Former U.S. Secretary of State to Address the Class of ’21

Former U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Ph.D. will be the featured speaker at Siena’s Commencement ceremonies on Sunday, May 30.

To comply with newly released state guidance on graduation celebrations, Siena will host two separate ceremonies that day to stay within capacity regulations at the Times Union Center in Albany.

Details about event times, ticketing and more are currently being determined, and will be announced as soon as possible. Other Commencement-related activities, including the awarding of master’s degrees, will be held on campus.

Rice will receive an honorary doctorate of humane letters from Siena. Due to COVID travel restrictions, and to accommodate the two ceremonies, she will prepare a video address to be shared at the Times Union Center.

Rice, who served as secretary of state under President George W. Bush from 2005 to 2009, was the second woman and first black woman to hold the post. She also served as national security advisor from 2001 to 2005, the first woman to hold the position.

She is currently director of the Hoover Institution at Stanford University, and its senior fellow on public policy. In addition, she is a founding partner of Rice, Hadley, Gates & Manuel LLC, an international strategic consulting firm.

Rice served as Stanford’s provost from 1993 to 1999, during which time she was the institution’s chief budget and academic officer. As a professor of political science, Rice has been on the Stanford faculty since 1981 and has won two of the university’s highest teaching honors – the 1984 Walter J. Goires Award for Excellence in Teaching and the 1993 School of Humanities and Sciences Dean’s Award for Distinguished Teaching.

She has authored and co-authored numerous books, most recently To Build a Better World: Choices to End the Cold War and Create a Global Commonwealth (2019), co-authored with Philip Zelikow. Among her other volumes are three bestsellers, Democracy: Stories from the Long Road to Freedom (2017); No Higher Honor: A Memoir of My Years in Washington (2011); and Extraordinary, Ordinary People: A Memoir of Family (2010).

She currently serves on the boards of Dropbox, Inc., an online storage technology company; C3.ai, an AI software company; and Makena Capital Management, a private endowment firm. In addition, she is Vice Chair of the Board of Governors of the Boys & Girls Clubs of America and a trustee of the Aspen Institute.

Born in Birmingham, Alabama, Rice holds three degrees in political science: her bachelor’s from the University of Denver; her master’s from the University of Notre Dame; and her Ph.D. from the Graduate School of International Studies at the University of Denver.
Siena Summer Sweat

Get ready to kick off the summer with alumni across the world in a “triathlon” event, Siena style! During the months of June, July and August, Siena will hold events designed around a peloton/personal cycle ride, the return of the virtual 5k, and a freestyle water activity! Registration will go live in June. Sign up for all thee events to receive a special Siena medal!
Find more details at siena.edu/alumni/events

Ready, Set, Action!

When students and alumni look back on their Siena experiences, more often than not friars are a staple in their stories.

Before the pandemic, Fr. Larry Anderson, would often be seen eating lunch with students in the dining hall, and on the weekends and throughout the summer Fr. Sean O’Brien could be found supervising the Siena Mentoring Program. One of Siena’s newest friars, Fr. Roberto “Tito” Serrano, has been known to skate through the quad with his habit blowing in the breeze, or hosting “Tea with Tito,” during Lent.

The Franciscan presence on campus is rooted in Siena’s mission to educate the mind, body and spirit. But with social distancing protocols in place, Fr. Tito wanted to figure out a way to continue to engage and connect with the student body.

“As far back as I can remember, I’ve always wanted to be a friar.”

Inspired by his passion for movies, Fr. Tito huddled with his fellow brothers around the Friary fireplace and started to ask each of them about their favorite film. A spark from the crackling wood fire sparked an idea in his mind: recreating famous movie posters. Pairing the famous films with the friars wasn’t a hard task — each was able to pick their favorite, or embrace a theme that they found important to showcase.

Two of Siena’s newest friars, Fr. Robert Sanoz and Fr. Greg Gebbia, took inspiration from the classic film Goodfellas, and created a poster for their own version, Godfellas.

Keep an eye out on campus as more posters debut throughout the remainder of the spring semester.

“I like when people meet us as people who do not take ourselves too seriously. This project invites students to see us wrapped up in humor and joy. Joy is at the heart of who we are! From the Psalms, ‘How good and pleasant it can be when brothers live as one.’” – Fr. Greg Gebbia
Memorial Day Prayer

Thank you, Lord for the gift of memory which gives us the abilities: to look back; to understand; and to give thanks.

On this Memorial Day, our memory helps us remember the sacrifices of those who have given their lives to serve our nation.

On this Memorial Day, our memory helps us understand more fully the significance of the great sacrifices made by these heroes.

On this Memorial Day, our memory helps us give thanks to You for the example of laying down their lives for us. Our memory recalls the words of Jesus: “…no one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends…”

On this Memorial Day, because of their great love, we pledge to honor them by living and preserving the values of liberty, equality, and justice for all.

Lord, watch over the people we remember today. Give them, and help us realize, the everlasting peace of your kingdom. Amen.

Fr. Kevin Mullen ’75, O.F.M., Ph.D, Provincial Minister

An Institution of Higher Beauty

In 2020, Condé Nast Traveler magazine named Siena one of “The 50 Most Beautiful College Campuses in America.”

All Saints agree - our campus home is lovely! From the sun glinting off the gold dome of Siena Hall, to the oaks and maples shading the quad; from Thompson’s Trail meandering to the townhouses, to the original 1930s architecture situated alongside modern designs - Siena College is indeed beautiful!

As a special thank you as a member of the President’s Circle, the Annual Fund will be sending you your very own copy this summer!
The World Needs More Saints!

Events

Friday, May 07  Saints Circle | ACE with Allison Schultz and Jerry DeFrancisco ’68
Thursday, May 13  Stack Center Entrepreneur of the Year | Albert “Bud” Heck ’63
Thursday, May 20  3rd Thursday | Siena Lacrosse Coaches
Tuesday, May 25  Senior Saints | Memorial Day Zoom
Sunday, May 30  Commencement at the Times Union Center
Monday, May 31  Close of Siena Fiscal Year
Friday, June 3-6  Virtual Reunion Weekend
Thursday, July 29  Sarazen Golf Tournament

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