Inside the President’s Circle

Presidential Search Update

2020 will be a year of many changes at Siena College including the selection of the 12th president in our history. The executive search profile generated approximately 80 applications from candidates working in higher education leadership positions across the country. The depth and quality of the pool speaks to Siena’s national reputation and potential for sustained success. RH Perry and Associates sorted the applications by tiers, with the top tier – just over 20 percent of the pool – representing the most qualified candidates.

Those profiles have been shared with the College’s presidential search committee – a 15-person group comprised of trustees, faculty, and campus leaders. The committee is in the process of refining the pool of candidates into a short list. Background checks have already begun, but more thorough vetting will commence once the list has been narrowed further.

As originally planned, Siena expects to name our next president by mid to late March, at which point we will plan an on-campus introduction for the entire community, followed by a formal inauguration in the fall.

John Murray ’79, Chair of the Siena College Board of Trustees and Tom Baldwin ’81, Vice Chair of the Siena College Board of Trustees and Chair of the Presidential Search Committee released the following statement, “The committee is charged with selecting the person best able to boldly advance a strategic vision that ensures a thriving future for Siena, someone who recognizes the challenges within the market, and someone with great appreciation for the intrinsic value of our Catholic and Franciscan education. We are very encouraged by the pool of candidates, and have no doubt that our committee will select a very worthy leader to be named the 12th president of Siena College.”

Pope Francis Welcomes Siena College

Siena students traveling in Italy on a class pilgrimage spent their last day attending the Angelus prayer in St. Peter’s Square at the Vatican. From his balcony overlooking the world-famous square, Pope Francis welcomed “students from the Franciscan Institution at Siena College in New York.”

The 33 students began their trip Dec. 27, part of the special topics class “Italy Travel – Franciscan Leadership” led by Fr. Mark Reamer, O.F.M., D. Min., Siena’s vice president for mission. In addition to Rome and the Vatican, the group visited Florence, Cortina, Siena (the original!) and Assisi.
Senior Gift 2020
Project: The Bells of Remembrance

The Holy Name Province in NYC is the home of the Franciscan Friars, including many of our Siena friars; but it has also been the home to a collection of bells. These bells have great meaning, and have been used to celebrate momentous events in the life of Holy Name Province. The largest of the bells came to prominence on 9/11, and the memorials that followed, and was known as the “Firefighter’s Bell”. This bell was rung for 10 years on the anniversary of 9/11 until the permanent memorial was completed. Three of these bells have been gifted to Siena in memory of Br. Ed Coughlin, OFM, whose father, a firefighter, died in the line of duty in 1974; and Fr. Mychal Judge, OFM, a friar who lived at the Holy Name Province and served at Siena for many years. Fr. Mychal was the FDNY chaplain who became the first certified fatality of the September 11, 2001 attacks when the South Tower collapsed as he was praying for victims. Siena College posthumously bestowed the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters upon Fr. Mychal Judge, Order of Friars Minor in 2002.

Four additional bells were gifted to the St. Rose of Lima Church in Newtown, CT in remembrance of the children and teachers killed at Sandy Hook Elementary in 2012.

The Class of 2020 Senior Gift will contribute funds used for the Bells of Remembrance to be brought to and displayed on campus. This space will be a beautiful gathering place (at this time a space near the Siena Grotto is being examined), and the bells can be rung for significant occasions at Siena.

In honor of their generosity, a plaque with all of the leadership donors ($100+) to the Class of 2020 Gift will be placed to recognize the Class and its contribution to Siena.

Siena Giving Day
1 Day 1,000 Donors

Mark your calendars for Wednesday March 18th as Siena attempts to set a new record in support of the education for a lifetime. Join fellow alumni and friends from across the world to support Siena over a 24 hour period to unlock challenges and make a difference in our community through your gift.

New for this Giving Day is the chance to have your name be placed inside Siena’s Gold Dome! Throughout our history, many students have made their way up to the Gold Dome in Siena Hall and have inscribed their name inside the tower to last forever. For the first time ever, Siena is offering the chance to have your name join them if you’re one of the first 100 people on March 18th to make a gift of $500 or more. This is a once in a lifetime chance to have your name live on forever inside the dome.

If you would like to be an ambassador for the day to help spread the word, please email annualfund@siena.edu. Please visit siena.edu/givingday to see all of the latest news, challenges for the day, and most importantly to make your gift to help Siena reach 1,000 donors.
Blessing from Fr. Larry Anderson, O.F.M., College Chaplin

Most High, glorious God,
We praise You and we thank You
For the many good people and blessings
You have bestowed upon Siena College
Since the time of its founding.

As we celebrate Thanksgiving we are aware there is much to be grateful for!
Thank you for family and friends in a world where many only know loneliness;
For our faith, in a world where many only know doubt;
And for nourishment in a world where many know only hunger.

We are grateful for the love and mercy You have given to us. May we share that love and mercy with others, offering our time, talents and treasure with those in need.

Be with us as we strive to be instruments of your peace and all that is good in our world.

Amen.

Will you answer the call?

Our amazing and dedicated phonathon team begins calling at the end of January and is ready to hear your Siena story! The team consists of talented students from across all majors on campus and even some that are part of the women’s lacrosse team, the new MBA program, and a Spark Tank winner from the Stack Center and Entrepreneurship club.

Please consider supporting our students and answering their call this semester!
The World Needs More Saints!

Events

February 16   Family Fun Day at the Times Union Center, Siena vs Manhattan
February 28  Siena at Marist Pre-Game Reception
March 10-14   MAAC Basketball Tournament, Atlantic City
March 18  Siena Giving Day, siena.edu/givingday
April 19  Scholarship Donor Brunch
April 26  Spring Alumni Mass at the Grotto
May 17  Commencement
June 5-7  Reunion Weekend

To learn more about these events, including locations and times, please visit siena.edu/alumni/events