

# The Talking Circle

Summer 2015

Issue 12

## Social Work

### Advisory Board

The Advisory Board of Siena College's Social Work Program is composed of a wide variety of persons whose input and assistance is important to the Program. The Advisory Board supports the program's mission to prepare undergraduate baccalaureate students for competent generalist social work practice.

**Interested in serving on the Advisory Board as a voting member or as part of a particular committee or project?**

Contact Joe Zoske at  
518-783-4123

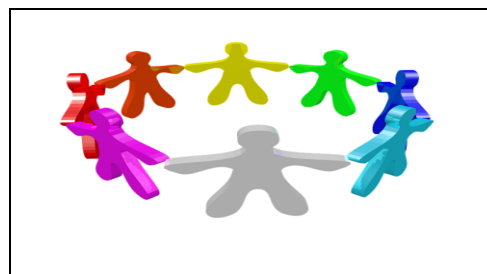
### Resources at Siena

Career Center  
518-783-2339

Office of Alumni  
Relations  
518-783-2340

Registrar  
518-783-2368

## Building Community



**If you have been on campus in the early fall, you may have been aware of and even participated in the *Walk to End Alzheimer's Disease* sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association of Northeast NY (this year it's back again on Sept 26<sup>th</sup>). But perhaps you are not aware that behind the scenes of this wonderful event are Siena alumni.**

**Beth Boivin-Smith ('82), President/CEO of the Alzheimer's Assn (photo, right) is a Siena Social Work alumae. This past year Beth strengthened her reconnection with Siena by providing senior social work student Maura Fleming ('15) with her 400-hr social work field experience at the Assn (photo left, with classmates). We also discovered that Maura's field supervisor, Brigitta Giulianelli, was a previous Siena student of our Department's own Carla Sofka. Then, Maura's field experience turned into a job upon graduation, as she became the Alzheimer's Assn's Western Program Manager. The connections of our Siena social work community continue to give back as Maura will be a supervisor for a social work major this fall completing her 50-hr junior internship!**



**Our Siena Social Work Program is affirmed by the continuing passionate commitment of alumni, students and faculty working together to effect change – from Alzheimer's Disease to hunger. It begins with student involvement in various fundraising and public awareness efforts through our social work courses, and extends through engagement with our network of alumni.**

**Thank you all!**



## Congratulations to the Class of 2015!

For the 2nd time, an entire graduating class of social work majors earned induction into Siena College's Delta Upsilon Chapter of the National Phi Alpha Social Work Honor Society. Congratulations to the entire class of 23 students for their hard work and impressive achievement!

Other highlights:

- \* Kristina Igoe earned the Social Work Major Field Award for the highest academic ranking.
- \* Maura Fleming was awarded the department's Social & Economic Justice Award. (see below)
- \* Susana Diaz '15 was this year's recipient of the College's Lonnstrom HEOP Excellence Award.
- \* Half the class graduated Cum Laude or higher!

### *Promoting Social and Economic Justice*



Maura Fleming, Class of 2015, recipient of this year's Social & Economic Justice Award.

She was the organizer of the new FeelGood chapter at Siena. This is a national movement to end world hunger through the fund-raising efforts of making and selling gourmet grilled cheese sandwiches on college campuses. <<http://www.feelgood.org>>. Maura mentored her successor and it is anticipated that FeelGood will continue to be a student initiative at Siena for years to come. For her excellence in service and leadership, Maura was given the Social Justice Award from the Social Work Department at our annual honoring ceremony for seniors and their families on commencement weekend.





**Thank you  
Professor Diana Strock-Lynskey  
for 25 years of  
leadership, service and exemplary  
program and community development  
for our students and the Siena  
Social Work Program.  
Your contributions are far too many to  
list and have impacted locally,  
statewide, nationally and  
internationally!**

**Diana is currently teaching in the  
First Year Freshmen Seminar  
as well as offering her social work  
course on death, loss and grief as a  
college core course.**

**Final steps to CSWE Re-Affirmation:**



Having submitted our extensive Self-Study documents to CSWE last semester, we await our October site visit to complete the process of securing our program's next 7 year accreditation.

We have been continually accredited since 1985!



## Going... going..... gone!

The transition from the former Social Work House is complete with its demolition this year. In its place will be a student environmental project of recycling and composting, integrated with the campus' progressive dining option called *Roots Café*.



**We currently have 15 entering freshmen who have already chosen social work as their major - the largest number ever! Together with the trend of larger social work classes each year, we look forward to starting the 2015-16 academic year with a total of 75 social work majors.**

**Every dollar helps a future student! To make a contribution to the endowed Social Work Scholarship, contact the Development Office at Siena College at [development@siena.edu](mailto:development@siena.edu), 518-783-2432.**

**Contributions can also be sent by mail:**

**Siena College Development Office, 515 Loudon Rd., Loudonville, NY 12211.  
(Please reference 'Social Work scholarship' on your check).**





### ***Re-envisioning ourselves.***

We are eager to keep our social work program relevant to the needs and realities of the practice world. Likewise, it is important to have our curriculum reflect social work's contemporary professional knowledge base. To those ends we have begun a re-envisioning process to ensure that our students over the next few years are best prepared for professional practice. That means we are looking at what we teach, how we teach, and means to innovate both. Not a complete make-over, but a conscious refinement. We routinely seek feedback from students, and even alumni through our alumni survey. But if you any ideas you'd like us to consider, lease let us know: course subjects, course content, teaching methods, etc. As if you thought... Siena's BSW education prepared me well, but now I realize it would have benefited me more if... **Your responses to that are welcomed.**

### **Siena Social Work Students in Service to Community Longstanding Traditions for more than a Decade:**

#### ***Joseph's House Winter Walk & the Walk to End Alzheimer's***



## Many Ways of Giving Back

There are many ways to contribute to the Social Work Department!

- **Scholarship Contribution**
- **Volunteer Work**
- **Advisory Board Membership**
- **Social Work Internship**
- **Mentoring Current Students**

If you have an interest in any of these, or other ways of giving back, contact  
Joe Zoske:  
**518-783-4123**

*We want to partner with you!*

**Sign on to the Siena College Social Work Alumni Facebook Page. Stay in touch, post jobs and network. Reconnect!**

<http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Siena-College-Social-Work-Alumni/128440443833947?v=wall&ref=ts>

## CLASS OF 2015



*L to R/front:* Katie Kresser, Marisa Henkin, Maura Fleming, Kristina Igoe, Lauren Castellana, Abbey Lavazzo. *L to R/back:* Bob Tierney, Christina Tompkins, Melissa Dubin, Susana Diaz, Emily Weber, Ashley Howell, Kayla Pariseau, Christine O'Brien, Juli Muehter, Brie Gleason, Chrissy Ochs, Sara Riggins, Katie O'Connell, Gabrielle Mauro, Destiny Curran, Catie Gerrain, Joanna Bebbber.

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If you wish to be removed from the mailing list or have other inquiries about the Department please contact Joe at [jzoske@siena.edu](mailto:jzoske@siena.edu) or at 518-783-4123

