Miller, Zerbe (**below**) and Yuen (**above right**) taught for one week in their respective disciplines and were in China for 10 days while tailoring their workshop curriculum.



WARNER JOINS IRELAND DRAMA PROGRAM

SHU Assistant Professor of Theatre and Youth Theatre Director Joni Warner participated in the 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 provided 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. Warner participated as a teaching artist, student and educational arts practitioner. She anticipates this initial involvement will lead to possibilities for future collaborative/exchange programs with Maryland and Trinity.

NOWINSKI COMPLETES FELLOW AT HOLOCAUST INSTITUTE

Siena Heights University Assistant Professor of History Sheila Nowinski completed a Fellow for the 18th annual Holocaust Education Foundation Summer Institute on Holocaust and Jewish Civilization at Northwestern University last summer. The renowned program was 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. ♦



saints highlights

Softball



Sophomore first baseman Taylor Hayes (**left**) was named an honorable mention NAIA All-American and a second team All-American by the National Fastpitch Coaches Association. She led the Saints with a .450 batting average including seven home runs, 14 doubles and 42 RBI. Senior Tonya Berta was named to the Collegiate Sports Information Directors of America Academic All-American second team. The language arts major previously earned academic all-district honors and is a two-time academic all-conference honoree. Berta and juniors Katie O'Hotzke and Hayes were each named to the All-Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference first team. Berta, a center fielder, hit .360 and scored 34 runs. She had 28 stolen bases, and leaves as SHU's career stolen base leader. O'Hotzke was named as a designated player. She batted .352 with 10 doubles, five home runs and 33 RBI and had a 12-12 record on the mound with 94 strikeouts in 142 2/3 innings. Earning honorable mention were sophomore catcher Bitty Treece and freshman outfielder Mariah Boss. Hayes, O'Hotzke and Berta were also each honored the National Fastpitch Coaches Association All-Region first team in the Great Lakes region. Berta, Hayes and Treece each earned spots on the CoSIDA Academic All-District Team. Siena registered a 3.45 team grade point average during the 2012-13 academic year, good for ninth place in the NAIA, according to the NFCA. The Saints finished 19-23 on the season.

Baseball



Senior catcher Corey Caldwell and senior second baseman Kyle Benschoter (**left**) were named to the All-Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference first team. Caldwell had a .343 average with 14 doubles, three home runs and 28 RBI.

Benschoter hit .358 with 17 RBI. Junior outfielder Mike Lollo was named to the honorable mention team after leading SHU with a .392 average. He was also tabbed to the conference's Gold Glove team. Earning academic all-conference and NAIA Scholar-Athlete honors were Caldwell, Lollo, juniors Alec Duncan, Drew Byers, Nolan Herendeen, Robbie Schwartz and Travis Mielcarek and sophomore Kyle Johnson. SHU finished 13-28 overall, 6-16 in the WHAC.

Golf

Men: Four Saints earned spots on the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference all-academic team last spring. Honored were seniors Kyle Hanson and Adam Schmaltz and sophomores Dylan Orr and Josh Short. Hanson, Schmaltz and Short were each named NAIA Scholar-Athletes. To earn the honor, student-athletes must have a minimum 3.5 grade-point average and be at least a junior. This fall, senior Nick Campbell (**left**) was named to the All-Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference first team after earning conference medalist honors. The Saints finished third in the final WHAC team standings.



Women: The Saints finished fifth at the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference Championships at Scott Lake Country Club last spring. Sydney Gossett (**left**) shot a school record first round of 80 to finish fourth overall (164). Gossett was also named to the honorable mention All-Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference team. She finished with an 86.9 average for 18 holes. This fall, the Saints finished third in the final WHAC standings. Freshman Andrea Richards was named to the All-WHAC first team, while teammates Ashley Everett and Gossett each earning honorable mention recognition. Gossett fired a school record round of 73 at the St. Francis (Ind.) Invitational.



Outdoor Track

Men: The Saints were third at the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference meet.



Gauge Aebersold (**left**) set a conference record by winning the shot put in a toss of 55 feet, 11 inches. Logan Moore won the 110 hurdles (14.37) and Zach Widner (15.00) to lead the way. At the NAIA Outdoor Championships, Travis Derscheid was seventh in the decathlon (6,354 points), Tre Goynes eighth in the high jump (6-7), Will Hinton eighth in the discus (158-5), Ryan Lucas fourth in the pole vault (15-7) and Gauge Aebersold seventh in the shot put (55-4 3/4) to each earn All-American status. Senior Doug Dawson and juniors Chas Frey, Chris Schurr and Brett Smith were all named NAIA Scholar-Athletes. In addition, Dawson was named to the Collegiate Sports Information Directors of America Academic All-American second team.



Women: Phoenix Duncan (**left**) was named the meet's Most Outstanding Performer as the Saints finished fourth at the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference outdoor championships. The sophomore won the high jump in a conference record 5 feet, 10 inches. Lenzey Stidham also set a new conference mark by winning the pole vault in 12-91/2. Other event winners were Taylor Byron in the shot put (45-8 1/2), Brianna Nordby the javelin (130-8). Stidham, Duncan and Kasey Renshaw each earned All-American honors in their respective events at the NAIA National Outdoor Championships. Stidham, a senior and the defending national champion, was seventh in the pole vault (11 feet-7 3/4 inches). Duncan had the best place, finishing third in the high jump with an effort of 5 feet, 6 inches. Renshaw was eighth in the hammer throw with a distance of 170-2. Senior Cassie Keeping and juniors Katelyn Boulton and Nordby were each named NAIA Scholar-Athletes.

Men's Lacrosse



Sophomore goaltender Ryan Mailloux (**left**) was named the Central Collegiate Lacrosse Association's Player of the Year for the Saints. He finished with a 4.07 goals against average and a 74.6 save percentage. He was also named an honorable mention All-American by the Men's Collegiate Lacrosse Association in Division II. He had a 12-3 record. Senior Ryan Gumbleton (**below**) and sophomores Jordan Martin and Spencer Macek were all named to the CCLA first team. Gumbleton led SHU in scoring with 49 points, including 29 goals. Macek had 48 points and 32 goals while Martin had 38 ground balls as a defender. Gumbleton and senior Michael Cleary each earned spots on the conference's all-academic team. The Saints finished 12-3 and ranked 23rd in the nation, including an appearance in the national tournament.



SHU Junior Donovan Campbell Strikes a Balance Between Football, Family

Editor's Note: This is an edited version of a feature that ran in the Adrian Daily Telegram in October 2013. Used with permission.

By Greg Garno—Daily Telegram Special Writer

The story of Siena Heights University tight end Donovan Campbell begins five years ago.

Five years ago, Campbell didn't play organized football. Five years ago, Campbell wasn't fielding offers from other colleges to come play football. Instead, five years ago, Campbell was taking care of his youngest brother to help his mother.

But fast forward to today. Campbell, now a junior, excels on the field as a vital part of the Saints offense. More importantly, he has been a catalyst for Siena Heights this season in arguably the toughest football conference in the NAIA.

"He affects our football team in a very positive way," said SHU coach Jim Lyall. "You can tell the difference between him and some players is it's not so much what you want, but how badly you want it. He wants to be the best, very badly."

Campbell has led the Saints in receiving the past two years, including last season in which he was the only member from Siena Heights to be named the All-MSFA Midwest first team. This year, he was a preseason NAIA All-American, and living up to the billing.

"When the ball is in the air, he really believes he's going to get it," Lyall said.

The story of Campbell moves to his junior year of high school in South Bend, Ind., four years ago, when a new coach joined and Campbell played football for the first time. Campbell had played basketball in the years prior and would still play, but after moving from Chicago, Campbell's family became a priority.

Campbell continued to balance football and family in the following year, when he became a captain of the football team after just one season.

"I knew I could catch the football, I knew I could run, so everything just fell into place," Campbell said.

For having little experience, Campbell wowed a coaching staff headed by Lyall – a man who has more than 38 years of experience of his own. Campbell was athletic enough to play basketball in his sophomore year at Siena Heights.



The story continues three years ago, when his track to Siena was shaped not because of the chance to play two sports, but rather because of the relationship he developed with the coaching staff and the campus.

"At first, I was trying to seek out the most genuine recruiters," Campbell said. "I thought about who really wants me for the type of person I am and not just the football player. I knew this was a place that wanted me, for me. You can't beat the homey feeling, and just the atmosphere of the place is great."

One school day several falls ago, Campbell sat in government class, the last class of the day at Clay High School. His football coach pulled him out for another coach, unknown to Campbell at the time, to speak with him.

Waiting for him outside the classroom was Saints defensive coordinator Matt Kohn, who made his recruiting pitch. He invited Campbell to visit Siena Heights – to see what it had to offer. Then everything really fell into place.

"The first time I visited campus I fell in love with it," Campbell said. "I felt like I was home."

And since Day 1, Campbell has been that same leader he was in high school. His speed and athleticism combined with his work ethic create a challenge for opponents and someone on which Lyall can rely.

But Campbell's story, five years later when he didn't imagine his current position, is all the more crucial to his team.

Campbell continues his role as a captain, arriving to practice first and leaving the facility last while not being afraid to speak up.

"His improvement is mirrored by our team's improvement," Lyall said. "We've had to perform at a high level, and one of the reasons for that is Donovan. He makes big plays.

"I certainly like our odds when we're throwing the football to him." ♦





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.



Full "STEAM" Ahead

KATIE GUILBAULT DECKER '89 WINS BIG AS PRINCIPAL IN LAS VEGAS

Katie Guilbault Decker '89 has made learning fun again for students, teachers and parents at the Walter Bracken STEAM Academy in urban Las Vegas. As the recipient of the 2013 Magnet Schools of America Principal of the Year Award, Decker has transformed an underperforming, underprivileged school into one of the best in the state of Nevada.

But it wasn't easy.

"It was a mess," said Decker, who was assigned as its principal in 2001. "(Bracken) was one of the scariest schools in the district. Substitute (teachers) didn't like to come here because SWAT used to practice here."

Decker, who spent the previous 11 years as a teacher and an assistant principal in the Las Vegas area, saw an opportunity to improve the failing school. But not many shared her vision.

"It was definitely a challenge," Decker said of the early resistance she encountered from teachers and parents.



“The staff that was here, their idea of instruction and my idea of instruction were very different.”

Almost immediately, Decker decided that Bracken would become a “magnet” school—one that remains a free public school but has a focused theme and aligned curriculum. Magnet schools use an approach to learning that is inquiry- or performance/project-based, and do not have entrance criteria; students are chosen from a blind lottery-based system.

Because of the shift to more of a science, technology, arts, engineering and mathematics (STEAM) curriculum, she required all of her existing teachers to re-apply for their jobs.

“Everyone interviewed for their positions,” Decker said. “I looked for teachers with science backgrounds. Those were my first picks for interviewing.”

As a result of these sudden, drastic changes, she was met with “Decker Must Go” picket signs by her own teachers and some parents.

“It was a great first year,” Decker said, sarcastically. “Sometimes you just have to give people time. But my heart was in the right place.”

And those weren’t the only changes. She established new community partnerships, created vision and mission statements, blanketed her drab, almost-windowless school building with creative and colorful murals and instituted other features that rival some theme parks.

“Our school looks more like Disneyland than a school,” Decker said. “We get our results by having fun.”

Some of the “fun” features include a yearly school garden project, an outdoor chess board, desert habitat, outdoor labs—even a mascot. All lessons and homework are posted online. Decker said she is constantly surveying her students, teachers and parents to make “innovative” data-driven decisions.

The results have been nothing short of remarkable. Bracken is now one of the top schools in the state. It received High Achievement status from the state of Nevada for Adequate Yearly Progress and ranked among the top 5 percent of all schools in the district.



“We wanted to get better results, so we all needed to know what we’re doing,” she said. “Whatever we chose to do, we vote on it and decide. And once it’s decided, it was my job to ensure everyone would do it with integrity.”

When Decker began as principal, the school had only a 5.6 percent proficiency rate in mathematics; today, Bracken is the sixth highest math performer of the approximately 230 schools in the Clark County district. In November, Decker traveled to Washington, D.C., to receive a National Blue Ribbon Award—only one of three Nevada schools to earn the honor.

“Direct instruction is such a tiny piece,” Decker said. “Participation is what gets them through. We help (students) figure out what’s going on in their heads.”

Not surprisingly, Decker is not on the sidelines as a cheerleader in the day-to-day educational process.

“I teach every day,” she said. “I go in the classrooms. I am their coach and I am their helper. ... If you are a teacher, then you are always a teacher.”

She said Siena Heights—especially the late Sister Eileen Rice—helped instill those teaching values in her.

“I adored (Sister Eileen),” Decker said, getting emotional. “I would love to be even half of what she was. We used to joke that she never slept. She was probably one of the bigger influential people in my life.”

Beginning her 24th year in the Las Vegas educational system, Decker said she is where she is supposed to be.

“Las Vegas is one of the greatest locations,” she said. “There’s no snow days here.”

And it’s full “STEAM” ahead at Bracken Academy.

“The things we do, we made up,” Decker said. “We’re showing our community what a school can be.” ♦

One on One With . . .

Editor's Note: This is the first installment of what we hope will be a regular Reflections series. "One on One With..." starts appropriately with longtime Siena Heights fixture Trudy McSorley, who retired last summer after more than 50 years on campus. She reflects on her time at Siena Heights, as a student, faculty member and administrator.

1. First impressions of Siena Heights?

This can be a very involved question as I first came to Siena in 1961 when I entered the Adrian Dominican congregation. Then it was simply going to class. We were not involved in college life, as our focus was becoming Adrian Dominican Sisters. When I returned in 1973 as a faculty member, I was young (30) and a bit overwhelmed being a part of college and academic life, as I had not known it before. At the time I was privileged to work with my teacher and mentor, Sister Therese Craig. We also lived together in an apartment at Village Green where many other Sisters who were on the faculty and staff were living. There were at least 30 Adrian Dominican Sisters on campus at the time. Looking back it was an amazing time on campus in many ways. We had our first layman (Hugh Thompson) president; men were now a significant part of our student body, and there was a great effort to outreach into the community of Adrian.

2. How did you get involved in teaching, specifically drama and theater?

As I said I was an Adrian Dominican and that was the primary ministry of the Sisters at the time. I think that is one of the reasons I was attracted to the congregation; the Adrian Dominican had been my teachers since I was 6 years old in first grade. One of my teachers in high school (Rosary high school in Detroit, an all girls Adrian Dominican school) was Sister Rose Terrence (Sister Therese

Craig after Vatican II). She was an incredible teacher, director and passionate educator. She led the speech and drama department where I found myself at home. When I entered the congregation I was asked what my major was going to be by Sister Bertha Hom-zina (the registrar at the time). I didn't know you weren't supposed to say something like "speech and drama" (considered a bit too frivolous). She never bat-ted an eye (at least I didn't see it!), and I happily went on my way as a speech and drama major. Sister Therese was my teacher for many of my classes and was more than tough on me, which was



great ammunition for me later in life as we became very dear friends. In 1973 I received a phone call from the Siena theater department to interview and work with Sister Therese in the child drama/children's theater program, as it had grown more than anticipated. They offered, I accepted, and the rest is history.

3. This year the Creative Stages program celebrates its 50th anniversary. As someone who guided the program for many years, what has that program meant to you?

This is a very difficult question. I could be succinct and say "everything," but that would hardly be enough. So I'll begin: In 1963 (the summer), children came to campus for the first time to experience creative drama. Sister Therese

was teaching a "new course" she thought would be good for teachers to have. Our Sisters would be the first students in the class of "The Teaching Creative Drama." It was held in Archangelus Ballroom, and the children ages 6-9 came several times a week so we could lead them through our newly discovered material. It was wonderful and we took to it, as did the children. I was so comfortable with the work. I could not do enough of it, and soon found that the theory of creative drama could be applied to many areas of the curriculum in school. Basically it was hands-on experiential learning, very right-brained (as I would later discover). When I returned to the classroom in the fall, I had a newfound confidence and began applying the work in my language arts classes and soon was doing workshops in Detroit, Toledo and Chicago. Children had a right to learn this way. It freed them and gave them voice. When I came to Siena, the program, then known as Studio 6-12 (because it included children ages 6-12) had a fully developed creative drama program as well as children's theater. In addition, the college curriculum included two touring troupes. One was led by "actor-teachers" who used the methodology of creative drama and had the children in the schools participate in an improvisational drama experience. They resolved dramas that involved some type of incident or series of incidences that could be resolved within a drama. This was an amazing experience for potential teachers, as they used the very work that would help them in the future make learning more meaningful. The second type troupe was performance-oriented. The college students brought touring theater performances to the children. In addition, we had two types of theater productions on campus for child audiences. (One was) children performing



for children, where we did many of the literature classics such as “Pinocchio,” “Alice in Wonderland,” “Ice Wolf” and “Anne of Green Gables.” The other type of children’s theater was college students performing for children such productions as: “Androcles and the Lion,” “Wiley and the Hairy Man,” “Davey Crockett and the Coonskin Cap” and “Ransom of Red Chief.” It was here that the term “Teaching is a Performing Art” was coined on our campus. Teacher Education was looking for a home in our new division structure, and we invited them to be a part of our division. Sister Eileen Rice, chair of Teacher Education, decided it was a perfect fit, as that was precisely what teachers did in the classroom – teaching was/is an art a performing art! This program meant everything to me. There are as many stories as there are the thousands of children who went through the program over all those years. As time went on it was not only Siena’s program, it belonged to the Adrian and Lenawee County community. The families were proud of it, and it indeed was my passion. The hardest thing I have done at Siena was leave that program and the Theater Department. I did it for the right reason, as I felt I could be a presence and lead the Student Life Division in a way that was necessary at the time.

Trudy McSorley

4. What has been the single biggest change since you’ve been at Siena Heights?

Hmmm. I suppose one would naturally say the growth in athletics, more students, more academic programs. But sitting where I am now on this end of the calendar of life, I would say the focus on Mission. Being a truly Dominican institution. This commitment is critical for our uniqueness, and I think for our integrity and survival as an institution. We didn’t always do this, you know.

5. What will you miss the most at Siena Heights? The least?

This is easy: I miss the community and the continual interaction and presence of the students. I really believe we have very special students, and once they commit to Siena and their work here, it is amazing how they grow. I just love them. I also miss the community. That is what we are, a community that cares, responds, loves, learns with all our frailties. But a beloved community. I will miss the meetings the least. Need I say more!

6. If you could describe Siena Heights University to someone in just one word, what would you use?

I can only use one word? “Caring Community.” Hyphenate it if you have to!

7. You’ve been called the “patron saint of the Siena Heights student.” What have the students meant to you during your time at Siena Heights?

I simply love our students. I was very young when I came to Siena and connected easily with the students. I had to be tough so they would take me seriously, but that soon waned. I have always felt our students were very special. You know, most of our students are first generation college students. They lack, for the most part, the sophistication that

students attending larger or more prestigious institutions. There is a real wholesomeness and genuine spirit among our students. It is easy to love them, and they love back! There really is no limit to what we can give them in terms of love, care, respect and nurturing. There is no limit to how far they can grow in response to that support. It really is all about our Mission.

8. What is the one thing most people don’t know about you?

Hmmm. That is another tough one. I guess it might be that I really value and cherish my solitude. It is my time for prayer, reflection and mindfulness; without that I can’t do much else.

9. Now that you’re officially “retired”, how do you plan to stay active in the Siena Heights community?

I have been around quite a bit this semester, honoring the commitment I made to the FYE instructors who wanted the Mission and Dominican identity presentations for their classes. I also have done some staff and faculty presentations on Mission and Identity. I expect to direct the play “Laramie Project Ten Years Later” by Moises Kaufman in February. I’ve always been intrigued by term “Professor Emeriti.” I was just notified that the Board of Trustees granted me that honor. However, I really feel there should be some responsibility with such titles. These wisdom figures who gained so much from Siena need to be tapped as a resource. We’ll see how that materi-



alizes. For now, I’ll be around. Siena is more than a name, more than a place. It is a spirit that daily changes, grows and needs all of us to nurture her. ♦



SHU'S NEW 'CROWN JEWEL'

The new “Crown Jewel” of Siena Heights University was sparkling during Homecoming Weekend 2013.

The new \$9.1 million McLaughlin University Center was dedicated Oct. 5 as part of the Homecoming celebration on the Adrian campus (above).

Major benefactor Mary Spencer and a contingent of more than 30 of her family members joined her to dedicate the facility that was named after her parents, Delbert and Donna McLaughlin. Joining Spencer and SHU President Sister Peg Albert for the ribbon-cutting ceremony were Steve and Sally Hickman of the Hickman Family Foundation, which provided the lead gift for the project.

The McLaughlin Center officially opened its doors on Aug. 1. The 34,000 square-foot student and community facility houses the University’s dining service, which includes a Mongolian-style grill, a snack shop featuring Starbucks coffee and the Barnes & Noble College Bookstore.





Take a Guided Tour of the McLaughlin University Center – Through the Eyes of the People Who Use It

SHU Dean for Students Michael Orlando was involved in the early planning of the facility, and he said to see the impact that it has already made has been remarkable.

“This is because students wanted this space on campus,” Orlando said. “It was really refreshing that we were able to modify the design so it did have student input. ... Although it’s just a building, it’s an indicator that this is where students are meant to be.”

Since this is a student- and people-centered facility, the staff of Reflections thought it appropriate that the people who use it every day should take readers on a guided “tour” of sorts to show off some of the favorite features.



The tour starts here...



FIRST LEVEL

SHU'S NEW 'CROWN JEWEL'



The new \$9.1 million McLaughlin University Center was officially opened on Oct. 5 during Homecoming. Mary Spencer, SHU President Sister Peg Albert, and Steve and Sally Hickman "cut the ribbon" to commemorate the special occasion in Adrian.



4 Mongolian Grill

Guide: Steven Clark, freshman

The Scoop: Another early fan favorite, this "circle of flavor" is made right in front of the diner, making for a unique and customized culinary experience. Beef, chicken, pork—and even egg! Or have a combination of them all. Just make sure not to drop your fixings bowl on the floor before handing it to the chef.

Why Steven Likes It: "I like the fact they cook it right in front of you quick and fast. It satisfies my hunger. I get chicken and beef every day. And I get the zesty orange sauce with rice."



5 Living Room

Guide: Noah Downs, freshman

The Scoop: This welcoming space greets students as they enter the building, and beckons them to sit and watch TV, check their text messages, talk to a classmate or enjoy the warmth of the fireplace. And the monthly Coffeehouse Music Series is an added bonus.

Why Noah Likes It: "I really like the fireplace. It's just a really nice place to come and study and hang out. I usually like coming out here and just chilling for awhile before I go back up to my room."



1 Bookstore

Guide: Katy Flint, freshman

The Scoop: Barnes & Noble moved from its tucked-away location in Archangelus Ballroom to the main floor of the University Center. It has a little bit of everything, including the latest in official Saints gear. Need a bestseller? Book it for your next visit.

Why Katy Likes It: "I work here, which is great. I love all the staff that works here. My mom is the manager so I get to work with her every day. I really like the supply wall. The fact that everything is organized makes it easier to find and it makes it easier to stock. And we have air conditioning, which is great."



2 SHU Shop

Guide: Angel Cooper, sophomore

The Scoop: The new official snack shop offers fresh and pre-prepared food items and a full array of Starbucks Coffee products. Weekday mornings are fun again on campus. And the \$6 large pizza deal is hard to beat.

Why Angel Likes It: "I come here probably every day. Campus is now like its own little town and you come here and get coffee or a smoothie. It's just so convenient for it to be on campus."



3 Hearth Stone Oven

Guide: Najee Brazzle, junior

The Scoop: The stone oven produces some of the freshest pizza around. It is an early hit with student diners. The topping combinations are endless. Don't forget the pasta station around the corner.

Why Najee Likes It: "I get the pizza every time I come. I usually get the pepperoni pizza. It's my favorite. It has a lot of flavors. You can see them cooking the pizza. It's pretty nice."



6 Commuter Lounge

Guide: John Jaso, freshman

The Scoop: A much-needed space for SHU's commuter student population, this cozy area has locker rooms, a kitchen and a place to nuke meals in a jiffy. No more sitting in the car waiting for the next class.

Why John Likes It: "I spend all my life here. Four or five hours (a day). I like the feel of it. It's homey. I have a locker here."



7 Clock Tower

Guide: Rebecca Roberts, sophomore

The Scoop: Now one of the most prominent features on campus – both visually and acoustically—it has become the "alarm clock" for students. And yes, the bells chime on the half-hour. Don't be late for class!

Why Rebecca Likes It: "You can see it all the way in the art building, and I know what time it is. I can hear (the chimes) all the way behind the Nursing Building during band (practice) so we know when we are allowed to leave."

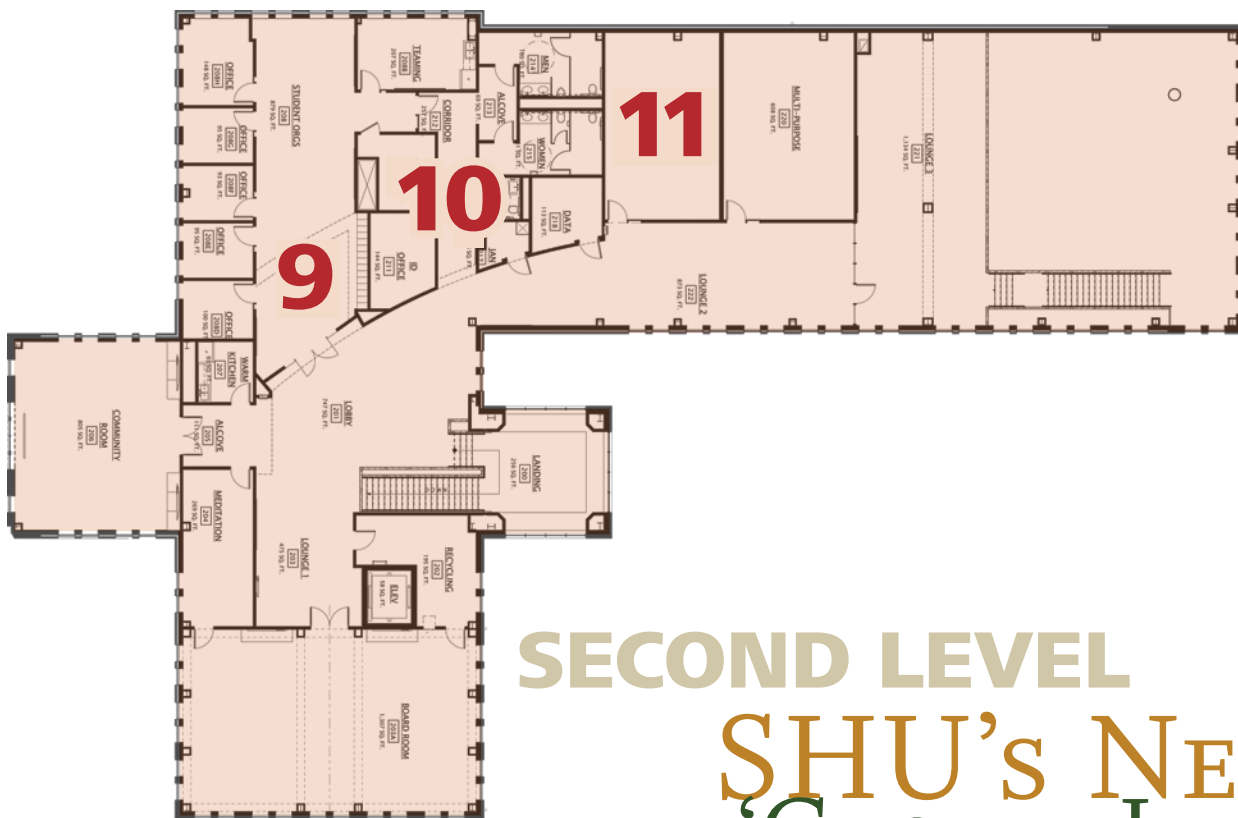


8 Fire Pit & Patio

Guide: Tayler Thelen, junior

The Scoop: An outdoor dining option that can almost be used year around—as long as the fire pit is operational. It is becoming the "back porch" of SHU. Who's got the marshmallows?

Why Tayler Likes It: "The fireplace is a good mutual meeting spot for students on campus to get-together and do homework or just relax. The chairs are unique. They are kind of relaxing. The fire out here radiates a lot of heat. It feels like you are at home when you are around the fire."



SECOND LEVEL SHU's NEW 'CROWN JEWEL'

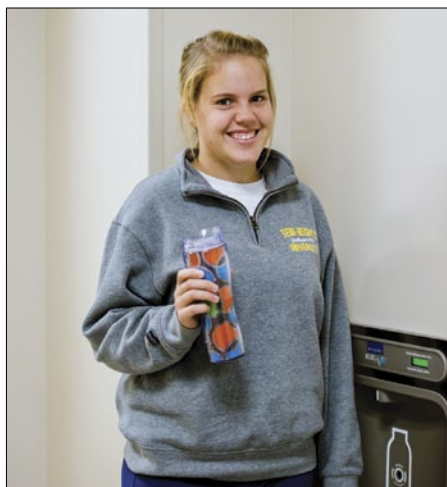


9 The Hub

Guide: Gabe Dunbar, SHU Director of Student Engagement

The Scoop: Appropriately named, The Hub on the second floor is becoming just that for student organizations on campus. And it's just a "cool" place for students to plan and organize. Where do we sign up?

Why Gabe Likes It: "One of the things I really like about it, is it's a very organic area. A lot of students will stop in and do homework. It also provides a great opportunity for student organizations and work-study students to work and organize. And we have 'the jumble.' It is our flexible seating. It's funky and it's fun."

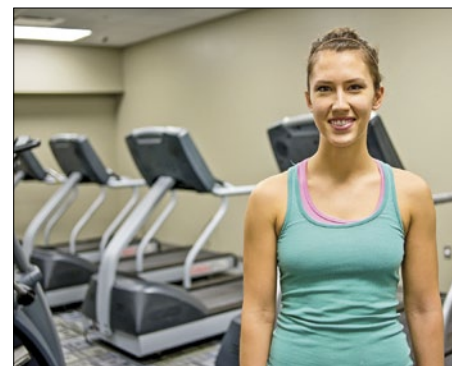


10 Water Bottle Filling Station

Guide: Carly Tillotson, sophomore

The Scoop: One of the more unique and environmentally friendly features in the UC, this machine fills empty water bottles and records how many plastic bottles it's saving in the process. It may be tucked away upstairs, but students are having no trouble finding it.

Why Carly Likes It: "It saves plastic and it's helping the environment. I can use my own water bottle so I don't have to replace the plastic. I use it when I'm up here."



11 Workout Room

Guide: Elizabeth Padgett, junior

The Scoop: Cardio central, this room keeps students fit and allows them a convenient place to work out between classes and homework. The dance room next door is fast becoming a yoga hot spot, too. It will take your breath away.

Why Elizabeth Likes It: "I work out probably five or six days a week. It's great that this is so close to the (Campus Village) apartments. It's like a 10-step walk."

Giving to Siena Heights University

This report is intended to recognize people, foundations, organizations and businesses who contributed to Siena between July 1, 2012, and June 30, 2013. Gifts received after June 30, 2012, will be recognized in next year's report.

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

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Alumni giving plays a critical role in ensuring that Siena remains an institution of opportunity for so many. Because of this, we are working to increase the number of alumni who support the University. Below you'll find a list of class years followed by the percent of alumni who made a gift last fiscal year. We ask that you consider making a gift each and every year. Doing so will increase our alumni giving percentages and, more importantly, help to provide a life-changing experience for our students.

1945	11.11%
1946	7.69%
1947	25.00%
1948	10.00%
1949	18.18%
1950	12.96%
1951	12.00%
1952	18.03%
1953	16.07%
1954	4.00%
1955	19.51%
1956	8.77%
1957	15.00%
1958	13.24%
1959	17.65%
1960	13.95%
1961	8.79%
1962	7.04%
1963	10.74%
1964	14.05%
1965	12.10%
1966	8.21%
1967	21.05%
1968	11.11%
1969	13.51%
1970	11.89%
1971	10.00%
1972	11.57%
1973	12.84%
1974	11.19%
1975	13.17%
1976	9.05%
1977	5.88%
1978	9.79%
1979	7.97%
1980	5.65%
1981	5.70%
1982	8.42%
1983	7.83%
1984	6.11%
1985	5.86%
1986	6.06%
1987	3.85%
1988	5.63%
1989	5.56%
1990	7.92%
1991	3.45%
1992	5.33%
1993	4.47%
1994	5.45%
1995	3.26%
1996	4.06%
1997	2.80%
1998	2.70%
1999	4.71%
2000	2.42%
2001	4.08%
2002	2.84%
2003	3.60%
2004	2.70%
2005	3.35%
2006	2.27%
2007	4.59%
2008	2.37%
2009	2.21%
2010	3.50%
2011	2.72%
2012	3.22%
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SHU alumni and friends have two itineraries to choose from in 2014:

Spring in Paris & Provence, Barcelona & Madrid

Departing May 14: 12 days in France and Spain.

Traveling with SHU Professor of Theater Doug Miller '74 and Siena students.

Cost: \$3,877 double-occupancy (includes airfare).

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Traveling with SHU President Sister Peg Albert and members of the Board of Trustees.

Cost: \$3,799 double-occupancy (includes airfare).



Details: alumni@sienaheights.edu

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from the alumni office



Jennifer A. Hamlin Church
Associate VP for Advancement &
Director of Alumni Relations
(517) 264-7143
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My College, My University, My Siena!

Homecoming 2013: What a weekend! Hundreds of alumni came back to campus, the rain stayed away, there were reunions of all kinds—classes, cheerleaders, sorority sisters, fellow semester-travelers to Italy, baseball players. Read all about it in this issue of Reflections.

We work all year on Homecoming and when it's over, I'm always in a reflective mood. That was especially true this year, because I was honored to be one of your 2013 alumni award winners. Standing on the awards stage at the start of Homecoming gave me a new perspective on Siena. So this seems a good time to talk about my work and why I am so grateful to be at this place.

My job is all about building relationships: inviting friends and alumni (you!) to reconnect meaningfully with the school you once attended. Sometimes, alums are concerned that today's University seems different from the college they attended 20, 30, 50—or 5—years ago. And it is different: There are new buildings. There are men. There are no uniforms or room inspections, no mandatory Mass. There are students who never set foot on campus. Depending on when you attended Siena, any or all of those differences might be jarring.

But at its core, Siena Heights has not changed a lot. Whether in a classroom, over a computer, or on a stage or football field, Siena maintains its commitment to teaching-and-learning together; respecting the dignity of all; and assisting people to become more competent, purposeful and ethical. SHU embraces the Adrian Dominican values of study and the search for truth, prayer and contemplation, community (we are all in this together), and preaching (living your values in the world). One more thing that I appreciate about Siena: there is an unspoken agreement here that faith—whatever yours or mine is—is a topic worthy of reflection and discussion; and in the Catholic spirit of hospitality, all are welcome.

Those are some of the reasons I am inspired by working at Siena Heights.

My job is also interesting. I have unusual experiences, like the time two baby squirrels crawled up inside my pant leg. (That happened while visiting Caryl Widdowson '69, a wildlife rehabilitator in Maine). I hear great stories: I know all the places students went to smoke in the '40s and '50s! I also know about the time, probably in the 1930s, when two Adrian Dominican novices sneaked into the Motherhouse bell tower and rang the bell non-stop. ("People thought the Pope had died!" one Sister recalled with a grin). And I meet wonderful people all the time. I've met some amazing graduates through the Alumni Awards program—people like Ann Tompert '38, who at 95 is still writing children's stories. And Jalal Hosseini '96 from Iran, one of the most persuasive voices for religious tolerance I've ever heard. And Angela Susalla, OP '63, who spoke at last year's awards day about the modern-day heresies of racism and poverty.

So many Siena alums are doing remarkable things in the world. How could I not like my work?

When I came to Siena Heights in 1995, I was inspired by all of those things—and by Siena's historic commitment to non-traditional students as well as traditional 18-23-year-olds. This is a place that empowers students of all ages to learn, grow and give back to their careers and communities. This blend of youth and experience, full-time and part-time, teenager and mid-career executive—a mix I encounter at every Commencement, Kente ceremony and on-the-road alumni event—makes Siena Heights a place I love and am proud to embrace as your newest Honorary Alumna!

Jennifer



SCENES FROM HOMECOMING

"Best Homecoming ever!" We heard those words a lot this year. Lively reunions, big crowds, enthusiastic visitors to the new McLaughlin University Center, good food, energetic athletics, great theater and music and art: It was all here for Homecoming 2013!

Of course, we're already working to make next year's even better. So contact your "classmates fond and true." Start planning now to revisit your "sweet golden days of dreams:"

Homecoming '14: September 26-28, 2014





1—Homecoming fun in the Octoberfest photo-booth! Allan Rodewald '80, Dan Tarrant '80, Joe Orange '82, Crystal Tennant, Susan Dougherty Nixon '78, Sherry Schudlich Forster (77-78), and Vicky DeSanto Clark '79.

2—50th Reunion “Golden Girls” of '63: from left (standing) Dorothy Booms, OP, Barbara LaBerge Seebaldt, Lorraine Sinn, OP, Mary Beth Ozar Katz, Mary Jill Ress Parish; (seated) Mary Murray Plagens, Fran Niedert Merda, Rosemary Hasse Myers. Missing from the photo but present for part of the reunion were: Julia Franko Opalek, Gloria Pyles Riblet, and Rosemary Sivak Hayes.

3—Studio Angelico chefs serve up their creative specialty (pancakes piled high with French fries, cheese, pulled pork, egg and jalapeno—and dubbed “the exorcism”) at the art department tailgate. In Siena’s first-ever tailgating awards competition, these artisans won “Best Grill!”

4—Alumni Award winner Cathy Zick Robinson '69 (2nd from left) celebrates with Paula Lalonde Dart '69 (right) and former classmate Marianne Patterson Kroes and husband Jean.

5—Alumni cheerleaders from '83 Michael Morgan, Donna Kisner Baker and Kathy Bennett (top) show they’ve still got what it takes! The cheer reunion was a lively addition to the Homecoming sidelines.

6—Reunion strong: Jane Korte Waldo '53 (left) and Carole Sporer Stroh '53 celebrate their 60th. (Carole also had the distinction of being the “senior” member of the alumni cheerleading squad at the Homecoming football game!)

7&8—The 30th Reunion Class of 1983 (photo 7) and the 35th Reunion Class of 1978 (photo 8) both enjoyed “long laughter-studded hours with classmates fond and true” during Homecoming. Vince Houle and Dennis Reeder encouraged many 35th reunion alums to return; while Michael Morgan '83 was the spark-plug behind the large turnout for the 30th reunion.

9—Phi Sigma Sigma smiles! Jennifer McClain Root '06, Jessica Broich Stark '07, Brooke Boone '07 and Alumni Award winner Erika Wolcott Henry '07.

10—The student section adds high energy to the atmosphere in O’Laughlin Stadium.

11—Celebrating the 40th anniversary of Eclipse art/literary journal: (from left) Academic VP Sharon Weber, OP '69, first student editor Charles Fort '74, English prof Sister Pat Schnapp, and Geraldine Boykin '81.

12—Dedication of the Donna E. and Delbert J. McLaughlin University Center. The bell tower chimed the hour as guests received SHU cow bells to ring in a new era.

13—Sirens of the '70s: (from left) Ruth LaFontaine '72, guest Carla Nicolazzo, Denise Buck '73, Kathy Forner '73, Judy Hill '74, Claire Lubaway '73.

14—Hugs were plentiful during Homecoming for SHU Mascot Halo the Husky.

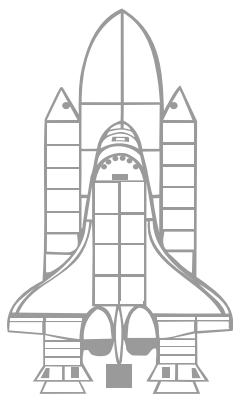
Mission Accomplished

Alumni Profile



McNair Graduate Matt Larson '07 Completes PhD, a First for SHU-Based Program

By Doug Goodnough



McNair
Scholars Reach
Great Heights

Matt Larson '07 was the first, and hopefully, not the last. The graduate of the McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program was the first Siena Heights University student to receive his doctorate since the program was instituted on the SHU campus.

Larson, who finished his dissertation and earned a PhD in criminology and criminal justice from Arizona State University last spring, is currently an assistant professor in the College of Public Health and Social Justice at St. Louis University.

"When I started at Siena I had no clue that I would go on to graduate school," said Larson, a first-generation college student. "I was just thrilled to be pursuing my bachelor's degree."

In fact, Larson was perfectly content running on the track team and taking criminal justice courses until he discovered McNair, a federally funded program designed to encourage eligible students to pursue graduate studies leading to the completion of a doctoral degree.

"I found out about the McNair program at about the same time I started to fall out of love with running and in love with academics," Larson said. "I knew at that point that graduate school was one of my options, so applying was a no-brainer."

He said McNair, especially Director Dr. Pat Wallace, had a "defining impact on my life's trajectory."

"The McNair opportunity was a blessing, and my relationship with Dr. Wallace means the world," Larson said. "One of the concepts central to life course and developmental criminology is what's referred to as a 'turning point.' Without question, my relationship with her was the turning point of my college career."

He said the process of earning a doctorate certainly resembles running a marathon.

"The PhD is an exhausting process," said Larson, who first earned his master's degree in criminal justice from Wayne State University in 2009. "But if you're committed to it, love what you're studying, have a fighter's mentality and have the reasoning and writing skills to keep you alive, you'll get through it."

The McNair program helps develop those "survival" skills, he said.

"The early introduction to research helped me establish a solid foundation for graduate school and what that world looks like," Larson said. "McNair also helped professionalize me, which I really believe is one of the most important pieces of the puzzle."

Now, he is helping shape other young minds for the future. His responsibilities at SLU are three-fold: teaching, research and mentoring. He is involved in the "First Billikens" program to help first-year, first-generation students effectively transition into college. And he said the SLU faculty remind him of the faculty at Siena Heights.

Life is good inside and outside of the classroom, too. Larson, who cheers on Notre Dame football and Detroit Tigers baseball from afar, still runs an occasional half marathon and just purchased St. Louis men's basketball season tickets.

"There's nothing better than working from wherever you want whenever you want," Larson said. "St. Louis has an inordinate amount of culture, far more than I expected actually."

He encourages other Siena Heights students to take full advantage of what the McNair program offers.

"Apply," he said. "I can assure you that McNair is well worth your time and will have a lasting impact on you no matter how far you choose to take your education. The mentorship you receive from Dr. Wallace and those others who are involved with McNair is invaluable and will make your time at Siena even more memorable and worthwhile." ♦

find us on facebook—search for shu alumni



from the alumni association



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

Falling in Love All Over Again

I am very excited to be the newest President of the SHU Alumni Association. After graduation, I stayed connected to Siena for nearly a decade before drifting away...life just seemed to get in the way. But in 2006, I attended Sister Peg Albert's presidential inauguration—and I have been drawn back ever since. You might say I fell in love with Siena all over again. The more time I spent on campus, the more I remembered what drew me here in the first place: the people and sense of community.

If you attended Homecoming 2013, you know about the excitement on campus and the incredible happenings that continue here. I consider myself blessed to be a part of this growing university. As I reflect on Homecoming, I can't help but think it is the culmination of many small, meaningful connections that made the weekend so spectacular. And these connections, in turn, are what make this a spectacular university. Let me share a few observations:

- Listening to our award winners at the Alumni Awards ceremony, I was reminded of the true value of a Siena Heights education. When one fully uses the education and values learned here, the sky is the limit. I am in awe of this year's recipients.
- Two members of the 50th Reunion class came away from the new University Center distressed at having missed Saturday brunch in the dining hall—and wondering where to eat. Our new Alumni Association Vice President, Katie Hatch '07, came to the women's assistance, guiding them to the art department tailgate where they were welcomed for lunch with open arms. The '63 grads made new friends—and experienced their first “Exorcism,” the traditional gastronomical delight prepared by the spirited Studio Angelico artisans.
- At Saturday's 40th anniversary of the Eclipse literary publication, I witnessed the bond between Eclipse founders and current staff and students. The readings they shared provided a calming oasis in this high-energy weekend. What talented writers and artists we have in our midst!
- The alumni cheerleaders who joined the SHU cheer and dance team for the football game gave everyone a reason to cheer. Now, THAT'S entertainment!
- Welcoming the Spencer family has become a Homecoming tradition. Hearing Mary Spencer speak of her parents, Delbert and Donna McLaughlin, for whom the University Center is named, made me appreciate this structure as a warm gathering space for the Siena Heights family. I believe the McLaughlins would be proud of this new “home” established in their names.
- SHU musicians provided amazing music all weekend, but nothing was more beautiful than when Dr. Beth Tibbs invited alumni to join the choir at the front of St. Dominic Chapel for the Alma Mater after Sunday Mass. There were few dry eyes among us.

The Alumni Board, Sainly Supporters (former Board members who just can't say “no”) and the SHU Advancement team worked tirelessly to make the weekend a success. Whether driving a hospitality golf cart, greeting visitors at every venue, taking tickets or deejaying Octoberfest, these individuals ensured that events ran smoothly and everyone had fun. I am grateful to you all.

Yes, Homecoming was spectacular. But don't wait for Homecoming; come home any time. This is YOUR campus, whether or not you took your classes here. Come meet the faculty, cheer the athletic teams, attend a theater or music event, or volunteer your time and talent. If you can't get here in person, join us on Facebook. However you decide to experience it, come home soon. You, too, might fall in love all over again!



class notes

FROM THE SITES

Benton Harbor

2007

Kimberly Wise was recently promoted to director of Human Resources at South Haven Health System. She and her husband, Ronald, and their two children, Anthony and Madison, reside in South Haven, Mich.

Lansing

2009



DeMarquis Battle recently published his first book titled "Don't Bow: Standing Against the Idols of Our Generation."

Earlier in 2013 he graduated with a master's degree in Bible and Theology from Lincoln Christian University. It was his second master's degree. He is employed in the financial aid department at Davenport University and resides in Lansing, Mich.

Monroe

2007

Lisa Doan opened a new business in June 2013 in Monroe, Mich. Inside Looking Out is a custom drapery design shop that carries accessories, local artists' designs and home décor.

2012

Misozi Houston and her husband, Anthony, announced the birth of their daughter, Lily, on July 4, 2012. The family resides in Bushkill, Pa.

Online

2013

Kelly Beymer is continuing her education in the master's program at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. She will continue her career as a radiologist assistant. She resides in Whitestown, Ind.

Southfield

1989

Tim Krumholz currently works as a principal quality engineer for Rockwell Collins, a military and commercial avionics supplier. He currently resides in Anamosa, Iowa.

1997



David Conklin was named the new director of the Genesee (Mich.) District Library in May 2013. He is the director of all 19

district branches, and formerly was the director of the Shelby Township Library and 19 years in the Oakland County Library system. He is a resident of Atlas Township, Mich.

2005

Regina Rogers Taylor is studying for her master's degree in information resource management at Central Michigan University. She is scheduled to graduate in May 2014. She and her husband, Jason, reside in Dearborn, Mich.

2008

Les Morrison recently was named the director of Marriage and Family Services at the Perspectives of Troy (Mich.) counseling centers. He also conducts marriage seminars and retreats at the Perspectives' office as well as at churches in the Midwest.

MAIN CAMPUS

1975

Leslie Butler works as a claims supervisor for EMC Insurance Co. in Lansing, Mich. He resides in Lansing.

1977



Gail Kowalski was featured in the June edition of Rapaport Magazine, a publication that chronicles the diamond jewelry industry news and economic trends.

The article is titled "Hollywood Likes Us: Gail Kowalski creates red-carpet designs from her JBG Jewelry by Gail gallery located on the wild Outer Banks of North Carolina." It details her career and events leading to her successes on the red-carpet Hollywood scene. The full article can be seen in the news section at jewelrybygail.com. Kowalski is a 36-year resident of Nags Head, N.C., and has won numerous national and international awards.

Kenneth Thompson had his solo exhibit on display titled "The Illustrated Facts of Global Warming" at the Lenawee County of Visual Arts at the Crosswell Opera House from Sept. 25-Nov. 9. Thompson is the owner of Flatlanders Art Gallery and Supply in Blissfield, Mich.

1978

Donald Ford is retired from the Barry County (Mich.) Sheriff's Department. He resides in Micanopy, Fla.

1983

Michele Seaman Morrell reported the death of her husband, David, who drowned in Puerto Rico while working for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security earlier this year. She asked that the Siena community keep her and her two daughters in their prayers. They reside in Sandusky, Mich.

1984

Kenneth Kops was assigned as chief of staff with the U.S. Army Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command (Airborne) at Fort Bragg, N.C. In July 2013 Col. Kops was awarded the Legion of Merit medal for his meritorious service while assigned to the 353rd Civil Affairs Command, where he served as deputy commander before his new assignment. He and his wife, Yeon, live by the motto, "Ain't life grand!" They reside in Brooklyn, N.Y.

1985

John Detro was promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel with the U.S. Army on Sept. 5, 2013, during a ceremony at the Fort Bragg (N.C.) Medical Simulations Training Center.

His former high school track coach, Frank Connolly, and his mother, Grace, attended the ceremony and helped pin on his new rank. Detro is the XVIII Airborne Corps deputy surgeon for clinical operations and training and supervises the site that trains thousands of first responders and medics who have deployed in support of the global war on terrorism. When the XVIII ABC headquarters will deploy to Afghanistan early in 2014, he will remain on the base as Task Force Bragg surgeon.

1986



Scott McClure was recently hired as the athletic director at MacMurray College in Jacksonville, Ill. He was a former

sports information director, coach and adjunct instructor at Siena Heights and also worked at the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for many years.

1989



Larry Bryant threw out the opening pitch on April 27, 2013, before the Detroit Tigers baseball game honoring the Negro Leagues. Bryant received the honor as an employee at Comerica Bank.

1993

Tracey Ladd was recently named the new director of the Starkweather Arts Center in Romeo, Mich. Ladd has taught art at several universities and was also a coordinator at the Toledo Museum of Art. As an artist, she works in the mediums of silversmithing, painting, and glass.

1996

Matt Ostapowicz is employed as a lieutenant in the Special Response Team with the Grand Rapids (Mich.) Police Department. He and his wife, Amy, and their three children reside in Jenison, Mich.

1998

Mark Harvey is employed in sales at DirectBuy of Woodbridge, Va. He and his wife, Stacey, and their two children reside in Woodbridge.

2002



Sister Paula Terese Pilon professed her final vows as a sister of the Congregation of St. Joseph Sept. 21 at the

congregation's center in Nazareth, Mich. Sister Paula entered the congregation in 2003 and began her novitiate in 2005. She currently works as the coordinator for Workplace Spirituality for Borgess Health. She is also pursuing a master's degree in Pastoral Studies at the Catholic Theological Union.

2003

Courtney Aldrich works as a victim rights specialist with the Mackinac County (Mich.) Prosecutor's Office. She is also nationally credentialed as an intermediate level advocate with the specialties of sexual assault intervention and comprehensive/system based intervention through the National Organization for Victim Assistance. She resides in St. Ignace.

Gabrielle Clemons was recently hired as a graphic designer for Sparrow Health Systems in Lansing, Mich.

2005

Sandra Mroz is employed as a therapist at Parkside Family Counseling in Adrian, Mich. She resides in Adrian.

Nichole Markusic Zimmerman is employed as a computer teacher at the Woodward Academy in Detroit, Mich. She and her husband, Joseph, and their son, Lucas, reside in Plymouth, Mich.

2006

Rebecca Pavka is employed as an admissions representative at Davenport University. She resides in Wixom, Mich.

2007

Audra Miller and Bradley Mohler were united in marriage Dec. 29, 2012, at the historic Baker Street Station in downtown, Ft. Wayne, Ind. The bride is the owner of A. Miller Photography in Delphos, Ohio. The couple resides in Delphos.

2009

Liz Artz graduated in May 2013 with a master's degree in educational leadership from Central Michigan University. She is currently employed as a student engagement coordinator at Lawrence Technological University in Southfield, Mich.



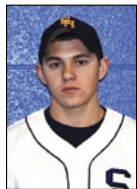
Chet Hesson was named the new assistant athletic director for compliance at Stetson University in DeLand, Fla. He is respon-

sible for the administration of a comprehensive NCAA Division I, Atlantic Sun Conference and Pioneer League rules compliance program. His primary duties include investigation and reporting of rules infractions, preparation of waivers and releases, monitoring of playing and practicing seasons and recruiting.

2010

Kelly Sawyer Woodland works as an accounting assistant with the State of Michigan. She and her husband, Lance, reside in Pleasant Lake, Mich.

2012



Corey Alexander signed a professional baseball contract with the Traverse City Beach Bums, a member of the independent

Frontier League. Alexander, a left-handed pitcher, was signed for the 2014 season. In his senior year at SHU, he was 8-4 with a 1.96 earned run average and helped the Saints to a conference tournament title and an appearance in the NAIA national tournament. It will be his first appearance in professional baseball.

Kyle Armstrong is beginning his second year as a graduate assistant track and field coach at William Penn University in Oskaloosa, Iowa. He is studying for his master's degree in business leadership.

Stephen Guerra is beginning his second year as a math teacher at St. John's Jesuit High School and Academy in Toledo, Ohio. He said, "I am very thankful to the faculty at Siena through my time there. ...

I feel so prepared and ready to take on anything. ... It makes me very glad I chose Siena for my undergrad and shows that they truly are renowned for educating teachers. Even my principal had heard of SHU, and I can't help but think that is what put me at the top of the list."



Tama Lunsford and her husband **Nathan '15**, celebrated the birth of their daughter, Rose Louise, Aug. 28, 2013 (above). The family resides in Tecumseh, Mich.

2013



Andy Switzer is currently working as an English teacher at Yiling Senior High School in Yichang City, China. He works with 3,000

students and teaches 14 classes a week. He is doing private lessons through a Cambridge University-sponsored program called "Online School of Education." He said, "I found myself reviewing old Siena notes, lesson plan designs and student teaching reflections. There are truly invaluable and really made a huge difference."

DEATHS

Alumni

- Marjorie Gable Reagan '44
- Sister Martin Mary Ryan, OP '49
- Sister Joan Liberty, OP '50
- Sister Marjorie McEntee, OP '52
- Catherine Turner '52
- Clare Wrona Marcyan '53
- Ann Rose Cummins '54
- Sister Mary Margaret Donnelly, OP '54
- Sister Shirley Ruder, OP '54
- Sister Paul Emelia Brown, OP '55
- Sister Helene Dompierre, OP '55
- Sister Michele Gebhardt, OP '55
- Sister Clara Patricks, OP '55
- Sister Jean Harlan, OP '56
- Joan Watson Klusnick '58
- Dr. Marvel Proton '60, '66/MA
- Sister Kathleen Gaynor, OP '61
- Sister Ursula Ording, OP '61
- Sister Donna Kustusich, OP '63
- Sister Mary Patrice Kerin, OSF '64/MA
- Sister Anne Wasco, OP '67
- Shawn Medley '06
- Chris Comstock '08

Friends

Marilee Uyttenhove—former SHU staff member.

NOTABLE:

Eric Walter '05 set a couple of joggling Guinness world records at O'Laughlin Stadium in April 2013. Joggling is running while juggling. He ran 1,000 meters on the SHU track in a record time of 2:46.63. The time to beat was 3 minutes flat. In the 400 meter he ran a 56.47 (57.32 was the old record). Walter also won the 200, 400, 800 and the 4x100 relay at the 2011 World Joggling Championships in Rochester, Minn.



Sister Donna Kustusich, OP, '63 a long-time faculty member at SHU, passed away in July 2013. "Donna's determination came from her deep commitments—to her students and to the mission of Siena Heights; to her sisters and to the mission of the congregation; to the call of the gospel for a preferential option for the poor; and to her prayer relationship with God," said SHU Vice President of Academic Affairs Sister Sharon Weber, OP, a former colleague. A faculty member in the Religious Studies program from 1975-92, she had the challenge of bringing the curriculum to a new generation of students. For her enthusiasm in the classroom and her concern for the growth of each of her students, she received the award for outstanding teaching in 1991.

She also established the Spirituality and Peacemaking Institute in 1988. The institute provided such offerings as a variety of lectures in collaboration with Weber Center, prayer opportunities for students and a conference "Dominican Education in Search of Peace." Her commitment to the Adrian Dominican Sisters' vision of acting on behalf of the poor drew her to her work on the U.S.-Mexico border. In fact, she received the Sister Ann Joachim Award in 2002 for her work serving impoverished women and children in Juarez, Mexico, and El Paso, Texas.



Matt Keller '03 was recently named the vice president of Federal Services at GuidePoint Security in Reston, Va. "Matt brings an unrivaled skill set to our Professional Services team that includes a strong background in practical, hands-on federal information security engineering and leadership experience," said Justin Morehouse, founder and principal at GuidePoint Security. "He will be the catalyst that brings GuidePoint Security's industry-leading professional services to the Federal market and our team is honored and excited by his arrival." According to a company release, the company will lever-

age Keller's experience to extend its Information Assurance and Technology Integration services, including incident response and forensics, computer network defense and security architecture and design.

Keller has more than 15 years of IT experience managing and engineering solutions across both private and government networks. He previously was principal security engineer, team and technical lead and computer network defense architect for a government contract. Prior to that appointment, Keller served as the senior cyber forensics analyst and forensic lab manager for a Department of Defense cyber security operation center. He and wife, Priscilla, also recently celebrated a birth of a son, Theodore. The family lives in Leesburg, Va.

Gordie Theisen '82, '11/MA, joined his son, former SHU assistant baseball coach Eric Theisen, on the Hillsdale College baseball coaching staff. Gordie, who coached the Saints' baseball program from 1987-2003, is serving as HC's recruiting coordinator and pitching coach. Before joining his son at Hillsdale, Gordie was an assistant baseball coach at Adrian College. Eric took over as head coach at Hillsdale in May after serving as an assistant. The Chargers are members of the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference and NCAA Division II.



Taking the Mission to Heart, and Out Into the World

Award Winners Honored at Homecoming Ceremony

The Acapelicans began the ceremony with a rousing version of “Hall of Fame” and the Siena Heights Cheerleaders brought down the house with a surprise tribute cheer at the end. In between, this year’s Alumni Award winners shared inspiring stories of service, challenge and accomplishment. Central to each person’s journey? The commitment to becoming more competent, purposeful and ethical—to teaching and learning through life—and to respecting the dignity of all. What a great kickoff for Homecoming!

Meet the 2013 Alumni Award recipients. You’ll cheer, too!



Recent Graduate Award
Erika Wolcott Henry '07
(Dunwoody, Ga.)

After graduating with a degree in biology, Erika enrolled in graduate study at Life University College of Chiropractic in Georgia. Today, Dr. Erika is owner and operator of Elite Chiropractic, a family wellness practice in Atlanta providing chiropractic care and rehabilitative therapies for children, teens and adults. A published author and a member of the editorial board for the Georgia Chiropractic Association, she is also an active volunteer, providing chiropractic care to the homeless during an annual feed-the-hungry event, working with her church, and chairing the young professionals group at the Chamber of Commerce. “I am truly grateful and honored to be recognized as an alumni award recipient,” Erika said. “It was a pleasure sharing the experience with the other five winners — from the awards ceremony and the banquet to the football game! This Homecoming will forever be a cherished memory!” Erika was nominated by Angela Edward Gbeyetin '09 and introduced by Brooke Boone '07, both Phi Sigma Sigma sorority sisters. To honor Erika at their Homecoming tailgate, the Phi Sigs wore t-shirts with Erika’s name on the back!



Saint Dominic Award
Jean Hughes, OP '68
(Chicago, Ill.)

Sister Jean studied biology at Siena Heights, but her lifelong passion has been social justice. That passion has infused her teaching in the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico, her leadership as the last principal of Chicago’s Aquinas High School; her community organizing at the 8th Day Center for Justice; and, for the past two decades, her tireless advocacy work at St. Leonard’s Ministries, assisting formerly incarcerated men and women with re-entry into the community. Sister Jean offered “the three most important things I have learned in 75 years.” Number 1: “Take sides. Create a moral code that requires a response.” And, remember sometimes to side with the most vulnerable in our society. Number 2: “Put yourself in places where you will learn from other cultures—so you can relate to the world’s people as fellow travelers. It’s amazing and humbling what you can learn if you are open to it.” Number 3: “Love freely. Sometimes it is hard, but it is always rewarding.” The universe is moving forward, evolving into whatever it is to be, she said; we don’t know the plan, so the best we can do “is to love all of creation.” Jean was nominated by Mary Ann Corley '61. Friends and colleagues, including Rita Corley-Baker '70, Renny Golden '60 and Adrian Dominican Sisters from Chicago and Adrian, joined Jean for the Alumni Awards celebration.





Sister Ann Joachim Award
Catherine Zick Robinson '69
(Ypsilanti, Mich.)

As a social worker serving the homeless, the poor and those struggling with addictions, Cathy longed to meet the spiritual as well as the practical needs of those she served. And that is what she has done for 23 years as executive director of Hope Medical Clinic. Once a weekly half-day clinic in borrowed space, Hope today is a multifaceted ministry operating fulltime medical and dental clinics, a food pantry, baby care program, Care and Share Closet providing non-food necessities, a free laundry program, free weekend meals, and occasional emergency assistance. In addition to a 20,000-squarefoot facility in Ypsilanti, Hope operates a satellite clinic in western Wayne County. "It's been exciting and faith building to see where God has taken us," Cathy said. Along the way, she has learned some timeless lessons: "If I ask God to lead and guide me, he will do just that"—even making course corrections and making up for personal shortfalls. "God's call on each of our lives is somewhat different," Cathy said; but "I think that whatever that call might be, Sister Ann Joachim—a person very much committed to social justice—would encourage us to have the Scripture from Micah be our guide: 'What does God require of us but to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God.'" Cathy was nominated by Melissa Burkhardt '11. Classmates Paula LaLonde Dart '69 and Marianne Patterson Kroess also celebrated with her.



Outstanding Alumni Award
Jason Sanderson '92
(Toledo, Ohio)

Jason is a dedicated artist and educator who, in 20 years teaching at Michigan's Bedford High School, has transformed the BHS art department, dramatically expanding the curriculum and faculty. Jason credits his accomplishments to the support of a loving family, the enduring values he first learned as a Boy Scout—and the opportunities, encouragement and challenge he encountered at Siena Heights. Father David Van Horn hooked Jason on Siena's art program; but it was Sister Eileen Rice in education who really got him on the right path: She gave 100 percent, he recalled, and made it clear Jason needed to do the same. "The teacher I am today is because of Eileen," he said. "I feel that it is my calling to give 100 percent to the job of teaching art to high school students, encouraging them, finding them artistic opportunities, developing their boundless talents, and guiding them on a path to post-secondary study"—then making sure they find scholarship help to make it happen. Inspired by his mentoring, Jason's students often look at Siena Heights, finding as he did "a place where you are given the tools to head down whatever path you choose." To celebrate Jason's Outstanding Alumni honor, SHU art alumni who are also "his" high school alums mounted an exhibition of their work titled "Progression" in Studio Angelico's Gallery 10. Jason was nominated by Trudy McSorley '70, who hosted a party for him, wife Julie, and friends—especially Jim '91 and Tina DiGiorgio '93 Forsythe.



Outstanding Alumni Award
Michael Morgan '83
(Farmington, Conn.)

A theater and speech-communication major at Siena, Michael has built a career in the insurance field—but he lives and breathes creativity and service. Passionate about the arts, he is a dancer, actor, choreographer, drama teacher, and cheer coach—in addition to his full-time job. He also currently serves on the boards of the West Hartford Community Theater, St. Philip House, the Imperial Sovereign Court of All Connecticut, and the SHU Alumni Association. Possibly the best known cheerleader in Saints history, Michael was nicknamed Flounder as an undergrad in the early '80s when his Flounder Flops (as many as 25 consecutive cartwheels) highlighted halftime at Saints basketball games. "Siena was such a good fit for me," he said, recalling the friendships and support he found here in class, in theater, in Student Senate and cheerleading, and in his early struggle to come to grips with being a gay male. "Everything I learned at Siena has been so helpful in what I've done with my life." Today, Michael is an innovative leader in the LGBT community and a dedicated volunteer and fund raiser for cancer and HIV/AIDS research, awareness and support. Michael was nominated by Kathy Cark '82. He celebrated Homecoming Weekend with Kathy, Jared Flayer '81, all returning members of the 30th reunion class of '83, and all alumni cheerleaders who returned to cheer on the sidelines of the football game with Michael and the current cheer and dance students!



Honorary Alumni Award
Jennifer Hamlin Church
(Petersburg, Mich.)

An enthusiastic promoter of the mission and Dominican values of Siena Heights, Jennifer has shaped the University's alumni program for 18 years, initiating new events and opportunities on campus, across the country, and (through alumni travel) around the world. In her first eight years, she also directed the communications office, editing Reflections and writing class notes about hundreds of graduates. Her innovative programming, creative communication, fascination with Siena's history and traditions, and genuine affection for alumni have inspired graduates of all ages and SHU programs to serve and support Siena Heights. "Alumni Awards day has always been one of my favorite events," she said, "because through it I've met such amazing people. But it's not just those who win awards: There are so many SHU alumni doing good things in the world—how could I not love this job?" Jennifer noted that in prior years she had told many alumni honorees how proud the University was to call each of them "one of ours." "Today," she added, "I am so proud to be able to say...I am one of yours!" Jennifer was nominated by current and past members of the Alumni Board, who managed the nomination secretly.

alumni news

Tell Us Your Stories About:

Sister Leonilla Barlage, OP

The Alumni Office wants to expand its memory bank about Siena's early faculty. We have dates and titles, but we want your input—anecdotes of personal stories to bring those teaching legends to life. In the last Reflections, we asked about Sister Ann Joachim (see below). This time the spotlight is on Sister Leonilla Barlage.

Here's what we know: Professor of English, Speech and Drama (1934-45, 1948-69). An innovator who directed yearly productions including the annual Lenten play. She established the "Little Theater" for productions in the basement of Sacred Heart Hall, across from the radio station she established (now SHU marketing and an adjoining faculty office) where students went on-air for a local radio station (photo below).

What can you tell us about Sister Leonilla? Bring the picture to life. Send your recollections to: SHU Alumni Office, 1247 E. Siena Heights Dr., Adrian, MI 49221, or alumni@sienaheights.edu.



Insights into Sister Ann Joachim, OP

Thanks to all who sent stories about Sister "AJ." Here are a few:

"I met Sister 'AJ' within a week of my arrival at Siena. I was a lowly freshman. We students were eating lunch when this Dominican nun—in my eyes she was 6' tall—came striding into Benincasa cradling a shotgun! 'I'm gonna get that crow yet!' she announced. Later, of course, I got to know her as an inspired political science teacher."

—Marianne Egan McKeague '54

"You did not cross your legs in Sister's class. If you forgot, her stern look reminded you immediately."

—Rose Marie Campbell Freeman '56

"I was impressed seeing Sister Ann study from 3x5 cards she always carried with her as she walked from here to there. I was an immigrant from the Netherlands and Sister helped prepare me for the examination and citizenship process."

—Maggie van Staveren '69.

Speaking Your Mind: Reports on Recent SHU Alumni Email Surveys

You & SHU: What did you get? What do you want? What can you give?

In late August, the Alumni Office sent a quick survey to all alumni with current email addresses on file. We asked three questions: What did you get from Siena? What do you want from Siena? And what ideas can you give to the Alumni Association? At their retreat a few days later, the Alumni Board focused on the same questions. Responses from the two groups were quite similar:

- Most (but not all) people thought they got a great education from SHU, with valuable extras such as faith, purpose, "encouragement as a young woman," "sensitivity to people problems" that job experience had not provided, and leadership skills.
- Responses to the "what do you want from Siena" question ranged widely, but included: more and better ways to network, communicate and connect (with each other and with the University); opportunities for academic and professional development; career support; fun events and travel opportunities; spiritual nourishment; and defined alumni benefits.
- The third question—ideas for the Alumni Association—was the hardest for both the email group and Alumni Board members. The Board finally identified six areas to investigate: programming (professional development, etc.), career connections (networking, mentoring students), alumni perks, community-building, enriched communication, and engagement with SHU current students.

Thanks to all who took the time to respond thoughtfully to our outreach. The Alumni Board is always interested in your views; share your ideas anytime at: alumni@sienaheights.edu.

Detroit Area Alumni Events:

Following last spring's trio of Thursday after-hours alumni gatherings in Ann Arbor, Detroit, and St. Clair, the alumni office solicited feedback via "Survey Monkey." Here's what you told us:

- Communication about the event was well above average (69% of respondents ranked it "excellent"). The two most relied-upon types of communication were email followed by U.S. mail; but more than half of respondents also rely on phone or Facebook.
- Almost everyone was interested in the updates on Siena (offered by SHU President Sister Peg Albert and VP Mitch Blonde); and refreshments at all events earned high marks.
- Event locations (Majestic Theater in Detroit, River Crab in St. Clair, Kapnick Insurance at Briarwood in Ann Arbor) and meeting times (weekdays after work) were mostly convenient or very convenient; no one found the venues or times inconvenient.
- Fully 92% of respondents gave the events an overall "excellent" or "above average" rating and everyone agreed they would attend future alumni events, with dinner theater and Homecoming finishing 1 and 2 respectively in the "likely to attend" ranking. One responder summed it up this way: "Attendance at an alumni event is a great way to unwind, meet alumni, network and stay connected."

Thanks to those who responded. We value your opinions and suggestions; and will keep them in mind as we schedule this year's outreach events in Michigan/Ohio and across the country.

Stay In Touch!

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

Call (800) 693-0506, snail mail to: Siena Heights Alumni Office, 1247 E. Siena Heights Dr., Adrian, MI 49221 or email alumni@sienaheights.edu.

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



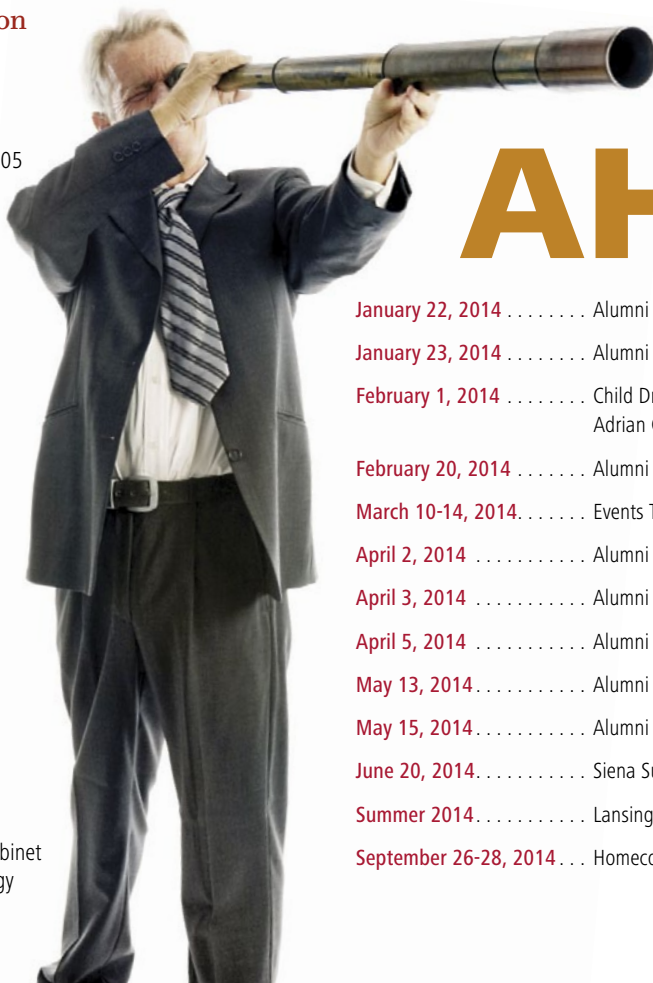
“I have been blessed in that the finest years of my teaching career have been here at Siena. I hope that part of my legacy is from the students that I have mentored; however, I also wish to support future Saints that I will not have the opportunity to teach. Being a member of the Heritage Society is just one small way that I can give back to a place that has meant so much to me.”

Julieanna Frost, Ph.D.
SHU Associate Professor of History

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

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- Denise M. Washington '00, '05
(Battle Creek)
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- Faculty Representative—Dr. Julius Nagy



LOOKING AHEAD!

- January 22, 2014** Alumni Lunch at Alfano's, Clearwater, FL
- January 23, 2014** Alumni Lunch at The Veranda, Fort Myers, FL
- February 1, 2014** Child Drama 50th Anniversary Gala & "A Midsummer Night's Midterm"
Adrian Campus: details—jwarner1@sienaheights.edu
- February 20, 2014** Alumni After-Hours at Toledo Museum of Art
- March 10-14, 2014** Events TBA: San Diego and San Francisco, CA
- April 2, 2014** Alumni After-Hours at the Hilton, Chicago, IL
- April 3, 2014** Alumni After-Hours at Clara's on the River, Battle Creek, MI
- April 5, 2014** Alumni Dinner & Theater: "Pride and Prejudice", Adrian Campus
- May 13, 2014** Alumni After-Hours at Holiday Inn, Southgate, MI
- May 15, 2014** Alumni After-Hours at Lochmoor Country Club, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI
- June 20, 2014** Siena Summer Spectacular for Scholarships, Adrian Campus
- Summer 2014** Lansing Lugnuts and Toledo Mud Hens events, TBA
- September 26-28, 2014** Homecoming 2014



**Walk right in.
Sit right down!**



Campus Benches Commemorate Alumni, Friends

By Jennifer Hamlin Church

Outside the main entrance to the McLaughlin University Center, Alice Robie Resnick '61 on one side waves to her faculty mentor, Sr. Ann Joachim, OP, on the other. At the opposite entrance, the 2012-13 Alumni Board sits for a spell.

And in Trinity Garden, Marjorie (Mickey) Gable Reagan '44 tosses her red curls and laughs merrily, inviting classmates to stop for a visit as they pass by.

OK, so those people are not here, not in body anyway; but they—and others—are back at Siena in spirit, engaged in today's University thanks to the new commemorative benches all around campus. Ten benches, each with its own plaque, invite students, faculty and visitors to rest for a moment and—perhaps—remember or imagine the people named there.

When the bench project reached mailboxes a year ago, Jim Reagan, Mickey Reagan's eldest son, was one of the first responders. His mother had died recently. He and his four brothers—Bill, Dan, Chris and Shawn—thought a bench on campus would be “a wonderful tribute to our mother who had great memories of her days at Siena Heights.” The daughter of a St. Joseph Academy alumna, Mickey Gable came from Lorain, OH, to enroll in Siena's two-year secretarial program. Pictures from 1943 and '44 show her smiling—always—with friends: laughing at the top of a flagpole pyramid in front of Sacred Heart Hall, perched on the railing overlooking Trinity Garden, posed in front of the archangel sculpture on a spring day as the snow melts. Mickey's bench now sits under the Trinity Garden gingko tree, just outside Benincasa, a welcome resting spot for students between classes.



Judge Resnick was an early fan of the bench project, too. “What a great idea!” she said. Now all alumni from the 35 years of Sister “AJs” faculty tenure can sit down and revisit their memories of the legendary professor.

There's plenty of room for more benches. If you would like to name one for yourself, a friend, group or special professor, contact the advancement office (advancement@sienaheights.edu). Other commemorative giving opportunities include trees for the campus and bricks for the McLaughlin University Center plaza. Let us know if you would like more information.

In the meantime, come visit. Stroll the campus, find a bench, sit down and enjoy the view. You never know who might be there! ♦





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