Message from the Editor

The fall semester at Siena College was one that brought us the appointment of Siena’s 11th president; new academic, spiritual and social spaces on campus; and a sprint past the $50 million mark for the Comprehensive Campaign.

Throughout this issue of Siena News, you will see a gold dome icon associated with programs and opportunities the Campaign has created. Thanks to those of you who have contributed already, Siena continues to flourish despite the challenges higher education in the Northeast is experiencing.

Enjoy the Siena success stories found in this magazine. You made them possible.

Go Saints!

Jim Eaton
Siena News Editor

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The Grotto at Siena

On October 19, the Grotto was blessed and officially opened to the public. Modeled after the famous shrine in Lourdes, France, Siena's structure includes a miniature stream and candles sheltered under a stone arch. Statues of Mary, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Clare of Assisi and St. Bernardine of Siena are all part of the design. It is located on Turchi Road directly across from the turf athletic field and behind the Fr. Benjamin Kuhn, O.F.M. House and McGuire Hall.
There’s an old saying in western New York: “You can take the boy out of South Buffalo, but you can’t take South Buffalo out of the boy.” I’m living proof of the adage. Although I left the old neighborhood almost 50 years ago to make the 70-mile trek south to St. Bonaventure University and from there to a much-traveled life with the Franciscan friars, the ethos and ethnicity of South Buffalo helped form the person I am today.

**Big families, big dreams**

In some ways, South Buffalo was a world unto itself—insular, close-knit, even cliquish. It was an Irish Catholic ghetto of sorts, where working class couples raised large families and nursed fond hopes that one day their kids would get the college education they never had and land far better jobs than the ones they held in the steel mills.

The Coughlin family typified the demographic. My grandparents were immigrants. My dad was a dock worker and fireman, my mother a homemaker. They had seven children, two less than the Devines next door. On our block alone, over 100 kids filled the streets with tricycles, bicycles and the sound and fury of hotly contested touch football games. One block away the parish elementary school was bursting at the seams. One block in the opposite direction, at the local boys’ high school run by the Franciscans, enrollments were so strong in the 1950s that the friars had to purchase a second building to accommodate the hoards of freshmen seeking admission. At the girls’ high school four blocks away, the Sisters of Mercy struggled to find room for an exploding student population that always seemed to exceed the number of desks in their classrooms.

**The bubble bursts and schools struggle**

South Buffalo was by no means unique in the post-war boom years. Across the northeastern United States, cities large and small were checkerboards of ethnic, blue-collar neighborhoods, teeming with kids who were dreaming of college. But that world has changed, and changed radically. The houses on my street are now occupied by older folks like my mother, most of them living alone. The elementary school on the corner is closed. Bishop Timon High School has 75 percent fewer students now than when my brother and I attended it. My sisters’ alma mater, Mount Mercy Academy, has suffered similar diminishment. These and countless others of their ilk were feeder schools to colleges like Siena.

Many of the urban centers of New York state and New England that were spawned by the Industrial Revolution are now mere shadows of their former selves. High school graduations in the region have plummeted. As the middle class shrinks and good paying jobs move south and west, the number of college applicants seeking significant financial aid soars. To attract a qualified cadre of incoming students from a shrinking applicant pool, colleges are forced to hike their discount rate—the difference between what the typical student pays and what his or her education actually costs. Needless to say, this wreaks havoc on the bottom line and keeps the folks in many a college finance office up at night.

Despite a mountain of evidence that a college education continues to be a sound financial investment, many young adults are skittish about the U.S. economy. The Wall Street meltdown of 2008 is fresh in their memories, and an unemployed or underemployed parent or sibling remains a painful reminder of our fragile economic recovery. Some fear that finding post-graduate employment with a salary commensurate to their student loan payments is anything but a sure bet. An increasing number of high school graduates are deferring their dreams of attending a private, four-year institution. They are spending their freshman and sophomore years at the local community college, and spending less in the process. Adding to their potent mix of demographic and financial concerns, residential colleges like Siena may soon face stiff competition from long-distance, on-line delivery systems—virtual
A delicate balance

Siena is not alone in facing these challenges. They are endemic to higher education in the United States today. How we deal with these contingencies will largely determine the shape of Siena at the dawn of the College’s second century. In responding to them, we need to be visionary, creative and nimble, not myopic, reactive and arthritic. At the same time, we need to cherish, nourish and hand on to future generations of Siena students the rich, centuries-old tradition of Franciscan, Catholic, liberal arts education. That tradition considers teaching and learning to be profoundly interpersonal and communal. It is convinced that education has as much to do with the formation of character as the delivery of information. It believes that college should be a forum in which life’s big questions are asked and a variety of answers to those questions are entertained. It also believes that college should help students distinguish fact from opinion, truth from prejudice, art from kitsch, enduring wisdom from passing fads. Finally, the tradition teaches that a college education isn’t simply for the privileged few who apply, enroll and matriculate. As Siena trustee, Fr. Kenneth Himes, O.F.M., once said, “We are here for the sake of those who are not here. We must study and learn and become wise for the benefit of those who will never sit inside a classroom”—the poor, the disenfranchised, the marginalized, the least of our brothers and sisters so dear to the hearts of Christ and St. Francis.

Solid steps have already been taken toward a more promising future. Building on what it does best, Siena is creating fresh spaces and developing new programs that can accomplish what no on-line course or set of courses can do: bring faculty and students together into a vibrant Franciscan learning community committed to scholarship, innovation and service. The pages of this issue of Siena News will introduce you to some recent initiatives which, in the face of real challenges ahead, are a source of Siena pride and a cause for genuine hope.

A model and mentor

Eight hundred years ago, a young merchant and former soldier looked at the world around him and saw that it was rapidly changing. He realized that a centuries-old institution that he loved was far too wedded to the past and far too invested in the status quo to respond effectively to the challenges of his time. He heard a voice that urged him to “rebuild my house” and, with plenty of pluck, courage and enthusiasm, he answered the call with a resounding “yes.” The merchant, of course, was St. Francis of Assisi. The institution was the Church. The house that needed rebuilding was the human community, God’s good creation. May we be no less generous, daring and creative in renewing an institution we love—Siena College, for the sake of the world God loves.

Fraternally,

Br. F. Edward Coughlin, O.F.M., Ph.D.
President
The Board of Trustees removed the qualifier from his title in late November and appointed Br. F. Edward Coughlin, O.F.M., Ph.D., the 11th president of Siena College.

“I am honored to work with Siena’s accomplished faculty, dedicated administrators and staff, and talented students to help this institution thrive,” Coughlin said. “Remaining true to Siena’s roots while also branching out into new and uncharted directions is an ongoing task that will continue throughout my presidency.”

A spring 2015 date for Coughlin’s formal installation has yet to be determined.

A Franciscan brother for more than 40 years, Br. Ed has led a distinguished career in Catholic higher education as a scholar, professor and senior administrator. He was vice president for Franciscan mission at St. Bonaventure University and a Siena trustee before moving to Loudonville last summer. He became the College’s interim president in August when Fr. Kevin Mullen ’75, O.F.M., Ph.D., assumed his new responsibilities as provincial minister of Holy Name Province, Siena’s founding institution and the largest Franciscan community in the United States.

“Since the day he stepped into the president’s office, Br. Ed has guided the College with a clear vision for the future,” said Board of Trustees Chair Howard Foote ’74. “We are highly confident in his ability to advance Siena’s mission and navigate the complex challenges of higher education to ensure that our students receive the education of a lifetime.”

The older sibling of one Siena alum and the uncle of another, Coughlin has adjusted quickly to his new home and job, and has already become a familiar face on campus. It’s common to see the quietly affable friar eating lunch in Lonnstrom Dining Hall, enjoying the company of students and colleagues alike.

“Br. Ed has made a concerted effort to reach out to the students and to welcome them into
our community,” said Student Senate President Tom Kaczmarek ’15. “He actively embodies our Franciscan mission.”

Fr. Kenneth Himes ’71, O.F.M., Ph.D., agrees. Himes has known Br. Ed for many years, both as a fellow Franciscan and a fellow Siena trustee. “Ed Coughlin brings many needed gifts to the office of the presidency at Siena,” Himes said. Along with his extensive administrative experience, Br. Ed “has the energy and enthusiasm of a person half his age, and the spirituality and vision of a genuine Franciscan.”

Coughlin lost no time in putting that energy and enthusiasm to work for the College. “Since Br. Ed took the reins, I have had many opportunities to speak and work with him on a large variety of issues,” said faculty chair and professor of business law, Paul Dwyer ’71, J.D. “I have found that experience to be very positive and have come away from it with a deep and growing respect for his efforts, demeanor and attention to a wide variety of concerns in a short amount of time.”

Busy as he is, Br. Ed makes praying and recreating with the other friars a priority. “Gathering with my brothers in the friary chapel and dining room is a great way to begin and end my day,” Coughlin said. “It keeps me grounded. It reminds me who I am. In one of his admonitions, St. Francis taught that ‘who we are before God, that we are and nothing more.’ With God and the friars, I’m just Eddie.”

At the Franciscan Cup game in November, when the men’s basketball team beat St. Bonaventure University to retain the prize for another year, a Bonaventure student held up a sign that read: “Br. Ed loves Bona’s more.” Judging from his first few months in office, the words and deeds of Siena’s no-longer-interim president raise grave doubts about that claim. Whether you call him President Coughlin, Br. Ed or Eddie, he’s well on the way to becoming a Siena Saint.
Casey’s A Hit Off the Bat
By Mike Clemens ’15 and Jim Eaton

Over the past eight months, Siena College made significant changes to two academic buildings and the Sarazen Student Union. All of the facility upgrades were intended to enhance the overall student experience and to better serve their academic needs.

During the summer break, the Sarazen Student Union received its first major renovation since the building opened in 2001. The most prominent feature is Casey’s, a counter-service restaurant and student lounge located at the site of the former campus bookstore. It features a grill area and Fair Trade coffee shop, ample seating, a stage for student performances and a game room. The bookstore has moved to a redesigned and remodeled retail space on the lower level of the SSU.

“It’s great that Siena now has a place for students to congregate,” said English major Regina Stracqualursi ’15. “Casey’s is the student center that we didn’t have before and it’s really making a difference on campus.”

The renovated Sarazen Student Union also includes an improved commuter support area, an interfaith prayer room and new office spaces for student clubs and organizations.
High-Impact Spaces in Siena Hall

On the second floor of Siena Hall, the College built an entirely new space for its Center for Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity. CURCA’s primary goal is to partner students and faculty members in shared scholarship.

“Mentored, undergraduate research is a type of student activity that is really growing,” said Cheryl Buff ’82, Ph.D., professor of marketing and director of CURCA. “It is an excellent form of student engagement, and every student can participate in it.”

CURCA facilitates undergraduate research through various venues: independent study, capstone courses, honors theses and initiatives such as the Siena Summer Scholars Program.

In 2014 the program funded 58 undergraduates and supported another 30 students through research grants.

“Having a centralized organization for undergraduate research is key not just to the continued success of our students, but also because it allows us to learn from one another,” said Buff.

Down the hall from CURCA are
the new offices of the Stack Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship. Since 2010, the Stack Center has been helping Siena students of all majors to put their ideas into action by developing realistic and achievable business plans.

“The students get to put their hands on the process of making a business, product or service come to life,” said Mike Hickey ’83, director of the Stack Center. The Center has already launched two student-led enterprises, and each year involves more than 300 students in entrepreneurial activity. Their goal is to cultivate sound business strategies and enhance the drive for success beyond Siena.
SAInT Center Provides Scientific Instrument Training for Undergrads

The College’s Morrell science building is home to the new Stewart’s Advanced Instrumentation and Technology Center. The SAInT Center is an advanced interdisciplinary laboratory intended to establish Siena as an undergraduate leader in scientific instruments training.

“The SAInT Center allows students to have hands-on experience with advanced instrumentation in a way that can dramatically improve their ability to succeed after college,” said SAInT Center Director Kristopher Kolonko, Ph.D. “There aren’t too many colleges that have this kind of equipment. That gives our students a huge advantage in what they can learn and what they can achieve.”

Although it is housed in Morrell, the SAInT Center is intended to be interdisciplinary.

“There are applications here at the SAInT Center for students of all majors. This is not just for science students,” said School of Science Dean Allan Weatherwax, Ph.D. “We have instruments in this new facility that can be of use to creative arts majors or history majors, equipment that can allow them to delve more fully into their own research. Our hope is that the SAInT Center helps to establish diverse connections among various majors and departments at Siena.”

It’s already making a difference by giving students easy access to industry-grade instruments.

“The SAInT Center allows me to specialize in my studies and to show potential employers that I am ready to enter the workforce,” said environmental science major Laurel Boser ’16. “I feel much more prepared for the future.”

“With today’s challenges to the value of a college education, our gift to the Stewart’s Advanced Instrumentation and Technology Center will help Siena continue to close the gap between the theory of education and the reality of getting a meaningful job.”
- Bill Dake, Stewart’s Shops chairman of the board
**Siena On The Rise**

By Mark Adam

As Siena President Br. Ed Coughlin, O.F.M., Ph.D., conveyed in his opening letter, the College is facing many challenges shared by other private, undergraduate institutions in the Northeast. Rising to these challenges, Siena has drawn upon its strengths of offering students high-impact learning opportunities from an exceptional faculty with strong support services.

**Internships:**

Internships are the “single most important credential for recent college graduates to have on their resume,” according to a Chronicle of Higher Education survey. Placements continue to increase for students.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Placements</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008-09</td>
<td>175</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009-10</td>
<td>214</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010-11</td>
<td>227</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011-12</td>
<td>242</td>
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<td>2012-13</td>
<td>311</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013-14</td>
<td>313</td>
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**First-Year Seminar:**

A two-semester, writing-intensive course that prepares freshmen for the intellectual life of college. Sections taught by seasoned, full-time faculty have increased each year since the program began in fall 2011.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Participation Rate (%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011-12</td>
<td>41.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012-13</td>
<td>44.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013-14</td>
<td>54.8%</td>
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**Diversity:**

Siena has made a commitment to creating a culture of diversity as part of its strategic plan. In the past six years, the diverse student population on campus nearly doubled.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Participation Rate (%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>11.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>14.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>16.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>18.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>21.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>20.7%</td>
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**Financial Strength:**

The College has been fiscally responsible and has maintained a healthy endowment not shared by local competitor schools.

Source: U.S. News & World Report

Siena’s comprehensive campaign has energized philanthropic giving to the College. These funds have been dedicated to academic programs, scholarships and athletics.

Even in tough times, it’s hard to keep a good college down. With a committed board of trustees, an accomplished faculty, dedicated staff, talented students and an energetic new president, Siena continues to move onward and upward.
By Mike Clemens ’15

Most people are introduced to their future college as high school juniors. They discover it on an admissions visit, by searching websites, or through the advice of a guidance counselor. My connection to Siena College began much earlier. From the time I was very young, I had Siena College t-shirts in my dresser. They weren’t purchases of my proud alumni parents, but gifts from a Franciscan friar whom they had met and befriended during their time as Siena students—Fr. Julian Davies, O.F.M., Ph.D.

The relationship my parents sustained with Davies is a testament to the kind of lifelong connections for which Siena is famous. Now, as I prepare to graduate from Siena, that same friar who subtly introduced me to the Siena community with tiny t-shirts is preparing to move on as well.

Davies came to Siena in the fall of 1969. At the end of this academic year, after 44 years of teaching philosophy, he will retire. In his time here, Davies has served the College in several capacities: as a professor, a priest, a friar-in-residence and, most recently, as an archivist. For 15 years, he also ministered in the Marriage Encounter Movement, helping couples improve their unions. Still, his impressive career is defined not so much by the successes he has amassed, but by the people whose lives he’s touched.

“In almost every graduating class, there have been students I’ve kept in contact with,” Davies said. “When you’ve been at this as long as I have, you start to get the children of former students in class as well, which is always nice.”

It is through one of these connections that I first came to know Siena, and it is the Siena spirit of friendship and community that has allowed Davies to take such an active part in the lives of so many former students.

“I’ve done probably a dozen or more alumni weddings,” he said. “The majority of the weddings I’ve performed during my ministry have been connected in some way to Siena. Beyond that, I can’t count the number of baptisms.”

Davies earned his bachelor’s degree in philosophy from St. Bonaventure University and his master’s degree and doctorate from Fordham University. A specialist in medieval philosophy, Davies got his first taste of the discipline when he joined the Franciscan order.

“At first I was frightened of it [philosophy],” he laughs. “But I was fortunate to have some very inspiring Franciscan teachers, and they helped me cultivate a passion for the subject.”

When you talk with Davies, his sense of humor is what stands out. He told me stories about Siena students past and present that stay with him and make him laugh. He’s even a good sport about the nickname they’ve given him over the years, “D+ Davies.” When I asked him about it, he took a moment and then chuckled.

“Is it D+ now?” he asked. “Because it used to be ‘D for Davies.’ I guess grade inflation has set in.”

In the last few years, Davies has developed a new interest serving as a chaplain aboard cruise ships, an opportunity that has enabled him to see the world. Of all the places he has visited and all the people he’s met around the globe, Davies is always happy to return to Siena, the place he credits with allowing him to enrich his life in so many different ways. “This is truly a wonderful place,” Davies said.

And so it will remain because, even in retirement, Davies will continue to call 515 Loudon Road his home.

Above: Fr. Julian Davies, O.F.M., professor of philosophy and college archivist, continues to form bonds with Siena students like Mike Clemens ’15. This spring he is retiring after 44 years at Siena College.
No Margin for Error in SRI Election Predictions

By Ken Jubie ’04

After the votes were counted, the results were announced and the acceptance speeches given, New York’s newly elected leaders and their supporters weren’t the only ones cheering. Don Levy, Ph.D., director of the Siena Research Institute and his colleagues had reason to celebrate as well. Their polling was perfect.

SRI accurately predicted the winners in all 15 races it polled this election season, including three statewide races – governor, attorney general and comptroller – seven hotly contested New York congressional races and five state senate contests.

“We were thrilled,” said Levy. “Our entire team worked for months conducting background research, building partnerships with media outlets, drafting the surveys, constructing our likely voter and turnout model, administering the surveys, analyzing and finally releasing the data.”


“Political polling can be a hazardous process, particularly because there are so many partisan operations out there that use the guise of polling to push their agendas. As a news outlet, we need polling that gives us the fairest, most accurate assessment of what’s going on in Long Island,” said Benjamin Weller, Newsday assistant managing editor/politics.

SRI’s success in predicting this year’s election results led the political website City & State to name Levy one of its post-election winners, stating, “When the Siena Research Institute began releasing polls over a month ago showing state Senate Democrats trailing badly in key battleground races, party officials scoffed. When the pollster found Rep. Michael Grimm way ahead of Domenic Recchia, and Lee Zeldin beating Rep. Tim Bishop, and John Katko up by double digits over Rep. Dan Maffei, critics raised doubts about voter turnout models and tried to undercut Siena by dredging up examples of where it got it wrong. On Election Day, however, Siena and polling director Don Levy were 15 for 15 in picking the winners.”

City & State is the only media company to solely cover government and politics in New York. It was created two years ago by the merger of City Hall and The Capitol newspapers.

SRI has seen success far beyond the polling done for the 2014 election. The historical accuracy and methodology of its polls were evaluated and graded by Nate Silver’s FiveThirtyEight Politics website. FiveThirtyEight graded Siena an A-, the highest grade given to any college or university pollster.

“I appreciate the opportunity and support the College provides in this endeavor as well as the chance to conduct polling, much of which is inspired by our mission,” Levy said. “Collaborating with various government agencies, nonprofits and corporate sponsors that many people don’t hear about is another fascinating and fruitful component of our work.”
Service Trip Sparks Support of Kenyans Living in Poverty

By Rebecca Davis ’15

With another challenging academic year behind them, Meaghan Flatley ’15, Monica Anis ’15 and Alexander Goncalves ’14 headed to Kenya. This was no exotic vacation. Rather, they spent six weeks working at the Marigat Catholic Mission as part of the Siena College/Albany Medical College joint acceptance program’s summer of service.

While in the African country, Flatley, Anis and Goncalves visited villages and schools with five Franciscan sisters. The poverty they witnessed made them eager to enact positive change. They are now working with Siena’s social work department to raise money to improve education and medical conditions for the area.

“What I found incredibly meaningful about this trip was visiting what was basically a refugee camp for the Turkana tribespeople,” Flatley said. “They are highly stigmatized in the region and have been forced off their land by war and government corruption.”

Turkana children in Kenya are often left uneducated while their parents struggle to provide for their families, most earning less than two dollars a day. The service trip team visited the Alice Ingham Primary School, which was created just for the Turkana people. Once there, the team learned that many of the students were orphans who were enduring the entire 12-hour school day without food.

The Siena group also visited a mobile clinic run by Sr. Veronica, who drove around with sparse medical supplies trying to help the area’s ill and to examine pregnant women in a region that is desperate for a maternity ward. That need became evident when the service team met a baby who had been born on a classroom table.

After seeing what the Marigat Catholic Mission needed and how far dollars can be stretched there, the service team decided to establish an online fundraiser that seeks to provide Kenyan students at the Alice Ingham Primary School with daily lunches and scholarships for their school fees. The team also hopes to furnish the mobile clinic with supplies and medicine, and to finance a one-room maternity ward.

Flatley has developed an admiration for the sisters who work for the Marigat Catholic Mission and for the Turkana people and she hopes to return to the area.

“Just by shadowing at the medical clinic, I learned a lot. It helped me identify the needs of these people and taught me that I can make a big difference in their lives,” Flatley said. “It also reaffirmed my decision to become a doctor.”

College Radio Day Tunes Students into Communications

By Angelina Castro ’16

Siena’s 88.3-FM WVCR “The Saint” joined more than 700 college stations across the country in celebrating College Radio Day on October 10, 2014. The international event began in 2010 to raise awareness of college radio stations in the United States. More than 50 stations in New York participated in the event designed to attract new listeners and college students to their stations.

“It was exciting to unify all the college radio stations in the nation,” said WVCR General Manager Darrin Scott Kibbey. “It was wildly successful and we’re looking forward to doing it again next year.”

Along with prizes and giveaways, WVCR gave Siena students an unexpected treat, the opportunity to be live on the radio speaking to listeners throughout New York’s Capital Region, parts of Vermont and western Massachusetts as well as online at iHeartRadio.

“I absolutely loved it,” said Alexis Molnar ’17. “I have always wanted to be on the radio and this has certainly piqued my interest.”

Molnar and other Siena students had the opportunity to develop communications skills, use radio equipment, learn about broadcasting and understand the business and sales aspects of the industry.

Whether it is experiencing College Radio Day or completing an internship with the station, WVCR is giving Siena students the opportunity to learn about an exciting industry and, in the process, tune in to new areas of interest.
Seniors Honored at Professional Conferences

By Jim Eaton

Julie Sullivan ’15 won the best student paper award at the New York State Economics Association Conference held at Siena the weekend of October 10-11. She is the first Saint to earn this accolade during the 10-year competition, which this year featured submissions from Williams, Colgate, Barnard and other prestigious colleges and universities.

“I was really surprised and honored,” Sullivan said. “It was nice to see that the hours I put into the research over the summer months really paid off.”

Sullivan, an economics major and health services administration minor, was commended for her work in analyzing the link between physician coverage and patient outcomes in New York state.

Her paper, titled “Doctor Deficiency: Disparities in Physician Availability in the Baby Business and Birth Outcomes in New York State,” was the fruit of her labors as a Siena Summer Scholar funded by the Center for Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity. James Booker, Ph.D., professor of economics, served as her mentor for the project.

Meanwhile, sociology major Delaney Rives ’15 and biology majors Meaghan Flatley ’15 and Isabella Bautista ’15 shared their research at the 62nd annual meeting of the New York State Sociological Association this fall.

“We presented alongside Ph.D.s and doctoral candidates, which was very exciting,” said Flatley. “It was so great to see our work discussed in such a serious scholarly setting.”

Flatley and Bautista studied how women are portrayed in Disney princess films, research the students continued from their class with sociology professor Suwarna Cherukuri, Ph.D.

The pair used 11 Disney movies to document the princesses in the presence of traditionally “masculine” traits such as strength, bravery and independence and “feminine” traits such as being scared, distraught or weak. They found that, over time, the princesses’ masculine traits increased while their feminine traits diminished. The students also discovered that until the 2012 film, “Brave,” the ultimate goal for every princess was marriage.

“Children learn and are socialized through experience, and these films are a part of that experience. It forms their ideas on gender roles,” said Flatley.

Rives shared her work on feminist identity development and activism on a Catholic college campus. Her research involved interviewing eight people on campus from different departments regarding the gender and sexuality spectrum and asking their views on feminism, gender identity and sexuality.

She found that people in groups such as the LGBT community and women tended to assess feminism more positively. She also found that many people don’t have a clear understanding of the meaning of feminism, which is defined as “the advocacy of women’s rights on the grounds of social, political and economic equality to men.”

Regardless of the careers these women pursue, conducting this research and sharing it with accomplished scholars have helped them develop valuable skills that will serve them well in the future.
The original play “Child Soldier” was produced by the Creative Arts Department and Stage III this fall. The performance chronicles the transition of a former female child soldier from the war in Liberia, West Africa to an inner-city American public high school.

By Ken Jubie ’04

Siena appointed Gerald “Jerry” DeFrancisco ’68 to the position of distinguished civic leader in residence within the College’s Office of Academic Community Engagement. He will serve as a consultant, mentor and resource to the students enrolled in ACE programs and the nonprofit organizations they serve.

“The ACE program teaches Siena students the importance of managing with both heart and head,” said DeFrancisco.

He applied that style of leadership as president of humanitarian services for the American Red Cross, the position he held before returning to work at his alma mater. In that role, DeFrancisco led operations for more than 1,500 Red Cross locations in the United States and around the world. He helped to transform the governance, service delivery processes and organizational structure for Red Cross humanitarian services.

During his tenure, DeFrancisco helped to direct recovery efforts following disasters like Hurricane Sandy.

DeFrancisco will partner with ACE Director Mathew Johnson ’93, Ph.D. in strategic planning for the program and its participating agencies.

“He brings a perspective to the work that is focused on the desired social justice outcomes for marginalized people in our community,” said Johnson. “Jerry is an example of our mission to build a world that is more just, peaceable and humane.”

DeFrancisco joins an organization that is already making a significant difference in the Capital Region and beyond by developing community partnerships that help local nonprofits plan for the future, find efficiencies and establish sustainable protocols for growth and success.

“The Capital District runs on Siena talent,” said Stewart’s Shops Foundation President, Campaign donor and Siena Trustee Susan Dake during DeFrancisco’s welcoming ceremony. Dake said that she routinely sees Siena graduates, employees and students taking an active role in community organizations and events.

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That commitment to the College’s Franciscan mission of working among the poor and marginalized to build a better world is at the core of ACE’s spirit. It’s also an ideology that aligns with the mission of SEFCU and its president and chief executive officer Michael Castellana.

During the ceremony, Castellana announced that, for every $25,000 Siena raises for its ACE endowment, SEFCU will match it every year for the next five years. “When we see something that works, we want to invest in it,” Castellana said.
By Jenna Kersten ’17

Veterans Day gives all Americans the chance to reflect upon the service and sacrifice of members of the United States military. Former Navy chaplain and current guardian of the Siena friary, Fr. Mark Reamer ‘83, O.F.M., called the holiday a day of “thanksgiving for veterans.”

That was the overarching message at this year’s Veterans’ Recognition Dinner. The annual event featured a talk by veteran and J. Crew chief operating officer, Jim Scully ’87. He acknowledged the sacrifice and determined character of veterans, active duty members and ROTC cadets. He also spoke about the impact his service has had on his life. “My military experience, which began here with Siena’s ROTC program, provided me the foundation for my leadership qualities and skills,” Scully said.

Brigadier General William Martin ’78 was inducted into the Mohawk Battalion Hall of Fame during the dinner. Martin was an Army officer following his graduation from Siena and as his career progressed, he distinguished himself through various assignments and the multiple awards he received. Despite the honors, Martin focused on the service of others.

“I want to thank the veterans and their families for their service and their sacrifice. I want to thank the cadets in this room for their commitment to this nation and to what we stand for,” Martin said. “Finally, I want to thank Siena, and all of you, for what you’re doing to acknowledge and promote military service in this nation.”

Matthew Bullett ’15, a student in Siena’s master of science in accounting program, was also honored with the 2014 Veteran Award, and accounting major and second-year ROTC candidate Colleen Oulahan ’17 received the 2014 Cadet Award.

Oulahan described how she uses Franciscan values in her daily life. “I try to hold myself to a higher standard as a leader in the ROTC setting and in the classroom,” said Oulahan, who hopes to apply those same values during a career in the United States Army.

The evening ended with the recognition of Tony Schmitz ’55. A 90-year-old World War II veteran, he served in North Africa, Italy and France from 1942 until 1945. Schmitz has received 14 decorations and awards, including the Insignia of Chevalier of the Order of the Legion of Honor from the French government, the highest award the French can give to a foreign citizen.

“I was fortunate,” Schmitz said with a smile. “I’m very lucky.”

Siena ROTC cadet Zachary Larson ’15 summed up the emotions of the day. “Today is about the veterans. Siena has a rich history of ROTC and it’s important for us to show respect for those who have served,” Larson said.

The 2014 Veterans Recognition Dinner was sponsored by Peter J. Lattimore ’68, Trustee Robert McCormick ’87 and Trustco Bank.
Lane Trains Next Generation of Army Officers

By Angelina Castro ’16

After serving around the world in places like South Korea and Afghanistan, Lieutenant Colonel Patrick Lane came home to New York’s Capital Region where he now commands the Army ROTC program’s Mohawk Battalion.

“I was probably in line to go back to Washington, D.C., or Tampa, Florida, but I know for a fact that the number one priority of the chief of staff of the Army is leader development,” Lane said. “I think that this is where I need to be, investing in the future of our Army.”

Now a professor of military science, the decorated officer and Albany native is finding new ways to dedicate his life to the armed forces. Instead of being deployed overseas, Lane is stationed at Siena College where he is mentoring cadets from Siena, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and the University at Albany.

Lane was born into a military household and followed the family tradition after graduating from college in 1999. He came to Siena in May and said that the people at the College have made him feel at home. “I could not think of a better place,” he said. “The support that we get from the Siena community is just tremendous.”

During his distinguished military career, Lane earned several awards and decorations, including the Bronze Star and a Purple Heart. He holds a bachelor’s degree from Canisius College and a master’s from the University of Phoenix and the Naval War College.

Siena has a rich history of educating military veterans, and the ROTC program has been a staple of the College community for decades. Siena was named a 2015 Military Friendly® School by Victory Media, the leader in connecting the military and civilian worlds. The Military Friendly® Schools designation is awarded to colleges, universities and trade schools that are doing the most to embrace military students and help them succeed.

ROTC Senior in Top 20 Percent in the Nation

By Jim Eaton

Zachary Larson ’15 and Michael Lowney ’15 have been appointed to active duty in the U.S. Army upon their graduation from Siena. The cadets are in the College’s Army ROTC program. Larson will serve as a field artillery officer and will be a Distinguished Military Graduate, an honor reserved for the top 20 percent of all ROTC cadets in the nation. Lowney will be an officer in the Signal Corps.

Siena Places Third in Army’s Ranger Challenge Competition

By Jim Eaton

Zachary Larson ’15 led Siena’s Mohawk Battalion Ranger Challenge team to a third place finish out of 14 teams in the small school category and ninth out of 42 overall at the U.S. Army Cadet Command Ranger Challenge Competition. The challenge, held at Fort Dix in New Jersey on October 11-12, is a mentally and physically grueling contest among the top cadets of Army ROTC programs in the Northeast. The cadets were required to complete several demanding tasks including a 10k ruck march, obstacle course, one-rope bridge and log carry.
History Professor Featured in T.V. Documentary

By Ken Jubie ’04

Jennifer Dorsey, Ph.D., helped bring stories of the American Revolution’s unsung heroes to life for a national audience. The associate professor of history and director of the McCormick Center for the Study of the American Revolution was featured in the mini-series “The American Revolution.”

Premiered in mid-December on the American Heroes Channel, the three-part series chronicled some of the forgotten faces in the fight for independence. Dorsey spoke as a specialist in African American history about the impact of James Armistead, a Virginia slave turned American spy.

Her interview was recorded during the summer in New York City. “At first, I was a bit nervous,” Dorsey said. After she got used to the lights, camera, green screen and production crew, Dorsey shared her insights with millions of viewers.

“This documentary is an extraordinary opportunity to teach the history of the American Revolution to a national audience and give prominence to Siena College’s McCormick Center,” Dorsey said. “I am very thankful for the privilege.”

The American Heroes Channel is a franchise of Discovery Communications. Currently broadcasting in 60 million homes, it is devoted to depicting major events of the past, and the visionary leaders, surprising protagonists, and brave men and women who shaped our world.

Siena Earns National Recognition for Service Work

By Ken Jubie ’04

The College was named to the 2014 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for the third year, and for the first time with distinction in the “general community service” category. Siena is also one of 361 institutions nationwide to receive the Community Engagement Classification from the Carnegie Foundation, a distinction that the College will hold for the next 10 years.

Participants in community service programs will provide more than 120,000 hours annually of high quality capacity-building service to dozens of organizations throughout the Capital Region. Their service is equivalent to more than $3.1 million in community contribution as valued by Independent Sector, the industry’s independent volunteer valuation standard.
A Legacy of Love:
Siena Dedicates Snyder Hall

By Ken Jubie ’04

We’ve heard the old cliché, “A picture is worth a thousand words,” and if you ask Dennis Winger ’69, he’ll probably tell you it’s true.

During his 45th Siena College reunion last summer, Winger came across a yearbook photo of Jim Snyder, the founder of Siena’s Mentoring Program, surrounded by children. Upon closer inspection, Winger also recognized a familiar face in the background—it was his, as a college senior.

The picture sparked memories of the fall day in 1968 when it was taken. Winger was helping Snyder run a picnic in scenic Thatcher Park for the children in the Mentoring Program, known at that time as the Big Brothers/Big Sisters Program.

While he was never a “big brother,” Winger spent a lot of time helping Snyder with the program. Those interactions had a profound impact on his life, just as they did for the countless Siena students and children Snyder affected during the more than 50 years he was associated with the College.

“A lot of good has been done under the influence of Jim Snyder,” Winger said. “I’m just proud to be one of those thousands of people who had a chance to interface with him.”

Winger slid the keepsake photograph into the pocket of his blazer and brought it back home to California. A few weeks later, as he was preparing to take his coat to the cleaner, Winger found the picture and placed it on his dresser.

That’s when the photo started to speak its mind. “Every day, I’m looking at this picture. And every day, more and more, I’m starting to get a message that I’m supposed to be doing something here,” Winger said.

At first, he wasn’t sure what it was telling him to do, but after he thought about it for a while, Winger realized that he was being called to honor his mentor and friend Jim Snyder, who passed away in February.

He told his wife, Barbara Waldman, that he wanted to have Siena’s new residence hall named in Snyder’s honor saying, “We have to do one of two things: we either have to get Siena to rename New Hall, Snyder Hall, or we have to put that picture back in the closet.”

Waldman agreed and the couple made a substantial leadership gift to Siena that allowed for the naming of Snyder Hall, which was officially dedicated and blessed during a special ceremony on December 4.

“Their gift, and other gifts that they have made, have helped us in different ways continue the work of Jim, and for that we are deeply grateful,” said Siena College President Br. F. Edward Coughlin, O.F.M., Ph.D.

Snyder’s family was touched by the event and the outpouring of love and support.

“His goal was to work here long enough to earn a chair. I promise he never imagined this beautiful building,” said Snyder’s wife, Teresa Thayer Snyder, Ph.D.

Snyder said that her late husband loved Siena students and the thousands of “littles” who crossed the campus as part of the Mentoring Program, which remains an integral part of the Franciscan Center for Service and Advocacy.

“In these uncertain times, Jim would want me to say that we should remember we are all family,” Snyder said. “He would want us to remember what he believed most profoundly, that each of us can change this world one child at a time.”

Snyder brought children from the Albany area to campus and paired them with volunteer Siena students, inspiring many to attend college. Some, like accounting major J’Vanay Santos ’16, came full circle by enrolling at Siena. She was first introduced to Snyder when she entered the Mentoring Program as a feisty fifth grader.

“I would not be here today if it was not for him being such a big piece in my life,” Santos said, adding that Snyder never judged and always sought to find the good in people.

“He wasn’t helping those who were less fortunate,” Santos said. “He was simply expanding his family and showing others the same compassion he raised his own children with.”

Much as the building that now bears his name will do for generations of Siena students, the Mentoring Program will continue to provide a fun, safe environment in which to learn and grow. While it’s not what he might have pictured, it’s safe to say that Snyder is happily watching over both his building and his program, interested to see how future generations of students will continue his legacy of love.
Siena’s recent run of MAAC Championships continued this fall when the volleyball team captured its ninth MAAC title.

The latest championship completed a strong 2014 for Siena athletics that included baseball, men’s lacrosse and women’s golf MAAC Championships and NCAA appearances along with the men’s basketball 2014 College Basketball Invitational championship.

Garvey Pierre, women’s head volleyball coach, has now led his teams to five NCAA Tournament appearances in his 12 years at Siena, more than any coach in school history. The latest may have been his most improbable trip to the Big Dance.

Siena started the season 1-9, and after Canisius swept the Saints at home on the opening weekend of conference play, a MAAC Championship didn’t seem realistic. However, Pierre got the Saints on track and they hit their stride at the perfect time. They closed their season with nine straight victories including a thrilling five-set victory over regular-season champion Marist in the nationally televised title match at ESPN’s Wide World of Sports Complex at Disney World.

“It just really means a lot to us,” said captain Jacqueline Skeen ’15. “We’ve been working really hard the last four years. Last year we didn’t make it, we had to sit in our home court and watch everybody else play. So this has been a really great experience for us.”

Siena was assigned a date with defending national champion Penn State in the NCAA Tournament, and a three-set sweep at the hands of the Nittany Lions did little to dampen the team’s spirits.

“It told them to go out there, have fun and play the best you can,” Pierre said.

Siena’s best has been good enough more often than not and the Saints future looks just as bright as its remarkable past.
Two Lost Rings, 23 Years and 15 Minutes of Fame

By Jason Rich ’98

If you have ever spent time in the Marcelle Athletic Complex, chances are you’ve bumped into Siena head athletic trainer Greg Dashnaw. Hammer, as he is affectionately known, has provided care to student athletes for the last three decades, and done so with a humility and dedication that typify Siena at its best. Student athletes stay in touch with him long after graduation, and his infectious laugh is one of the most anticipated sounds when they return to campus.

As visible and well-liked as Dashnaw is on campus, he isn’t someone who seeks attention. That’s why it was especially satisfying to hear his laugh on national airwaves this fall when a bizarre set of circumstances thrust him into the spotlight.

The story begins in the late 1980s when Siena made its first NIT and NCAA appearances in men’s basketball and forged some of Dashnaw’s fondest memories. “The players, the memories, the wins and the coaches. We were a family. It was exciting, it was magical because we had never taken that step before to the national stage,” he said.

Dashnaw was rewarded two rings for the men’s basketball team’s success, one commemorating the 1988 NIT trip and the other a tribute to the magical run to the Second Round of the 1989 NCAA tournament. Unfortunately, he didn’t get to spend much time with them. Both rings vanished from his apartment in 1991 while he was out of town on a basketball road trip. “They were pretty much the only things I had at the time that were worth anything,” Dashnaw said. “I don’t know if someone broke in or I left the door unlocked, but that was the last time I’d seen either of them.”

Dashnaw contemplated replacing the rings, because of their immense sentimental value. “I’ve been looking for them for years because of the memories that go with them,” he said.

Twenty-three years later, Dashnaw received a call this autumn, a call he never expected. Siena’s Human Resource Office informed him that somebody had anonymously dropped off the 1988 NIT ring. “I almost fell down,” Dashnaw said. “I couldn’t believe it. It just doesn’t happen like that.”

News spread quickly, and a feature story appeared a few days later in the Albany Times Union highlighting Dashnaw’s reunion with his prized possession.

That’s when things really got interesting. The day the story ran, Dashnaw received a call from a Menands police officer, asking if he could stop by and meet with him. “He said, ‘Somebody saw the article this morning, came into the station and anonymously dropped this off,’” Dashnaw said. “I was just shaking at that point.”

“This” was the 1989 NCAA tournament ring – Dashnaw’s sentimental token from the season that put Siena basketball on the map. Dashnaw’s good fortune became the talk of the town, and garnered national media attention from Yahoo! and NPR, among others.

It was a whirlwind experience, but in the end Hammer was just happy to have his rings back. “There are just a ton of memories associated with those rings,” he said. “So to have them back is incredible. Now I guess I believe in miracles.”
Cynthia Bott, Ph.D., assistant professor of social work, presented at the National Association of Social Work Conference in Washington, D.C., on July 25. Her research was titled “A Survey-Based Study of Social Workers’ Critical Consciousness and Practice with LGB Clients.”

Scott Bianco, visiting assistant professor of quantitative business analysis, shared his research titled “Juggling Patterns” at the Hudson River Undergraduate Mathematics Conference.

Raymond Boisvert, Ph.D., professor of philosophy, published a book titled “I Eat, Therefore I Think: Food and Philosophy.” The book, published in June by Rowman and Littlefield, discusses the various ways in which digesting food can help reshape the current understanding of fundamental philosophical questions.

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Cheryl Buff ‘82, Ph.D., director of the Center for Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity, received a $50,000 grant for team-based research from the William Randolph Hearst Foundation. The project, titled “TeamBILD,” will focus on big issues and leading-edge discovery for topics such as sustainability, health and well-being, and information technology’s impact on society. The research grant will fund:

- a team of three students, one from each school, in summer 2015
- two teams of three students in summer 2016
- faculty mentors from the Schools of Liberal Arts, Business and Science to support each team.

The interdisciplinary nature of the program will encourage students to synthesize knowledge from different content areas to form new insights.

Buff and Sarah Burr ’15 also presented their research, “Social Media and the Fear of Missing Out: Scale Development and Assessment,” at the 2014 International Business Conference in Las Vegas. This paper is co-authored by Jessica Abel ’13, senior marketing coordinator at Beech-Nut Foods.

James Burnes, Ph.D., assistant professor of quantitative business analysis, presented “Emmett O’Neill’s Dentistry” at the Society for Case Research Summer Workshop at Rock Hill, South Carolina in July.

Greg Byrnes, Ph.D., assistant professor of biology, has found the answer to how snakes move and climb by studying a variety of limbless reptiles ranging from boa constrictors to green tree pythons. His research indicates that snakes grip trees by squeezing their muscles, in much the same way human beings use their hands to grip a rope while climbing. His findings were featured in national scientific publications, including Biology Letters and the “ Weird and Wild” page of the National Geographic website. Byrnes has been studying snakes since his 2009 post-doctoral work at the University of Cincinnati.


Nathalie Degroult, Ph.D., associate professor of modern languages, traveled to the annual American Association of Teachers of French convention in New Orleans, La., July 15-22. Degroult presented her pedagogical chapter “Elle s’appelait Sarah” published in “Allons au Cinéma: Promoting French through Film” during the workshop “Allons au Cinéma: AATF Presents a New Film Volume.” Degroult was also invited to present with Michèle Bissière (University of North Carolina, Charlotte and co-president of the AATF commission on Cultural Competency) “Retour sur le cinéma beur,” an in-depth analysis of the cinematic representation of Franco-Maghrebis. In addition, Degroult published an interview of best-selling French author Grégoire Delacourt in the November 2014 issue of the National Bulletin. She is currently the managing editor of the French Review.


Mara Drogan, Ph.D., visiting assistant professor of history, presented “Political Goals Versus Technological Realities in Eisenhower’s Atoms for Peace Program” at the Workshop on Nuclear Experts and Nuclear Expertise in a Global Context after 1945, Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany. In June, Professor Drogan shared her research “Nuclearism and the Bandung Conference of 1955” on a panel she organized, “Challenges to the Nuclear Order from the Global South in the 1950s,” at the annual meeting of the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations, Lexington, Ky.
of candidates.

Foster had been chosen for the invitational Black and White Show at Leuven, Belgium. The collection will be published as part of Peter Lang's "Imagining Ireland: Rural Irish Fiction," an essay that has been accepted for inclusion in "The Irish Short Story: Traditions and Trends.” The collection will be published as part of Peter Lang's "Imagining Ireland" book series and is edited by Elke d'Hoker of Katholieke Universiteit, Leuven, Belgium.

Mary Fitzgerald-Hoyt, Ph.D., professor of English, wrote “Torching the Thatched Cottage: Claire Keegan’s Rural Irish Fiction,” an essay that has been accepted for inclusion in “The Irish Short Story: Traditions and Trends.” The collection will be published as part of Peter Lang's "Imagining Ireland" book series and is edited by Elke d'Hoker of Katholieke Universiteit, Leuven, Belgium.

Scott Nelson Foster, M.F.A., assistant professor of creative arts, had his watercolors featured in the juried invitational Black and White Show at the Albany Center Gallery during July and August. Foster's commissioned portrait, “St. Kateri Tekakwitha and Children” was unveiled at Schenectady's St. Kateri Tekakwitha Parish in June. Foster had been chosen for the commission from an international field of candidates.

Marcela Garces, Ph.D., assistant professor of modern languages, was invited to present “Exploring the Modernization of the Human Side of Political Activity in the United States and Spain,” at Boston College in the department of Romance Languages. The talk was based on a documentary that Garces and her partner completed about Hillary Clinton titled “The Human Side of a Leader.” Garces also discussed differences between the politics of the U.S. and Spain.

Kimberly Lamay, visiting assistant professor of history, presented a paper on September 26 at the conference “The Great War’s Shadow: New Perspectives on the First World War” in Lake Louise, Alberta, Canada. Her research was titled “World War I in the Pulps: Fiction Cannot Ignore the Greatest Adventure of a Man’s Life!”

Daniel Lewis, Ph.D., assistant professor of political science, coauthored the article “Public Opinion and Judicial Behavior in Direct Democracy Systems: Gay Rights in the American States.” It was published in State Politics & Policy Quarterly. He also had two coauthored chapters published by the University of Michigan Press in the book “Transgender Rights and Politics.” The chapters examine the role of transgender advocacy groups in the wider LGBT Rights community and the diffusion of gender identity protections across America.

Karin Lin-Greenberg, M.F.A., assistant professor of English, published a collection of short stories titled “Faulty Predictions” in September. The collection received the prestigious Flannery O'Connor Award for Short Fiction from the University of Georgia Press. She published a short story, “In the Orchard,” in Five Chapters in August and another story, “Miller Duskmak’s Mistakes,” in the Summer Fiction edition of The Antioch Review. She was awarded a fellowship to the MacDowell Colony in New Hampshire to work on a second collection of stories over winter break.

Karen Ward Mahar, Ph.D., professor of history, and Laurie Naranch, Ph.D., associate professor of political science, were selected to attend the NEH Summer Institute on the “Meanings of Property,” held at Marist College, June 1-27. Naranch researched individual debt and citizenship, while Mahar investigated the role of masculinity in the creation of the 20th-century corporate elite.


Ryan McLaughlin, Ph.D., visiting assistant professor of religious studies, offered a paper titled “Cosmic Fallenness, Evolution, and Nonhuman Death” at the inaugural Oxford Summer School on Religion and Animal Protection at Oxford University. He also published two books in 2014 titled “Christian Theology and the Status of Animals: The Dominant Tradition and Its Alternatives” as well as “Preservation and Protest: Theological Foundations for an Eco- Eschatological Ethics.”

John Moustakas, Ph.D., assistant professor of physics, is part of a research team that is continuing its work with the Hubble space telescope. The team published two papers in the Astrophysical Journal, and Moustakas shared the results of his scholarship at the University of New Mexico Department of Physics and Astronomy Colloquium on October 17.

Manimoy Paul, Ph.D., assistant professor of quantitative business analysis, presented “Determinants of a College Basketball Team’s Revenue” at the New York State Economics Association annual conference. Manimoy also shared his research, “Socio-Economic Factors Behind Soccer Winning Nations,” at the same conference.

Fr. Mark Reamer ’83, O.F.M., D.Min., a native of New Jersey, returned to his alma mater in August 2014 to become the guardian of the friar community and mission officer of the College. Before coming back to Siena, he served for 19 years at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Raleigh, N.C., first as an associate, then as pastor. He holds a master of divinity from the Washington Theological Union in Washington, D.C., and a doctorate in pastoral leadership from Duke University in Durham, N.C. In October, Fr. Mark served as the keynote presenter for the Diocese of Rochester Stewardship Day. The title of his two-part talk was “Living the Vision.”

Carla Sofka, Ph.D., professor of social work, was invited to lead a half-day workshop titled “Beading as a Tool for Coping with Loss” at the International Conference on Grief and Bereavement in Hong Kong on June 9, 2014.

Karen Sonnelitter, Ph.D., assistant professor of history, presented a conference paper titled “Philanthropy and Famine in Eighteenth-Century Ireland” at Quinnipiac University’s Ulster-American Heritage Symposium in June 2014.

Perundevi Srinivasan, Ph.D., assistant professor of religious studies, was invited to lecture on “Mythology, Reality, Subject-Formation” to the Tamil Literary Association at Don Bosco Theological Seminary in Kavarappettai, India. Srinivasan also presented “Mariyamman at the Interface of Science and Religion.” The talk was at the Roja Muthiah Research Library in Chennai and was a part of Madras Week Celebrations in August 2014.

Fr. Dennis Tamburello ’75, O.F.M., Ph.D., lectured on Jewish-Christian relations in the Anti-Defamation League’s Bearing Witness Program at Manhattan College last summer. He also taught a graduate-level course on ecumenical and interfaith dialogue for St. Bernard’s School of Theology and Ministry.

Graziano Vernizzi, Ph.D., associate professor of physics and astronomy, obtained a time allocation grant to use the National Science Foundation’s Extreme Science and Engineering Discovery Environment. This opportunity enables researchers to utilize 16 supercomputers for high-end visualization and data analysis and to access the Open Science Grid, which facilitates distributed computing for scientific research across 126 institutions. The award will provide 200,000 hours of supercomputer time (equivalent to approximately 22 years and 10 months) for the study of computational and theoretical biophysics models to predict the folding of viral RNA molecules. Titled “Monte Carlo Studies of Random Matrix Theory for RNA Viruses,” this research contributes to the understanding of various biological functions that support and advance nanotechnology. Vernizzi will involve undergraduates in his research and integrate the time into his courses in numerical methods and computational physics.

Joseph Zoske, administrative coordinator of social work, gave a presentation titled “Cultural Competency and Male Health: Gender Medicine Meets Gender Studies,” to physicians in the New York State Preventive Medicine Residency Program on June 14, 2014 at the University of Albany’s Graduate School of Public Health.
A Scholarship to Pay it Forward
By Mark Adam

Everyone knows that scholarships help students and their families pay for college, and at Siena, students receive more than $36 million in scholarships each year. The impact of that aid is further illustrated when you look beyond the statistics and focus on the students.

For Megan Salavantis ’17, receiving a special new scholarship meant everything.

“Without this scholarship, I wouldn’t be here,” said Salavantis. Her family has endured difficult financial circumstances over the past year and she is the first recipient of Siena’s Forward Scholarship. It is valued at $12,500 a year, which is paid out of a $100,000 fund created by the donors. The Forward Scholarship is awarded to Siena students with “exceptional promise and who have demonstrated that they understand that to whom much has been given, much is expected as they go forward in life,” according to the scholarship letter. The aid has enabled Salavantis to remain at Siena.

Salavantis is making the most of her time as a Siena student. She is studying English and pre-law, serving as an admissions ambassador to prospective students and writing for Her Campus Siena, an online magazine. Salavantis plans to attend law school where she will focus on social justice.

Salavantis met the scholarship donors, who wished to remain anonymous, earlier this semester. She said they were warm, wonderful people who offered encouragement.

“I’m so grateful for what I have been given,” Salavantis said. “Siena is a community. It’s given to me and I have every intention of giving back to Siena.”

The following is a list of scholarships and endowed funds that were established from February 1, 2014 - November 24, 2014 through the generosity of alumni and friends of Siena College. A minimum gift of $30,000, payable over five years, is required to name a scholarship at Siena.

Scholarships
The Danielle ’06 & Stephen ’05 Barretta Scholarship
The Dr. Elina Burstyn Woman’s Health Scholarship
The Forward Scholarship Fund
The Girvin Family Scholarship
Global Medical Volunteers Program Endowment
The Lonnstrom Family Fund
HEOP Excellence Award Sponsored by Doug and Cris Lonnstrom
The Paul and Martha Mack Family Scholarship
The Jeffrey Muszynski ’97 Memorial Scholarship
The Porcelli Family Scholarship
The Rose Family Endowment
The Irene F. Saulsbery ’80 Siena/AMC Scholarship
The Richard ’79 and Terri (DuPré) ’79 Sleasman Scholarship
The Smail Global Medical Volunteers Fund

Congratulations to our 2014 Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees

Kenny Hasbrouck ’09
Men’s Basketball

Sarah Mayer ’09
Women’s Tennis

April London ’09
Volleyball

Chris Alesio ’89
Baseball
Alumni Inspire Students at Speaker Series

Students saw their potential firsthand as they met successful Siena College alumni during a guest speaker series on campus last semester.

The star-studded lineup included alums working at recognizable companies like General Electric and J. Crew, who graduated with majors spanning English to psychology.

A common theme appeared: Siena’s values and its focus on the liberal arts develop successful alumni in a holistic way.

“Here, they actually want us to do good with our lives, in addition to our futures being successful and happy,” said undeclared liberal arts major Andie Kaplan ’17.

Jim Scully ’87
Chief Operating Officer at J. Crew
Siena Major: English

Scully is living proof that teaching isn’t the only thing you can do with a degree in English. Now the chief operating officer for J.Crew, Scully returned to his alma mater earlier this semester to discuss how degrees in liberal arts, such as English, provide a “fully integrated experience” that can open doors to limitless opportunities, even ones you wouldn’t immediately expect.

“The liberal arts teach you to be proficient in communications, conceptual problem solving and analytical thinking,” said Scully. “With such a wide range of experience, this allows you to start an interesting conversation with anyone, a skill than can open doors in any career.”

Tricia Carney ’94
Director of Tax at LVMH Group
Siena Major: Accounting

Through tax accounting, Carney finds ways to save money for the parent company of luxury brands such as Louis Vuitton, Moët & Chandon, TAG Heuer and Christian Dior.

Carney spoke with students about her career and offered tips for success during a lecture titled “Creating Your Tomorrow.” She recommended “expanding your color palette” by building a network through personal relationships. She did this as a commuter student at Siena, pushing herself to meet new people and develop different networks of friends. By doing so, she was able to connect to people she may not otherwise have been able to.

“It made me realize that people who are not like me are even more interesting,” Carney said. “It opened up a whole other world.”
Stephen Gilbert ’85
Senior Vice President of Architecture at Burberry
Siena Major: Mathematics

Gilbert found his passion for architecture as a mathematics major at Siena. He went on to earn a master’s degree at RPI and then worked in several architectural firms. He now leads a global department at Burberry, so he is aware of the need to understand how people in other countries live. “It’s a deep respect for other cultures,” he said. “That, I think, comes from the sensitivity of the community that you have here.”

“This is a very, very special place,” Gilbert said. “Everything that I learned and the people that I met are really what made me what I am today.”

Peter Iwanowicz ’89
Executive Director of Environmental Advocates of New York
Siena Major: Psychology

Iwanowicz said you can do “just about anything” with a degree in the liberal arts during his lecture last semester. He would know, after holding leadership positions in the American Lung Association and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

Iwanowicz noted that coursework in biology and psychology helped him greatly while addressing public health issues and working in environmental planning. Studying English helped him become a strong communicator. “Those who have studied liberal arts can move and adapt quickly. Today, employers need people who’ve done it all,” said Iwanowicz.

Gary Sheffer ’82
Vice President of Corporate Communications and Public Affairs at General Electric
Siena Major: English

Sheffer spoke to business students about his career and the impact Siena’s Franciscan values have had on him as a leader. As GE’s head of public relations, Sheffer ensures that GE has a positive public reputation. He also makes sure that the collective values of all GE employees are represented by the company’s actions.

“We have to apply this to the knowledge of how to make a good life, and at the same time making a good living. My point here today, for you School of Business students, is that you can do both,” Sheffer said.
Hundreds of Glasses and Thousands of Dollars Raised

Siena’s 15th annual Festa Vino on October 16 garnered nearly $50,000 for the College’s Comprehensive Campaign initiatives. More than 700 guests attended the food and wine benefit in the Marcelle Athletic Complex, with proceeds going toward the Saints Alive! Athletic Fund as well as academic programs funded by Living Our Tradition: The Campaign for Siena College. Festa Vino featured food samplings from 22 Capital Region restaurants and more than 100 different wines from around the world through a partnership with Craig Allen ’91, owner of All-Star Wine & Spirits.

Christmas in the City

More than 200 alumni gathered at the Holy Name Province headquarters in New York City to celebrate the Christmas season on December 8, 2014. Siena President Br. F. Edward Coughlin, O.F.M. Ph.D., and Fr. Kevin Mullen ’75, O.F.M. Ph.D., the provincial minister of the Holy Name Province, greeted guests.

Mullen Awarded Academic Laureate

Fr. Kevin Mullen ’75, O.F.M., Ph.D., was recognized for his achievements in academia and research during the University at Albany Foundation’s 35th Annual Citizen Laureate Awards. The provincial minister of Holy Name Province and 10th president of Siena College received an academic laureate during an awards ceremony at UAlbany’s SEFCU Arena on November 6.

Left to right: University at Albany President Robert J. Jones, Ph.D.; Academic Laureate Fr. Kevin J. Mullen ’75, O.F.M., Ph.D.; Community Laureates Phoebe Powell Bender and Daniel P. Nolan and University at Albany Foundation President George R. Hearst III
In anticipation of celebrating his 60th reunion this summer, Leo Cornelius ’55 and his wife, Mary Ellen, reflected on the profound impact that Siena has had on their lives … a transformative educational experience grounded in the College’s Franciscan and Catholic tradition.

Leo and Mary Ellen decided to make a combined outright gift to support the Grotto at Siena College and the Annual Fund along with an estate gift to endow their support after their deaths. This was a natural fit considering Leo’s career involved matching people’s philanthropic goals with the charities that meant so much to them during their lives.

“The education I received both inside and outside of the classroom gave me the tools to excel in my career and in life,” Leo said. “To be able to give back to the College is at the very heart of the Franciscan values a Siena education instilled in us.”

If you would like to learn more about creating your legacy at Siena College, please contact Director of Gift Planning Jack Sise ’75, Esq. at jsise@siena.edu or 518-783-2315 for a confidential conversation.
**ALUMNI NEWSMAKER**

**Stephen Coffey ’67** is the recipient of the Capital District Trial Lawyers Association’s Daniel Mahoney Memorial Award.

**MINI-REUNION**

Jack Cadalso ’68 and Erin Carola Knotek ’88 met by accident at an AKC dog agility competition in Fairbanks, Alaska.

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Editors: Mary Beth Finnerty ’85, director of alumni relations; Mike Utzig ’07, assistant director of alumni relations; and Eileen Verno ’12, coordinator of alumni relations/special events.

Please submit all of your class notes information to your class coordinator. If there is no coordinator listed for your class, please send all information to alumni@siena.edu for posting in the magazine. We look forward to hearing from you!

1951
John Hourigan
joninca@comcast.net

1959
Frank Martin
ftmartin@nycap.rr.com

At last summer’s Reunion Weekend, the Class of 1959 gathered for dinner and conversation with classmates. A class check was presented to Fr. Kevin Mullen for use by the Annual Fund. As we said goodbye, we were thinking about the 60th reunion in 2019. Look forward to seeing you there!

1963
Kevin Raymond
Kraymond27@comcast.net

I finally decided to retire from the Federal Housing Finance Agency in the aftermath of back surgery. We are thrilled to have two new granddaughters, Madison Reghan who was born in October 2014 and is the daughter of Shannon and Darrell. In August 2014, Erin and David had baby Kylie Michelle. Closing the door on working, and opening more time to spend with the six grandchildren brings a new life. Hope to hear from my classmates.

1964
Joe Suozzi
joesuozzi@msn.com

James Ryan, Esq., was again named AV Rated preeminent lawyer per Martindale Hubbell for the New York area in his specialty of admiralty, maritime, transportation, insurance and commercial litigation, as announced by American Lawyer Media. He has handled several major maritime casualty litigations, including successfully representing the victims of the Staten Island Ferry crash, at the trial and appellate levels.

Following his academic career at Siena, Jay enlisted in the US Naval Reserves, in which he served for more than 24 years and earned the Joint Services Commendation Medal, the USNR Meritorious Service Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal and the USN Commendation Medal. Jay retired with the rank of Captain. In 2011 he was honored to be named to the NY 40th Senate District Veterans’ Hall of Fame by Senator Greg Ball.

While serving in the Naval Reserves, Jay earned his JD in admiralty and maritime law from Fordham University, and has been practicing law since 1974. He is a senior partner with the firm Dougherty, Ryan, Guiffra, Zambito & Hession in New York City.

Jay and his beautiful wife of 46 years, Ellen, reside in Brewster, N.Y., near their daughters and families.

1965
Jack Mulvey
jkmulvey@gmail.com

Get ready, Class of 1965! Mark your calendars for Friday, June 5, 2015 to come back to Siena and celebrate 50 years! By now you have received a reunion magnet, holiday postcard and hopefully a call from one of our class committee members. Let’s rally and get everyone back to Loudonville for our class party on June 5 so we can all raise a glass together.

1966
Vernon Benjamin’s *The History of the Hudson River Valley: From Wilderness to the Civil War* was published by Overlook Press of New York in June. He signed books and gave a talk at the Book House of Stuyvesant Plaza in Albany and Market Block Books in Troy in December.

1967
Rick Spataro
rspataro67@gmail.com

Stephen Coffey ’67 is the recipient of the Capital District Trial Lawyers Association’s Daniel Mahoney Memorial Award.
Award, presented to an attorney demonstrating outstanding commitment and services to clients, the bar and the profession. Steve is the founding partner of O’Connell and Aronowitz, a criminal defense practice firm based in Albany, N.Y.

1968
Jim Donsbach
jamesdonsbach@gmail.com

1969
Ken Dedrick
Ken.dedrick@carolina.rr.com

Marty Dunbar recently retired as deputy commissioner/CFO of the N.Y.S. Department of Labor. In retirement, he serves as treasurer of The Rensselaer Arc Foundation Board as well as a board member of The Rensselaer County Housing Resources Board. He also serves on The Board of Directors of ESI, one of the nation’s largest employee assistance program consultant groups. Marty lives in Brunswick, N.Y., with his wife Sally, a retired Troy school district teacher, and their daughter Rebecca. Their recreational activities include playing golf, being Siena Basketball season ticket holders and babysitting their twin granddaughters, May and Georgia Dunbar.

1970
Paul Twardy
twardy.paul.f@gmail.com

Dan Barrett released his first book, “Conch Town Girl,” through Black Opal Books publisher in November. It will be available in both eBook format and paperback. Congrats Dan!

1971
Nicholas Positano
njpositano@hotmail.com

1972
Jack Callahan
Jackcallahan33@gmail.com

Max Taxter recently retired after 41 years in the reinsurance business. He last worked for Swiss Reinsurance as a SVP in casualty underwriting for 23 years. Over his time in the business, he lived in San Francisco, Chicago, Phoenix, Ft. Wayne, and a couple of towns in Connecticut. Post-graduation, Max served in the New York and California Air National Guard. Max has recently relocated from Ridgefield, Conn., to Savannah, Ga., with his wife of almost 40 years, Sharon. They enjoy golfing, snow skiing and cycling. Max was a ranked bicycle racer for 25 years. Currently they are building their retirement house. Enjoy your retirement, Max!

Congratulations to Edward W. Korabik, Ph.D., who has retired as associate professor and chair, Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology, at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wis. Wow, what a distinguished career! Since retiring, Edward has moved to Denver, Colo. to be closer to family. We wish Edward a long and happy retirement.

I, myself, have retired from a great career in the wine and spirits business, as an entrepreneur and private equity partner. I am playing some golf and enjoying life with my wife of 34 years. Golf is still pretty good but a bad back limits tournaments. Oh well, I am enjoying a lot of new activities. We bought a wonderful home at The Villages in Florida and I sell some real estate for them, which keeps me out of trouble. This is a great place for us because there is just so much to do.

“Bank of Dad” has finally been closed and I am thrilled that both boys are doing fine and off the payroll. One in Califonia and the other is in the South. We plan on traveling and cruising often. “There is no Brinks truck at a funeral,” so as long as we cannot take our money with us, we are spending it while we are still healthy.

I look forward to hearing from others whenever convenient. Please send me your updates.

1973
Brian Valentine
bgvalentine@verizon.net

Proud grandparents Ron and Patti DeFilippis ’75 report Caden Alexander DeFilippis came into the world on March 26, 2014. He was eight pounds and 20 inches. Congrats to Christopher DeFilippis ’02, Esq., and Brie McCoach DeFilippis on their new arrival.

1974
Robert McGrattan
rmcgrattan3@gmail.com

1975
Janet Gutowski Hall
janet.hall@celebration.fl.us

Rocco DeFazio was honored at The 29th Annual Monsignor Burns Memorial Awards Dinner. This dinner honors alumni and friends of Catholic Central High School whose lives and actions reflect their values. Rocco was honored for his amazing and selfless actions such as personal moral development, the building of community and, of utmost importance, service to others. Congrats Rocco!

1976
Jean Reamer
jpreamer@comcast.net

1977
Linda Fitzsimmons
linda Fitzsimmons@gmail.com

Congrats to Doug Hickey on being named Commissioner General of the USA Pavilion at Milan Expo 2015. The global food theme of Expo Milano 2015 will enable the USA Pavilion to showcase the United States as a leader and innovator not only in the food sector, but
Doug Hickey ’77
was named Commissioner General for the United States’ exhibit at next year’s world fair in Italy.

Doug Hickey’s business background & commitment to innovation, #foodsecurity make him perfect choice to lead @USAExpo2015.

Paul Mullen wrote in with some mini reunion news:
A few members of the classes of 1976 and 1977 got together on November 9, 2014 at a Jets and Steelers football game at Met Life Stadium:
Richard Kokel, John Latino, Paul Mullen, Michael Nestor, John O’Grady ’76, and Michael Kelley ’76.
Some of these faces may look familiar, albeit older and wiser. We all lived on wing 2N of Ryan Hall. I thought it might be interesting for readers of the Siena News to see an example of the kind of lifelong friendships that Siena creates.

1979
Sue Reilly Hayes
Clifton522@aol.com

During the past several months, I’ve exchanged several emails with our classmate, Jane Walsh, who co-founded a charitable organization to assist orphans in Tanzania, Africa, in obtaining a Catholic education. She serves as the president of the board of directors for Children of Hope and Faith, Inc. I’ll let her tell her inspiring story in her own words:
“At Siena I was a biology major and very much enjoyed being part of the science department. After graduation, I obtained a Ph.D. in physiology from the University of Maryland School of Medicine in Baltimore. A post-doctoral position led me to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and I did research in reproductive physiology. I left the university to stay home with my children (Kathleen, now 24, and Andrew, 21). Despite being a stay-at-home mom with limited finances, I always enjoyed sponsoring poor children in schools throughout the world. Little did I realize that 15 years later, I would feel a strong call from God to help orphans!

I co-founded Children of Hope and Faith with Fr. Johndamaseni Zilimu, a diocesan priest from Tanzania, Africa, with the mission of helping orphans and needy children to receive a Catholic education. There is an orphan crisis worldwide with 2.4 million orphans in Tanzania alone. Orphans are a particularly vulnerable population. If children survive to school age, the most significant factor determining their future is the ability to attend school.

The first thing we did was to expand the Angel Home Orphanage, run by the Franciscan Sisters of St. Bernadette. (Prior to our help, the children were dispersed before they reached school age because of a lack of resources.) Angel Home is now home to 55 children, many of whom are sponsored in local Catholic schools. With our help, the orphanage now runs a kindergarten to further prepare the children for primary school.

Our mission started over 10 years ago with the sponsorship of three children at St. Peter Claver Grade School. Currently, we have 80 students sponsored in excellent Catholic grade schools, high schools and junior seminaries. The schools are boarding schools and teach in English. There are also sponsored students who have graduated from high school and have the opportunity to continue their education in diocesan seminaries, teachers’ colleges, nursing schools and even medical school.

In addition to sponsorship, COHF assists schools where children are sponsored with small projects. Examples of completed projects for St. Peter Claver Grade School are a corn husking and grinding mill, dairy cow project, library, and a generator to provide electricity during power outages. The corn mill provides cornmeal, a staple of the students’ diet, and also an income generator for the school by grinding corn for the community.

I was blessed to travel to Tanzania in November 2012 to meet all of our sponsored students and witness the impact of our various projects. The Tanzanian people are very hospitable and it was an inspiring experience! I realized first-hand their daily struggle to have an adequate water supply and a reliable source of electricity. We have funded a major solar energy project for St. Alfred High School and a number of cistern projects to provide an increased availability of clean water.

I am very grateful for my education at Siena and the influence of the Franciscan friars. I think I am Franciscan at heart and enjoy working with the Franciscan Sisters of St. Bernadette in Tanzania.

If you’d like to learn more about Children of Hope and Faith, a 501(c)3 charitable organization, please check out their website at childrenofhopeandfaith.org.

In other happy news, John Chermack and his partner of 30 years, Dr. Orestes Diaz, got married on March 7. (They now both use the surname Chermack-Diaz.) The ceremony took place on the steps of City Hall in New York City. Congrats, John and Orestes…here’s to many more years of peace, love and laughter together.
Keep those scoops coming, ’79ers. Email me or message me on Facebook and let me know what’s new in your life.

1980

Diane DeSilva
diane0429@gmail.com

Mark your calendars for June 5-7, 2015 for our reunion! Come back to Loudonville and celebrate with our classmates!

1981

Ed Mercado has been named senior vice president, Radiation/Radiology and Partnership Services at Florida Cancer Specialists & Research Institute. Mercado will be responsible for the overall leadership of the radiation and radiology divisions of the statewide practice, as well as leading operational transitions and informatics functions, and assisting with mergers and acquisitions.

Fr. Thomas Conway, O.F.M., a member of Holy Name Province, the largest community of Franciscan friars in the United States, is marking 25 years as a friar. He currently serves at St. Anthony Shrine, where he is executive director of “the church on Arch Street.”

1982

Bob Young
rjy60@yahoo.com

Susan Salvador is the new vice president for enrollment and student affairs at Northampton Community College. From 1988 to 2013, she served in various positions at Monroe Community College in Rochester, N.Y., culminating as vice president for student services. Salvador is one of only two educators from a community college to serve as president of the American College Personnel Association-College Student Educators International. The organization represents student affairs educators, faculty, undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in student affairs programs at nearly 1,500 colleges and universities around the world.

Charlie Faas has been named the CEO of the David ’73 and Christine Spicer ’75 Stack Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship. Mike is mentoring Siena students who are interested in launching their own businesses.

I received an update from Noreen Keating-Wnorowski. She and fellow classmate Doug Wnorowski have been married for 28 years and are living in Pittsburgh. They have three children: Max, 21, a senior at Penn State; Kaela, 21, a senior at Elon University; and Alex, 18, a freshman at Colorado University at Boulder. Thanks for shouting back Noreen. I hope to see you and Doug at the next reunion. It has been way too long.

I’m starting a new thing called “flashback” for each column. So here goes: Do you remember the beer trucks that pulled up on campus for big events? They had taps right on the side of the truck and you could walk up with your pitcher!

If you have any updates or noteworthy items or if you want me to do a shout out, please email me for inclusion in the next alumni news. Shout outs to Lori Remmell-Miano, Ralf Andrea, Dan Blanchfield and Renata Godenez. Where are you and what are you up to? Email me so I can say that you shouted back. Hey, keep in touch ‘83!

1983

Elvira Altimari-Jaeger
Eaj6@optonline.net

Fr. Mark Reamer, O.F.M., is again in the news for the class of 1983. Mark is back on campus at Siena as the Guardian of the St. Bernadine of Siena Friary (see the faculty-staff section). Congratulations Mark! We are all very jealous that you get to spend your days on campus again. Mark is the second member of our class to go “back to school.”

Mike Hickey is the executive director of the David ’73 and Christine Spicer ’75 Stack Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship. Mike is mentoring Siena students who are interested in launching their own businesses.

1984

Lisa San Fratello McCutcheon
mcsilsa@yahoo.com

Kathy Fletcher has recently been promoted to chief operating officer for Equinox, Inc. of Albany, N.Y. She has been with Equinox, Inc. since 2004.

1985

Cathy Casey Bjorklund
Ron Bjorklund
Bjork90@comcast.net

SAVE THE DATE! OK, guys. Regardless of how you feel, look or how good your math is, our big 30th is coming up in June. Once again we are planning an awesome time for our reunion. Block out the dates NOW and make sure to join us on June 5-7, 2015. Even if you have never come to a reunion before, you don’t want to miss this one. We have secured a special guest for the entertainment (brush up on your Chicken Dance and Hawaii Five-0) and we plan to live
vicariously through ourselves and photos from the glory days. If you have photos, please post on Facebook or send to Mary Beth Finnerty at mfinnerty@siena.edu. If you have a bunch, put them on a CD or flash drive and mail to MB!

We have a Class Facebook page! Be sure to “like” Siena College Class of 1985 to keep up with reunion updates.

Legacies! This year we have three legacy freshmen whose parents were from the Class of 1985. Dominica Bleichert ’18 is the daughter of Michelle Anness Bleichert and is running cross country. Brian Prunty ’18 is the son of Robin Leonard Prunty and is playing lacrosse. Eric Bjorklund ’18 is the son of Cathy Casey Bjorklund and Ron Bjorklund and is playing rugby.

In other class news, Priscilla Duffy Armsby is now director of financial aid at Maria College in Albany, N.Y. Kevin Burke is a partner in Burke, Scolamiero, Mortati & Hurd, LLP, a mid-size law firm awarded the prestigious Martindale Hubbell AV rating, recognizing them as one of the preeminent law firms in the Albany, N.Y., area. The firm has opened up additional offices in Rome and Hudson, N.Y. Their practice focuses primarily on litigation with particular emphasis on medical and professional malpractice, criminal law, construction defense, product liability, municipal/governmental defense and complex tort cases of all types.

1986
Edward Giordano
Edward86@thegiordanos.us
Susan Slattery
susanslattery@gmail.com
Michelle Roche
mroche@comcast.net

1987
Gerry McAndrew
Geraldine.m.mcandrew@comcast.net

Joe Gargiulo was promoted to senior vice president of Coyne Public Relations.

1988
Jim Monaghan
Jimmonaghan65@yahoo.com

Jackie Reinhart Elliott and Michael Elliott ’87 were proud to be dropping off their son, Sean Patrick ’18, to begin his college career at Siena this past Orientation Weekend. Sean is residing in Ryan Hall and is majoring in criminal justice. Jackie and Mike are proud to have the Siena tradition continue in their family.

Eileen Martin has joined Hiscock & Barclay, LLP as a partner in the firm’s Buffalo and Toronto offices. Eileen has been involved in immigration law since beginning her career as an employee of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, working in the Buffalo district office and at the Niagara Falls and Toronto ports of entry. Congrats Eileen!

On November 9, 2014 Ted King ’86, Maryann King ’87, Greg Stewart ’89 and Jim Monaghan ’88 met former Siena friar Fr. Kevin Tortorelli, O.F.M., at his new parish, Church of the Holy Name of Jesus, on the upper west side of New York City for Mass and dinner.

2004, Gargiulo has led a team anchored by long-time clients Goodyear and Shell Lubricants, and has expanded the group to include a diverse portfolio of consumer and business-to-business clients including Sealed Air Corporation, Topps, VF Corporation, Vestergaard and the American Petroleum Institute, among others.

Paula Monaco joined The Bonadio Group as the new Albany marketing manager. Paula is responsible for all marketing and communications planning and implementation for the Capital Region as well as working with the firm’s marketing team to execute firm-wide communications activities.

Fr. Patrick Tuttle, O.F.M, pastor of St. Anthony of Padua Church in Greenville, S.C., is commemorating 25 years as a member of Holy Name Province, the largest community of Franciscan friars in the United States.

1989
Mike Carbonaro
Sienanews.1989@yahoo.com

Congrats to Denis Horrigan! He is one of three advisers for Connecticut Wealth Management, LLC who has once again been recognized by Medical Economics and named
to their exclusive list of “Best Financial Advisers for Doctors.”

1990

Janet Shotter Swierbut
jswierbut@yahoo.com

Please save the date for our 25th Reunion on June 5th. Join the Siena College class of 1990 Facebook page to keep connected with fellow classmates. I would love to get emails from you with updates on your life. No news is too big or small to share. One of my besties, Michele (Ferris) Hoffmann and her husband, Paul, just adopted their second child, Grace, who joins big brothers Ryan and Brady. What an inspiration! I hope you all have a blessed holiday season filled with love and laughter.

1991

Kevin Clarke
siena91@optonline.net

The congregation of St. Gregory the Theologian Greek Orthodox Church in Mansfield welcomed the Rev. Ted Toppses as its new presiding priest this past August. The Toppses have two daughters, Nicole and Julianna. Rev. Toppses enjoys fishing, playing tennis and is a fan of ice hockey. Congrats Ted!

1992

Mary Pat McLoughlin Holler
jmpoller@yahoo.com

1993

Sue Hannon
Shannon@ryeneck.k12.ny.us

Marty Donnelly was hired as a vice president at The Ayco Company in September. Congrats Marty!

1994

Glenn Hofsess
gh@endcap.com

Laura (Bellotti) Cardillo and her husband Vincent are proud to announce the birth of a baby boy, Nicolas Anthony. He was born on February 13, 2014 in Hartford, Conn., and weighed 7 pounds, 3 ounces.

Yet another year has ended and another is just beginning. Just like everyone always told you when you were little, time is just speeding past us. We hit a milestone in 2014 when celebrating our 20th reunion, and were reminded of the importance of lifelong friendships, and how our time at Siena has filled our lives with memories that have stood the test of time. I wish everyone a happy and healthy new year filled with family and good friends.

1995

Neil Wilcove
nwillcove@fmglaw.com

1996

Brian Murray
murray21@hotmail.com

Congrats to John Deutsch who recently moved from Long Island back to Albany, N.Y. to open his own Allstate Insurance Company. Ken Danielson was appointed Company Commander Engine 14 Flatiron/Union Square District in Manhattan, N.Y. Way to go Ken!

1997

Selena Dutcher
selenadutcher@gmail.com

Following completion of a nationwide search, The New York Racing Association has announced the appointment of John Durso Jr. as NYRA’s new director of communications and media relations. John will lead all corporate communications and serve as principal spokesperson for the nation’s premier thoroughbred racing association, which exclusively conducts all racing operations at Aqueduct, Belmont and Saratoga race tracks. Eamon Lovett Hehir, weighing 10 pounds 9 ounces, was born on May 28, 2014 to Mike and Kerin Hehir. Mike Hehir also joined Relocation Strategies Charlotte’s Business Development team as executive account manager. Mike brings 17 years of corporate experience including several years in commercial development and brokerage. Big things for the Hehir family!

1998

Janine Trapp Scotti
Sienasaints98@yahoo.com

“Good news! Sarina Elizabeth Trapasso was born on September 8, 2014 at 8:47 a.m., weighing 7 pounds, 5 ounces. Despite being a few days premature, Sarina is perfect, healthy and eating well. Thank God! I’m so grateful for her safe arrival that it’s hard to think of anything else. Big sister Amira is over the moon and really loves her little sister.” — Nimmi Trapasso

1999

Brendan Fitzgerald
nyfitzgerald@gmail.com
NEWSMAKER

Scott Kind ’02 was promoted to partner of Teal, Becker & Chiaramonte, CPAs, P.C.

2002
Christine Cinnamond
Christine.cinnamond@gmail.com

Scott Kind was promoted to partner of Teal, Becker & Chiaramonte, CPAs, P.C. He will continue to work with construction, real estate development and nonprofit organizations, and will look to increase his involvement with outside organizations.

NEWSMAKER

Toby Sorge ’06 was recently selected as a master teacher through the Master Teacher Project, which is sponsored by the National Education Association.

2003
Kelly Quist Demars
kqdemars@gmail.com

Erin Cassidy and her husband, Patrick Collins, welcomed their daughter Grace Elizabeth Collins on May 26, 2014.

Andrea Craparo Graves shared that “My husband, Greg Graves ’02 and I are delighted to announce the birth of our daughter, Reagan Theresa. She was born on April 5, 2014 and joins her big brother Carter Gregory in our family. Like her big brother, Reagan was also christened by Father Tamburello in our family. Like her

2004
Melissa Termine Goetz
Mtermine24@yahoo.com
Lauren Weber
Lwebs13@gmail.com

Dr. Jennifer (Robbins) Economos and husband John welcomed their daughter Julianne Melina on August 19, 2014. Dr. Economos is an adjunct professor in the Graduate School of Education at Touro College. Recently, she published a research article in Journal of Effective Teaching. Additionally, she co-authored an award-winning research paper that was presented at the International Conference in Management and Education Innovation, Paris, France.

2005
Brennae Suhrland Elsesser
bsuhrlan@att.net

Greetings Class of 2005! Congratulations to Jonathan and Katie Cardus Spiegel as they welcomed a new addition to their family. Richard Samuel Spiegel was born on September 19, 2014. He was 8 pounds and 5 ounces.

2006
Chris Elsesser
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Hello Class of 2006! I trust that all is well with you and your families! It was so great to hear from many of you these past few months with so much wonderful news to share. Please remember to keep sending in updates. If you are somebody who is reading your news in print today, I ask that you consider personally encouraging another Siena classmate to join in the fun! I wish you and your family the best for a happy and healthy 2015! With that being said, let’s start spreading the news!

Kellie Bulls Eck and her husband Jonathan Eck welcomed their new daughter Alaina Christine Eck to their family on July 26, 2014 at 8:24 a.m. Alaina weighed 7 pounds 2 ounces and was 19 ¾ inches long. Alaina joins her feline brothers Speedy and Archie, along with her mom and dad, living in Bedminster, N.J.

Nicole Califano and her husband Paul Califano ’05, would like to announce the birth of their daughter, Francesca Joy Califano. Francesca was born on June 3, 2014. Welcome Francesca!

Matthew Dougherty and Kathleen McCormack Dougherty celebrated this past Independence Day with some fireworks of their own, by welcoming their first child into their family, Brooke Shannon Dougherty, on July 4, 2014.

Meghan Slenkamp Smart and her husband Bill Smart became first-time parents when they welcomed their new son Ryan Edward Smart to their family on August 6, 2014.

CJ Turcio and Allison (Maloney) Turcio welcomed their “lil Saint,” Camden, on February 28, 2014. Welcome Camden!

Congratulations to all of our new parents! And now on to some non-childbirth news:

Shauna Farrell and Kevin Snyder were wed on October 12, 2014 at Water’s Edge in Long Island City, N.Y. Many Siena alumni from the classes of 2005 – 2007 were present for their big day. Check out their photo by going to www.siena.edu/weddings. Congratulations and best of luck to the Snyders!

Toby Sorge was recently selected as a master teacher through the Master Teacher Project, which is sponsored by the National Education Association. To be selected, Toby had to apply and go through an interview process. He is one of five teachers from each grade (K-12) across the country to be chosen to develop and share lessons in math, English Language Arts and literacy nationwide. Toby is currently teaching eighth grade English Language Arts at Demarest Middle School in Demarest, New Jersey. Congratulations Toby! We wish you all the best as you continue your career!

Class of 2006 president Carl Falotico recently checked in to let us know that he received a promotion to corporate counsel for the City of Schenectady. This position makes Carl the head of the City’s Law Department, where he oversees all of the legal affairs for the city, mayor and City Council. Congratulations Carl!

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Candice Hunt joined the Sears Holdings Corporation this past March as district facilitator of training for the New York, Massachusetts, Vermont and New Hampshire markets. In this position, Candice works closely with regional, district, and store management as she is responsible for facilitating and managing training completion for 25 stores. She is also in charge of spreading the corporation’s cultural initiatives. This past August, Candice was asked to represent the Northeast and present at a Sears conference in Chicago. One of her favorite parts of her job is when she runs into a few Siena alums who work on her team and gets to share a favorite Siena memory with them. Congratulations Candice! We wish you continued success and luck in your new role!

2007

Mike Utzig
mutzig@siena.edu

Jackie Shelburne
jacqueline.shelburne@gmail.com

What’s up 2007! If you haven’t been back to campus lately, let me just say WOW! Sarazen Student Union is completely transformed with a real coffee and wrap shop, a stage for concerts and a full game room with a pool table. We also dedicated the Grotto in late October, which is set right behind Admissions. Go light a candle next time you’re here and take a minute to reflect on our days at Siena. It is a really peaceful place that is a must see. Finally, get ready for some hoops games this winter! Come to the TUC and catch a game. It’s the best place to meet up, besides maybe an old school holiday townhouse party! Now onto the news:

Alicia Kane-Calvert recently got engaged to Stephen Bonelli in June. Alicia reports that the wedding will be in August 2015 at St. Mary of the Angels Chapel at Siena College. Marrying them will be Father Christopher Fedoryshyn.

Meredith Toussaint wed Eric Schwerdt on June 28, 2014 on Higgins Beach in Scarborough, Maine.

Lauren Morere Berger completed her PhD in counseling psychology from the University at Albany. Dr. Berger will continue to teach psychology at Siena this academic year.

Pat Farley aka “Mr. Siena” wrote in and said, “I’m living in Palm City, Fla., teaching fourth grade and coaching basketball and lacrosse in the Martin County school district.” Amazing news Pat, bring some sun to Loudonville!

Joshua Werbeck wed Leanne Bowers on September 6, 2014.

Jessica Robetor wed Chris Kenney 08 in Boulder, Colo., on October 4, 2014.

Angela Williams and her husband Eric Williams 05 welcomed their first child, Brian Anthony Williams on May 16, 2014.

James Cataldo and his wife Nicole were joined by a daughter, Emma Grace on September 9, 2014.

Jackie Shelburne recently began her first season as a high school freshmen girls’ basketball coach in Simsbury, Conn. She is happily planning her own May 2015 wedding to her fiancé Bill Abramczyk.

Congrats to Matt Restivo, Caitlin O’Donnell, and Sugam Langer for completing the NYC Marathon. What an accomplishment! See siena.edu for Sugam’s story on how she completed the race and raised $7,345 for 15 Love, the Capital Region tennis organization that taught her the game.

Finally, Janelle Iaquinto joined the dark side and evil empire known as Marist College. She is now the assistant softball coach at Marist. The Red Foxes are so lucky to have you. Good luck in all your games this upcoming season except the ones against Siena!

Keep the updates coming! We love hearing from our class. Next issue, let’s hear from Matt Fradette, Meghan Keyser and Sean Grover.

2008

Danielle Grasso
Patrick Preston
Sienacollege2008@gmail.com

Well the weather is getting colder; the leaves have come and gone which can only mean one thing, Siena Basketball season is upon us. We hope to see everyone this coming March as Siena once again plays host of the MAAC tournament. Let’s all get together and party like it’s 2008! And we’ve all been quite busy since the last time we hosted the MAAC tournament, let’s get to the updates!

Personally, this fall has been very eventful. I bought my first house in Albany this past October. If you’re interested in seeing the messes I’ve been making, you can follow my blog at http://littlemissimprovement.wordpress.com. I can surely say it’s not as easy as HGTV makes it look, but it has been fun.

We heard from Tim Miller, Ph.D., during this last round of updates. Our former Sheriff successfully defended his Ph.D., from the University of Delaware in August. Since September, Tim has been working as a staff scientist and senior consultant at Booz Allen Hamilton in Aberdeen, Maryland. Congratulations Dr. Miller!
The certified public accounting firm CMJ, LLP was pleased to announce that Laura Keyes received her CPA designation. Laura joined CMJ in 2013 and is an associate in accounting, assurance and advisory services.

Our Saint family tree got another branch this past September. Bryon McKim and his lovely wife Kerry welcomed daughter Madeleine Clare on September 20, 2014. Wasting no time, she has already attended her first Siena Saints event and met with Coach Patos. Maddy is doing great and loving life in her Siena onesie. Welcome to the family Maddy!

In Siena couples news, Kristen Hans married James Curran ’10 on July 12 at St. Mary’s Church in downtown Albany. They currently live and work in Albany.

Thanks for sending us your updates to share with everyone. We hope everyone out there has a wonderful summer and everyone had a fantastic summer and please keep the updates coming!

2009

Tiffany Salonich
tsalonich11@aim.com

Channing Vidal and Ashley Gonzalez ’08 welcomed Sofia Marie Vidal to their family on June 26, 2014.

Heather Stec graduated with a M.Ed. in athletic counseling from Springfield College in May 2014 and took the women’s basketball assistant coaching position at Merrimack College this July. “Make sure you check out our schedule and follow us on Twitter.”

John Behrens had his second patent application published. The patent application is for incorporating carbonated candy into a chewy granola bar.

Jason M. Weiss worked for the NYS Department of Health, Bureau of Early Intervention, as an administrative assistant, but then moved to The Ayco Company, L.P., a Goldman Sachs Company, also as an administrative assistant. He has been promoted recently to financial planner at Ayco, effective January 1st. Jason graduated with an MBA from Union Graduate College, ranking in the top 10% of his class and being inducted into Beta Gamma Sigma, the International Business Honor Society. He led a team to create a business plan for a startup aquaculture business for his MBA capstone project. He also passed the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority’s (FINRA’s) Series 7 examination, and the Series 66 licensing exam for selling investments.

Heather Clickner has been admitted to practice law in the State of New York since June 2013 and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts since November 2012. She opened her own law firm in September in Saratoga Springs, N.Y. Her areas of practice are family and matrimonial law, immigration, traffic violations, personal injury and criminal defense. Her website is www.heatherannelaw.com. Love is in the air for the following couples:

David Hostig and Jamie Desso became engaged on July 6, 2014.

Lauren Amendola wed Jason Biscardi on July 4, 2014.

Brendan Morahan wed Dania Scocimarro on July 6, 2014 in Newport, R.I.


Emily McHugh wed Chris Briggs on July 12, 2014.


Briana Moore became engaged to Stephen Sudarto in September 2014 as they travelled together in Europe.

Steve Arnold wed Brittney Pflederer on October 4, 2014.

Kate Desmond and Nick Messinger became engaged on October 11, 2014.

Amanda Banner wed Brian Davey on October 25, 2014.

Taryn Mullahy and Michael Gadomski became engaged on November 1, 2014.

Please email me anytime at tsalonich11@aim.com to share any news with our class.

2010

Kelly Peckholdt kellypeckholdt@gmail.com

Hello, class of 2010! I hope everyone had a fantastic summer and enjoyed our beautiful fall. It’s wonderful to hear from so many of you, so please keep the updates coming! You can email me or message me on Facebook anytime for an upcoming edition of the alumni magazine. Looking forward to seeing many of you at our Reunion in June 2015.

Meagan Dougherty married Tim Loncaric and welcomed a baby girl, Addison Louise, born June 25. Congratulations to the Loncaric family!

Kelly Peckholdt and Kevin Flood married on August 29 and are busy planning their honeymoon to Australia and the Maldives.

Steve Bopp and Courtney Bartlett were wed on October 10, 2014.

Elizabeth Muscarelli got engaged Labor Day weekend to Peter Vlasak, and they set a wedding date for November 2015. Congratulations!

Congratulations to James Garbaini and Melanie Griffith ’13, who married on May 9. Jim also didn’t stray too far from Siena – he currently is working in the College’s ITS department as a user support specialist.

On September 9, Theresa Wojtecki and her husband, Erlin Alonzo, welcomed a beautiful baby girl, Cecilia Judith. Congratulations!

Kevin Gioia earned his chartered financial analyst designation with Fenimore Asset Management.

2011

Allison Collins am27coll@gmail.com

Kendra Perro currently works as a teacher at the Universidad de San Buenaventura, Seccional Cartagena, Colombia (a Franciscan and partner institution of Siena) in the Modern Languages Department, where she teaches classes in history, culture, civilization, service learning and grammar through the English language. She initiates intercultural exchanges and strives to continue connecting students on a personal and institutional level.

Ty Bariteau has been working as a deputy sheriff for the Albany County Sheriffs since 2012. He is also getting his master’s degree in public administration in law enforcement at Marist College.

Meg Dufour graduated in October with her master’s in mental health counseling from Argosy University in Phoenix, Ariz.
Jill Duarte became engaged to Steve Rosasmino '10. Cassandra Salonich is recently engaged as well. Jen Brandi is teaching fifth grade health education and elementary physical education at Craneville Elementary School in Dalton, Mass.

2012

Therese Daly

Classof2012classnotes@gmail.com

Hello class of 2012! Hope everyone had a wonderful fall. Wishing the very best for everyone this holiday season. As always, please keep me updated for news, announcements, etc. You are all too wonderful not to share your accomplishments and news! Congrats on the engagements, weddings, relocations and promotions! Talk to you all soon!

Brittany Letteriello received her master of science degree in TESOL from Canisius College and accepted a full-time teaching job at Riverheads High School on Long Island, N.Y., as an ESL teacher.

Kelly Girvin is currently getting her master's degree in School Counseling at the Sage Colleges. She will be graduating this May 2013. She and Ty Bariteur '11 have announced their engagement and their wedding is set for September 2015. Congrats!

Courtney Feiden relocated to Clifton Park, N.Y., and is officially a homeowner! She is working her way to the top at Fortitech Premixes by DSM since April 2012 and now is co-managing the customer service team.

Michelle Wasiuk graduated from Southwestern University in June with a master's in mental health counseling. She relocated to Ft. Lauderdale and has accepted a job there as a therapist.

Victoria Paige announces her engagement to Brandon Nurnberger. Congrats!

Haley Zautner has moved to Albany, N.Y., and has accepted a job at General Electric in the retirement department.

Tara Williams has accepted a job as senior fund accountant at LevelPoint Management LLC.

Lauren Squadere accepted a job as a teacher in business and marketing education at Shaker High School in Latham, N.Y. D.J. Fraioli is currently working at Deloitte in Connecticut and has become a certified personal trainer. He started his own company called Alpha Muscle Fitness. Check it out!

Jimmy Bulmer has accepted the position as Siena College AmeriCorps VISTA Leader; coordinator of training enrichment and media relations. He lives in Albany, N.Y.

Arielle Sicluna has relocated to Stamford, Conn., and lives with Amy Spielvogel and Katie Carew! Arielle moved to Virginia for a year working as a social worker and an admissions coordinator at continuum care facility for the elderly, but it was time to move back here! She now works as social worker for an adoption agency in Port Chester, N.Y.

April Risley wed Edward Backus II in May. Congrats! April works as the assistant director for the Academic Community Engagement Office at Siena.

Joe Scannell has relocated to Boston, Mass. and works in the clinical research sector of the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. He lives with fellow Siena grad Shawn Reap!

Shawn Reap has started at Northeastern’s University Physician assistant program.

Kathleen Hess is now assistant director of financial aid at Siena College.

Mary Kate Zimmermann has accepted a position as attractions relief coordinator at Walt Disney World in Florida.

Alexandria Casey accepted a position as community support specialist at Catholic Charities U.S.A.

Ashley Franc and Patrick Kidy were wed in October! Check out their photo by going to www.siena.edu/weddings

Meg Davis accepted a position at Kings Harbor Multicare Center in New York City.

Finally, huge congratulations to James Pater and Shane McMahon, CFO and CEO of their company, Eonis, which received $250,000 from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority for product development.

2013

Cassy Jane Werking

C18werk@siena.edu

Hello Fellow Siena Alumni!

Here are all the ways that the members of the Class of 2013 continue to "open doors" for others in all of their current endeavors! Go Saints!

Alexandra Viglucci is pursuing her M.A. in social work at the University at Albany and is currently completing field work at Ballast Spa High School.

Melissa Grippa is in her second year of pursuing her law degree at Touro Law School where she also works as a teaching assistant. Melissa serves as vice president of her mock trial team and competes nationally with her teammates.

Andrew Nagle is currently working in the admissions department at Excelsior College.

Tyler McDonough is pursuing his M.A. in international relations at the University College, Dublin.

Olivia Osborn began her studies at The Center for Natural Wellness School of Massage Therapy. She is pursuing her license to be a massage therapist and will graduate in July 2016.

Stephen Casavant is pursuing his M.A. in economics at the University at Albany and will be graduating this December. He also works as a client analyst at Ayco Goldman Sachs.

Brenda Caddar is in her second year of graduate school at Boston University. She is pursuing a doctorate in physical therapy. She also completed an internship at the University of California Medical Center in San Diego as an inpatient PT this past summer.

Wedding bells will be ringing for Thaddeus Savery and Mary Hartwick who recently celebrated their engagement, as well as for Ray Brown and Krysta Pogge. Congratulations!

Steve Altman is in his second year of studies at Albany Law School, pursuing his J.D.

Joe Houghtaling is a financial representative at Fidelity Investments in Albany, N.Y.

Andrew Ford is pursuing an M.S. in education administration and policy studies at the University at Albany. He also works in strategy and planning at the Research Foundation for SUNY and serves as a catering chef for the Sage Colleges.

Alexandria Pizzola will be completing her year of service with VISTA at the end of this month. She will be moving to Connecticut to serve for a year as a youth mental first aid instructor through the Northwestern Connecticut Area Heath Education Center.

Stacey Flynt recently began her studies as an optometry student at the New England College of Optometry in Boston, Mass.

Christopher Rivadeneira currently works as a developer at Send Word Now.

Matthew Myslwiec is a permanent substitute teacher at Upper St. Clare School District in Pennsylvania. In addition to teaching, he also works as a bartender at Phoenix Sports Bar and Theatre.

Cassy Jane Werking is pursuing her M.A. in history at the University at Albany. She graduated in December and is currently applying to doctoral programs to continue her studies next fall.
Update us!

Want to stay connected and well-informed about the goings-on at Siena? Make sure to update the Alumni Relations Office with your contact information! If you haven’t already, send your current address, phone number and email to alumni@siena.edu today!

2014

Kaitlin Harrison
ke06harr@alum.siena.edu

Happy six months after graduation, class of 2014!

Lauren Recchia has begun a very successful fashion blogging career! The blog is called North of Manhattan www.northofmanhattan.com Go give her a follow and help promote the blog.

Ali Nicholson began her job as a staff accountant with the Jones, Little, & Co. CPA firm in the Hamptons on Long Island.

Kyle Schnitzer had his first sports reporting story published in the New York Post in December. His story was about Tom Coughlin’s job status with the New York Giants. As a broadcast minor at Siena, Kyle interned at the Albany Times Union, where he wrote articles and shot video for the sports department.

Cody Unczur recently moved to Syracuse, N.Y. and took a position as a Hospital Care Technician in the Emergency Department at SUNY Upstate University Hospital, which is the regional trauma center for Central New York.

Will Fitzgerald accepted a job as an export logistics assistant for Interstate Commodities, Inc. in Troy, N.Y.

Over Halloween weekend, Taylor Guerin, Libby DiPaola, Ali Nicholson, and Alex Natale had a mini reunion in Atlantic City to celebrate Alex’s 22nd birthday! Hope you had fun!

Katie Risolo was just accepted into Molloy College’s master’s program for dual certification in special education/childhood education (grades 1-6) to begin in January. She is also working at HASC, Hebrew Academy of Special Needs Children, as a teacher’s aide and she volunteers at Ruff House Rescue, an animal rescue on Long Island.

Keep sending me your class notes at ke06harr@alum.siena.edu. Have a Merry Christmas! Hope to see everyone at the basketball games this winter!

In Memory

Siena College mourns the loss of the following members of our community:

Jason R. Allen ’01
Edward J. Anderson, Jr. ’47
Dr. Donald J. Anthony ’47
Charles P. “Bud” Arndt Sr. ’57
William J. Balfe Jr. ’44
Raymond Barreth ’77
George Bazinet
Thomas Neville Bearisto ’55
Dennis A. Bills ’71
James Burda ’69
Mary Hull Caufield ’78
Sandra Hahn-Colbert ’85
Mark W. Degener ’94
Patrick J. Delay ’60
Frank J. DiNuzzo Jr. ’62
William J. Ducey ’58
Robert M. Dugan ’58
Rev. Richard W. Dybas ’67
Robert J. Fairley ’59
Harold Filkins ’51
Gerald B. Fitzgerald ’57
Geralynn A. (O’Brien) Fountain ’90
Jerome “Jerry” Frost ’62
Frank J. Gebosky ’50
Father William A. Gorman ’65
W. Don Grady ’68
Robert E. Greenalch ’62
Salvatore Guarino ’60
Fr. Martin Hanhauser, O.F.M.
Harold “Dick” Horstman ’51
Timothy L. Jansen ’77
Bernadette Jones ’98
Raymond F. Joyce, Jr. ’50
Ronald J. Klimchak ’62
Vasudha Koganti ’04
Ann Langlais ’62
Daniel R. Leone ’71
Coleman R. Lyons ’50
Margaret Mahusky ’73
Kenneth P. Malecki ’67
Raymond Marchand ’48
David T. McGuire ’71
John “Jack” Merry ’53
Sr. Loretta Moore ’70
George A. Murphy ’56
John W. Novak, Sr. ’56
Edmund Padvaikas
Gary J. Perkinsin ’59
Dr. H. Bernard “Bernie” Pogge ’63
Joseph M. Poissant ’55
Rev. Robert H. Purcell ’69
Dr. Joseph E. Riley ’43
Donald W. Roth ’77
William G. Rourke ’62
Dr. Jon R. Rubach ’66
Robert W. Shake Sr. ’50
Susan V. Siegel ’81
Donna Simpson ’89
Marion C. Smith ’64
Frank Spada ’62
Br. Alexander T. Stroz CSC, ’68
Mary T. Wainerdi ’80
William G. Wood ’52
Mark P. Woroby ’81
David D. Yerrick ’75
Albert L. Zampier ’54
Victor Zast ’67

weddings

In an effort to publish alumni wedding photos in a more timely manner and to allow alumni to share these photos via social media all future weddings will be posted at www.siena.edu/weddings. The wedding announcements will continue to appear in the class notes section. Cheers!
Barbie maker Mattel’s “I Can Be a Computer Engineer” is a classic example of the saying you can’t judge a book by its cover. From the title, one would assume that Barbie is flexing some scientific muscle and encouraging her fans to pursue careers in science and technology. However, the book, which is pitched to young girls, simply reinforces the stereotypes in the computer science industry that I have witnessed and have worked hard to combat. Thankfully, Mattel pulled the book off the shelves after parents complained that the messaging wasn’t appropriate for their children.

The story features Barbie as a fashionable computer engineer who likes pink laptops and heart-shaped USB flash drives, which isn’t a problem since I personally like pink too. She begins working on a new computer game that teaches girls to code using cute puppies. A few pages into the book the reader finds out that Barbie isn’t really a computer engineer, but a game designer. She tells her sister that she’s “only creating the ideas…(she'll) need Steven and Brian’s help to turn it into a real game.” Barbie then skips off to school where she meets up with the two boys who save the day by creating the code. In the end, Barbie declares: “I guess I can be a computer engineer!”

Unfortunately, this message is consistent with how technology and computers are marketed to children. A typical store’s toy department often contains computer-related games and gadgets in the blue, black and red-colored aisles geared for boys. Rarely will you see these items in the pink and purple aisles designed for girls.

In my Diversity in Computer Science course, in addition to looking at the effect of toys and games on students’ choice of careers, we also examine how computer scientists are portrayed in movies, another way kids are exposed to different career choices. After evaluating close to 200 movies, we have found that most movies depict computer scientists as nerdy, lonely and boring males. The only G-rated movie that gave a positive view of women in computer science is Spy Kids 3D. Unfortunately, when children hear these messages over and over again they start to believe them.

At Siena, 30-35% of our computer science graduates are female (the national average is 11%). However, it isn’t unusual for us to start with only one or two first-year female majors. Most of our women realize the excitement and possibilities in computer science after being exposed to our introductory course. In this class, we make it a point to have students work in groups where they interact with each other and work with faculty members who build their confidence. The students respond to such positive interaction and realize that computer science is indeed for women.

Recently a student of mine gave me a hug after she received a prestigious internship at Google. Moments like this are what make all of our efforts so rewarding. Male or female, our graduates’ starting salaries in the Albany area are in the $50,000 – $60,000 range, and they usually have multiple job offers awaiting them. Unlike Barbie, not only can they be computer scientists; they are computer scientists, highly competent ones, even without the help of Steven and Brian.
Thank you to the thousands of Siena alumni and friends who have donated to *Living Our Tradition: The Campaign for Siena College*. We are 75% of the way to our Annual Fund goal for the campaign.

Let’s put the rest of the pieces together.

Learn more at SienaCampaign.com