A World of Saints

This year’s freshman class of international students is larger and more diverse than any class in College history.

The question Anuk Siyambalapitiya ’25 hears the most is, "Where exactly is Sri Lanka?" He explains that home is a small island country just southeast of India. It’s likely few Saints on campus have ever been to Sri Lanka. In fact, Siyambalapitiya is the first person from Sri Lanka to ever attend Siena.

"It is something to be proud of, coming here and getting that first experience, and hopefully I can pass that down to other Sri Lankans. Just being international and studying in the U.S., there’s pride in that accomplishment."

Siyambalapitiya is one of 53 international students on campus, the largest cohort in Siena history. The Saints hail from 25 different countries, including four nations represented at Siena for the first time: Sri Lanka, Albania, Austria, and Mozambique.

Siyambalapitiya found Siena during a Google search of American colleges in the Northeast. He read about the scholarship guarantee, and then discussed the option with his college counselor who endorsed the choice. Fortune Iheanetu ’25 was first attracted to Siena because Lindsay King, associate director of international recruitment, was the only recruiter who showed up on time to the virtual college fair. Iheanetu is the first Saint from Mozambique, located in southeastern Africa.
The international students participated in a two-day orientation in late August, that included a trip aboard the Minnie Ha Ha steamboat on Lake George. Iheanetu said the opportunity to bond with other international students experiencing the same thing makes the adjustment to college life in America so much easier.

"I was brushing my teeth, and that's when I met my closest friend. There are people joining me from all over the world, and we have so much to share with each other. It's a really nice feeling."

In all, Siena is now home to 115 students from 51 different countries.

"These students come from a wide range of backgrounds, and bring unique life experiences and worldviews to our little corner of Latham. Though they're all quite different from each other, these students all have the same aspiration: to be on Siena's holistic, transformative journey and to earn an Education for a Lifetime." said Susan Ambrose, Assistant Director for International Student Services.

There’s No Place Like Home

Join us for our inaugural Siena College Homecoming from November 9–14, 2021 as we bring together alumni, students, parents, family and friends to celebrate what it means to be a Saint.

Homecoming week kicks off with the highly anticipated Franciscan Cup basketball game watch party against St. Bonaventure on Tuesday Nov 9th. The week continues with the time honored tradition of remembering our veterans on Thursday night with the 11th annual veteran’s recognition dinner. There will be an all-alumni welcome back party on Friday night followed by the first men’s home basketball game of the year on Saturday vs the University of Delaware. The weekend concludes on Sunday with homecoming Mass and the Class of 2020 commencement.

For more information on homecoming, please visit siena.edu/homecoming

Giving Tuesday

Giving Tuesday is a global movement created a number of years ago to unleash the power of people to transform their communities and the world. Celebrated the Tuesday after Thanksgiving, 11/30 promises to be a special event for the Siena community.

Siena is proud to participate again this year. By making a gift through the Annual Fund, you help current students pursue their studies and discover their passions while fueling every part of our campus with resources that prioritize both students and faculty.

Please visit siena.edu/givingtuesday or by calling 518-783-2461 to make your gift or pledge in advance of the big day. Gifts of $50 or more will receive a special 2022 Siena Calendar celebrating 85 years of Siena.

After All, the World Needs More Saints!
Most high, glorious God,

At the changing of the seasons, help us to cling to your unchanging love for us.

As the days grow shorter, help us to know that the light of your presence can never be extinguished.

As the natural world is filled with the vibrant colors of autumn, open our eyes to the wonders of your handiwork. May we glory in the wonders of this planet, forever seeking the common good, and know the abiding care you have for us and for the entirety of creation.

As the weather grows colder, ensure that the fire of your love continues to burn brightly through our lives. Against the chill of fall and the inevitability of winter, give us hearts that are warm and open to our brothers and sisters, especially those most in need: the poor, the outcast, the marginalized and the downtrodden.

Help us to understand that the cycles of change, growth, death and new life that we see in the seasons is mirrored in our own lives, and that there is no fall or winter that can hold back the Eternal Spring prepared by your Son, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Br. Jason D. Damon, OFM
UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, October 21, 2021
Monthly Meet-Up | Siena Men's and Women's Basketball Preview
Hear from Coach Carmen Maciariello '01 and Coach Jim Jabir on the upcoming men's and women's basketball seasons.

Saturday, October 30, 2021
Northern California Meet the President Reception
Join Siena President, Chris Gibson '86, Ph.D. for a reception, wine tasting, and tour of St. Francis Winery hosted by Bob '89 and Tracey (Gunther) '89 Aldridge.

Friday, November 05, 2021
Saints Circle | Dr. Len Cutler, Professor of Political Science
Join us for November's Saints Circle with Dr. Len Cutler, Professor of Political Science, and guest Gloria Bruzzano '01, Esq. Owner and Executive Director of Children First Coaching and Consulting

Tuesday, November 09, 2021
Homecoming 2021 | Br. Ed Coughlin Franciscan Cup
Cheer on the Saints as they take on St. Bonaventure in the Men's Basketball season opener.

Thursday, November 11, 2021
Homecoming 2021 | 11th Annual Veterans Recognition Dinner
Proudly recognizing our alumni, faculty and staff veterans at the 11th Annual Veterans Recognition Dinner.

Friday, November 12, 2021
Homecoming 2021 | All Alumni Welcome Back
Welcome Back, Alumni! Join us at Fort Orange Brewing.

Saturday, November 13, 2021
Homecoming 2021 | All Alumni Pre-Game Reception
Meet up with fellow alumni and friends at The Hollow before tip-off at The Times Union Center.

Homecoming 2021 | Classes of '70 and '71 Pre-Game Reception
50th Reunion Classes of '70 and '71 Pre-Game Reception with Siena President, Chris Gibson '86 Ph.D.

Homecoming 2021 | Siena Men's Basketball vs. University of Delaware
Cheer on Siena Men's Basketball as they take on the University of Delaware Hens in the Saints home opener!

Sunday, November 14, 2021
Homecoming 2021 | Baccalaureate and Alumni Mass

Tuesday, November 30, 2021
Giving Tuesday
#GivingTuesday is a global day of giving fueled by the power of social media and collaboration.

Sunday, December 19, 2021
Alumni Christmas Mass and Reception
Join us in the St. Mary of the Angels Chapel for an Alumni Christmas Mass.

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