

REFLECTIONS

A photograph of a man with a beard and glasses looking through the vertical bars of a prison cell. He is wearing a blue shirt and has his hands on the bars. The cell walls are peeling and the lighting is somewhat dim.

PRISON BREAK

Aaron Kinzel '10 Uses Education
to Turn His Life Around



from the president



Sister Peg Albert, OP, PhD
President

“...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

— Romans 3:23

When Paul wrote this, he didn't make any exceptions (except for Jesus Christ, of course). In fact, before his conversion to Christianity, Paul was one of the biggest offenders, ruthlessly persecuting the followers of Jesus before his conversion on the road to Damascus.

But God found redemptive qualities in Paul, eventually choosing him to tirelessly proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles before his eventual death at the hands of the Romans. What a transformation!

I believe God is still transforming people like Paul today. He certainly believes in redemption, and following His example, so do we here at Siena Heights. In fact, it's embedded in our mission statement to “respect the dignity of all.”

In this issue, we highlight two alumni who were originally on the opposite ends of the criminal justice spectrum, but are now championing efforts to improve the system—and those in it—from the inside out.

There's Michael Donovan '75, who left a long and distinguished career in the IRS to volunteer in prison ministry in the South Side of Chicago. His work with juvenile offenders and others involved in violent crime is truly inspirational. He is doing his part in trying to find the next “Paul,” someone who needs a helping hand in getting their life back on track. It's an overwhelming—and often disappointing—task, but his dedication to his personal mission is an example to all. He fittingly calls it a “Ministry of Presence.”

Then there's Siena graduate Aaron Kinzel '10, who literally grew up on “the wrong side of the tracks.” That path eventually led him to violent crime and nearly a decade-long stint in a federal prison. Only by the intercession of caring grandparents—and a determination to use education to reform his life—did he turn his life around. We are proud that he chose Siena Heights to become part of his educational journey. Now, as a college instructor, he is educating others and sharing his unique perspective to bring awareness to a flawed criminal justice system.

Both of these stories remind me of the continuing mission of Siena Heights. The word “transform” is often thrown around, sometimes quite loosely, when talking about the impact education can have on people. But I don't think I overstate the fact that each of these remarkable graduates have used their Siena Heights education to help transform the lives of others, not to mention their own.

As I reflect on the mission of Siena Heights, I ask myself, “Am I committed to being a transformative force for good?”

Are you?

Sister Peg Albert, OP

REFLECTIONS

on the inside . . .

SUMMER 2017

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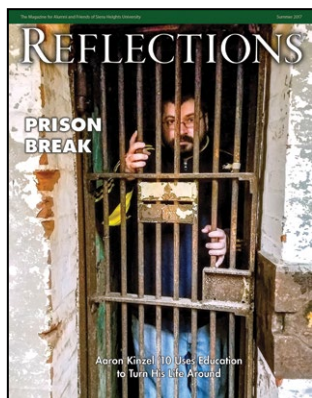
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The mission of Siena Heights, a Catholic university founded and sponsored by the Adrian Dominican Sisters, is to assist people to become more competent, purposeful and ethical through a teaching and learning environment which respects the dignity of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

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ON THE COVER

Siena Heights graduate Aaron Kinzel '10 spent nearly 10 years in federal prison, then used his education to turn his life around. He now teaches college criminal justice courses and is an advocate for criminal justice reform.



- 5 From the Heights
- 8 Recent Graduates Are Siena Startups
- 10 Michael Donovan Practices a Ministry of Presence
- 12 Saints Athletics Highlights
- 14 One on One With Dr. Amir Tamiz
- 16 Aaron Kinzel Uses Education for a Prison Break
- 20 Five SHU Graduates are Rising Stars
- 24 Class Notes — Alumni News
- 26 SHU to Launch New Online MBA Program
- 27 2017 Alumni Award Winners Announced



from the editor



Doug Goodnough
Editor

Small Things

I work with such creative people.

By nature, I guess we have to be. As the office that handles many marketing and publications projects for the University, we are asked to come up with all sorts of “fun stuff.” Posters, postcards, brochures, fliers, videos, photos—even logos and a bus wrap from time to time—are part of our day-to-day duties. And, of course, the magazine you are reading.

So when our new dean, Matt Draud, asked me about improving a rather drab entranceway to the back entrance of the Science Building, my answer was “Sure, let’s see what we can come up with.”

Now, usually with such spaces that have large, concrete block walls, our solution is a graphic printed on either a large poster board or durable PVC (plastic). So when I asked one of my team members, Angie Sieler, to head the project, that was my suggestion.

Angie, who is a proud Siena Heights art program graduate, had something else in mind. How about a painted mural with some 3D signage? She would design it, then outline and eventually paint it.

Like the good stewards we are here at Siena Heights, my first question was “How much will this cost versus my suggestion?” She assured me this would actually be less expensive than my original idea.

“OK, go for it,” I told her. Boy, did she ever. That plain, gloomy entranceway soon had a fresh coat of vibrant yellow paint, and she tapped into Siena’s history and mission to make that entry much more welcoming. And all for about \$400. The next time you are on campus make sure to check it out.

So what’s my point?

Mother (now Saint) Teresa once said, “Do small things with great love.” At Siena Heights, there are “small things” like this happening all the time. It’s what we do best.

Thanks for a job well done, Angie. What small thing can you do with great love today?



Doug Goodnough

from the heights

SHU's Online Program Ranked First in Michigan, Tied for 24th Nationally

SHU's Online Learning Program was ranked as the first in Michigan among all institutions by the U.S. News and World Report. SHU also was ranked nationally for the fourth consecutive year, finishing tied for 24th among all public and private institutions. SHU has offered online bachelor's degree completion programs in selected majors since 2004. U.S. News and World Report's methodology included student engagement, faculty credentials and training, peer reputation and student services and technology to determine the rankings. The publication released its 2017 Best Online Bachelor's Programs rankings Jan. 10.



Frost Publishes New Book

SHU Associate Professor of History Julieanna Frost, Ph.D., had her new book published, "Chemo Fashion Fridays: One Woman's Breast Cancer Journey." This work is a photo essay of her chemotherapy journey, and includes funny stories and poems to inspire hope for others fighting breast cancer. It is available on Amazon.

'Finding Your Roots' Event Part of Black History Month

The Ethnic and Gender Studies Institute and Black History Month at Siena Heights presented "Finding Your Roots: Tracing Family History" Feb. 20 at Cotton Brewing Co. in Adrian. Debra Middleton discussed how to use traditional research methods as well as cutting-edge technologies to uncover and preserve your family history, and will share inspirational stories from her own journey in African-American genealogy. She is a member of the Afro-American Historical Genealogical Society and is a staff member at the University of Toledo.

Walker Opens New Play in Ann Arbor

SHU Assistant Professor of Theatre Daniel Walker opened a new play, "Popcorn Falls," in January at Theatre Nova in Ann Arbor. Walker directed the play as well as designing the scenery and lighting. The play was a comedy about a failing town (Popcorn Falls) that gets a last chance to save themselves if they can put on a play in a week. Walker started Theatre Nova two years ago along with Artistic Director Carla Milarch to keep professional theatre alive in Ann Arbor.

Weinstein's Book Named a 'Notable Book of The Year' by New York Times

SHU Associate Professor of English Alexander Weinstein's book, "Children of the New World," was named a 2016 Notable Book of the Year by the New York Times. Also, the book was chosen by NPR as a best book of 2016. It also earned a 2017 Michigan Notable Book Award by The Library of Michigan.

College Sustainability Expert Featured Speaker at Issa Lecture Series

College sustainability development expert Anthony Annett was the featured speaker at the William Issa Endowed Lecture Series Nov. 16, 2016. Annett's topic was "Laudato Si' and the Moral Responsibility to Protect our Common Home." As the Climate Change and Sustainable Development advisor at Columbia University, Annett is an economist and a specialist in Catholic social teaching. His work centers on the intersection of ethics, religion and sustainable development. In that capacity, he works closely with the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace and the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences, especially in the context of Pope Francis' encyclical Laudato Si'.

Frost Presents Paper at Labor History Conference

SHU Associate Professor of History Julieanna Frost presented her paper, "I shall never go back to Detroit..." The Re-education of Disorderly Juvenile Females at the Michigan Industrial Home for Girls" at the North American Labor History Conference in Detroit.

Marketing and Communications Office Receives Case V Awards

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

- Excellence in Design, Posters: Bronze
- Excellence in Design, Special Projects: Bronze
- Excellence in Design, Posters: Honorable Mention

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

King Presents at Michigan Music Conference

Director of Bands Wes King presented at the 2017 Michigan Music Conference. His session, "What the Tech Am I Doing?" was a primer for less tech-savvy educators and an exploration of the Surface Pro and iPad Pro devices.

Karin Barbee Has Poem Published by Toledo Journal

SHU Associate Professor of English Karin Barbee had a poem, "Girls," published by Glass, a journal based in Toledo.

President Albert Receives Distinguished Alumni Award from Barry University

SHU President Sister Peg Albert was one of 10 people being honored with a Distinguished Alumni Award from Barry University in January 2017. President Albert was honored for her outstanding achievements and contributions to society at the Coral Gables (Fla.) Country Club. The awards honor members of the Barry community who exemplify the university's core commitments of knowledge and truth; inclusive community; social justice; and collaborative service. She is a 1982 and 1988 graduate of Barry, SHU's sister institution. Shown **below** is Sister Linda Bevilacqua, OP, center, President of Barry University, with Sister Nancy Murray, OP, left, and Sister Peg Albert, OP.



New Enterprise System Announced

The Administrative Computing area of the Division of Information Technology announced that the University will partner with Campus Management Corp. and utilize its CampusNexus software as Siena's new enterprise system. CampusNexus will replace the current Jenzabar Systems in place across the University.

Frost Article Published in Quarterly

SHU Associate Professor of History Dr. Julieanna Frost's article, "Awaiting the Second Coming in the Piney Woods: The New House of Israel," has been published in the American Communal Societies Quarterly (April, 2017).

Kaplan Launched New Video Series On Youtube

SHU Associate Professor of Spanish and YouTube content creator Maestro (Nick) Kaplan launched a new video series entitled 100 DAYS. 100 VERBS. 100 VIDEOS. As part of his sabbatical, he posted one video per day for 100 days showcasing common Spanish verbs. Each video offered a new verb and a sample sentence. Taken together, all 100 sentences (videos) form a complete story.

SHU Signs up 87 for Gift of Life Campus Challenge

Siena Heights had 87 people sign up during the five-week Gift of Life Campus Challenge that involved 14 Michigan colleges and universities. SHU had the second highest percentage of its student body (7.25 percent) registered. In the nine years of involvement, SHU had added 663 names to the donor registry.

Blumenau Receives Commitment to Service Award from Michigan Campus Compact

SHU student Nick Blumenau was one of seven Michigan students honored with the Michigan Campus Compact's 2017 Commitment to Service Award. Nominated by college and university presidents, students receiving the award recognizes the most dedicated and innovative student community leaders. Blumenau was honored at the MiCC Awards Gala March 23 in East Lansing.

Tsuji Presents Paper at Michigan Academy of Arts and Sciences Conference

SHU Professor of Biology Dr. Jun Tsuji presented a paper entitled, "A nationwide and temporal study of learning internet queries in the United States" at the Michigan Academy of Arts & Sciences annual conference. The paper describes a novel approach of using Google search data to measure learning.

'21st Century Propaganda' Topic of Lecture Series on Ethics March 20

Electronic literature pioneer and mass communications expert Davin Heckman was the featured speaker for SHU's 16th annual Chiodini/Fontana Lecture Series on Ethics March 20 (right). His lecture was entitled, "21st Century Propaganda," which addresses the emerging issue of

"fake news" in today's society. Heckman is the author of "A Small World: Smart Houses and the Dream of the Perfect Day." He is supervising editor of the Electronic Literature Directory (directory.eliterature.org), managing editor of Electronic Book Review and an associate professor of Mass Communication at Winona State University. In 2011, Heckman was named a Fulbright Scholar in Digital Culture and spent 10 months teaching and researching at the University of Bergen in Norway. He taught at Siena Heights from 2004-12 and received the Sister Eileen Rice Award for Outstanding Teaching from SHU in 2008. The Chiodini/Fontana series was established to provide students and the community the opportunity to reflect on matters of moral significance that touch many dimensions of today's society. The series explores theoretical issues in ethics, current issues of moral importance, and the nature and meaning of Catholic identity.

Students Attain National Credential

The Child Development program recognized the following students and area child care providers who attained a Child Development Associate National Credential:

- Jennifer Patterson, Family Child Care
- Candy Higgins, Family Child Care
- Aubrey Thran-Finch, Infant/Toddler
- Shannon Kissau, Preschool
- Tina Shown, Preschool
- Krista Sharpe, Preschool
- Cheri Easler, Preschool.

Karin Barbee Has Story Published in 'Fiction Southeast'

SHU Associate Professor of English Karin Barbee had a new story published in the journal "Fiction Southeast."



SHU Ethics Bowl Team Competes at National Bioethics Competition

The SHU Ethics Bowl Team traveled to Salt Lake City, Utah, in April to compete in the 2017 National Bioethics Bowl. SHU won one round and lost two, finishing ninth out of 15 teams. Team members are students Justin Lempicki (captain), Laura Lattson, Gabby Beveridge, Jordan Ray, Marty Giannola and Ravin France. The coach/advisor was SHU Assistant Professor of Philosophy Jen Kling. In the Bioethics Bowl, teams are asked to constructively debate, with the goal of arriving at ethical solutions to complicated real-world bioethics problems. The teams are judged on their ability to make a clear, coherent, ethical argument on how well their discussion takes into account the point-of-view of people who might disagree with them, and on how well their manner and presentation are conducive to having a constructive debate. Several judges and coaches, not to mention other teams, could not believe that this was only SHU's second competition ever! (SHU's first ethics bowl outing was in December 2016 at the Ethics Bowl regional in Chicago.) SHU's team was commended for its collegiality and thoughtfulness. The team made its debut last fall in the Upper Midwest Regional Ethics Bowl competition in Chicago against 25 other teams from colleges and universities. SHU won its match against Illinois Wesleyan, and lost to the eventual regional champion Macalester College.

Alfaro Receives MLK Student Service Award

SHU senior Lucia Alfaro received the Student Service Award at the 29th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Jan. 16. She earned the award due to her



involvement with service within the Adrian community. The chemistry major is a member of Beta Beta Beta (National Biology Honors Society) and is the captain of the cross country and track teams. Also, Alfaro (above) is part of the McNair Program at Siena, which is a federal program designed to prepare undergraduate students for doctoral studies through involvement in research and other scholarly activities. To receive the award, the Alfaro had to submit her information and go through an interview with members of the award committee. Alfaro worked at Prairie Elementary School where she helped children with reading comprehension skills, math and science. She said the McNair Program staff and SHU Director of Diversity and Inclusion Sharese Mathis played an important role helping her throughout the process.

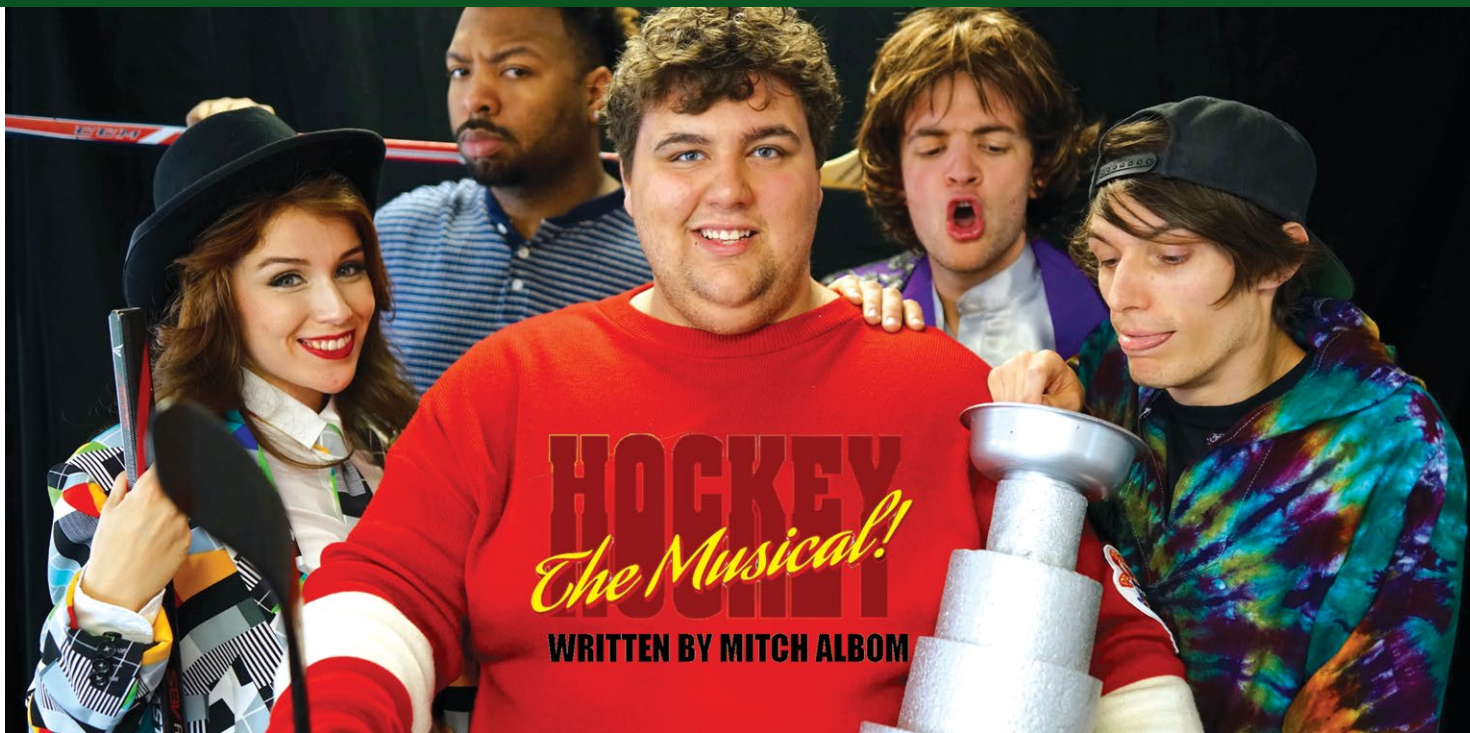
Student Government Announces New Leadership

Student Government has announced the election results for the 2017-18 academic year:

- President: Arthur Gwoszdz,
- Vice President: Jacob Wilson,
- Treasurer: Gabby Beveridge,
- Historian: Lauren McMahon,
- Representatives: Kalah Parran, Meagan Helm, Lydia Schwerin, Ashley Best.

Wilkinson Awarded Scholarship by Michigan Council of Teachers of Mathematics

SHU senior mathematics major Stefan Wilkinson was awarded only one of three \$3,000 scholarships by the Michigan Council of Teachers of Mathematics. The award is based on grade point average, an essay and recommendation letters. Wilkinson is a member of the track and football teams and a member of Pi Mu Epsilon, the national mathematics honor society. Wilkinson will receive his award July 26-27 at MCTM's annual conference in Traverse City, Mich.



SHU Students, Faculty Members to Play a Role in “Hockey—the Musical!”

By Arthur Gwosdz, Student Writer

Mitch Albom’s original production of “Hockey—The Musical!” had a distinct Siena Heights presence this summer. The show returned to Detroit’s City Theatre inside Hockeytown Café, with SHU musical theater students J.J. Hoss (above middle) and Patrick Wallace joining the musical’s cast. Also, SHU Assistant Professor of Theater Daniel Walker was the lighting designer for the show.

The production, which premiered last summer directed by Peter Albom, was very successful, said Walker.

“After a successful run last summer, they are going to remount it. This year, they put out the word that they were casting, so I made a phone call and said, ‘I think I have a couple of guys and a couple of women, would you want to see them?’” added Walker, who said the producers were doing their last days of auditions in Detroit before heading to New York. “So, the very next day, I sent them Patrick and J.J. (The producers) said, ‘we will fit them in for 15 minutes and see them since we know you,’ and they kept them for the whole day. They ended up going to New York and still hired our guys.”

The musical’s story is about when God decides the world has too many sports, He decides to

wipe out one—hockey—to teach mankind a lesson. The game gets one more chance—if five pure-of-heart fans can plead their case—God will reconsider.

“Basically, I got an email from (Walker) asking for my resumé and headshot to send to a production he is working on this summer,” Hoss said of the audition process. “After about 20 minutes, I received a call asking if I would come in the next day. I left at about 8 a.m., got to Detroit and met with everyone, including award-winning writer and author Mitch Albom, and he described the character in which he wanted me auditioning for.

“After about six hours of singing or reading from the script, we were finally allowed to go home. I was then cast as the role of Stanley/Terry, the lead of the show, who is trying to find the pure hockey souls and save his beloved sport,” Hoss said.

Wallace will play a series of small characters.

“I will be playing the song policeman, the referee, the gameshow host and the coach,” Wallace said. “I also have been asked to understudy one of the larger roles named Stevie.”

Wallace said he is hoping the acting experience he’s gained at Siena Heights will benefit him in a professional setting.

“Well, being my first real professional acting contract, I’m a little nervous,” he said. “But I’m hoping all the skills I have learned from the directors here at Siena have prepared me for what is coming. I already know how busy it’s going to make me, having eight-hour rehearsals six days a week. But isn’t that why we do it? I am excited to surround myself in what I hope to be my career for the rest of my life.”

“‘Hockey’ will probably be seen by 10,000 people, maybe more. So, it is wonderful for our students,” Walker said.

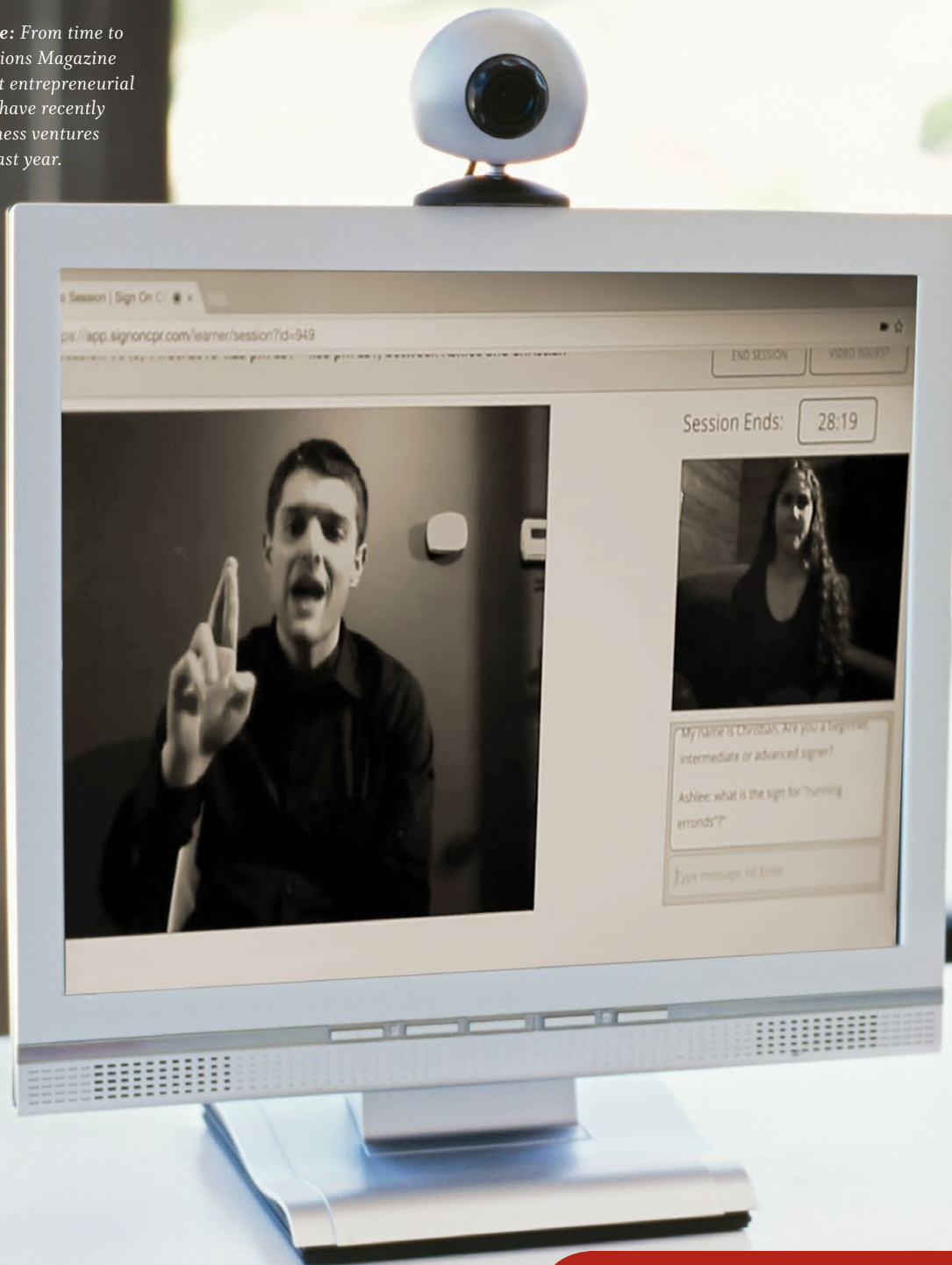
“Hockey—The Musical!,” ran July 13-Aug. 6 in Detroit before traveling to Traverse City, Grand Rapids and East Lansing.



SIENA STARTUPS

Recent Graduates Follow Their Passions to Create New Businesses

Editor's Note: From time to time, Reflections Magazine will highlight entrepreneurial alumni who have recently started business ventures within the past year.



Ashlee Trempus '15 co-founded the startup company SignOn, which is a "virtual immersion program" that connects the hearing and deaf communities through authentic learning interactions.

Kenneth DeGraaf '16: RecruitUS

Kenneth DeGraaf '16 recently launched his own company, RecruitUS LLC, which he co-founded with colleagues Andrew Alisa and Cole Paczas. RecruitUS LLC helps high school student-athletes in less visible sports such as bowling and cross country be recruited by colleges and universities.



"Sports like basketball, football and baseball have a gateway of recruiting services largely because that is what the media portrays," DeGraaf said. "This does not mean, however, that athletes in other sports do not exist. These sports that get all the publicity only make up a for a small fraction of those numbers. So we made it our responsibility to give our athletes and coaches an easier voice in the recruiting process."

DeGraaf also said they hosted the RecruitUS Collegiate Bowling Showcase, which is on pace to become the single largest collegiate bowling recruiting event in the world. They had approximately 220 recruits and coaches from 24 colleges and universities attend.

"The typical RecruitUS event features an open house and on-site competition in which the athletes and coaches can interact," DeGraaf said. "When athletes and coaches sign up for our events, they are saving the hassle of planning multiple recruiting trips that neither side has the time or money for."



He said they are taking a "slow growth strategy" since all three are still taking college courses. DeGraaf is currently completing his MBA at St. Francis University in Loretto, Pa. He is also an assistant women's bowling coach for the NCAA Division I institution.

"We also have plans to get into cross country next year and are in talks with the Detroit Sports Commission of possibly doing that event at Belle Isle Park in Detroit," DeGraaf said.

DeGraaf and his co-owners recently pitched their concept to the popular television show "Shark Tank," which has some of the nation's top business moguls possibly investing in the best business ideas. They made it through the first round, and are awaiting word if they will get a chance to pitch their idea to the "Sharks" themselves.

"When we saw that 'Shark Tank' was coming to Detroit, we could not pass up the opportunity," DeGraaf said. "The worst case scenario is that we don't make it to the TV show, but we still meet a lot of local Detroit business owners and potential partners. There's no down side to that at all."

To check out RecruitUS, visit recruitus.net.

Ashlee Trempus '15: SignOn

As a sign language interpreter, Ashlee Trempus '15 is used to face-to-face contact with the deaf community in helping them communicate with the world around them.



When she graduated from SHU's Lansing campus with a bachelor's degree in multidisciplinary studies, she decided to bring that face-to-face concept to the Internet. Trempus co-founded the start-up company SignOn, which is a "virtual immersion program" that connects the hearing and deaf communities through authentic learning interactions.

Trempus said she got the idea when an illness slowed her ability to complete her required hours of interaction she needed for her interpreter certification.

"I became homebound," she said. "I was unable to travel."

Along with co-founder Paul Fugate, they developed the SignOn online platform, which was launched in February 2016. Trempus said ASL learners have the unique opportunity to communicate one-on-one with a deaf ASL "Ambassador." She said SignOn helps give people the confidence they need to engage with the deaf community while practicing and retaining language techniques.

"One of our challenges was going to the deaf community and getting them to trust and believe this was going to be beneficial to the ASL learn-

ing process," Trempus said. "We hired a web developer to create our platform, but we did the web design ourselves."

Trempus said they modeled their concept from other educational sites and researched the pricing for in-person tutoring programs.

"I wanted it to be comparable to an actual tutor," she said of the pricing, which starts at \$25 for a 30-minute online session.

SignOn currently has approximately 25 Ambassadors on staff, "and we're constantly getting new resumes and growing," Trempus said. "They are the ones students or anyone interested in learning American Sign Language are connecting to."

Once users login and register for a session, they are connected to an Ambassador via online video chat. However, there is a text messaging option available to ask the Ambassador questions.



"They can see it, show the sign and have you repeat it back to them," Trempus said of how the program works. "Having them able to see it visually from both sides (of the camera) makes it easier."

SignOn is currently being used by seven colleges and universities in Michigan that have sign language interpreting programs. Trempus said the company's goal is to be in 20 of the state's 42 institutions by the end of 2017, and to eventually scale it nationally.

"We also have clients who are parents and have recently found out that their child is deaf and

would like to connect to the deaf community," Trempus said. "And we have high school students who are using it as a foreign language. When we first started this, it was to help students get their hours of interaction. Now it's for anyone."

Although SignOn is only a website at the moment for desktop or laptop computer use, Trempus said they are looking at developing an app that would work for tablets and possibly smartphones.

She said starting the business has been a learning experience.

"My dad has his MBA, and he did a lot of advising," said Trempus, who was a sign language interpreter for Detroit Public Schools before making SignOn her main focus. "Right now we're going to schools specifically and talking to the teachers, the program directors, the presidents of the universities. We're just knocking on the door and saying, 'Hi, are you willing to speak to me?'"

She said all of her employees are paid a minimum \$15 per hour.

"It was very important to me in creating this business to pay my workers a living wage," Trempus said. "We're trying as hard as we can to continue to grow and expand and add new and different things."

"Believe in yourself. If you believe in yourself, you can take it as far as you want to go—with lots of elbow grease. If you're willing to work for it, you can get it done."

To check out SignOn, visit signonconnect.com. ♦



MINISTRY OF PRESENCE

Michael Donovan Chooses a Retirement of Helping Others on Chicago's South Side

By Doug Goodnough

Michael Donovan '75 chooses to see the best in humanity, even when it is at its worst.

As someone who witnessed the World Trade Center attack on that tragic day of Sept. 11, 2001, Donovan had no choice but to watch the horror unfold from his Manhattan IRS office just across the street from Ground Zero.

However, when he retired at age 50 after a distinguished nearly 30-year IRS career, he did have a choice. He could do pretty much whatever he wanted during his retirement years. But instead of spending his time sitting on a beach in Florida, Donovan moved to Chicago to volunteer in prison ministry and restorative justice efforts.

"I knew it was time to give back," said Donovan of his decision to get involved in helping those involved with violence and conflict. "I absolutely felt I did not have the time while I was working to give

back. I wanted something substantive, and jail ministry and working in the inner city seemed like the right thing to do."

For the past 13 years, he spends most of his days visiting prisoners at penitentiaries around the State of Illinois, and nights helping with the Precious Blood of Reconciliation ministry in Chicago's infamous South Side. Donovan, a devout Catholic, said he believes this is what he was called to do.

"This was an area I knew nothing about," Donovan said. "I never lived in an inner city. ... I started with juvenile detention center one night a week. Then I took on a second night and a third night. I found it so fascinating to listen to the stories."

And most of the time, those stories have tragic endings.

"I go to too many funerals," Donovan said. "Out of the 70 guys in our program, almost every one has been shot. Almost every one of them have family members who have died by violence."

Many of the people he works with are teenagers.

"I've kind of taken on very specifically visiting those guys that I've met over the years at juvenile jail that went on to lengthy sentences in adult prisons," Donovan said. "Most of the adult prisons are four, five, six hours away from Chicago. Most of them get no other visitors, because either their families don't have a car, or can't afford gas or lodging."

And just what does he do on his visits?

"I'm just working with the kids the best I can," he said. "I provide aid and comfort in the moment. The guys whom I work with are very, very, very appreciative of just having someone who will listen to their stories. They don't have that at home. . . . They don't have an adult who isn't screaming at them. We are there as a ministry of presence to listen."

Precious Blood, a privately funded organization run by missionary priests and sisters of the Precious Blood from Ohio, operates in the Englewood neighborhoods, one of the worst part of Chicago. Volunteers reach out to those impacted by violence and conflict, including victims.

"We work with kids who are released from jail to provide support," Donovan said. "They want to change, but it is very hard for them to make those changes. . . . It's like a revolving door; you see the same kids over and over again."

Volunteers provide mentoring, job placement, tutoring, carpentry, recreation, art, theater and other resources "to try to assist them in staying out of trouble," Donovan said.

And being a volunteer means many times being put in harm's way.



"I've been subject to an armed robbery," Donovan said. "I'm scared sometimes. There are places I won't go to at night. I'm not the target. Most of the time it's one gang member shooting another gang member."

He said he's tried to pinpoint the crux of the problem, and it all comes back to one thing.

"So much of the problem is rooted in poverty," Donovan said. "Many of the guys I work with are 15 years old and they don't make the connection that the reason their lives are so difficult and screwed up are they had no father in their lives. And (now) they are a father themselves. In and out of jail. No education. Their baby is damned to a life of poverty. The cycle of poverty somehow has to be addressed."

Donovan is doing his part, and he said Cardinal Blase Cupich and the Archdiocese of Chicago are "stepping up" as well.

"You do what you can," said Donovan, who has taken numerous people into his home over the years. "Cardinal Cupich is really

leading an anti-violence campaign. His mantra is 'No one can do everything, but everyone can do something to try to help.' That's what gets me through."

He said the system must change as well.

"At least in Illinois, we do not have a good reentry system for anybody coming out of prison," said Donovan, who accompanies many youths to court, since many do not have family support. "There aren't a lot of programs for them coming out of prison, but yet we expect them to assimilate back into society. They came from dysfunction, and they are returning to dysfunction."

"The legal system doesn't help, either," he continued. "None of the kids I work with, if they get arrested, they can't make bail. So they sit in jail sometimes two or three years while waiting to adjudicate their case. . . . And most cases are just settled out or the kid pleads guilty because there's no choice. That's an unfair system problem. That's a structural problem that really needs addressing."

Donovan, who was New York state's chief tax administrator, supervising more than 4,000 IRS employees before his retirement, said 9/11 showed him there is goodness in people, even in the most challenging of circumstances.

"I was right there and had to lead our employees through that trauma," said Donovan, who had approximately 500 employees working in the World Trade Center buildings on that fateful day. "It was a horrible event. But you saw the best of people come out. You saw unions working with management. You saw neighbor helping neighbor. You saw the goodness of people come through all during those months following 9/11. I actually have more happy memories from that than I have horrible memories."

For his post-9/11 leadership efforts, Donovan earned the Commissioner's Award, the IRS' highest honor, as well as the first National Treasury Employees Union President's Award.

But he has a new life, a new purpose.

"If you would have told me 15 years ago that this is what I would be doing, I would have told you were crazy," said Donovan, a former tennis player, sports information director and accounting major at Siena Heights. "I guess it's being open to where the Holy Spirit sends you. Somehow I ended up more than knee deep in it."

And he has a new goal as well.

"There is one young man now that I've been visiting in prison for 11 years," Donovan said of his friend, Arthur, who he visits every other month despite the six-hour drive. "He was 15 when I met him, and he got a 27-year sentence. . . . I want to live until I'm 79 because I want to be there at that prison gate when he gets out, because I'm practically his only visitor. So my goal is staying alive."

"We meet them where they are and do our best," said Donovan, who said he does find some time to enjoy the Chicago sports and theater scene. "That's kind of our mantra. It's akin to a hospice ministry. We're there for the journey. The good, the bad and the ugly. I want to continue what I'm doing for as long as I can." ♦



saints highlights

SHU Student-Athletes Excel in the Classroom

Siena Heights student-athletes earned a 3.09 GPA in the fall 2016 semester. Leading the way was the women's golf team with a 3.61 GPA, followed by the softball team (3.57). Every women's team earned a 3.0 or higher, with an aggregate GPA of 3.33 on the women's side. The men's teams were led by the men's soccer team with a 3.42 GPA. The men's aggregate GPA was a 2.91.

Basketball

Women: The Saints (24-10) fell to No. 11 Morningside (Iowa) 90-73 in the opening round of the NAIA National Tournament in Sioux City, Iowa. SHU also dropped a 77-39 decision to No. 7 Davenport in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference tournament championship. Senior April Watson (right) was named a first team NAIA All-American, the first player in program history to earn the honor. The forward/center averaged 19.4 points, 11.3 rebounds and two blocks a game this season. Watson finished eighth all-time in scoring with 1,073 points in just two seasons with the program. She also finished first in scoring average (16.8) and sixth all-time with 661 total rebounds. Watson also holds the single-season rebounding record with 383, set this season. She also completed her career with a SHU record 129 career blocks. Watson was also named to the All-Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference first team and also garnered a spot on the all-defensive team. Senior guard Jaaliyah Arrington earned a spot on the All-WHAC second team, as well as on the all-academic team. Demi Russell was named to the conference's all-freshman team, with Avery Chezem the team's Champions of Character recipient. The Saints, who appeared in the national tournament for the fourth time, finished 23rd in the final NAIA Top 25 poll.

Men: The Saints (16-15) made a run at No. 2 Cornerstone before falling 74-70 in the opening round of the conference tournament. SHU had its first winning season since 2009-10. Senior Jerrell Martin was named to the All-Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference second team after averaging 13 points and seven rebounds this season. He also was the team's Champions of Character recipient. Martin also became the 37th player in men's program history to reach 1,000 career points.

Bowling

Women: The Saints reached the quarterfinals of the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference Championships. The Saints also placed 13th at the American Heartland Intercollegiate Bowling Conference Championship, and also competed at the Intercollegiate Team Championships Sectional Qualifier in Tennessee, placing 12th out of 16 teams.

Men: The Saints finished 1-2 at Saturday's Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference Championships. SHU also finished 15th at the American Heartland Intercollegiate Bowling Conference Championship in Ft. Wayne, Ind., and competed at the Intercollegiate Team Championships Sectional Qualifier in Tennessee, placing 15th out of 18 teams.

Cheer

The host Saints placed seventh out of 12 teams at Saturday's NAIA Northeast Regional. Senior Kortney Ouellette was named an NAIA All-American, the first in the program's history. Ouellette was also named the WHAC Cheerleader of the Year, made the All-Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference first team, the All-WHAC Academic Team and was the SHU Champions of Character recipient. Siena Heights placed fourth at the conference championships at Concordia. Safiya Best and Kara Morley were also each named to the WHAC's all-academic team. Best was also named a NAIA Scholar Athlete for the second consecutive year. Finally, the Saints finished fourth at the CANAM National Championship event in Myrtle Beach, S.C.

Cross Country

Women: Junior Ashley Russo crossed the line in 62nd place at the NAIA Championships in Elmhurst, Ill. Russo ran a time of 18 minutes, 23.01 seconds. She was the only Saint to qualify for the national meet. Seniors Lauren McMahon and Mariah Ridal and junior Amber Koprin and Kristin Stobinski were each named NAIA Scholar-Athletes. The Saints finished second to Aquinas at the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference Championships in Grand Rapids. Russo paced SHU with a second place time of 18:26.1 to earn first team All-WHAC. Lauren McMahon was 11th (19:13) and Mariah Ridal 13th (19:23) and were second team honorees.

Men

Men: The Saints finished 29th at the NAIA Championships in Elmhurst, Ill. Stephen Merchant was 81st in a time of 26 minutes, 5.6 seconds, with Anthony Vermilye 117th (26:19) and Kyler Van-Wormer 169th (26:52.9). Seniors



Vanwormer, Vermilye and Timothy Young were each named NAIA Scholar-Athletes. The Saints bumped nationally ranked Cornerstone and Aquinas to finish second behind Indiana Tech at the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference Championships in Grand Rapids. Esrom Woldemichael finished third individually in 25 minutes, 55.6 seconds to earn first team all-conference. Stephen Merchant was sixth (26:13.3) and Vanwormer 12th (26:34) to garner second team recognition.

Dance

The Saints finished eighth at the inaugural NAIA Cheer and Dance Championships in Oklahoma City. SHU scored 76.4 points, with Midland (Neb.) winning the title with 91.38. SHU placed third at the NAIA Northeast Regional, which earned an at-large berth to the NAIA national competition. The Saints also won the CANAM National Championship title after scoring 83.73 points out of a possible 100 points in action in Myrtle Beach, S.C. SHU competed against institutions from the NAIA and NCAA Division I-II-III.

Football

The Saints finished the season 5-5 overall, 2-4 in the Mid-States Football Association Mideast Division. Senior kick returner Jordan Riley, junior cornerback Darius Price and senior safety Da'vonte Price were each named to the MSFA Mideast first team. Riley finished with 597 returns yards, including a 100-yard return for a TD. Darius Price earned his third all-conference honor after making 28 tackles with an interception. Da'vonte Price had a team-leading 65 tackles and four interceptions to lead the defense. Earning second team honors were sophomore wide receiver Deontae' Rush and senior linebacker Nate Yeloushan. Senior safety Cha'Quan Love, sophomore defensive end Malik Edwards and senior receiver Curtis Smith Jr. were tabbed to the honorable mention squad. Love, junior Braelen Bader and sophomores Brady Tanguay and Izayah Newsom were each named to the CoSIDA Academic All-District Team.

Golf

Women: The Saints finished the fall conference season by placing fifth at the final Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference Jamboree and fifth overall. Andrea Richards earned first team all-conference honors, tying for 12th with a 162 (84-78). Alyssa Fausneacht had the top finish for the weekend, placing 10th with a 161 (80-81).

Men: The Saints finished seventh at the final fall Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference Jamboree in Ypsilanti, and finished seventh in the final conference standings. Nick Sanscrainte shot a 74, with Aaron Bitz adding a 75 for SHU.

Indoor Track and Field

Women: The Saints finished ninth at the NAIA Indoor National Championships in Tennessee. SHU had multiple All-Americans, including Sheila (second, 12-4 1/2) and Tasha (seventh, 11-8 1/2) McKinley in the pole vault, Marissa Johnson (**right**) (third, 5-7 1/4) in the high jump, Asia Gardner in the 200 (fifth, 25.15), Mariah Ridal in the 600 (sixth, 1:27.8), Alexis Moore in the 400 (eighth, 58.23), Ashley Russo in the 1000 (eighth, 3:04.3) and the 4x400 relay of Ridal, Russo, Brianna Pikel and Moore (fourth, 3:53.66). The Saints finished second to top-ranked Indiana Tech at the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference Championships at Aquinas. High jumper Johnson was named the Most Valuable Performer of the meet after tying her school record with a jump of 5 feet, 8.5 inches. She tied for the best jump, but finished second due to the tiebreaker. Also setting a conference record was Sheila McKinley, who won the pole vault in 12-5. Also earning firsts were the 4x400 relay of Ridal, Russo, Pikel and Moore (3:58.08) and Moore in the 400 (58.2). Placing second were Tasha McKinley in the pole vault, Gardner in the 200, Russo in the 1000, Ridal in the 600, Charlena Williams in the triple jump and Ashley O'Neill in the weight throw. The Saints had 131 points, second only to Indiana Tech's 193.

Men: Brent Rodden finished second in the 800 to lead Siena Heights at the NAIA Indoor Championships. Rodden finished second by .29 seconds (1:52.41) to earn All-American honors. Other All-American performances were Devonte Johnson in the pole vault (eighth, 15-1 3/4) and the 4x800 relay of Anthony Vermilye, Kyler VanWormer, Dominic Muessig and Rodden (third, 7:41.12). SHU finished in 17th place as a team. The Saints finished second to top-ranked Indiana Tech at Saturday's Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference Championships at Aquinas. Tech outscored the Saints 237-100. However, the Most Valuable Performer of the meet went to SHU's 4x800, which set a new conference record. The foursome of Vermilye, VanWormer, Muessig and Rodden finished in 7:39.79 seconds to place first. It is also the top time in the NAIA. Also winning events for the Saints were Rodden in the 800 (1:57), Vermilye in the mile (4:27.73). Placing second



were the 4x400 relay of Blaine Ellington, Joshua Miles, Torin Anderson and Muessig, Muessig in the 800, and Jacob Compagner in the weight throw.

Soccer

Women: Juniors Samantha Bartelotti and Emily Burkman were each named honorable mention NAIA All-Americans. Bartelotti, a forward, led the Saints with 11 goals, including three game-winners. Burkman, a center defender, had four goals and anchored a defense that allowed only 19 goals in 18 games this season. Burkman, Alexis Gainer and Bartelotti were each named to the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference first team. Gainer is a junior defender. Senior Kelsey Shoenberger and sophomores Taylor Mulder and Danielle Eastman earned spots on the second team. The Saints also led the conference with 12 Scholar-Athletes, including Morgan Behn, Gabi Corbin, Emily Loar, Brittany Trout, Gainer, Kayla Cardecchia, Taylor Hill, Megan Kennedy, Rebecca Penny, Rachel Sherman and Erin Schiedel. Schiedel was also the team's Champions of Character recipient. The Saints had 10 players named NAIA Scholar-Athletes. Making the list were seniors Behn, Corbin, Loar and juniors Trout, Cardecchia, Hill, Kennedy, Penny, Schiedel and Sherman. The Saints (12-6-2) were defeated 3-0 by sixth-ranked Northwestern Ohio in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference Tournament semifinals.

Men: Senior Alexandre Santos and junior Luis Miguel Anaya were each named NAIA Scholar-Athletes. Four Saints were named Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference Scholar-Athletes. Santos and senior Collin McLaughlin and Anaya and junior Rahbar Khan each received the honor. Santos also received the team's Champions of Character Award. The Saints finished 4-12-1 overall, 1-10 in the conference.

Volleyball

Women: The Saints (21-12 overall, 8-9 WHAC) had their season end with a 3-1 loss to 20th-ranked Cornerstone in the semifinals of the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference Tournament. Paige Hudgin was named the NAIA Mideast Region Freshman of the Year after leading the Saints in kills this season. She was also an honorable mention all-region selection by the American Volleyball Coaches Association. Hudgin also was named to the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference first team and was the WHAC's Newcomer of the Year. Junior setter Amanda Metz and junior defensive specialist Gabrielle Kalugar each earned second team all-conference honors. Junior Libby Breton was named a second team Academic All-America by the College Sports Information Directors of America. Student-athletes must have a minimum 3.3 grade-point average and compete in at least 50 percent of the team's contests. Juniors Abby Whitehead, Julie Bonk and Breton were each named NAIA Scholar-Athletes as well as academic all-conference. Finally, Breton was named to the CoSIDA Academic All-District Team and was the team's Champions of Character recipient.

Men: The Saints (16-11) defeated host Benedictine-Mesa (Ariz.) and lost to nationally ranked Lourdes twice over the weekend at the season-ending NAIA qualifying tournament in Arizona. Senior Matthew Dugan was named first team all-conference by the independent NAIA conference. Dugan led the Saints in kills (322) and second in digs (262). Both are second on SHU's all-time season list. Earning academic all-conference honors were seniors Brody Davidson and John Kalugar and junior Parker Saenz.

One on One With . . .

Editor's Note: This is an occasional Reflections series, and this issue features Siena Heights chemistry graduate Dr. Amir Tamiz '92, who heads the Division of Translational Research for the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Strokes (NINDS) in Washington, D.C..

Could you describe your current role and some of the duties and responsibilities you have on a day-to-day basis?

"I work at the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS), which is focused to seek fundamental knowledge about the brain and nervous system and to use that knowledge to reduce the burden of neurological disease. The NINDS is one of 27 institutes at the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Within NINDS, I head the Division of Translational Research, which is tasked with accelerating the preclinical discovery and development of new therapeutic interventions for neurological disorders and stroke. We provide funding and resources (approximately \$100 million annually) through grants, cooperative agreements and contracts to academic and industry researchers to advance basic research technologies, devices and therapeutic programs to first in human clinical trials and commercialization, with the hope to get therapies for patients who need them. DTR helps academic and industry researchers create a bridge through which discoveries made in the lab lead to new and improved medical treatments and options for patient care. We offer a variety of programs that support the design, implementation, and management of research activities critical to translational challenges in the treatment of neurological disease and stroke.

My day-to-day responsibilities vary—on some days I'm participating in conferences about advances in neuroscience or taking part in a committee to identify the most promising grant applications for funding. On other days, I'm working with the team at NINDS to develop training programs to help researchers learn about translational research."

How did you get this position, and how long have you been the program director?

"I've always thought that medicine was an important calling, and even considered going



Above: Pictured with Dr. Amir Tamiz is his wife, Tammy Deuster, and their daughters, Layla and Darya.

to medical school after graduating from Siena Heights and ended up studying chemistry more deeply. I thought that I might also be able to help people by developing the medicines instead of a doctor who prescribes the medicine. After I finished grad school and my post-doc, I joined biotech and spent the next many years working with other scientists to progress potential therapeutics to clinical trials. Through my tenure in biotech, I worked on some very exciting therapy development projects such as cancer, diabetes and celiac disease.

I joined the NIH in 2012—little over 20 years after I graduated from Siena Heights—and I was able to bring my experience in drug development to help with their initiative to support more translational research that would help to 'translate' progress in basic research toward treatments that can help patients. A few examples of projects that we currently fund are discovery and development of treatment for stroke, Epilepsy, traumatic brain injury and Muscular Dystrophy, to name a few. I was promoted to Director of the Division of Translational research in 2016."

What attracted you to the area of neurology?

"The brain is a fascinating topic. I started working on the brain in graduate school—my dissertation was focused on thinking about how to deliver therapeutics to the brain and how to develop treatments to help patients with Parkinson's disease. The body does its best to protect

the brain from toxins by keeping the blood separated from brain fluid by a membrane we call the blood brain barrier. This barrier also makes it more difficult to deliver medicines to the brain. I tried to optimize the design of a molecule to more efficiently traverse that barrier. And, thus, my fascination with the brain deepened."

How much of your current position is that of a scientist, and how much is being an administrator?

"My current job is administrative—although I leverage my first-hand experience of working in the lab for many years and my learnings from dealing with challenges of discovery and development in order to be effective. It's also a critical part of my role to stay abreast of the most critical patient needs in neurological disease, as well as the latest scientific advances in basic neuroscience and progress in developing therapeutics."

What are some of the significant programs/advancements your organization has made? What accomplishment(s) are you the most proud of?

"There are so many advancements—here is a listing, in no particular order or priority:

- We recently funded a small start-up company that developed a compact and portable device with a spoon, soup spoon or fork attachment that detects tremors and uses tiny motors to stabilize the utensil.



Dr. Amir Tamiz

- One of our most recent investigators at Massachusetts General Hospital has entered into a partnership agreement with biotechnology company to develop a treatment for rare genetic disorders resulting from pre-mRNA splicing defects such as familial dysautonomia.
- A current participant of our program announced that it has entered a worldwide license and partnership agreement with Astra-Zeneca to develop a therapeutic for smoking cessation.
- One of our investigators has received FDA approval of their Investigational New Drug (IND) application to begin clinical trials for a drug to treat and prevent Alzheimer's disease (AD).
- Another small company we fund is moving an experimental new drug that may improve memory, into the first human clinical trial.
- We have a small, Ohio-based start-up Great Lakes NeuroTechnologies, develop a sensor worn on the index finger and an app to continuously measure Parkinson's symptoms such as tremor, bradykinesia (slowed movements) and dyskinesia (involuntary movements).
- Another current participant has recently received FDA approval for a supplemental new drug application for the antiepileptic drug lacosamide as a monotherapy for treating partial-onset seizures in epilepsy patients aged 17 years or older.
- And another current investigator recently announced development of a promising oral medication intended to slow or halt the progression of "dry" Age-Related Macular Degeneration (AMD)."

Walk through your career, from the time you left Siena Heights until present? In other words, what were some of the stops along the way to your current position?

"I graduated from Siena Heights College with a bachelor's degree in chemistry. I then went to University of Oregon to work with Pro-

fessor John Keana. John took me on as a summer student, and after working with him for a few months, I realized that I had discovered my love for research and medicine. I then went to Georgetown University as a postdoctoral fellow and worked with Prof. Alan Kozikowski, working on understanding how neurons in the brain are excited and how they are effected in depression and addiction. I decided to join biotech as a research scientist and worked through the ranks into management. After about 10 years working at three biotech companies, I joined Firststage Bioventure and helped start companies focused on very early stages of therapeutic and device development. I joined NIH in the fall of 2012."

How did your time at Siena Heights shape you? What were some of your more memorable experiences (and people)?

"Above all, I value the friendships that I made at Siena Heights. I enjoyed the culture of small school having time to spend time getting to know people in depth—I enjoyed meeting so many people with backgrounds so different from my own and have enjoyed staying close to many of my friends since then. Siena Heights taught me that having strong personal relationships is what makes life rich and success possible."

What advice would you give a current Siena Heights science major?

"If you love science, hit the books. Take classes to diversify your understanding of different fields in science and challenge yourself to do projects in the lab. Take advantage of the unique opportunity that Siena provides by being small and having direct access to all faculty to get to know them in person. Ask tough questions, and ask them to mentor you throughout your tenure. Understanding the concept of experimental design and hypothesis-generating research is at the heart of a good scientific foundation. Having the opportunity to work with instructors at Siena on a one-on-one basis is a truly a gift.

And to my fellow student-athletes, it is truly unique to have an opportunity to have science and sports to be practically across the street from each other. The discipline you accept to balance athletics and books will serve you well long-term. You will be well-versed to learn teamwork and leadership skills on the athletic field, as science is never done in a silo, and teamwork is essential for success in your careers."

What are some of the most rewarding parts of your job? What are some of the more challenging ones?

"There are so many things I like about my job. I am always energized to be working with so many amazingly talented and dedicated people. It's also important to me that we are working on problems that affect all of us and our families and can make the world a better place. We have a front row seat for amazing science and discovery. It is really a privilege to be allowed to play this role."

What else do you hope to accomplish in your career?

"My recent promotion has been a big honor, and I'm really focused on how to be help my division be most effective. Reducing the burden of neurological disease by helping to progress treatments for those who suffer from it is an important mission."

What do you like to do outside of work? Family? Hobbies?

"My wife and I are raising our two daughters, who are 4 and 8—and I'm very involved with the household and with them, including coaching my older daughter's soccer team. I am still playing soccer a few times a week myself. With any other free time, I work on improving myself (science and leadership), my marriage (it takes work!), and my home (I really enjoy home renovations and gardening)."

Anything else you would like to add?

"I'm really nostalgic about working late evenings in the lab in graduate school. I really miss putting on my headphones, doing experiments and working away—it really felt special. It was a great experience, and I was lucky to have worked for a graduate advisor who I hold the highest admiration for because he allowed me to reach for the skies and made that work feel very significant." ♦

Prison

Break

If Aaron Kinzel '10 was born with a silver spoon in his mouth, it was probably stolen.

At age 5, he was taught to pick locks and steal. Continually surrounded by bad people and bad influences at home, the angry, pot-smoking 15-year-old shoved a teacher at a basketball game one night, and then tangled with police who tried to arrest him. That landed him in the juvenile detention center. From there, he moved on to drugs and guns.

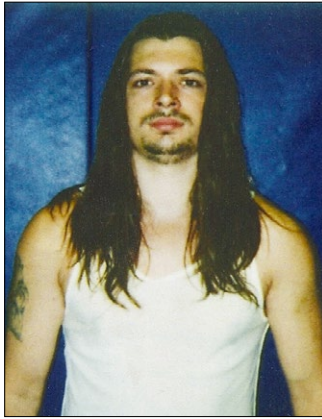
The tipping point for Kinzel came at age 18, when his violent confrontation with police led to a five-felony conviction. He served nearly 10 years in federal prison, but spent some of that time learning. He learned about the legal system. He learned about the cultural stigmas of being a convicted felon. And he learned that he didn't have to be angry any more. Turning to education, one prison correspondence class sparked an amazing educational journey that continues to unfold. Now a Siena Heights University graduate on his way to a doctorate, Kinzel is teaching others about the criminal justice system—from his own unique perspective.

Although the legal system says he has paid his debt to society, he knows being an ex-con will always come with a price to pay. But he is ready to tell anyone who wants to listen that all he wants is a chance to contribute, to make a difference, to succeed.



By Doug Goodnough

Aaron Kinzel '10 Uses Education to Be on the Right Side of the Criminal Justice System



Above: At the age of 19, Aaron Kinzel was convicted of 8 felonies and entered federal prison in Maine to serve 19 years. He has turned his life around and now teaches criminal justice at U of M—Dearborn.

The Worst of the Worst

Kinzel, born in Toledo and raised in Monroe, Mich., said his childhood was surrounded by trouble.

“My mother was just with a lot of men who were either criminals, convicts, drug dealers, etc., etc.,” he said. “They were the worst of the worst. I never knew my real dad. As a little kid, my earliest memories were watching people do dope and commit crimes. I didn’t know that some of the things I did were wrong, but eventually later in adolescence, I still did it, because it was a familial thing.”

One of his mother’s boyfriends was a cat burglar, who taught Kinzel to “pop a lock” at age 5.

“I remember breaking into another apartment to steal toys from another kid because I learned that from this guy,” he said.

During high school, he got into an argument with a teacher during a basketball game, which eventually escalated to a shoving match.

“He called the cops, and the cops came and tried to arrest me,” Kinzel said of the incident. “I fought, and I went to the Monroe County Youth Center. It was my first entrance into the system.”

It wasn’t his last. At age 16 he was placed on probation, and was doing and selling drugs. He received his first drug charge at age 17.

From Bad to Worse

By the time Kinzel was 18, he was trying to get off drugs and now carrying a gun everywhere he went. Deciding to leave home, he and his girlfriend were traveling by car in Maine when a state trooper pulled his vehicle over.

“A state trooper came up to my left,” Kinzel said of the event that changed his life forever. “I pulled a gun out and fired out the window. He drops back, and another trooper behind me fired 15 rounds from a nine millimeter beretta into the car. ... There were bullet holes that went through the driver’s seat, and to this day, I don’t know how the hell I’m alive.”

Kinzel fled the scene, and led police on a high-speed chase through northern Maine near the Canadian border. After a spike mat eventually slowed his vehicle, he and his girlfriend fled into the woods, where they spent more than a day avoiding a manhunt that had more than 100 law enforcement officers in hot pursuit.

Eventually surrendering to police, Kinzel was charged with eight felonies, including the attempted murder of a police officer.

“It was completely stupid, the dumbest thing I’ve ever done in my life,” he said. “I was a dumb kid. I was an arrogant kid. Reflecting back, I think I was like scaring that cop. I really don’t think I wanted to hurt him. Completely reckless. I could have gotten someone killed with those actions. ... It was me being stupid and being a tough guy.”

Slave to the System

Waiving his right to a jury trial, he pleaded guilty to five felony counts and was sentenced to 19 years in prison. In October 1998, he was sent to the federal prison in Thomaston, Maine, just like the one where the movie “The Shawshank Redemption” was filmed. It was anything but glamorous.

“I heard all of these prison stories from all the people I was around (as a child),” Kinzel said. “I wasn’t scared. I don’t think it really hit me, initially. After I stayed there a couple of years, I realized how much it sucks. You are just deprived of your rights, your liberties. You are a piece of meat with a number stamped on your forehead.”

Kinzel said he spent most of his time moving heavy panels working in the prison industries program, which caused some physical problems that linger to this day. He realized that behind prison walls, no one cared about his well-being.

“When you get in the system, regardless of what you did, you become a slave to the system,” he said.

Instead of fighting the system, Kinzel made a decision to learn about it.

“I learned about law. I learned about public policy,” he said. “I learned about the importance of education and policy and change.”

When he decided to take a correspondence course in psychology through the University of Maine-Augusta, he realized “maybe this is something I can do.”

He spent nearly 10 years in prison before he was paroled in March 2007.

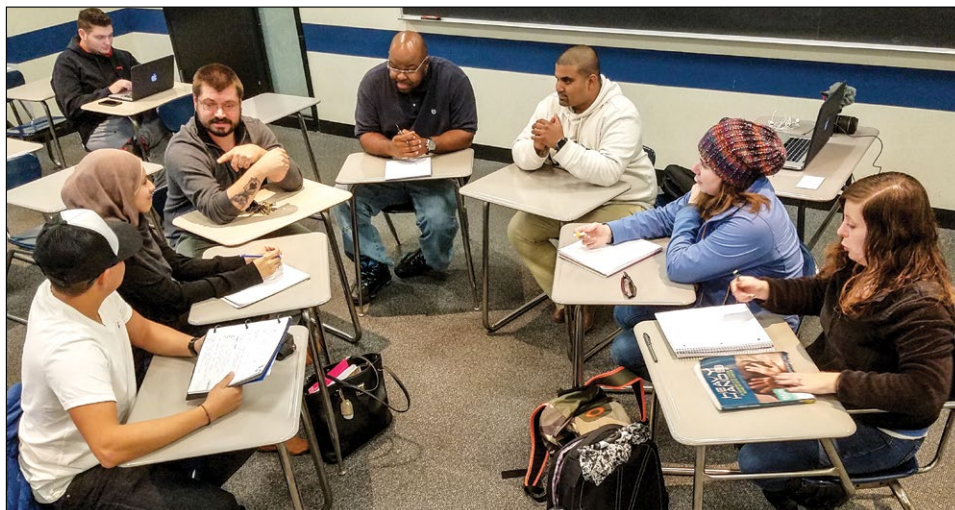
The Long Road Back

After being released from prison, Kinzel said he knew his best opportunity for a fresh start was returning to Michigan. Although his mother was not someone he could rely on, his grandparents were. They offered him a place to stay and helped him pursue his education.

“If I didn’t have them, I would have been back on the streets,” Kinzel said.

Enrolling at Monroe County Community College, he completed an associate degree, graduating with honors. He then applied to a couple of different colleges. One was Siena Heights.

“A lot of institutions are discriminatory against people with records,” Kinzel said. “I applied at another school and was given a scholarship, but then it was rescinded. Then I received a nice transfer scholarship at Siena Heights University. I’m glad I made that choice, because I made some really great relationships.”



Above: Aaron uses his experience to teach criminal justice classes at the University of Michigan-Dearborn.

He said former McNair Program Director Dr. Patricia Wallace and former English faculty member Sister Pat Schnapp (now both retired) really encouraged him to continue his education.

“(Sister Pat) was one of the first people I divulged about my history,” Kinzel said of Schnapp, who has a long history in prison ministry. “She encouraged me to be more open.”

After completing his bachelor’s degree from SHU’s criminal justice program, Kinzel continued on to earn a master’s degree. But he still had a problem: As an ex-con, no one would hire him.

Honesty Is the Best Policy

On an employment application, there is a box asking the applicant if he or she has ever been convicted of a felony. Checking that box was often his biggest obstacle to employment, which Kinzel painfully—and repeatedly—learned.

“I thought (education) was going to help me, but in the end, I couldn’t get work,” he said. “I understand the severity of what I did, but there has to be a point where we give people an opportunity.”

That opportunity finally came via Western Michigan University’s doctorate program. In 2013 he was asked to take over a sociology class for a guest lecturer, and taught part-time for three years.

However, he was more interested in teaching about criminal justice, specifically in the corrections area. He eventually met retired Washtenaw County Circuit Court Judge Donald Shelton, who was now the director of the criminal justice program at the University of Michigan-Dearborn.

“He asked, ‘Why don’t you come work for me?’” Kinzel said. “He didn’t care about my record. He thinks it’s actually an asset, because I can talk about corrections in a point-of-view that very few people have.”

For the past two years, Kinzel has taught two courses in the program, and is on a continuing renewal contract. It’s a start.

“I love my job,” he said. “I have great relationships with my students.”

“He knows first-hand experience on corrections, and that’s my interest,” said Dominique Giraud, a senior psychology major at UM-Dearborn and a student in Kinzel’s corrections class. “My first reaction was ‘Holy cow, my professor is an ex-con!’ But then I thought about it and said, ‘Eh, he seems like a cool dude.’ Who better to teach than someone who’s been through it?”

Junior criminal justice major James Hague agrees.

“A lot of institutions are discriminatory against people with records . . . I received a nice transfer scholarship at Siena Heights University. I’m glad I made that choice, because I made some really great relationships.”



“He is an ex-con, but that works to his benefit,” said Hague, who also is in Kinzel’s corrections class. “He gives you that perspective that you don’t always get. You know he’s been through it. He’s just not sitting there telling you what’s going on. He’s giving you personal experiences.”

Kinzel said he is up front with his students, as well as anyone else who wants to ask him about his past. He said that has been a key to his success.

“Everything is out there in the public now,” he said. “I always joke that I was in the convict closet for like six years (after) coming home. And since that time, I’m just completely out about it. That’s what has gotten me employment.”



Above: Aaron often takes his students on field trips to correctional facilities. Here they visit the Ohio State Reformatory where the movie "Shawshank Redemption" was filmed.

He often takes his students on field trips to prison and corrections facilities, and works with the University of Michigan’s Prison Creative Arts Project, which brings visual, written and theatrical art to inmates in southeast Michigan prisons (**photo left**).

“If you were to bump into him on the street, you wouldn’t even know (he was an ex-con) unless he told you,” Hague said of Kinzel. “He’s just down-to-earth.”

Thinking Outside of the (Check) Box

Kinzel has seen all sides of the criminal justice system. And he said there are parts of it that need to be addressed. One is giving people like him a chance to succeed once they are released from prison.

“Give people a chance to get back into the workforce and prove themselves,” Kinzel said. “The biggest thing is the cultural stigma behind the people who are convicted felons. . . . And when they go find employment, that little box comes up. It can still deter people from giving them an opportunity.”

He also said the focus—and resources—should be redirected to fighting violent crime rather than drug enforcement.

“We’re throwing money at drug enforcement, but we’re not throwing any money at finding these rapists and child molesters and armed robbers and violent criminals,” Kinzel said. “We need to shift the focus more to the people we are afraid of, not mad at.”

He said his story is the exception, not the rule, when it comes to the outcomes of ex-cons.

“I’m like an anomaly,” he said. “We need a program to reintegrate (ex-cons). I did it on my own through sheer luck, determination and just stubbornness. I reached out to others. I want to learn. I want to progress. That’s the secret sauce. All of my jobs have been through networking.”

He realizes some people will never want to give him that chance to succeed.

“Some are not too happy about me being here,” Kinzel said of his teaching position, which he hopes one day will become full-time. “I can understand that. When most people get to know me and they see my work ethic and my personality and my determination . . . I’m just going forward, going up, doing really well.” ♦

Rising Stars



Rob Anderson



Anh Duong



Travis Mielcarek



Nina Graham



Rachel Distelrath

“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.

Rob Anderson

Graduation year (from SHU): 2010.

Current title/position: Head of Global Talent Acquisition, Barracuda Networks, Campbell, Calif.

What Rob is doing: Since 2013, Rob works for Barracuda Networks, which delivers cloud-connected solutions that protect organizations like schools, hospitals and small businesses against cyber threats and data loss. After helping recruiting for and support BN's Data Protection division in Ann Arbor, Mich., in 2015 he was asked to move to BN's headquarters in Campbell, Calif., where he currently globally manages all of talent acquisition strategy and execution. His team specifically operates in California, Michigan, Georgia, Massachusetts, UK, Austria, India and China. Most of his time is spent working with Barracuda's executives on understanding what the business plans are and then preparing a hiring plan of action to support those goals.

My favorite moment/story while a student at Siena Heights was: Besides waking up at 5 a.m. for soccer practice? In all seriousness, playing on the soccer team for four years was one of the best experiences of my life. I grew very close to all my teammates and we remain close to this day. Except now instead of waking up at 5 a.m. to go to the fieldhouse, we're waking up to go to each other's weddings and baby showers.

My favorite person at Siena Heights was: I honestly can't select just one. Everyone from the Business Program was fantastic: (Sabrina) Terrany, (Bill) Blackerby and (Claudia) Blanchard, just to name a few. Oh, and Halo. I'm all about comradery.

Ultimate goal in life: Continue to learn, grow and leave a positive impact on those around me. You should never underestimate the impact you have.

My best piece of advice for SHU students is: Get involved outside the classroom. Whether it's in sports, theater or any other campus programs and activities. SHU is unique. Its smaller size allows you to establish a great and lasting connection with professors, coaches and staff. Plug yourself into any existing campus activities or start your own. You'll not only make new friends but you'll get a lot of insight from others that can help you decide what you want to do with your future.

Anh Duong

Graduation year (from SHU): 2016.

Current title/position: Research Technologist, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, Baltimore, Md.

What Ayn is doing: She graduated from Siena Heights in May 2016 and recently received the Research Technologist position at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. Her job involves working with immunofluorescence staining on cancerous tissue, which aid in immunotherapy research, or in other words, how people can use their own immune systems to fight cancer.

My favorite moment/story while a student at Siena Heights was: I like basically everything about Siena. My most favorite moments would be the trips with international students, spring trips with Beta Beta Beta and the Holi Festival.

My favorite person at Siena Heights was: Fatmy Abed.

Ultimate goal in life: I want to be a competent scientist and able to contribute my knowledge for finding the cure for cancer.

My best piece of advice for SHU students is: You don't have to start big to get to big places. The water flows from a small stream to get to the ocean. Big or small school is not important. The important thing is the knowledge that you will get and that you work hard for what you want. Be determined and be patient. Be competitive, but also be mindful of others.

Travis Mielcarek

Graduation year (from SHU): 2014.

Current title/position: Assurance In-Charge, Rehmann, Toledo, Ohio

What Travis is doing: He earned his Master of Accountancy from Bowling Green State University after graduating from SHU. In August 2015, he began working for Rehmann as an external auditor in his hometown of Toledo, Ohio. Rehmann is a regional public accounting firm with offices in Michigan, Ohio and Florida. He said he chose Rehmann because he would be exposed to a wide range of services and industries, which will ultimately help him grow in his career. He has worked with a wide range of clients in industries such as manufacturing, construction, non-profit and governmental entities. He also earned his CPA license in the fall 2016.

My favorite moment/story while a student at Siena Heights was: Winning the WHAC Championship for baseball my sophomore year (2012) is without a doubt my favorite memory from my time at Siena Heights. We advanced to compete in the NAIA Regional Tournament in the Daytona Beach bracket, which was an unbelievable experience. That was my favorite team that I have ever been on and that entire season is a memory that I will never forget.

My favorite person at Siena Heights was: Too many to name.

Ultimate goal in life: To have a happy family and become a scratch golfer.

My best piece of advice for SHU students is: Take on internships, because the experience and professional relationships will be invaluable for your future career. Go get to know Melissa Growden in Career Services for help with this. However, also enjoy your time at SHU because it goes by fast. Take the time to make memories with your friends while you are living with them or down the hall from them.

Nina Graham

Graduation year (from SHU): 2010.

Current title/position: Refrigeration Lead Design Engineer, GE Appliances, Louisville, Ky.

What Nina is doing: Currently, she is the refrigeration lead design engineer for GE Appliances at Appliance Park in Louisville, Ky. She has received three bronze and two silver awards for her work.

My favorite moment/story while a student at Siena Heights was: Walking up to accept my diploma for my BBAM.

My favorite person at Siena Heights was: Bill Blackerby.

Ultimate goal in life: To succeed.

My best piece of advice for SHU students is: Work hard and never give up on your dreams.

Rachel Distelrath

Graduation year (from SHU): 2013.

Current title/position: Information Technology Resident, Google, Ann Arbor, Mich.

What Rachel is doing: She provides technical support for Google employees around the world. She supports Linux, OS X, Windows, Chrome OS and Android platforms in addition to network-based applications, and also troubleshoots Google's corporate resources. She also acts as a liaison between technical and non-technical groups to enhance Google's infrastructure and internal services. She is involved with Google's training team as well, crafting orientation plans and assisting with facilitation to ensure immersion in support infrastructure and technical workflows for new Google support technicians.

My favorite moment/story while a student at Siena Heights was: Borrowing a dorm mattress to go sledding on a snow day, and making the front page of the Daily Telegram for it.

My favorite person at Siena Heights was: Sam Abraham.

Ultimate goal in life: To be happy and make a positive difference.

My best piece of advice for SHU students is: Enjoy living in close proximity to your friends! Make the most of your time at Siena—get involved, study hard, have some Spotted Cow and enjoy making memories along the way.



UNDER THE LIGHTS!

HOMECOMING 2017

October 13-15

SWEET ENDINGS AND NEW BEGINNINGS:
JOIN US FOR THE FINAL SEASON IN FRANCOEUR THEATRE
& THE FIRST NIGHT HOMECOMING FOOTBALL GAME



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

Thankful for so Many Things

As I reflect on my time here at Siena Heights and my last day as the Director of Alumni Relations, I am thankful. I am thankful for many things; amazing colleagues, my Siena education, opportunities for growth and learning, alumni I have had the privilege to serve, students I have met, experiences that have taught me so much, and lessons that I will carry with me everywhere I go. Most of all I am thankful for the friendships I have made and the kindness that has been shown by so many. As graduates and friends of Siena, I am confident that you can relate to my experience.

I was privileged to be a member of the first cohort of Torchbearers, as part of the Heritage Project. Along with my fellow torchbearers, I explored and discovered so much about The Adrian Dominican Sisters and Siena's history. This was an experience that I will carry with me down every path in my life's journey. My hope is that everyone feels as lucky and as accomplished as I do, to have had an education with the influence of Adrian Dominican traditions.

Homecoming 2017 is just around the corner. Plan to come to campus October 13-15. Whether you are interested in the Arts, Academics, Athletics, or looking to connect with old friends, there is sure to be something of interest.

My last stop as I left Siena was in St. Dominic Chapel where I sat for just a few minutes. I prayed and gave thanks for many things. It was the perfect way to end a chapter in my journey that has been filled with the love and kindness from so many. As I move forward, I will carry a piece of Siena Heights with me. I am proud to be a Saint!

Jenny Engle



Dan Peña '01, '08/MA, MBA
Vice President of
Institutional Advancement
(517) 264-7146
dpena@sienaheights.edu

Greetings Alumni & Friends

It is with much excitement and anticipation that I assume the responsibilities of Vice President of Institutional Advancement at Siena Heights. SHU has been an amazing blessing in my life. In addition to earning two degrees at SHU, I met my wife Amber as an undergraduate. We were married in Lumen (now St. Dominic) Chapel, and dedicated our children on campus. We certainly have "blood in the bricks" at SHU and I'm so honored to come home to serve the mission.

Siena Heights is a wonderful place that the world deeply needs. Our graduates leave prepared to enjoy personal success in their lives and careers. More importantly, SHU graduates enter the world ready to lead and inspire others to become more competent, purposeful, and ethical. They embody the vision of the Adrian Dominican Sisters—To seek truth, make peace, and reverence life.

The next time you are on campus, please take a moment to stop by my office in Sacred Heart Hall to say hello. Our team welcomes the opportunity to meet and connect with the wonderful alumni of Siena Heights University who make our job such a privilege.

Go Saints!

Dan



class notes

FROM THE SITES

Benton Harbor

2013



Kameron Morris was recently promoted to director of mortgage sales by the United Federal Credit Union. In his new role, Morris will be responsible for managing mortgage sales through collaboration with both internal and external partners and developing and positioning UFCU mortgage advisors for success. He formerly served as Stevensville (Mich.) branch manager for UFCU starting his career there in 2011.

Jackson

2005

Brad Piros was recently named the national director of Loss Prevention at Little Caesars Pizza.

Annette "Mary" Watson recently changed career fields, leaving a 23-year banking career to become a Realtor in Jackson, Mich. She is also completing her master's degree in leadership from Central Michigan University.

Monroe

2013



Steve Martin was recently named the fire chief at Lincoln Park (Mich.) Fire Department. He has served the department for

more than 21 years, and served as interim chief before being named to the permanent post.

Online

2012

Brian Sipe has been fire chief in Spring Lake (Mich.) since 2013. During his tenure, the department has completed capital replacement plans, purchased a new fire truck and just moved into a new fire station.

2013



Kris Jablonski was honored at Henry Ford College's Chef's Certification Dinner hosted by the Culinary Arts Department.

Jablonski recently became a certified executive pastry chef through the American Culinary Foundation by demonstrating a level of competence and expertise as well as passing a practical and written examination. Only 30 chefs received that certification in 2015. He has been teaching in Henry Ford's culinary program since 2009.

Southfield

1990



Sharon Sikora, RN, BSN, MM, CNOR, RNFA is currently the clinical director of surgery at Presbyterian Intercommunity Hospi-

tal Health System in Whittier, Calif. She is completing joint BSN and MSN degrees with a specialization in informatics from American Sentinel University.

2005

Sean Huddleston was named the vice president for Equity and Inclusion at the University of Indianapolis. He will develop and implement the strategic vision to continue the university's commitment to inclusivity, equity and community partnership. He is completing his Ed.D. in higher education and community college leadership from Ferris St. University. Huddleston will begin his new position June 5.

Main Campus

1971

Mary Phillips had her work of watercolors and acrylics "A Change of Seasons" on display at Chez Willy's in Galesburg, Ill. The exhibit ran from Nov. 1-Dec. 31, 2016. A former longtime professor of art and art history, she currently serves as the curator of the art collections at Monmouth (Ill.) College.

1979

Michael Savona was recently named the interim principal at St. John's Jesuit High School and Academy in Toledo, Ohio.

1982

Tony Gonzalez retired in April 2017 after 27 years as a Lenawee County District Court probation officer.

1983



Maureen Leonard was named the events coordinator for Recruitment, Engagement and Partnership for the Rackham Graduate

School at the University of Michigan. Her role entails managing events for the Rackham Merit Fellows as well as celebrations, conferences and seminars. She plans on attending SHU's Homecoming Weekend 2018 to attend her 35th class reunion. She and her husband, Tom, reside in Farmington Hills, Mich., with their daughter, Elizabeth, who will graduate with an International Baccalaureate diploma in spring 2017.

Michael Morgan was the director of the 76th annual Old Members Show April 21-22 in Bristol, Conn. The show is reportedly the longest running stage variety show in America and raises approximately \$20,000 annually for the Bristol Boys and Girls Club. The show theme was "There's No Place like Home" which had a focus on family.

1994

Todd Marsee served as an expert reviewer for the Three Cities Art Club Feb. 6. Marsee reviewed art

from club members. He is an award-winning watercolorist who has exhibited in galleries throughout Michigan and Ohio.

2004

Nancy Eaton completed her second year as an attorney with Walker, Watts, Jackson and McFarland, PLLC, in Adrian. Her current areas include criminal, probate and civic law, estate planning, litigation and trust and estate administration. She married Andrew Gordon on Nov. 25, 2016. They reside in Adrian.

2005



Rich Brown was named to the 2017 "40 Under 40" list by the Knoxville (Tenn.) News Sentinel. Brown currently serves as the

senior director of development for the University of Tennessee's Haslem College of Business. He has been with UT since 2010, and his fundraising efforts help the institution fund student scholarships and programs as well as attract top faculty. Brown is also involved with the Big Brothers Big Sisters of East Tennessee, leading a \$1 million campaign to help support the nonprofit agency.

2006



Ashley Gonzalez recently joined the staff at Lenawee Broadcasting Co. (WLEN 103.9 FM) in Adrian. She will help

with advertising, marketing and promotions. She previously worked at County National Bank and First Federal Bank. In May 2016, she also received the Young Professional Award from ATHENA Lenawee. The award recognizes a woman who assists women in reaching their full leadership potential and serves as a role model for young women both personally and professionally.

Celeste Morr is currently employed as the human resources coordinator for Fasco Employment Solutions in Adrian, Mich.

Christina (James) Schechtman '13/MA was recently hired as a public relations specialist at the University of North Carolina-Wilmington.

2009

Orendall Jones was recently named as the human resources coordinator for Relevar Home Care in Mt. Clemens, Mich.

2010

Jennifer Belair will participate in an artist-in-residence program with Saint-Jean-Port-Joli in Quebec, Canada, for a mixed media book project titled, "I'm happy, hope you're happy too."

Ryan Tymensky has helped with casting since 2016 for the hit television show "This Is Us" on NBC. He is employed as an associate at Telsey and Company Casting.

2011

Kelly Ruder is completing her fourth year as a math teacher at White Pigeon (Mich.) High School. She is co-advisor for the class of 2018, and is currently completing her master's degree in Evaluation, Measurement and Research at Western Michigan University.

2012

Kendall Acho was hired as director of business development for First-Down PlayBook in Knoxville, Tenn.

2013

Chandler Levit was hired as a technical recruiter for Medasource in Indianapolis, Ind.

Amanda Maze was recently named the program director at the First Tee of Mid-Michigan.

Jake Schirmer is employed as a national media consultant for iHeart-Media. He works on local, regional and national advertising campaigns through the iHeart app and its 850 radio stations nationwide.

2014

Julia Haupricht was named the head women's volleyball coach at Edison St. Community College in Piqua, Ohio, in November 2016. Haupricht served as an assistant coach for the program last season.

Ines Rodriguez-Adams is working with GoMeta, an app development company, in San Diego, Calif. In October 2016, the company launched Metaverse that uses augmented reality similar to the popular Pokemon Go app. The app is available on the iPhone. She is helping promote the app through social media with a blog.

2015

Raphael Dunson was recently named an underwriter for United Shore in Troy, Mich.

Kody Richardson started as a trooper for the Michigan State Police on Nov. 7, 2016. He graduated from the 130th Trooper Recruit School and was assigned to the MSP Monroe post.

Taylor Thelen recently accepted a position as a senior performance improvement analyst for Beaumont Health in metro Detroit.

DEATHS

Alumni

- Sister Jean Selcke, OP '42
- Sister Maris Beaufait, OP '45
- Sister Nadine Foley, OP '45
- Doris (Barga) Rindler '45
- Sister Dorothy Jehle, OP '47
- Donna Jeana Schamberger '47
- Sister Dorothy Miller, OP '48
- Sister Helen Sorich, OP '48
- Sister Marie Beatty, OP '49
- Sister Elizabeth Kreiner, OP '49
- Sister Alice Wolski, OP '49
- Sister Sheila Flynn, OP '51
- Sister Donna Wencel, OP '52
- Sister Barbara Wetterer, OP '52
- Sister Anne Marie Snyder, OP '54
- Sister Joanne O'Connor, OP '54/MFA
- Sister Mary Mack, OP '56
- Joyce (Grundy) Fruge '57
- Sister Aileen McClain, OP '57
- Sister Michael Claire Wilson, OP '59
- Sister Marianne O'Neill, OP '60
- Julianne Labeau '66
- Sister Rosemarie Kieffer, OP '67
- Byron "Barney" Stickles '80, '83/MA, '88MA—former trustee
- Marina Valdez '91—former Social Work faculty member
- Donna Lowery '15
- Mikala Ferer '16
- Dont'e Fox '17

Friends

Mildred "Millie" Marks—former staff member.

Notables:



Sister Nadine Foley, OP passed away May 13. She served on Siena's Board of Trustees in the 1970s and '80s and served as Siena Heights' interim President during the winter and spring of 1994. Sister Nadine began her relationship with Siena Heights as a first-year student in 1941, and was a faithful alumna, attending Homecoming dinners and football games in recent years. She also taught philosophy and religious studies as an adjunct faculty member. In 1992, Siena Heights recognized her scholarship and leadership in the Church among women religious by awarding her the Siena Medal. Sister Nadine also served the Adrian Dominican Sisters Congregation as a member of the General Council from 1974-78; as the Vicarress from 1978-82; and as Prioress of the Congregation from 1986-92. She also was president of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious from 1988-89 and a U.S. delegate to the International Union of Superiors General from 1989-92. In 1994, she became the Congregation Historian, a position she held until 2016. Sister Nadine published numerous papers and articles, including two volumes of the history of the Adrian Dominican Congregation: "Seeds Scattered and Grown" in 2006, and "To Fields Near and Far" in 2015.



The Siena community mourned the deaths of a current student and a recent graduate. **Dont'e Fox** passed away Jan. 5 after a brief hospital stay. Fox was a member of the Saints football team, a communications major and a student leader who was scheduled to graduate this May. Members of his family were present on May 7 to receive his bachelor's degree. **Mikayla Ferer**, who graduated in May 2016, was killed in a car accident on Feb. 13. She was a former women's soccer player who received her degree in nutrition. Members of the



Siena community participated in a memorial run to fund a scholarship in her name.

The **Honorable Margaret Noe '75** received the 2017 Amelia Earhart Award from the Zonta Club of Lenawee County in February. Noe, a circuit court judge in Lenawee County,



Mich., was recognized for her contribution to women's leadership. The award is given to an individual who "exemplifies the pioneering spirit and excellence in her field, as well as works to increase the status of women within her community. She has been a judge since 2005 and

appointed to the circuit court in 2009. Noe was appointed Lenawee County chief judge in 2015. She also has been the chair of the Siena Heights Board of Trustees since 2006.

Deb Keller '74, '73/MA, '02/Spec. received the ATHENA Award in May 2017 for her efforts in cultivating and developing women in leadership. The award is given annually to a woman who assists women in reaching their full professional leadership potential, while demonstrating excellence, creativity and initiative. In her current role as executive assistant to the President at Siena Heights, she "makes things happen," according to SHU President Sister Peg Albert, OP, Ph.D., past ATHENA



Award recipient who helped present Keller with the award. "Whether it is organizing the weekly administration meetings to playing host to a dinner for hundreds of people, Deb always makes sure Siena Heights puts its best foot forward," President Albert said. "Her welcoming spirit, whether it is with faculty or staff members, alumni, community members and, especially, our students, is a blessing." Keller spent 38 years as a teacher and principal at St. Joseph's Academy on the campus of the Adrian Dominican Sisters. She also has taught for 13 years in Siena Heights' Teacher Education program, educating and mentoring college-age students as they prepare to make their own educational impact on the world.



Hollywood actor and stuntman **Andrew Staton '03** visited the Adrian campus in March 2017 to conduct a couple of theater workshops. Staton, who starred in the horror thriller "Clowntown," released last fall, said the time he spent at Siena Heights serves him to this day. "Siena prepared me quite a bit, actually, for my career," said Staton, who moved to the Los Angeles area in 2011

after spending some time in Chicago after graduation. "The mission statement of Siena being competent, purposeful and ethical I think follows in any type of business there is. The fact that I come from a place that holds you accountable. That makes you do what you say you're going to do. That's why I keep getting work, because people know they can depend on me." His said he works in movie production as well as does stunts while developing his acting career. "You have to be good at your job and you have to be dependable at your job, or you won't have a job," he said. "That mission statement has kept me afloat as much as any technical experience that I've had or craft that I've learned."



New MBA Program to Focus on Ethical and Sustainable Business Practices

Siena Heights University announced it is starting a Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree program. The first classes begin in January 2018, and will be completely online.

SHU Dean for Graduate and Professional Studies Dr. Cheri Betz said before designing its MBA, Siena Heights first asked employers and business leaders about their current and future needs. Using their input, SHU developed a curriculum focused upon ethical and sustainable business practices.

“We have designed Siena’s MBA program to train strong, ethical business leaders who can leverage the markets in a manner consistent with our Dominican values,” Dr. Betz said. “Siena’s reputation for developing students who genuinely live its mission of being more competent, purposeful and ethical makes for a distinction among existing business programs.”

“It made sense to offer the MBA as an online program, since we have built an outstanding reputation nationally in online education,” said SHU President Sister Peg Albert, OP, PhD. “Our online program is ranked first in Michigan and tied for 24th nationally. We also rank as one of the best in the nation in student engagement, according to the U.S. News and World Report. That speaks to its quality. Adding the MBA to our online offerings will be a winning combination. We look forward to showing what the ‘Siena Effect’ can bring to the MBA.”

Dr. Betz said some other key points about the Siena Heights MBA include:

- **Flexible:** Our MBA is open to not only those students with a BBA, but also to students and many other majors, including nursing and engineering. No prerequisite entry courses are required.
- **Convenient:** Online eight-week courses can be completed in as early as 18 months and complement the busy schedules of our students.
- **Effective:** SHU’s online programs have been ranked first in Michigan and in the top 25 nationally based on student engagement and retention.
- **Focused:** Courses include business topics like: Ethics in a Global Environment, Sustainable Business Management and Business Strategy and Planning.
- **Relevant:** Students will be able to share their work experiences in the classroom and apply their coursework in their career field.
- **Recognized:** SHU’s MBA program is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission.



“Learning is not just about acquiring knowledge,” Dr. Betz said. “The Siena MBA will require students to apply their knowledge in order to hone skills and better develop their talents as ethical business innovators. Having this ability to apply knowledge in a variety of situations is attractive to today’s employers. The Siena MBA is designed to prepare students to face the many challenges present in our world today. That’s what ‘The Siena Effect’ is bringing with our MBA program.”

Program outcomes include:

- Demonstrating creative problem-solving and implementation through strategic planning, innovation, justice, ethical and sustainable practices to support exceptional decision-making and social responsibility.
- Demonstrating analytical skills through the integration of various business tools and techniques to solve complex business problems and evaluate business opportunities.
- Demonstrating leadership and management skills needed for implementing positive organizational change by treating all stakeholders with dignity and respect.
- Understanding and effectively communicating quantitative and qualitative information professionally through exceptional written, verbal and analytical skills.
- Fostering collaboration by leading and working effectively in a team-based environment demonstrated through self-awareness and respecting the differences in others.

Dr. Betz said she expects the classes to fill quickly. For more information, go to start.sienaheights.edu/mba. ♦

Siena Heights Announces 2017 Alumni Award Winners

This Year's Recipients Will Be Honored Oct. 14 During Homecoming Weekend



Sister Ann Joachim Award

Margaret Lawler Michael '82, '85/MA
South Lyon, Mich.

A Licensed Professional Counselor and a board certified Professional Christian Counselor, Michael is currently the director of Restore Ministries at Oak Pointe Church in Novi, Mich. The organization provides counseling support and training as part of its ministry. Recently completing her advanced certificate in Biblical Counseling, she has worked in high schools, community colleges and universities as a guidance counselor and faculty member. She is also actively involved as a volunteer for several organizations in the metro Detroit area. The Sister Ann Joachim Award recognizes significant contributions to the University and/or community through activities that demonstrate strong leadership and the capacity to confront issues head on while maintaining the image and spirit of Siena Heights University.



Saint Dominic Award

Sister Patricia Dulka, OP '68
Darien, Ill.

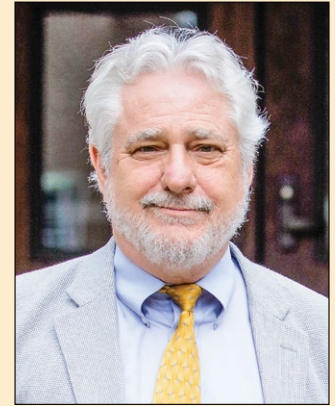
A longtime educator in Detroit and Lansing, she spent many of her summers living and ministering in the Appalachia region of Kentucky and Tennessee. After a time as principal at Aquinas Dominican High School in Chicago, she decided to focus her ministry in social work. She became a Certified Social Worker and went on to become a director and a therapist for Catholic Charities of Lenawee County for 11 years. Sister Patricia was elected prioress of the Dominican Midwest Chapter in 1998. The Saint Dominic Award recognizes commitment to Christian education in family, school or community.



Outstanding Alumni Award

Kyle Griffith '92, '97/MA, 00/Spec.
Blissfield, Mich.

Griffith is currently the assistant superintendent of the Lenawee Intermediate School District. During his time with the LISD, he has helped increase dual enrollment opportunities for Lenawee County students through the College Now program. He also has been instrumental in the development of several new programs and initiatives, including the robotics program and science and math career camps. A former teacher, principal and superintendent at Morenci (Mich.) Area Schools, he also was principal of the Jackson College/LISD Academy, a regional middle college that helped educate underserved students in Lenawee County. He earned a Rising Star Award from the Michigan Association of Schools Boards and is active in several service organizations in the Lenawee community. The Outstanding Alumni Award recognizes outstanding professional achievements and/or volunteer contributions to promote Siena positively to the community, demonstrate strong leadership characteristics and serve as significant role models for others.



Honorary Alumni Award

Dr. Mark Schersten
Adrian, Mich.

Dr. Schersten taught philosophy at Siena Heights for 27 years and chaired the Humanities Division before serving as the dean for the College of Arts and Sciences until his retirement in 2016. During his time at Siena Heights, he participated on numerous regular and ad hoc committees, served as faculty ombudsperson, chairperson of the Teaching Faculty Assembly and was the coordinator of the annual Chiodini-Fontana Ethics Lecture Series. He and his wife, Becky, also created a student scholarship in their name. The Honorary Alumni Award recognizes non-alumni of Siena Heights who demonstrate exceptional commitment to and support for the mission and spirit of the University.



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“Siena is a very good steward of the money they receive . . . A little goes a long way. I just think it’s a great investment in the future of the University, and our young people.”



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Scott and Cindy Hill said their decision to create a planned gift to Siena Heights University was an easy one. The husband-and-wife team, who are both involved in separate roles at Siena Heights, said the process was also a rewarding experience.

“What I like about a planned gift is that whenever you give it, it really isn’t going to affect the quality of life when you’re living,” said Scott, who has been a member of the Siena Heights Board of Trustees since 1996. “When you look at planned giving, 5 percent, 10 percent, 15 percent, it really doesn’t affect your lifestyle at all, but it makes a big difference for the University.”

“We know that it will be used well and will be put to use in the best way possible,” said Cindy, who serves as SHU’s women’s lacrosse head coach. “The mission here at Siena aligns with my values.”