

# REFLECTIONS



## A Leap of Faith

Siena Heights Celebrates 40 Years of Adult Degree Completion





# from the president

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Sister Peg Albert, OP, PhD  
President

## Reflecting on the Dominican Tradition

Recently, I attended the biennial Sponsorship Conference for all the institutions sponsored by the Adrian Dominican Sisters. While attending, I had the opportunity to reflect on leadership and what it means to be a university founded in the Dominican tradition. The following are some of my thoughts:

Because we are part of a Dominican establishment, we are all family, we are all related. Each of us are leaders in our own way. How do we lead? Is anyone following? When St. Dominic formed the Order in 1214, he believed that the Prior of the Order or the Master General should realize that he was the first among equals. That's also how I think leaders should see themselves today. When we lead, we must be servant-leaders, putting the needs of the institution/organization/community and the people we serve first.

How do we live the mission of Siena Heights University? Many of us have multiple interactions each day. What is the quality of those interactions? Do we speak with respect and listen with interest, or do we dismiss people as well as what they have to offer? Right relationships must be the foundation on which our mission is built. It can't be assumed. It is an intentional act. If relationships are off-kilter, then it is difficult to sincerely live our mission. Mission is not something to be written on a piece of paper and tucked away. It is something that must live and breathe, grow and deepen each day.

It is easy to abuse power. It is a human weakness to feel like we are better than others or that we have the power to control others. But that is not the way. We must stay off that path and respect others and foster the dignity of all people. We must lead with love in our hearts, humility in our souls and justice in our minds. We must be sincere in all we do. We must act with integrity and recognize the gifts that others have to offer so that they can reach their full potential.

Foster the spiritual development of people as well. People look to us for that as they crave more depth and meaning in their lives. And most importantly, walk with people on their journeys. There will be times when this is a challenge, but use Jesus as your example. Did He abandon the disciples when they didn't quite get His message? No, and we must do the same.

Finally, for what do we stand? If we believe in the mission of Siena Heights, we must take a stand on issues of injustice. We must be more like Catherine of Siena, who spoke the truth when it was not easy to do so. Sometimes what we say will not be popular. But we must say it anyway.

I end by saying pray always, study often, build community and preach—with or without words. Walk with each other on the journey, and always be peacefully uncomfortable so you will be impelled to be and do more. But most of all, love. For if we are not filled with love and joy in our hearts, then we are no witness to the Gospel.

Blessings on each one of you, and continue to live the mission of Siena Heights University in your lives.

*Sister Peg Albert, OP*

# REFLECTIONS

# on the inside . . .

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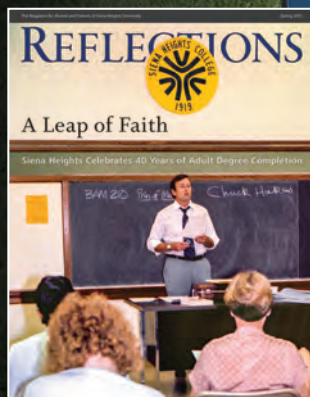
The mission of Siena Heights, a Catholic university founded and sponsored by the Adrian Dominican Sisters, is to assist people to become more competent, purposeful and ethical through a teaching and learning environment which respects the dignity of all.

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## ON THE COVER

Siena Heights business instructor Chuck Hakes was one of the first to teach in Siena Heights' first off-campus location—a former elementary school named the Magnolia Center—in Southfield. Forty years later, the College for Professional Studies boasts seven Michigan locations and a nationally recognized online program.

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# from the editor



**Doug Goodnough**  
Editor

## Dominican “Daisies” In Bloom at SHU

“The memory of Mother Augustine Neuhierl lived on in the prophetic words spoken to the professed nuns gathered around her bedside during her last hours on this earth. She told them of the ‘daisy field,’ her vision of a peninsula in the West dotted white with Dominican foundations; and she reminded them that, though they were contemplatives, their active work would take them into the schools awaiting them.”

— From *“Amid the Alien Corn,”* Sister Mary Philip Ryan, OP.

I love history. I’ve learned from my personal and professional experience there are few things that put the present in perspective and help map the future better than studying the past.

So, not long after I arrived at Siena Heights, I had a chance to read *“Amid the Alien Corn,”* a 1967 work chronicling the history of the Adrian Dominican Sisters, which, of course, includes the founding of St. Joseph College, now Siena Heights University.

I found the above passage of Mother Augustine fascinating. The title of the chapter was aptly named *“The Prophecy.”* Her vision of this “daisy field” that she shared with her fellow Sisters, some of whom would eventually travel from New York to Adrian, Mich., has stayed with me during my time here. Even though I did not know very much about Siena Heights at the time, I couldn’t help but wonder if Mother Augustine was referring to—at least in part—present-day developments.

After all, we now have campuses at eight locations in Michigan and also a robust online program. Quite a bloom, I would say.

In preparation for this issue, I had a chance to hear from some of the people who were involved with the development of our off-campus programs. After my abbreviated “history lesson,” I must say it was also an unlikely bloom.

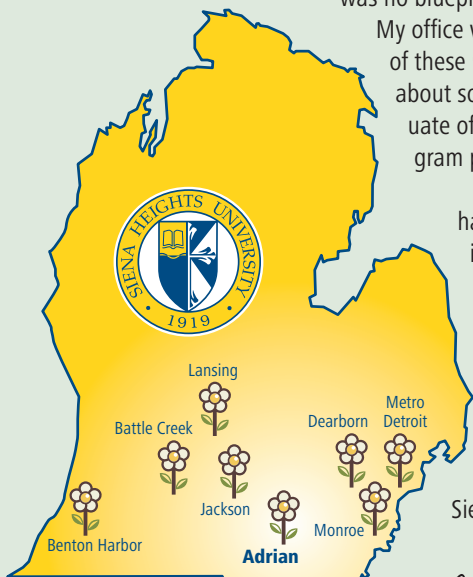
For a small, Catholic institution to step away from the safe confines of its main campus and start degree programs for non-traditional students, most of whom were working adults, was a bold move. There was no blueprint, no historically reliable model to reference. And yet it has worked. Remarkably well.

My office works closely with the College for Professional Studies, and I’ve seen first-hand the success of these programs. But more importantly, the overwhelming success of these students. You can read about some of those successes in this issue. In fact, my office colleague, Liesel Riggs, is a CPS graduate of the Monroe program. She is also a shining example of how SHU’s degree completion program positively impacts students’ lives.

During my prep work for these stories, I had my own “revelation” of sorts: Siena Heights has brought the liberal arts and the Dominican tradition to these unique groups of students in a new and unconventional way. Didn’t St. Dominic follow a similar unconventional path in reinventing the Catholic Church a few centuries ago, by going out and meeting people where they are? It’s not surprising that *“Meeting People Where They Are”* is one of the mantras of CPS.

Ironically, *“Amid the Alien Corn”* was written well before the first adult degree completion program was offered and the first off-campus site opened. And though the Adrian Dominicans also had a hand in founding several elementary and high schools in the “peninsula,” I can’t help but think that Mother Augustine’s vision had Siena Heights at its core.

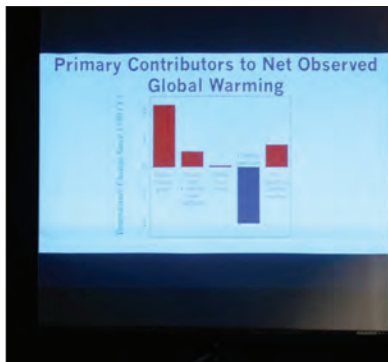
That I take on faith, not history.



*Doug Goodnough*



# from the heights



## Issa Lecture Series Features Sustainability Expert

Sustainability advocate and Stanford University scholar Dr. Mark Jacobson was the featured speaker at the William Issa Endowed Lecture Series on April 15 (photos above). Jacobson's topic was "Wind, Water and Solar Power: Roadmaps to a New Energy Future." According to Jacobson, global warming, air pollution and energy insecurity are three of the most significant problems facing the world today. He has a plan for converting the U.S. and 139 other countries to energy infrastructures powered 100 percent by wind, water and sunlight (WWS). He received the 2005 American Meteorological Society Henry Houghton Award and the 2013 American Geophysical Union Ascent Award for his work on black carbon climate impacts. A reception will follow the presentation. The event was organized and presented by SHU's Sustainable College Committee.

## Ross Presents Brain Research at Conference

SHU Assistant Professor of Education Julie Ross presented at the National Consortium for Health Science Education Conference Oct. 15-17, 2014, in Denver, Colo. She presented on brain research and served as one of the keynote speakers. Originally a classroom teacher of the hearing impaired, Ross became a teacher consultant for a variety of students with special needs after getting her master's degree in learning disabilities. During her more than 30 years in K-12 education,

she also served as a literacy consultant, a classroom systems specialist, and an instructional coach. She became interested in the educational applications and implications of brain research nearly 20 years ago. She has made hundreds of presentations to students, staff and parents, which led to her being dubbed "The Brain Lady."

## SHU Faculty Members Attend Religion Seminar at Notre Dame

SHU faculty members Dr. Sheila Nowinski and Dr. Julieanna Frost attended the Seminar in American Religion at the University of Notre Dame last fall.

## Porath Accepted Into NACADA Emerging Leaders Program

SHU Director of Academic Advising Wiona Porath presented at the National Academic Advising Conference (NACADA) Oct. 8-11, 2014, in Minneapolis, Minn. The panel session was titled "First Generation Students' Excellent Adventure: A Panel Discussion on Multi-Institutions' Efforts to Transform the College Experience." In addition, she was one of only 10 people nationwide recently selected for the National Academic Advising Association's Emerging Leaders Program for 2014-16.

NACADA started the program in 2007 to encourage members from diverse groups to get involved in leadership opportunities within the organization;

outfit participants with the tools necessary to pursue elected and appointed leadership positions; increase the number of leaders from diverse groups; and encourage members of populations who are under-represented in the association's leadership to attend state, regional or national conferences. Porath also published an article for NACADA titled "Succeeding in the Move from Advisor to Advising Administrator."

## DeLong Presents at Criminal Justice Annual Meeting in Chicago



SHU Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice Rhonda DeLong presented on the topic "From Rescue to Rehab: The Prison Dog Program" Sept. 25, 2014,

at the annual meeting of the Midwestern Criminal Justice Association in Chicago. The presentation centered on the many programs in place that use dogs as tools for the rehabilitation of inmates.

**Special Note:** In her research, she learned that the first prison dog program was started by a Dominican Sister in 1981! Also, DeLong was one of more than 450 people who attended the State of Michigan Heroin Summit Oct. 20, 2014. Leaders from law enforcement, mental health, corrections, education and community organizations were present.

## Wassmer Publishes Research Findings



Siena Heights Assistant Professor of Biology Thomas Wassmer recently published his research findings on the topic of "Seasonal Occurrence (Phenology)

of Coprophilous Beetles (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae and Hydrophilidae) from Cattle and Sheep Farms in Southeastern Michigan" in *The Coleopterist Bulletin*.

## Thompson Named to Library of Michigan Advisory Committee



Siena Heights Instructor of Library Science and Cataloging Librarian Corinne Thompson was selected to serve a two-year term on the Library of Michigan's MeLCat

Advisory Committee. The committee is made up of representatives from libraries around the state and is responsible for advising the State Librarian of Michigan on policies for the statewide catalog and resource-sharing system.

## Ethnic and Gender Studies Minor Approved

The new Ethnic & Gender Studies minor was approved and courses began in the winter 2015 semester. The minor requires 21 credits.

## Himelhoch Releases Leadership Book

SHU Professor of Management Carol Himelhoch was recently interviewed by Scott Eblin, one of the top 10 leadership bloggers about her book, "Transformational Leadership and High-Intensity Interval Training."

## Mehta Speaks at Canadian Academic Symposium

Dr. Parvinder Mehta, an adjunct faculty member at SHU's Southfield and Henry Ford College centers, was the keynote speaker at an academic symposium entitled "Justice Denied/Collusion Denied 30 years later; Reflecting on 1984 anti-Sikh pogroms" at the University of the Fraser Valley in Vancouver. The title of her keynote was "Repressive Silences and Whispers of History: Legacies and Lessons of 1984." Mehta also presented "For(a) ging Power and Desire: Mumbai as a City of Others in Slumdog Millionaire" at the annual conference of Midwestern Modern Language Association (MMLA) in Detroit.

## SHU Wins Red Cross Blood Drive Challenge

Siena Heights retained the "Battle for the Blood" Red Cross blood drive traveling trophy for another year, defeating cross-town rival Adrian College. Siena Heights met its goal of 72 units by collecting 73. Adrian College came in at less than 85 percent of goal.

## Hudson Named Director of Auxiliary Services

Ashley Hudson was named the new director of Auxiliary Services. The 2005 SHU graduate will oversee the Campus Event Management and Mail Services departments.

## Fick Elected to MSHPM Board of Directors

Associate Professor and Director of the Graduate Program in Health Care Leadership Dr. John W. Fick, FACHE, was recently elected to the Michigan Society for Healthcare Planning and Marketing (MSHPM) Board of Directors. As a board member, Dr. Fick serves as a "member at large" on the Society's Executive Committee. The MSHPM is a membership group for professionals and students who work or are interested in healthcare planning, marketing, communication or public relations.

## SHU Healthcare Leadership Graduate Students Win Case Competition

SHU's Healthcare Leadership graduate student team won the Midwest Chapter of the American College of Healthcare Executives Student Case Competition. The team of Sue Celmer-Harter, Christine Lewandowski and Lisa Whitlatch competed against some much larger institutions such as Oakland University, the University of Detroit-Mercy and the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor. The judges, all board certified in health care management, scored the SHU team above all of the competing teams. SHU's Director of the Healthcare Leadership, Dr. John W. Fick, FACHE, coordinated the winning team's efforts.

## Cardella Awarded Early Childhood Scholarship

Jennifer Cardella '19 was awarded the Michigan Association for the Education of Young Children T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood Michigan scholarship. The scholarship is designed to help early childhood teachers meet professional development goals while working with young children. Cardella currently teaches for Tecumseh Schools and is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree in Child Development.

## SHU Names New Director of Health Services

Sharon Spanbauer, OP, RN, MSN was named the director of Health Services and Campus Nurse. She formally began her role March 9. She previously has served as the Family Nurse Practitioner at the Dominican Life Center since 2001.

## Carter Receives MIACADA 2015 Pacesetter Award



SHU's Dean of the College for Professional Studies Deb Carter has won the 2015 Pacesetter Award through the Michigan Academic Advising Association (MIACADA). According to MIACADA, the Pacesetter Award recognizes executive officers, provosts and academic or student affairs officers (i.e., vice provosts, vice presidents, deans, etc.) who exemplify a commitment to academic advising and are true advocates for advising, students and advisors across the institution. Carter was honored May 8 during a ceremony at the MIACADA state conference.



## SHU Honored for Work with Local Homeless

SHU President Sister Peg Albert, several staff members and students represented the University as it was honored by the City of Adrian for 10 years of service to the Share the Warmth homeless project (photo above). The award was presented in March at the Adrian Commissioners meeting. SHU faculty member Sister Pat Schnapp, who helped organize and start the project, which works with the local Salvation Army, was also recognized for her efforts.

## Barbee Publishes Story in The Columbia Review



SHU Assistant Professor of English Karin Barbee has a story in the spring edition of The Columbia Review. Barbee's story, "Mouths Open," appears in Vol. 96. Issue No. 1

of the journal.

## Barst Co-Edits Women's Studies Text Introduction



SHU Assistant Professor of English Julie Barst co-edited and co-wrote the introduction for the newly-published women's studies text "Action, Influence and Voice: Contemporary South Dakota Women," an interdisciplinary project that began while she was teaching at South Dakota State University. The text highlights the present-day participation and status of women in South Dakota in a variety of fields, including politics, health care, the environment, religion, literature, music and the arts, agriculture, and education. The book contains scholarly essays, interviews with notable women in the state, and creative works by women, including poetry, fiction, and artwork. Barst presented on this project at the National Women's Studies Association Conference last November in Puerto Rico.

## Business Honorary Inducts New Members

The Business and Management Division had its annual Sigma Beta Delta induction and awards ceremony at March 25. SHU's Sigma Beta Delta chapter inducted the following students based on their outstanding achievements and moral character: Alison Brooks, Kara Ehmann, Halie Baker, Bobby Perry, Sirah Camara, Justin Henry, Michael Hummon, Kiersten Diachun, Kenneth Degraaf, Ryne Sanders, Austin Hauck, Tanya Lake, and Tayler Redinger.

Keynote speakers for the night were entrepreneurs and businessmen Michael Blanchard, CEO of Blanchard Consulting Group, and Brandon Blanchard, Market Partner for Grub Burger Bar. They also were honorary inductees.

Based on their commitment to academics studies, strong character and hard work, the following students were also honored:

- Accounting: Lucas Bartz, Meghan Dubois, Drew Milligan, Collin Teff,
- Sport Management: Haley Dennis, Bryce Delamielleure,
- Business Administration: Tayler Thelen, Meiko McDaniel, Jennifer Sylvester.

## Hartz Presents at Appalachian Studies Association Conference

SHU Director of Institutional Research Jason Hartz presented "Community Bands in Appalachia" March 28 at the 38th annual Appalachian Studies Association Conference at East Tennessee State University in Johnson City. Appalachia is home to some of the oldest, continuously active community bands in the country. Hartz's presentation will propose that the community band, a type of musical group often made of wind instruments and amateur musicians, is a viable topic of study within the field of Appalachian Studies, which tends to focus only on traditional white folk music and its commercial offspring.



### buildOn Founder Jim Ziolkowski Featured Speaker at Ethics Lecture

Educational trailblazer and New York Times Education best-selling author Jim Ziolkowski was the featured speaker for the 14th annual Chiodini/Fontana Lecture Series on Ethics March 11. His lecture was entitled, "Walk in Their Shoes," which is based on his most recent book.

Ziolkowski (photo above) is the founder, president and CEO of buildOn, a non-profit organization that builds schools in developing countries while also running after-school service programs in America's toughest inner-cities. At home or abroad, his goal is to break the cycle of poverty, illiteracy and low expectations through service and education. Inspired by his own travels to some of the most impoverished countries in the world and his experiences living in Harlem, he derailed his fast-track career in corporate finance at GE to dedicate his life to buildOn.

### SHU Receives High Marks in Student Engagement

According to the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE), Siena Heights University scored significantly higher than the national average in several key indicators. Siena Heights was included in the U.S. Catholic colleges and universities comparison group, which was part of the NSSE spring 2014 survey that included more than 355,000 first-year and senior students attending 622 U.S. colleges and universities. NSSE's annual survey provides colleges and universities with rich data about the undergraduate experience to help institutions improve student learning and success.

SHU had significantly higher scores in its senior student comparison group in the following engagement indicators:

- Higher-order learning,
- Reflective and integrative learning,
- Learning strategies,
- Effective teaching practices,
- Quality of interactions.

In addition, SHU also was significantly higher than the national average with first-year students in student-faculty interaction. In the area of Academic Challenge, SHU first-year and senior students reported higher than national average response to the question "To what extent did students' courses challenge them to do their best work?" A total of 61 percent of first-year students and 75 percent of senior students reported "high" challenge.

Student satisfaction also received high marks, with 90 percent of first-year students and 96 percent of senior students reporting their overall SHU experience to be "excellent" or "good." When asked if they would "definitely" or "probably" attend SHU again, 81 percent of first-year students and 95 percent of senior students said yes.

### Frost Publishes New Biographical Book

SHU hosted a book signing for Associate Professor of History Julieanna Frost Feb. 18. Frost has released her new book "The Worthy Virgins: Mary Purnell and Her City of David." In this first biography of Purnell, Frost recounts the history of one of the most misunderstood religious leaders of the 20th century in the state of Michigan. Purnell, along with her husband, Benjamin, founded the House of David commune in Benton Harbor. After his death, she had to overcome a series of challenges to create her own colony, the City of David. Some of the tenets of her faith included celibacy, vegetarianism and pacifism. This fascinating story of a charismatic woman will introduce the importance of Mary Purnell to a new generation.

### Michigan Campus Compact Honors SHU Students

Ten Siena Heights students were awarded for their dedication and commitment to community service during the 19th annual Outstanding Student Service Awards Celebration April 18, 2015, at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center in East Lansing, Mich. Meiko McDaniel received the Commitment to Service Award recognizing either the breadth or depth of his or her community involvement or service experiences. Only 31 students received this award. Amelia Balinski, Kiersten Diachun, Karley Hatter, Catherine Mangan, Keegan Pabst, Emily Peters, Kristen Pitts, Kaily Sims, and Celsie VanLoon 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. The Michigan Campus Compact

is a coalition of college and university presidents who are committed to fulfilling the public purpose of higher education.

### SHU Hosts Scholarship Symposium on Campus

Siena Heights University hosted its first Scholarship Symposium featuring keynote speaker Ann Larabee on April 8 in Adrian. The committee organizing the Symposium was led by SHU Assistant Professor of English Julie Barst. She said the goal of the event was to showcase the scholarship of graduating seniors and other students on campus and allow faculty, staff and the community to view some of the outstanding academic achievement happening at SHU. There were student poster presentations as well as several panels and individual talks throughout the day. Larabee, an English professor at Michigan State University, delivered the keynote address "Dissent and the First Amendment in the Twenty-First Century." Her address focused on her work on the First Amendment and radical speech.

### President Albert Receives 2015 Athena Award

SHU President Sister Peg Albert, OP, PhD, is the 2015 recipient of the Athena Award. This award is for her dedication to cultivating and developing women in leadership. It is given by the Athena Lenawee Council to celebrate community members who assist women in reaching their full leadership potential. She was honored at the annual Athena event May 12 in Dominican Hall (photo below).



# SHU DEDICATES NEW SCULPTURE “CHAOS GETARIA”

Siena Heights University acquired a monumental piece of artwork this spring by internationally celebrated sculptor Jedd Novatt and conducted a special dedication ceremony April 18 on the Adrian campus.

The 18-foot stainless steel sculpture entitled “Chaos Getaria,” was completed in 2014 at Novatt’s studio in the Basque region of Spain. Novatt lives in Paris and graduated from Sarah Lawrence College. His work has been shown in museums and galleries around the world, and is part of numerous private and public international collections.



Novatt's work has also been included in five of the highly prestigious exhibitions with Sotheby's at Chatsworth House in the United Kingdom—the annual exhibition of monumental work by the world's leading sculptors.

The artist attended the installation which occurred between the Verheyden Performing Arts Center and Studio Angelico on campus. A special base was constructed for the piece, and includes customized landscaping and lighting. A reception followed the ceremony in the McLaughlin University Center.



# saints highlights



## SHU Earns Champions of Character Five-Star Status

Siena Heights University was one of 168 institutions to earn NAIA Champions of Character Five-Star designation for the 2013-14 academic year. The Saints earned silver designation in the program. Institutions are measured on a demonstrated commitment to Champions of Character and earned points in character training, conduct in competition, academic focus, character recognition and character promotion. Institutions earned points based on exceptional student-athlete grade point averages and by having minimal to no ejections during competition throughout the course of the academic year.

## SHU Senior Chosen for Coaching Prep Program



Senior Jessie Arnold was selected to participate in the 13th annual Women's Basketball Coaches Association "So You Want to Be a Coach" program. The three-day workshop took place April 3-5 in conjunction with the WBCA National Convention in Tampa, Fla. The objectives of the program are to increase the understanding and application of skills necessary to secure coaching positions in women's basketball, increase the understanding and awareness of competencies necessary for success in coaching, introduce female basketball players to coaches and administrators, raise awareness of the existing talent pool of female

basketball players who have a passion and interest in coaching the game of women's basketball. Each participant is selected based on her academics, contributions to women's basketball on and off the court, professional resume and a written recommendation from their head coach.

## Berrington Hired as New SHU Volleyball Coach



Kim Berrington was hired as the new head coach of the men's and women's volleyball programs. Berrington was the head women's coach at Eastern Michigan for 19 years and has 23 years of collegiate head coaching experience, with a career 408-365 record. She is the Eagles' all-time leader in coaching wins, with Eastern winning the MAC West Division championship in 2005 and reaching the MAC Tournament final in 2013. She and her husband, Chuck, reside in Britton, Mich., with their daughter, Kelsey, who plays volleyball for Valparaiso (Ind.).

## Cross Country

**Women:** Ashley Russo and Elaine Johnson placed 10th and 13th, respectively, at the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference meet in Grand Rapids. SHU was fourth overall behind champion Aquinas, Indiana Tech and Cornerstone. Russo and Johnson each qualified for the NAIA Championships and finished 173rd and 206th, respectively. Russo ran a time of 19:53.9, with Johnson finishing in 20:10.8. Seniors Arika Knannlein and Mariah Ridal and junior Johnson were each named NAIA Scholar-Athletes.

**Men:** The Saints placed seventh at the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference meet. Samuel Parlette was SHU's top finisher, taking 21st place in 27 minutes, 5.9 seconds. Senior Matthew Robinet was named a NAIA Scholar-Athlete for the Saints.

## Golf

**Women:** The Saints finished third at the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference Jamboree at the Lenawee Country Club. SHU also placed third in the final regular season standings. Andrea Richards was named all-conference for the second consecutive year. Sydney Gossett was chosen to the WHAC honorable mention team with Ashlyn Samples the Champions of Character recipient.

**Men:** The Saints missed the regular season conference championship by one stroke, placing second to Indiana Tech in the final standings. Robert Kowalenko was named to the all-conference first team, with Nick Zanotti chosen to the honorable mention squad and receiving the Champions of Character award.

## Football

The Saints (6-4 overall, 5-1 MSFA Midwest) claimed a share of the Mid-States Football Association Mideast League title in only their third varsity season. Senior defensive tackle Kyle Connors was named a first team NAIA All-American by the American Football Coaches Association. Connors had 42 tackles, seven quarterback sacks and 17 1/2 tackles for loss for one of the top defenses in the nation. Seven Saints earned first team All-MSFA Mideast League honors while head coach Jim Lyall and Matt Kohn were named the Mideast's Head Coach of the Year and Assistant Coach of the Year, respectively. Seniors Donovan Campbell (tight end), Gauge Aebersold (offensive lineman), Raphael Dunson (return specialist), Trent Bragg (linebacker), Connors (defensive lineman) and C.J. Marios (defensive lineman) and redshirt freshman Darius Price (cornerback) were all selected on the first team. Junior receiver/return specialist Reggie Blackmon, senior offensive lineman Jake Helsel, junior linebacker Nic Acton and sophomore safety Cha'Quan Love were named to the second team. Earning honorable mention were seniors Jordan Martin (defensive lineman), Tyler Karcher (linebacker) and junior quarterback Travis Zajkowski.

The Saints finished second in the NAIA in total defense. Senior offensive lineman Jake Helsel was named to the Capital One Academic All-America First Team chosen by the Collegiate Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA). He earned the honor in the College Division featuring NAIA and NJCAA institutions. The Saints also had 10 student-athletes named to the Collegiate Sports Information Directors of America Academic All-District Team. Seniors Bragg, Michael Butler, Helsel, Paul Jacobs, Marios and Lyle VanFleteren, junior Nic Acton and sophomores Ja'Tice Shaw, Asa Smith and Nate Yeloushan were all honored in the District 1 college division. Eleven Saints were named NAIA Scholar-Athletes. Those honored were seniors Lucas Bartz, Bragg, Jacob Bultema, Helsel, Jacobs, Drew Milligan, Kody Richardson, Collin Teff, Larry Trice III and Fleteren and junior Acton. Finally, the Saints had 11 players named to the Academic All-Mid-States Football Association Team. Those honored were seniors Bartz, Bragg, Bultema, Helsel, Jacobs, Milligan, Richardson, Teff, Trice III and Van Fleteren and junior Acton. Finally, Lyall was chosen as the NAIA's Region 2 Coach of the Year by the American Football Coaches Association.

## Volleyball

**Women:** The Saints (18-14) took 16th-ranked Madonna to five sets, only to fall 3-2 in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference Tournament quarterfinals. Halie Baker finished with a school record 1,271 career kills. She was named to the All-Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference first team. Freshman middle hitter Leze Vukaj was tabbed to the honorable mention all-conference team, with seniors Emily Abbs, Mycala Cherry and Haley Dennis and juniors Haley Mercy and Nicole Morgan earning academic all-conference honors. Mercy received the Champions of Character Award. Cherry was also named to Collegiate Sports Information Directors of America Academic All-District Team in the District 1 college division. Cherry, Mercy and Morgan were also each named NAIA Scholar-Athletes.

**Men:** The Saints lost to St. Xavier (Ill.) 3-2 in the opening round of the Great Lakes Division Tournament in Cincinnati. Their 12-12 record was the best in the young program's history. Named to the Great Lakes Division all-academic team were senior Max Field and sophomores Gilius Blinstrubas, Brody Davidson, Edward Harness and Christian Vegas.

## Soccer

**Women:** The nationally ranked Saints (15-4-2) dropped a 1-0 decision to seventh-ranked Northwestern Ohio in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference Tournament championship. SHU finished 23rd in the final NAIA rankings, but did not receive an at-large berth to the NAIA national tournament. Senior defender



Kelsey Young (**left**) was named the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference Defensive Player of the Year. She is the fourth Saint to earn the honor in eight years. She

was part of a defense that has had 15 shutouts. Also earning first team honors was senior forward Alexis Donnelly. Senior midfielders Paige Frey and Carlee Pallett were each tabbed to the honorable mention team, while earning academic all-conference honors were Frey, Pallett, Young, Lynn Hendricks, Jori Bitter, Elizabeth Davis, Meg Dubois, Abbey Marlette, Megan Michels, Meagan Mousty, Mikayla Ferer, Alyssa Huff, Madison Phillips and Kristina Veal. Ferer received the team's Champions of Character Award. Young and Donnelly were each named honorable mention NAIA All-Americans. Donnelly had eight goals and seven assists. They both were also tabbed to the All-Mideast Region Team by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America. The Saints had eight student-athletes named NAIA Scholar-Athletes, including Bitter, Davis, Dubois, Ferer, Marlette, Michels, Pallett and Phillips. Finally, Young was named to the National Soccer Coaches Association of America Scholar All-North/Central Region second team.

**Men:** Five Saints were named to the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference all-academic team. Seniors Keenan Boulnemour, Bryce DeLamielleure, Michael Hummon and Clayton Tomczyk and junior Keith Swistock were honored. Hummon was also the team's recipient of the Champions of Character award. DeLamielleure, Hummon, Tomczyk and Swistock were also named NAIA Scholar-Athletes. The Saints finished 2-14-2 overall, 1-7-2 in the conference.



## Indoor Track

**Women:** Kasey Renshaw and Phoenix Duncan (**above**) each claimed national championships in their respective events to lead the Saints to a fourth-place finish at the NAIA Indoor Championships in Geneva, Ohio. Renshaw won the weight toss with a throw of 63 feet, 10 1/4 inches, while Duncan claimed the high jump title with a 5-8 1/2 effort. Renshaw is currently the school record holder in the event. Stephanie Marquardt broke a school record (8.6 seconds) in earning a third place finish in the 60 hurdles, which earned her All-American honors. Other All-Americans for SHU were Tasha McKinley in the pole vault (third, 12-2 3/4), the 4x800 relay of Mariah Ridal, Ashley Russo, Brianna Pikel and Arika Knannlein (fifth, 1:33.87), Pikel (sixth, 1:34.1) in the 600, Marissa Johnson (sixth, 5-6) in the high jump and Renshaw (eighth, 45-6 1/4) in the shot put. The Saints (43 points) finished only behind Oklahoma Baptist (87), Indiana Tech (79) and Wayland Baptist (73). Rebecca Cousineau and Marissa Johnson each won events to lead the Saints to a fourth-place finish at the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference Championships. Cousineau took the weight throw and Johnson the high jump. The 4x800 relay of Arika Knannlein, Brianna Pikel, Ashley Russo and Mariah Ridal also took first.

**Men:** Rich DePalma finished third in the pole vault while Gerald Richardson and Elroy Daffin Jr. each earned All-American honors in the high jump for the Saints at the NAIA Indoor Championships in Geneva, Ohio. DePalma cleared 16 feet, 3/4 inches to earn All-American status. Richardson was seventh (6-9 1/2) and Daffin eighth (6-8 1/4) to earn All-American honors. The Saints finished 27th as a team. Samuel Parlette was named the Most Valuable Performer as the Saints claimed second at the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference championships. Parlette won the 3,000 in a time of 8 minutes, 48.76 seconds, was second in the mile (4:21.82) and third in the 1,000 (2:33.96).

DePalma won the pole vault (16-8 3/4), while earning seconds were Logan Gray in the shot put, Richardson in the high jump, Daffin Jr. in the triple jump and Frederick Boyd in the 60 hurdles. Indiana Tech won the meet with 235 points, with SHU collecting 114.

## Basketball

**Women:** The 20th-ranked Saints (26-8) made their third consecutive trip to the NAIA National Tournament as 13th-ranked College of the Ozarks claimed an 88-69 victory in the opening round in Sioux City, Iowa. Senior guard Sierra Calhoun was named a second team NAIA All-American. The two-time All-Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference selection set three SHU single-season records: points (616), field goals (214) and made free throws (149). She also had the third-best points-per-game average in school



history (18.12). Calhoun (**left**) was also recognized as a honorable mention All-American by the Women's Basketball Coaches Association. She is third on SHU's all-time scoring list and was also named to the WHAC All-Defensive Team. Senior center Mackenzie Tomasik was selected honorable mention all-conference, while earning Academic All-WHAC were Calhoun, Tomasik, seniors Jessie Arnold and Morgan Warfield and juniors Sirah Camara, Willow Cohn and Ebony Harvey. Four Saints were recognized as NAIA Scholar-Athletes, including Arnold, Tomasik and Warfield and Camara. The Saints finished second in the conference as well as in the conference tournament.

**Men:** Senior Christian Covile was named to the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference honorable mention squad after leading the Saints in scoring (13.9 points per game) and rebounding (7.4). Sophomore post Jerrell Martin earned a spot on the All-Defensive Team, while senior Eric Cogan was selected as the team's Champions of Character recipient. The Saints finished 11-20 on the season.

## Bowling



**Women:** Allison Caswell was the individual women's champion, leading a trio of Saints on the all-tournament team, as the Siena Heights women's bowling team claimed its first-ever USBC-sanctioned tournament championship by winning the Great Lakes. The Saints split their team matches at the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic

Conference Championships, finishing with a 2-2 record which included a first-round upset of second-seed Northwestern Ohio. Senior Katarina Coulson was named to the All-Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference second team, finishing with a 178 average. She was also named to the Academic All-WHAC team along with sophomore teammate Tiffany Logan. Logan was the recipient of the Champions of Character Award.

**Men:** Paul Farley and Aaron Dear were honored by the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference. Farley was named to the Academic All-WHAC Team while Dear was selected as a member of the WHAC Champions of Character. The SHU men's bowling team placed 12th at the XBowling Intercollegiate Collegiate Championships Addison Regional. The Saints had a final team score of 11,728.

## Dance

Laura Fultz and Madeline Soave each earned All-American honors as the Saints claimed second at the NAIA East Regional. The host Saints finished only behind champion Calumet St. Joseph in the seven-team event. Soave earned her second All-American honor, while teammate Lauren Nowak received honorable mention All-American recognition. The Saints also placed eighth at the NAIA Invitational in Midland, Neb. SHU had 98.33 points in the finals.

## Cheer

The cheer team placed third at the six-team NAIA East Regional, finishing only behind Concordia and Lindenwood-Belleville (Mo.). The Saints also finished 12th at the NAIA Invitational in Midland, Neb. SHU had 76.37 points in the finals.

## Baseball



Head coach John Kolasinski was honored with the Robert E. Smith Achievement Award at the NAIA Baseball Coaches Association Awards Luncheon in

Orlando, Fla. The award is designed to recognize a coach or administrator who has given oneself in an unselfish manner to the promotion of NAIA baseball. Kolasinski is the 15th award-winner since Smith was presented with the inaugural award in 1999. The 2015 season is Kolasinski's 27th campaign as a collegiate head coach—and his 12th at SHU.

# Online Program Earns Top 25 National Ranking

**S**iena Heights University's Online Learning Programs were ranked as the best in Michigan among private institutions and 25th nationally among public and private institutions by the U.S. News and World Report. The publication released its 2015 Best Online Bachelor's Programs rankings Jan. 7.



SHU's Online Learning Programs, which earned its first national ranking last year, moved up more than 100 places in the 2015 rankings. SHU has offered online bachelor's degree completion programs in selected majors since 2004.

"We are thrilled and proud to receive this prestigious third party endorsement of our program," said SHU President Sister Peg Albert, OP, PhD. "This ranking reaffirms what we at Siena Heights already know to be true – that our Online Learning Programs consistently deliver outstanding quality and value to students. We will continue to strive for excellence in this very competitive environment."

U.S. News and World Report's methodology included student engagement, faculty credentials and training, peer reputation and student services and technology to determine the rankings. Siena Heights was particularly noted for its efforts in student engagement, receiving the second highest ranking of all institutions surveyed (97 out of a possible 100). SHU also received high marks in faculty credentials and training.

"Our ranking represents our ongoing focus, commitment and determination to make this program successful," said SHU College for Professional Studies Dean Deborah Carter. "We have added services like eTutoring while maintaining the existing overall academic instruction, student support and operational services. We have and will continue to judiciously operate to enhance our distance education efforts, with various teaching enhancements and beneficial changes in the near future. We know that our 'student engagement' score is the result of the combined efforts, commitment, and passion of advisors, faculty, staff, students and administrators who make Siena Heights University online learning exemplary. We are deeply grateful."



## SHU's Online Program Nationally Lauded for Graduation Rate

SHU's undergraduate Online Learning Program also has the nation's highest graduation rate among private institutions and was third overall in a recent report released by the U.S. News and World Report.

SHU's Online Learning Programs made the U.S. News and World Report's "Short List" of top 10 colleges or universities that had the highest six-year completion rates based on students who entered in 2007-08. Siena Heights was the top private institution ranked with a 91 percent graduation rate during that period.

SHU was third overall nationally among all institutions, placing behind the University of Georgia and the University of Missouri-St. Louis. ♦

# Leading from the Front

## Chad Grant '99 Named President and CEO of McLaren Oakland

By Doug Goodnough

**C**had Grant believes work ethic and the drive for excellence can overcome many obstacles. Including age. He's living proof.

The 40-year-old Grant has risen quickly up the corporate ladder since starting his career in health care with the Detroit Medical Center in 1995. He became one of the youngest executives in DMC history when he was named chief operating officer (COO) of the Children's Hospital of Michigan in 2012. In December 2014, Grant was appointed to his current position as President and CEO of McLaren Oakland, a subsidiary of the 10-hospital McLaren Health Care system.

"Even at an early age, I was always the youngest, so I had to work harder to really maintain within my peer group," Grant said. "Even with the 10 CEOs of McLaren, I am by far the youngest. I need to work hard and learn. I think that work ethic has helped."

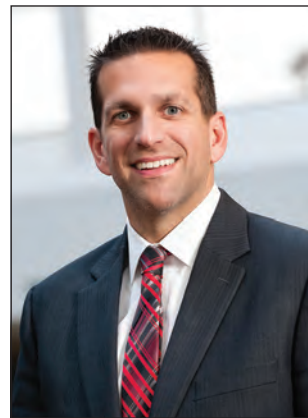
The 1999 graduate of Siena Heights University's Southfield campus said his education also set the stage for his success.

"Education is the foundation of the knowledge that I use, especially at Siena Heights," said Grant, who received a Bachelor of Applied Science degree in nuclear medicine. "I focused on as many finance classes as I could. For me, that's what really separates me from everyone else in my career. I took advantage of the instruction and (expertise) of the instructors at Siena Heights. ... They helped me connect the dots. I use a lot of the skills even to this day."

In his new role with McLaren Oakland, Grant oversees the overall administrative operation, including implementing and overseeing critical strategic initiatives.

"There are two things I focus on," he said of his daily duties. "The first thing is in the morning we have what we call a daily safety huddle. We review the last 24 hours of operations in the hospital and the next 24 hours. That's how we're sure we are providing the safest and highest quality care. That's the most critical meeting of the day. And at some point, I'm always walking through the hospital, just so I'm visible and resolving challenges. ... It's really balancing my time between providing the highest quality care and looking to remove obstacles for our patients."

He compares his leadership style to a "field general," explaining that "I like to lead from the front. I never ask to do things that I wouldn't do myself. I try to connect (my employees') actions with a purpose. It's really a key to be visible. Leading from the front, not sitting in a fancy office barking out instructions. That's how I worked my way up."



In 2011, Grant was named to the Crain's Detroit Business "40 under 40" list. He also serves on the Midwest Chapter of American College of Healthcare Executives board of directors. He credits part of his leadership success to having some great mentors and "being in the right place at the right time."

"If there was an opportunity, I took advantage of it," he said.

"I never looked at it as extra work. I looked at it as an opportunity. Numerous times I had the opportunity to get in front of prominent people. I looked at those as job opportunities that paid off."

He said he is excited about his current opportunity at McLaren.

"My move to McLaren really allows me to gain experience in a totally different health care organization and setting, and the ability to learn new things," Grant said. "I love what I do. I'm constantly in a learning mode. From a career perspective, I like making a difference. I leverage my strengths and I focus on achieving excellence. If we're going to take on a task, we're going to do it right."

Grant, who is in the process of moving to Clarkston, Mich., with his wife, Jessica, and their three children, Ty, Ethan and Ava, said the health care industry is a rewarding-yet-challenging field.

"There's a lot of opportunity," he said. "It's also a field that is very complex. ... The qualities that are necessary are compassion and flexibility. Our business is to care for patients. Everything needs to revolve around doing the best thing for our patients. ... And having flexibility is really key to be successful in health care. You don't have to be a nurse to make a difference." ♦



# UP FOR A CHALLENGE

Fran Parker '88 Leaves Retirement to Direct UAW Retiree Medical Benefits Trust

By Doug Goodnough

**F**ran Parker '88 doesn't walk away from a challenge—even one as big as creating and then leading a trust that manages the medical benefits of hundreds of thousands of United Auto Workers retirees.

Parker, after “retiring” in 2008 as president and CEO of the Health Alliance Plan (HAP), soon jumped back into the workforce. She was named executive director of the UAW Retiree Medical Benefits Trust, which manages the benefits of approximately 750,000 retirees of the “Big Three” automakers of Ford, General Motors and Chrysler.

“(The UAW) came to me to do this because of my background,” said Parker, who has more than 40 years of health care experience. “Taking the membership of three different organizations, Ford, GM and Chrysler, with no infrastructure, you had to create (the trust) from nothing. You knew that come January 1 of 2010, these retirees depended on you.”

When the trust launched in 2010, it became the largest non-governmental purchaser of retiree health care in the U.S. The trust is governed by an 11 person Committee of Directors. All of the retiree health care liabilities were transferred to a new independent Voluntary Employee Beneficiary Association (VEBA). Parker said she is enjoying her latest challenge, and considers it one of her greatest career achievements.

“I kind of divide the day into thirds,” Parker said of her typical day on the job, which usually begins about 7 a.m. and ends around 6 p.m. “A third might be day-to-day running of an organization. Another third (is) trying to keep abreast of regulatory changes. And (then) some time on strategy. I try to interact with staff and others, and I spend time with our insurance carriers and medical providers.”

**“I don't think there's shortcuts. I think that hard work, honesty, forthrightness, determination, relationship-building, those were all part. For me, I never walked away from a challenge.”**

As a leader, Parker considers herself to be “fact-based” and “data-driven.” However, she said she also values the opinions of others in the decision-making process.

“I think it's important to be the best, no matter what your job is,” she said. “I try to continuously learn. ... I like to gather opinions from others on all levels. I'm not really top down.”

Parker began her career in the health care industry working as a co-op for Blue Cross/Blue Shield—while still a senior at Detroit Dominican High School. She started at HAP in 1979 as one of 14 original employees, and steadily worked her way up the corporate ladder. In 2004, she was named HAP's president and CEO.

“For me, that itself was an accomplishment,” Parker said of her progression to a top leadership role at HAP. “I don't think there's shortcuts. I think that hard work, honesty, forthrightness, determination, relationship-building, those were all part. For me, I never walked away from a challenge. So many of the areas that I supervised or as asked to supervise were areas that, for lack of a better term, they had fundamental issues. ... A lot of people would shy away because it was a mess. But I would take it on.”

Although her vast experience in the health care industry serves her well, she also considers her bachelor's degree from Siena Heights University to be a critical piece to her professional success.

“For me, the flexibility that the Southfield campus offered at Siena allowed me to take the opportunity and complete my degree while working full-time,” Parker said. “I don't believe I would have been able to achieve many of my career aspirations without my degree. I found that the environment, the caliber of the instruction at the Southfield center were just excellent.”

Although she admits she has “failed” at retirement, Parker still makes time to get involved in her community. She just completed an eight-year term on Eastern Michigan University's Board of Regents, serving the last two years as its chair. Parker also serves on several other boards, including the Greater Detroit Area Health Council and the Alliance for Health Reform Council. Parker also supports women's advancement groups, including the Michigan Women's Foundation.

She said those considering a career in health care need to have a “mission-based” attitude.

“It really fundamentally impacts people's lives,” Parker said of the health care industry. “Whether you are on the clinical side, actually delivering the care or in administration, you're really doing it to improve the quality and outcomes of care that people receive.”

And about retirement?

“It didn't work the last time,” Parker said. “I want to continue to make a difference in the lives of the retirees of the trust.” ♦



40 Years

# A Leap of Faith

This year Siena Heights celebrates the 40th anniversary of offering adult degree-completion programs. From its humble beginnings in Southfield at a former elementary school (above), the program now boasts more than 60 percent of all SHU graduates each year. The ultra-successful Bachelor of Applied Science degree graduated its first students (at right) in the late 1970s and has made degree-completion a reality for students from all age groups and backgrounds, furthering the Siena Heights Mission in the process.



# Concept of Educating Working Adults Turns into the College for Professional Studies

By Doug Goodnough

As the 1960s were known as a time for social experimentation in America, the 1970s had Siena Heights experiencing its own period of educational “counterculture.”

In 1970, then Siena Heights College had named its first lay president, Dr. Hugh Thompson, and was transitioning from all-female student body to a coeducational one. If that evolution wasn’t difficult enough, Thompson brought more of a business and career-focused educational approach to campus, ruffling feathers of some liberal arts-focused faculty and staff of the time.

Thompson’s vision included starting associate’s degree programs that had a fingerprint more like a two-year technical college, not a private, Catholic, four-year institution. Yet some of these programs not only survived, but grew and evolved. Soon, the unique Bachelor of Applied Science degree was born. That degree became the “seed” that allowed Siena Heights to plant campuses around Michigan. First, in Southfield, then spreading to places like Benton Harbor, Battle Creek and Monroe.

Even a separate college—the College for Professional Studies—was eventually created to manage the growth of these off-campus programs. Currently, more than 60 percent of SHU’s graduates now come from a site other than the Adrian campus.

Ironically, the program that some people initially wanted to reject has become one of Siena’s distinctive educational cornerstones because of its unique way of bringing the Dominican, liberal arts tradition to a once-overlooked segment of students.



As SHU adult degree completion celebrates its 40th anniversary of opening its first off-campus site in Southfield, *Reflections* is taking a look back at how it all got started, and where it is at today.

## The Community College of Lenawee County



When Hugh Thompson (left) arrived as president of Siena Heights, he noticed there was not a two-year degree option in the county.

He saw that as an opportunity to increase not only the educational programs Siena Heights offered, but to add needed students.

“One of the things that became real clear when I got here, was (Thompson’s) vision of Siena,” said Norm Bukwaz, who arrived on the Adrian campus in 1974 to teach sociology. “There was no community college in Lenawee County, so Siena was still going to be Siena in the way it has always been, but it was also going to be Siena in another way: the community college of Lenawee County.”

New associate degree programs were created in concentrations such as fashion merchandising, hotel and restaurant management, electronic engineering technology and criminal justice.

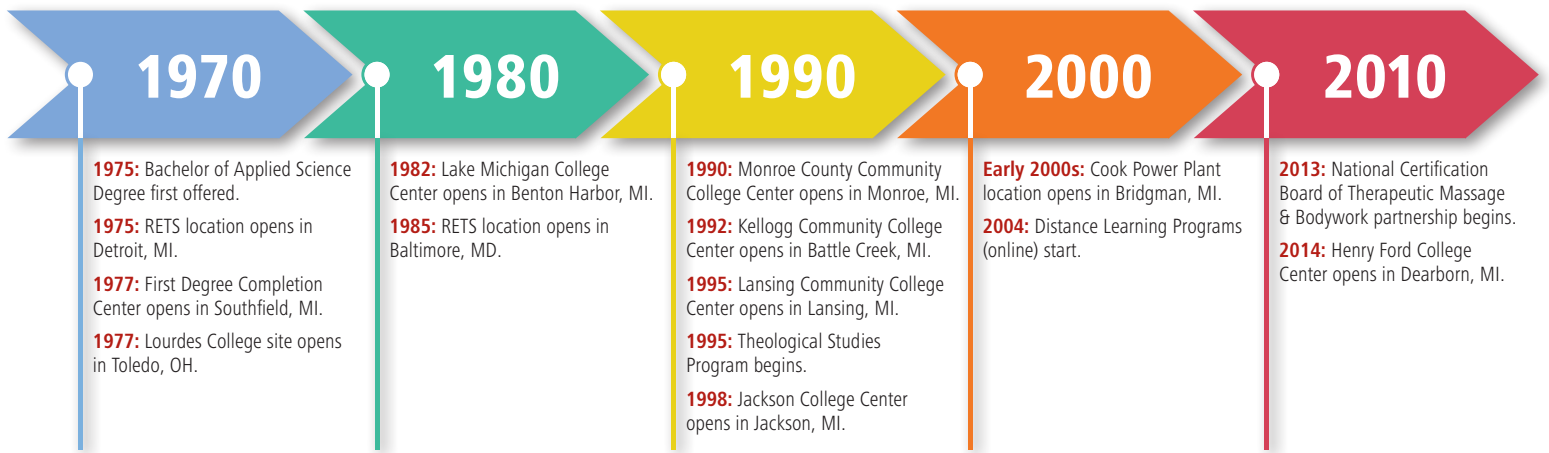
“Most liberal arts schools don’t have these associate’s degrees, but Thompson came out of a career (orientation), instead of a more traditional liberal arts orientation,” Bukwaz said. “Business was going to be big.”

## The Beginnings of the BAS

With all these students graduating with applied associate’s degrees, there was a growing demand to offer a four-year option. Bukwaz said the educational leaders of the time, led by Director of Community Education Dr. John Miller, developed the Bachelor of Applied Science degree concept.

“They had been thinking about it for a broad range (of programs),” said Bukwaz, who left the sociology classroom after one year and became the co-op coordinator of the new Applied Science Division. “Fundamentally, the argument became, ‘why can’t (the BAS) be a part of the mission of a liberal arts school?’ To take people with technical backgrounds and make them more humane technicians? Broaden their intellectual horizons. The employers I had made connections with said that what technical people need are communication skills, interpersonal skills, critical thinking, and ethical sensitivities. . . . It looked like it had potential.”

# College for Professional Studies Historical Timeline



The Board of Trustees agreed, approving the BAS in May 1975. Soon, electronic engineering technology students from the RETS Electronics School traveled from Detroit to Adrian to complete their degrees.

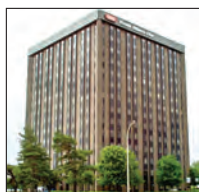
“RETS was the one that really got (the BAS) going,” Bukwaz said.

## Breaking the “European Model”

It didn’t take long for RETS officials and students to begin another conversation with Siena Heights officials about bringing the adult degree completion programs to them. At the time, the thought of offering classes at locations other than the traditional brick-and-mortar campus was nearly unprecedented.

“Colleges and universities have always been the European model, of here’s this university or college, and everybody who is going to be educated is going to come to us, and it’s going to be take place within these walls,” said Deborah Carter, dean of the College for Professional Studies. “We were the first private college in Michigan to do this, and Siena Heights College said, ‘Yes, we think this is worth pursuing and we are going to go ahead and do this. And we will do it as a mission-centered endeavor.’ In order to open ourselves up to the possibility that it could be done well in a different format took a leap of faith.”

Bukwaz, who was named the first director of the BAS Program—and still has that title today—said the first classes in the Detroit area were offered at RETS, the Westinghouse Corp. and a machine and tool company in 1975.



In 1977, thanks in part to a \$1 million or so grant authored by Tom Maher for advanced institutional development, Siena Heights opened its first permanent center in Tower 14 (above) of the Northland Shopping Center in Southfield.

“We were either on the 11th or 12th floors,” Bukwaz said.

Program delivery was also much different than the traditional, 15-week model of the Adrian campus. Now, classes were offered in eight-week formats, often at night or on weekends to accommodate working adult students.

One of those students, Steven West ’79 (read his full profile in this issue), said the Southfield program was a “good opportunity.”

“I had actually graduated from tech school and wanted to get my college degree,” said West, an EET major at RETS who received one of the first BAS degrees from the Southfield center. “They literally just got (the program) started. ... It was a really good experience, and I think we were all kind of learning the process at the time.”

Bukwaz said the Southfield program consisted almost exclusively of EET and nursing professionals (RNs and CRNAs).

He said the BAS model worked well from the start, and filled a need very few other institutions could provide.

“That’s the problem four-year schools have always had in designing four-year programs,” he said. “(The BAS) is a program for practicing professionals with Associate of Applied Science degree backgrounds. ... (AAS students) live in a credentialistic world. They represent the ‘other’ transfer student. The idea is that a whole category of AAS grads out there needed a program so they could build a baccalaureate degree.”



## The Community College Partner Model

Bukwaz was the dean of Admissions and Off-Campus Programs when he received a letter from the president of Lake Michigan College in 1982. LMC was looking for a new partner to provide bachelor’s degrees in business on its Benton Harbor campus (above). The program also needed to be very transfer-friendly. After some conversations, Siena accepted the offer to partner with LMC. More than 33 years later, Bukwaz said it has become the “model” for the CPS/ community college partnerships.

Carter, whom Bukwaz hired to staff the LMC location—and eventually replaced Bukwaz as dean of CPS in 2000—agreed. She said there were some built-in advantages of being onsite at another institution.

“Being on a community college campus, we have been able to hire the cream of the crop faculty who are full-time, many who are PhD held in those various locations,” Carter said. “It’s the ideal setting for faculty recruitment in the setting of the community college. They have a real understanding of the student from the community college.”

Siena Heights expanded this model to several other community college locations in the state. Currently, SHU also has centers in Battle Creek, Dearborn, Jackson, Lansing, Monroe as well as an award-winning online program.



**Above:** Former President Rick Artman (left) poses with current faculty member Sister Pat McDonald during the celebration of Siena Heights becoming a university in 1998. The map they are holding shows SHU’s locations around the state of Michigan at the time.

## Back to the BAS

Although CPS offers a number of degree programs such as business, accounting, professional communication and multidisciplinary studies, the BAS is still the most prevalent.

“I think that the Bachelor of Applied Science degree is successful at Siena Heights because of some basic institutional assumptions,” Carter said. “It’s so successful because we have been able to, with Norm’s enormous help, examine all of the current health, trade and occupational associate degree programs that have fit into the model of an inverted major. An inverted major means that the major coursework has already been accomplished before coming to us.”

“If you think about it, if we didn’t have the BAS, we probably wouldn’t have the off-campus programs,” Bukwaz said. “That’s been the opportunity. If there is one program that has been distinctive about Siena Heights (it’s the BAS).”

And West agrees with the idea that bringing a liberal arts education to a non-traditional student population is a good thing.

“One of the classes I took (at Siena Heights) was the philosophy of art,” said West, who has spent more than 30 years as an executive in the telecommunications industry. “It really got me interested in impressionist art. I did my paper on impressionism, and since then I’ve really been a big fan of (impressionist art.) That was something I specifically took out of that.”

Carter said the flexibility of the BAS is also one of its strongest features.

“What has constantly been the advantage of the Bachelor of Applied Science degree, is it has never been tied absolutely to one program,” Carter said. “We have been able to meet people where they are and what they’ve done before. That’s huge.”

Providing credit for past work experience was another important facet of the adult degree completion program. Bukwaz credits an unlikely source—the late teacher education faculty member Sister Eileen Rice, OP—for the development of that concept.

“One of her special areas ... was in vocational education for state certification for vocational teachers,” he said. “She was a leader in the state (to award credit for work experience).”

## 6,300 and Counting

Since the BAS started, Siena Heights has graduated approximately 6,300 students from the program. That’s roughly 27 percent of all of SHU’s baccalaureate degrees since opening its doors in 1919.

Currently, BAS graduates comprise about 60 percent of all CPS graduates. And those numbers are expected to rise.

Carter credits the overall achievements of CPS to her faculty and staff, especially the academic advisors who serve the needs of the adult degree completion student on a daily basis.

“The absolute key to the success of CPS is our professional advising staff,” she said. “To have an army of people who are really shepherding students, that’s big. That resonates with people. That whole customer service model is very Dominican.”

“I think it’s worked out pretty good,” Bukwaz said of the CPS model. “And we have some tremendous stories now. ... (Adult) students need to be educated. We’ve made some differences.” ♦

# One on One With . . .

**Editor's Note:** This is a regular Reflections article series, and this issue features longtime Siena Heights faculty member and Dean of the College for Professional Studies Deb Carter, who is retiring in September 2015 after more than 33 years at SHU. *Reflections* recently sat down with Deb to reflect on her time at Siena Heights.

## How did you get your start at Siena Heights?

"Well, it's an interesting story. I was a teacher of hearing-impaired children in Berrien County, and I had young children (at home). I was working part-time because of my little kids, and administratively they decided to only go with full-time people. I had enough seniority that I could bump somebody, and I just didn't feel that I could that. So I resigned from my position not knowing where I was going to go or what was going to happen next. This was May of 1982. In the summertime, a friend of mine called me and said she saw a very small ad in our local newspaper . . . and it was advertising Siena Heights College needs a part-time person to oversee a new degree program for adult students. I hate to admit this because I've spent 33 years of my life here now, but I had never heard of Siena Heights College. I had no college experience. No higher ed experience. All my experience was K through 12 teaching hearing impaired kids. . . . My friend talked me into calling the number, and I got David James, who was the director of Admissions at the time, and I said I was interested in looking at this. (He said) 'Can you send your resume?' . . . So I mailed it. And then a couple of weeks went by, and I got a call, and David said, 'Our dean is coming out to your area, and he is going to be interviewing candidates.' . . . So I met Norm Bukwaz, who was the dean of Admissions and off-campus programs, and we had a conversation. And my curiosity was, 'what on earth could you see in my background?' I don't know that I would have looked at me, because I didn't have higher ed experience. . . . (But) I was called and offered the job, and it fit my criteria because I had little kids and (I) worked part-time. And I was hired at, believe it or not, 10 hours a week, roughly two evenings a week. . . . To this day, I'm grateful for that strange little happenstance . . . that was I was able to connect with a place that I love dearly."



**Above:** Retiring CPS Dean Deb Carter (far left) during her days as an advisor on the Lake Michigan College campus. She is pictured with the first graduates of the LMC program, Larry Larsen and George Kanyuh. Also pictured was former dean and current director of the BAS program Norm Bukwaz (far right). The photo was taken in 1984, two years after the LMC program started with only eight students.

## What are some of your early memories of the Benton Harbor campus, as well as the adult degree completion programs?

"I started work July 1st (1982), and we offered our first three classes in the fall of 1982. Norm (Bukwaz) taught one of them. We hired Tom Muldary, who was on the faculty here in psychology, and maybe Tom Radecki. . . . The earliest memory was of a feeling as though I was thrown into a deep end of a pool because I felt that there was just so much about the whole world of higher ed and degree completion that I didn't know. I used the 800 number constantly. I was constantly calling and talking to Norm. He was very responsive and it was wonderful. I remember the early students who came into the program, and just how exciting it was to realize that we could be in a position to help them meet a goal. I have to say that excitement has stayed with me all these years because there's just something wonderful about meeting somebody with previous college credits, looking at it and analyzing it, doing a degree plan and helping them meet their goals. It was just a very exciting thing. And I have to say that it was our very first community college program. We did not have any programs on community college sites until then. I learned a lot in that first several years about the importance of relationships, the importance of presence, the importance of curiosity. People really do like to tell their story. . . . I love to hear peoples' stories. It was a really great experience to realize that I was, in many ways, establishing a blueprint for this."

## How has higher education in general changed during your time at Siena Heights?

"It's going to make me sound like a dinosaur, but when I first started there were no computers. One of the things that we have embraced in the College for Professional Studies is that while we are at a distance, we know the importance of getting together to meet and to plan and be creative together. The change between 1982 and now has been monumental in terms of the connectedness of a large group of people—45 staff and faculty — who make up the College for Professional Studies."

## What was your first reaction when you learned Siena Heights was beginning online education?

"Towards the end of the 90s, (then SHU President) Rick Artman came to me and said, 'We have a Higher Learning Commission comprehensive visit coming up, and I want you to write a change request to do a completely online degree program.' I said, 'No, no. You need to pick somebody else, because that's not how I teach. I teach in the classroom and I get a lot satisfaction from face-to-face and seeing people nod as your talking. . . . So I don't think I can do that.' He essentially said, 'You will do this.' So I said, 'OK.' That change in delivery was huge. That was huge for the University and it was huge for (CPS). But we also realized from the very beginning . . . that we were going to be talking about doing online in the Dominican tradition, which meant a real emphasis on community-building. If we couldn't do it that way, we probably shouldn't do it."



# Deb Carter

## What has been the biggest challenge for the College for Professional Studies? Of the adult degree completion student?

"The challenge (of adult degree completion students) has always been the balancing of competing needs of their time and energy. That is a challenge. Adult students frequently, not all, can rise to that occasion because there's significant motivation at the point to which they return to school. That whole notion of 'I need to do this. I know that I'm going to have to put some things aside until this is finished.' The challenge of prioritizing, making sure that they can meet all of the many needs pulls on your time. The big difference in terms of higher education is, we have a lot more traditional students who are living like adult students now. They are almost working full-time. Sometimes they are involved in a sport. They are certainly involved in an academic program. That need to spread yourself very thinly is probably is more challenging for traditional-age students that it used to be. That challenge that our college needs to constantly be looking at is the fact that our students come to us and take courses and they finish fairly quickly. ... Well, that's wonderful because we have a lot of students who are successful, but 600 students a year from the College for Professional Studies is a lot of students to replace every year. ... It's a huge challenge for us to recruit the number of students we need to replace (and also) increase in terms of numbers and enrollment."

## What people at Siena Heights have influenced you the most and why?

"I wouldn't be here if it weren't for Norm Bukwaz. I have a different style than Norm, but so much of what I learned about degree completion, the Bachelor of Applied Science, which is our most prevalent in the College for Professional Studies – I have learned (from Norm). He is at the top of the list in terms of people who have influenced my own career here. ... He took a chance on a teacher of hearing-impaired children. To say one Adrian Dominican Sister would be difficult, so I would say the group of Adrian Dominican Sisters, with whom I had the distinct honor and pleasure of getting to know personally and working with and just that huge aspect of what it means to be in a Dominican university. ... I would say that the friendships that I have developed with the full-time faculty who are part of this grand adventure that we're on together. They have deeply influenced me, their devotion, their creativity."

## What is your proudest moment/accomplishment at Siena Heights?

"It's wonderful to look back on this 33-year run and know that I had a part in the very first partnership that we had with a community college. I learned a few things about that and we just spread that to a variety of other partnerships. To Battle Creek and Monroe, to Jackson and Lansing, and now Henry Ford. The real understanding on the part of everybody who is involved in the College for Professional Studies that relationships are everything. That establishing relationships with your students, your faculty, with your partner people, being good tenants, being good guests. I'm very proud of the fact that we have been able to build a model for degree completion that is solid. I have to say I'm really proud of the staff and faculty we have been able to assemble. I'm very proud of that. The good-hearted, hard-working, student-centered compassionate people who are every day working on behalf of students and faculty, it's just really gratifying."

## Do you have any regrets?

"I love to teach. In the past I taught LAS 301 yearly, but I needed to give that up in 2004 due to the demands of my dean's position."

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

"That's a tough question to answer because I'm not exactly a shy, retiring person. A lot of people maybe don't realize that I am a preacher's kid. My dad was a minister. My very early memories when I was a kid were potlucks at funerals. I thought everybody ate that way. I thought the green bean casserole was something that everybody ate."

## Tell us the origins of the Roseanne Roseannadanna shtick.

"Roseanne Roseannadanna was a character that (Saturday Night Live comedian) Gilda Radner created. I have always had an ear for accents and mimicry. I can remember, even when I was teaching hearing-impaired kids, that we would have staff meetings and I would just kind of launch into her voice on occasion. When I came to Siena, same thing. Then Sister Eileen Rice became quite ill, and died in January of 1994. It was a loss to our community that was stunning and traumatic. ... Sister Pat Schnapp decided a couple of months later that what we needed was a faculty/staff talent show to have a community-kind of get-together and just have fun. She came to me and she said, 'You really should do the Roseanne character, but only get a costume and do a script.' I said, 'I don't feel funny. I don't feel it.' Well, she convinced me that maybe I should think about it. I can't even remember where the wig came from, but honest to God I'm still using the same wig 20 years later and a crazy outfit with big-shouldered suit that Gilda Radner wore. ... That was sort of how I started with that."

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

"I'll tell you what I don't want to be remembered for. I don't want to be remembered for the times when I lost my temper. I would ask my colleagues past and present to forgive me for that. I would like to be remembered for maybe making a difference in the lives of students and staff and faculty who I have had the pleasure of walking with over these years." ♦

# Rising Stars

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Larry Weeks



Polly McCalister



Joe Danley



John Lyman

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“Rising Stars” 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.

## Larry Weeks

**Graduation year:** 2008, Adrian.

**Current title/position:** Chief of Police, City of Eaton Rapids, Mich.

**What Larry is Doing:** At the time he attended Siena Heights, he was the chief of Police for the City of Morenci. After graduation he added director of EMS to his title. He was a member and served as President of the Lenawee County Police Chiefs Association, member and past president of the Morenci Kiwanis Club and delivery driver for Meals on Wheels. In 2013, he attended the Federal Bureau of Investigations National Academy at the bureau's headquarters in Quantico, Va. In late 2013, he accepted a position as chief of Police for the City of Eaton Rapids.

**My favorite moment/story while a student at Siena Heights was:** "The assignment from World Religions class regarding research into religions, not my own. I met with individuals at a mosque in Ann Arbor and interviewed their community outreach person. It was extremely educational and enlightening."

**My favorite person at Siena Heights was:** Judge Margaret Noe.

**My ultimate goal in life is:** "Great family, great job and lots of faith. I'm there."

**My best piece of advice for SHU students is:** "Having attended SHU at a later stage in life, I would encourage others like me not to be afraid of returning to school late. Embrace the opportunities around you to grow and learn. It's never too late."

## Polly McCalister

**Graduation year:** 2009 MA, Southfield.

**Current title/position:** Director, Cass Community Social Services, Detroit.

**What Polly is Doing:** In June 2014, she was hired as a program manager at Cass Community Social Services, a non-profit organization in Detroit. In September 2014, she was promoted to director. She currently oversees homeless programs and encourages staff to assist participants in acquiring housing, health care and employment. She also provides leadership for the organization's security, rotating shelter and HMIS teams. She is also a professor at Washtenaw Community College, where she educates adult learners on the philosophy of criminal justice ethics and its importance in the fields of law enforcement, judicial and corrections.

**My favorite moment/story while a student at Siena Heights was:** "My presentation on the resurrection of the death penalty and the impact it had upon my classmates."

**My favorite person at Siena Heights was:** Dr. Pat McDonald

**My ultimate goal in life:** "To complete my doctorate in Ethical and Creative Leadership."

**My best piece of advice for SHU students is:** "Education is the key to excellence and success. My advice would be to encourage a family member, friend or co-worker to enroll in SHU and watch their transformation."

## Joe Danley

**Graduation year:** 2005, Adrian.

**Current title/position:** Financial Planning Specialist/Advisor, Shafer Barber Winkler Group, Grosse Pointe, Mich.

**What Joe is Doing:** After graduation, Joe took a position with C.H. Robinson Worldwide in its Chicago office and began his career as a logistics analyst and broker. During his career with C.H. Robinson, he was promoted to account manager. In 2012, he joined the Shafer Barber Winkler Group as a financial advisor associate in its Grosse Pointe, Mich., office. The Shafer Barber Winkler Group is a wealth management team with \$500 million in assets under management. He has since obtained the designation of financial planning specialist and is recognized as a Top 30 Financial Advisor Associate among his national class at Morgan Stanley. Joe is also involved with the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit, and recently was named to its Board of Directors.

**My favorite moment/story while a student at Siena Heights was:** "It's difficult to pin it down to just one single moment, but my favorite series of moments stemmed from a conflict resolution class I took with Ms. Ann Lauderdale. I have implemented theories and strategies from class that have been pivotal in many points in my personal and professional life."

**My favorite person at Siena Heights was:** Melissa Growden.

**My ultimate goal in life:** "Give more than I take and leave it better than how I found it."

**My best piece of advice for SHU students is:** "Go to class, get to know your classmates and the faculty members around you. There are countless amounts of resources available that will make your days at Siena Heights more impactful. Take advantage of the close-knit class size and the willingness of your professors and leaders to assist in your search for success."

## John Lyman

**Graduation year:** 2011, Southfield.

**Current title/position:** Fire Chief, Waterford (Mich.) Regional Fire Department.

**What John is Doing:** He is currently the fire chief for Waterford Regional Fire Department. He oversees the operations of the department for emergency responses, Hazmat and tech rescue teams, training division and mechanics. A member of the department since 1988, he was named the Waterford Township Employee of the Year in 2005. The cancer survivor was a lieutenant when he graduated from SHU in 2011. He was promoted to captain in 2012, to deputy fire chief in 2014 and was named chief on April 29, 2015.

**My favorite moment/story while a student at Siena Heights was:** "My very first day I was very nervous coming back to school. I walked into the classroom, and there was a fire chief from a neighboring department. I knew right then and there that I was in the right place."

**My favorite person at Siena Heights was:** Angela Pinkett. "She was very encouraging to me and told me I would be fine at SHU in my quest to complete my bachelor's degree."

**My ultimate goal in life:** "To make a positive impact on everyone who I come in contact with by showing the love of God to them."

**My best piece of advice for SHU students is:** "Be prepared to work hard. Take it seriously as your learning experience is going to make you better. Carefully write papers and thoughtfully explain your point-of-view during discussions in class, whether online or in the classroom." ♦

# Leader of Leaders

## Steven West '79 Uses His Experience to Help Others Succeed in Business



**S**teven West '79 has learned by doing.

And for more than a decade, he has used his experience to help others start, manage and grow their own successful businesses.

West, co-founding partner of the San Francisco-based Emerging Company Partners LLC, has been a CEO, COO and board member at numerous high-growth, global businesses, from manufacturing to enterprise software companies. In fact, he was the CEO of Hitachi Data Systems for three years, and currently serves on the boards of billion dollar companies such as Cisco Systems and Autodesk. He has also started, built and sold companies. Now, he is guiding others on a similar path.

With more than 30 years of business experience in the technology field, he said his specialty is advising CEOs and executives of small start-up companies (\$100 million or less).

"It's a lot of mentoring," West said of his work. "You have to have experience and be willing to work with people who don't necessarily know what's going on."

Most of his days consist of travel (he operates out of what he calls a "virtual office") and talking to people, either on the phone or in person at their business location. He said a good CEO is not born, but made.

"You really have to learn to interact with people. Listen to what they say. Pay attention," he said of the common qualities of an effective business leader. "Those are things you get with real operating experience. It takes time and skill. It's not something you're born with.

"If you want to be a CEO, then you really have to find yourself a mentor. You have to find someone to get you there. It's very rare to get there on your own."

West knows from experience. After receiving his Bachelor of Applied Science degree from Siena Heights University's Southfield campus in 1979, he went to work in the electronic data systems field for 15 years as the telecommunications industry was emerging. He said working his way up a larger company and understanding the "broader context" of what it's like to run a big business was another key to his success.

"In a large company, you have to align yourself with somebody who can help you go through the various departments," West said. "(When) the opportunity (to become a CEO) presented itself, I had to take it."

He has been on Cisco's board of directors for nearly 20 years, and currently is the chair of its audit committee. West is also involved in several other private, high-tech business ventures. He is a board member of a company that develops intelligent battery chargers for golf carts, and one that is manufacturing computers that operate on the principles of quantum physics, which may one day revolutionize the world.

The soon-to-be 60-year-old keeps connected to his electronic "roots" as an avid ham (amateur) radio operator, and also enjoys snow skiing near his Lake Tahoe-area home in Nevada. Although approaching the end of his career, he said helping a CEO grow his or her company from \$5-\$10 million in revenue to \$50-\$60 million still remains very satisfying.

"It's just really rewarding to see that happen for people," West said. ♦

# Homecoming!

October 16–18, 2015

## Reunions

Classes ending in “5” and “0”

## Highlights

Art, Music & Theater.

Tailgates. Octoberfest.

Football. Men’s/Women’s Soccer.

Women’s Volleyball. Golf.

Mass. Memories!

## Alumni Awards

Lois Hueneman Chazaud ’49, Michael Donovan ’75, Patrick Hickey ’86, Jacqueline Battalora ’88, Deborah Carter (Honorary Alumna).

## Hall of Fame

Todd Boike ’94, Jessica Hawkins ’00, Dawn O’Neil ’02, Steve Biggs ’03, Kara McKeon ’04, Michael “Doc” Dawson.

Details or questions contact the Siena Heights Alumni Office  
(517) 264-7143 • [alumni@sienaheights.edu](mailto:alumni@sienaheights.edu)

find us on facebook—search for shu alumni



## from the alumni office



**Jennifer A. Hamlin Church H'13**  
Associate VP for Advancement &  
Director of Alumni Relations  
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jhchurch@sienaheights.edu

### No Typical Alumni!

My first encounter with Siena Heights occurred 25 years ago when I answered a phone call for my husband, Tracy. The caller was a professor, my husband's advisor, but he hadn't seen Tracy for a while. I knew that Tracy had had other things on his mind: a wedding, a demanding job, kidney dialysis, a kidney transplant, and then a leg amputation. But this professor didn't know any of that. He just knew Tracy was close to completing his B.A., and he didn't want him to quit: "Tell him we hope he'll come back," he said. "We want him to finish that degree."

I was dumbfounded. Who bothered to keep track of individual students and notice when they stopped out? What college took the time to call a part-time guy on the 27-year plan...and encourage him to keep going? Who *did* that?

Siena Heights did. Professor Bill Blackerby did.

Tracy's graduation a few years later was another eye-opener. I had attended a traditional liberal arts college and worked at two others; there, a "typical" graduate was about 22 years old. But sitting in the Fieldhouse in 1993, I knew...*knew* in a new way...that no senior had worked harder to reach this day than my 45-year-old husband. And no family was any prouder of their graduate than we were. What an epiphany!

At that moment, I became a fan of non-traditional education.

Two years later, I came to work at Siena Heights largely *because* of its unique student diversity: a blend of youth and experience, full-time and part-time, teenager and mid-career executive. I soon learned how Dominican this was.

The Sisters were our first working-adult students. Starting in the 1920s, many young Adrian Dominicans spent winters teaching school and summers studying for a degree. Later, lots of lay teachers came to Siena for teaching certification. Then, in the mid-70s, Siena Heights pioneered a new era of degree-completion for working adults, introducing the Bachelor of Applied Science degree and offering credit for professional experience and certification.

Like St. Dominic, who took the church to the people, Siena began offering classes where and when adults could get there. Vietnam War veterans and electronics technicians were among those who jumped at the chance to enroll in evening and weekend classes. An old elementary school in Southfield was our first off-campus center. Today, the Southfield center is one of seven off-campus sites serving adults "on the ground" across Michigan; and our nationally-ranked distance learning program reaches students online in 40 states and several countries.

Recently, when the Alumni Board looked at reunion classes for 2015, everyone was startled by the degree and speed of change in our alumni demographics. Just 40 years ago, in 1975, all graduates earned their degrees on the Adrian campus. But in 2010 (this year's 5th reunion class) fewer than 27% of the bachelor's graduates earned degrees on the Adrian campus; and of the nearly 500 graduates of off-campus programs, 125 attended online.

The statistics are stunning, exciting, and challenging. While there are fewer common denominators among our alumni than in the past, we share the most important things: Dominican values. The SHU mission. A commitment to be more competent, purposeful and ethical, and to respect the dignity of all.

Siena Heights is working to engage *all* alumni: The Alumni Board includes graduates of our Southfield, Monroe, Lansing and Distance Learning programs, and seeks representation from all sites. Several off-campus alumni visited Adrian for the first time for this year's dinner-theater alumni event. Alumni Board members shook hands at Commencement with online graduates from Texas, Washington, West Virginia, and Saudi Arabia—and encouraged them all to come "home" again for Homecoming.

After 20 years, the diversity of our alumni population is still one of the things I love best about Siena Heights. I think Dominic would be impressed, too.

# Alumni Stars Mark the Start of Homecoming

Last fall's Homecoming weekend began when the stars came out for the Alumni Awards ceremony Friday afternoon. Meet the 2014 award winners:



## Recent Graduate Award

**Kyle Leighton '13**

Nominated by Zachary Orlosky '10

A professional communications graduate of Siena's Jackson Center, Kyle credits his Siena Heights education for igniting his success at Ever-Last Lighting, Inc, an energy-efficient lighting manufacturer in Jackson. As director of public relations for the firm, he has been published in numerous trade magazines and designed and launched a Michigan Energy Awareness Initiative that was adopted throughout the state; and was named an emerging leader in the electrical industry. He was recognized for "carrying the mission and spirit of SHU into a promising career in public relations and professional communication" and for being a role model as "an advocate of energy efficiency."



## Saint Dominic Award

**Thomas J. Bilan '92**

Nominated by Leah Faust Bilan '93

After earning a bachelor's degree in computer information systems and an associate's degree in mathematics at Siena, Tom founded and sold several IT companies, earned a master's in computer science and engineering, and completed a doctorate in management. He went on to head up IT operations for two regional firms and a global solar panel manufacturing company. Since 2013, he has been director of technical services for Ilitch Holdings, Inc., in Detroit, a \$3B organization providing shared services and leadership to Ilitch-owned companies including Little Caesar's Pizza, the Detroit Tigers and the Detroit Red Wings. But Tom was honored not simply for great career accomplishments, but rather for his generosity, service and commitment to Monroe (MI) area Catholic schools. The award citation applauded him for using his education "as a springboard to great accomplishments" and for responding to success "by 'giving back' to enrich the education of others." Tom and his wife, Leah, live in Monroe with sons Justin and Luke.



## Sister Ann Joachim Award

**Colleen Lewis Aguilar '04, '06**

Nominated by Sister Maurine Barzantni, OP '59

Colleen, who lives and teaches high school Spanish in Long Beach, CA, was recognized for her efforts to help young girls in developing countries build faith and self-esteem through "Basketball With a Mission," a non-profit Colleen established in 2005. A Spanish major at SHU and member of the Saints basketball team, she was inspired to combine these passions after a Siena mission trip to the Dominican Republic. Since then she has led summer basketball programs in Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Mexico and Argentina. Her award citation applauded her for "confronting challenges and making our world a better place, while using the lessons and skills you gained in class and on the basketball court." Colleen and her husband, Tony, have two daughters, Carolina and Cassie.





## Scene at the Heights: **HOMECOMING 2014**

Sunshine and blue skies put a golden glow on every part of last fall's Homecoming. From Friday's alumni awards and art activities, through Saturday's athletics and reunions, to Sunday's Mass, brunch and golf—the 2014 alumni gathering put smiles across the campus.

Whether your interests run to music, art and theater—men's and women's sports—football tailgating—connecting with pals—or meeting a few new friends: Homecoming is the place to be.

**So save the date for this year: October 16-18, 2015.**





**1**—Nick Ford '02 played and sang outside Studio Angelico Friday evening to celebrate the John Wittersheim Memorial Sculpture Park and the gallery welcome reception.

**2**—Coach Fred Smith (far right) celebrates with the 1999-2000 men's basketball team at the Athletic Hall of Fame banquet.

**3**—Alumni dinner attendees cheer the 40th reunion Class of '74 on Saturday night.

**4**—Members of the Siena Heights cheer and dance team were all smiles at Saturday's football game.

**5**—Southfield grad and Alumni Board member Marcus Carter '12 (aka DJ Boogie Down) and his wife Evelyn enjoy afternoon tailgating before spinning the tunes at Saturday night's Oktoberfest.

**6**—Band director Wes King checks the action on the field as the SHU marching band prepares for a musical salute from the stands.

**7**—The 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion Class of '64 had a grand time at Homecoming 2014.

**8**—SHU Basketball buds Brent Tucker '94 (2nd from left), Anthony Racka '92 (far right) and friends get into the tailgate spirit before Siena's 7-0 football win over Homecoming foe Olivet Nazarene.



**9**—SHU President Sister Peg Albert (center) joined alums from the 1970s at the Saints Pride tailgate tent hosted by Dave '75 and Deb Carrington Keller '74.

**10**—Sister Peg blesses the nameplates during dedication festivities for the John Wittersheim Memorial Sculpture Park. Ken Thompson '76 (back right) helped coordinate the project. Rick Leichter '73 (left) is one of the alumni artists represented in the park.

**11**—Adrian Dominican Sisters (from left) Rosemary Abramovich '71, Barb Kelley, and Donna Joan Mehney '61 take advantage of the Homecoming express (aka, golf cart) to move from Mass to the Sunday Celebration Brunch.

**12**—Hall of Fame inductee Lacey Wilmot Rao '02 celebrates with women's soccer coach Scott Oliver '97, '08, '11 (left) and track/cross country coach Tim Bauer '82.

**13**—Homecoming is for students, too!

**14**—Lawrence Miller '84 (far right) and Reggie '83 and Chris Moore (2nd and 3rd from right) enjoy a day with future Saints!





# class notes

## FROM THE SITES

### Battle Creek

#### 1995

**Tom Martin** recently was credited in helping to save the life of an 11-year-old boy due to his autism safety training. Martin, the chief of the South Haven (Mich.) Police Department, received a call about an autistic boy who walked away from his home. Due to his training, he suggested that police check the shore line, since those with autism are drawn to water. Police found the boy on the end of a pier and safely returned him home to his parents. Martin is currently planning additional autism safety training for his entire force.

#### 2003

**Sara Morgan Clark** is employed as a 911 dispatcher, group leader and CTO with the Kalamazoo (Mich.) Department of Public Safety. She resides in Portage, Mich.

### Lansing

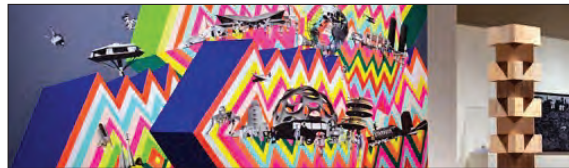
#### 2005

**Chad Tackett** (below) was named the chief of the Texas Township (Mich.) Fire Department in September 2014. He has 13 years of experience working for the Michigan State Police's Emergency Management Homeland Security Training Center and was the former chief of the Otsego (Mich.) Fire Department.



#### 2014

**Nick Kogut** recently accepted a position with the Ingham County Child Protective Services.



### Monroe

#### 1998

**Margie Roggelin** was named constituent relations director for Michigan State Sen. Ken Horn (R) of the 32nd District. The Monroe, Mich., native formerly worked for State Sen. Randy Richardville for eight years. In her new position, which started in January 2015, she will work directly with constituents and oversee district outreach.

### Online

#### 2011



**Vellore Kumar** is employed as a radiology supervisor in the MRI/nuclear medicine department for the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, N.H. He resides in White River Junction, Vt.

### Southfield

#### 2005



**Sean Huddleston** was named the chief diversity and inclusion officer at Framingham St. University (Mass.) in January 2015. He previously was employed as the assistant vice president for strategic inclusion and equity at Grand Valley St. University.

#### 2011

**Holly Siemens** is currently teaching a clinic lecture course for the dental hygiene program at Washtenaw Community College.

## MAIN CAMPUS

#### 1962



**Sister Linda Slakey, OP**, was named as a new member of the Westfield St. (Mass.) University Board of Trustees in October 2014.

Dr. Slakey serves as senior advisor for the Association of American Universities' STEM Initiative and as senior fellow for Project Kaleidoscope/Association of American Colleges & Universities. She was first appointed to the faculty of the Department of Biochemistry at the University of Massachusetts Amherst in 1973. Her scientific work on lipid metabolism and vascular biology was funded by the National Institutes of Health, the American Heart Association and the National Science Foundation. Dr. Slakey also served at the National Science Foundation from 2006-11.

#### 1976

**Jerry Edgar** recently celebrated 25 years as co-owner of Café Degas, a restaurant featuring French cuisine in New Orleans, La. He also recently helped author the restaurant's first cookbook.

**John Warner** is employed as a senior lab technician/model maker for DFM Functional Materials in Elgin, Ill. He said he is still working on the development of 3D printing as well as the advancement of additive manufacturing. "These processes will have an incredible impact on how we manufacture everything in our lives as well as a profound impact in medical applications that are now making a difference in dental, orthopedic and pediatric care," he said. He and his wife, **Barbara '78**, were recently blessed with their first grandson, Jake Allen.

#### 1977

**Kenneth Thompson** and SHU art faculty member Natalie Lanese had art pieces featured in the 95th Toledo Area Artists Exhibition at the Toledo Museum of Art in November 2014 (left). Thompson submitted a portfolio featuring two five-piece sculpture series. He is the owner of Flatlanders Art Gallery and Studio in Blissfield, Mich. For her submission, Lanese painted a 14-by-10 foot wall featuring geometric figures in fluorescent colors. They were two of 28 artists in the show.

#### 1980



**Allan Rodewald** was featured in The Woodlands Lifestyles and Homes Magazine in January 2015 for his distinguished career as an expressive abstract artist.

#### 1985



**Bruce Lee** was named the president of Heartland Financial USA in January 2015. He has more than 30 years in the banking industry, including 12 years at Fifth Third Bank, where he served as executive vice president and chief credit officer. His new duties will include oversight of a number of customer-facing business units.



**Gregg Milligan** has had his first book, "A Beautiful World," translated from English to Thai and will be made available in June

2015. In addition, due to his work in the field of abuse prevention/treatment and human trafficking, Milligan was the first American honored with the Southeast Asia's Best of Piety Award. The award recognizes individuals who have shown respect for humanity in the

face of adversity. He is currently employed as a chief strategy officer/IT director for PimWo Intertrade Partnership in Bangkok, Thailand.

#### 1986



**Dr. Henry Naddaf** was inducted as the 157th president of the Academy of Medicine of Toledo and Lucas County in January 2015 at their annual meeting.

#### 1988

**Mohamed Darwish Al Khouri** is currently the executive director for internal equities for the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority in the United Arab Emirates.

#### 1992



**Anthony Racka** received the 2014 Keith A. Pretty Distinguished Online Faculty Member of the Year Award from the

Alliance for Excellence in Online Education. This award was presented during the Alliance's 12th annual Symposium Nov. 14 at Oakland University. Racka received this year's award for his innovative use of technology to develop and facilitate online courses, serving as an online faculty role model and mentor for colleagues who teach in the virtual classroom. He teaches at SHU's Southfield location and also instructs full-time at Oakland Community College. Racka also is an instructor of the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses Program.

#### 1993

**Tina DiGiorgio Forsythe** was named the principal of St. Paul on the Lake Catholic School in Grosse Pointe Farms, Mich. in the fall 2014. She was formerly the fifth-grade teacher and assistant principal at St. Paul and was the former principal at St. Mary Catholic School in Mount Clemens, Mich.



**Leslie Love** was elected to the Michigan House of Representatives in November 2014. She represents the 10th District,

which serves a portion of northwest Detroit and Redford Township. Previously, she was an adjunct professor for Wayne County Community College and Marygrove College, as well as a community activist. She also is a former SHU Alumni Association board member.

**1996**



**Terri Hamad MA** was named the corporate director of housing of The Cedars of Dexter and River-town Assisted Living in January

2015. She has more than 20 years of experience in working with senior programming, strategic planning and long-term care options. She previously served as the director of Monroe County Commission on Aging before becoming the Michigan director/ patient advocate for Friends of the Family Home Health Care, LLC in Monroe.



**Michael Lueck** was named a new partner in the KPMG Detroit office. Lueck joined KPMG from a senior attorney position

at the IRS chief counsel's office, where he had national roles for income tax accounting for inventories. Upon joining KPMG, he led the Tax Controversy Services practice in the Mid-America business unit and then transferred to Washington to lead the firm's inventory practice.

**1999**

**Lloyd Eddy** had his artwork featured at the Lake Superior St. University Arts Center gallery last winter. Eddy (below) was hired full-time by LSSU as an assistant professor of arts and humanities in fall 2014. The practicing artist has been exhibiting nationally and teaching college art courses for almost 12 years.



**2002**



**Amanda Gildea Kakoczki** was recently promoted to accounting manager for the CSM Group, a construction management company. She is responsible for project cost accounting, payroll and high-level financial analysis. She will help CSM's CFO with overhead and margin measurement, budgeting and profitability models and manage the firm's accounting coordinators.

**2006**



**Sarah Mellon Kowalski** was named as the veteran resource representative for the Veterans Resource Center at Michigan State

University in February 2015. According to the university, Mellon will assist service members, veterans, their spouses and dependents with information and resources necessary to meet their academic, professional and personal goals. She will also provide them with networking opportunities with local, state and federal agencies/activities. In addition, she'll refer veterans to health services through VA medical centers and coordinate service provision with campus admissions, as well as activities with the Student Veterans of America.

**2007**

**Laura Panozzo '10/MA** was promoted to assistant director of Admissions at the University of Baltimore (Md.) School of Law in October 2014.

**2008**



**Sarah Beaubien** joined the Gallagher Sharp law firm, as an associate in February 2015. She represents businesses, insurance companies and individuals in a wide variety of civil litigation in the Toledo office. Her experience includes general liability, insurance coverage issues, and bad faith litigation.

She received her law degree from the University of Toledo College of Law in 2011.

**2009**

**Jennifer Forrest Kavan** completed training to become a certified Nutritional Therapy Practitioner (NTP) through the Nutritional Therapy Association. She is employed as a project applications analyst with Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. She resides in Bismarck, N.D.

**2010**

**Mary Szczepanski Balliet** works as a human resources coordinator with Benchmark Hospitality in Orlando, Fla.

**2011**

**Kimberly VanCamp Blaska** is employed as an finance manager with the Lenawee United Way. She lives in Tecumseh, Mich.



**Andrew Fork** and his wife, Jennifer, announced the birth of a daughter, Ellianna Mai, Oct. 3, 2014 (above). She weighed 7 lbs., 13 oz. and was 21 inches in length. Andrew is currently teaching fifth grade math and science. They live in Cypress, Texas.

**2012**

**Kara Prielipp** works as a technology specialist/librarian with the Way Public Library in Perrysburg, Ohio.

**Rashontae Wawrzyniak** was crowned Miss Michigan USA during the pageant in October 2014 in Port Huron, Mich (right). She was runner-up at last year's pageant, and will represent Michigan at the 2015 Miss USA pageant later this year. The psychology major also has a career in modeling, working as a spokesmodel for the Chrysler Corp.

**2013**

**Raymond Carney** was in the process of pursuing his Olympic career through his upcoming powerlifting and hammer throw season before departing for the Army in May 2015. Throughout this time, he worked to compete with the Army as a thrower/powerlifter so that he may be ready for the 2016 U.S. Olympic Trials.

**James Hughes** graduated from the 127th Michigan State Police trooper recruit school on Oct. 31, 2014. He has been assigned to the Metro Post in Oak Park, Mich.

**David Kallsen MA** is employed as an assistant project leader at Lourdes University in Sylvania, Ohio.

**Tim Ruple** and his wife, Stephanie, announced the birth of their son, Connor, on Jan. 27, 2015. Tim is employed as a social worker for the Lenawee County Mission in Adrian. The family resides in Adrian.

**DEATHS**

**Alumni**

- Sister Jean Agnes Klemm, OP '44
- Sister Jane Schutz, OP '45
- Sister Paul Therese Kraus, OP '47
- Sister Agnes Stechschulte, OP '47
- Evelyn Capoun '48
- Sister Lucian Dusseau, OP '50
- Sister Marilyn Foster, OP '51
- Sister Therese Groulx, OP '51
- Sister Joan Loeffler, OP '51
- Sister Kathleen Scanlon, OP '51
- Sister Mary Golden, OP '52
- Sister Geraldine McNamara, OP '52
- Sister Dolores Dolan, OP '54
- Sister Dolores LaVoy, OP '54
- Sister Eileen Souva, OP '54
- Sister Margaret Dirkes, OP '55
- Sister Patricia Hurley, OP '55
- Sister Madeline Dervin, OP '57
- Sister Ann Benedict Williams, OP '58
- Sister Louise Borgacz, OP '59
- Sister Nancy Fischer, OP '60
- Helen Morrissey '65
- Sister Susan Ouwerkerk, OP '67
- Sister Jean Joseph Hughes, OP '68
- Sister Catherine Kenny, OP '68
- Sister Helen Faiver, OP '69
- Sister Anne Herringer, OP '69
- Christy Wilt '99
- Holly Migliazzo '01
- David Schlaak '10

**Friends**

Dr. George Eppley—former Graduate College director.  
Carleton Griffin—former Board of Trustee member.  
Father Louie Komorowski, OSFS—former college chaplain.

**Obituaries**



**Sister Jean Agnes Klemm, OP, '44**, who taught in Studio Angelico for 22 years starting in 1968, died Jan. 15, 2015. Sister

Jean Agnes led the art program's semester trip to Italy. As an artist, she was especially known for her photography and weaving. She received the St. Dominic Award in the spring of 1999 and had an exhibition of her fiber work and photography in Dominican Hall as part of the celebration.



**Sister Jean Joseph Hughes, OP, '68**, who was the 2013 St. Dominic Award winner, died Jan. 15, 2015. Sister

Jean was a powerful advocate for justice. She did work with the poor in the Dominican Republic, served as principal of Aquinas High School in Chicago, and spent many years working with formerly incarcerated men and women, helping them transition back into community life. She was a lively and outspoken woman with a great sense of humor.



Photo by Edwin Shaw Photography



# alumni news

## From Satellite Student to Siena Heights Saint

By Jerry Peterson '01—Lansing Center

### Why I come to the Adrian campus—and you should, too!



A large number of Siena Heights alumni (myself included) completed their studies without ever setting foot on the main campus in Adrian. This is the result of SHU's success developing a nationally recognized online program as well as a network of remote learning centers where students can attend classes locally.

I can think of three great reasons to make the effort to go the main campus; and I have availed myself of all them. The first of these was

to be part of the graduation ceremonies. I had never thought I would obtain a degree; so when I did, I wanted to note that accomplishment with a celebration and not just add another line on my resume.

Secondly, I wanted to feel the pride of attending a collegiate football Homecoming as an alumnus. Although the football program is relatively new, it has all the festivities including the makings of a fun and boisterous tailgate tradition. SHU has additional activities before and after the game to make a day of it.

My favorite reason to travel to the main campus is to attend the Alumni Theatre Dinner. This event is usually held in early spring and makes a bright spot to look forward to at the end of a Michigan winter. I am surrounded by others who support SHU. I meet people from various backgrounds including the dedicated people who work at SHU and call Adrian their home. The dinner is wonderful. And, since Siena Heights is known to have a first rate theater program, the play is always excellent. I have made this a yearly event for over a decade.

Of course, a day trip to get away from home is always a good idea. The drive to Adrian is off the interstate and can pass by lakes, fields and woods. Adrian has a true downtown area to walk, shop, and grab a bite. A stroll around the Siena Heights campus shows the blending of new and old architecture accented with shade trees and landscaped garden beds. But, ah, best of all for me is the theater!

**Note:** Jerry Peterson is retired from the auto industry. He now drives to Adrian several times a year as an active member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors.



## LOOKING AHEAD!

### August 4, 2015—Toledo Mud Hens Baseball Outing.

Annual summer fun in the Roost at Fifth Third Field. Picnic, beverages and baseball fun. Reservations required.

**October 16, 2015—Alumni Awards.** Recognizing accomplished alumni. 4 p.m., St. Dominic Chapel.

**October 16-18, 2015—Homecoming.** Football, theater, tailgating, art, Mass, memories! Reunions for classes ending in "5" and "0."

**November 2-12, 2015—Imperial Cities Trip:** Prague, Vienna, Budapest. SHU Alumni presents an exciting trip to Central Europe. Three days each in these cities of history, culture and art!

## BYLINES . . . Recent Words From Alumni Pens

### In Due Season 2, Prayer for Spring, Lent, Easter and Summer Feastdays—Ken Phillips '75

These original prayers employ ritual and poetic language, along with symbol and gesture, to help faith communities celebrate natural and named times that come in Spring. Designed for lay leadership, the meditations and litanies invite group participation and may be used at retreats, meals, meetings, or any occasion where people want to express their faith identity, spiritual journeys, or varied searches for the Divine. Ken's earlier book, *In Due Season 1*, covers Advent, Christmas and winter feastdays. An artist, writer and musician, Ken has spent 40 years working in liturgy and public celebrations, ministering in parishes, schools, congregations and conference settings. A resident of Denver, CO, he received Siena's Outstanding Alumni Award in 1998, for which occasion he created *In The Turning Year*, a limited edition book of poems and prints "out of the liturgical calendar."

### Birth of a White Nation: The Invention of White People and Its Relevance Today—Jacqueline Battalora '88

This original book on race in America begins by exploring the moment in time when "white people," as a separate and distinct group of humanity, were invented through legislation and the enactment of laws. The book examines underlying reasons for this development and how law and policy were used to institutionalize the practice of "white people" holding power. The book also demonstrates how these distinctions have compromised the humanity of those so labeled. Born in Scotland, Jacqueline Battalora grew up in Belgium before moving with her family to Texas.

At Siena Heights, she majored in humanities, minored in peace studies, and served as president of Student Government. A resident of Chicago, she has worked as an attorney, a Chicago police officer, and now a sociology/criminal justice professor at St. Xavier University.

**Legacy Preserves, Memories to Last Forever**—Meghan Vigeant '03 “Everyone has a story worth preserving,” says Meghan Vigeant of Hope, ME. A former radio writer and producer, she helped a community save its history after a fire by producing a book, exhibits and documentaries. The experience inspired her to start a business, Legacy Preserves (legacypreserves.com), to help people and organizations share their stories in memoirs, gift books and histories. “I’m a personal historian,” she says, “not a ghostwriter.” She interviews people, transcribes their stories exactly, then edits the disordered transcript into an engaging narrative that captures “the author’s voice and intention.” Although she does the work, the words “belong to the storyteller. I am honored to help bring these stories forth.” At SHU, Meghan brought stories to life on stage; as a senior theater major, she played Anne in “The Diary of Anne Frank” and Sister Albert Maria in “Tony and Tina’s Wedding.”

**Being With Becky**—Lisa Binkowski '75, '77

Lisa Binkowski of Toledo, OH, wrote *Being With Becky* after years of struggling to come to grips with the death of her youngest sister. When Becky was tragically killed, the author wrestled with an emotional chaos that threatened to cripple her spirit. In the book, Lisa tells the story of a loving family making sense of life and loss of life; and shows how one person can impact countless others, from family and friends to unknown strangers. “No matter who you are, where you come from, or what you do with your time, you can and will affect lives around you,” she says. “Be mindful and be intentional. You never know what kind of legacy you will create along the way.” In this memoir, Lisa celebrates her sister’s short life and honors the girl who once called her “my hero.” Lisa graduated from Siena with a degree in social work, then earned a master’s in counseling while assistant coaching the women’s basketball team.

**Landscapes of the Heart: A Survivor’s Guide**—Gregg Milligan '85 This 2014 book is the third in Gregg’s chronicle of surviving child abuse, following *A Beautiful World: One Son’s Escape from the Snares of Abuse* and *Devotion* (2009) and *God Must Be Sleeping* (2011). A successful IT computer engineer, Gregg is also an internationally known human rights advocate who recently became the first American to receive the Best of Piety Award from Delmirror News in Thailand, honoring individuals who

have shown respect for humanity in the face of adversity. As the 2009 recipient of Siena’s Sister Ann Joachim Award, Gregg first shared his harrowing journey from abuse and neglect with the SHU community in 2009 as that year’s Sister Ann Joachim Award winner, making the case that coming to Siena was a critical step in that process. A subsequent issue of Reflections carried his story, titled, “Siena Saved Me.”

## Homecoming’s Literary Marketplace

Several Siena authors brought books to Homecoming last fall for the SHU Library’s Literary Marketplace. Most books are available through amazon.com and/or barnesandnoble.com.

**Dr. Jun Tsuji (Biology Faculty)**—*The Soul of DNA, The True Story of a Catholic Sister and Her Role in the Greatest Scientific Discovery of the Twentieth Century*. In the 1950s, as the male-dominated scientific establishment struggled to understand the genetic roots of cancer, it was an Adrian Dominican chemist, Miriam Michael Stimson, OP '38, who unlocked the structure of DNA’s double helix.

**Kathleen Wagner Schuller '88**—*How to Be a Hero for Boys—Inspiration from Classic Heroes*, and *How to Be a Hero for Girls—Inspiration from Classic Heroes*. The author showcases her favorite heroes from classics such as Little Women, Treasure Island, and Pride and Prejudice, offering suggestions to help girls and boys see the adventure around them and become the heroes of their own lives.

**Jennifer Hamlin Church Hon. '13 (Alumni Office)**—*So Much to Live For, A Memoir of Love, Loss and Living On*. A mid-life love story about optimism in the face of diabetes, this book also walks the “lonesome valley” of life after the death of a spouse. A narrative both heartbreaking and joyous, the book explores subtleties of intimacy, faith, grief and survival.

**Sister Pat Schnapp, RSM (English Faculty)**—*Alleluias and Amens* and *Out of the Shadows: Prose Poems about Prisoners and Others We Rarely See*. These slim books invite readers into two of Sister Pat’s passions. In one, she re-interprets scripture through modern sensibilities, empowering contemporary faith. In the other, she creates powerful portraits of hidden members of society—the homeless and incarcerated.

**Geraldine Boykin '81**—*Promises of God*, a book of Christian poems, and *Healing*, a compact disc about surviving tragedy. Geraldine’s poetry and commentary reflect her own journey of survival from the tragic circumstances surrounding the death of a son and a grandson.

## Reflections on SHU in Siena

Just after Homecoming last fall, 30 travelers left for a three-city tour: Rome, Siena and Florence. The congenial mix of alumni, faculty, staff, trustees and friends, combined with great guides and sites, made for a magical excursion. To the left are Sister Peg Albert, OP and SHU Trustees Joan Weithman, OP and Mary Soher, OP visiting the Colosseum in Rome. Highlights also included the Vatican, Tivoli Gardens, Catherine of Siena’s home and the Basilica of San Domenico, San Marco and its Fra Angelico frescos, cathedrals in Rome, Siena and Florence—plus cafes and ristoranti, pasta and wine and gelato, and a stop at the American WWII Cemetery outside Florence. A memorable trip for all!



# PACK YOUR BAGS

## Prague, Vienna and Budapest

The latest travel offering from the Siena Heights Alumni Office is a tour of three "Imperial Cities" of central Europe—Prague (Czech Republic), Vienna (Austria) and Budapest (Hungary). Sign on with SHU for an 11-day adventure November 2-12, 2015.

- 3 nights in each city. (No packing up every day!)
- Fairytale castles and imperial palaces. Cobblestone streets and classic cathedrals.
- Mountains, museums and the storied Danube River.
- An ancient region with fascinating history: medieval, Renaissance and modern.

This late-fall excursion is just in time for crowd-free touring and early holiday shopping. Brisk temperatures are perfect for hiking winding lanes and cobblestone streets, and sampling local brews and vintages.

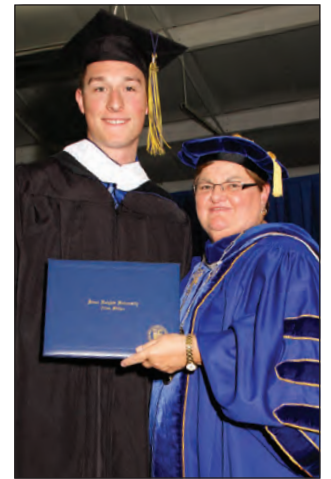
**For information about the Imperial Cities tour:**

SHU Alumni Office—[alumni@sienaheights.edu](mailto:alumni@sienaheights.edu) or (517) 264-7143.

Conlin Travel in Ann Arbor—[sderrig@conlintravel.com](mailto:sderrig@conlintravel.com) or (734) 677-0900.

## Scenes from Commencement:

For the first time this year, Siena Heights University hosted three commencement ceremonies in May on the Adrian campus. The College for Professional Studies (off-campus programs and online) ceremony was May 2, followed by the College of Arts and Sciences ceremony May 3. Finally, the Graduate College ceremony was conducted May 9 in Francoeur Theater. Commencement festivities included the annual Kente ceremony honoring African American graduates, as well as baccalaureate Mass in St. Dominic Chapel. To access online photo albums for all ceremonies, including many other commencement-related events, please visit <https://picasaweb.google.com/sienaheights>.



find us on facebook—search for shu alumni



## from the alumni association



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

### My Final Reflection

With a deadline looming, I wondered how to pen my last *Reflections* article as President of the Siena Heights Alumni Association. Then I realized: my experiences in just the past month portrayed the story and essence of this University. As with any good story, the cast of characters is essential to the storyline. Allow me to share a few chapters of this Siena story and its people.

**Chapter 1, Theatre Siena:** My husband and I, plus 158 other Siena friends and alumni, shared a great evening in late March at the annual Alumni Dinner & Theater event. This affair, always a favorite of mine, exceeded all expectations. Dinner and decor in newly renovated Benincasa Hall was remarkable; and the musical that followed, “Chicago,” was one of the finest shows I’ve seen. Everything—acting, singing, choreography, music, set—was professional. Theatre Siena continues to produce exceptional talent; talent that, once it leaves our campus, goes into the community and far beyond.

**Chapter 2, Academic Excellence:** In April, I was honored to attend the first (and I hope annual) Scholarship Symposium. Students showcased research and academic achievements in all areas, sharing their knowledge with faculty, staff and the community. It was a privilege to meet these students, feel their passion and see their hard work. The faculty and staff who guided and mentored these students should also feel great pride and satisfaction; they have instilled in their students a lifelong quest for knowledge. I feel sure that many more opportunities will come to these students thanks to the challenge provided by their instructors.

**Chapter 3, Fine Art:** On April 18, I attended the dedication of a new sculpture at Siena Heights. *Chaos Getaria* is an incredible addition to campus. Our generous benefactor Mary Spencer commissioned Jedd Novatt to create this piece for us, the 6th in a series he has completed in memory of Mary’s husband Sash Spencer. (The other five are in locations around the world.) I had the privilege of speaking with Mr. Novatt at the dedication. When I told him I was the PROUD president of the Alumni Association, he agreed I should be extremely proud. He had spent several days on campus installing the sculpture and meeting with students and staff; in just those few days, he said, he felt the strong sense of community here and knew it was a very special place.

**Chapter 4, Esteemed Alumni:** In late April, the Alumni Board’s Honors and Awards Committee met to select the 2015 Alumni Award recipients. As I perused the many nominations, I was in awe of what so many alumni have accomplished. There are those who continue the legacy of Sister Ann Joachim in her commitment to social justice; those who reflect the qualities of St. Dominic in lives devoted to Christian education and ethics; those who have accomplished great things in just a few years as alumni; and those among us who, though not graduates of Siena Heights, deserve recognition for exceptional commitment to our mission and for sharing their own time, talents and treasures with the University.

**Chapter 5, The Rest of the Story:** As I write, I look forward to May’s commencement exercises with great anticipation. It will be an honor to welcome so many gifted graduates into the Alumni Association, people who have worked long and hard for their education while learning to live the mission of the University. They will write a beautiful new chapter for Siena Heights.

Although these chapters took place in Adrian, the Siena story is being written every day at our sites across Michigan—and around the country through our award-winning online program. I am proud, honored and humbled to have been a small part of the story of this incredible University as President of the Alumni Association for the past two years. Thank you for the opportunity.



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Mary Phillips '71

Rick Sayre

## Make a difference, leave a *legacy*.

It is our hope that our contribution will in some way allow the legacy of Studio Angelico and its distinguished faculty and appreciative alumni to continue and flourish. As Siena has been such a treasured part of my life, my husband (Rick) and I wanted to do what we can to continue the Siena legacy. I would encourage others who have benefitted from Siena Heights to consider leaving a legacy gift. Future students will also be able to benefit from all that Siena has to offer!

— **Mary Phillips '71**

To learn how you can leave a lasting legacy that will impact the lives of others, call (800) 693-0506 or email [jbrooket@sienaheights.edu](mailto:jbrooket@sienaheights.edu).