



Journeys

»»» Summer 2025

Newsletter of the Siena/AMC Science Humanities & Medicine Program

»»» REFLECTING ON THE REMEDIAL IMPULSE OF THE SIENA/AMC PROGRAM

Dr. Barry, Siena/AMC Director

When I was first learning about the Siena Science, Humanities, and Medicine program, I, of course, heard about the flagship Summer of Service experience. I learned about the embedded humanities curriculum and explored what it meant to live out Franciscan values at Siena. But what truly stood out to me was something a friend—alumnus Steve Hannigan '10/'14—shared. He spoke about how Dr. LaRow encouraged something he called the “Remedial Impulse.”

It was a term I had never heard before. Steve described it simply as "seeing a need and taking action." That concept stuck with me, and over the past year, I've found myself returning to it often. Whether I'm reviewing applicants, advising students, or reflecting on what makes this program unique, the idea of the Remedial Impulse remains front and center. It captures something essential about the Siena/AMC experience—something our students do not often encounter in traditional medical training.

Our students and alumni embody this value in countless ways. Just in the past year, alumni have been honored as Siena distinguished alumni for their service and leadership (see page 1) and helped create a longitudinal student experience focused on understanding social and structural determinants of health. Medical students have secured grants to develop a narrative diary project, providing space to learn from and honor patient and caregiver experiences. Siena undergraduates have and continue to engage in Summer of Service placements around the world (see page 8) and locally - from schools to nursing homes - and explored questions for their honors theses that improve their community and future profession (see page 3).

It has been truly inspiring to witness and be a part of - and worth celebrating.

To honor this value instilled in the program by Dr. LaRow, we introduced a new “Remedial Impulse Award” at our graduation picnic this year. It is a way to continue encouraging this mindset and to recognize the enduring impact of a program (and person!) that has been ahead of its time.

Just as the broader field of medicine is beginning to appreciate the importance of patient-centered care, the Siena/AMC program has long been and will continue to foster the development of humanity-centered physicians.



»»» Ryan Weis (Siena '21, AMC '25) is the first Siena medical student recipient of the 'Remedial Impulse' award for his work on food justice via the Radix Ecological Sustainability Center.



»»» Alexander Farabaugh (Siena '27, AMC '31) is the first Siena undergrad recipient of the 'Remedial Impulse' award for organizing student groups throughout the year to share their musical talents with local nursing home residents.

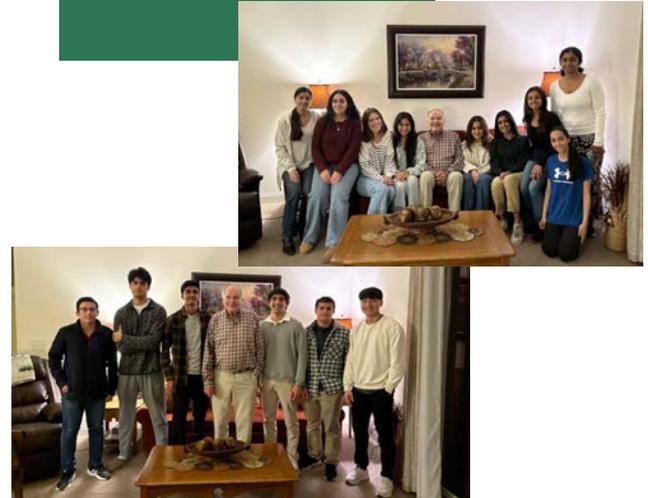
STAYING CONNECTED TO OUR ROOTS



Siena class of 2028 meets Dr. LaRow

Each year, our freshmen classes are welcomed by the original Siena/AMC founder, Dr. Ed LaRow to his home to meet him and get to know the program history. Students continue to visit Dr. LaRow often throughout their time at Siena, AMC, and beyond. Rheann Ponniah and Olivia Sifain (Siena '28/ AMC '32) reflected this past fall about the first Dr. LaRow get together for the class of 2028:

“Our visit to Dr. Larow’s house was a memorable experience that brought all 15 of us closer together for the first time. As we gathered around, bonding over wings, pizza, and the laughter-filled game of Monikers, we could sense the warmth and camaraderie that he had developed within our medical program. He shared with us the inspiring history of the program, including the “all-or-nothing” story of the first class, which was a testament to Dr. Larow’s vision for this program and his leadership. Throughout the evening, he made a genuine effort to connect with each of us, effortlessly sparking conversations with his lively sense of humor. The night not only strengthened our friendships but also gave us unique insight into the passion and dedication that shaped the program that we are all proud to be a part of today.”



Alumni Dr. Joseph Gauta honored for advancing the welfare of others

During the 2025 Siena alumni weekend, Dr. Joseph Gauta of the inaugural Siena/AMC class (Siena '90/AMC'94) received a distinguished alumni award, The Professor Egon Plager Award for accomplishments in advancing the welfare of other human beings. Dr. Gauta trained in OB/GYN and Urogynecology at Tulane University in New Orleans. From there, he moved back to his home state of Florida where he raised his three children with his wife Susan (Siena '91) and continues to practice. His son Stephen (Siena '24/AMC '28) was the first legacy student in the Siena/AMC program.



Dr. Gauta’s career has been dedicated to serving others. His practice at the The Florida Bladder Institute was born out of Dr. Gauta’s keen observation and the desire to fulfill an unmet need of women suffering with complex pelvic health issues. He teaches domestically and internationally on pelvic reconstructive techniques and technologies and serves as an adjunct professor at Tulane University. He has delivered thousands of babies through a charity organization he and other MDs established for the care of pregnant, indigent migrant workers in Immokalee, Florida called the Foundation for Women’s Health. Additionally, his family and other families of Croatian descent started ‘Little Angels Worldwide’, a charity organization which supports orphans in Croatia and Nigeria with an annual fundraising event.

Dr. Gauta is an innovative leader in his specialty, having authored and been involved in numerous published international medical articles concerning women’s health and also teamed with engineers to develop a product to improve the safety of in-office procedures. He has a long record of service to his profession as a board member of the Florida Medical Association for 6 years, past-President of the Collier County Medical Society, and as a former board member of Leadership Collier, a Chamber of Commerce group dedicated to fostering civil engagement in young entrepreneurs and developing business leaders of the future.



CONGRATULATIONS DR. GAUTA!

FALL 2024 RECAP



A Perfect Siena/AMC Match!
Congrats to Annamaria Walden & Nate Kim
(Siena '22/AMC '26) on their marriage!

Fall Picnic

WELCOMING OUR NEW FRESHMEN & CATCHING UP WITH OLD FRIENDS!



Parents Weekend

ALUMNI AND NEW STUDENT FAMILIES MET AT THE SIENA/AMC RECEPTION

TEDDY BEAR CHECK-UP DAY



Siena hosted it's first Teddy Bear check-up day!!



Adopt-a-Family

The Siena/AMC Program adopted a family for the holidays!



SPRING 2025 RECAP

NEW LOGO!

Siena and AMC Communications collaborated to create a new program logo!



MATCH Day

Where are they going?! See page 4



SCHOOL OF SCIENCE OPEN HOUSE IN THE NEW NOBEL HALL

Students showed off our new health education spaces to kids in the community



With Honors!

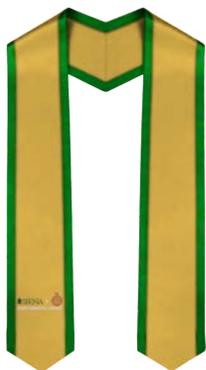


Asavari Gowda - 'Exploring the Factors that Shape Refugee Adolescents' Perspectives and Experiences with Substance Use'

Erin McCabe - 'Improving Surgical Outcomes with a Provider Tool to Identify and Support Mental Health Before Surgery'



Graduation Celebration & New Swag!



JUNIOR ANNA NGUYEN PETITIONED PRESIDENT SEIFERT FOR STOLES TO DISTINGUISH THE SIENA/AMC ROGRAM GRADS! THANK YOU ANNA!!



AMC c/o 2025 MATCH DAY!



➤➤➤ WHERE ARE OUR GRADUATES GOING?!

Christina Carey
Pediatrics, Stony Brook Hospital, Stony Brook, NY

Catherine Cyril
Pediatrics, Yale, New Haven, CT



Kaitlin Davis
Medicine-Pediatrics, U. of Rochester, Rochester, NY

Ashna Gupta
Psychiatry, Montefiore, Bronx, NY

Christine Jacob
Internal Medicine, Rutgers, Newark, NJ



Rida Merchant
Psychiatry, Albany Medical Center, Albany, NY

Trevina Soliman
Radiology, Rutgers, New Brunswick, NJ (AMC prelim year)

Yostina Soliman
Anesthesiology, U. of Maryland, Baltimore, MD



Michael Tram
Urology, Temple, Philadelphia, PA

Ryan Weis
Family Medicine, Greater Lawrence Health Center, Lawrence, MA





SIENA COLLEGE CLASS OF 2025

Jaimie Abraham

Summa Cum Laude
National Society of Leadership & Success
Phi Sigma Gamma Sigma (Biology)

Safiya Alvi

Summa Cum Laude
Alpha Kappa Alpha Honors Society
Phi Sigma Gamma Sigma (Biology)

Grace Dobrzynski

Summa Cum Laude
Phi Sigma Gamma Sigma (Biology)

Zane Gabriel

Summa Cum Laude
Alpha Kappa Alpha Honors Society
National Society of Leadership & Success
Phi Sigma Gamma Sigma (Biology)

Asavari Gowda

Summa Cum Laude
Alpha Kappa Alpha Honors Society
Standish Honors Fellow
Certificate in Community Development
Alpha Mu Gamma (Spanish)
Phi Sigma Gamma Sigma (Biology)

Giuliana Graziosi

Magna Cum Laude
Alpha Kappa Alpha Honors Society
National Society of Leadership & Success
Phi Sigma Gamma Sigma (Biology)

Erin McCabe

Magna Cum Laude
Standish Honors Fellow
National Society of Leadership & Success
Phi Sigma Gamma Sigma (Biology)

Andrea Thomas

Summa Cum Laude
Alpha Kappa Alpha Honors Society
Phi Sigma Tau (Philosophy)



“Sometimes you change the world not by kicking through the front door, but by holding it open for the next person.”

- Al Roker

Siena Commencement Address

ALBANY MEDICAL COLLEGE CLASS OF 2025



Congrats to other Siena/AMC Medical
Student award winners:

Elizabeth Hussar, Siena '23/AMC '27
Alumni Award for Academic Excellence
in the Anatomies

Medha Palnati, Siena '22/AMC '26
USPHS Nomination for Excellence
in Public Health

Christina Carey

MD with Distinction in Nutrition
Service-Learning Award

Catherine Cyril

The R.J. Wharton Prize in Pediatrics

Kaitlin Davis

Summa Cum Laude
Alpha Omega Alpha (Junior Yr)
Kevin D. Barron Neuroscience Award
Courtney Lane Bass, MD Memorial Award
Janet M. Glasgow Memorial Achievement Citation

Ashna Gupta

Christine Ann Jacob

Gold Humanism Scholar

Rida Merchant

The Thompson Prize in Psychiatry

Trevina Soliman

Yostina Soliman

Michael Tram

Summa Cum Laude
Alpha Omega Alpha
Gold Humanism Scholar
The S. Oakley Vander Poel Prize
The Hesser Family Prize in Neurology
The Alden March Prize for Clinical Surgery
Farrington Urological Awards

Ryan Weis

Alpha Omega Alpha
Gold Humanism Scholar
Feldstein Family Practice Scholarship
Walter K. Van Alstyne Alumni Memorial Scholarship



»»» Siena/AMC c/o 2025 Graduate Grace Dobrzynski



Repeat Siena female athlete of the year & Capital District Sports Woman of the Year!

Graduating Siena senior, Grace Dobrzynski, was named the first repeat Siena Athletics Female Student Athlete of the Year winner since the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 seasons. Grace received the award for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 season. "She has been an incredible ambassador of the Siena lacrosse program and Siena, while balancing the academic rigors of the AMC program", said Siena women's lacrosse Head Coach Danielle Schwan-Tetreault. This honor is especially an incredible triumph after Grace faced a knee injury at the end of her junior year but demonstrated incredible resilience and dedication to get back to play for her Senior season. Through it all, Grace graduated with a 4.0 BA in Biology and will start medical school at AMC this summer.

In addition to finishing the 2025 season with 26 goals, 36 assists and 62 points (leading the Saints in assists and points), Grace's incredible Siena lacrosse career accomplishments include:

- All-time leader for Siena lacrosse in career points with 256.
- First all-time with 174 assists (more than double the second-place ranked player).
- Named a nominee to the Allstate NACDA Good Work Team by the Team Selection Committee for completing over 270 community service hours working with the Double H Ranch as a cabin counselor and the Kenya Lacrosse Association.
- Named to the All-MAAC First Team on attack.
- Named to the All-MAAC Championship Team.
- Three-time MAAC All-Academic Team & four-time MAAC Academic Honor Roll member.

On July 1st, Grace was also announced as one of four collegiate winners of the Capital District Sports Women of the Year! The Capital District Sports Women of the Year organization (CDSWOY) honors the best and brightest female student athletes from high schools and colleges in the Capital District of New York State. The student-athletes will be recognized at an awards gala in August for their achievements in academics, athletics, and community service. Grace becomes the third ever Siena student-athlete selected by CDSWOY.

CONGRATULATIONS GRACE!

JUST A FEW OTHER INCREDIBLE SIENA/AMC ATHLETES! <<<

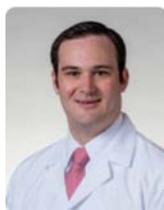


Sydney Murray
(27/'31)
SWIM & DIVE

*Diver of the week
2x in 2024-2025
season*



Sarah Duggan
(22/'26)
SWIM & DIVE
2021-2022
Team Captain



Dr. Casey Hladik
(15/'19)
HOCKEY



Dr. Meghan (Yi) Monthie
(12/'16)
XC/TRACK

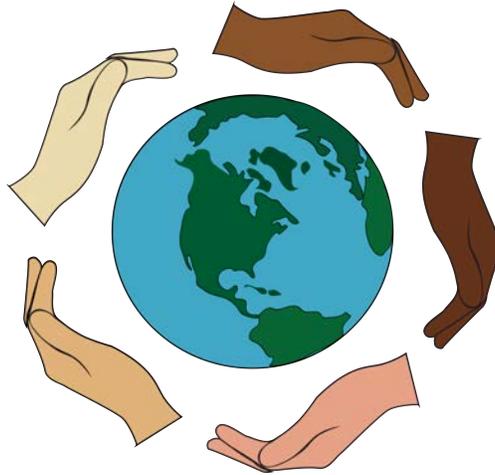


Dr. Joan Paul
(05/'09)
XC/TRACK & LACROSSE
2004-2005 XC
Team Captain



Dr. Jeff Uzzilia
(98/'02)
TENNIS

We're so excited for all of our rising
Seniors as they're off for their
SUMMER OF SERVICE



Follow the Siena/AMC Instagram [@sienaamc](https://www.instagram.com/sienaamc)
to hear about their adventures in...



THE PHILIPPINES

INDIA



SOUTH AFRICA

GHANA



Final Highlights 2024-2025



Thank you to Dr. Ken Helm for his years of service on the Siena/AMC Policy & Promotions committee! Welcome Dr. Rebecca Adikes to the committee! We appreciate your dedication to our students

