

REFLECTIONS

Paralyzed Stacey Kozel '15 Hikes the Appalachian Trail

IRON WILL





from the president



Sister Peg Albert, OP, PhD
President

Becoming Our Authentic Selves

Heartfelt greetings from Siena Heights University!

The theme chosen for this academic year was authenticity. The freshmen read for the summer was "My Orange Duffel Bag: A Journey to Radical Change," by Sam Bracken and Echo Garrett.

The theme of authenticity was quite prevalent throughout the book. Basically, a young man from challenging beginnings decides to be and become his true self through his own reflections, persistence and the aid of others. The students loved the book and could relate to it well. We also had some great presentations on authenticity at our Common Dialogue Day in late September. Students, faculty and staff all participated as presenters and/or participants.

When I think about authenticity, I tend to go to a spirituality of authenticity. I ask myself many questions:

Is becoming authentic a process?

Who did God create me to be?

Am I striving to become who God created me to be?

Can I live in this world that calls all of us to be so many things and remain authentic?

How does prayer assist me in being authentic, and how does my membership in a community (in this case, the Siena Heights community) assist me in being authentic?

For me, and, I think for many others, the answers we give to these questions and the courage to ask them contributes greatly to the process of becoming our authentic selves.

When I stand before God, I stand there with nothing but me. That is who I am, my true self. Deceiving ourselves or others by being someone who we are not encourages inauthenticity and we are not our best selves.

So, an honest look at ourselves while praying and interacting with members of our community helps us to be truly authentic. As members of a university founded in the Dominican, Catholic traditions, we are all called to live a reflective life that helps us grow into our individual and institutional sense of authenticity.

As the year continues on, I am sure we will all learn more about authenticity. I invite you to do the same as we journey together as "Saints" becoming who God created us to be. And, remember the words of St. Catherine of Siena: "If you are who we should be, you will set the world on fire."

Blessings on you and all your loved ones!

Sister Peg Albert, OP

REFLECTIONS

on the inside . . .

FALL 2016

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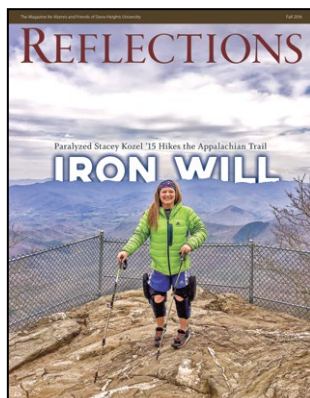
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The mission of Siena Heights, a Catholic university founded and sponsored by the Adrian Dominican Sisters, is to assist people to become more competent, purposeful and ethical through a teaching and learning environment which respects the dignity of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

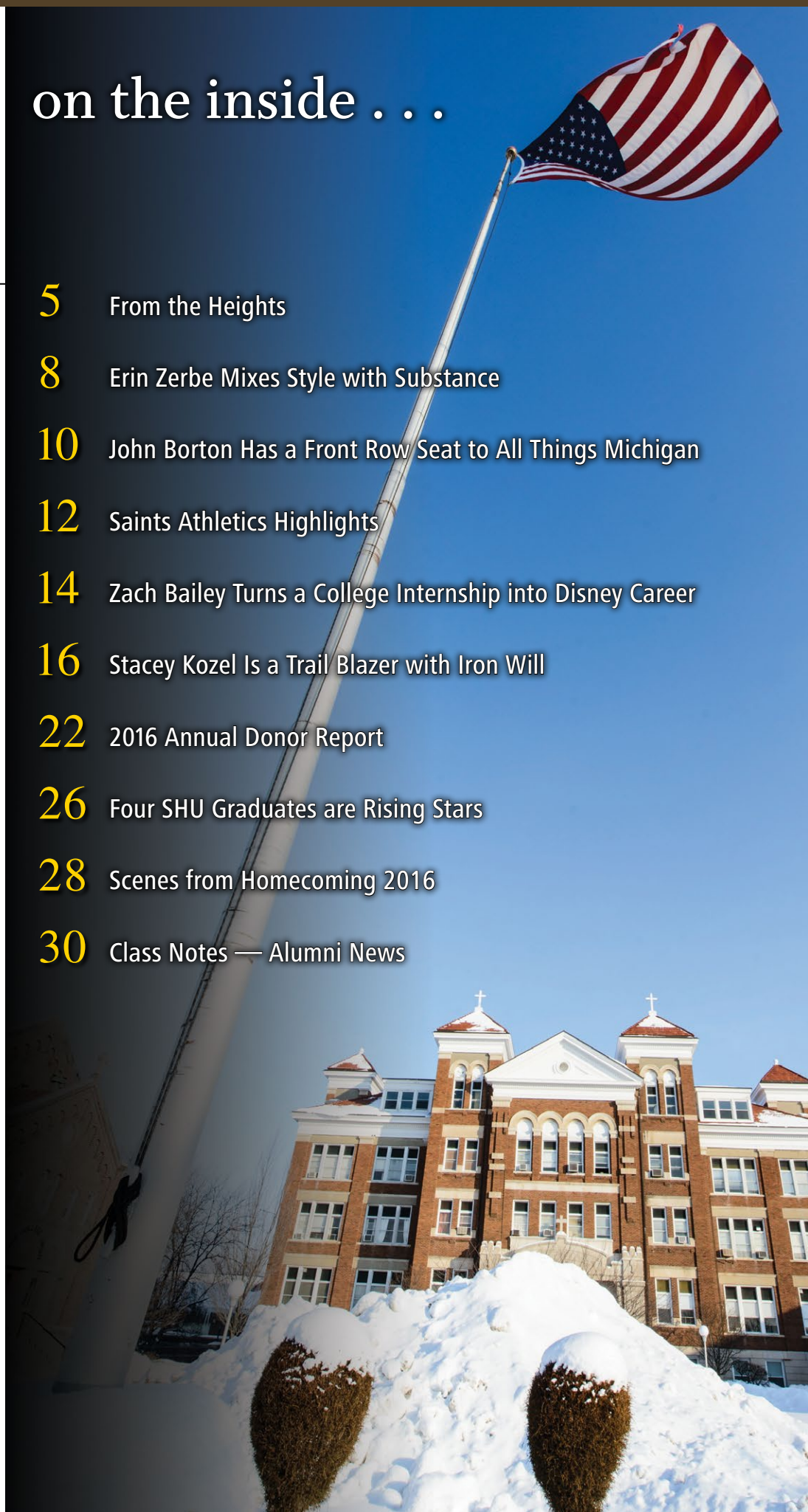
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ON THE COVER

Despite being paralyzed in both legs, Stacey Kozel '15 hiked the Appalachian Trail, completing the 2,190-mile quest in October 2016. Her achievement has become a national story of endurance, determination and will.



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from the editor



Doug Goodnough
Editor

Alumni, Keep Those Stories Coming!

I continue to be amazed at the alumni of Siena Heights University.

During the most recent Homecoming Weekend, I had a front row seat for both the alumni awards ceremony and the athletic hall of fame banquet. Those who were honored had some astounding stories to tell.

Katie Guilbault Decker, '89 was honored with an alumni award for her work in transforming a struggling inner-city school in Las Vegas into one of the most successful in Nevada. In her acceptance speech, she talked about how the Adrian Dominicans made her Siena Heights education happen. Not able to afford the tuition, she spoke through tears about how the Adrian Dominicans stepped in and paid for her tuition, allowing her to earn her degree in teacher education, and go on to become the award-winning principal she is today.

Then there's the story of small-town boy Adam Hartle '06. A promising pole vaulter from the tiny farm town of Homer, Mich., he was garnering some Division I attention before he suffered a broken back. After doctors advised him that he should never compete again, most of the schools who were recruiting him left the picture. Not Siena Heights. Again, through a tearful Hall-of-Fame acceptance speech, Hartle talked about how Siena Heights and coaches Tim Bauer and Mark Dooley believed in him. The payoff: Hartle went on to become a national champion pole vaulter for the Saints. And most importantly, he earned his degree and is a successful and productive member of society.

In the pages of this issue, you have two more unbelievable examples of Siena Heights graduates in action.

Zach Bailey '14 talks about how a college internship with Disney that almost didn't happen transformed his life and allowed him the career of his dreams. How many 20-somethings can say they have worked with people like Prince Harry, George Lucas and J.K. Rowling?

And then there's our cover story, Stacey Kozel. Suffering from the debilitating disease lupus since high school and living through two life-threatening accidents, Kozel considered it a major accomplishment when she could walk across the stage and receive her Siena Heights diploma in 2015. A year later, the paralyzed 42-year-old completed the 2,190-mile Appalachian Trail on foot—and has become a national story doing it. Just wow.

Do you have a story to tell? If you are a Siena Heights graduate, I'm sure you do. Don't be afraid to tell us about it. You can reach out to me at dgoodnou@sienaheights.edu. Also, we have online nomination forms for both the alumni awards and the athletic hall of fame, not to mention the Rising Stars piece in every issue of the magazine. They are available at www.sienaheights.edu.

Keep those stories coming!



from the heights

SHU and Chinese Institute Collaborate on Business Degree Partnership

Siena Heights University and the Shijiazhuang Vocational Technology Institute of China recently announced a business administration bachelor's degree articulation agreement in August 2016. SVTI marketing and planning majors will have the opportunity to attend Siena Heights during their final year of study. Under the agreement, SVTI students will complete the first three years of coursework in the marketing and planning major at Shijiazhuang, then can attend SHU and take courses in SHU's business administration program to complete their major. Students will also take English language courses and live on campus during their time in the U.S.

Environmental Science Students Conduct Research in Florida

In April 2016, Siena Heights Environmental Science majors/minors traveled to Florida's Ponce Inlet and the Indian River Lagoon, the most bio-diverse estuary in North America covering two climate zones and 156 miles from Ponce Inlet to Jupiter Inlet. Students researched current environmental issues impacting a particular local habitat or species. They then toured or caught these species (live catch and release). Subsequent research involved tours of local conservation/preservation sites developed to protect these same habitats or species.

Reuss-McCann on Panel at BGSU

Professor of Sport Management Dr. Peggy Reuss-McCann was a panelist at the Social Justice through Sport and Exercise Psychology symposium April 1-2 at Bowling Green St. University. She participated in a discussion on community engagement and social justice.

Siena Heights Hosts Inclusion Event May 20

Siena Heights hosted the American College Personnel Association's Equity and Inclusion Summit May 20. SHU Director of Diversity and Inclusion Sharese Mathis co-chaired the event, which had a theme of "Practicing Authenticity, Integrity and Self-Care as Students and Educators." The objective was to bring graduate students, student affairs practitioners and faculty together to discuss the challenges in student affairs, equity and inclusion and social justice work.

Scholarship Symposium Again Highlights Top Student Scholarship

SHU presented its second annual Scholarship Symposium April 20. The event kicked off with a keynote address by Wayne St. University Associate Professor of History Dr. Danielle McGuire. Her talk, entitled "The Power of the Past: History and the Art of Storytelling," illuminated why history matters to our contemporary society. There were also a series of break-out sessions throughout the remainder of the day. More than 180 students participated in the symposium.

Warner Works with Girls from South Dakota Reservation

In July, SHU Assistant Professor of Theater and Creative Stages Director Joni Warner worked with girls from the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. Through this unique program of cultural immersion and academics, she learned about the Lakota traditions as well as offered workshops in dramatic arts. "Wincincola Wiyannan Wounspe" math camp in conjunction with the "Tapa Wankaye Woecun" ceremony were conducted on the sacred ground of Pe'Sla in the Black Hills July 24-29. This is the first time in more than 100 years that the ceremony has returned to Pe'Sla. The hope is that returning to Pe'Sla and learning will empower these young girls, many who are at high risk for suicide.

Wassmer Publishes Research Articles

SHU Assistant Professor of Biology Thomas Wassmer recently teamed up with Professor Roberto Refinetti, one of the leading researchers on biological rhythms, and published two research articles:

- "Daily Activity and Nest Occupation Patterns of Fox Squirrels (*Sciurus niger*) throughout the Year" was published in the open-access journal PLoS ONE.
- "Variability of Behavioral Chronotypes of 16 Mammalian Species under Controlled Conditions" was published in: *Physiology & Behavior* 161:53-59.
- Also, Olivia Smith, whose senior project Wassmer supervised, developed an ethogram of behaviors of the critically endangered Bridled White-Eye (*Zosterops conspicillatus*). The two cooperated in writing a paper on this topic that was accepted for publication in *The Wilson Journal of Ornithology*.
- Finally, last summer, Wassmer contributed to the work of an international group of ecologists, organized by Jorge Ari Noriega of the Department of Biogeography and Global Change at the Museum of Natural Science in Madrid, Spain. Noriega will study the dynamics of dung removal in many countries worldwide.

Porath, Detwiler Present at National Advising Conference

SHU's Director of Advising Wiona Porath and Student Support Services Director Robert Detwiler, along with colleagues from Calvin and MacMurry colleges, presented at the 2016 NACADA annual conference Oct. 5-8 in Atlanta. Their presentation "It's HOT! Atlanta: Don't Burn Out," was selected by the Small Colleges & Universities Commission to be one of its sponsored sessions. Each NACADA commission can select a maximum of three proposals for this honor. Commission-sponsored status is awarded to sessions that reflected information particularly representative of that com-

mission's interests. Sponsored status will be reflected in the program everyone receives at the conference, facilitating attendance by participants interested in this commission's focus.

Meyers Named New Director of Nursing at SHU



Stacey Meyers, RN, MSN, APRN-BC, PMHNP, was named the next director of Nursing. Her first day at Siena Heights was June 30. Meyers previously served as a

nurse practitioner at the Veterans Affairs Hospital in Ann Arbor. She also worked in nursing in Georgia and Pennsylvania. She earned bachelor's degrees in nursing and psychology from The Ohio State University, her MSN from the University of Pennsylvania and is a doctoral candidate at Mercer University in Atlanta. She was the assistant director of undergraduate nursing at Columbus St. (Ga.) University from 2014-15 and also an instructor there for four years.

Ross Presents at Education Summer Conference

In July, SHU Assistant Professor of Education/Special Education Julie Ross presented at the North Carolina Career and Technical Education Summer Conference in Greensboro, N.C. Her presentations, "What's Up with the Teenage Brain," and "Teamwork Makes the Dream Work!" stem from her years of interest and passion for the educational application and implications of brain research.

Moody Publishes Research in Journal of Urban Health

Siena Heights Associate Professor of Environmental Science Heather Moody had her manuscript "The Relationship of Neighborhood Socioeconomic Differences and Racial Residential Segregation to Childhood Blood Lead Levels in Metropolitan Detroit" accepted by the *Journal of Urban Health*.

Hamilton Participates in Summer Institute in Israel

SHU Director of Engineering Ryan Hamilton was one of 24 college and university professors who participated in the Jewish National Fund and Media Watch International's Faculty Fellowship Summer Institute in Israel. The group spent 10 rigorous days traveling throughout Israel, meeting Israeli professors in their disciplines with the same or similar research interests, all with the goal of developing collaborations, research projects, co-authoring articles and establishing exchange programs with faculty and students. Speakers enlightened and educated the participants all about Israel, its history, the Holocaust and Israeli and Arab women's rights among other topics. Throughout their visit, participants were exposed to Israeli culture, toured historical sites, made connections with local residents and got a taste of the Israeli way of life. "It was an excellent opportunity to accelerate the internationalization of my program and research while learning about the diversity, plurality of political views and vibrancy of modern Israel," Hamilton said. The Institute is a competitive academic fellowship that invites full-time university and college faculty members to apply to participate in the two-week fellowship. The program links scholars from diverse disciplines with their Israeli counterparts at major institutions for the purpose of initiating exchanges and collaborations.

SHU Honored with Gold Level Status by MVAA

For the second consecutive year, Siena Heights University earned Gold Level status in Veteran-Friendly School program created by the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency. The program recognizes institutions of higher learning for their dedication to student veterans and dependents utilizing their G.I. Bill and other educational benefits. Recognized Michigan colleges and universities earned either bronze-, silver- or gold-level status as determined by the number of services they offer to student veterans. Some of the criteria schools were ranked on included having an active student-operated veterans club or association; veteran-specific career services or advising; on-campus veteran's coordinator and awarding credit based on prior military training and experience.



Barr Created Unique Self-Guided Walking Tour of Historic Adrian

SHU Professor of Art History Peter Barr has released a new web site that features a self-guided walking tour of the city of Adrian's historic district. Formerly known as www.adrianarchitecture.com, the new site, www.adrianarchitecture.org, features the Dennis and State streets Historic District, a neighborhood of privately owned homes listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1975. This web page offers an updated version of the popular self-guided walking tour that the Lenawee County Historical Museum printed a decade ago.



SHU President Speaks at Regional Advancement Conference

SHU President Sister Peg Albert spoke at the Independent College Advancement Associates Conference in August in Perrysburg, Ohio (**above**). She was the presidential keynote speaker and presented on the importance of friendraising and fundraising for small colleges and universities.

Cichy Named New Director of Teacher Education at SHU



SHU announced that Kelly Cichy, PhD, is Siena's new director of the Teacher Education Program. Her first day was July 29. She was previously the director of Curriculum and Consultation for the STEM Services/Project Lead the Way for the Lenawee Intermediate School District. From 2010-12, she also was the director of the Graduate Teacher Education Program at SHU. She earned her bachelor's degree in English Literature from DePauw (Ind.) University, her master's degree in Cultural Anthropology from Southern Illinois University and her doctorate in Physical (Biological) Anthropology from Southern Illinois. She also completed SHU's Intensive Certification Program and has her Michigan Professional Certification in secondary education in biology and English.

SHU Hosts Children's Literature Event

SHU's English Program hosted several southeastern Michigan authors for "A Celebration of Children's Literature" event Sept. 15 in Dominican Hall. Authors attending included Shutta Crum, Deborah Diesen, Debbie Gonzales, Maripat Perkins, Nancy Shaw and Lisa Wheeler. Each author performed a short reading, and there was a panel discussion and then a book signing following.

Ethnic and Gender Studies Institute Created at SHU

SHU announced the creation of its first institute: the Ethnic and Gender Studies Institute. Directed by Associate Professor of English Julie Barst, it will build upon the current EGS minor program and work closely in partnership with Sharese Mathis in the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, various student groups and the Adrian community. The Institute will also offer a film and speaker series and expand educational opportunities in numerous curricular areas.

SHU Online Learning Program Has One of Best Graduation Rates in Nation

Siena Heights University's undergraduate Online Learning Program has the nation's second highest graduation rate among private institutions and was fifth overall in a recent report released by the U.S. News and World Report. This is the second consecutive year Siena Heights has made the list. SHU's Online Learning Program made the U.S. News and World Report's "Short List" of top 10 colleges or universities that had the highest six-year completion rates based on students who entered in 2008-09. U.S. News surveyed 1,750 schools for its survey of online bachelor's degree programs. Siena Heights was the second highest private institution ranked with an 83.7 percent graduation rate during that period. SHU was fifth overall nationally among all institutions, placing behind the University of Missouri-St. Louis, the University of Illinois-Chicago, Southwestern Oklahoma St. University and Malone University. Earlier in 2016, Siena Heights' Online Learning Program was ranked 72nd nationally in the U.S. News and World Report's 2016 Best Online Bachelor's Programs ranking. SHU has offered on-line bachelor's degree completion programs in selected majors since 2004.

Jaramillo Presents at Canon Law Convention

SHU adjunct professor Eileen Jaramillo presented a paper at the Canon Law Convention in Houston, Texas. It was entitled "Are There Canonical Implications In Pope Francis's Apostolic Exhortation The Joy of Love In The Family?" Her paper will be published in the spring.

Frost Presents at Communal Studies Conference

SHU Associate Professor of History Dr. Julieanna Frost recently presented her paper, "Awaiting the Second Coming in the Piney Woods: The New House of Israel" at the Communal Studies Association Conference in Salt Lake City.

Lauderdale Honored by the State Bar of Michigan with Klein Award



SHU Professor Emerita of Social Work Ann Lauderdale received the Nancy S. Klein Award from the State Bar of Michigan in September 2016 for her work in alternative dispute resolution. She was honored at the group's annual conference in Grand Rapids. She has been at the forefront of the use of mediation, restorative justice and other alternatives instead of traditional legal solutions to disputes for more than 30 years. Though retired from SHU, she also is a volunteer mediator, trainer and adviser for the Southeastern Dispute Resolution Services Center, which serves Lenawee, Jackson, Hillsdale and Monroe counties. She also recently completed a mediation training manual and a trainer's manual that have been approved by the Michigan State Court Administrator's Office as a general civil mediator training program. Lauderdale was approved as a lead trainer by the SCAO.

Walter Publishes Article in Journal of Catholic Higher Education

SHU Associate Professor of Religious Studies Sister Patricia Walter, OP, had her article, "What We Have Seen...: Higher Education in the Dominican Tradition," published in the international Journal of Catholic Higher Education. It will appear in the Winter 2016 edition.



Siena Heights Opens Degree Completion Center in Kalamazoo

Siena Heights University and Kalamazoo Valley Community College formally signed an agreement Sept. 26, 2016, (above) that will allow KVCC students to complete four-year degrees with SHU. KVCC President Marilyn Schlack and SHU President Sister Peg Albert, OP, PhD, signed the memorandum of understanding that allows SHU to open a campus at KVCC's University Center.

"We are pleased to be collaborating with Kalamazoo Valley Community College in offering four-year degree completion options on the KVCC campus," President Albert said. "We are excited to be on their campus to be able to offer more educational opportunities to their students as well as to the Kalamazoo area community." After completing an associate degree, students will be able to seamlessly continue their education in the same buildings with the same services with which they have grown accustomed.

Students seeking a four-year degree at Siena Heights will be able to choose from a number of programs. Classes are scheduled to begin in 2017. Including its Adrian campus, Siena Heights now has nine locations throughout Michigan, as well as online.

Mathis Receives Excellence in Leadership Award

SHU Director of Diversity and Inclusion Sharese Shannon Mathis was recently awarded the 2016 American College Personnel Association-Michigan Excellence in Leadership Award for her work at SHU. ACPA is a comprehensive professional development organization for college student educators. Members come from a wide array of student and academic affairs functions, including academic advising, residence life, career

services, student activities and multicultural services. The Excellence in Leadership Award, is given to a ACPA member who has demonstrated continuous and sustained leadership.

Scientist Draud Named New CAS Dean at SHU

Siena Heights University named Dr. Matthew Draud as its new dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. His first day at Siena Heights was July 18.



Before coming to SHU, Draud was the head of the biology department at Armstrong St. University in Savannah, Ga., for three years. Previous to that, he was chair of the biology department at Long Island (N.Y.) University Post for 10 years. He earned his bachelor's degree from Thomas More (Ky.) College, his master's from the University of Louisiana-Lafayette and his PhD from Lehigh University, all in biology. He is a broadly trained ecologist with a strong interest in marine systems, especially coral reefs.

Over his career, Dr. Draud has overseen numerous full-time faculty hires and tenure and promotion decisions. He is an avid faculty advocate and mentor, and is well-versed in the role that small private

universities play in the landscape of higher education.

Dr. Draud worked to bring a brand new genetic counseling graduate program to LIU Post as well as the external funding to support its growth. More recently, working in collaboration with greater Savannah area entrepreneurs and philanthropists, he brought a brand new Aquaponics Research Center to Armstrong St. It is dedicated to the study of technologies and practices to improve the sustainability and profitability of this soilless agriculture method.

"I am grateful to Siena Heights University for the wonderful opportunity they have given me," Dr. Draud said. "I look forward to personal and professional growth as a scientist and as a leader in higher education. Having the chance to engage with the outstanding faculty, staff and students in the College of Arts and Sciences, and to support our programs and forge new paths is truly exciting."

He was born in Covington, Ky. His wife, Michelle, is a registered nurse specializing in high risk OB-GYN patients. The couple has two children, Travis, 22, and Savannah, 18.

Weinstein Earns National Acclaim for "Children of the New World"

SHU faculty member Alexander Weinstein had his debut collection, "Children of the New World," receiving national media acclaim. It named as top pick of the week by The New York Times and was also in Entertainment Weekly. It also received national reviews from The Atlantic and Boston Globe, and was named among The Best Science Fiction Books of September by The Washington Post. Also, an excerpt from the short story, "Moksha," from the collection has been republished by the Buddhist Magazine, Tricycle. The book is available at major book sellers including Amazon. A book signing was held at SHU on September 29 (below).



Siena Heights Only Michigan Institution to Receive \$300,000 Program Grant

In September 2016, Siena Heights University received a \$300,000 federal Campus Program Grant from the Justice Department's Office on Violence Against Women to help students who are victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking.

Siena Heights was one of 45 colleges and universities nationwide – and the only institution in Michigan – to receive one of 61 grants totaling \$25 million.

"These Department of Justice campus grants are extremely competitive, and the fact that Siena Heights was funded is a real testament to the professional effort that was put forward by all involved," said SHU President Sister Peg Albert, OP, PhD. "These funds will really provide a great resource for Siena Heights and its students. I would like to thank our Dean for Students, Michael Orlando, for leading this effort, as well as the many others who helped make this grant possible."

According to a release from the OVV, recipients of these awards will work to deliver effective, comprehensive and coordinated strategies that help survivors heal; reduce campus sexual and domestic violence; and improve the institution's response to these crimes. The awards will make possible a range of services, including specialized training for campus law enforcement, healthcare providers, university housing personnel and others who are often first responders.

"Schools that individualize their response to sexual, dating and domestic violence are better able to meet the unique needs of their student populations, especially underserved groups," said OVV Principal Deputy Director Bea Hanson, Ph.D., in a statement. "Coordinated, comprehensive responses allow college communities to develop sustainable strategies to address these crimes."

"We are grateful to have this additional funding that will directly serve our students, help improve Siena Heights' readiness and response, as well as work to prevent such incidents from happening on campus," President Albert said.



for Students, Michael

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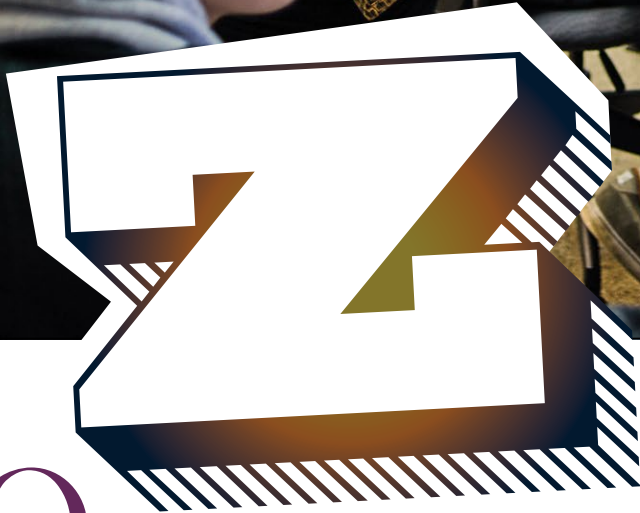
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Rice Award Winner Erin Zerbe Mixes Style with Substance

On campus, she is simply known as “Z.”

And that is just fine with Siena Heights University Assistant Professor of Art Erin Zerbe.

“It’s one of those nicknames that evolved organically and became what it is,” she said. “It’s kind of built a little bit of a persona around it. I like that. It’s fun. It allows me to come in and get right into work mode. When I am at work, I am ‘Z.’”

She may show up to class in a superhero costume to co-teach an animation and creative writing course on comic books. Or she may use a wild array of

hair color and fashion to make a statement. However, despite establishing her unique persona, her efforts in the classroom are what endeared her to her students as the recipient of the 2016 Eileen Rice Award for Outstanding Teaching.

“For me, winning the award was this culmination of a lifetime of work,” said Zerbe, who came to Siena Heights in 2012, her first full-time faculty position. “I dedicated myself not only to being an artist, but to being an educator.”

Zerbe tried the artist path early in her career. After finishing her undergraduate degree at Virginia Commonwealth University, she took a job in the corporate

world creating digital online content for the web and social media.

“I was miserable,” she said of the experience. “I just couldn’t figure out why. I was doing something creative, and I enjoyed creating it, but I was exhausted and frustrated all the time.”

She quit her job and returned to graduate school. After receiving her Master of Fine Arts degree from the Maryland Institute College of Art in 2011, Zerbe took an adjunct teaching position at VCU. However, it was only temporary, and when she saw a full-time opening at Siena Heights, she applied.

“There is this really weird line between like crippling self-doubt and uncontrollable narcissism. That’s kind of where most artists sit. When I won the award, I was like, ‘So, I don’t suck at this. That’s cool to know.’”

“When I got here and got the opportunity to meet everybody, I instantly felt like part of a family,” Zerbe said of the interview process. “I had never felt that in any job ever before. I really was hoping and praying that I was going to get the position. It’s truly an amazing place.”

Zerbe teaches courses in videography, animation and web design for SHU’s art department. She said Siena’s students are unique from other art students she’s encountered.

“They are just hard-working and salt-of-the-earth,” she said. “They come in and they don’t have that air that a lot of art students have. ... The students are kind and they’re willing to work hard and they’re here because they truly believe in the process and they want to better themselves.”

She said she not only wants to make them better artists, but better people.

“I believe that’s what we do here, is prepare them to be what we talk about in our mission statement, to be competent, purposeful and ethical individuals,”



Zerbe said. “That’s beyond just the material that they’re learning. I want them to be competent artists, but it’s more important to me that they are competent individuals and they’re going to be productive members of society.”

She said she uses her flamboyant style to often overcome her feelings of anxiety around others.

“I am actually very, very anxious and awkward and kind of uncomfortable,” she said of her social side. “So I compensate by being goofy. That’s my defense mechanism. Deep down I’m still this nervous young kid who wants everybody to like me. I pretend to be goofy to balance that out. But when I need to be serious, I can be.”

She said despite her vast experience in digital media, she has recently returned to her artistic roots to help deal with the unexpected death of her father a couple of years ago.

“I recently fell back in love with drawing and illustration,” Zerbe said. “I found that to be really cathartic to me.”

Outside of the classroom, she is using her art to help in the community. Selling her artwork at comic book conventions and expositions under the guise of Kimchi Zerbe, she donates all her proceeds to help the Lenawee Humane Society rescue, neuter and spay feral cats in the community.

“This is a huge problem in Lenawee County,” she said.

She said receiving the Rice Award helped validate her decision to follow the teaching path.

“Maybe I’m not messing this up,” Zerbe quipped. “I’m doing OK. There is this really weird line between like crippling self-doubt and uncontrollable narcissism. That’s kind of where most artists sit. When I won the award, I was like, ‘So, I don’t suck at this. That’s cool to know.’ It was kind of like a dream come true, to be acknowledged for the amount of work that I put in and the level of dedication I feel that I commit to my students. This was a great way for them to say, ‘we do see it and we know you work hard, and thank you.’” ♦

2016 SHU Award Winners from Honors Convocation:

Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award:

Senior Phoenix Duncan of Clayton, Mich.—Duncan, who graduated with honors in May with a bachelor’s degree in psychology, was involved in the McNair Scholars Program, track and field and several on-campus groups, including Adopt-a-Sister, Share the Warmth, Camp Sunshine and Kappa Gamma Pi, the national Catholic college honor society. As a high jumper, Duncan has been an NAIA All-American multiple times, including winning a national title during the 2015 outdoor season. She is currently employed with the Boys and Girls Club of Lenawee.

Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award:

Senior Amber Denomme of Mason, Mich.—Graduating with honors in May with a bachelor’s degree in biology, Denomme has been a peer mentor for First Year Experience the past three years, a co-leader to 1Mosaic’s College Life, president of the Beta Beta Beta national biology honors society and a member of Scientia. Denomme plans on attending graduate school to become a physical therapist.

Thomas A. Emmett Award:

(Outstanding Junior Scholar-Athlete)—Andrea Richards, Brody Davidson

Team Academic Award: Women’s Golf

Division Outstanding Student Awards:

Business and Management: Kenneth DeGraaf, Parker Ross

Computing, Mathematics, and the Sciences: Anh Duong, Patrick Cuthbertson

Education: Elizabeth Treece, Undergraduate

Humanities: Lauryn Dempsey, Andrea Rumler

Nursing: Katherine Blackmer, Cheyenne Booker

Social and Behavioral Sciences: Kelsey Renee Cunningham, Jessica K. Finney

Visual and Performing Arts: Michelle Force

St. Catherine of Alexandria Medal: Amelia Balinski

Graduate College Outstanding Student Awards:

Clinical Mental Health Counseling:

Linda Stewart, Nia Wolfe, Abigail Norris

Health Care Leadership: Thomas Keith

Higher Ed Leadership: Christine Irwin

Organizational Leadership:

Fernando Kumaraningrat, Kourtney Price

Teacher Education: Lisa Fisher

Faculty and Staff Awards:

Staff Excellence: Keri Brenning, Kate Hamilton

Jack Bologna Award for Innovative Teaching: Alan Moore

Sister Jean Cecile Hunt Outstanding Advisor Award: Nicholas Kaplan

Professors Emeriti: William Blackerby, Claudia Blanchard, Mark Schersten, Sister Pat Schnapp, Anthony Scioly

Fred Smith Champion Award: Annita Aranda

A portrait of John Borton, a middle-aged man with short brown hair, wearing a light-colored blazer over a dark sweater. He is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with green foliage and a white building structure.

FRONT ROW SEAT

As Senior Editor of The Wolverine Magazine, John Borton Covers All Things Michigan

If you are a serious fan of the University of Michigan athletics, you probably have heard of John Borton '81.

As senior editor of The Wolverine Magazine, a multimedia publication that covers the University of Michigan athletic program, the Siena Heights graduate has had a front row seat reporting all things Michigan for the past 25 years. From the Bo Schembechler era of Wolverine football to the present-day College World Series appearance by the softball team, Borton has seen—and reported—on it all.

Anyone familiar with Michigan athletics knows some of their most well-known figures. Names like Schembechler, Tom Brady, Charles Woodson, Chris Webber, Michael Phelps and Jim Harbaugh are all people Borton has gotten to know professionally, some even personally. But he said some of his most memorable interviews are also from some lesser-known sources.

One of those is former UM wide receiver Jason Avant, who Borton called one of his favorites. A drug dealer in the seventh grade while living in the Chicago area, Avant turned his life around and became a leader both on the field and off.

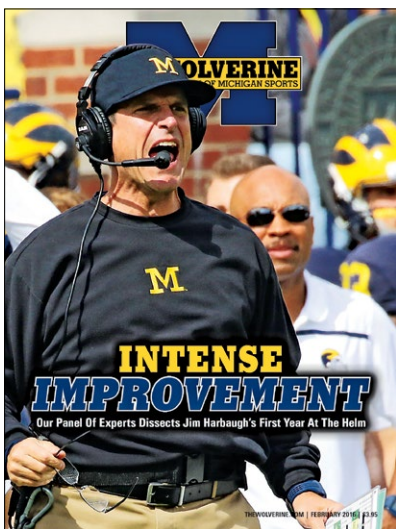
"He was a powerful man of faith and witness to his teammates," said Borton of Avant, who went on to play in the NFL. "Those stories are just incredible to be able to tell. It's been great to be able to tell different stories in different ways that go far beyond a football game or a basketball game."

Borton, who turned an English degree and a newspaper internship into a career in sports journalism, credits Siena Heights for sparking his career path. As the editor of the Spectra student newspaper while in college, he was able to secure an internship writing locally for the Adrian Daily Telegram.

“The genesis of that came from (Siena Heights),” he said. “I remember having so many English classes that the Sisters had me using active voice (in his writing). To this day, I think about it.”

When he graduated, the newspaper hired him as a reporter, and he spent several years honing his craft until the opportunity with the magazine came along.

“A deskmate of mine was doing freelance articles for a new publication in Ann Arbor,” Borton recalled. “He says to me, ‘This would be right up your alley.’”



He applied for the job with the then-fledgling The Wolverine Magazine and was hired. Now, more than 20 football bowl games later, he is in charge of the news operation that has the task of covering UM’s multitude of athletic programs—and personalities—on a daily basis.

“I was a fanatical Michigan fan,” Borton said when he started with

the magazine. “I was well-grounded in that area before I went up there. . . . It’s tough to stay unbiased. We try not to be adversarial, and we’ve never tried to make it personal.”

However, Borton realizes that while most of his readers want to read about the “good news” of the athletic program, they also want the details when the news isn’t so positive.

“You can walk a fine line,” he said. “It’s always interesting and always that tension. That’s part of learning to navigate.”

Borton said establishing trust and good relationships with the coaches, administration and the student-athletes is a key part of his job. But keeping his credibility with his readers is equally as important.

“I remember having so many English classes that the Sisters had me using active voice (in his writing). To this day, I think about it.”

“You have to build a reputation of honesty and integrity so people know you’re going to do your homework,” he said. “What you put out there (needs) to be trustworthy. People want to know they are getting a fair shake.”

Borton said the Jim Harbaugh era has ushered in new enthusiasm at Michigan, but also has its challenges.

“You want pressure? It’s sitting there in a Jim Harbaugh press conference and making sure you don’t ask a question that is going to get you ‘Harb-ed,’” Borton said of the term that means asking a dumb question. “He’s an intense character. He’s a winner.”

Although the focus is primarily on football and men’s basketball—which drives subscriptions—he said he makes a point to try to cover other Michigan athletic programs fairly.

“We try to reach out and cover other things,” he said. “Our readers consider football steak and the others are vegetables, I guess. That’s a tough balance. They’re not any less important in a sense that they work just as hard.”

Borton’s job has evolved with the technology as well. No longer a “traditional” editor reading and editing copy, he has learned how to take and edit video and audio, and also keep up in social media circles.



“I actually do less editing now than I used to,” he said. “These days, I’m running around with a monopod and my phone camera shooting press conferences or shooting the NCAA tournament. I never thought I’d tweet in my life. Now I tweet every day. That’s just part of the deal.”

From sitting in Schembechler’s office listening to old football stories to shadowing student-athletes who visit children in Mott Children’s Hospital, Borton said he is living out his dream job.

“It’s been a great experience,” Borton said. “I’ve gotten to know so many people up there (at Michigan), and enjoyed so many aspects of that world.” ♦



SHU Cross Country and Track Programs Ranked Among the Nation's Best

The women's cross country and track and field teams ranked fifth on the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association's NAIA Program of the Year standings. Points are distributed according to the place earned at a championship event.

Fall Baseball: It Counts

In October, the Saints ended its first fall regular season with a 6-3 record playing Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference foes. The WHAC became one of the first collegiate baseball conferences in the nation to play regulation games in the fall. Erich Klingelhofer was 3-0 on the mound with a save to lead the pitchers, while Kevin Ketrivits led the Saints with a .429 batting average. Siena Heights resumes its season this spring during its annual Florida trip.

SHU Student-Athletes Excel in the Classroom

Siena Heights student-athletes earned an aggregate grade point average of 3.11 for the 2016 winter semester. Leading the way was the women's golf team with a 3.80 aggregate GPA. A total of 233 female student-athletes earned an aggregate GPA of 3.39. A total of 353 male student-athletes earned an aggregate GPA of 2.92.

ALSO: The Saints softball team (above) took the top spot in the NAIA with a 3.72 team grade point average, according to the National Fastpitch Coaches Association. In all divisions, Siena Heights was topped only by NCAA Division III Newbury (N.C.) College (3.77) and NCAA Division II Upper Iowa (3.764) for the overall collegiate high. The Saints also had a collegiate-high 26 student-athletes honored as NFCA Scholar-Athletes for 2015-16. Saints honored were Kelsie Abbott, Lexi Agers, Ashley Best, Lauren Best, Hannah Bleikamp, Kayla Boland, Julie Bonk, Channing Brzys, Kelsey Cherry, Phoebe Cross, Paide Dean, Lesley Ducat, Hailey Fox, Ashley Helmink, Katie Hybl, Megan Jones, Tiffany Jones, Kelsey Lampkowski, Amy Nordstrom, Lindsay Postal, Jessica Sierak, Meghan Spagnoli, Stephanie Tylicki, Sydney Vernier, Kyndle Wolfinger and Hannah Yadon.

Wilcoxon Named Full-Time Sports Information Director



Crystal Wilcoxon was named as SHU's sports information director. She had been serving in an interim capacity since November 2015 and originally was a graduate assistant in the office. The New Hudson, Mich., native was one of 20 sports information directors nationwide chosen to receive the 2016 College Sports Information Directors of America Convention Attendance Grant for the annual CoSIDA convention. The former goalkeeper for the Saints' women's soccer team and 2015 SHU graduate has a bachelor's degree in biology.

Longtime SHU Athletic Director Honored by WHAC



The Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference all-sports trophy will now be called the Fred Smith All-Sports Trophy in honor of longtime SHU athletic director Fred Smith and his contributions to the league. The Saints finished fourth in the WHAC 2015-16 all-sports standings behind Davenport, Indiana Tech and Madonna.

Lyall Steps Down as Head Football Coach; Kohn Named as Replacement



In May 2016, Siena Heights head football coach Jim Lyall stepped down due to health concerns. SHU Assistant Head Coach and Defensive Coordinator Matt Kohn (above) was named as interim head coach for the 2016 season. Lyall, who was hired in 2010 to help start the Saints' intercollegiate football program, led SHU through its first five seasons. In 2014, he was named the MSFA Midwest Coach of the Year after leading the Saints to a Mid-States Football Association Midwest Division championship. In four NAIA varsity seasons at Siena Heights, Lyall compiled a 19-21 record. Kohn was part of Lyall's original coaching staff at SHU. In December 2016 Kohn was named permanent head football coach.

Golf

Women: The Saints finished sixth at the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference Championships last spring at Stonehedge Golf Course. SHU had a three-round total of 985, with Indiana Tech (924) winning the title. Andrea Richards placed eighth overall with a 54-hole total of 237 (80-83-74). Alyssa Fausneacht tied for 11th with a 238 (80-77-81) on the par-72 course.

Men: The Saints finished fourth at the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference Championships last spring at the Lenawee Country Club. Nicklaus Zanotti tied for seventh with a 54-hole total of 222 (78-72-72). Ian Martin tied for ninth with a 223 (74-74-75). The Saints had a team score of 898, with Northwestern Ohio winning the event with an 884.



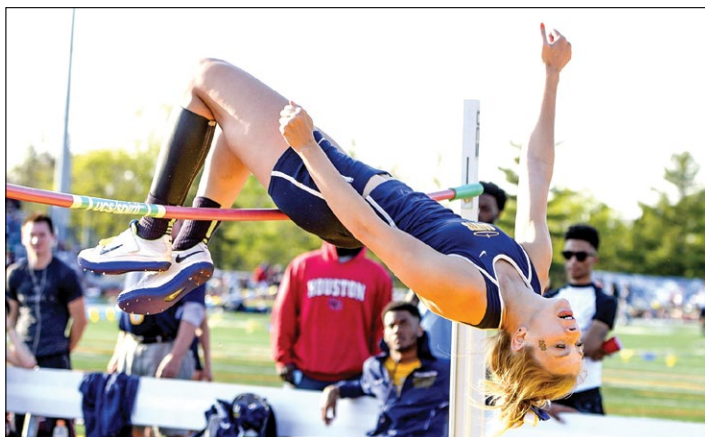
Jim Lyall steps down as head football coach after five seasons at Siena Heights.

Softball

Sophomore Kelsie Abbott was named NAIA All-Region second team by the National Fastpitch Coaches Association. Abbott was honored as a utility player for her work as a pitcher/outfielder/designated player. She led the team in several offensive categories, including runs (36), hits (58), doubles (15), triples (6), RBI (46), walks (20), batting average (.397), on-base percentage (.473), slugging percentage (.603), and extra base hits (22). As a pitcher, she had nine wins and a 3.14 earned run average. She also earned a spot on the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference first team. Named to the conference honorable mention team were junior pitcher Lesley Ducat, junior infielder Kenya Keller, sophomore outfielder Kelsey Cherry and sophomore first baseman Kris Forest. Keller, Ducat, Megan Jones, Kelsey Lampkowski, Hannah Bleikamp, Kyndle Wolfinger and Katie Hybl each earned academic all-conference recognition, with Lampkowski receiving the team's Champions of Character Award. Jones, Lampkowski and Wolfinger were also each named NAIA Scholar-Athletes. The Saints finished the season 28-24, with the win total the most for the program since 1996.

Baseball

Catcher Zach Dunlop and outfielder Travis Stricklin were each named to the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference honorable mention team. Twelve Saints earned academic all-conference honors, including Dunlop, Austin Hauck, Erich Klingelhofer, Thomas McCarter, Dan Muller, Alex Robbins, Ryne Sanders, Ty Schafer, Trenton Shindorf and Brent Vaccaro. Brendan Green was named a Gold Glove winner at second base, with Jake Maruk receiving the team's Champions of Character Award. The Saints finished the spring 2016 season 19-34 overall, 10-22 in the WHAC.



Marissa Johnson

Outdoor Track & Field

Women: Stephanie Marquardt and Marissa Johnson each claimed individual national titles as the Saints placed third in the nation at the NAIA Outdoor Track and Field Championships last spring in Gulf Shores, Ala. Siena Heights had 53 points, trailing only Concordia (Neb.) (71) and Indiana Tech (66). Marquardt, a senior, won the 100 hurdles in a school record time of 13.43 seconds. Johnson, a junior, claimed the high jump crown with a leap of 5 feet, 9 3/4 inches. Also earning All-American honors for the Saints were Phoenix Duncan in the high jump (second, 5-8 1/2), Kasey Renshaw in the hammer throw (second, 186-11 1/2), Sheila McKinley in the pole vault (second, 12-3 1/2), Ashley O'Neill in the discus (fourth, 154-3 1/2), Kristin Stobinski in the marathon (sixth, 3:23:06.2), Rebecca Cousineau in the discus (144-7 1/4) and Haley Hudson in the shot put (eighth, 46-5 1/2). The Saints also edged top-ranked Indiana Tech in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference Championships to earn their first conference title since 1997. Siena Heights had nine first place finishes as it edged Tech 212.5-205. Seniors Duncan and Marquardt both turned in record-setting performances in the high jump and 100 hurdles, respectively, to share the Outstanding Performer Award. Duncan jumped 5 feet, 10 1/2 inches for a new school record, while Marquardt posted a time of 13.55. Kirk Richards earned WHAC Coach of the Year honors, with Mariah Ridal selected for the team's Champions of Character Award.

Men: The Saints earned a sixth place finish at the NAIA Outdoor Track and Field Championships last spring in Gulf Shores, Ala. The Saints finished with 35 points, with top-ranked Indiana Tech winning the event with 86 points. Senior Gerald Richardson led the way for the Saints, finishing second in the high jump (7 feet, 1/2 inch) to earn All-American



Gerald Richardson

honors. Also receiving All-American status were Frederick Boyd in the 110 hurdles (third, 14.31), Rich DePalma in the pole vault (third, 16-4 3/4), the 4x400 relay of Zakary Haines, Juarrezz Smith, Torin Anderson and Dominic Muessig (third, 3:11.24), Logan Gray in the shot put (fifth, 55-2), Anderson in the 400 hurdles (seventh, 54.06), Paul Jacobs in the hammer throw (seventh, 180-1) and the 4x800 relay of Anthony Vermilye, William Jackson, Brent Rodden and Muessig (eighth, 8:14.39). The Saints also had a strong showing to place second behind top-ranked and defending national champion Indiana Tech at the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference Championships. SHU had three conference champions and 16 top-three finishes. Leading the way was senior DePalma, who won the pole vault with a school-record of 17 feet, 4 1/2 inches. He was named Outstanding Performer of the Meet. Adam Stuckert was the team's Champions of Character recipient.

Lacrosse

Women: Karley Engelsman was named to the NAIA All-America second team. The sophomore defender picked up 45 groundballs and caused 24 turnovers. Sophomore Kayla Parks earned a spot on the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference honorable mention team after leading the Saints in goals with 38. Seniors Sabrina Snow and Sydney Van-Hoose made the WHAC all-academic team, with Megan Byers receiving the team's Champions of Character Award. Coach Cindy Hill was named the WHAC's Champions of Character Coach. The Saints finished the season 7-10.

Men: The Saints played in two national tournaments last spring. They couldn't hold on to a late lead as Missouri Valley scored an 8-7 double-overtime victory

in the semifinals of the NAIA National Invitational. The 12th-ranked Saints (13-7) then claimed a 16-9 victory over Minnesota-Duluth in the consolation game of the Men's Collegiate Lacrosse Association Division II national tournament, ending their season. Three Saints were honored as MCLA All-Americans. Joshua Abruzzo was named to the first team, Danny Orr made the third team and Mark Ward earned honorable mention. Abruzzo, a senior defender, led the team with 24 caused turnovers and 34 groundballs. It was his second consecutive year on the first team. Sophomore midfielder Orr had 33 goals and 18 assists, while Ward, a senior faceoff specialist, led the Saints in face-off wins (141 of 205) and groundballs (57). Abruzzo and Orr were also selected to the All-CCLA first team. Earning second team honors were senior attacker Spencer Macek and Ward. Sophomore midfielders Michael Birt III and Stephen Bloxam received honorable mention honors. Senior Kevin Kennedy and juniors John Holowaty and Seth McIntosh were each named to the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference all-academic team. Senior Mark Ward received the team's Champions of Character Award. The Saints finished 11th in the final MCLA Division II rankings.



Stephanie Marquardt

Zach Bailey Turns a College Internship into Disney Career

By Doug Goodnough

There's internships, and then there's *internships*.

Zach Bailey '14 had the latter back in 2012, when he spent a semester as an intern in the Disney College Program. That experience—one that included working with such entertainment icons as George Lucas and J.K. Rowling (yes, *that* George Lucas and J.K. Rowling)—has launched a “magical” Disney career for Bailey since graduating with a business degree from Siena Heights. He is currently a park operations guest service manager with Hollywood Studios.

Bailey said he's always wanted to work for Disney, and when he came to Siena Heights, he began to explore internship possibilities.

“I literally had no idea how to start that journey,” he said. “It’s an empire, so how do you even start to work for those guys?”

He discovered the Disney College Program, but learned that Siena Heights was not part of the program. Regardless, he drove to a nearby university to see a presentation about the program, and worked for the next year to try to make that happen.

Enter Matt Ripper. SHU’s assistant professor of Business Management worked to rewrite the business program’s internship program to help make that internship possible for Bailey.

“He really went above and beyond for changing that program,” Bailey said of Ripper, whom he calls one of his mentors. “Matt found a reason to make that happen. . . . For him to do that for me was absolutely amazing.”

Bailey started in the Disney College Program in the fall 2012 as a merchandise assistant at the Emporium in the Magic Kingdom. But he didn’t stay there long.

“I was trying to learn how to move up in the organization,” said Bailey, who had years of managerial experience at Busch’s Fresh Food Markets around Michigan.

One of those ways was networking. He met someone in merchandise presentation who invited him to “job shadow” a store that was opening in the new Fantasyland.

“I didn’t realize that at the time he was the head of merchandising presentation at Walt Disney World,” Bailey said.

The new shop, called Bonjour Souvenirs and Gifts, was patterned after the movie “Beauty and the Beast.” After Bailey watched as the design was finished, Disney executives visited the store and offered their opinion.

“They thought it was terrible, and we were getting a chewing for the store being wrong,” he said.



Magic Man

Then, one of the executives turned to Bailey and asked, “Who are you?”

“I said, ‘Just a college intern,’” he recalled.

After explaining that he was just on a job shadow, the executive surprised Bailey by asking, “Do you have an opinion about the store?”

Bailey said he initially balked at answering, but the executive insisted, and even gave him a pen and paper and asked him to show what his plan would be. Bailey obliged.

“The guy took a look (at my plan) and he said, ‘I like what you are doing here. Take a couple of hours, get something to eat and write up a store (plan) and come back to me and we’ll take a look.’ The next thing I know, we redesign (the store) to my design.”

And just what part of Bailey’s plan impressed the executives?

“Theming is what Disney does best,” he said. “The products we had in the store didn’t make sense with the theming of the store. . . . I saw the “Beauty and the Beast” movie a thousand times, and I know what that shot looks like.”

Bailey said he used an interactive, experiential shopping approach.

“That was a piece that sparked their interest,” he said of the executives. “We could actually do interactive displays through merchandise that will actually create an experience for our guests.”

Bailey was soon promoted from college intern to professional intern, and began to oversee the design of other Disney parks stores. One in particular brought him in contact with Star Wars creator George Lucas.

"We were working on all sorts of presentation work for Star Wars," Bailey said. "(Lucas) was coming in and was talking to us a lot and telling us what his vision was and what he wanted to see. I just kept telling him ... 'ideally what we want to do is get these families to interact with these displays. Your movies are amazing, but understand that when these folks watched your movies, they had an experience.' ... George said, 'Show me what that actually means.'"

So Bailey came up with a "build your own light saber" concept, which immediately sold Lucas.

"(He said) 'this is one of the coolest things I've ever seen,'" Bailey said of Lucas' reaction. "That helped me get a lot of kudos from him. ... I still stay in contact with him."

Not long after working with Lucas, he received an email from someone claiming to be J.K. Rowling of Harry Potter fame.

"I thought it was a joke, so I deleted (the email)," Bailey said. "I got it probably like six more times. Finally, there was a number, and to give her a call at this number. So I call, and to be honest, I was actually being pretty mean. I said, 'What do you want?'"

The person on the other line wanted him to come to Universal Studios, where the new Harry Potter theme park was being completed.

Still skeptical, he drove over to Universal and went to the main gate.



"Sure enough, I go to the back of Universal, and I ended up meeting Rowling," Bailey said. "She said she heard about my work through Disney, and asked if I could help them on the merchandise side. So I helped them with the designs, and she wrote me a pretty paycheck, and that helped me pay some tuition at Siena."

When the internship finished, Bailey returned to Siena Heights to complete his business degree. But when he graduated, Disney immediately brought him back as a management

intern. He resumed his merchandising display work, and then was asked to run the show "Fantasmic," which was underperforming at the time. Within months, he said the show became the top revenue grossing one at Disney.

A few months later, he was given a full-time position at Hollywood Studios, where he oversees the guest experience for the entire park.

"I still work closely with merchandise, but the sole purpose of my job now is to drive 100 percent guest excellence," Bailey said.

In May 2016, Bailey had the special honor of working directly with Great Britain's Prince Harry on the Invictus Games that were conducted at Walt Disney World in Orlando.

"Even Disney wasn't sure what I would be doing," said Bailey of the Invictus Games, which are an international Paralympic-style multi-sport event for wounded or ailing armed services personnel from around the world.



"It was one of those moments that you were going to go in and make this position up as you go."

As a nation liaison, Bailey took a leadership role in welcoming the athletes, their families and the many international dignitaries to Disney. Then, as liaison for Australia, Bailey made sure his guests had the "magical" experience Disney promises. He helped organize a parade for the athletes and families in Walt Disney World, as well as set up a day trip to the Kennedy Space Center. And he got a chance to work directly with First Lady Michelle Obama, former President George W. Bush and actor Morgan Freeman. But he said his experience with Prince Harry stood out.

"The guy is phenomenal," Bailey said of the prince, who organized the games in 2014. "He's a very humble guy. He puts faith in people and he's not a micromanager by any stretch of the imagination. He really does care about people. He would always ask me, 'Zach, who's this athlete?'"

"Definitely a guy who really understands servant leadership and who could completely care less about titles. He's all about helping people."

Bailey made a name for himself during the games when he helped an Australian athlete who was possibly suffering from a post-traumatic stress disorder attack during the opening ceremonies' fireworks display.

"When the fireworks went off, she's shaking like a leaf. She's crying and a big, big mess," Bailey said of the athlete. "I realized something was happening."

He helped take her out of that situation until help arrived.

"By the time the military doctors came in, we had calmed her down and everything was good," Bailey said.

The U.S. Ambassador to Australia, Joe Hockey, found out what Bailey had done and invited him to a VIP dinner the next night. During the dinner, Bailey was brought on stage and honored for his effort with some special ceremonial coins.

"It was hard to put it all into words," Bailey said of the Invictus experience. "These folks have really been through hell and back, and for us to be able to do anything for them is just phenomenal."

Back to his "normal" duties at Hollywood Studios, Bailey said Siena Heights helped him realize his ultimate dream.

"Through Siena, I owe a lot of my success," he said. "It's the reason that got me here."

And what's his favorite Disney park?

"Magic Kingdom," he said. "That's where my journey began. ... The fact that they pay me to do this is hilarious. I could do it for the rest of my life."

"To infinity and beyond! That's the plan." ♦

Trail Blazer



By Doug Goodnough

Stacey Kozel Doesn't Let Partial Paralysis Prevent Her from Walking the Appalachian Trail



There was a time—actually, a few times—that Stacey Kozel '15 didn't know if she would walk again.

After a high school soccer injury to her spinal cord left her paralyzed, she was diagnosed with lupus—an inflammatory autoimmune disease. That means Kozel has been in and out of the hospital most of her adult life. After a life-threatening car accident and a severe lupus flare up left her wheelchair-bound and paralyzed in both legs in 2014, she pondered her next move.

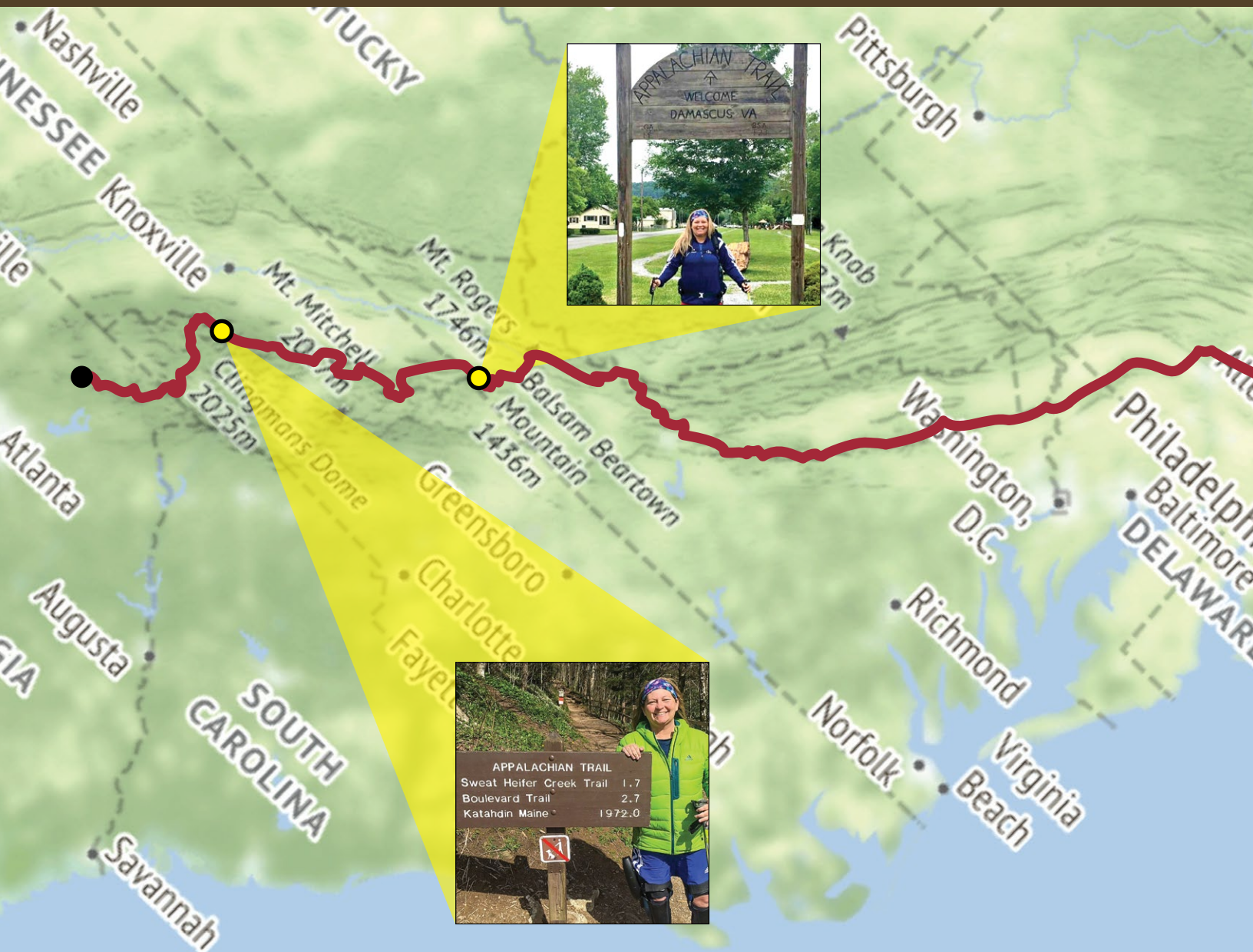
"I've had to learn how to walk more than once," she said of her post-accident condition. "I remember the second or third time laying in the hospital and looking up and thinking, 'God, what are you trying to tell me here?' No one should learn how to walk more than once."

So last spring when she decided she was going to hike the 2,190-mile Appalachian Trail with the help of a new little-known leg brace, it was about proving to insurance companies that the brace could improve the lives of those suffering from conditions like hers. It soon became much, much more than that.

After completing the six-month, 14-state trek through most of the eastern U.S. on Oct. 9, the 42-year-old Kozel has now become a national media sensation and an inspiration to many.

"Never did I think it would get this big of a response," said Kozel of her journey, which was covered by numerous media outlets such as the USA Today, CNN and the Today Show. "This hike has become more than about me. It became about other people, and I wanted to do this for everyone who was supporting me and reaching out to me and telling me their stories and struggles."

Kozel was able to hike the trail thanks in part to the C-Brace, a leg brace that allows for the ability for those using it to bend their knees while walking. However, she spent months trying to convince her insurance company that it was worth the \$90,000 or so price tag. Once she did, she wanted to show others as well.



“I wanted to prove to insurance companies that quality of life should be important,” she said. “I didn’t expect any kind of media attention.”

But when she started out on her quest on March 24 in Georgia, word quickly spread.

“Everyone’s kind of out there by themselves, for the most part,” Kozel said. “But you’re not really alone, because there’s other hikers out there.”

Those “other” hikers quickly became her “trail family.” And like in many families, nicknames are given. Her trail name: Iron Will.

“Someone gave me that early on, and my trail name actually traveled up the trail quicker than I did,” she said. “They would say, ‘You’re Iron Will.’ I’m just someone stumbling through the woods.”

The journey was not an easy one. Even with her special braces, moving through parts of the trail were difficult. Because the braces are still in somewhat of a development stage, there were some glitches. In fact, she even had to leave the trail to return to her home state of Ohio to get them fixed.

“Through my hike, the engineers and manufacturers were already able to make some adjustments,” Kozel said. “One day they will be good for hiking.”

Balance was a continuous issue on the trail, with each step a challenge. And because of her condition, she had to pack lighter than other hikers.

“You quickly figure out what you really need and what you don’t need,” Kozel said. “The best way to learn is getting out there and doing it.”

She and a group of hikers even encountered a momma black bear and her cubs somewhere in Tennessee’s Smoky Mountains. The bear started running right at them.



“My friends all went running,” Kozel said. “My brain was back there with them, but because I can’t turn around, I was stuck. ... I think some kind of noise came out of me that I would never be able to repeat, and (the bear) stopped. And it gave me enough time to turn around and back up a little bit.”

Her worst moment: trying to ascend the 5,267-foot Mt. Katahdin, the final summit at the very end of the trail.

“Many hikers said it’s the toughest part of the whole trail,” said Kozel. “I went there a year before to hike it, and I didn’t make it to the summit that day. But when we came down, I told my

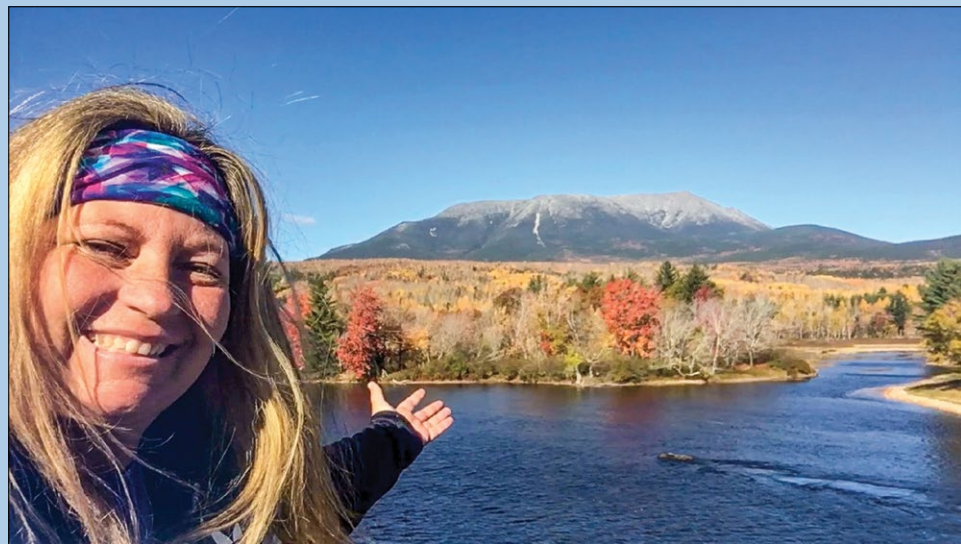
friend, ‘I don’t care, I want to try to hike the whole trail. I didn’t care if I had to crawl to the summit, I was doing it.’”

And that’s when she ended up doing. A year later, on her third try, fighting through wind, bitter cold and rain, Kozel, ascended to the top of Mt. Katahdin on her hands and knees.

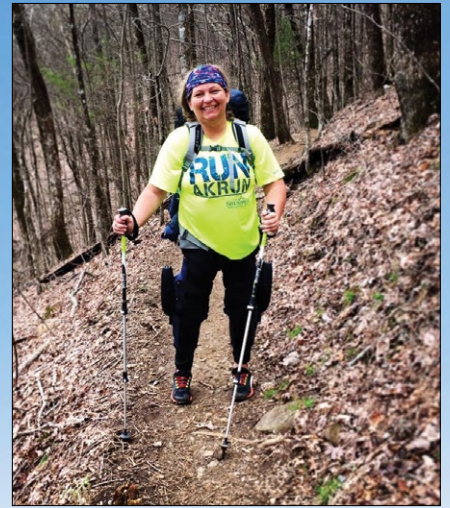
“I kept falling,” she said. “My hands were so frozen and numb I couldn’t grip my trekking poles. ... I was just exhausted. ... But I remember thinking of the people who were counting on me. I think God definitely had to be there helping me through. My fingertips are still numb from that hike.”

With her quest completed, Kozel is still processing what she just accomplished.

“I still don’t know if I have wrapped my head around this, especially the ending,” she said.



“You quickly figure out what you really need and what you don’t need. The best way to learn is getting out there and doing it.”



One thing she has processed: She is now on a different path with her life.

“The hike has opened some doors of being able to share my story,” said Kozel, who was already approached about writing a book. “Right now I’m going to be doing a lot of speaking events and doing more awareness for lupus. Hopefully I can use my story to help other people.

“I’ve spent so many years hiding the fact that I had lupus. ... I had to shrug everything off and try not to talk about it. ... Then, for the first time I started talking more about it and feeling like I’m supposed to use my story to help other people.”

She said completing her Bachelor of Applied Science degree from Siena

Heights University’s Online Learning Program in May 2015 was also a watershed moment for her. Kozel said she considered it a tremendous accomplishment just being able to walk across the stage to accept her diploma.

“It just feels like I’ve been trying to fight for my education for so many years,” said Kozel, who resides in Madison, Ohio. “There’s been so many times that I had to drop out of a program or classes because I end up in the hospital. Everyone would just tell me that I needed to get some rest. Start again next semester. Start again next year. I’ve been doing that all my life. ... I’m never going to get better, so rest isn’t going to help me.

“It was one of the best feelings to actually complete my degree. That was a big moment. Siena Heights was just the beginning of my life falling into place.”

She is already eyeing her next hike: the 2,659-mile Pacific Crest Trail in the western U.S.

“The more I spend away from the trail, and the more I recover, the more I think I want to do it,” Kozel said. “The best way to share your message is to keep walking.” ♦



Giving to Siena Heights University

This report is intended to recognize people, foundations, organizations and businesses who contributed to Siena between July 1, 2015, and June 30, 2016. Gifts received after June 30, 2015, will be recognized in next year's report.

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

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1980	4.26%
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1988	2.90%
1989	2.11%
1990	5.32%
1991	1.87%
1992	5.13%
1993	3.33%
1994	4.11%
1995	2.44%
1996	2.59%
1997	2.58%
1998	1.78%
1999	2.28%
2000	2.62%
2001	2.04%
2002	1.70%
2003	2.92%
2004	2.69%
2005	2.61%
2006	2.34%
2007	2.65%
2008	2.10%
2009	2.36%
2010	1.56%
2011	1.24%
2012	1.67%
2013	3.00%
2014	2.42%
2015	4.15%
2016	2.68%

GIFTS IN MEMORY OF

Ronald W. Albert
 Tracy Church
 Andy Growden
 Richard Keeley
 Richard Lutey
 Pat McGlone
 Patricia McGrath, OP
 Warren L. Reuther
 Miriam M. Stimson, OP
 John D. Wittershein
 Betty Hartley Worthington

GIFTS IN HONOR OF

James M. Lyall
 Laura Lynn Lyall
 Maureen McLaughlin
 Frances Nadolny, OP
 Jeanne Marie, OP

1919 SOCIETY

The 1919 Society honors those who have made planned giving commitments to Siena Heights. A planned gift is a great way to support Siena Heights and leave a lasting legacy. To learn more call (800) 693-0506 or email advancement@sienaheights.edu.

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 Judith Redwine '66
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 Keith '99 and Wendy '99 Rusie
 Eileen Ryan '50
 James and Carolee Sam
 Mark and Rebecca '90 Schersten
 Gregory Schira '89
 Emory and Kristina Schmidt
 Matthew '88 '97 and Laura '86 Schwartz
 Helen Simon '59
 Jean Small '72
 Frederick Smith '87
 David Stevens '81
 Byron Stickles '83
 Stephen Studnicka '78
 Mary Agnes Sullivan-Roselle '48
 Eleanor Taylor '57
 Nicholas and Jean Thomas
 Christopher and Lori '05 Timmis
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 Annette Van Dan '62
 Jane Waldo '53
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Rising Stars



Lisa Lothringer



Peter Sarnacki



Brandon Bowers



Kim Stoutenburg

“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.

Lisa Lothringer

Graduation year (from SHU): 2014.

Current title/position: Assistant Executive Director, Downtown Development Authority, Van Buren (Mich.) Township.

What Lisa is doing: She is responsible for all marketing and community outreach for the Downtown Development Authority. She works to promote the businesses within the DDA boundaries, build relationships with neighboring municipalities and strengthen the sense of community. Lothringer also takes part in and organizes trade events to showcase and introduce the opportunities within the township to businesses locally, regionally and nationally.

My favorite moment/story while a student at Siena Heights was: Realizing that even with balancing family and working full-time, I was able to graduate cumma sum laude.

My favorite person at Siena Heights was: Julie Edwards.

Ultimate goal in life: "To enjoy what I do for work each and every day so it does not feel like a job."

My best piece of advice for SHU students is: "Never stop reaching for your goals. Returning to school to finally finish my degree was a promise I had made to my dad just before he died. Fifteen years later, I know he was smiling down from heaven as I crossed that stage and received my degree."

Peter Sarnacki

Graduation year (from SHU): 2012.

Current title/position: Medical student, Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine, Lansing, Mich.

What Peter is doing: After Graduating SHU in 2012, he studied pre-medicine at Northwestern University. He then served with City Year Detroit, an Americorps program fighting America's high school dropout crisis by providing mentoring to Detroit youth, focusing on school attendance, behavioral intervention and course performance. After City Year, he worked with Hope Network's DART program, a child caring residential facility for children with various developmental or psychiatric conditions, often with a severe history of trauma. Sarnacki began medical school at Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine in June 2016. He and his wife, Alexandra, are raising their daughter, Zara.

My favorite moment/story while a student at Siena Heights was: "My dad will always talk about my first college basketball game; in the first few minutes, I had a two-hand slam dunk that bent the rim. The referees needed to pause the game until the rim could be set back in place."

My favorite person at Siena Heights was: Drs. Mark Schersten, Tom Wassmer, Jeff Lindstrom and Peggy Motsch, and his coaches, Al Sandifer, J.O. Owens, and Bobby Plumer.

Ultimate goal in life: "Give everything I can to my family and those who need help."

My best piece of advice for SHU students is: "Question and scrutinize everything, even if it is held emotionally close or assumed to be a first principle. Ask yourself, 'Where is the evidence for this? What does the evidence really suggest?' Also, you are paying to be in a room with experts at SHU; learn everything you can and take advantage of this opportunity."

Brandon Bowers

Graduation year (from SHU): 2013.

Current title/position: Doctor of Physical Therapy, Athletico Physical Therapy, Columbus, Ohio.

What Brandon is doing: He is currently employed by Athletico Physical Therapy as a Doctor of Physical Therapy in the Columbus, Ohio, area. Athletico is an outpatient, private practice physical therapy company based out of Chicago. On a daily basis he treats patients who range in age from elementary school children to senior citizens that include a variety of diagnoses. He also serves as an injury analyst for Cleveland Indians Baseball Insider and The Orange and Brown Report for the Cleveland Browns.

My favorite moment/story while a student at Siena Heights was: "While I was at Siena, I spent three years as an orientation team leader. I really enjoyed working as a group with the other O-Team leaders in order to aide first year students with their transition to life as a Saint at SHU."

My favorite person at Siena Heights was: Michael Orlando.

Ultimate goal in life: "I aspire to eventually obtain a job working with baseball players, with a focus on injury prevention, rehab and performance enhancement."

My best piece of advice for SHU students is: "Get involved. SHU may be a smaller institution, however, the university doesn't lack opportunity. Between the numerous clubs/organizations, athletic teams and theatre/art, there are opportunities for all students to get involved at Siena. Embrace your time at SHU and don't take it for granted, you'll graduate before you know it."

Kim Stoutenburg

Graduation year (from SHU): 2009.

Current title/position: President, On-site Operations, Wilson-Bennett Technology.

What Kim is doing: For seven years she has worked for Wilson-Bennett Technology, Inc., an industry leader in providing fundraising services to educational institutions and nonprofit organizations. Starting as an entry level employee, and has since advanced into several new positions. She is currently responsible for overseeing the company's day-to-day operations.

My favorite moment/story while a student at Siena Heights was: "Shouting offbeat and out-of-tune the intermittent words, mainly the chorus, of 'Livin' On A Prayer' with my Saints' soccer family. The most impactful and life-altering memory: a semester in Merida, Mexico offered through the Spanish Department. My experience abroad was nothing short of all the clichés on the benefits of cultural immersion. I lived the eye-opening, yet mentally and emotionally challenging, venture in which you learn to appreciate the vast differences between the foreign way of life and that of your homeland, including the language, food, daily commute, the environment. It unfortunately included befriending the sugar ants and suffering Montezuma's revenge, but the best of all, amazing friendships and exploration! ... (Note: I learned in retrospect some of these escapades should not be divulged to your mother until after the trip). Bottom line: study abroad!"

My favorite person at Siena Heights was: "Dr. Patricia Wallace, former program director of the McNair Scholars Program. Dr. Wallace was strict, demanding, and held high expectations of her students which earned her a great deal of respect, and moreover, motivated and empowered us to set lofty goals and stop at nothing to achieve them! Her unwavering resolve and genuine belief in the scholars' success, both academically and personally, embedded in us a sense of pride, determination and certainly a higher level work ethic. I admire her intellect, value her thoughtful and fun-loving demeanor, and will be forever grateful for her many life lessons which have undoubtedly helped shape who I am today."

Ultimate goal in life: "To live happy, travel often, love much and die with more memories than dreams!"

My best piece of advice for SHU students is: "Hard work breeds good luck. Don't stress over knowing what you'll do after graduation; instead, listen intently, be diligent, take chances and then pour your heart into those opportunities. And above all, live your journey with passion."

1—Savannah Haig '16 (left) reunites with SHU Cheer and Dance Team friends before the football game.

2—Everyone is all smiles with SHU mascot, Halo the husky, during Homecoming Weekend.

3—SHU President Sister Peg Albert (left) is joined by SHU board members to break ground for the new Performing Arts Center.

4—Friends catch up near “Chaos Getaria” during Homecoming weekend.

5—Cody Sieler '08 (right) helps a student torch “the exorcism” (pancakes piled with French fries, cheese, pork, egg and jalapeno) at a tailgate party.

6—Jordan Hayes-Devloo portrays Uncle Fester in Theatre Siena’s rousing performance of “The Addams Family” during Homecoming weekend.

7—Homecoming is for students, too!

8—Alumni wave to the camera after mass on Sunday morning.

SCENES FROM HOMECOMING 2016



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

Setting the World on Fire at Siena Heights

“Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire.”

Sister Peg Albert reiterated St. Catherine of Siena’s words at graduation this past spring to a record number of graduates. I have witnessed this statement to be true in so many of our alumni. Through events on campus and off campus, I’ve had the opportunity to meet and witness so many of our community of alumni setting “the world on fire.”

Kelly Burke '07 and I were students in Studio Angelico together. At the 2015 Alumni Art Exhibit during Homecoming, I got to witness the evolution of her work since graduation. She is on fire and living her dream! We keep up on Instagram, but to see a gallery of her work and get to congratulate her in person was special. Siena offers this continued community as Studio Angelico has made a tradition of hosting a reception Friday night at Homecoming week (mark your calendars for Oct. 13-15!).

At graduation in the spring, I was honored to listen to Chase Wilkerson '05 speak at the Kente ceremony. His soothing yet go get 'em personality encouraged me when we went to school together, and I watched as he inspired the new generation of Saints. Another Siena encounter I was fortunate to experience.

I have not only met alumni, but some of the new faculty and staff on our campuses. They are so energetic and passionate about the mission of the Alma Mater. I am proud they are continuing on the legacy of so many of our beloved professors and mentors.

Another thrill for me has been to watch a former high school student of mine graduate. From a copy room conversation with his mom to Gianni Chesnick '15 deciding Siena was the place for him, too, it’s been incredible to watch his own Siena experience unfold into success.

Siena is still that place we loved as students. It looks a lot different, but I assure you, the mission is well. Those magnolia trees still blossom in the spring on campus in front of Ben-incasa, where Mary Poore '76 and I posed for a selfie. I affectionately call Mary my “Adrian Mom.” I didn’t meet Mary until after I graduated and moved away. How did two alums become such friends? That’s the Siena community.

If you know an alumni, or even a friend of Siena’s, who is setting the world on fire, let us know! Nominations for Alumni Awards are accepted on an ongoing basis. Those received by March 1, 2017, will be considered for the 2017 awards.

Visit <http://sienaheights.edu/LandingPages/AlumniAwards.aspx> to submit a nomination.

Call us or share a photo on our Facebook group and tell us how your Siena community is still a part of your life. Drop by for a visit or mentor a current student to expand your Siena experience. Even just tell someone about your Siena story in a copy room. You never know what fire it will start!

Jenny Engle



FROM THE SITES

Benton Harbor

1995

Debra Hartline Bauschke Romaneschi was named the finance director/treasurer for the City of Benton Harbor, Mich., on June 6, 2016. She moved back to the area after living in Washington state.

2002



Yvonne Dean was named vice president of United Investment Planning at the United Federal Credit Union in St.

Joseph, Mich. She is accountable for the growth and profitability of the UFCU investment portfolio among others. She has more than 20 years of experience in the financial services industry.

2014



Melanie Owen is the co-owner of the Lazy Ballerina Winery, which opened in June 2016 in St. Joseph, Mich. Owen and her

business partner help start the business partly because of a crowd-funding effort she learned while a business student at Siena Heights.

Jackson

2011

Lesslie Keeling was named the coordinator of volunteers for Hospice of Hillsdale County in August 2016.

2013

Kyle Leighton was named mid-west regional sales manager by NAME Energy Group. He will be presenting distributors with LED lighting products, overseeing sales representatives and facilitating new and innovative products.

Lansing

2006



Brian Davis was named fire chief for the Lake Havasu City (Ariz.) Fire Department in May 2016. The former U.S. Marine and Gulf

War veteran has a long career in law enforcement and firefighting, and most recently was the deputy fire chief for the Grand Ledge (Mich.) Fire Department.

2010



Ruth Sternaman '12/MA is employed as a counselor at the Women's Center of Greater Lansing since 2010. She was profiled

in the July 2016 issue of Capital Area Women's LifeStyle Magazine for her work with domestic abuse and sexual assault victims.

Monroe

1998

Mark Durivage is the managing principal consultant at Quality Systems Compliance LLC and author of several quality-related books. He also is a Certified Tissue Bank Specialist has a certification in Global Regulatory Affairs. He resides in Lambertville, Mich.

2010

Aaron Kinzel is working with the University of Michigan's Prison Creative Arts Project. According to a recent story in the Michigan Daily, the PCAP brings visual, written and theatrical art into the lives of inmates from prisons in southeast Michigan, and accepts artistic submissions from all 33 prisons statewide. He also leads PCAP's Linkage Project that helps former prisoners come back into the community to lead workshops. Kinzel is a faculty member in UM's criminology and criminal justice departments.

Online

2012

John Kosanke was named public safety director for the city of Grosse Pointe Woods, Mich., in August 2016. Kosanke has been a public safety officer, traffic enforcement officer, corporal, sergeant and lieutenant for the GPW Department of Public Safety, and also previously served as deputy fire chief for the New Baltimore (Mich.) Fire Department.

Southfield

2013

Johnny Menifee was appointed as chief of the Southfield (Mich.) Fire Department in July 2016. Menifee has served with the department since 1993 in various roles, including battalion chief, captain, lieutenant, EMT/paramedic and the training and safety officer.

Main Campus

1964

Angie Bidlack completed her last bicycle race in July, the Keystone Country (Ky.) MS 150 with her grandson, John. She is retired and said she hopes to volunteer in other ways.

1975

Donald Herip, MD, recently transferred to a new position at the Banner University Medical Group in Tucson, Ariz.

1984

Tanya Whitley is an artist who is working and living in Charlevoix, Mich. She has created more than 100 beer labels for Short's Brewing Co., Founders Brewing Co. and Woodchuck Cider.



Halo Says: Stay in Touch!

Submit a class note online:
reflections.sienaheights.edu/contact

1990



John Quinn was named vice president of worldwide channels by Attivo Networks, a cybersecurity threat detection company. Quinn

has more than 20 years of experience in sales, and most recently at FireEye.

1993

Amelia Harlukowicz Proctor transferred as a manager from the Biology Unit of the Michigan State Police Lansing Forensic Laboratory to a new supervisory position in the CODIS Section of the Biometrics & Identification Division of the Michigan State Police in October 2015. The full-time working single mom has a son who is active in baseball and basketball.

Therese Schaub Larson has created the unique Girls on the Run of Northwest Michigan program to help girls and young women with self-esteem. The after-school program currently serves 1,500 girls and 57 schools in eight northern Michigan counties. Coaches teach about self-esteem, teamwork and how to be part of the community. After 12 weeks, participants get together for the Girls on the Run 5K. Her story, part of the Powerful Women Series, was detailed in the June 2016 edition of Grand Traverse Woman Magazine.

1994

Robert Puckett retired in June 2016 as a lieutenant after 21 years with the Wayne (Mich.) Police Department.

1996



Jessica Johnson was named the girls varsity basketball coach at Niles (Mich.) High School in October 2016. She also serves as the dean of students at NHS.



Karyn Konkell is employed at the Flint Institute of Arts. Her pottery artwork was recently on display at the Ugly Dog's Farm arts and fine crafts show in Richfield Township, Mich.

1997



Julie Bell '99/MA was named the Chief Human Resources officer for the Advanced Group in Chicago, Ill., in September 2016. She has

more than 20 years of HR leadership within healthcare organizations and large corporations. Most recently she served as VP of Human Capital Management & Transformation at Presence Health, where she was responsible for the design and deployment of systems, processes, and technology for 22,000 employees and nearly 200 facilities. Prior to joining Presence Health, Bell held several leadership positions in HR, including senior officer, Talent Management at Cleveland Clinic and director Talent Management, OD at Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. The Advanced Group provides expertise in talent acquisition and management, consulting, out-sourcing, and professional services.

Notables:

1999

Kristin Baty Watts/MA was recently named the director of St. Anne's Day School in Atlanta, Ga.

2003



Matt Keller was a source for a Politico.com article on federal cybersecurity measures. The story ran on Oct. 11, 2016. Keller is the vice president of federal services at GuidePoint and a former computer forensics specialist with the Defense Department.



Andrew Staton starred in the horror movie "ClownTown," which was released in September 2016 on DVD.

2005

Rachelle Barr was named an assistant professor of mathematics at Northwood University in Midland, Mich. She previously was an assistant professor at the University of Wisconsin-Rock County.

Kalen Larson is the general manager of the Hall Associates Flying Effects, which specializes in flying performers through the air for theatrical productions. He returned to Adrian in June 2016 to help with the Crosswell Opera House production of "Billy Elliot."

2006

Jessica Nietrzeba is the assistant director of Alumni Relations at Eastern Michigan University.

2007



Curtis Parsons '09/MA was recently appointed to the state of Michigan's Public Safety Communications Interoperability Board.

This board oversees the state's public safety radio system and telecommunications network and is also responsible for advising the governor on current and future technology to ensure preparedness in the event of an emergency. Parsons currently serves as the Lenawee County Homeland Security Management coordinator.

2008

Michele Wood Contreras is employed as tax manager for LafargeHolcim in Ann Arbor, Mich.

2013

Kelci Schock was hired in August 2016 as a physician's assistant at Health Specialists of Lenawee in Tecumseh, Mich. She is a Tecumseh High School graduate.

Joanna Steffel interned at Arrupe College of Loyola University of Chicago. The college strives to make education affordable and accessible for students who come from low-income families.

Andy Switzer was hired as an English and social studies teacher at Pettisville (Ohio) High School. He is a Pettisville High School graduate.

2015

Steven Robinson Jr. was hired as a police officer for the Elkhart (Ind.) Police Department. He started his new position in July 2006.

Charlotte Squires was one of 120 first-year teachers hired by Onslow County (N.C.) Schools. Squires is teaching fourth- and fifth-graders in the exceptional children's program at Queens Creek Elementary School in Swansboro, N.C.

2016



DeShawn Gilbert was named an assistant football coach in August 2016 with Malone (Ohio) University.

DEATHS

Alumni

- Elie Wiesel '83/HD
- Sister Maura Phillips, OP '39—
Siena Heights music faculty member from 1963-73.
- Sister Helen Duggan, OP '41—
She was a former Siena Heights science faculty member from 1956-63 and again from 1975-90. She taught part-time from 1990-92 and volunteered as archivist from 1993-2003.
- Sister Virginia Conway, OP '48
- Sister Mary Jane Schallert, OP '50
- Sister Rosemary Conlon, OP '51
- Sister Patricia Dillon, OP '53
- Sister Ann Plourde, OP '54
- Sister Janet Hudspeth, OP '57
- Sister Renee Richie, OP '60, '70/MA
- Sister Mary Waldron, OP '61
- Sister Joan Dwyer, OP '64
- Sister Sharon McGuire, OP '68—
First full-time nursing faculty member at Siena Heights.
- Jeffrey Hinkle '78/MA
- William Heffernan '94
- Dr. Scott Brown '03
- Michelle Hartley '06



Teammates and former Siena Heights football All-Americans **Donovan Campbell '15** and **Kyle Connors '15** were part of the West Michigan Ironmen football team that reached the championship game of the American Indoor Football league in June 2016. Campbell, a tight end, caught three TD passes in the title game, a 74-32 loss to the Columbus Lions. Connors played offensive and defensive line for the Ironmen.



Lenzey Stidham '13 was crowned Miss Cutler Bay USA 2017 in May 2016. She represented Cutler Bay at the Miss Florida USA state competition in July. Stidham will serve as the town's goodwill ambassador for the year and threw out the first pitch at a Miami Marlins baseball game. She is also the founder and CEO of 2BC Agency, a boutique modeling agency. She is a former national champion for the Saints in the pole vault.

Jason Blickensdorf '07, an officer with the Canton Township (Mich.) Police Department, was named the Officer of the Year by the Police Officers Association of Michigan in May 2016. He was honored at a special ceremony at the Amway Grand Hotel in Grand Rapids, Mich (**below**). The award recognizes officers who have exhibited bravery, integrity and served with dignity in the line of duty.





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The Jean Small '72 Scholarship: 'Paying It Forward'

Jean Small had been thinking about how she could give back to the institution that had given so much to her and her family. She decided to give a planned gift and name Siena Heights University as a beneficiary of a retirement account. The gift, once realized, will create the Jean Small '72 Scholarship that will help future students realize their dream of achieving a college education.

"Siena Heights and the Adrian Dominicans have both been major influences in my life," said Small, who is the oldest of several siblings who attended Siena Heights. "The scholarship is a small way of saying 'thank you' to them and inviting others to share in the experience, to keep the torch burning."

Small said the scholarship is a way of maintaining and renewing the spirit of Siena.

"The Siena campus is sacred ground for me and many others," said Small, who initially attended Siena Heights as an Adrian Dominican postulant and young professed. "This is one way of inviting others to it and to such an environment, and the possibilities it may offer them. I'm more than glad to do that."

"The Siena campus is sacred ground for me and many others,"
said Small, who initially attended Siena Heights as an Adrian Dominican postulant and young professed. **"This is one way of inviting others to it and to such an environment, and the possibilities it may offer them. I'm more than glad to do that."**

1919
Society
SIENA HEIGHTS UNIVERSITY

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 mblonde@sienaheights.edu.