

REFLECTIONS



Still Being Bold

President Sister Peg Albert Reflects
on 10 Years at Siena Heights



from the president



Sister Peg Albert, OP, PhD
President

Come and See (And Experience) Siena Heights!

Faith and belief.

As an Adrian Dominican Sister, that was what I arrived with when I stepped on campus for the first time as President of Siena Heights University a decade ago.

My faith in God. My belief in the goodness of people and in the Siena Heights mission. What else did I really need?

Well, as you might imagine, it wasn't as easy as just praying and waiting for good things to happen. Our faith demands action, demands hard work, demands a commitment to doing what is right, then believing that God will work through you and others to accomplish your goals—and, of course, God's.

The last 10 years at Siena Heights have been an incredible journey. The story a few pages over in this issue documents much of that journey, and all of the wonderful and amazing things that have happened during that time. However, allow me to use this column to offer some of my personal reflections:

- As President, sometimes I would lay awake at night, asking if we had bit off more than we could chew on some of these projects. I would wonder sometimes if we were going to be able to sustain it. However, I never doubted the direction. I know it's a good direction. I believed it was going to happen. A little bit of anxiety is good. It helps us move on and do good things.
- You have to stick with what you believe in, to keep the course. And you have to stick to your mission. You don't give up who you are and you don't lose the sense of where you want to go and who you want to be. That's why we are/were able to maintain the focus here at Siena Heights.
- People believe in our mission, and people believe in our students. We just tell the story. Some of our students have situations where they really have to struggle to get through school. They don't have the kind of family who would be very supportive if you were going through hard times. We become their family in a lot of ways. I've had students in this office, just encouraging them. You can never give up hope and, thank God, many have succeeded.
- When we build something, everybody has done their best to give. The board has really stepped up with their giving, too. It all comes down to faith and belief. If you believe, it can happen. And we try to find the people who believe in us and who are willing to share the mission with us. I hope you are one of those people.
- For those who haven't experienced Siena Heights in the past 10 years, you would be amazed. Come back and see! You will see new buildings on campus, a larger student body, new academic programs, many more activities, but, most importantly, you will see that the Mission is the same. It has been the continuity of Mission that has allowed us to grow and deepen as a community of believers in this wonderful University. Come and see; you deserve to have that experience. Cherish the education you have had, because so few in our world have the opportunity to pursue a higher education degree. We have been blessed, and it is always my hope that we now, in turn, will be a blessing to others.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your President these past 10 years, and I look forward to a future filled with hope and promise.

Sister Peg Albert, OP

REFLECTIONS

on the inside . . .

SUMMER 2016

Editor

Doug Goodnough
Director of Marketing and Communications
dgoodnou@sienaheights.edu

Creative Team

Jeff Masse—Graphic Design & Photography
Liesel Riggs '06—Graphic Design
Angie Raymond '10—Graphic Design
Laura Marsh '10—Photography
Nate Lunsford '15—Photography

Alumni Office

Jenny Engle '12, '15/MA
Director of Alumni Relations
jengle@sienaheights.edu

Produced by the Office of Institutional Advancement

Mitchell P. Blonde '04/MA, CFRE
Vice President
mblonde@sienaheights.edu

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.

Reflections is © 2016 by Siena Heights University.

ON THE COVER

President Sister Peg Albert, OP, PhD, reflects on the past as well as looks to the future as she celebrates her 10th anniversary at Siena Heights University.



- 5 From the Heights
- 8 Kate Baumer Shares Music Ministry
- 10 Engineering Program Features Unique Partnership
- 11 Gabriel Fonseca '99 Is a Father Figure
- 12 Saints Athletics Highlights
- 14 Kasey Renshaw Has Something to Prove
- 16 Doug Small '82 Is a Different Kind of Ceo
- 18 Sister Peg Albert Celebrates 10 Years at Siena Heights
- 22 Three SHU Graduates are Rising Stars
- 24 2016 Alumni Award Winners Announced
- 26 Class Notes — Alumni News



from the editor



Doug Goodnough
Editor

Has It Been 10 Years Already?

In this issue of *Reflections* Magazine, we are celebrating the 10th anniversary of our President, Sister Peg Albert.

Because I arrived at Siena Heights a few months before her, I've had a "front-row seat" of sorts to her presidency, and all that has happened during her time at SHU.

I had the privilege of introducing her to the Siena community at her opening press conference (I tried to act like I knew what I was doing back then). Being the first Adrian Dominican president in more than 30 years at Siena Heights, I remembered thinking, "this is history in the making."

And the impact of her arrival was immediate. Things started happening. A lot of things. We've documented many of those "things" over the past decade in this magazine. But taking a step back, it truly is remarkable what has been achieved when put into the perspective of our 97-year history.

However, as Sister Peg likes to say, Siena Heights is more than just bricks and mortar. It ultimately is about the people. Allow me to share one particular quote from her that I think really hits home for me: "During the recession (in 2008), we could have laid off people. What we decided to do is to keep everybody working and not be able to give a raise or maybe lower the match for retirement. We knew that a lot of spouses or significant others have been laid off. The best thing we felt we could do for our community here is to keep them working. The last thing we were going to do was lay anybody off."

And I know she has been just as unfailing in supporting and impacting the lives of our students. People have remained at the core of her presidency.

As someone who would rather be called "Peg" than "President," and is known more for her hugs than her handshakes, she in many ways has redefined what it is to be a college president. And she has used her dedication to the Siena Heights mission like a rudder, keeping the University on its Dominican Catholic course.

What's the next destination for Siena Heights? Who knows? I know 10 years ago, I never dreamed of sitting in the stadium press box watching a football game on a brisk fall Saturday, lunching in a new University Center or attending a nursing pinning ceremony.

All I know is with Sister Peg at the wheel, Siena Heights University is in good hands. Here's to another exhilarating 10 years!



from the heights

Adrian Dominican Sisters Gift St. Joseph Academy to Siena Heights University

The Adrian Dominican Sisters donated the St. Joseph Academy building (below) to the University in February 2016. Located on the Sisters' campus, the five-story building will be used for academic purposes, classrooms and faculty offices. "We are grateful to the Adrian Dominican Sisters for this wonderful gift and promise to live out our Dominican values and traditions with all the students who are educated in this building," said SHU President Sister Peg Albert, OP, PhD. The Prioress of the Adrian Dominican Sisters, Sister Attracta Kelly, OP, JD, noted that the Congregation was pleased to make this gift to Siena Heights University. "Whether through myth, legend or actual history of

the Congregation, our Congregation grew when Mother Camilla, with great courage and daring, began the Academy from whence St. Joseph College, now Siena Heights, became a reality," Sister Attracta said. "We can only begin to imagine the hundreds of Sisters and students who have learned about life and how to love themselves and each other in the classrooms and hallways of the Academy. We know that the many who have now gone to their reward will look lovingly and send special graces to all who keep alive the vision of Dominic there." The building, which formerly served as an elementary and high school since its construction in 1948, will undergo renovations this year. The first department to move to the facility will be the Education Department. Renovations will occur in phases, and the total project will cost around \$4 million.



Blanchard, Reising Present Essay at Buffalo State

Professor of Marketing Claudia Blanchard and Professor Emerita in Art Christine Reising presented their visual essay, "Women of Worth: Opening Doors to Social Change," at the Czurlis-Nelson Gallery," at SUNY Buffalo State from Oct. 26-Nov. 6, 2015. Spanning three centuries of history, "Women of Worth" showcases nine female business leaders from three industries who utilize their commercial enterprises to create social change.

SHU's Health Care Leadership Team Wins Case Competition Again

SHU's health care leadership student team again won the third annual MCACHE Student Case Competition Oct. 2, 2015. This is the second consecutive year SHU has defeated graduate students from much larger colleges and universities in this competition. Team members were Suzanne Celmer-Harter, Lisa Whitlatch and Sandra Ziaja. Professor of Leadership Dr. John Fick lead the team.

Sustainable College Committee Joins AASHE

SHU's Sustainable College Committee recently received the funds for two years of membership in the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE). With this membership, SHU can take advantage of numerous resources and benefits.

SHU Marching Band 2016 Drum Major Selected

The Saints Marching Band announced that junior psychology major Rachel Fox is its 2016 SHU drum major. Fox, a bass clarinetist, is a graduate of Britton-Deerfield High School, where she was drum major for three years. Freshman nursing major Shelby Becker will serve as alternate drum major. Becker, a trumpeter, is a graduate of Onsted High School.



SHU Marketing and Communications Office Earn CASE Awards

SHU's Office of Marketing and Communications recently won three awards in the Council for Advancement and Support of Education's (CASE) Pride of District V Awards Program (above). The awards program generated 400 entries from 80 institutions in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin. Siena Heights earned recognition in the following categories:

- Excellence in Print Advertising: Bronze—Taste of Adrian poster.
- Best Website, Individual Page or Section: Honorable mention—Find a Program Page.
- Best Event on a Shoestring: Bronze—Fireside Chat / Food for Thought.

The program honors institutions and individuals who demonstrate outstanding achievement in the concept and execution of advancement programs and communications throughout District V.

Barbee Elected to Midwest MLA Executive Committee

SHU Associate Professor of English Matthew Barbee was elected to a three-year term on the Executive Committee of Midwest MLA, the regional chapter for the Modern Language Association. As a member of the Executive Committee, Barbee will have a leadership role in planning and coordinating the annual MMLA conference and will contribute to the governance and financial decisions of the organization.

Ripper Presents at Research Conference

Assistant Professor of Business Matt Ripper recently presented two scholarly papers at the International Academic Research Conference on behalf of the Center for Scholastic Inquiry (CSI). His two papers were entitled, "Community Benefits Districts: Nonprofit Governance Using Social Capital and Cross-Organizational Collaboration," and "Building an Authentic Workplace Community Through Social Media," respectively.



Siena Heights Receives MIS Cares Grant

SHU received a \$4,000 grant from MIS Cares at the Michigan International Speedway Community Luncheon on Nov. 17, 2015 (above). The funds were used to help the Share the Warmth Project, an Adrian-based initiative that helps house and feed homeless people in the Lenawee community during the winter months. Sister Pat Schnapp and Tom Puszczewicz helped organize the project and led the SHU volunteer effort over the past several years. They both received the Service Above Self Award from the Adrian Morning Rotary Club for their ongoing work with Share the Warmth.

Retirements from SHU

Dr. Mark Schersten

Schersten, who spent his first 27 years at Siena as a philosophy professor, served as the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences from 2011-16. He has worked closely with members of the Committee on the Liberal Arts to develop the liberal arts core, and received the Eileen K. Rice Award for Outstanding Teaching in 1989-90. He chaired the Humanities Division from 1996-2011, helped establish and regularly contributed to Common Dialogue Day and took on the responsibility of organizing the Chiodini-Fontana Lecture Series on Ethics. He remained a solid supporter of the liberal arts, working with faculty to establish annual themes in keeping with the liberal arts core development.

Bill Blackerby

Blackerby began his teaching career at Siena Heights in 1979 in the management program. He received the Eileen K. Rice Award for Outstanding Teaching in 1994. He has chaired the Business and Management Division and the business program. For many years he served as faculty athletic representative to the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference.

Claudia Blanchard

Blanchard began her teaching career at SHU in 1997 in the marketing program. She created and taught a variety of business courses for the business program, and also took a primary role in the ongoing curricular development. In 2003, she received the Eileen K. Rice Award for Outstanding Teaching. For 14 years she served as program coordinator of the business and management program.

Sister Pat Schnapp

Schnapp began her teaching career at SHU in 1987 in the English program. In 2000, she received the Eileen K. Rice Award for Outstanding Teaching. She helped plan and host the annual Shakespeare Birthday Party for many years, and served as English program coordinator from 1990-94. A noted author and poet, she has been active in the Lenawee community. She helped establish the Share the Warmth program, which provides shelter to the homeless during the winter months. She also taught inmates at the Gus Harrison Correctional Facility for many years.

Anthony Scioly

Scioly began teaching at SHU in 1985 in the chemistry program. He was awarded the Eileen K. Rice Award for Outstanding Teaching in 1998-99. His service to the University includes a 14-year term as chair of the Division of Computing, Mathematics and the Sciences. He also served for 30 years on the Academic Standards Committee, 27 of those as chair.

Annita Aranda

After more than 30 years, Aranda will retire Aug. 31, 2016, from the position of the Upward Bound Program director. The federally funded program administered through Siena Heights University serves first-generation, low-income and at-risk high school students, preparing them to attend and complete college successfully. Aranda has been involved with the Upward Bound Program since its first year at Siena Heights in 1973. She has directed the program since 1987.

Dr. Patricia Wallace

After 12 years as director of the Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program, Dr. Patricia Wallace retired at the end of the fall 2015 semester. Wallace came to Siena in 2004 to join the McNair Program as program coordinator, and within a few short weeks, she assumed the role of program director. Prior to her arrival at Siena, Pat had a 20-plus-year career in public health, including teaching positions at several colleges and universities. As director of the McNair Program, Dr. Wallace has shepherded numerous students from both Siena and Adrian College through the application process to graduate school.

Fick Elected to MCAHCE Board of Directors

Director of the Graduate Program in Healthcare Leadership Dr. John W. Fick, FACHE, was recently elected to serve on the Board of Directors of the Midwest Chapter of the American College of Healthcare Executives (MCAHCE) for 2016. In addition to his board duties, he will continue to serve as the chair of the Student Activities Committee of MCAHCE and, as a result, he will also serve on the MCAHCE Executive Committee. Dr. Fick is board certified in health care management and a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE).

Moody Selected for Local Committee

SHU Environmental Science Program Coordinator Heather Moody was elected to serve as professor of environmental science on Adrian's Wellhead Protection Plan Grant Committee.

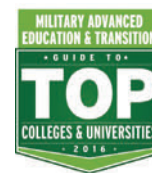
Raab Co-Edits Volume of the Merton Annual

Volume 28 of The Merton Annual: Studies in Culture, Spirituality and Social Concerns, edited by SHU Professor of Religious Studies Joseph Raab and David Belcastro, was published in May 2016 by Fons Vitae Press. The latest volume includes contributions from SHU's Sister Pat Schnapp, as well as from Pope Francis and Dr. Rowan Williams, the 104th Archbishop of Canterbury.

Barbee Publishes Poem

SHU Associate Professor of English Karin Wraley Barbee had a poem published in an issue of Sugar House Review.

Siena Heights Named a 'Top School' by MAE&T



Military Advanced Education & Transition (MAE&T) has named Siena Heights University a Top School in its 2016 MAE&T Guide

to Colleges & Universities. The guide, released in December 2015, measures best practices in military and veteran education. It presents results of a questionnaire of the military-supportive policies enacted at more than 600 institutions, including private, public, for-profit, not-for-profit, four-year and two-year colleges. MAE&T is the journal of higher education for service members and veterans making the transition from military to the civilian sector.

Online Learning Again Nationally Ranked by U.S. News and World Report

SHU's Online Learning Programs were ranked as the best in Michigan among private institutions for the second consecutive year by the U.S. News and World Report. SHU also was ranked nationally for the third consecutive year, finishing tied for 72nd among all public and private institutions. SHU has offered online bachelor's degree completion programs in selected majors since 2004. 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 (98 out of a possible 100).

Siena Heights Becomes a Test-Optional Institution

Beginning with the 2016-17 academic year, SHU will no longer require undergraduate applicants to submit SAT or ACT test scores for university admission. With SHU adopting a test-optional admissions process, the focus will be on high school coursework and grades as the most important factors in Siena Heights' holistic review process, along with a student's writing skills, recommendations, involvement in school and community and personal qualities and character. Students may be required to submit standardized test scores for admission to specific academic programs, validate athletic eligibility or prove eligibility for some federal or state scholarship programs.



Siena Heights Responds to Flint Water Crisis

SHU students, faculty and staff responded to the Flint Water Crisis in a big way this winter and spring. Students donated meal flex dollars to help purchase water, with Chartwells, the University's dining service, matching those donations case for case. A class instructed by Kyron Harvell from the Lansing campus delivered 500 cases of water to Flint, including a retirement center with more than 200 residents. They also delivered water to a local church and community center. SHU Campus Ministry collected cases of water during Mass this winter and spring (left). Shown (above) delivering those cases to Flint are Dave Keller '75, SHU Chaplain Father John Grace, Mary Poore '76, and her husband Gary.



Porath to Chair NACADA National Commission

SHU Director of Academic Advising Wiona Porath was elected as the Small Colleges and Universities Commission Chair for NACADA: The Global Community for Academic Advising. Porath will serve in this position until October 2018. NACADA was chartered as a non-profit organization in 1979 to promote quality academic advising and professional development of its membership to ensure the educational development of students.

Henry Receives Outstanding Adult Learner Award from CAHEN

James Henry was selected as Siena Heights University's Outstanding Adult Learner Award recipient for 2016. He received recognition at the Capital Area Higher Education Network Outstanding Adult Learner Award Ceremony April 13 at Cooley Law School in Lansing. Nominations were received from SHU Lansing faculty and staff for students who exemplify the leadership and determination in the classroom and in the community. Henry was selected based on his 4.0 GPA, his tenacious nature to defy the odds within his scholastic journey and his gracious heart in having a positive impact upon people in class, at work and within the community.

SHU Hosts Michigan Psychology Conference

SHU's Psychology Department hosted the 2016 Michigan Undergraduate Psychology Research Conference April 2 on campus. This was a state-wide conference that provides a forum for the presentation of undergraduate research in psychology. The plenary speaker was Brigham Young University Professor of Psychology Dr. Richard Williams. There were more than 100 guests on campus, and a number of SHU students helped in the planning as well as well presenting their research at the conference.



Thomas Walter Speaks at 15th Annual Ethics Lecture

Author and "Serial Entrepreneur" Thomas Walter was the featured speaker (above) for the 15th annual Chiodini/Fontana Lecture Series on Ethics this spring. His lecture was entitled, "Ethical Organizational Behavior: A Case Study of Theory Meeting Practice, Resulting in a Small Business' Success." Walter is best known as the Chief Culture Officer (CCO) of Chicago-area Tasty Catering, a suburban corporate caterer and event planner. He has more than 40 years of experience as an owner and operator in the service industry. The Chiodini/Fontana series was established to provide students and the community the opportunity to reflect on matters of moral significance that touch many dimensions of today's society.

McNair Scholars Present at National Conference

Six senior McNair Scholars traveled to the National Conference for McNair Scholars and Undergraduate Research at the University of Maryland from March 10-13, 2016. Patrick Allen, Amber Lipke, Carrie Timmerman, Grace Vandervort, Angel Ward and Sam Weber presented their projects to this national audience.

Students Win Commitment to Service Awards

SHU students Kiersten Diachun and Brittany Trout received Commitment to Service Awards at the Michigan Campus Compact Gala April 7 at Michigan St. University. The award recognizes two outstanding students from each of the MiCC member campuses for their commitment to service. Students are chosen specifically for either the breadth or depth of their community involvement or their service experience(s) and the demonstration of meaningful reflection of those experiences. MiCC is a coalition of college and university presidents who are committed to fulfilling the public purpose of higher education.

Sustainability Expert Speaks at Issa Lecture

The University of Louisville's Justin Mog, PhD, was the featured speaker at the William Issa Endowed Lecture Series April 6. Mog's topic was "Embracing the Challenge of Sustainability: Transforming Campuses, Reshaping Minds and Investing in Our Common Future." Mog, who currently serves as assistant to the Provost for Sustainability Initiatives at UL, has worked with students, staff and faculty there to transform a long-ignored patch of lawn into a living, productive and engaging "horticulture zone."

SHU Class Skypes with Actor / Author Mariel Hemingway

SHU's Adolescent Literature class Skyped with author, actor and model Mariel Hemingway April 14. The session focused on her recent book, "Invisible Girl," written about her early teen years. She is the granddaughter of author Ernest Hemingway. After a successful acting career, Hemingway now devotes her time to creating an awareness of mental illness and the importance of healthy living.

SHU Habitat Members Build Townhouses for Spring Break in Florida

For spring break, six Siena Heights University students and Circulation Service Coordinator Renee Bracey traveled to Atlantic City, Fla., to volunteer for Habitat for Humanity's Beaches Habitat (left). Bracey and students Keegan Pabst, Sissy Phillips, Bradley Boler, Chelsea Coatsworth, Rachel Wellmen-Benedict and Donte Fox were provided housing in a Community Presbyterian Church. The townhouses the group worked on will eventually house 70 families. Bracey and the students worked alongside families at the build who would be receiving the homes. Bracey and four of the students who attended are part of SHU's Habitat campus chapter.



Music Ministry

Catholic Songwriter Kate Baumer Expresses Her Faith Through Song

By Kenneth DeGraaf—Student Writer

Not too long ago, Kate Baumer was a freshman at Michigan State University pursuing a career in politics. Today, she is a student in the Theological Studies Program at Siena Heights University's Lansing location, where she is heavily engaged in her passion of Catholic songwriting. Safe to say, God had other plans for her.

Growing up Catholic, Baumer said it never truly hit her heart until she got involved with her youth groups in high school. After discerning that politics at MSU wasn't the path for her, Baumer looked to SHU to gather the tools needed to articulate the Catholic faith as both a minister and a songwriter.

"I really loved MSU," Baumer said, "but I found myself in a lot of situations of adversity where people really didn't agree with, or even respect, my faith. In these times, I would go to the basement of my dorm and just start writing music."

"The next thing I knew, I was sharing this music with my friends, and then eventually groups of high school students," she continued. "I guess it all fell together when I started speaking with this, too. It's not what I expected at all. ... But as long as God is opening these doors in my life, I'll keep pursuing his love through it all and sharing it through my music."

Back in January, Baumer successfully funded a Kickstarter campaign online to support her album recording expenses.

The CD, which will feature seven original songs and three cover tunes, is expected to be released in May or June of this year.

"I think in a world where we are all so disillusioned with what really matters, it's important to be a witness of positivity and bigger purpose through Christianity," Baumer said. "Music moves the heart like nothing else can, so it's a great way to reach people who otherwise might have not been exposed to the possibility of a relationship with God. Of course, a lot of my music is basically Christian, but for me, there is definitely this deeper connection to my Catholic beliefs. It's also really cool to be able to bring contemporary Christian music to the Catholic denomination. Not as if one genre or music is better or worse, but it's humbling to be a part of making spiritual music more accessible to people in the modern age."

One song on her album Baumer said she holds specifically close to her heart is titled "On my Mind." A demo of the song can be found on her web site: www.katebaumer.com.

"I wrote this one in my dorm basement at Michigan State," she said. "I was so excited about what God could have in store for me that I couldn't even sleep. I was up late one night just wondering what in the world I was going to do about my conflicting interests in politics and ministry. I just came to the prayerful realization that I needed to follow where God was calling me. ... And now I see that's led me to music."

Another one of Baumer's favorite songs is called "True Colors," a song she actually wrote out of frustration with God.

"Sometimes faith isn't black and white, and we just don't understand why God has let a certain situation work out in the way it has," she said. "One day in prayer it just really hit me that it's okay that I don't understand everything about God's ways. ... Just reflecting on Jesus' sacrifice of love on the cross brings us to know that everything we will ever experience is already accounted for. Following God as a disciple of Christ doesn't mean you'll never feel pain, but it does bring you to His never-ceasing, all-satisfying love."

Through challenging herself and following the path God has set for her, Baumer said she finds herself combining her passion for music and the Catholic faith to reach out to modern audiences in a more diverse way as she furthers her studies as a minister at SHU, which offers a certificate program with approval from the Diocese of Lansing.

"I have met some really supportive friends through the program who I have been able to lean on throughout the whole process," Baumer said of her SHU experience. "Siena has given me the opportunity to work with people who support me in my faith, but also challenge me in a way that pushes me to be the best minister through my music I can be." ♦



“Siena has given me the opportunity to work with people who support me in my faith, but also challenge me in a way that pushes me to be the best minister through my music I can be.”

Photo by Mikala Schopmeyer

Engineering Success at SHU

New Academic Program Features a Unique Partnership Between Siena Heights and North Dakota

By Doug Goodnough

One program. Two degrees. Five years. That's the concept behind the new engineering program unveiled last fall at Siena Heights University.

Through a partnership with the University of North Dakota, Siena Heights students have the opportunity to earn both a Bachelor of Engineering Science degree from UND and a bachelor's degree of the student's choice from SHU.



"The big thing is they are going to graduate with two degrees, one from North Dakota, and one from Siena," said SHU's new Director of Engineering Ryan Hamilton (left). "Most engineers get extra responsibilities. If you're an engineer and you want to start your own company, take some business. If you want to build computer hardware, you need to know how the software is going to interact with it."

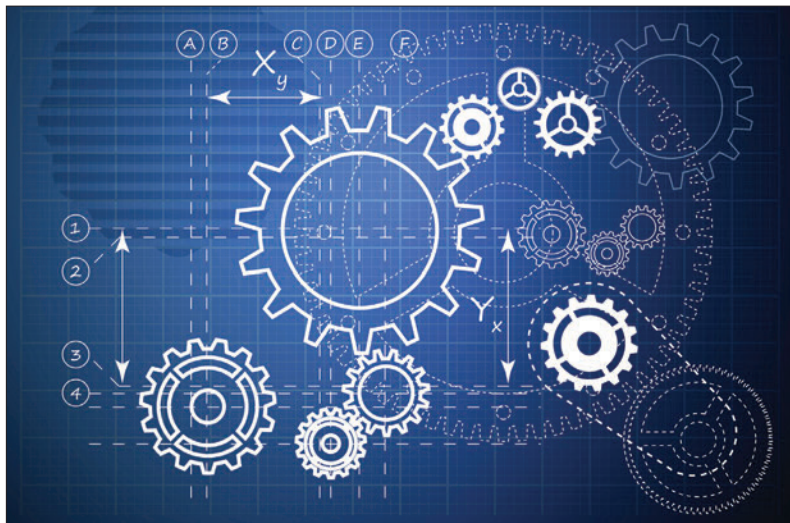
So doing a computer information systems degree with it gives you that flexibility. Even education goes well with it, because there's a lot of presenting in engineering. It's really super-flexible, and the student can really do whatever they want with it."

Hamilton, who arrived at SHU in July after teaching for the past three years in the engineering department at Wright State (Ohio) University, said SHU offers engineering degrees in chemical, civil, electrical and mechanical through North Dakota. While residing on the Adrian campus full-time, students will take engineering courses online from UND while completing their bachelor's degree at Siena. Students will also travel to North Dakota two separate times during the summer months to complete lab work.

"Engineering just by itself is interdisciplinary, so you're going to need to know more than just engineering to be competitive on the job," Hamilton said.

Hamilton said building a new program "from scratch" was the main draw of why he came to Siena Heights.

"You're getting the individual attention, and particularly in the beginning, the students are going to have a great deal of input on how the program evolves," said Hamilton, who has a PhD in engineering and a master's degree in physics.



"You get the benefits of the large research universities, but you get the personal attention of Siena."

Hamilton said he wants to build a "hands-on" program at Siena Heights.

"We will get in the lab from day one and build stuff," said Hamilton, who is also teaching physics classes at SHU. "I want to focus on the engineering design. Most engineering programs are hard-core tech. But technology changes. If you focus on the design and the thought process of it, that last forever."

He is already working on internship partnerships with several local businesses.

"They are excited about the possibility of getting student internships with Siena," Hamilton said.

He also hopes to work the Lenawee Intermediate School District in setting up partnerships with the local schools to help them implement engineering programs. SHU also hosted a regional robotics competition in April.

North Dakota, which was the first college or university to offer an online engineering degree, is considered a Carnegie 1 designated university, meaning it has high research output. UND is also the only Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) accredited online program in mechanical and chemical engineering, Hamilton said.

"Students will be using all the equipment that, as a small school, we wouldn't be able to really afford," Hamilton said of the UND partnership. "And they get to go there and use the lab equipment."

Currently SHU has approximately 30 students enrolled in the program.

"A lot of people want to be at a smaller school," Hamilton said. ♦



Father Figure

Gabriel Fonseca '99 Is Working to Change the Culture of Fatherhood and Family in Massachusetts Community

Gabriel Fonseca '99 is a father figure, both at home and at work. As the fatherhood coordinator at Massachusetts General Hospital's Chelsea HealthCare Center in the suburbs of Boston, he helps men become better fathers to their children and develops programs to promote what he calls the "fatherhood movement."

"My focus is helping fathers care for their kids," said Fonseca, who received his bachelor's degree in psychology from Siena Heights University. "I didn't even know there was even professions like this out in the world."

After earning his master's degree from Rhode Island University, he expected to enter the field of gerontology. But then he said he "followed his heart," taking a parent leadership trainer position in Hartford, Conn. before eventually coming to MGH to continue his work with fathers and families.

"I've been on the edge of leading fatherhood movements in Connecticut and here in Massachusetts," Fonseca said. "I've been in the fatherhood movement for almost a decade now. If you just turn on the TV you will see much more social change around fatherhood. ... We are trying to change the norms of what it means to be a dad."

He uses evidence-based curriculum to work with fathers who are first-time parents. His program offers home visit programs for parents who want that extra support, such as how to soothe a baby, keep them happy and safe, and even how to change diapers.

"When dads are healthy and strong and able to respond to their babies with a nurturing approach that helps their children and helps our community," he said.

Chelsea, an immigrant resettlement community of approximately 36,000 people—90 percent of whom speak Spanish—is dealing with major violence and drug abuse from Central American gangs. Fonseca said he continues to be a part of a community-wide effort to combat this growing problem through strengthening families.

"The reality is that Chelsea is known as a resettlement community," said Fonseca, who served as MGH's refugee health program coordinator from 2014-15. "But we are also known as a community that has a strong gang membership. Small gangs as well as worldwide gangs are here. ... The worst part of this phenomenon is Chelsea is a place where the kids felt they were running away from the gangs, but they are here in the United States. These gangs have a strong foothold here in Chelsea, and we are working to create some solutions."

Fonseca sits on a community coalition called The Hub, which mobilizes service providers from a variety of areas to address high-risk and immediate-risk cases.

"It's a collective approach," he said of the coalition. "The murders that have happened here in Chelsea just in the last six months have been extremely brutal. On average, the kids who have been killed are 14 years old. ... Our city is in mourning right now, but also focusing on solutions. It's heavy lifting."

Fonseca said his work with the fatherhood movement becomes that much more important, especially those in underserved populations like the Latino and African American communities.

"I am leading efforts around family violence," he said. "We have to stop the violence from being appealing. The norms of being a young kid need to change. ... I just think youth identity needs to be more positive. As a community we need to celebrate and give identities to youths, not paint a broad stroke that youth are troubled and youth are lost. ... I just wish we could come together and reconstruct the identity of what it means to be a teenager in the United States."

Fonseca said he is starting with his own 6-year-old son, Bodhi, whom he calls his "pride and joy."

"Just living fatherhood is nice as an experience, but it's so much more enriching since I've had my son," he said. "The overall culture change is a daunting task. I can do that with my own son, and I think that's where that starts. Health and positive identity starts in the home. That's why I'm focused on being a good dad and helping others be good dads."

Fonseca, who is proud of his Latino roots, said Siena Heights nurtured his passion for helping people.

"I was given opportunities at Siena that sparked my identity development," said Fonseca, who was a member of the Saints' baseball team as well as the TRiO and McNair Scholars Program. "Siena gave me the opportunity to just follow my heart."

He said he is determined to continue his work in Chelsea.

"I love the work I do in the community," he said. "We have much more work to be done. I want to stay here until this work is no longer needed."

"I always knew I wanted to do something for people because I couldn't go to sleep at night not doing something good for people. That's what I want to be known for, as someone who reached out a hand. ... All this started at Siena Heights." ♦



saints highlights

SHU Athletics Unveils New Bus Wrap

Siena Heights University Athletics unveiled its newly designed bus wrap at a special ceremony Jan. 13 in the stadium parking lot (above and right). SHU President Sister Peg Albert officially introduced the new design that will represent the Saints on the road.

Hall of Fame Class Chosen

SHU's 17th Athletic Hall of Fame class was announced. The class is composed of Perry Gilbert (men's basketball), Adam Hartle (track and field), Jameel Jones (track and field), Stephanie Schaffron Casida (women's soccer) and the 1980-81 men's basketball team. The inductees will be honored during Homecoming Weekend Oct. 6-8, 2016.

Editor's Note: These results are from the fall and winter sports season as of press time. Look for the spring sports roundup in the fall issue of Reflections.

Soccer

Women: The Saints lost to second-ranked Northwestern Ohio 2-0 in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference Tournament championship to finish 17-4. Freshman Taylor Mulder and sophomores Samantha Bartelotti and Emily Burkman were each named honorable mention NAIA All-Americans. Mulder scored 20 goals and 47 points in 21 games, while Bartelotti added eight goals. Burkman led a defense that produced 13 shutouts this season. Burkman was also named to the All-Mideast First Team by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America. Burkman led a Saints defense that recorded 13 shutouts this season. Bartelotti and Mulder were each named to the NSCAA All-Mideast Second Team. Senior Madison Phillips and juniors Morgan Behn, Gabi Corbin, Brittany Trout and Emily Loar were all named NAIA Scholar-Athletes. Senior Jessica Behnke was named to the CoSIDA Academic All-District Team. The Saints finished 16th in the NAIA national poll.



Men: Sophomore Luis Miguel Anaya and junior Alexandre Santos were each named to the CoSIDA Academic All-District Team. Senior Keith Swistock and juniors Lucas Hidalgo Carneiro, Collin McLaughlin and Santos earned spots on the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference all-academic team. Nathaniel Kraus was the recipient of the team's Champions of Character award, while coach Aldo Zid was named the WHAC Coach of Character. Carneiro, McLaughlin, Santos and Matt Vang were each named NAIA Scholar-Athletes. The Saints finished 7-8-2 on the season.

Softball

The Saints had an NAIA-best 17 players named to the National Fastpitch Coaches Association All-America Scholar-Athlete team for the 2014-15 academic year. Those honored were Kelsie Abbott, Jessie Arnold, Hannah Bleikamp, Julie Bonk, Mariah Boss, Kelsey Cherry, Hailey Fox, Taylor Hayes, Taylor Heisler, Megan Jones, Kelsey Lampkowski, Lindsay Postal, Jessica Sierak, Bitty Treece, Stephanie Tylicki, Morgan Warfield and Kyndle Wolfinger. As a team, the Saints earned



Taylor Mulder

a 3.55 cumulative GPA. Also, the Saints were third in the nation in team grade-point average of all NAIA institutions. SHU had a team gpa of 3.562, with only William Woods (Mo.) and Bethel (Ind.) higher. In all college divisions, including NCAA Division I, the Saints were 18th.

Golf

Women: Andrea Richards earned a spot on the All-Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference first team after leading the Saints with a 80.3 average this fall. Jessa Rappleye earned the team's Champions of Character award. The Saints finished fourth in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference standings.

Men: The Saints clinched the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference regular season title this fall. Freshman Ian Martin was selected as both the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference Player and Newcomer of the Year after leading the Saints to the title. Martin was the overall conference medalist to earn first team all-conference honors. Tim Combs and Nicklaus Zanotti each earned honorable

mention all-conference, with Joe Forest, Michael MacLean, Parker Ross, Collin Smith and Gage Snyder earning academic all-conference. Ross was the team's Champions of Character recipient. The Saints won the conference championship by four strokes over Davenport and hosted the WHAC Championships this spring at the Lenawee Country Club. The winner gains an automatic berth to the NAIA Championships.

Women's Volleyball

Sophomore hitter Leze Vukaj was named to the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference first team after leading the conference in blocks and kills. Vukaj also earned a spot on the American Volleyball Coaches Association All-Mideast Region team. She led the Saints in kills (359) and hitting percentage (30.8). Senior Nicole Morgan was named honorable mention, with freshman Taylor Felver earning a spot on the All-Freshman Team. Morgan and seniors Carly Tillotson and Haley Mercy each earned academic all-conference honors, with Morgan receiving the team's Champions of Character award.



Men's Golf Team—2015 WHAC Season Champions

Mercy, Morgan and Tillotson were also named to the Collegiate Sports Information Directors of America Academic All-District Team. Tillotson, a setter, finished as the program's all-time assist leader with 3,587. Mercy and Morgan were also each named NAIA Scholar-Athletes. The Saints finished 21-11 overall, and 13-9 in conference play.

Football

Senior receiver Reggie Blackmon was named to the All-Mid-States Football Association Mideast first team as a return specialist. Also making the first team was sophomore cornerback Darius Price, who earned a spot on defense. Earning second team recognition for the Saints were Blackmon, senior offensive lineman Kendrick Thomas, sophomore defensive lineman Tyaire Bragg and junior linebacker Nate Yeloushan, while senior linebacker Nic Acton, senior wide receiver Aaron Doriot and junior safety Cha'Quan Love received honorable mention. Earning MSFA All-Academic honors were junior Seth McIntosh, freshman Jordan Riley, sophomore Stefan Wilkinson, Acton, junior Martin Giannola, Love, senior Anthony Saurine and senior Travis Zajkowski. Acton and Love were also named to the Collegiate Sports Information Directors of America Academic All-District Team. Recognized as NAIA Scholar-Athletes were Acton, McIntosh, Wilkinson and Riley. The Saints finished 4-6 overall, 2-4 in the MSFA Mideast.



Reggie Blackmon

Cross Country

Women: The Saints earned a second place tie at the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference championships. Ashley Russo was eighth in 18 minutes, 51 seconds while Elaine Johnson was 14th (19:14) to earn second team all-conference honors. Erica Oram received the team's Champions of Character award. The team also received a bid to the NAIA Championships, finishing 27th place at the 35-team event. Russo was the top finisher with a time of 18 minutes, 57.8 seconds, good for 72nd place. Senior Elaine Johnson and junior Kristin Stobinski were each named NAIA Scholar-Athletes.

Men: The Saints finished sixth at the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference championships in Grand Rapids. Timothy Young had the top finish, running to 17th place in 26 minutes, 35 seconds. Terrell McGee received the team's Champions of Character award.

Cheer

The Saints placed fourth at the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference Championships at Aquinas. Senior Celsey Robinette was named to the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference first team, and junior Kortney Ouellette received honorable mention status. Safiya Best, Danielle Lee, Ouellette and Robinette each earned all-academic recognition. Taiyler Hofbauer was selected for the team's Champions of Character Award. The Saints also finished sixth at the NAIA East Regional. Ouellette was named to the NAIA honorable mention All-American team, the first Saint cheerleader to receive national recognition. Best and Robinette were each selected as NAIA Scholar-Athletes.

Indoor Track and Field

Women: Kasey Renshaw and Stephanie Marquardt won national titles in their respective events while Renshaw was named the Outstanding Performer as the Saints finished fourth at the NAIA Indoor Championships. Renshaw set an NAIA record by winning the weight throw. Her effort of 69 feet, 6.5 inches easily beat the field. She also placed eighth in the shot put (44-10.5) to earn All-American honors. Marquardt won the 60 meter hurdles in a time of 8.5 seconds to claim her national title. Other All-American efforts for SHU were Rebecca Cousineau in the weight throw (third, 60-8), Marissa Johnson in the high jump (third, 5-7.25), Phoenix Duncan in the high jump (fourth, 5-6), Haley Hudson in the shot put (fourth, 46-1.5), Madison Pierce in the long jump (18-7) and pole vault (11-10.5), Tasha McKinley in the pole

vault (fourth, 12-4.5) and Sheila McKinley sixth (11-10.5). The Saints finished fourth place as a team with 59.5 points, trailing third place Indiana Tech by just 1.5 points. The Saints also finished second at the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference Championships. The Saints had five first place finishers, including Marquardt in the 60 hurdles (8.55), Duncan in the high jump (5-6), Renshaw in the shot put (47-3.75) and weight throw (68-2.5) and Mildranae Young-Brooks in the triple jump (38-0.75).

Men: Richard DePalma and Dominic Muessig each won national titles to lead the Saints to a fourth place finish at the NAIA Indoor Championships in Johnson City, Tenn. DePalma placed first in the pole vault with an effort of 16 feet, 8.75 inches, while Muessig won the 800 run in a time of 1:53.11. Also earning All-American honors were Zakary Haines in the 400 (fourth, 48.56), Gerald Richardson in the high jump (third, 6-10.75), Tre' Goynes in the high jump (seventh, 6-8.25), Frederick Boyd in the 60 hurdles (8.24), Brent Rodden in the 800 (fifth, 1:55.18) and the 4x400 relay of Muessig, Haines, Joshua Miles and Juarrezz Smith (fourth, 3:14.79). The Saints also placed second at the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference Championships. Winning events for SHU were DePalma in the pole vault (16-9.25), Logan Gray in the shot put (53-3.5) and Muessig in the 800 (1:54.57). SHU's Tim Bauer received the WHAC's Coach of Character Award.

Dance

The Saints placed fourth at the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference Championships at Aquinas. The Saints also finished third at the six-team NAIA East Regional. Senior Madeline Soave was named an NAIA All-American for the third consecutive year for the Saints. Lauren Nowak and Lauren Fultz were each named honorable mention All-Americans for SHU. Soave and junior Olivia Smith earned NAIA Scholar-Athlete recognition.



April Watson

Basketball

Women: Junior forward April Watson was named an honorable mention NAIA All-American after leading the Saints in scoring and rebounding this season. The all-conference and all-defensive team member averaged 13.8 points and 9.3 rebounds per game, and also led the team in blocks with 61. She is the fifth Saint to earn the honor. Watson was also named the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference Newcomer of the Year. She was earned a spot on the conference first team as well as the all-defensive team. Junior guard Jaalayah Arrington was named to the honorable mention all-conference squad, with freshman guard Avery Chezem receiving the team's Champions of Character Award. Senior guard Ra'Shawn Calvert was selected to compete in the ninth annual "Champions of Character" College All-Star Basketball Showcase March 30 at Davenport University. The Saints finished 19-12 on the season.

Men: Senior guard George Goodman was named to the honorable mention All-Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference team. He averages 15.5 points and 3.5 assists per game. The Saints finished 11-20 on the season.



Madeline Soave



The Siena Heights track and field teams boasted four national champions at the NAIA Indoor Championships earlier this spring. Leading the way was Kasey Renshaw (front), who set an NAIA record in winning the weight throw. She was also named the Outstanding Performer of the meet. Other national champions for the Saints were (clockwise from left) Stephanie Marquardt (60-meter hurdles), Dominic Muessig (800 meter run) and Richard DePalma (pole vault). Look for results from the outdoor season in the fall issue.

Something to Prove

Renshaw Sets NAIA Weight Throw Record in Winning National Title

By Kenneth DeGraaf—Student Writer

Kasey Renshaw's initial motivation to throw a shot put was a milkshake from her eighth grade gym teacher. Now, as a senior at Siena Heights University, the motivation is a little bigger: winning national championships

"I was in gym class in eighth grade and my teacher, who also working with the track team here, said, 'Hey, Kasey, if you can throw this shotput in the air this high, I will buy you a milkshake,'" she said. "That was the first time I ever touched a shot put, but I got the milkshake. After that they pretty much started recruiting me to Siena."

While Renshaw was not as highly recruited as current NCAA Division I athletes out of high school, she's proved to be one of the top indoor weight throwers in the country. Among all NCAA and NAIA divisions, Renshaw is one of the best throwers in the nation. Her 70-foot, 10-inch performance at the Indiana University Relays, where she placed first in a meet full of Division I athletes, proves it.

In fact, Renshaw was the only NAIA athlete competing in the event.

"No one knew who I was," she said. "I was the only NAIA athlete there. I felt like because nobody knew me, I had something to prove. I walked in and sat in the bleachers and kept to myself the entire time, but they made fun of me because I put my shoes on too early. Every athlete has their own rituals and stuff, but it kind of pushed me more to make a name for myself. Yeah, you may not know me, but you're going to know me."



Renshaw went on to win the national title at the NAIA Indoor Championships, setting a new NAIA record with a toss of 69-6.5. She was named the Outstanding Performer of the meet as the Saints finished fourth as a team. She also competed at the USA indoor national championships a couple of weeks later in Oregon and finished sixth in the country.

According to SHU women's track and field coach Kirk Richards, it is that strong will and determination that has gotten the small-town Litchfield, Mich., native to where she is now.

According to SHU women's track and field coach Kirk Richards, it is that strong will and determination that has gotten the small-town Litchfield, Mich., native to where she is now.



"She is gentle, always positive and you would never know Kasey can bench 235 pounds more than once and squat 445 pounds," he said. "The hard work and perseverance has paid off big for her. She is another amazing example of the kind of individual that Siena Heights produces year in and year out."

Renshaw's path to where she is now has built year-by-year. Her freshman year she placed sixth in the NAIA Indoor National Championships. During her sophomore season, she competed at the championship event once again but fouled out of the ring on her three throws and didn't qualify for the finals.

"That was a turning point in her career," Richards said. "That meet instilled in Kasey the determination, discipline and maturity an athlete needs to become a national champion. Kasey learned from her failure in 2014 and came back to win the national title in her junior year in 2015 with a throw and PR (personal record) of 63-10 ¼."

This spring, she is continuing her quest to be the best. During the outdoor season, she is already ranked first in the NAIA in the hammer throw, and is also ranked in the shot put.

In fact, Renshaw thought about training for the Olympics.

"I never had any kind of ambition to go to the Olympics or anything," she said. "I really didn't see much out of track, because it's not like basketball or football where you get a contract and get paid. You have to find your own sponsors. It's kind of nerve-wracking, but exciting at the same time."

However, after a host of injuries, and finishing up an internship for her accounting degree, she said she is focused on career outside of athletics after graduation.

"I never saw myself going this far to the USA meet," she said. "I always told myself I wasn't going to be the person that trains five or six years after college is done and I was done throwing. But I never saw myself going this far, so now I'm just kind of leaving it in God's hands."

And what is her secret to success?

"My main thing every meet is I don't focus on getting excited or focusing on throwing big," she said. "I just focus between every throw on staying calm." ♦



A Different Kind of CEO

Doug Small '82 Leads Efforts to 'Experience Grand Rapids'

For Doug Small, it is about the destination, not the journey. As president and "Chief Experience Officer" of Experience Grand Rapids, he leads the destination marketing non-profit organization charged with the mission to market Michigan's second largest city and the surrounding region as a premier convention and visitor destination.

"When I got the opportunity to come here and interview, I saw the city and said, 'Wow, this is a place I really want to be,'" said Small, who received his bachelor's degree in hotel, restaurant and institutional management from Siena Heights in 1982. "What's not to love about choosing to live in a city, and whatever that city is, you get to get up every day and represent it? That was exciting to me, and still is."

After graduating from Siena Heights, Small got his start as a banquet manager at the Sheraton Westgate Hotel in Toledo, Ohio. However, he soon realized destination marketing was his future career path.

"While working in Dayton (Ohio), I got my first real taste of the destination marketing side," he said. "It got me excited to look at that as a potential career."

From there, he took a job in resort-driven Palm Springs, Calif., which also allowed him to manage offices in places like London and Frankfurt, giving him a taste of international experience. He said he took a very "strategic" path to where he is today.

"Every (career) move was part of my strategy of moving up in the industry," he said. "My ultimate goal one day was to be the president and CEO of a destination marketing organization."

He got his chance by becoming president of the Greater Syracuse (N.Y.) Convention and Visitors Bureau in 2003. After three years, he decided he wanted to pursue an opportunity closer to his hometown of Defiance, Ohio. However, when a similar position opened up in Cincinnati, Ohio, he did not get it, and asked why.

"I asked them where my shortcomings were, and they felt I had not worked in a city that did not have a large enough convention space," Small said of the Cincinnati interview process. "Which was fair enough, because I had not."

Using that feedback, he accepted a senior vice president position with the Denver (Colo.) Metro Convention and Visitors Bureau. He said that experience prepared him well when he took on his current role in 2008. During his time in Grand Rapids, he has led an organizational rebranding campaign while raising the tourism and business profile of the region.

Originally named the Grand Rapids/Kent County Convention and Visitors Bureau, Small said the name did not fit the brand he wanted to build. In 2010, the organization was renamed Experience Grand Rapids.

"I still continue to push Siena Heights to students around here. It's the closest thing to family you'll have outside of your real family . . . It set the tone for me to grow up and be a man and gave me the confidence to go out into the world."

"That name is long, bureaucratic and there's no call to action," Small said. "For those three reasons we needed to rebrand. . . . (Experience Grand Rapids) tells folks exactly what we want them to do. And because of that name, we came up with Chief Experience Officer because it says exactly what we are and what I should be doing."

And just what does he do?

"I think the most important role that a president of a destination marketing organization should take on is to get out in the community," Small said. "You've got to be out convincing these folks that what we are doing is helping build a tax base, helping create jobs, helping create revenues for small businesses. That's my role."

He sits on several different community boards and organization locally and statewide. "As president and CEO, I have got to serve in the community for our organization, and be a convener and a collaborator," Small said.

He said the Grand Rapids brand is strong, and getting stronger. When he started, Grand Rapids hotels had a 48 percent occupancy rate (the national average is 62 percent). In 2015, Grand Rapids had a rate of 67.5 percent.



"What that's done for me is put more stress on me," he said. "The biggest challenge for me is, while we've grown revenue, we've also grown enormous expectations. . . . I've got to continue to make certain that I'm communicating and working closely with our largest stakeholders."

He said Grand Rapids is building on the "brand pillars" of arts/culture, local natural resources and craft beer. In fact, the USA Today recently named Grand Rapids "Best Beer Scene" because of the nearly 40 breweries in the region. It even calls itself "Beer City USA."

"We feel that we do those three things as well as anybody in the country," he said. "That's what we push out there and deliver to folks. And it works."

He said increasing the convention business is also a top priority. Vying with cities such as Indianapolis, Columbus, Cincinnati, Milwaukee and Louisville, competition is fierce.

"We still have a long way to go with brand recognition," he said of the convention market. "The biggest challenge for us right now is convincing people to come and take a look at us. We're not yet taken serious enough as a city that's viewed as a great convention city. What's remarkable, is once you get them here they sit there and say, 'Oh my gosh, I never knew.'"

He said he considers Grand Rapids his "final career destination."

"This city is phenomenal," he said. "It's because private industry leads the charge, not public. In most cities, everybody expects the public trough to take care of everything, build the community. That's just not going to happen. Here, we are very fortunate because there are some deep pockets in this community, and more importantly they are willing to invest in their hometown."

Small calls the first stop on his career destination—Siena Heights—a "great experience."

"I still continue to push Siena Heights to students around here. It's the closest thing to family you'll have outside of your real family," he said. "The friends I made at Siena Heights, we still get together. It's more than a degree for me. It set the tone for me to grow up and be a man and gave me the confidence to go out into the world." ♦

Celebrating 10 Years at Siena Heights, Sister Peg Albert

Has Built Her Presidency Around Community, Relationships

By Doug Goodnough

Maybe it was a calling. She likes to refer to it as a “nudge.” Regardless, accepting the job as President of Siena Heights University was something Sister Peg Albert, OP, PhD, felt compelled to do in the spring of 2006.

As she approaches her 10th anniversary as SHU President in July 2016, Sister Peg can't imagine being any place else. An Adrian Dominican Sister who had spent most of her adult life around family and friends and working at ADS-sponsored Barry University in the warm and sunny comfort of Miami, Fla., she now has firmly established her legacy in southern Michigan.

And what a legacy it is. Over the past decade, Siena Heights has “grown up” in many ways. In a period that included the worst recession in decades, where many higher education institutions had to scale back plans, projects and personnel, Siena Heights has bucked the trend. Enrollment increased, facilities improved, programs and positions added and prominence amplified.

All this has occurred using a collaborative leadership style she calls “different” than many of her presidential peers. She focused more on facilitating change rather than imposing it. After 10 years, Sister Peg not only reflects on her time and experience at Siena Heights, but also indicates she remains focused on increasing the reach of the Dominican Catholic university's mission and vision in the years ahead.



Sunny South to Wintery North

In the winter of 2005, Sister Peg happened be attending a meeting at the Motherhouse in Adrian when Sister Donna Markham, the ADS prioress at the time, asked to meet with her. Sister Donna said she had hoped to put forward a candidate from the congregation for the vacant Siena Heights presidency. Would Sister Peg be that candidate?

“I had to pray and think about it,” she said. “It was a big move for me, moving away from my family. Any move is difficult because you're leaving what's familiar to something that's unknown. But I felt like God was really calling me to be here (at Siena Heights).”

She called the presidential interview process “daunting,” especially being peppered with many questions about her ability as a fundraiser. However, Sister Peg quickly became the favorite candidate of the search committee, and was soon offered the job of becoming Siena's 10th President – and the first Adrian Dominican one in more than 30 years.

“I could tell it was a good community of people,” she said. “And that was important. I saw a lot of potential, not that Siena hasn't been a great university all along. But what it could become.”

A “Can-Do” Attitude

While Sister Peg saw Siena Heights' potential when she officially arrived on campus in July 2006, she also was staring at a large budget deficit.

“Siena was in worse shape than I thought,” she said of the University's financial situation at the time. “I knew if we were going to succeed, we had to take some risks. You can't do business as usual if you want a place to succeed. We had to change the culture somewhat.”

Bringing in a mantra of “Be Bold. Think Higher,” Sister Peg quickly addressed the “culture” that had crept into the thinking of many at the University.

“I remember sitting at a meeting and hearing over and over and over again, ‘We can't do it because we don't have any money,’ ” Sister Peg said. “I said, ‘We have to change our way of thinking. We have to dream of what we want to do, then let's go find the money.’ Once we had some success with O'Laughlin Stadium and the Spencer Athletic Complex, then I think people started to believe maybe we could do this.”

Sister Peg's first major "risk": beginning a nursing program, one of the more intensive and expensive ventures as academic programs go. However, a federal grant and U.S. senatorial campus visits by Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow gave Siena Heights the financial jump start it needed to begin the program. Now fully accredited, Siena Nursing has quickly developed a reputation for quality and innovation.

"Higher education doesn't just exist for itself, it exists for the community," Sister Peg said. "We should be answering the needs of the community. When we look at new programs, we look at three things: Is it in tune with our mission? Is it needed in the community? And is it financially sustainable? The answer to all those questions (about nursing) was 'yes.' Unless you take those kinds of risks, nothing will happen."

Those three questions were also successfully answered for other future additions such as football and band, and the latest being engineering, which started last fall.



People President

2006



2009



2010



Breaking Stereotypes

Football was nothing but a rumor on the Siena Heights campus before Sister Peg arrived. Most probably presumed it would stay just that with an Adrian Dominican Sister as President. However, as one who was voted “Most Athletic” in high school, Sister Peg again displayed her boldness.

“I love athletics,” said Sister Peg, who was a high school tennis teammate of all-time great Chris Evert. “And I particularly enjoyed football. We looked at it from a number of different perspectives. I knew that the culture couldn’t change in a negative way because of who we are. Football just created a whole new spirit on campus. I’ll never forget that first game (in 2011). The spirit in that place... that place (O’Laughlin Stadium) became alive.”

But football, as well as the several other athletic programs Siena Heights has added since her arrival, also brought new students to campus. With an enrollment hovering just below 700 students on the Adrian campus when she arrived, SHU currently has more than 1,000 full-time undergraduate students enjoying new facilities and programs.

“Our focus right now is more on academics than it is athletics,” she said. “We grew the University through athletics, and now we want to grow the University more through academics.”

“We Just Won.”

Sister Peg calls that first football game during Homecoming Weekend on a warm September day in 2011 one of her best moments at Siena.

“The spirit I felt that day and the presence of God and the goodness of the people who made it happen...” she said. “The variety of the people who walked out on that field, Olympic style, from the Sisters to the students... it was just overwhelming.”

And if Sister Peg doubted the decisions to add these new opportunities, they were put to rest ironically during another football game – a cold, dreary Homecoming matchup against Taylor last fall. The Saints were trailing by a wide margin by halftime, and Sister Peg, who had left the President’s Box to congratulate the alumni award winners and athletic hall-of-fame recipients on the field, decided to meet the team as they exited the locker room.

“We were losing so bad, when the team comes out I’ll try to encourage them, probably just what they didn’t want to hear,” she said, laughing. “And this one big fella came up to me and was completely outfitted, including the helmet on his head. I couldn’t even tell who he was. And he said to me, ‘I just have to thank you for saving my life.’ I said, ‘What did I do to save your life? Tell me what you mean.’ He said, ‘My brother has been in prison for eight years, and if you had not started football, I would have been there with him.’ I gave him a big hug and I thought, ‘Wow, this is what it is all about.’ I went back to the President’s Box and I said, ‘I don’t care what the score is, we just won.’ That’s what it is all about, touching people’s lives to the core.”

Stepping Up ‘Big-Time’

New programs, plans and facilities need resources. And Sister Peg realized why there were so many questions directed to fundraising during her presidential interview process. For someone who has spent her life building community, Sister Peg now had to sacrifice some of that time to leave campus and “find the money” to help make many of these big ideas happen.

Enter Mary Spencer, another South Florida resident whom Sister Peg was introduced to early in her SHU presidency. The two developed a fast friendship that has meant the realization of many of the University’s hopes and dreams, including O’Laughlin Stadium, the McLaughlin University Center, the Spencer Athletic Complex and the music program.

“Mary has just been one of those donors who does believe in Siena Heights,” Sister Peg said. “Her sense of giving is such a beautiful sense of giving. She explained it as there are a number of people sitting around the table who are friends, and all their gifts are different. My gift may be the gift of implementation. Her gift is that she has the resources. So if she shares the resources with me, then I can implement them.”

“Her generosity overwhelms me. She’s our angel in many ways.”

Sister Peg also credits many other “angels” who believe in the Siena Heights mission and have “stepped up big-time.”

“And big-time means is what big-time means to them,” she said. “Everybody doesn’t have the same amount of resources. If somebody gives us \$100, that’s a big gift for them because of the kinds of resources they have. I never want to lose sight of that.”

2011



2013



2016



The Future: Vigilant and Viable

Although much progress has been made during her tenure at Siena Heights, she remains “vigilant” to what she calls the “precarious position” of higher education.

“We don’t want to run off with this little trend or that little trend,” Sister Peg said, “but to keep looking at new directions that will call us to do things in different ways to make us much more viable in higher education.”

She said students remain at the core of her presidency, and she said she cherishes her relationships with them.

“I love being with them, and I think they sense that when I’m with them,” she said. “I find them very life-giving. I think students should get to know a president the best as they can. I know I’m gone a lot fundraising, but I think it’s sad when a student graduates from a college and never has seen the president.”

She also appreciates her leadership team, which is called the Executive Committee of the Administration (ECA).

“My team has been a wonderful team with whom to work,” Sister Peg said. “They are not perfect, and neither am I by a long shot. But somehow we’ve been able to get it done.”

She said the University’s vision of the future includes a new performing arts center, an admissions welcome center, a new science building, a fieldhouse addition and expanding enrollment and academic programs throughout SHU’s many campuses, including online.

“I see all that happening,” Sister Peg said. “But the most important thing I think as a Siena community is we need to deepen and grow. We need to remain faithful to our heritage and yet not be afraid to go out and do different things.”

A “Different” Kind of President

Sister Peg knows she is “different” as far as college and university presidents go. And she embraces it.

“I know that when I’m I groups of presidents, I see myself differently than some presidents,” she said. “And this is an assumption I’m making. I just see myself as a member of the community whose role is to be president. While a lot of presidents see themselves as ‘The President,’ and that is their role. My hope is that I can continue to grow in being a servant leader.”

She said she doesn’t do it alone; in fact, she doesn’t want to.

“There are many gifted people around me, and I delegate a lot to them because they have the expertise in those areas,” Sister Peg said. “My job is to facilitate it all. We make decisions together.”

Her faith also is what often sets her apart, especially being a member of the Order of Preachers.

“I know I could not do this job if I didn’t have faith,” Sister Peg said. “I know my faith and my sense of who we are and who we are called to be hopefully influences this institution in a positive way. We’re not afraid to tell people who we are. We’re not afraid to talk about our beliefs and values. We need to continue to deepen and grow in our sense of who we are as a Catholic, Dominican institution that is also accepting and welcoming of all faiths. That’s a continual thing. That never stops.

“I’ve learned a lot these last 10 years. Hopefully I can use some of that knowledge as we forge into the next 10. I think we have a wonderful future. And we have a lot of people to help get us there.” ♦

A Few Highlights

Sister Peg Albert has built her presidency around community and relationships during her time at Siena Heights. Here are a few notable accomplishments since she arrived on campus in 2006:

2006: Being the first Adrian Dominican Sister to serve as Siena Heights President since 1969, Sister Peg Albert adopted a “Be Bold. Think Higher” mantra on her arrival. The Siena community soon found out that she was true to those words.

2009: Despite the national economic downturn that had many colleges and universities scaling back projects and initiatives, Siena Heights moved forward by beginning a nursing program. The program was helped by federal funding and the backing of Michigan’s two U.S. Senators, including Debbie Stabenow (pictured, center), who visited campus to show her support. The fully accredited program now has pre-licensure and RN to BSN degree paths.

2010: Siena Heights announced it was starting a football program and would build a multi-purpose stadium and athletic complex to help support it. Other new athletic programs such as bowling, lacrosse and cheer and dance followed, not to mention the eventual creation of a marching band program.

2011: On a warm, sunny October Saturday, Siena Heights dedicated its new O’Laughlin Stadium and Dawson Field before a Homecoming crowd of approximately 5,000 people attending the first home football game. Calling the atmosphere “electric,” Sister Peg said the day was one of the highlights of her time at Siena Heights. “The spirit in that place...became alive.”

2013: Thanks to the generosity of benefactors such as Mary Spencer (pictured, second from right) and Steve and Sally Hickman (second from left, far left), SHU dedicated its new McLaughlin University Center in October 2013. Quickly becoming the hub of campus, the 34,000 square-foot student and community facility houses the University’s dining service, a snack shop and the Barnes & Noble College Bookstore.

2016: In fall 2015, Siena Heights achieved a record enrollment on its Adrian campus, which now has more than 1,000 full-time undergraduate students. Siena Heights also has a nationally ranked online program, and currently has campuses in Battle Creek, Benton Harbor, Dearborn, Jackson, Lansing, Monroe and Southfield. Sister Peg said the University’s future focus will be building enrollment through academics.

Rising Stars

Editor's Note: "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. Those who are selected to be included in an upcoming issue of the magazine will be contacted by the Reflections staff.



Kendall Acho

Graduation year (from SHU): 2012

Current title/position: Director of Ticketing and Special Events, University of Detroit Mercy

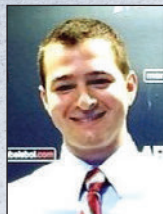
What Kendall is doing: After receiving her master's degree in sports administration from Marshall University in 2014, she is currently at the University of Detroit Mercy, overseeing ticketing for all athletic events, as well as any outside events hosted in our venues. She also helps plan marketing and advancement initiatives for the athletics department and university.

My favorite moment/story while a student at Siena Heights was: "Besides playing on the women's basketball team, was being the only student representative on the football exploratory task force. It was very rewarding to see the hard work of so many people finally come to fruition with the inaugural season during my senior year at SHU."

My favorite person at Siena Heights was: My basketball coach, Sue Syljebeck.

My ultimate goal in life is: To hold an executive position with a professional sports organization.

My best piece of advice for SHU students is: "Don't take your time in college for granted, they will be some of the most fun and carefree years of your life. Also, don't worry about what others think, step out of your comfort zone to try new things."



Jose Paez

Graduation year (from SHU): 2011

Current title/position: Accountant, Miami Marlins professional baseball team

What Jose is doing: He is currently an accountant for the Miami Marlins professional baseball team. He was a graduate assistant at Barry University from 2012-14, where he earned his MBA. After completing an internship with the Marlins, he was promoted to full-time and is currently entering his third season with the club.

My favorite memory/story while a student at Siena Heights was: "I enjoyed going on the spring trips to Florida as a member of the baseball team."

My favorite person at Siena Heights was: Coach (John) Kolasinski.

Ultimate goal in life: CFO of a sports organization.

My best piece of advice for SHU students is: "Take on as many internships as possible. Even if it is a volunteer opportunity, or unpaid. It is important to start building relationships while you're still in school in hopes that they can develop into possible career opportunities in the future."



Kaitlin Ludwig

Graduation year (from SHU): 2012

Current title/position: Cost engineer/Project accountant, Lee Kennedy Co., Boston, Mass.

What Kaitlin is doing: She is employed by Lee Kennedy, a general contracting company, which has contracts for new commercial construction and renovation in Boston. As a cost engineer, she primarily works with project management teams that are coordinating projects at Harvard University and MIT. Her role on the team is to work with clients and subcontractors on behalf of Lee Kennedy to manage financial risk, track expenses and ensure financial targets are met.

My favorite memory/story while a student at Siena Heights was: "Driving to Chicago with my roommate to watch the first ever SHU football game."

My favorite person at Siena Heights was: Liesel Riggs.

Ultimate goal in life: To be happy and successful personally and professionally.

My best piece of advice for SHU students is: "Study abroad. One of the greatest adventures I've had thus far in life was traveling to London for study abroad. The class I took was educational, but I believe I learned the most just by traveling to a foreign country by myself. This was a huge step for me, and I did not regret one second of it, and still look back on my summer in London as one of the greatest memories yet." ♦

The “*Family Expectation*” of Planned Giving

Mark and Becky '90 Schersten describe their decision to create an endowed scholarship at Siena Heights University through an estate gift as a “family expectation.”

“It was just always expected that you give back to that school that served you so well,” said Mark, whose grandfather was a faculty member at Augustana College, where he and many of his family members attended. “I figured that Siena has done for me what Augustana did for so many other members of my family.”

The longtime philosophy faculty member is retiring as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences in May 2016 after more than 30 years at Siena Heights University. He said he’s seen first-hand how scholarships have impacted students’ lives.

“I’ve seen so many students who would never have made it at Siena, or anywhere else, without the help,” he said.

Becky, who completed her master’s degree at Siena Heights, agreed.

“Wasting an opportunity for someone to get a liberal arts education is just a tragedy,” she said. “For Mark to have been as involved as he has been all these years, I’ve been really proud to be beside him in educating students who need the opportunity for that education. Siena is such a great institution for taking that extra step to reach out.”

The Mark and Rebecca’90 Schersten Endowed Scholarship, once realized, will create and endow a scholarship that will reward qualified students in the humanities, an area Mark said students don’t often consider in their career plans.

“It’s those areas in the humanities that people don’t think about majoring in, but that really can bode well for their future lives,” he said.

“The scholarship is a way of making sure students still realize that majoring in some of those classical liberal arts areas of the humanities is going to be worth their while.”

The Scherstens said the planned giving process was also a beneficial one for their own estate preparation.

“The benefit of planned giving is that you probably haven’t done but should have done decades ago,” Mark said. “And I did want to establish something that would have some lasting impact.”

— Mark and Becky '90 Schersten



“It was just always expected that you give back to that school that served you so well,” said Mark, whose grandfather was a faculty member at Augustana College, where he and many of his family members attended. **“I figured that Siena has done for me what Augustana did for so many other members of my family.”**



The ‘Heritage Society’, Siena Heights University’s planned giving club, is now named the ‘1919 Society’. This change reflects the year Siena Heights was founded, and also distinguishes itself from the growing Heritage Project initiative on campus. Has Siena Heights changed your life? Leave your legacy at Siena Heights! To learn how you can leave a lasting legacy that will impact the lives of others, call (800) 693-0506 or email at jbrooket@sienaheights.edu.

Siena Heights Announces 2016 Alumni Award Winners

This Year's Recipients Will Be Honored Oct. 7 During Homecoming Weekend

Recent Graduate Award

Amy Wertemberger '08, '11/MA



Wertemberger is a licensed professional counselor who specializes in equine assisted counseling. As the owner and operator of Stable Way counseling center, she rescues miniature horses and uses them as therapy animals to help troubled adolescents and children. Most of the youth come from the foster care system. She also is a case manager for the Salvation Army's Harbor Lights of Monroe, Mich., where she assists with locating housing, employment, substance abuse prevention and other services for homeless veterans. She is also a 4-H Club leader and an accomplished equestrian. Currently a doctoral student at the University of Toledo, she hopes to teach and train new counselors as a professor the graduate level. The Recent Graduate Award recognizes alumni who have graduated within the past 10 years, and whose professional achievement, community involvement and/or civic commitment demonstrate dedication to Christian values and the spirit of Siena Heights University.

Sister Ann Joachim Award

Patty Driscoll-Shaw '70



The longtime educator and nurse has been an advocate for the poor and oppressed, especially in Latin American countries. In her earlier years, the former Adrian Dominican and Maryknoll Sister originally spent some time in Peru with an international team of priests and sisters working alongside and witnessing to poor factory workers. In Michigan, she helped start the MICAH organization that defended human rights in Latin America. She also taught English as a Second Language courses for the Detroit Public Schools. At age 42, she received her nurse practitioner degree so she could go to Central American countries like Guatemala, Panama and Honduras and teach health care to the locals, even riding donkeys and horses when necessary to get to very remote areas. She then helped teach and train other nurses in the Chicago area, eventually becoming a recruiter for Maryknoll Lay Mission Program. The Sister Ann Joachim Award recognizes significant contributions to the University and/or community through activities that demonstrate strong leadership and the capacity to confront issues head on while maintaining the image and spirit of Siena Heights.

Saint Dominic Award

Katie Guilbault Decker '89



The award-winning principal in Las Vegas took a struggling inner-city school and transformed it into one the best in the state. The Walter Bracken STEAM Academy uses innovative approaches to education, and Decker is at the forefront of those efforts. Decker traveled to Washington, D.C., to receive a National Blue Ribbon Award—only one of three Nevada schools to earn the honor. She is currently the principal of three STEAM academies, adding Hollingsworth and Walter Long in the past year. Some of her educational innovations include a yearly school garden project, an outdoor chess board, desert habitat, outdoor labs—even a mascot. All lessons and homework are posted online. Decker constantly surveys her students, teachers and parents to make data-driven decisions. For her efforts, she was named the 2013 Magnet Schools of America Principal of the Year. The Saint Dominic Award recognizes commitment to Christian education in family, school or community.

Outstanding Alumni Award

Sister Catherine Camille DeClercq, OP '58



Sister Catherine has served in numerous capacities with the Adrian Dominican Sisters, starting as a music teacher at the elementary and secondary school levels. She later served the Congregation as Administrator and a General Council member. She also has had a distinguished career in the health care industry. Sister Catherine served as assistant to the president at Mercy Health Services from 1987-2000, and was named vice president for Governance and Sponsorship of Trinity Health in 2000. She later was promoted to senior vice president and then to executive vice president, her current position. She is a liaison between Trinity Health and its Catholic sponsor, Catholic Health Ministries and the Trinity Health Board of Directors. The Trinity system comprises 86 hospitals in 21 states with approximately 89,000 employees. She also currently serves on the Sponsor Canon Law Committee of the Catholic Health Association. Sister Catherine received the CHA's Sister-Concilia Visionary Leadership Award in 2009.

Outstanding Alumni Award

Sister Sharon McGuire, OP '68



Sister Sharon was a former elementary school teacher before starting a health care/education ministry that focused on improving the condition of migrant workers. Earning her PhD in nursing, she spent many years at migrant camps in California, Texas and Florida. In California, she volunteered with the United Farm Workers organization and worked in their headquarters with civil rights pioneer Cesar Chavez. She also served as the first full-time faculty member in the Siena Heights nursing program, teaching RN to BSN students. An award in her name was established to recognize outstanding SHU nursing students. Most recently, she was an online nursing professor for Walden University in Minneapolis, Minn., before passing away in May 2016. The Outstanding Alumni Award recognizes outstanding professional achievements and/or volunteer contributions to promote Siena positively to the community, demonstrate strong leadership characteristics and serve as significant role models for others.

Honorary Alumni Award

Dr. Louis Vaccaro



The Honorary Alumni Award winner is former Siena Heights President Dr. Louis Vaccaro of Las Vegas, Nev. His presidency from 1978-83 was highlighted by tremendous growth and improvements at Siena Heights College. Under Dr. Vaccaro's leadership, the college doubled the amount of sports it sponsored on the intercollegiate level. Dr. Vaccaro was also instrumental in overseeing the construction of the Student Activities Center (aka the "Fieldhouse") that led to the development of strong intercollegiate athletic programs for the Saints. He also helped establish an international student presence on campus and continued to work internationally in China after his retirement from American higher education. Dr. Vaccaro also served as president at Colby-Sawyer College, the College of Saint Rose, and Georgian Court College. He continues to be engaged with the University and has authored a couple of books, including his autobiography, "Around the Corner, from Shoeshine Boy to College President." The Honorary Alumni Award recognizes non-alumni of Siena Heights who demonstrate exceptional commitment to and support for the mission and spirit of the University.

find us on facebook—search for shu alumni



from the alumni office



Jenny Engle '12, '15/MA
 Director of Alumni Relations
 (517) 264-7143
jengle@sienaheights.edu

Ready and Waiting to Hear *Your* Siena Stories!

It was this time last year when I was chosen to be the Director of Alumni Relations. I came to the Alumni Office with four years of experience working in Advancement at Siena Heights. I had been a non-traditional undergraduate student and was a current graduate student when I accepted the offer. I sit here today and reminisce on all that I love about Siena.

I am thrilled that I work for, and have been educated at, an institution that truly lives its mission—to assist people to become more competent, purposeful and ethical through a teaching and learning environment which respects the dignity of all.

On my first official day in the Alumni Office in mid-November, I learned quickly that while I can start each day with a plan – that plans don't always go as expected and that I would need to be flexible.

The unplanned part of that first day was also the best part of that day. I had an unexpected visitor—a member of the class of 1976. This alum had not been back to campus since graduation nearly 40 years ago. He was in the area visiting, and stopped in looking for contact information of a former classmate he was hoping to connect with. We spent some time chatting about his experience at Siena and talking about all of the changes that have occurred over the years. He seemed genuinely happy to be on campus, and pleasantly surprised by the different look and growth of Siena Heights.

At the end of that day, I knew I was going to love my new position.

Recently, two colleagues and I were invited to be guests of the Pi Lambda Phi fraternity, which was celebrating its 30th reunion. I was a little nervous and wasn't sure what to expect – it's been a few years since I've attended a fraternity party! What I found when I arrived was an incredible group of people who love each other and love Siena Heights University. The stories and photos that were shared were part of their Siena story, and I am thankful to have shared in their celebration.

I have had countless phone calls and visitors to my office in the short few months on the job. It is a privilege to be able to meet and speak to so many who have walked the halls here on our main campus, as well as those who have made their journey through our online and satellite locations.

I look forward to meeting alumni and friends of Siena in the months and years ahead, and am anxious to hear your Siena stories and listen to ways that the Alumni Office can assist you. Should you be on the main campus, please stop by my office in Sacred Heart Hall. I can also be reached by phone at 517-264-7143 or email at jengle@sienaheights.edu. Please watch for future alumni event updates.

Homecoming Weekend 2016 is Oct. 7-9. Plans are underway for an event-filled weekend, with activities that are sure to spark interest in everyone. We will honor Alumni Award winners and Athletic Hall of Fame inductees. There will be all kinds of events and activities happening on campus, and opportunities to connect with fellow alumni and current students as well as with faculty, staff and students.

In true Siena fashion, we offer something for everyone.

March on, Saints!

Jenny Engle



class notes

FROM THE SITES

Benton Harbor

1995

Lisa Augustyniak recently received her doctoral degree from Western Michigan University. She is a business instructor at Lake Michigan College.

2002

Ken Flowers recently received his doctoral degree from Western Michigan University. He is currently employed as the dean of Career and Workforce Education at Lake Michigan College.

2005



Mike Wood is the owner of Legalmorning.com, an online marketing agency that specializes in professional Wikipedia

editing. He has been featured in publications such as Time Magazine and The Atlantic. A graduate of Concord Law School, he said he decided to focus his career in marketing instead of law. He resides in Los Angeles.

2006



In January 2016, **Marty Richey** was named site vice president of the Beaver Valley Nuclear Power Station in Pennsylvania by

the FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Co., a unit of FirstEnergy Corp. Richey previously worked at Entergy's Waterford Nuclear Generating Station in Louisiana, where he was plant manager. He also served in operations leadership roles at Entergy's Grand Gulf Nuclear Station in Mississippi and Vermont Yankee. He has also held management positions at Entergy's Palisades nuclear plant in Michigan and Florida Power & Light's Turkey Point nuclear plant, where he earned

senior reactor operator certification. He is a veteran of the U.S. Navy Nuclear Power Program.

Monroe

2006

Matthew Bolt was named director of sales for U.S. and Canada by Zodiac Nautic North America in January 2016. Zodiac Nautic is the world's largest manufacturer of RIBs, inflatable boats, life rafts and safety equipment. Bolt has 15 years of inflatable boat experience, and is responsible for the planning, execution and achievement of sales goals for his team. He also plays an important management role in product and marketing.

Online

2009



Brad Bunch was a featured speaker at the 2015 North American International Cyber Summit Oct. 26 in Detroit. Ex-

perts from across the globe came together to learn about a variety of cybersecurity issues impacting the business, education, information technology, economic development, law enforcement and personal use industries. Bunch was one of the featured speakers during the Veteran Talent in IT and Cybersecurity session. An Air Force veteran who still serves in the Michigan National Guard's 51st Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team, Bunch has supervised the access, handling and processing of classified and cryptographic materials and conducted intelligence operations abroad during his 23-year military career. Bunch is recognized as a Certified Information Systems Security Professional by the International Information Systems Security Certification Consortium. He currently resides in Sterling Heights with his son, Kain.

2012

Drayke Shackelford is employed as a manufacturing mechanical engineer with Fiat Chrysler in Trenton, Mich. He resides in Allen Park.

Southfield

1989



Mark "Mitch" O'Brien has self-published his first novel, "The Reluctant Whistleblower," which was released in winter

2016. According to the author, the book "is a thrilling good versus evil as a wealthy woman embarks on a determined quest to uncover her husband's corrupt behavior and expose his shadowy escapades to the world." The book is available on Amazon.com and other online sellers. O'Brien has worked in law enforcement for almost 20 years and is a resident of Cedar Hill, Texas.

2005

Nicole Edgar Escoe said "my career has taken off leaps and bounds since graduating from Siena Heights." She is currently employed as a Community Reintegration coordinator with Goodwill Industries of Greater Detroit. She lives in Detroit.

2010



Randy Holloway recently wrote, produced and directed a new movie filmed in Detroit called "Bianca: Who Did This To You." The

108-minute film, produced by Arete Production, Holloway's Detroit production company, is based on a 2012 nonfiction book, "Bianca, Tell Us Who Did This to You," by E. Williams. It's the story of a woman who was molested at a young age by members of her church and was physically and mentally abused by her parents and was later beaten by her husband. Holloway has been a camera operator for tv shows like "American Idol" and "Bar Rescue."

2014



Roger Anderson was named the director of operations by PACE Southeast Michigan in October 2015. Anderson oversees operations in the organization's Detroit Northwest center and manages all PACE Southeast Michigan clinics. He has more than 20 years of clinical and administrative experience, and previously worked at St. John Providence Health, where he was the regional director of rehabilitation services and sports medicine. He began his career as a practicing physical therapist before advancing to leadership roles. In addition to his clinical degree, Anderson is six-sigma certified in process improvement.

Main Campus

1981



Ben Braun/MA, former SHU men's basketball coach, was recognized during a ceremony at the Final Four as one of five recipients

of a Guardians of the Game Award from the National Association of Basketball Coaches. Braun was presented the Guardians of the Game Award for Leadership at the awards show April 3 in Houston. After leaving Siena Heights, Braun coached at Eastern Michigan, Cal-Berkeley and Rice. He has 615 career victories, placing him in the top 50 all-time for wins in Division I. He also had 14 former assistants become Division 1 head coaches.

Christopher Welsh currently resides in Boise, Idaho, and has taken an interest in photography, participating in several photography shows in the area.

1984

Ann Belote Weir is currently employed as an eligibility specialist/hearings coordinator with the Region 9 Area Agency on Aging. She has five grandchildren and said she is looking forward to baseball season. She lives in Ossineke, Mich.

1985

John Detro is currently the Army Surgeon General's Consultant for Physician Assistants, where he represents the interests of just over 1000 PAs. He is halfway through the first year of the Army Senior Service College and has recently taken over as the chief for Army Medicine's largest service line. The Surgical Services Service Line is a \$1.1 billion line that includes 22 inpatient and three outpatient surgical platforms. In the summer of 2016, his family will return to San Antonio, where he will take command of the 187th Medical Battalion. The battalion includes an array of units to include graduate level courses in multiple specialties, deployment training centers and leadership courses. He said he is excited to reunite in the city where he met his wife, Maria.

Bruce Webb was named president and CEO of the Assemblies of God Credit Union in Springfield, Mo., in January 2016. Prior to joining AGCU, Webb was the Community Bank president for National Bank of Commerce in Duluth, Minn., and executive vice president of Business Banking for United Bank & Trust, headquartered in Ann Arbor, Mich.

Ann Wrubel is currently employed as an access clinician with St. Clair County (Mich.) Community Mental Health. She resides in St. Clair, Mich.

1986

Scott McClure was honored with the Robert E. Smith Achievement Award at the NAIA Baseball Coaches Association Awards Luncheon Jan. 7-10, 2016, in Nashville, Tenn. The Smith Award is designed to recognize a coach or administrator who has given oneself in an unselfish manner to the promotion of NAIA baseball. McClure is the 16th award-winner and also is the second

consecutive Siena Heights person to receive the Award. SHU Head Baseball Coach John Kolasinski won the honor last year. In 2000, McClure accepted the position as a Manager of Championship Sports at the NAIA National Office. He helped administer the NAIA Baseball National Championship until he left the NAIA in 2013. McClure is currently the Kentucky Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (KIAC) Commissioner.

1991

Lori List was the featured subject in the January 2016 issue of *Women of Distinction* magazine, which spotlights professional women. List is a language arts teacher at the Thompson K-8 International Academy in Southfield, Mich. In the article, she credits the late SHU education faculty member Sister Eileen Rice as a “mentor and inspiration throughout my career.”

2001



Deborah Elliott '14/MA was named vice president of human resources and administration for the Gleaner Life Insurance

Society in March 2016. She most recently served as human resource manager for TLC Community Credit Union, and has more than 35 years of experience in human resources and financial services. She also is an adjunct instructor at SHU and is a member of the Society for Human Resource Management and the Human Resource Association of Southeastern Michigan.

2004

Shannon Roach Calixte was inducted into the Colon (Mich.) High School Athletic Hall of Fame in March 2016.

2007

Audra Miller Mohler played the character Billie Dwyer in the January production of “Unnecessary Farce,” at the Civic Theater in Van Wert, Ohio. She lives in Delphos, Ohio.

Laura Villalobos Soto was promoted to assistant branch manager of TLC Community Credit Union’s main branch in Adrian in January 2016. She began her career as an accounting specialist in 2009 with accounting and payroll responsibilities. Soto was promoted to member services representative and then member services officer assisting members with loans and mortgages.

2010

Patricia Thomas recently accepted a new position as the Supportive Services coordinator of the Elam Davies Social Service Center of Chicago Lights. Chicago Lights is a Community Outreach Organization of Fourth Presbyterian Church.

David Wynkoop was named the Marketing Program director for the Wright St. University Department of Athletics in November 2015. Wynkoop was most recently assistant director of fan development at the University of Central Florida in Orlando.

2011



Juan Freitez/MA was the recipient of a 2016 Artist Research and Development Grant from the Arizona Commission on the Arts, an agency of the State of Arizona. This highly-competitive grant program awards funding to Arizona artists practicing in a variety of artistic disciplines in support of research and development leading to the creation of new works of art. This year, 10 of 100 applicants received an award of up to \$5,000 in funding. In his first long-form documentary, “Salud Sin Papeles: Health Undocumented,” documentary filmmaker Freitez will tell the story of Phoenix Allies for Community Health, a clinic providing free healthcare to undocumented immigrants in Phoenix. Originally from Venezuela, Freitez moved to the U.S. to pursue a career as a filmmaker. Upon moving to Phoenix in 2013, Freitez mentored under award-winning filmmaker Terry Bennell before founding his own production company, Community Grassroots Media, in 2014.

Last summer, **Jennifer Schwartz** studied cheetah physiology and ecosystem management with the Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF) in Namibia. A veterinary assistant instructor at CAVIT in San Tan Valley, Ariz., she took the graduate course in pursuit of her master’s degree from Miami University’s Advanced Inquiry program.

2014

Markie McKenzie Kilpatrick was promoted to member services officer by TLC Community Credit Union in January 2016. She began her career as a member services representative in 2012 and was responsible for new accounts, consumer lending, individual retirement accounts and

health savings accounts. Her new responsibilities include mortgages and home equity lending. She resides in Adrian.



Spencer Revenberg was a member of the Windsor AKO Fratmen club football team in the Ontario (Canada) Foot-

ball Conference. The Fratmen finished 10-0 on the fall 2015 season and claimed their third straight conference title, defeating the Ottawa Sooners 21-11 in the championship. Revenberg was a fullback on SHU’s first football team.

2015

James Williams recently left for basic training with the U.S. Marines. Treated for childhood leukemia 20 years ago by the University of Michigan’s Mott Children’s Hospital, Williams returned to Mott to speak to a nursing class about his treatment. The class was taught by Beth Duffy, one of Williams’ attending nurses at the time.

DEATHS

Alumni

Sister Evangeline Davis, OP '38—Spanish faculty member from 1970-89
Sister Helen Bartley, OP '40
Sister Rita Gleason, OP '40—former Development staff member
Joan Brennan '44
Mary Duggan Cassabon '48
Sister Theresa Pigott, OP '51
Sister Ann Richard Baker, OP '52
Sister Patricia Slattery, OP '54
Sister Mary O'Connor, OP '55
Sister Joyce Banks, OP '56
Sister Barb Chenicek, OP '57, Hon. '94
Sister Anne Baxter, OP '58
Sister Betty Lou Myers, OP '61
Sister Rose Calvert, OP '62
Sister Joyce Hibbert, OP '64
Mary Jane Blau '65
Sister Ruth Anne Kelly, OP '65
Sister Therese Johnson, OP '70
Sister Ethel Detz, OP '72
Timothy Pecsénye '85
Randy Yates '08, '10/MA

Friends

Jerome “Jerry” Bohland—former board of trustees member.
Richard Keeley—former board of trustees member.
Richard Ransom—former board of trustees member.
Warren Reuther—former board of trustees member.
Judge James Sheridan—former adjunct criminal justice instructor.
Barbara Ann St. John—former adjunct education instructor.

NOTABLES:

Siena Heights University currently has two former players playing professional football. Former NAIA All-Americans **Kyle Connors '15** and **Donovan Campbell '15** signed professional contracts with the American Indoor Football League. Connors, a defensive lineman, is playing this spring with the Steel City Menace based in Pueblo, Colo., while Campbell, a tight end, is competing with the West Michigan Ironmen.



Tod Marshall '90 was named the 2016-18 Washington State Poet Laureate in January 2016. Marshall, who is in his 17th year of teaching at Gonzaga, had his term begin Feb. 1 and runs through

Jan. 31, 2018. He directs the English department’s writing concentration. He started and continues to curate the Gonzaga University Visiting Writers Series. Called a “tireless advocate for the arts,” Marshall has been dedicated to bringing humanities experiences to underserved populations. Marshall is the author of three poetry collections: “Dare Say” (University of Georgia Press, 2002), “The Tangled Line” (Canarium Press, 2009), and “Bugle” (Canarium, 2014) the latter of which won the Washington State Book Award in 2015. The Washington State Poet Laureate Program is jointly sponsored by the Washington State Arts Commission and Humanities Washington. Poets Laureate work to build awareness and appreciation of poetry—including the state’s legacy of poetry—through public readings, workshops, lectures and presentations in communities statewide. Laureates are selected through an application and panel review process that evaluates a proposed project plan, writing acumen and experience in promoting poetry.



Zach Bailey '14 is employed by Disney and helped market and manage the Invictus Games at Disney’s Wide World of Sports complex May 8-12 in Orlando, Fla. The games, started by England’s

Prince Harry to feature wounded veterans, hosted 14 different countries from around the world. Bailey worked directly with Prince Harry on the event. After the event, Bailey returned to his normal duties with Hollywood Studios.



1247 E. Siena Heights Drive
Adrian, MI 49221-1796

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Adrian, MI
Permit No. 221

SCENES FROM COMMENCEMENT 2016!

Siena Heights University hosted three separate Commencement ceremonies in May on the Adrian campus. These were the official celebrations for students on the Adrian campus and for students in SHU's Southfield, Dearborn, Benton Harbor, Battle Creek, Jackson, Lansing, Metro Detroit, Monroe and Online Learning programs. Siena Heights also conferred honorary degrees to three noteworthy individuals this year. Sister Mary Ellen Leciejewski, OP, MA, received a Doctor of Humane Letters degree for her work as the Director of Ecology at Dominican Santa Cruz Hospital (Calif.), part of Dignity Health. Former Adrian Symphony Orchestra director John Thomas Dodson and nationally recognized child abuse awareness advocate Gregg Milligan '85 also received Doctor of Humane Letters degrees.



To see all the photos from commencement and many other SHU events, visit our online web album at: <https://picasaweb.google.com/sienaheights>.