

# REFLECTIONS

## SHATTERING STEREOTYPES

Elizabeth McCormick '93  
Overcomes Adversity to  
Become Black Hawk Pilot





## from the president



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

### The (Adrian) Dominican Tradition is Alive and Well

It's been a year to remember at Siena Heights University.

Of course, all eight or so years I have been at Siena Heights have turned out to be memorable in their own way. But this year, there was a special emphasis on strengthening the Dominican tradition on campus.

Last spring, faculty member Sister Pat Walter, OP, delivered an end-of-the-year address to our faculty and staff on our Catholic identity. Her presentation sparked a newfound interest in just what that “identity” was on our campus. In fact, many of our faculty and staff—some of whom are not even Catholic—wanted to know more about this “Catholic, Dominican tradition.”

This spring, we had a series of luncheon discussions exploring aspects of our Catholic identity. These occurred not only on the Adrian campus, but at some of our other campuses around Michigan.

Integrating the Dominican tradition in a more visible way is also happening with many of our academic programs, especially in the liberal arts. And our newly designed Leadership program in the Graduate College will have the Dominican tradition as a focus.

There also is a spiritual movement happening with some of our students on campus. Last fall, a Dominican Young Adults chapter was officially formed at Siena Heights. This group was initiated by some of our students and has sparked a “revival” of sorts in our Campus Ministry Program.

On April 29, we had another significant moment on campus when our new altar was dedicated during a special ceremony in St. Dominic Chapel on the feast day of St. Catherine of Siena. The bishop came down to help us celebrate this rare occasion. The event was another opportunity for the Siena community to experience that Catholic, Dominican tradition in action. It was a wonderful celebration!

Some day (hopefully not anytime soon), the Adrian Dominican Sisters may not have a physical presence on the Siena Heights campus. However, our Catholic identity and Dominican tradition must continue. My goal is to help “pass the torch” to our current faculty, staff and students, so they can keep that tradition alive. To help that cause, Sister Mary Jones, OP was hired as director of Mission Education and Heritage Development. Her charge will be to develop the Heritage Project. She brings some exciting ideas on how to do that, including using the latest technology.

I would also challenge you, our alumni and friends, to join in our efforts. You experienced that Dominican tradition and know how important it is to our mission of becoming more “competent, purposeful and ethical.”

Since my time as president, we've included the phrase “A Catholic University in the Dominican Tradition” at the bottom of all University letterhead. It is not just a footnote, but something we say with pride.

May God continue to bless Siena Heights and deepen its Catholic and Dominican roots.

*Sister Peg Albert, OP*

# REFLECTIONS

# on the inside . . .

## SPRING 2014

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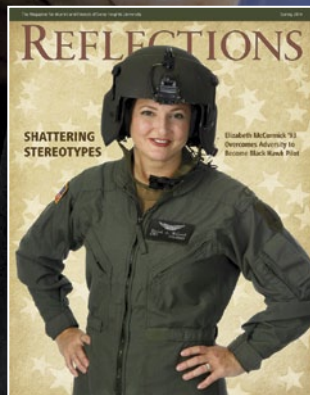
The mission of Siena Heights, a Catholic university founded and sponsored by the Adrian Dominican Sisters, is to assist people to become more competent, purposeful and ethical through a teaching and learning environment which respects the dignity of all.

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## ON THE COVER

Elizabeth Vasher McCormick '93 was one of the rare females to make it through a male-dominated U.S. Army flight school and become a helicopter pilot. After serving her country with honor for seven years, an injury ended her career as a Black Hawk pilot. Now, as an author and a motivational speaker, McCormick travels the world sharing her story of perseverance and personal success.

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# from the editor

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**Doug Goodnough**  
Editor

## The Networking Missing “Link”

Six thousand, six hundred and fifty-seven.

That’s the number of connections currently displaying on Siena Heights University’s Linked In university page.

Don’t know what Linked In is yet?

According to Wikipedia (if you don’t know what Wikipedia is, I may have lost you), Linked In is a “business-oriented social networking service. Founded in December 2002 and launched on May 5, 2003, it is mainly used for professional networking. As of June 2013, LinkedIn reports more than 259 million acquired users in more than 200 countries and territories.”

In other words, there are 6,657 people who claim a Siena Heights connection. That’s a pretty impressive network.

In fact, it’s so impressive that I used it to research some of the subjects who appear in this issue of Reflections. Our Linked In university page displays our connections in a career-related fashion. There are main category breakdowns such as people employed in health care, higher education and marketing. There is even a listing by company or organization, if you want to dig that deep.

As someone who relies on information for much of my work, I found it fascinating.

Almost addicting.

My office has developed several social media channels over the past few years. We have strong presences on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and the like. But for me, Linked In has the most potential for not only the University, but also for its students and graduates. I believe it is just scratching the surface of its potential uses.

Obviously, it’s already a ready-made alumni career network. Want to hire a Siena Heights student or graduate? Post your job opening on there. Have an internship opportunity? We’d love to tell our students about it. Looking for a new job or career? Someone out there might be willing to help.

However, it has also has the potential of being a searchable virtual alumni directory. Want to connect with a classmate? Feel free to browse around. The nice thing about Linked In is people can control the information in their profile. In other words, they can show only the information they want, and can display more once they “connect” with someone they know and trust.

Linked In also has the ability to reach beyond those Siena Heights connections, making for almost limitless networking possibilities.

Ironically, while learning about the uses of Linked In, I came across a college friend who is now a Linked In marketing executive. I hadn’t talked with him for more than 25 years, yet I was able to quickly “connect” with him. He offered a few more tips and pointers about how to maximize our university page.

As someone who is tasked to find ways to engage students, alumni and friends and spread the message about Siena Heights University, consider the Linked In university page your “tip of the day.” Check out [www.sienaheights.edu/linkedin](http://www.sienaheights.edu/linkedin) and start connecting!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Doug Goodnough".



# from the heights

## Ritz Retires from SHU



In December 2013, Bob Ritz announced his retirement after 11 years at Siena Heights University as learning specialist for Student Support Services and disability coordinator. His retirement was effective Dec. 31. Laura Lyall was hired to fill Ritz's position in January 2014.

## Mitchell Named Director of Education Program



Dr. Carrie Mitchell has been named the director of the Education Program at SHU. As a part of restructuring efforts, this newly created position is responsible for the administration of all aspects of both the graduate and the undergraduate Education programs. Sally Rae continues as program coordinator of the undergraduate Elementary and Secondary Education programs, while Eleanor Wollett continues as program coordinator of Language Arts and Kathy Burke as program coordinator of Child Development.

## SHU Again Wins Battle for Blood Challenge

Siena Heights University kept the trophy in the Battle for Blood Challenge again this year by winning the Red Cross blood drive event. SHU donated 71 pints of blood, besting Adrian College's 63.

## Baker Testifies Before Congress in Washington



SHU accounting faculty member and small business owner Donna Baker testified earlier this year in Washington, D.C., before a Congressional hearing on the

Affordable Care Act. She was featured on major news outlets, including the Wall Street Journal, C-Span and Fox News.

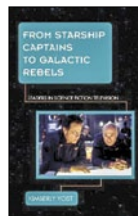
## Acapelicans Release First Single on iTunes

The SHU Acapelicans have released their first song on iTunes! All proceeds will go toward mixing and mastering future tracks and the release of the group's full album. Visit the iTunes web site for more information.

## Graduate College Faculty Member Publishes Book



SHU Graduate College adjunct professor Dr. Kimberly Yost announced the publication of her book "From Starship Captains to Galactic Rebels: Leaders in Science Fiction Television" from Rowman and Littlefield Publishers. The book explores crisis leadership and the principles of love, forgiveness, redemption and embracing the Other through the context of science fiction narratives and the military, political, spiritual, emergent and rebel leaders depicted in series over the past 25 years. Characters from television shows such as



Battlestar Galactica, Babylon 5, Farscape, Stargate Universe, Firefly and Star Trek Voyager, Deep Space Nine and Enterprise are profiled to encourage people's reflective understanding of leadership in extremis and issues of social justice. The book is available on Amazon.

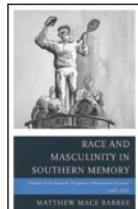
## Youth Theater Program Celebrates 50 Years

Theatre Siena celebrated the 50th anniversary of the youth theater program with a gala celebration Feb. 1, 2014, in the Stubnitz Lab Theater. The reception and dinner preceded the Creative Stages youth theater performance of "A Midsummer Night's Midterm" (right) in Francoeur Theater. This was an adaptation of William Shakespeare's classic and directed by Joni Warner.

## Barbee Publishes Book



SHU English faculty member Matthew Barbee has released his first book, "Race and Masculinity in Southern Memory: History of Richmond, Virginia's Monument Avenue, 1948-1996." The book is part of the "New Perspectives in Southern History" book series. According to Craig Thompson Friend of North Carolina State University, Barbee's narrative reanimates Monument Avenue's statues with the debates over their meanings and purposes in a city struggling with race and memory. The book



also pays special attention to the impact of civil rights' struggles on Monument Avenue. Barbee demonstrates that Monument Avenue has constantly evolved and has broadened to encompass a broader range of Richmond history but that it has consistently depended upon traditional values of Southern masculinity. "Race and Masculinity" is available online at Amazon.

## U.S. News and World Report Honors SHU's Online Program

U.S. News and World Report recognized Siena Heights University in its 2014 Best Online Bachelor's Programs rankings, SHU's Distance Learning Program was one of only 12 Michigan colleges and universities to make the national list, and one of only four private Michigan institutions ranked. SHU has offered online bachelor's degree programs since 2004. "Siena Heights University has a long and successful history of educating adult



and nontraditional students," said SHU President Sister Peg Albert, OP, PhD. "We are honored to make this prestigious list and it confirms what we at Siena Heights already know—our Distance Learning Program consistently delivers outstanding quality and value to students from all backgrounds and walks of life." U.S. News and World Report used factors such as student engagement, faculty credentials and training, peer reputation and student services and technology as part of its methodology to determine the rankings.



## Lollo Earns Sigma Beta Delta Scholarship



SHU Senior Mike Lollo recently earned a fellowship scholarship from the Sigma Beta Delta international honor society for business, management and administration. Lollo earned one of only 11 \$1,000 awards for academic excellence.

## English Faculty Members Publish Work

SHU English faculty members Alexander Weinstein and Karin Barbee recently had works published. Weinstein's works include "Children of the New World" published in "Pleiades," winter 2014; "In the Shadows of Great Action Heroes," published in "Jabberwock Review," fall 2013; and "Excerpts from the World Authorized Dictionary," published in "Cream City Review," December 2013. Also, Weinstein recently won the Lamar York Prize for Fiction for his short story, "The Cartographers." The story appeared in the spring 2014 issue of "The Chattahoochee Review." Barbee had two poems featured in the most recent issue of "Fjords," a national literary journal: [http://www.fjordsreview.com/featured/current\\_issue.html](http://www.fjordsreview.com/featured/current_issue.html).



## SHU Granted StormReady Community Status

Siena Heights University has successfully completed the six-year comprehensive review to be granted StormReady Community status by the National Weather Service. In 2008, SHU became the first college or university in Michigan, Ohio and Indiana—and only the 24th nationally—to be granted the StormReady status. Today, there are 146 colleges or universities nationwide and 17 in Michigan, Ohio and Indiana. According to the NWS, StormReady is a nationwide community preparedness program using a grassroots approach to help communities develop plans to handle all types of severe weather—from tornadoes to tsunamis. The program encourages communities to take a new, proactive approach to improving local hazardous weather operations by providing emergency managers with clear-cut guidelines on how to improve their hazardous weather operations.

## Graduate Student Presents at National Conference

Roger Anderson, a student in the Graduate College's Health Care Leadership cohort, had his submission, "Implementation of a focused patient mobility program," selected for presentation at the 2014 Congress on Healthcare Leadership's Management Innovations Poster Session from March 24-26 in Chicago. Anderson is the director of Rehabilitation Services at St. John Providence Health Care System.

## SHU Again Wins Gift of Life Campus Challenge

Siena Heights University recruited the most new organ donor registrants compared to student population for the second straight year to win the Gift of Life Campus Challenge. SHU had 5.27 percent of its student population register, which was the best out of 14 state college and universities participating in the 11th annual event. The Gift of Life Campus Challenge is the largest college-based organ donor drive in the nation. In its history, the Campus Challenge has resulted in more than 35,000 people adding their names to the Michigan Organ Donor Registry.

## Graduate College Dean Presents in London



Dean of the Graduate College and Program Director of Counselor Education Linda Pettit, Ed.D., along with her husband, Bill Pettit, M.D., psychiatrist and

adjunct faculty in the Counselor Education program, were in London presenting at a mental health conference entitled, "Mental Health Day: New Foundation, New Possibilities" on March 9. On March 10-11, they conducted a follow-up training seminar entitled, "The Simple Solution to Mental Distress."

## New York Times Best-Selling Author This Year's Ethics Lecture Speaker

New York Times best-selling author and one of Christianity Today's "50 Women to Watch" Rachel Held Evans was the featured speaker for Siena Heights University's 13th annual Chiodini/Fontana Lecture Series on Ethics March 11 in Francoeur Theater (right). Her lecture was entitled, "Beyond the Blueprint: My Year of Biblical Womanhood," which is based on her most recent book.

Evans is an author, columnist and popular blogger from Dayton, Tenn.—home of the Scopes Monkey Trial of 1925. In addition to her writing, the 32-year-old Evans travels around the country for retreats, conferences, universities and churches. She has been featured on NPR, Slate, the BBC, the Washington Post, The Times London, The Huffington Post and Oprah.

## Counseling Program Represents SHU in Hawaii

Three recent graduates of SHU's master's level Counselor Education program, along with a faculty member represented SHU at the American Counseling Association's annual national conference March 26-30 in Honolulu, Hawaii. SHU ambassadors at the counseling profession's flagship professional development event included:

- Kathy Hill '13/MA, LLPC, a graduate of the Lansing program who works for Cognitive Consultants as a therapist.
- Karen Morrison '12/MA, LLPC, a graduate of the Adrian program, who is in private practice at Perspectives Therapy Services in Lansing and serves as SHU's Theological Studies Program director.
- Kristy Blackmer '12/MA, a graduate of the Adrian program who is a contract therapist for Four Help Family Resource Center in Saranac and a community educator for RAVE (Relief After Violent Events) in Ionia County.
- Linda Sandel Pettit '83, Ed.D., dean of the Graduate College, director of Counselor Education and Assistant Professor of Counseling.

## Dunbar Gets Community Service-Learning Award



SHU Director of Student Engagement Gabe Dunbar was honored with a Michigan Campus Compact Faculty/Staff Community Service-Learning Award Feb. 3.

This prestigious biennial award is the highest MiCC bestows on faculty and staff in the state of Michigan. Dunbar was designated by peers as the faculty/staff person on campus who has made the most outstanding contributions in service-learning and community service. This award recognizes his influence on and the engagement of students to be involved in community service or service-learning through modeling, influencing or instruction. He was nominated by SHU Dean for Students Michael Orlando. Dunbar has led the Siena Serves initiative at Siena Heights University for the past two years. He has brought staff from across the university together to work in a organized way to help grow the opportunities for students to learn, grow and serve both locally and beyond the city of Adrian. He has co-advised an alternative spring break in New Orleans to assist with post-Hurricane Katrina recovery. This year, Dunbar worked with faculty and staff to create a Siena Serves credit-bearing course, which he will instruct next semester. He was formally honored during the Civic Engagement Institute 2014 Awards Ceremony and 25th Anniversary Celebration in Grand Rapids, Mich.



## Tsuji Takes Home Origami Spore Challenge Prize



SHU Professor of Biology Dr. Jun Tsuji won the American Phytopathological Society Origami Spore Challenge. This challenge was established to assist the APS Office of Public Relations to educate the general public and to promote awareness about the impact of plant diseases. Tsuji successfully developed a 3D origami creation from a single sheet of paper that resembles a pathogen spore.

## Jennifer Dean Named New Library Director

Jennifer Dean was named the new director of the Library in March 2014. Dean previously served as head of Collection Development and Acquisitions at Saginaw Valley State. She has a BMus from Central Michigan, a MMus from Northwestern and an MLIS from Wayne State.

## Sister Schnapp Publishes Article and Poetry



SHU English faculty member Sister Pat Schnapp had her article, "Daniel Berrigan's Lyrical Memoir", published in the "Merton Journal." She has also had poetry published in "The Southern Quarterly," "St. Anthony's Messenger" and "Vineyards." Her review of Philip Kolin's "In the Custody of Words" appeared in the "St. Austin Review" this spring.

## Leadership Students Attend Chicago Conference

Six students in SHU's Master of Arts program in Health Care Leadership attended the 2014 Congress on Health Care Leadership sponsored by the American College of Health Care Executives in Chicago. Students attending were Catherine Alvarez, Roger Anderson, Shelley Corp, Roland Gardner, Thea Picklesimer and Vicki Schroeder. Also in attendance were SHU faculty members John Fick, Ed.D., FACHE, and Lihua Dishman, M.B.A.

## Frost Awarded Special Research Fellowship

SHU faculty member Dr. Julieanna Frost was awarded a Special Collection Research Fellowship at Hamilton College. She will work with documents on the Kerista Commune of San Francisco.



## SHU Biology Students Claim Regional Awards

SHU Biology students Justin Bateson, Chas Frey, Nicole Palm, Logan Poskarbiewicz, Lindsay Rupp and Eric Wilson presented at this year's Northeast Region District 4 convention of Beta Beta Beta March 29 at the University of Findlay, Ohio. Seventy-five students representing 11 colleges and universities were in attendance. Bateson received a second place award for his poster presentation on earthworm coelomocytes. Frey took third place recognition for his platform presentation on dragonflies and damselflies, while Rupp received a second place award for her platform presentation on barred owl pellets. SHU students received a third of all awards at this convention.

## Michigan Campus Compact Honors 10 SHU Students

Siena Heights University had 10 students recently honored at the 18th annual Michigan Campus Compact Outstanding Student Service Awards Celebration Saturday at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center in East Lansing, Mich. Eric Gilbert and Jacob Waldvogel received the Commitment to Service Award for their breadth or depth of community involvement or service experiences. Only 36 students will receive this award. Amy Garno-Anderson, Koreena Hemker, Catherine Mangan, Jessica Rinehart, Samantha Staley, Tiffany Swoish, Celsie VanLoon and Mariann Weiss received the Heart and Soul Award. This award is given to students to recognize their time, effort and personal commitment to their communities through service. Each year, MiCC awards students from member colleges and universities across the state for their outstanding commitment to service-learning and civic engagement. Michigan Campus Compact is a coalition of college and university presidents who are committed to fulfilling the public purpose of higher education.



## Bishop of Lansing Helps SHU Dedicate New Altar in St. Dominic Chapel

SHU dedicated its new, custom-built altar in St. Dominic Chapel during Mass April 29. The Bishop of Lansing, the Most Rev. Earl Boyea, presided at Mass and the blessing ceremony. Funded by a grant from the Koch Foundation, as well as from benefactors and Siena Heights University, the new altar was hand-crafted by Amish carpenter Clayton Yoder and designed by Lenawee County architect Kara Lennard. In addition to the altar, the set also includes an ambo, presider's chair, deacon's chair, large table, small table, blessing font base and lectern. The bowl for the baptismal font was hand-made by an artist at the Toledo Museum of Art. A reception followed in the McLaughlin University Center.





# center stage

## Battle Creek



**Shane Horn '04** was appointed the city administrator for the city of Adrian in March 2014. Horn previously served as utilities director for the city. He began with the city in 1992 as a wastewater treatment plant operator, was promoted to water plant superintendent and was then appointed utilities director in 2007.

## Benton Harbor



December 2013 Benton Harbor campus graduates Kay Chalus (**above left**) and Sara Skinner have a little photo fun at the College for Professional Studies welcome center on graduation day. Kay works in the financial aid area at Lake Michigan College and Sara is the assistant registrar at LMC.

## Jackson



2014 graduate of the Jackson campus, George Bartus, is pictured above with Gail Ryder, (**left**) associate professor of Humanities and Deb Carter (**right**), dean for the College for Professional Studies at the Jackson graduation reception at Bella Notte Restaurant on May 1, 2014.

## Lansing



Dane Conyers, a 2013 graduate of Siena Heights University's Lansing center, died Jan. 13, 2014. The Professional Communication major was active in his community as a youth basketball and football coach for over 25 years, according to his obituary. He was also the owner of Krispy Kicks Klothing and previously worked for the state of Michigan, YMCA, Finish Line and Dogs & Stuff Catering. He posthumously received the Outstanding Adult Learner Award during a ceremony April 16 at Cooley Law School in Lansing, Mich. Dean of the College for Professional Studies Deborah Carter helped present the award to his family (**above**).

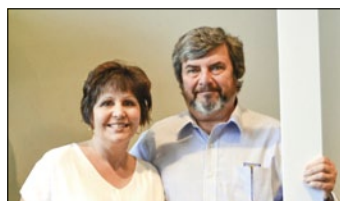
## Monroe



Veteran SHU professor Mike Connell was awarded this year's Faculty of the Year Award at SHU's Monroe campus. He has taught for SHU on multiple campuses in its undergraduate and graduate programs in areas like human resources, leadership, labor relations and organizational behavior. He brings real-world expertise to the classroom and is a student favorite. He is pictured (**above**) with Monroe Assistant Director Julie Edwards.

**Julie Edwards '07, '09/MA** was recently named the chair of the Monroe County Community College Alumni Association's Board of Directors. Edwards is currently the assistant director of SHU's MCCC Center and previously served as vice president of the Alumni Association. In addition, **Liesel Riggs '06** joined the MCCC Alumni Association Board in 2014. She serves as a senior communications specialist in SHU's marketing office.

## Online



Online student Shirley Grim and her husband (**above**) traveled to Adrian for graduation from Greenville, Pa. She completed a Bachelor of Applied Science degree in Nuclear Medicine Technology.

## Southfield



**Rhonda Powell '05** was named the new director of the Macomb County Community Services Agency on Feb. 3, 2014. Powell formerly worked as director of

the Macomb County Rotating Emergency Shelter Team, was the associate director of South Oakland Shelter and had academic leadership roles with Edison and Mount Clemens Community schools. She also was deputy director of the Michigan Office of Services to the Aging and director of Macomb County's Department of Senior Citizen Services, now known as the Office of Senior Services. Powell is a board member of Henry Ford Macomb Hospital in Clinton Township and chairs their sub-committee on diversity and inclusion. She is a member of the One Macomb workgroup, recently established to encourage and highlight diversity in Macomb County.

# SHU Opens New Center at Henry Ford College



On May 13, 2014, Siena Heights University opened a new University Center at Henry Ford College in Dearborn, Mich. This is the first new SHU location since 2004. "Siena Heights University is pleased to expand its presence in metro Detroit with its partnership with HFC," said SHU President Sister Peg Albert, OP, PhD. "By allowing Siena Heights to offer bachelor's

and master's degree programs on its campus, HFC is providing even more opportunities for students to continue their education on the Dearborn campus," she added. "Our collaboration with Siena Heights University on this new University Center will serve as a model for future endeavors like this, and provides a strong foundation for increased student success," said HFC President Stan Jensen. "Providing students the opportunity to complete their first years of college at HFC and save money, then work toward their bachelor's degree on campus at a high-quality four-year institution like Siena Heights gives them the best of both worlds." SHU's office is located in the Welcome Center on the HFC campus.

# All in the Family

## Marowellis Share in the Commencement Experience at SHU

**Editor's Note:** This is an edited version of a feature that ran in the Adrian Daily Telegram on Sunday, May 4, 2014. It is reprinted with permission.

By Dan Cherry—Daily Telegram Staff Writer

**T**hree members of the same family received degrees from Siena Heights University May 3.

Koby Marowelli; his wife, Donna; and daughter Tayleen participated in the University's commencement ceremonies. Koby earned a bachelor's degree in occupational studies with a minor in professional communication, Donna received a master's degree in community counseling, and Tayleen a bachelor's degree in fine arts with a minor in psychology.

Koby and Donna's other daughter, Tenille—Tayleen's twin sister—is scheduled to graduate from Spring Arbor University in December with a degree in elementary education.

Donna said when they each started pursuing their degrees, they did not realize they would be participating in commencement ceremonies at the same time.

"I started my undergrad when the girls were in the fourth grade," said Donna, who is employed as an administrative assistant in the Business Management Division at SHU. After several years of part-time degree work, she earned her bachelor's degree in business administration in 2012.

But she still wanted to pursue a higher degree.

"I felt designed by God to be in counseling," Donna said. "I've always enjoyed listening to others, so I applied for the master's program in counseling."

After one or two semesters, Donna and Koby started discussing the idea of graduating together, as he was pursuing a bachelor's degree in applied science with a minor in professional communications.

However, for him to do so, he would have to set up an aggressive class schedule.

"Koby called his adviser and he was set up on an accelerated plan," Donna said.

And then they realized that Tayleen was going to graduate at the same time, Koby said.

"Donna said, 'You know, if you hurried up a bit, you can graduate with your daughter,'" Koby said. "That motivated me, with her encouragement, to go back and finish. Tayleen was like, 'Do it, Dad.' So I speeded up."

Koby said he never attained a bachelor's degree when, 34 years ago, he opened his Adrian store, The Image Gallery. His full-time dedication to his business prevented him from doing so.



Three members of the Marowelli family—father Koby, daughter Tayleen and mother Donna, seen with daughter Tenille—received degrees May 3 from Siena Heights University. Photo courtesy of Lad Strayer—Adrian Daily Telegram.

Though Donna and Koby participated in commencement, their journey is not quite complete. Koby plans to be finished with his degree requirements by August, while Donna has a 600-hour internship that she will complete by December.

Reaching a higher level of education is something Donna said she has always encouraged and is pleased to see come to fruition.

"I have always valued education. I've always told my girls to go on to college," she said. "I was happy when it worked for Tayleen to go here (to Siena Heights) and Tenille to go to a sister school, and just to have Koby come on board and complete his education.

"I am proud of our family and the commitment we made in our lives to value education and each other as we have gone through this process," she said.

Tayleen said she is also proud of her parents for their own perseverance and accomplishments.

"It's exciting; I am proud of them," she said. "I think it's difficult to go back to school after a summer, let alone years later.

"To go back and get your bachelor's and master's degrees years after high school, that is super exciting," she said.

Plus, to receive degrees at the same time is the icing on the cake, Tayleen said.

"How many families can say they did that together?" she said. ♦

# One on One With . . .

**Editor's Note:** This is a regular Reflections article series, and this issue features longtime Siena Heights business faculty member Bill Blackerby, who retired as a full-time instructor after more than 30 years and still teaches part-time. Reflections recently sat down with Bill to reflect on his time at Siena Heights.

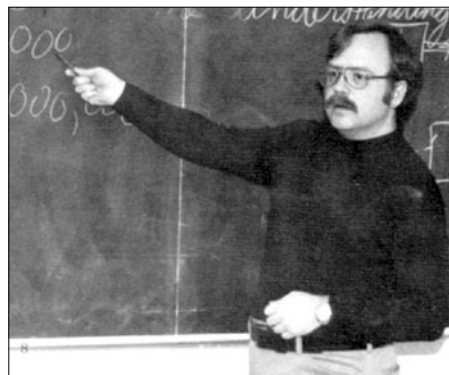
## 1. First impressions of Siena Heights?

When I first came to Siena Heights, it was interesting for me because on the one hand I had attended private colleges as an undergraduate, so I wasn't really shocked by the size of the place. But it was a very interesting experience because we were clearly a school that was in transition. We hadn't really been coed that long, and the post-Vatican II Adrian Dominican faculty members were also interesting. I remember Jen Horninga asking me, 'How do you tell which ones are Adrian Dominicans?' I said, 'Why don't you just treat all of them well and you don't have to worry about it.' When asked by my sister when she came down to walk (she was a graduate of Southfield), she asked me, 'What is the biggest change at Siena since you started?' I said right away, 'The students' cars are much nicer now than when I came to Siena.' We were really resource-poor. The school was what I would call a 'bumblebee.' On paper, it wasn't supposed to fly, when you just looked at the financial resources. Yet it worked. And it worked well.

## 2. Explain your background in business, and how you eventually started teaching in higher education.

I started off working for General Motors as an engineering co-op student. I waited a couple of years to see if I could flunk out. And I didn't. So I had to make a decision and I left General Motors Institute, now Kettering. They had a program at Lawrence Tech that I really thought was a program for me. It was called industrial management. It was a bachelor of science (degree) with a number of industrial administration courses and it also had a

business degree, too. I went there and I did pretty well. In the meantime I continued to work on the assembly line full-time while I was finishing up at Lawrence Tech. I became a production supervisor at GM, and left to go work for National Bank of Detroit. While I was at National Bank of Detroit, I was an operational auditor. Towards the end of that stint, I was being groomed to become an international auditor. But with my family, it just wasn't appealing. My rule was, if you are on the same continent, you can go home on the weekends. Not so much if you're on a different continent. So I became a community banker up in the thumb region, and I was doing that job for about three years.



It was at that time that Siena Heights decided it was going to start a banking and finance program. What I didn't know at the time was that it was unusual in this regard: the area banks pooled together and decided to fund the post for two years. And they were given final say in the selection process, which I think faculty now would just be outraged. So I came to interview, and they told me I was the number one choice for the insiders, but the bankers liked the other guy. So they hired the other guy and I just went back to work. And lo and behold, they had another opening up here within the business program, and they asked me if I would do it. And I said yes. The reason I was interested in teaching was I always found mentoring to be the most satisfying part of my job. I said to myself, I could do that full-time if I were a teacher.

I think that's probably why I really gravitated well to academic advising, too, because of that mentoring role. Manufacturing and finance, and that's what I teach.

## 3. How has business world changed during your time at Siena Heights? What principles remain the same?

I think the biggest change in business is a fundamental renegotiation of the social contract. I was coming in at the end of an era where if you worked hard and were loyal, your employer was committed to keeping you. Perhaps even helping you finance your retirement and your family's retirement. And that's a whole new concept to today's students. They just can't imagine how anyone could ever enter into an employment agreement on that basis. I'd say that might be, perhaps more than anything else, the biggest fundamental change. There's no mistaking now that you are the person who has to be the career manager. You are the ultimate benefits administrator when it comes to your retirement. Perhaps soon with your health care as well. What more and more organizations used to do on behalf of their employers is being pushed back on to the workers themselves. Principles that remain the same, in terms of professional careers, (is) competence is still a given. You better be capable of doing the work, otherwise you'll soon be discovered. Trust means a great deal professionally. In the area of finance, it's everything. Your reputation for honesty and integrity and fair dealing is everything. People don't need to do business with you if there's even a question. I also believe that people really want to be empowered. That they're not really willing to maybe become temps, hired hands or similar occupations that I think some other people believe is going to be the trend. I really think they want to belong.



# Bill Blackerby

## 4. What do your students, past and present, mean to you?

It's true what they say: as a teacher your students should do better than you. They should perform in their careers very well and capably and move as far as they want to. I think for me the biggest joy of teaching is seeing the development of students. Whether they are 18-year-olds that transform themselves into young adults or the learners who come to us through the College for Professional Studies or our evening students here in Adrian. You see a lot of growth and maturity there, too.

## 5. If you were starting a business today, what would it be and why?

I would probably provide some essential service. Whether it was home improvement or landscaping, because the world just screams for people who will come out on time, give you an estimate, stick to that estimate, do a good job and clean up. I just think that that's a great opportunity right now. Low-tech, and there's a lot of good people out there who I could hire who would do very well, and I could just sort of fill in and organize the process.

## 6. If you could describe Siena Heights to someone in business management terms, what words would you use?

Siena Heights is and has been by far the most mission-driven organization I've ever come across. That's been the constant. A lot of people can tell you that it's competent, purposeful and ethical, and can back

that up. I think that's unusual, especially when the founders of the institution, who traditionally embody the mission, are no longer with us. The other thing is that it's an organization that's capable of a tremendous amount of self-sacrifice. We're all thinking today about contributions. How much of the contribution should come from students and the parents? How much of the contribution should come from the government and its aid? How much of it should come from the institution itself? While some people could argue about whether we have the right financial aid contributions, I don't think many people can question the amount of personal contributions. The other thing is the tremendous amount of interest in the students on the part of the non-teaching professionals here and the staff. I mean they really are interested and they want to help the students. They're not customers. They get it. This is why we're here. So when we fight, and we like to fight from time to time, we can always bring people back to a more civil tone by saying 'what's best for the student?'

## 7. What is your best Siena Heights experience outside the classroom?

Perhaps the best moment I ever had was when (the 1994-95 national runner-up men's basketball team) came off the airplane and drove back to campus. I remember it was in the evening and (coach Fred Smith) and the players were received by quite a few people at the Fieldhouse. And in typical Fred Smith fashion, he made sure all the athletes were out front and they got to do the talking.

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

I think one thing that most people don't know about me is that I taught Siena Heights classes both at the Lourdes campus and in Baltimore, Maryland. Those would probably be good trivia questions.

That gives you an idea of how many things we were trying and how humble our beginnings were when we were pioneering off-campus adult education.

## 9. Give us your best Fred Smith story.

I've thought about this a lot. A lot of people are curious as to how Fred and I actually became friends. It was really a friendship of necessity. Fred had a cell phone but he would never get a debit card. I had a debit card but I was reluctant to get a cell phone. So we used to work together and we coped with this modern society (laughing). I got the cell phone, but I don't think he has the debit card yet. But the most impressive story I can think of was the year he almost won the national championship, when the driving layup hung tantalizingly on the rim as the buzzer went off and did not go into the hole. Siena Heights was having a very difficult time financially that year. We were trying to find a new president, who ultimately became Rick Artman. And (Fred) was battling cancer. And this probably was the story, was about a guy who was doing two jobs (coaching and battling cancer) in the midst of all this. A lot of people at the University were looking for leaders, and they rallied around him.

## 10. What do you want to be remembered for at Siena Heights?



If I could advise your son or daughter, and you could feel comfortable doing that. On a typical day I send you an article maybe worth reading. On a good day, I could make you laugh. And on my best days I helped you help another student. That would sum it up. ♦



# saints highlights

## Cross Country



**Women:** Elaine Johnson (**left**) was eighth overall as the Saints placed fourth at the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference Championships. Johnson earned honorable mention all-conference and represented the Saints at the NAIA national championships. Junior Arika Knannlein was named a NAIA Scholar Athlete.



**Men:** The Saints placed third at the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference Championships. Samuel Parlette (**left**) led SHU with an 11th place finish (26 minutes, 17 seconds) and was named the WHAC Newcomer of the Year. Parlette and Brett Smith both earned honorable mention all-conference. Parlette, Smith and Justin Bateson each represented the Saints at the NAIA national championships. Parlette earned a top 100 finish, finishing 98th overall at 25 minutes, 52 seconds.

## Golf



**Women:** The Saints finished third in the final Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference standings last fall. Freshman Andrea Richards (**left**) was named to the All-WHAC first team, while teammates Ashley Everett and Sydney Gossett each earned honorable mention recognition. Andrea Rumler was the team's Champions of Character recipient.



**Men:** Senior Nick Campbell (**left**) was named to the All-Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference first team after earning conference medalist honors last fall.

Joe Forest received the team's Champions of Character award. SHU finished third in the final team WHAC standings.

## Football



Junior tight end Donovan Campbell (**left**) became the first Saint to be named a first team NAIA All-American by the American Football Coaches Association.

Campbell had 60 receptions for 781 yards and eight touchdowns in 2013.



Sophomore cornerback DeShawn Gilbert (**left**) was a second team All-American after recording six interceptions and 42 tackles last season.

Gilbert was also named the Co-Defensive Player of the Year on the Mid-States Football Association Mideast team. Senior cornerback Fred Butler and Campbell were each tabbed to the MSFA Mideast first team, while junior offensive linemen Jon Dozier and Jake Helsel, junior defensive linemen Kyle Connors and Jordan Martin, junior kick Victor Bodrie and junior linebacker Tyler Karcher were each tabbed to the All-MSFA second team. Earning honorable mention were

junior receiver Raphael Dunson, junior offensive lineman Gauge Aebersold and junior linebacker Trent Bragg. Dunbar was also named to the Capital One Academic All-America First Team. The criminal justice major, was a NAIA Scholar-Athlete in 2012. Finally, the Saints had nine players named NAIA Scholar-Athletes, including Dunbar, Jacob Bultema, Drew Milligan, Larry Trice III, Helsel, Paul Jacobs, Lucas Bartz, Bragg and Lyle Van Fleteren. The Saints finished 5-5 in their second season, including a 24-21 loss to NAIA national champion Grand View.

## Soccer



**Women:** Paige Frey (**left and below**) was named to the All-Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference first team to lead the Saints. The junior midfielder started

all 19 games and finished with three goals and two assists. Junior Kelsey Young was named to the honorable mention team. SHU placed 12 on the all-academic team, including seniors Lynn Hendricks,

Allison Howard and Megan Traynor, and juniors Frey, Young, Jori Bitter, Elizabeth Davis, Meg Dubois, Abbey Marlette, Megan Michels, Meagan Mousty and Carlee Pallett. Seven Saints were named NAIA Scholar-Athletes, including Hendricks, Bitter, Davis, Dubois, Marlette, Michels and Mousty. Traynor was also the team's Champions of Character recipient. The Saints finished 8-8-3 on the season.

**Men:** Senior Matthew Robinet was named to the honorable mention All-Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference team. The defender joined juniors Bryce



Delamilleure, Michael Hummon (**left**) and Clayton Tomczyk on the conference all-academic team. Hummon was the team's Champions of Character recipient.

Delamilleure and Clayton Tomczyk were each named NAIA Scholar-Athletes. Longtime head coach Aldo Zid recorded his 300th career coaching victory during the season as the Saints finished 7-9-2.



## Indoor Track

**Women:** Taylor Byron and Stephanie Marquardt each earned All-American honors in their respective events at the NAIA Championships in Geneva, Ohio. Byron placed sixth in the weight throw (56 feet, 7 1/2 inches) while Marquardt was eighth in the 60 meter hurdles (9.33 seconds). The Saints placed third at the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference indoor championships. Taylor Byron (shot put) and Kasey Renshaw (**left**) (weight throw) each won events, with Renshaw setting a new school record with her toss of 57 feet, 11 1/4 inches. Five Saints earned Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference academic all-conference honors, including Kara Ehmann, Melanie Glinski, Arika Knannlein, Brianna Nordby and Mariah Ridal. Nordby was also the team's Champions of Character recipient.



(shot put) and Kasey Renshaw (**left**) (weight throw) each won events, with Renshaw setting a new school record with her toss of 57 feet, 11 1/4 inches. Five Saints earned Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference academic all-conference honors, including Kara Ehmann, Melanie Glinski, Arika Knannlein, Brianna Nordby and Mariah Ridal. Nordby was also the team's Champions of Character recipient.



**Men:** Logan Moore (**left**) won the national title in the 60 meter hurdles to lead the Saints to a fifth place finish at the NAIA Championships in Geneva, Ohio. Moore

claimed the title with a time of 7.93 seconds. Other All-American efforts were Calvin Sullins in the heptathlon (second, 5,389 points), Chris Schurr in the pole vault (second, 16-2 3/4) and heptathlon (sixth, 4,917), Chris Rolle in the 60 (6.87) and 200 (eighth, 21.94), Gauge Aebersold in the shot put (fifth, 55-11 1/4), Ryan McElyea in the 600 (sixth, 1:20.79) and Gerald Richardson in the high jump (eighth, 6-8). The Saints scored 47 points, behind national champion Indiana Tech (82). The Saints finished second to top ranked Indiana Tech at the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference indoor championships.



Chris Rolle (**left**) set a pair of school records to earn the Most Valuable Performer of the meet. Rolle won the 200 in 21.47 seconds, breaking both school and conference marks. He also took the 60 in a record time of 6.81. Moore and Aebersold also broke school records in winning their respective events. Moore took the 60 hurdles in 7.99, which is also a conference record, while Aebersold won the shot put with a record toss of 56 feet, 8 3/4 inches. Paul Jacobs won the weight throw (52-9 3/4) and Zach Widner the 800 (1:55.26). Six Saints were named to

the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference all-academic team, including Michael Butler, Jon Dozier, Matthew Leaders, Matthew Robinet, DeVontee Sansom and Chris Schurr. Leader was also chosen as the team's Champions of Character recipient as well as coach Tim Bauer.

## Basketball

**Women:** The 15th ranked Saints (26-9) closed out a landmark season with an 83-59 loss to unbeaten and eventual national champion St. Francis (Ind.) in the second round of the NAIA Tournament. SHU won its first postseason game in the program's history by topping Tennessee Wesleyan 77-69 in the opening round. Junior guard Sierra Calhoun (**left**) was named a NAIA honorable mention All-American. Calhoun led the Saints in scoring with 14.7 points per game. She has 1,097 points for her career. Senior guard Grace Howrigan and Calhoun were each named to the All-Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference first team after a vote of conference coaches. Howrigan led the WHAC with 6.0 assists per game and averaged 12.4 points and 5.1 rebounds per contest. Calhoun also was named to the conference's all-defensive team. Junior guard Morgan Warfield was named to the honorable mention squad, while Warfield, Jessie Arnold, Nicole Halliwill, Jen Jasinski and Mackenzie Tomasik earned academic all-conference honors. Arnold, Halliwill, Tomasik and Warfield were each named NAIA Scholar-Athletes.

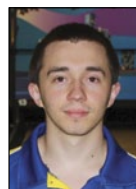


Wesleyan 77-69 in the opening round. Junior guard Sierra Calhoun (**left**) was named a NAIA honorable mention All-American. Calhoun led the Saints in scoring with 14.7 points per game. She has 1,097 points for her career. Senior guard Grace Howrigan and Calhoun were each named to the All-Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference first team after a vote of conference coaches. Howrigan led the WHAC with 6.0 assists per game and averaged 12.4 points and 5.1 rebounds per contest. Calhoun also was named to the conference's all-defensive team. Junior guard Morgan Warfield was named to the honorable mention squad, while Warfield, Jessie Arnold, Nicole Halliwill, Jen Jasinski and Mackenzie Tomasik earned academic all-conference honors. Arnold, Halliwill, Tomasik and Warfield were each named NAIA Scholar-Athletes.



**Men:** Junior guard Christian Covile (**left**) was chosen to the All-Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference honorable mention team. He averaged 16.7 points per game for the Saints. Junior Eric Cogan was the recipient of the team's Champions of Character award and made the academic all-conference team. The Saints finished 11-19 on the season.

## Bowling



**Men:** Paul Farley (**left**) was named to the Academic All-WHAC Conference team and Aaron Dear received the Champions of Character award. The Saints finished tied for fifth in the regular season WHAC standings. SHU also competed in the XBowling Intercollegiate Team Championships March 15-16 in Addison, Ill.



**Women:** Tiffany Logan (**left**) was named Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference Newcomer of the Year. Logan and teammate Katarina Coulson were honored

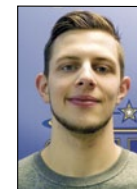
as All-WHAC honorable mention selections. Coulson had a 185.47 average and Logan a 182.3 average in conference events. Coulson, Amanda Blackwell and Hillary Weiss were named to the Academic All-WHAC team, with Weiss receiving the Champions of Character award. The Saints finished third in the WHAC regular season standings. SHU also competed in the XBowling Intercollegiate Team Championships March 15-16 in Addison, Ill.

## Volleyball



**Women:** Junior Halie Baker (**left**) and freshman Brianna Baker were each honored by the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference. Halie was named to the honorable mention team while Brianna was a member of the WHAC All-Freshman Team. Seniors Lauren Baker, Blaire Hondzinski and Julia Haupricht and junior Mycala Cherry each earned academic

all-conference honors. Lauren Baker was the Champions of Character recipient. The Saints finished 14-14 on the season.



**Men:** Freshman outside hitter Gilius Blinstrubas (**left**) was named to the All-NAIA Great Lakes Division first team. He led the Saints with 246 kills last season. Junior outside hitter Max Field earned a spot on the conference all-academic team. The Saints finished 5-18 on the season.

## Competitive Cheer and Dance

The host Saints earned an automatic bid to the NAIA national competitive dance event (**above**) by winning the East Regional. SHU had 96.4 points, edging second place Concordia (93.3). The Saints advanced to the national event March 14-16 in Oklahoma City, Okla. The dance



team placed fifth in the nation, with the cheer team taking 11th place as an at-large team. Siena Heights dancer Madeline Soave (**left**) earned the program's first All-American honor, only one of five competitors at the regional to do so.



# Grace Under Pressure

## All-Time Assist Leader Howrigan Leads Saints to New Heights

By Doug Goodnough

**G**race Howrigan almost didn't stay. She's sure glad she did.

The senior point guard had a rough start to her Siena Heights women's basketball career. However, she knew it could get better. And it did.



During her final three years, the Saints recorded consecutive 20-win seasons and back-to-back NAIA tournament berths. This year, Siena Heights finished 26-9 and won its first national postseason game to establish the best stretch in the program's history.

Howrigan, who finished her career as the program's all-time assist leader, was a primary reason for that success.

"We've had the most success with her," said head coach Sue Syljebeck, who called Howrigan one of the best players in the program's history. "Grace was a key piece for us."

Howrigan, who led the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference in assists (6.0 per game) and averaged 12.4 points per game to earn all-conference honors, stepped up her game this season.

"Last year, I wasn't much of a scorer," said the 5-foot-8 guard from Plainwell, Mich. "(Last) summer, I really worked on my game and my shot. It paid off. I had a lot better year. I was (both) a scorer and a distributor."

But the one area she didn't need any extra work in was competitiveness. In fact, that insatiable drive to win almost resulted in Howrigan leaving the program after her freshman year.

"We were not successful," Howrigan said of that first season. "I personally had thoughts of transferring. I didn't know if this was the right place for me. But I decided to stick it out because I knew it could get better."

And it did. Syljebeck, who shares Howrigan's passion for winning, demanded excellence from her returning players. However, learning to harness Howrigan's competitiveness was sometimes a challenge.

"I had to learn, too, with Grace," Syljebeck said. "I let her have a bit more freedom. ... I gave a little bit, and she gave a little bit. She had to give a little more than I did, and she did."

"I guess I have not been the easiest to coach, but it's just because I want to win," Howrigan said. "That is my number one priority. I want to win everything. And so does coach Sue. We've definitely had some stuff in my four years, but we have a really good relationship."

Recruiting some key pieces to supplement Howrigan's ball distribution skills was a priority. Syljebeck since added leading scorer and honorable mention All-American guard Sierra Calhoun and 3-point sharpshooter Morgan Warfield, as well as interior players like Mackenzie Tomasik and Alexxis Knannlein to the mix.

During Howrigan's sophomore year, the Saints recorded their first 20-win season in more than 30 years, just missing



the NAIA tournament. In 2012-13, the Saints finished 23-10 and earned an at-large berth to the NAIA Tournament, losing in the opening round to Briar Cliff (Iowa). This season, the Saints started 5-5, and there was some doubt if they would return to the national stage.

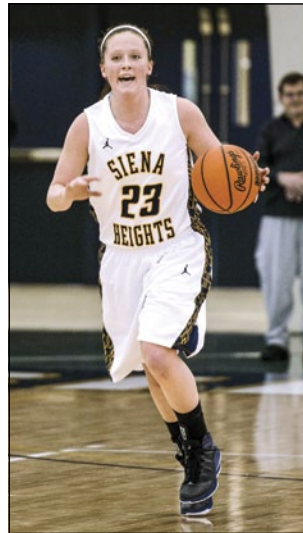
“I was mad. I was confused,” Howrison said of her team’s start. “I didn’t know what it was happening, but I wasn’t going to let it continue.”



The Saints proceeded to rattle off 10 straight wins and never looked back. In fact, the Saints made it to their first conference tournament championship game, where they lost to second-ranked Davenport 75-74 in the final seconds. However, they clinched an automatic berth to the NAIA Tournament in the process.

“Last year, we were on Cloud Nine,” Howrison said of the team’s first appearance at nationals. “Everyone was so nervous. It was like playing on a stage. The difference from this year to last year was that we knew we should be there. We knew we could win. We weren’t scared. We weren’t nervous.”

The Saints drubbed ranked Tennessee Wesleyan 77-59 in the opening round before bowing out to eventual national champion St. Francis (Ind.). Syljebeck points out that five of those nine losses came to St. Francis (two) and Davenport (three), which finished 1-2 in the final national rankings.



“It’s a great feeling to be a part of something like that,” Howrison said of the program’s success. “It’s really been an amazing experience for me. ... Obviously basketball has been a huge part of it.”

Howrison graduates in August and hopes to use her sport management degree to pursue a career in college coaching, and may try to continue her basketball career overseas.

“It’s going to be hard to watch from the sidelines,” she said. “I’m not ready.”

Even though the Saints return a group that includes six seniors next season, Syljebeck said replacing Howrison will be difficult.

“She didn’t care whether she got the accolades, which makes her even more special,” she said. “She didn’t care less whether she got MVP or all-tournament as long as we won the tournament or won the game.

“It’s a tribute to Grace that so many firsts have been accomplished in the program. We wouldn’t have done it without her.” ♦



## Leadership Role Suits Kyle Bowman as Head of the Michigan Intelligence Operations Center

**K**yle Bowman was content in his career with the Michigan State Police.

The former trooper had worked his way on to the security detail for then Governor John Engler.

Then Sept. 11, 2001 happened. Everything changed.

"That hit a lot of us very emotionally," said Bowman, '07 who also earned his master's degree in Homeland Security from Siena Heights University in 2009. "That started it for me."

That "it" was his interest in taking more of a leadership role in law enforcement. Currently, Bowman is the director/commander of the MSP's Michigan Intelligence Operations Center. This "fusion center" is

one of 78 nationwide that oversees the planning, collection and sharing of public safety information and provides support for critical incidents in the state of Michigan.

Bowman said his agency partners with other public safety agencies after a critical incident occurs. He oversees the main office in Lansing and also supervises a second site in Detroit. There are approximately 35 people who report to him.

"We are a support service-type agency for local agencies," he said. "We also provide threat information to leadership in the (Michigan) State Police as well as to the governor's office."

For example, when a local "critical incident" occurs, his agency can be asked to come in and develop an analytical report. These analysts work directly with the investigators to help not only to identify the suspects, but to see if there are other potential crimes connected to the case.

One particular case not only had the murder suspects arrested, but a "bigger picture" federal weapons case was also solved in the process, taking approximately 100 guns off the streets, Bowman said.

Another key function of his office is helping to monitor and assess special events, such as the Detroit Grand Prix. Besides providing "boots on the ground," Bowman said the center collects information before the event to provide a threat assessment. They also virtually track any suspicious activity such as social media posts or news feeds for any potential connections.

# Commander-in-Chief



Bowman's path to law enforcement was a winding one. He originally started as a Siena Heights business major on the Adrian campus in 1989, but left school during his sophomore year to work in security. Working security during the 1994 World Cup match at the Pontiac Silverdome, Bowman realized he wanted to make law enforcement his career.

"I wanted to be relevant," said Bowman, who returned to Siena Heights University, this time completing his bachelor's degree at the Lansing Community College campus while a member of the MSP—more than 18 years later. "I wanted to have an impact on something."

Starting as a trooper with the Michigan State Police, Bowman advanced from detective to assistant section commander to lieutenant. He was former Governor Jennifer Granholm's advisor to the Department of Homeland Security. He assisted with the "Underwear Bomber" case at the Metro Detroit Airport, which gave him his first taste of his current role.

"It sparked my interest in a leadership role," Bowman said. "I feel like I have a unique ability to have an impact and prevent those things from happening."

Bowman got his chance when he was hired as MIOC commander in July 2013. After completing some initial training, including an executive leadership program with the prestigious Naval Postgraduate School's Center for Homeland Defense, Bowman said he is up to the challenge that his current position provides.

"I'm at that point where I think there is a lot I can do in my current position," he said. "I'm hoping whatever I accomplish over the next (few) years opens the door for the next challenge." ♦



# Environmental Impact

By Doug Goodnough

## Jeffrey Morisette '90 Heads Colorado's North Central Climate Science Center

**S**o, just what can you do with a degree in mathematics?

How about...

- Work for NASA interpreting satellite data,
- Map habitat from weather patterns and predicted changes in climate,
- Bring a data-driven approach to earth and environmental sciences,
- Run a multimillion dollar, multi-state science center for the federal government.



Dr. Jeffrey Morisette '90 has accomplished all those things since graduating from Siena Heights University. Currently the director of the U.S. Department of the Interior's North Central Climate Science Center, Morisette works with multiple agencies and organizations to help develop long-term strategies and forecasts for what he believes is a rapidly changing climate.

"The science behind climate change is very consistent and very concerning," said Morisette, who took over his current post in Ft. Collins, Colo., in February 2012. "The climate we'll be experiencing in the future may very well be like nothing we have seen before. So, it's kind of new territory, climate change and how this is going to impact fish and wildlife and humans in general. It's a brave new world. The science isn't trivial, either."

Morisette works with earth and environmental scientists on a daily basis, traveling through the region his center serves, which includes Colorado, Wyoming, Kansas, Nebraska, North and South Dakota and parts of Montana, including the Yellowstone National Park area. According to the Department of the Interior, the North Central CSC is part of a network of eight centers created to provide scientific information, tools and techniques to use in managing land, water, wildlife and cultural resources, which are then used to monitor, anticipate and adapt to climate change.

"I really enjoy bringing a systems engineering approach to connect this climate information to the ecological community," Morisette said. "There's a lot of climate scientists and a lot of ecologists. I enjoy being at the intersection of those two in kind of a high-tech way."

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**Above left:** Pictured is the USGS Resource for Advanced Modeling visualization wall in action, showing maps of Cheatgrass, an invasive weed notorious for promoting wildfires in the western U.S., using three different habitat modeling techniques. This is an example of the technology Dr. Jeffrey Morisette has access to as the director of the North Central Climate Science Center in Ft. Collins, Colo.

**Above right:** Dr. Jeffrey Morisette with his family in Yellowstone National Park (from left: Twyla, Clementine, and wife Elizabeth).



Morisette, who completed his master's degree in applied statistics from Oakland University and his doctorate in philosophy from North Carolina State University, said his academic background has served him well in his current position.

In fact, he points to the "foundational" courses such as statistics with Siena Heights faculty member Dr. Tim Husband and philosophy with Dr. Mark Schersten and the late Sister Pat Hogan as formational—as was the mission of Siena Heights.

"Tim Husband's (statistics) class gave me an appreciation for variability in data and separating that from an actual signal," Morisette said.

"It started me on this path. Understanding issues of variability and uncertainty are critical in the realm of both climate and ecological processes. ... Thinking of the competence and purposeful has remained with me to this day."

Morisette said he enjoys the relationships he has made during his career and calls the bureaucracy of his current job "sometimes the bane of my existence."

"It just can be sometimes overwhelming," he said. "But it's the only way to get it done."

While he understands some people's concern that government is "too big," he also said he has an insider's appreciation for what government does, especially in the sciences.

"We understand each other's roles and what we are trying to do at the regional level," Morisette said of the multiple agencies the NC CSC collaborates with. "We try to avoid stepping on toes and try to be as efficient as possible."

Morisette gets a chance to travel through the region teaching courses on various environmental subjects. He recently returned from a session in Jackson, Wyo., where he taught a vulnerability assessment on climate change. That assessment included things like invasive species of plants, glacier melt and other management targets in the greater Yellowstone area—even habitat food for grizzly bear.

"It's a beautiful area to work in," said Morisette, who moved out west partly because of his love of skiing and the outdoors, especially the nearby Rocky Mountains. His wife, Elizabeth, is an artist who uses recycled and repurposed objects in her work. They currently are raising two daughters, Twyla (2) and Clementine (14).

Morisette said he likes a quote from former astronaut and climate scientist Piers Sellers that says, "you can have your own opinion but not your own facts." Morisette believes numbers don't lie. His job is interpreting those numbers when predicting and forecasting future climate change patterns.

"Unequivocally, humans have influenced the environment," said Morisette, who points to research from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) as support. "What we try to do is look at the climate information that relates to heat, precipitation and the relationship between the two and try to figure out what the impacts are."

His center has the latest technology at his fingertips, including "mini clusters" of super computers (100 processors or more) and a 24-monitor array that take up an entire wall.

"We kind of peel off the 'black box' of science so (people) can better understand it," Morisette said.

But he also relishes the human side of his job, including working with the Native American tribes in his area. He said many Native Americans view nature as relational instead of resource-driven, and that is something mainstream culture could embrace.

Morisette said his long-term purpose is to develop "ways the ecological community can adapt and mitigate climate change as we head into uncharted territory."

"Translating that climate information, what it means to living things, especially the degree of variability," he said, "that's where a statistical and mathematical understanding of what that means is helpful." ♦

# Rising Stars



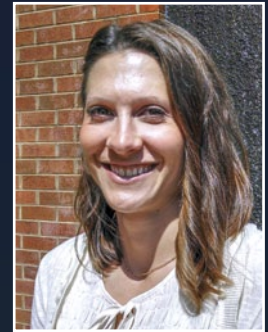
**Chet Hesson**



**Joel Parrish**



**Garrett Broom**



**Jennifer Mandock Brown**

“Rising Stars” is a new feature making its debut in this issue of Reflections. It profiles Siena Heights University alumni who have graduated within the past 10 years and who excel in their careers, occupations or community service accomplishments. To be considered for the “Rising Stars” piece in an upcoming issue of Reflections Magazine, please fill out the online form at [www.sienaheights.edu/risingstars](http://www.sienaheights.edu/risingstars). Those who are selected to be included in an upcoming issue of the magazine will be contacted by the Reflections staff.

## Chet Hesson

**Graduation year:** 2009

**Current title/position:** Assistant Athletic Director & Director of Compliance, Stetson University.

**What Chet is doing:** He is responsible for the administration and full oversight of a comprehensive NCAA Division I, Atlantic Sun Conference and Pioneer League rules compliance program at Stetson University in DeLand, Fla. His primary duties include investigating and reporting rules infractions, administration of a comprehensive rules education program, preparation of waivers and releases, transfer evaluations, monitoring of playing and practicing seasons, recruiting, potential extra benefits, campus visits, social networking and the Stetson athletics website.

**Favorite moment/story while a student at SHU was:**

My four years at Siena were very challenging between the academic rigor, working part-time, participating on two athletic teams, multiple surgeries and injuries that derailed me not only physically but mentally. But when it's all said and done, that was the path that was laid out and it made me enjoy the successes, friendships created and resiliency needed to be successful and enjoy the simple things in life.

**Favorite person at SHU was:** History Professor and Advisor Sr. Jeanne Lefebvre.

**Ultimate goal in life:** Positively affect the lives of everything and everyone I come in contact with—a lofty goal, but that's why we set goals, right?

**Best advice for SHU students is:** Work for a cause, not an applause. Live life to express, not to impress. Don't strive to make your presence noticed, just make your absence felt. Also, college is a very impressionable time period, take the time to reflect while enrolled at SHU to feel the moment and who you are becoming. If you love yourself and who you are becoming, great; if you don't like who you are becoming, change.

## Joel Parrish

**Graduation year:** 2010

**Current title/position:** Technology Analyst for Goldman Sachs, New York City.

**What Joel is doing:** He works in financial risk technology at Goldman Sachs. He has been part of a number of teams creating software to mitigate risk to the company and the global economy. (Editor's Note: Joel can't publicly disclose most of his job duties because of company and federal confidentiality reasons).

**Favorite moment/story while a student at SHU was:** Working on new emerging technology in the field of Natural User interfaces with a few other Siena students. The technology got featured in a newspaper that led to us being invited to the first ever Interactive Display Conference with some of the biggest names in the field today.

**Favorite people at SHU were:** Bob Conlon and Al Ballenberger.

**Ultimate goal in life:** Create new systems that will change the way we interact with computers.

**Best advice for SHU students is:** Don't be afraid to adventure outside your field of study. The people and experiences you will come across will really change your life.

## Garrett Broom

**Graduation year:** 2006

**Current title/position:** Director of Development, University of Wisconsin Athletics Department.

**What Garrett is doing:** After spending two years in the private sector of retail banking, he made the transition into intercollegiate athletics. The turning point in my personal and professional life was when Neil Cockburn (former SHU assistant coach) called him and gave him an opportunity to be his graduate assistant coach at Webber International University (Fla.). He then knew he wanted to pursue a career in intercollegiate athletic administration. He has since served as a development assistant with the Golden Gopher Fund, the fundraising arm for the athletic department at the University of Minnesota, and later as an assistant director of Development for the Ole Miss Athletics Foundation for University of Mississippi's Athletic Department. Since February, he is serving as director of Development for the University of Wisconsin Athletic Department.

**Favorite moment/story while a student at SHU was:** My experience as a student-athlete and the camaraderie with my teammates. I was an average soccer player at best, but I had a great opportunity to be a part of a team with some fantastic people.

**Favorite person at SHU was:** It is hard to pick one, so I am going to pick a few: Jason Blickendorf, Aaron Chmiel, Professor Mike Connell and Neil Cockburn.

**Ultimate goal in life:** Professionally, I will be an athletic director in higher education. Personally, I will be a productive citizen in society and impact people in a positive manner.

**Best advice for SHU students is:** Take advantage of your time as a student at SHU. It is really hard to figure out what you want to do with the rest of your life, but once you do, it is a very powerful thing. I urge students to go into a field you are really excited and passionate about because when that is your career, it really makes it fun. Use your resources around you by talking to professors and reaching out to people in the field you are interested in. In today's world there is a lot of information out there, so reach out to CEOs, teachers, coaches, accountants, etc. and ask to do an informational interview. Or, if possible, job shadow an industry leader. That will help network and give you a feel for the industry you are looking into.

## Jennifer Mandock Brown

**Graduation year:** 2006

**Current title/position:** Director of Sales & Marketing, University of Tennessee Athletic Department.

**What Jennifer is doing:** She currently works in marketing for the University of Tennessee Athletic Department. She oversees marketing and promotional efforts for women's basketball, softball and track & field, while also assisting with marketing and promotional efforts for football. In addition, she assists with ticket sales and student attendance strategies for all 18 sports and helps with UT's overall social media strategy. She also maintains daily correspondence with IMG/Vol Network, UT's marketing and media rights holder, to ensure fulfillment of sponsor contracts. In January 2013 she was promoted to director of Sales & Marketing.

**Favorite moment/story while a student at SHU was:** There are so many things that make Siena such a special place, and I have so many great memories, so it is impossible to pick just one. Most of all I remember all of the time spent with my teammates and their families. I also want to mention that I met my husband, Rich Brown '05, at Siena, so it will always hold a special place in both of our hearts.

**Favorite person at SHU was:** Hmmm. This is a tough one. I enjoyed getting to know Coach (Sue) Syljebeck. She made not only me but my entire family feel like a part of the team. She is one reason I am where I am today.

**Ultimate goal in life:** Never get so busy making a living that I forget to make a life.

**Best advice for SHU students is:** If you don't go after what you want, you'll never have it, and if you do not step forward, you'll remain in the same place. Take advantage of every opportunity given to you and don't ever let down. ♦



**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.

# PILOT PROGRAM



# From Black Hawk Pilot to Motivational Speaker, Elizabeth McCormick '93 is Charting New Territory for Women

By Doug Goodnough

**I**f you're going to shatter a glass ceiling, why not do it flying a Black Hawk helicopter?

Elizabeth Vasher McCormick '93 was one of the rare females to make it through a male-dominated U.S. Army flight school and become a helicopter pilot. After serving her country with honor for seven years, including flying peacekeeping missions in Kosovo, an injury ended her career as a Black Hawk pilot. However, it began another career path. Now, as an author and a motivational speaker, McCormick travels the world sharing her story of perseverance and personal success.



## It Started at Siena Heights

After graduating from Siena Heights with a degree in art, McCormick intended to pursue a career in architectural engineering. However, as a 23-year-old "Army wife" living in Fort Polk, La., she said she soon felt another calling.

"I decided to put my degree to use in service to our country," McCormick said of enlisting in the Army. "Because of my degree from Siena Heights, I knew I could go into the Army as an officer and that I had the potential to do and be anything."





## The “Coolest Job Possible”

After doing a little research, she decided she wanted to have the “coolest job possible.” That job was a helicopter pilot. First, she completed all-female basic training. However, she soon discovered just how difficult her task of becoming a pilot was going to be when reporting to Warrant Officer Candidate School at Fort Rucker, Ala.

“There were no male or female standards, there was a ‘warrant officer standard,’” McCormick said of the grueling training regimen she would encounter. “That meant running two miles, three miles, four miles in the formation with the men. Doing push-ups (on her toes) the same as the men. The physicality of it was demanding.”

Seven women started the pilot training program. Only two women finished. One was McCormick.

“At the end of the six weeks, I could do 83 push-ups on my toes in two minutes and had emerged as the top female leader and the number one graduate in the class,” she said.

Next came flight school, which came with its own set of challenges.

“It’s unlike anything else I had experienced,” McCormick said of the training, which she called “multi-tasking on steroids.”

One of her first tasks was learning how to hover, which she said is one of the hardest piloting skills to master.

“It’s how you move the helicopter from the landing pad to anywhere,” she said.

Pilots have to use both hands as well as their feet simultaneously to control the helicopter.

“Oh, and you’re scanning outside the windows to be sure you don’t hit a tree, a power line, another aircraft,” she said. “And wait, you’ve got a helmet on with a microphone and you’re talking to air traffic control and internally to your crew—all at the same time!”

## Comfort Zone vs. Belief Zone

But she said the technical training she endured wasn’t as challenging as was the verbal abuse she constantly received from her flight instructor.

“I drew the flight instructor who did not believe women should fly,” McCormick said. “And he tried to fail me every day by screaming at me.”

She said it affected her confidence and ultimately her performance.

“The instructor would take the controls away from me and berate me,” she said. “(He would say) ‘You’re stupid! You don’t deserve to be here! You’re wasting my time!’ Over and over again.”

A turning point in McCormick’s training came when her regular instructor left for a week’s vacation. The substitute instructor gave McCormick the needed confidence, and despite the adversity, she was able to pass her final check ride exam.

“When things got hard, I would think, ‘Why did God give me this vision of being a helicopter pilot if I wasn’t meant to be one?’” she said. “I had to trust the vision and my abilities despite the difficulties. ... Everyone has a choice to live in their comfort zone or in a belief zone. ... But my belief zone was that I was where I was supposed to be.”

## Learning to Serve

One of her first missions after completing flight school was assisting in the rescue and cleanup after Hurricane Hugo hit the Gulf states in 1994.

“In that weekend, I learned what being in service really meant,” McCormick said. “It wasn’t pretty or glamorous; it was about serving and leading others above self to do what was right.”

Her service eventually took her to war-torn Kosovo, where she flew her Black Hawk Sikorsky as part of a United Nations peacekeeping mission. Her missions included air assault and rappelling, command and control and military intelligence. During her six years as a pilot, she received the Army Commendation Medal twice, the Army Achievement medal three times, a National Defense Service Medal, the Humanitarian Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon and the Army Aviator Badge.

“The award I am most proud of is receiving the Humanitarian Service Medal,” she said of the honor she earned for the Hurricane Hugo mission. “We made a difference (and) had an impact in those lives that weekend.”



## Changing Course

McCormick’s career as a pilot ended when she suffered a disabling injury right before Sept. 11, 2001. Medically retiring from the Army as a Chief Warrant Officer 2, McCormick was now grounded for good as a pilot.

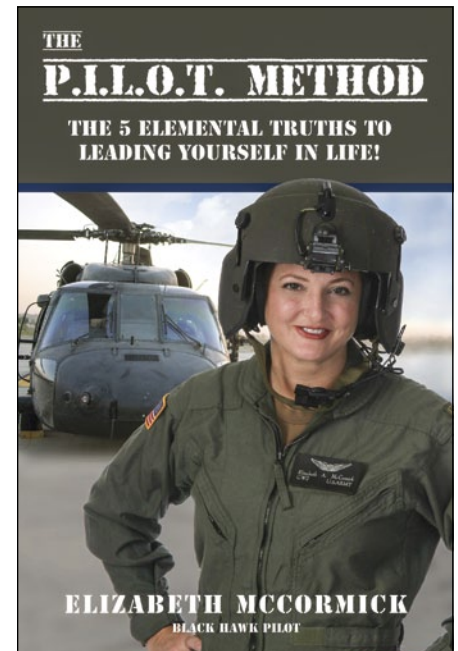
But another career soon took off. Moving to the Dallas/Fort Worth area, McCormick used her mathematics minor to work her way up in the corporate world. She started as an inventory accountant and then advanced to materials manager before being promoted to an international contract negotiator.

“During this time, my community ‘discovered’ that I was a helicopter pilot, and I started getting asked to speak at events for schools, churches and youths,” McCormick said. “Word spread about my speeches, and more offers to speak flooded my email inbox along with offers to pay me for my time and travel.”

When her office branch announced it was closing, it was the push she needed to make motivational speaking and writing her full-time career. She was a founding member of the John Maxwell team of speakers, coaches and trainers.

In October 2013, she released her sixth book, “The P.I.L.O.T. Method: The Five Elemental Truths to Leading Yourself in Life.” She currently has a full schedule of speaking appearances that will take her to places like South Africa and Vietnam in the coming months.

“Much like deciding to fly a helicopter, becoming a motivational speaker came to me and chose me,” said McCormick, who has spoken to more than 150 audiences and has been featured in the Wall Street Journal, ABC News and CBS News among others. She also conducts corporate leadership training for companies like Coca-Cola, Lockheed Martin and Sherwin Williams.



**Above:** Elizabeth McCormick released her sixth and latest book, “The P.I.L.O.T. Method: The Five Elementary Truths to Leading Yourself in Life.” In it, she outlines the principles of self-leadership:

**P:** is for Potential, believing in your abilities,  
**I:** is for Implementation, as you have to take action to reach your potential,  
**L:** is for Leadership and outlines my three pillars of leadership as they relate to aviation—communicate, aviate (take action) and navigate (define your vision),  
**O:** is for Optimize your life, creating a sustainable and maintainable level of higher performance (after all who wants to fly with an average pilot). And,  
**T:** is for Tenacity, not giving up, even when it’s hard.



She said her goal is to become the next Zig Ziglar, Tony Robbins or John Maxwell “because all the top motivational speakers are men, and it’s time for me to shatter that glass ceiling now!” she said.

In 2011, McCormick received the Congressional Veteran Commendation from U.S. Senator Sam Johnson for her commitment and duty and community as a military veteran (left).

### A Motivational Message

While at Siena Heights, McCormick credited faculty members like Tim Husband and Carl Kaster for opening up her mind to new opportunities and goals.

“Siena’s mission to become competent, purposeful and ethical stayed with me in my military service,” she said. “It was about becoming my best self every day.”

The Sand Creek, Mich., native said she has her own motivational message to Siena Heights students.

“Believe in yourself and your abilities first,” said McCormick, whose parents, Tim ’84, and Mary ’81 are also Siena Heights graduates. “Build your confidence from within, then lead yourself in the actions to your desired outcome.

“If I hadn’t been injured, would I still be flying? Oh yeah!” she continued. “Do I miss it every day? Oh yeah! But if I hadn’t gone through all the struggles while serving, the injury, would I have the message I share today? ... My life would have gone in a completely different direction, and now, I’m so fully in my purpose, my calling, to inspire leadership at a personal level, that I can’t imagine a different outcome.” ♦

find us on facebook—search for shu alumni



## from the alumni office



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Associate VP for Advancement &  
Director of Alumni Relations  
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### Can We Talk?

Yes, in so many different ways!

For almost a year, the Alumni Board of Directors has been discussing networking as a way for alumni to connect with Siena Heights. Early conversation focused on how alumni might assist current students—offering mentoring or job shadowing opportunities, welcoming student interns, or simply sharing the wisdom of experience. In a pilot effort, a few alumni did some wisdom-sharing at Homecoming last year, discussing careers with students over Saturday morning coffee.

The talk since then has gone in many directions: How do we bring students and alumni together? What programs or activities might work? And, at our February Board meeting, this question: What are the benefits of connecting undergrads and graduates? Does it make a difference?

Katie Hatch '07, vice president of the Alumni Board, recalled the impact of a now-nameless art alumna who spoke in a long ago class in Studio Angelico: “She was a woman who worked, had a husband and children, and did her own art, too,” Katie said (attending this Board meeting by Skype from her snowbound home near Akron). “I thought, ‘Wow. If she can teach, have a family, and also do art—I can, too.’ After that, I was ready to major in art. It was a pivotal moment.”

Dennis Reeder, a past Board president, shared a similar story in reverse. At two successive Homecomings, he met Carol Krueger '05, who was then a theater major serving as the student rep on the Alumni Board. “I hadn’t been back to Siena in years, and Carol took me all over campus, told me about new programs, introduced me to everyone,” Dennis said. “After the second time, I was hooked. I could see everything that was happening here, and I wanted to be involved.” And so began Dennis’ “ten incredible years” of service on the Alumni Board.

So, yes, giving students and alumni that chance to talk together does make a difference.

Talking face to face is great, of course; but not everyone can make it to Homecoming or into a class on campus. What then? Fortunately, technology today provides lots of options: Facebook, Twitter, and other social media. (See “Social @ Siena” on the SHU website for more options.)

One of the most effective new ways to connect—with students and other alumni—is through LinkedIn. If you’re not yet on LinkedIn, think about doing it. In the coming months, Siena marketing, alumni and career services staff will be exploring more ways to share and exchange career information and advice through the University page on LinkedIn. If you have suggestions, we’d like to hear them. (You can email, text, post, call, Skype or even send a letter!)

Of course, the Alumni Office will continue to provide as many opportunities as we can for good old face-to-face conversation at alumni events, both on campus and in your area. So whether you live in Adrian or Timbuktu, if you’re wondering “Can we talk?”—the answer is: Yes, we can!

*Jennifer*



# class notes

## FROM THE SITES

### Benton Harbor

#### 2010

**Felix Clarke** is currently employed as a mechanical planner with Constellation Energy Nuclear Group. He and his wife, Tamara, and their three children live in Great Mills, Md.

### Monroe

#### 2013

**Jeff Evans** was promoted from fire marshal to fire chief at the Trenton (Mich.) Fire Department in November 2013. Evans has worked as a firefighter more than 20 years at the Trenton and Riverview (Mich.) fire departments, and is certified in fire inspection and investigation. He also is a state certified paramedic.

### Port Huron

#### 2003

**Robert Schmelzer** was recently named chief of the Washington Township Fire Department. He was formerly promoted to captain in 2009, and joined the department in 1992. He became the first EMS instructor/coordinator for the department as well as a certified fire inspector. Schmelzer recently finished the Michigan State Police Fire Investigation School.

### Southfield

#### 1991



**Audrey Mistor** was promoted to executive vice president and wealth management group manager at Monroe Bank & Trust in November 2013. In her new position, Mistor will guide all facets of wealth management operations and lead a staff of 30 investment, trust, estate planning and retirement professionals. She has 30 years of experience in the banking business, including 20 years at Michigan

National Bank. She also held senior management positions at Republic Bank and Main Street Bank, and has participated in several global executive leadership programs. She also is the vice president of the Michigan Philharmonic Orchestra and a Northville Community Foundation board member.

#### 2003



**Anthony Ashford** and his family won a mortgage-free home from Quicken Loans in December 2013 during a promotion for military families at halftime of the Little Caesar's Bowl at Ford Field in Detroit. Ashford is a First Lieutenant in the U.S. Army. To see a video of the event, visit <http://youtube/ZTpX6bg1qDk>.

#### 2008

**Les Morrison/MA** is currently a clinical therapist and the director of Marriage and Family Services at Perspectives of Troy. He also leads marriage seminars and retreats. He resides in Clinton Township, Mich.

#### 2009

**Dellonnie Shelby** is employed as an executive producer at WADL TV in Detroit. He produces a talk show entitled "Transforming Detroit," and another show he's created and executive produces called "Matters of the Heart" that aired in January 2014. He also runs the My Sister's Keeper Foundation with his mother. The organization provides various services for battered women and children in shelters in Michigan and Pennsylvania. On Dec. 8, 2013, the foundation hosted its first humanitarian award banquet to honor Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, minister and radio talk show host Angelo Henderson.

#### 2013

**Thomas Rogers** was recently sworn in as one of the newest members of the Westland (Mich.) Police Department. Rogers previously worked for the Detroit Police Department for 15 years.

## MAIN CAMPUS

#### 1954

**Sister Alyce Van Acker, OP** had her painting exhibit "Sharing Color," featured by the Chicago Tribune. "Sharing Color" ran April 17-May 23 in the Kavanagh Gallery at Fine Line Creative Arts Center in St. Charles, Ill. All paintings in the exhibit were created in 1974 or later and included a variety of sizes. She also has served as a painting teacher for Fine Line since 1980. For more information about the exhibit and Van Acker's work, visit [www.fineline.org](http://www.fineline.org).

#### 1971



**Thomas Meyer/MA** and his wife, Jeannette, were the recipients of the 2013 Musgrove Evans Award, which is the City of Tecumseh's (Mich.) highest award. The honor recognizes those who have contributed to Tecumseh's quality of life. The Meyers were recognized through their teaching careers, volunteer work and participation in the arts.

#### 1977

**John Caknipe/MA** is an author and historian who is expected to release his latest book, "Preachers, Teachers and Confederate Officers: Randolph Mason College—The Early Years, 1830 to 1868," this fall. Since 2007 the disabled Vietnam War combat veteran has researched and written about the evolution of the piedmont area. His work was selected by the

Library of Virginia for inclusion in a volume of the Virginia Biography series. His work has also appeared in the credits of Ark Media for the PBS TV show "Finding Your Roots," and in the NBC TV show "Who do you Think You Are?" He presently serves on the Board of Directors of the Old Brunswick Circuit Foundation, which educates and preserves three primary Methodist historical sites in the area. He has served as a college professor for more than 30 years, and is currently employed at South-side Virginia Community College, South Boston, Va. He and his wife reside in Clarksville, Va.

#### 1978

**Karen Krempa Smallets '78** reports that her husband, **Stephen Smallets '76** passed away Sept. 1, 2013. After earning a master's degree from the University of Toledo, he had a 34-year career in the Navy Industrial Hygiene community starting in 1979. His last position was as director of the Regional Industrial Hygiene Program for Navy Medicine East. He was also an adjunct professor of Environmental Health in the College of Health Sciences at Old Dominion University. Karen works as the assistant director of University Publications at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Va. The couple has one daughter, Sarah.

#### 1980

**Allan Rodewald** had 17 of his works featured in a February 2014 art exhibit at the Imperial Gallery in Rosenberg, Texas. Rodewald, a SHU alumni award winner, is known internationally for his abstract art. He resides in Houston.

#### 1984

**Rick Girodat** was recently featured in the Legal News. The former East Detroit police officer is now an attorney specializing in insurance litigation defense. He is a partner at Girodat & Marienfeld in Jackson, Mich., and completed his law degree at Cooley Law School in 1991. Girodat is also a state approved facilitative mediator and case evaluator. He and his wife, Cammie, and their four children reside in Jackson.

#### 1985

**Debbie Rynell Ridgway** has been serving as Kansas City's (Mo.) first bicycle pedestrian coordinator since 2007. She oversees several initiatives, including the Trails KC, Bike KC and KC Walkability Plan, as well as manages education and outreach. She's currently helping develop a master plan for a more than 800-mile trail and on-street bikeway system. According to the city's web site, in 2010 she established the Active Living KC initiative to make biking and walking to school a safe and healthy choice and address policy changes to support healthy, vibrant neighborhoods. Before joining the KC's Public Works Department, she worked in the nonprofit sector specializing in volunteer management, board development and fundraising. To read the rest of her story, visit <http://kcmo.gov/2014-female-firsts/>.



**Bruce Webb** has been serving as the community bank president of the National Bank of Commerce in Duluth, Minn., since

moving from Adrian, Mich., in 2011. The bank is the Twin Ports largest community bank. He and his wife, Kimberley, and their two children reside in Duluth.

#### 1987

**Robin Wagner** won a bronze medal in the solo free routine finals at the U.S. Master's Synchronized Swimming Championships in Albuquerque, N.M., in October 2013.

#### 1989

**Kathleen Guilbault Decker** received the Terrel H. Bell Award for outstanding leadership in December 2013 at a Blue Ribbon Ceremony in Washington, D.C. Decker was also recognized for being the 2013 National Principal of the Year by Magnet Schools of America, and was featured in the fall 2013 edition of Reflections for her efforts as principal of the Walter Bracken STEAM Academy in Las Vegas.

1995

**Julie Goll** was named the president and CEO of the Blissfield (Mich.) State Bank on March 1, 2014. She has worked at the bank since 1982, and was most recently its executive vice president and chief lending officer. Goll and her husband, David, reside in Blissfield Township.

1998



**LuAnn Sawdey-Roberts** earned the 2014 Carl J. Latona Distinguished Service Award for leadership and dedication at Highfields.

She currently serves as director of Community Services at Highfields and was recognized for her integrity, passion to help others, perseverance and commitment to excellence. She oversees five counties and 10 programs as well as 40 staffers from the mental health and child welfare system in her current position. Sawdey-Roberts has been with Highfields since 2001.

1999

**Kristin Baty Watts** and her husband, Jay, announce the birth of a daughter, Colby, on Dec. 5, 2013. She is the couple's first child. Kristin is employed as director of Admissions at Trinity School in Atlanta, Ga., where the family resides.

2003

**Emily Gray Catrell** authored her first book, "Meanma: Book One of the Daearen Realms," in January 2014. The digital book uses the Adrian and Irish Hills areas as a backdrop, and Gatrell said in an Adrian Daily Telegram news story that her love of the Adrian community and Siena Heights were the primary reasons. "Meanma" is a Scottish Gaelic word for "spirit" and "courage." Gatrell said the book combines a coming of age story and the paranormal. The book is a kickoff for a planned series of six. The book is available on Amazon.com and through her web site, www.daearen.org. Catrell and her family reside in Georgia.

2005

**Seth Borton** was named the head coach of the new Adrian College bass fishing team in February 2014. Bass fishing will compete as a varsity sport in 2014-15, and Borton will be in charge of building the team, which will be co-ed. Borton, a competitive angler, tied for first at the 2013 National Bass Anglers Association National Championship at Kentucky Lake. He lives in Adrian.

2006



**Lisa VanderPutten** married Kevin Justusson June 1, 2013, in Detroit Mich. The bride is employed in media finance with Aegis Media in Detroit. After a honeymoon to Bora Bora, the couple resides in Keego Harbor, Mich.

2007

**Damon Sloan** was promoted to vice president of Student and Alumni Affairs at the University of St. Francis in Joliet, Ill., on Dec. 1, 2013. He resides in Chicago.

2009

**Nancy Karanja** has been assigned as a deputy to the principal as well as teaches English in a girls' high school in Africa. She said she is "glad to have gone through Siena Heights that exposed me to so many challenges." She added that she especially enjoyed the insect collection for her project in the entomology course while at SHU. "Just the other day I saw a wonderful but strange insect, which I kept at least for two days thinking of how I could pin it down, as I used to do at Siena, and mail it to Siena to be added to the insect collection. (I) am grateful to the Siena community, and ... my dream is that one day I'd visit."

2010

**Patricia Thomas** started a new position as a volunteer coordinator at A Just Harvest, a non-profit organization located in the north side of Chicago. A Just Harvest has been fighting hunger for over 30 years, and is the same organization that she interned with during her graduate studies. She lives in Chicago.

2012

**Megan Dandrow/MA** is currently employed as a case manager and mental health therapist with Rainbow Rehabilitation Centers in Ypsilanti, Mich. She lives in Ypsilanti.

DEATHS

Alumni

- Sister Mary Frances Coleman, OP '43
- Sister Mary Dougherty, OP '44
- Connie Berube Binsfeld '45
- Rosemarie Van D'Elden Birman '47
- Frances Bork Nowakowski '48
- Sister Francesca Bartos, OP '50
- Sister Mary Anthony Marelli, OP '53
- Sister Catherine Henry Schmid, OP '53
- Sister Sean Therese Halpin, OP '54
- Josephine "Pat" Finn '61
- Sister Bernadette Vozobule, OP '62
- Sister Mary Eileen Sullivan, OP '69
- Janet Walter Klein '70
- Annette Herr Lerner '74
- Stephen Smallets '76
- Louis Wamsher III '79
- George Wagner II '88
- Carol Ann Forbes '89
- Donald Saul '98
- Linda Marutz '99
- Kathleen Tarr '00
- Randy Collier '08
- Dane Conyers '13

Friends

- Lois DeMots—former adjunct faculty member.
- Dr. Michael Pratt—adjunct music faculty member.

Obituary



**Rosemarie Van D'Elden Birman '47**—Born in Germany, Rosemarie and her American parents barely escaped the country in

1942. As head of the American Chamber of Commerce in Frankfurt, her father had helped many in the Jewish community to leave, for which he spent two months in an internment camp prior to their departure. A few years later, Rosie came to Siena Heights sight unseen from New York City, where her family had settled. "I felt very accepted, very much at home at Siena. My English wasn't very good but everyone helped me," she said, remembering Sisters Mary George, Marie Grace and Philomena.

After first working for a Catholic fundraising organization, Rosemarie entered the then-new field of computers in the early '60s, becoming a senior systems analyst at UNIVAC. Later she ran her own computer consulting business.

She shared her interest in computers with her husband, Paul, an electronics engineer and early adopter of computer technology in marketing complex electronic instruments.

At her 50th Siena Heights reunion—which she helped organize—Rosie said "I inherited my lust for travel from my father." In retirement, she and Paul traveled extensively, and adventurously. She was also an avid boater, gardener and contract bridge player; an active community volunteer; a generous friend to Siena and a leader in her Siena Heights class of 1947.

Rosemarie died February 24, 2014, in Fort Lauderdale. Her husband, Paul, survives.



NOTABLE:



Carroll (Mont.) College named Siena Heights Athletic Hall-of-Famer **Doug Mello '86/MA** the school's first men's soccer head coach in March 2014. Mello has coached a national collegiate record 1,154 soccer matches (men's and women's combined) and has won over 700 games (712-384-58 overall). Mello helped start both the men's and women's programs at Siena Heights as well as at Luther (Iowa) College. In his six years as the Saints' men's coach, Mello led Siena Heights to five district titles, one regional championship and their first appearance at the NAIA national championship tournament in 1985. After starting the women's program in 1986, Mello's team won three district titles and were nationally ranked from 1986-88. In his final season in 1988, the women's team was ranked first in the country and made its first appearance at the NAIA national tournament, where they placed third.



Former Michigan Lt. Gov. **Connie Berube Binsfeld '45**, the first woman to hold leadership posts in Michigan's House, Senate and executive branch, passed away Jan. 12, 2014. She was 89. Binsfeld was a 1945 Siena Heights graduate who got her start in politics by serving in student government during the war years of 1941-45.

According to an Associated Press article, Binsfeld championed children's issues during her time in politics, serving in the state House and Senate before becoming a two-term lieutenant governor under John Engler from 1990-98. According to the AP, the former schoolteacher was first elected to the House in 1974 and won a Senate seat in 1982. During her time in politics she led the fight to ban surrogate pregnancy for pay, sponsored bills on domestic violence and protection of environmentally sensitive sand dunes and served 10 years on the Great Lakes Commission, according to the AP. She wrote in the 1945 Siena Heights yearbook, "The Valiant Woman," that, "We face a chaotic world that has wandered far from standards of Christianity, a world where modern sophistication has supplanted virtuous life. The motive of hate has replaced the driving force of love and a greed for power has caused individual and national strife. Man in the shadow of confusion is groping blindly for security. The security he seeks unknowingly is the priceless gift that we possess. We rise to the challenge that is offered and face the future unafraid. We shall go forth with the torch of truth lifted high."

# HOME COMING

September 26–28 **2014**

**REUNIONS: All Classes ending in "4" or "9"**

**Tailgates and Octoberfest!**

**Fall Sports and Athletic Hall of Fame**

**Memorial Faculty Art Exhibits—works by:**

**John Wittersheim and Lois DeMots**

**Music: Marching Band, Acapelicans, SHU Choir**

**Sing the Alma Mater with Choir at Mass**

**Theater: "Godspell!"**

**Banquets and Brunches**

**Alumni Awards and Mass**

**Details, questions or to volunteer:**

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find us on facebook—search for shu alumni



## from the alumni association



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

### The Siena Heights Mission: Alive and Well

The Mission of Siena Heights University leads us all “to be more competent, purposeful and ethical through a teaching and learning environment that respects the dignity of all.” No time in my recent past have these words spoken to me more clearly than a recent week in April.

I was privileged to attend the Siena Heights University Honors Convocation held on April 25. That ceremony reminded me of all that is great about this school. The students, faculty and staff honored were but a small percentage of the incredible people who constitute this university. Their achievements and accomplishments are all outstanding. Later that same day I attended a reception for the graduates of our Metro Detroit campus. There I met non-traditional students who, along with all of their other personal and professional responsibilities, had achieved excellence in the classroom while striving to create better lives for themselves and their families. As a former traditional student 40 years ago, I could not imagine how difficult their journey must have been. As I told them that evening, I am in awe of each of them.

During that same time period, as Alumni Board president I have been faced with difficult issues with friends that are torn apart by differing views and opinions. My heart breaks to see the pain this has caused some of them. I searched my soul for ways to teach them all tolerance for each other and their varying opinions—then realized it is not about tolerance. I don’t want each of them to tolerate the other’s opinions or beliefs. One of the greatest lessons I brought with me from my education at Siena Heights was the conviction of respect and dignity for all. I want to help promote dialogue, not so that one side can convince the other he is right or the other person is in error. I want each of them to understand the other’s feelings and respect that those feeling are valid for that person. I would want to help them achieve some type of common ground.

As I struggled with all of this, I gained further insight from a lunch shared with several wonderful and strong women in my family. They had no idea of the issues I was facing but our conversation soon turned to this exact same subject: respecting those with differing views and understanding where each person is coming from in his own life experiences. I happen to have very different political opinions from many of my family members. However, that day served to remind me that such differences did not diminish my intense love and respect for each of them. We could share our opinions and, at the end of the day, our love and respect for each other was just as strong – and not one of us had even tried to change the views or opinions of another. Who could know that those few hours of breaking bread, laughing and shopping could serve as my “a-ha” moment in helping me face my other struggles.

I am now convinced that my role is to promote dialogue, to encourage open, honest exchanges of ideas, and to ensure that each person is respected in his/her views. Maybe through dialogue, some opinions will change but that is not the purpose. The ultimate goal is to demonstrate that it is possible to have varied beliefs and lifestyles, while still respecting the dignity of all. Thank you, Siena Heights University, for this true education.

## 100 Reasons to Celebrate:

Sister Maura Phillips, OP '39, who directed musical activities at Siena Heights for many years, celebrated her 100th birthday on April 25, 2014. Now living in the Dominican Life Center on the Adrian Dominican Sisters campus, Sister Maura is currently the oldest living Adrian Dominican. She is "still very alert and mobile and does use a walker for stability," according to Tootie Horn '68, who helped organize a birthday party for Sister Maura. SHU Music faculty member Dr. Beth Tibbs and her choir performed for the occasion. "I saw Maura's toe tapping," Horn commented after the celebration. "Her head was down a lot, then would pop up and she would be smiling. I know she was honored!"



## Scenes from Graduation:

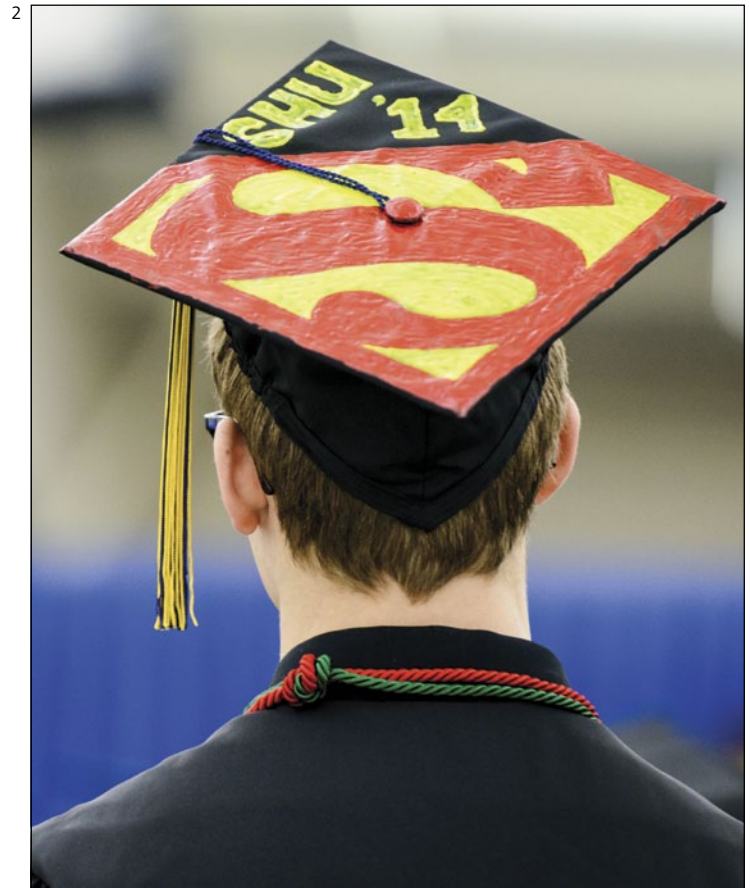
Commencement was held May 3, 2014 in Adrian for students from all SHU sites: Adrian, Southfield, Benton Harbor, Battle Creek, Jackson, Lansing, Monroe and the Distance Learning program. This year's ceremony had a record number of attendees.

To view photos from the ceremony as well as photos from many other SHU events, visit <https://picasaweb.google.com/sienaheights>.

**1**—Inés Rodríguez gives her "thumbs up" during the graduation processional.

**2**—Luke Sagaert shows his "Saints Pride".

**3**—Poet Charles Fort '74 receives a Doctorate in Humane Letters during the ceremony.



# 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](mailto:advancement@sienaheights.edu)

## Tell Us Your Stories About:

### Sister Patricia Hogan, 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 and personal stories to bring those teaching legends to life. In the

last Reflections, we asked about Sister Leonilla Barlage, OP. This time the spotlight is on Sister Patricia Hogan, OP.

**Here's what we know:** Taught philosophy and history, 1966-73. Director of philosophy program from 1979-91. Known for her sense of humor and commitment to international students.

**What you can add?** Bring this picture to life. Send your recollections to: SHU Alumni Office, 1247 E. Siena Heights Dr., Adrian, MI 49221, or [alumni@sienaheights.edu](mailto:alumni@sienaheights.edu).

### Stay in Touch!

Send us your notes, photos, emails and calls. Use the snail or email addresses above, or call us at (800) 693-0506. We welcome updates from graduates of all Siena Heights locations.

## Upcoming Baseball Events

*Root, root, root for the home team!*

**Toledo Mud Hens: August 7, 2014**  
11th Annual Alumni Outing at Fifth Third Field.

**Lansing Lugnuts: August 12-13, 2014**  
Two-night SHU home stand at Cooley Law School Stadium.

**SHU Alumni Saints: September 26, 2014**  
Homecoming alumni game and press box dedication.

Details?—[alumni@sienaheights.edu](mailto:alumni@sienaheights.edu).



*Mary Moore  
Good Luck!*

*But Wishes  
I'll fulfill*

# Barter

A Passion Play

*Maybelle  
Furtney*

*Rose Marie  
Agnafino*

*Rita Pankowski*

*Virginia Kelleley  
"Gudas"*

*Milady.  
I'll never  
forget ya, Ginny.  
Always stay the  
way you are - Love  
Phil*

*Hi! Embrey  
That was swell  
Aha! on Barter*

SIENA HEIGHTS COLLEGE  
LITTLE THEATER

*To our stu-!!  
Barb Kauer*

*Good luck  
you!  
Jan Markovic*

*To my  
mashed, twisted  
step-mother: I  
love that smirk!  
Rosemary*

*Josephine Ahala  
Phan = you're is  
a nat (is the  
play: Varrus  
Harris*

Walsh Hall

Saturday, March 17, 1951  
Sunday, March 18, 1951

2:30 P.M.  
3:00 P.M.

# Life Upon the Little Stage...

## Memories of Sister Leonilla Barlage, OP

By Jennifer Hamlin Church

**L**ife upon the wicked stage ain't nothin' for a girl," according to the Broadway musical *Showboat*. But Siena's Little Theater stage? Now that was something else!

Students at Siena Heights from the 1940s through the '60s found inspiration, encouragement, hard work, even careers in *The Little Theater* in the basement of Sacred Heart Hall. And also in the classroom, in the radio and later TV studio, and on the Walsh Hall (now Sage) stage—all under the direction of speech and drama teacher Leonilla Barlage, OP.

The late Betty Theisen '44, a pillar of the SW Michigan arts community as the St. Joseph High School drama teacher for 40 years, found her life's work on Sister Leonilla's stage.



Virginia Robertson Buckle '53 (left) did, too. Under Leonilla's demanding direction, she appeared in almost every Siena production including the annual *Passion Plays* (far left). As seniors, she and fellow thespian Phyllis Coscarelly '53 co-starred in "Their Hearts Were Young and Gay" and in the senior drama recital. But even the stars shared in the hard work of theater; Sister Leonilla made sure of that. "We would sit in a circle with the huge, black velour theater curtain on our laps re-hemming or repairing rips in the heavy fabric—then lug it back to Walsh Hall to rehang it," Virginia remembers. With Leonilla's recommendation, Virginia received a scholarship to the University of Michigan, where she earned a master's in radio and television. Almost six decades later, she continues to act on stages near her home in Ventura, Calif.



"Sister Leonilla was ahead of her time," says Bette Lucas-Steppek '54 of Sandpoint, ID, who remembers classes in choral speaking, radio, drama and puppetry (above).

Mary Ann Corley '61 agrees. "Sister was innovative and encouraged us to be inquisitive." In radio class, "she had us learn Morse code so we could be tested for a ham operator license. Since there was only one mechanism we could use to practice, we memorized the code by speaking it—dit, dat, dat, dit—and practiced talking to one another in code." Writing from Albuquerque, NM, Mary Ann notes that "I still have my license to this day (not in use, however)."

Anne Birnbryer Eichman '67 of San Diego, Calif, was a few years behind Mary Ann. As a freshman in Leonilla's Speech 101 class, she learned two "life lessons that I have carried with me every day since: Know your audience. And be prepared." (Anne later shared those lessons with her inner-city high school students—then with the writers and art directors she supervised at an advertising agency.) By the late '60s, Leonilla was too ill to attend class, Anne recalls, "but she tasked Kitty Kelley Metzger '67 and I to collaborate on a project of our choosing. We chose to make a satirical film called "Springs of the Mattress" about campus life at Siena. I think we did her proud."

Sister Leonilla retired in 1969. ♦

**Left:** Virginia Robertson Buckle poses with Sister Leonilla (front right) at graduation.



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# UNLEASH YOUR POTENTIAL

## What makes us different . . .

*“World view really matters to me and I love the fact that Siena Heights University endeavors to teach an ethical education to all students. It equips me with the tools that I need to really make a difference in the lives of students that I work with everyday!”*



— Mary Stephens  
Higher Education Leadership Student

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