



INSIDE THE PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE



It was in all likelihood the only college presidential inauguration in history with a recessional composed by Led Zeppelin.

Management professor, college administrator, leadership scholar and rock music aficionado Charles F. “Chuck” Seifert, Ph.D. was formally installed as the 13th president of Siena College in a September 21 ceremony held in the UHY Center.

With the theme “Leading the Way Together: A Call to Serve,” the inauguration featured Siena students, faculty, staff and trustees; Franciscan friars of the Holy Name Province; delegates from colleges and universities across the U.S.; elected officials; and Siena alumni.

Student Senate President Luke Keith '24 shared how welcoming Seifert has been to him and fellow student leaders.

“Empathy, listening and vision are characteristics that we attribute to servant leadership,” Keith said. “At Siena, we learn a lot about servant leadership and how it can impact the community. It is a blessing for our institution to have a true servant leader as its president. As a student leader myself, Dr. Seifert is a role model on how to live out our Franciscan values.”

On behalf of Siena’s faculty, administrators and staff, Seifert, a skilled fly fisherman, was presented with a framed set of nine custom-made green and gold flies sporting Siena-inspired monikers such as “Buzzer Beater,” “Seven Friars” and “Saints Go Marching.”

“Today, we are here – not as representatives of the faculty, staff, and administration – but as three members of the Siena community – to offer our support as you begin your presidency, and to say

thank you for Leading the Way,” said Sarah Berke, Ph.D., associate professor of biology and chair of the faculty committee.

After James C. Hunter was presented with an honorary doctor of humane letters, Seifert accepted the mace, charter and medallion that mark the office of college president. He began his inaugural address by thanking family, friends and colleagues who traveled to campus for the ceremony.

“I am truly blessed to serve an organization I love so much,” he said. “We are the best organization I have ever had the chance to work for or with. I know that I’m a better person and leader because this community accepted me 27 years ago.”

Seifert proudly noted Siena’s exceptional rankings: the new top 100 college accolade from the Wall Street Journal; number one college in New York for getting a job after graduation; and a spot on the College Consensus national listing of top 10 Catholic colleges.

“These rankings didn’t just happen. Every community member worked incredibly hard to make sure we are meeting our mission and enhancing the student experience both inside and outside the classroom. Also, we didn’t focus on outcomes and rankings; we focused on the student experience that resulted in our exceptional outcomes and rankings.”

Looking toward the future, Seifert predicted continued high demand and national recognition “for our dynamic and extraordinary student experience.” Always striving to do better and be better, Siena will continue with “incremental improvements that over time will have a transformational impact.”

“We need to cement our culture of excellence. With this culture, everyone is rowing in the same direction and at the same speed. A high-trust environment is developed where everyone is focused on the success of all community members, and all community members are accountable for delivering excellence.”

Inspired by a quote from famed football coach Vince Lombardi, Seifert concluded, “Join me in the chase for perfection, and with the blessed community of Siena Saints, let’s catch excellence together.”

As the brass quintet belted out Zeppelin’s classic “Kashmir,” the ceremony concluded and the assembled Saints processed out into the late summer sunshine to begin the next chapter in the Siena story.

SIENA SOARS INTO TOP-100 OF WALL STREET JOURNAL BEST U.S. COLLEGE RANKINGS

The Wall Street Journal released its 2024 Best Colleges in the U.S. listing and Siena College has hit the Top-100 nationwide! Siena comes in at #91 for all colleges and universities in the U.S., a leap of 200 spots from last year. The WSJ/College Pulse methodology, massively overhauled in the past year, ranks colleges based on three factors: student outcomes (70%); learning environment (20%); and diversity (10%).

This recognition goes beyond mere numbers, as it delves into the real-world impact of a Siena education. The WSJ/College Pulse ranking considers aspects such as graduation rates, graduate salaries, and the financial investment required by students when calculating student outcomes. In essence, it acknowledges the tangible benefits of a Siena education. The ranking applies rigorous statistical analysis to official government data, combined with responses from a large sample of independent surveys of verified students. Siena also appeared in the WSJ/College Pulse’s three sub-ranking categories: salary impact (#110), social mobility (#120) and student experience (#269). Siena’s ranking eclipsed all local colleges except RPI (#34) and topped most peer institutions as well as several highly regarded regional private colleges, including: Bryant 111, Fairfield 124, Providence 135, Fordham 185, Quinnipiac 187. Neither Marist, LeMoyne, Manhattan nor St. Bonaventure ranked in the top 400. Iona was the top peer/MAAC school (#66).

Additionally, Siena has climbed five spots in the recently released 2024 U.S. News Best College Rankings, advancing from #18 to #13 in the Regional Universities (North) category, which encompasses 178 peer institutions. Similar to the WSJ Ranking, Siena has made a significant leap in the U.S. News social mobility ranking of all colleges and universities, moving up from #105 to #58. The U.S. News social mobility methodology factors in PELL graduation rates and performance, borrower debt, and salary in comparison to that of high school graduates.

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

During the College's Family Weekend festivities, students and families take advantage of a chance to bring their pets to school for the annual Blessing of the Animals. The event is the culmination of Francis Week, which consists of academic, spiritual and community-focused programming that coincides with the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi.



All animals are welcomed from cats and dogs to horses and even leopards which Fr. Ben Kuhn blessed a few decades back.

At Franciscan churches, a friar often welcomes each animal with a special prayer.

"Blessed are you, Lord God, maker of all living creatures. You called forth fish in the sea, birds in the air and animals on the land. You inspired Saint Francis to call all of them his brothers and sisters. We ask you to bless this pet. By the power of your love, enable it to live according to your plan. May we always praise you for all your beauty in creation. Blessed are you, Lord our God, in all your creatures! Amen."



SAINTS STEP UP GIVING TUESDAY • NOVEMBER 28

#GivingTuesday is a global generosity movement unleashing the power of radical generosity, fueled by the power of social media and collaboration.

President Seifert, Ph.D. invited the Siena community to Step Together as he began his term as Siena's 13th President. Now, he invites you to Step Up with fellow alumni, students, family, and community members to participate in the Giving Tuesday global movement.

Join fellow Saints from around the world in this one day challenge and make your gift to support the Siena community by visiting siena.edu/givingtuesday, calling 518-783-2461 or by scanning the QR code below.



13TH ANNUAL VETERANS RECOGNITION DINNER

On November 9, Siena will celebrate the 13th annual Veterans Recognition Dinner to honor and remember our servicemen and women. The keynote speaker for the event will be Lieutenant General Joseph DeFrancisco, USA, Retired and Colonel William Keegan '81, USA, Retired, will be inducted into the Hall of Fame. The event will take place in the Maloney Great Room in the Sarazen Student Union from 5:30-7:30 PM. To register, please contact Alumni Engagement at 518-783-2430.



Annual Fund

515 Loudon Road

Loudonville, NY 1221-1462



UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, October 25, 2023

Siena Beverage Institute "Spooky" Happy Hour

The Siena Beverage Institute (SBI) is hosting a “spooky” themed happy hour for Siena alumni and friends at the Berlin Lounge, a speakeasy inspired cocktail lounge located above the Troy Beer Garden.

Thursday, November 2, 2023

Alumni Book Club - Discussion

Enjoy a discussion on Dr. Lin Greenberg's new book *You Are Here!*

Thursday, November 9, 2023

13th Annual Veterans Recognition Dinner

Save the Date!

Friday, November 17, 2023

Dallas, TX - Meet the President

Join us to meet Siena College's 13th President, Dr. Charles “Chuck” and Deborah “Deb” Seifert.

Sunday, December 3, 2023

Christmas at Siena!

Join alumni, students and staff for a Siena community Christmas celebration. The celebration starts with a family mass at 4:00 PM at the St. Mary of the Angels Chapel and continues at 5:00 PM at Siena Hall with tree lighting, treats and a visit from Santa!

Thursday, December 7, 2023

NYC Christmas Party

Celebrate Christmas with your Siena family in New York City! Join us for the Annual NYC Siena Alumni Christmas party.

Tuesday, December 14, 2023

Boston Alumni Christmas Party

Get in the holiday spirit with fellow Siena alumni and friends this December!

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