



THE TALKING CIRCLE

The Class of 2022



Front Row (Left to Right): Hannah LaPointe, Naesha- Lashay Kelley, D’Arcey Andrushko, Kathryn Louey, Isabella Barone, Daniella Carmona

Back Row (Left to Right) : Elijah McDonald, Courtney St. Ostil, Gabrielle Coderre, Meghan Jones, Emily Trupia, Brittney Decker, Isabel Abrams, Daniel Compani

ADVISORY BOARD

Established in 2001, the Advisory Board of Siena College Social Work Program is composed of a wide variety of people whose input and assistance are important to the Program. The Board provides feedback on program activities, organizes trainings for students and partners with the Office of Health Promotion for the betterment of the campus community.

CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS:

- Carly Belmonte
- Kari Berman
- Alexandra Betts, '18
- Kate Kaufman Burns
- Catherine Capowski
- Hakim Collier, '12
- Stuart Gitlin
- Bruce Grossman
- Deb House
- Elizabeth Rende-Bakshi
- Amanda Student, '11
- Carrie Towle

2021-2022 STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES:

- Jillian Fiddler, '23
- Hannah La Pointe, '22

INTERESTED IN GIVING BACK?

If interested being a member of the program advisory board, donating to the social work endowed scholarship, providing an info session on a field of practice, or have another creative idea, please contact the our Program Coordinator Davina Mayo-Dunham at dmayodunham@siena.edu.

SENIOR AWARDS



Courtney St. Ostil
Social and Economic
Justice Award



Isabel Abrams
Major Field Award



Hannah LaPointe
Social Work A
dvisory Board



Emily Trupia
Social Work Club
President

PROFESSOR DONNA MCINTOSH RETIRES



DONNA MCINTOSH, PROFESSOR EMERITUS SIENA COLLEGE 1995-2022

Over the course of my personal and professional experiences I developed “Donna Sayings” based on the code of ethics and tied to how we conduct ourselves professionally and interpersonally. For those who have had me as a professor I encouraged you to create your own guidepost sayings to help you through life and work. Remember, your silence will most often be taken as agreement with the status quo. Sometimes that is okay, but often it is not. It is all about how silence gets interpreted. I say “it is easier to learn to speak up than shut up.”

Speaking up is a learning curve, and finding your voice will come with time, and continue to evolve throughout your professional career. Though not always appreciated, speaking up takes courage as well as good timing. Do your homework. Research the person or audience with whom you are engaging and learn everything you can about the subject you are going to discuss. Have an informed position, but a biased opinion. Use both primary and secondary sources. Read the actual text of the law or policy and make sure the community members are present. As social workers we are advocates, however it still does not absolve us from our responsibility to empower people to speak for themselves. Make Connections. Learn peoples names and never ask anyone to do something you are not willing to do yourself, this comes from the standard that “all work is valued.” These connections will allow you to better serve your clients as well as build upon your professionalism and knowledge that will guide you throughout your career.

When it comes to advocating for change, “Pace yourself. This work is a marathon, not a sprint.” In this work, it is easy to burn out trying to change the world making it important to celebrate the little wins and accomplishments.

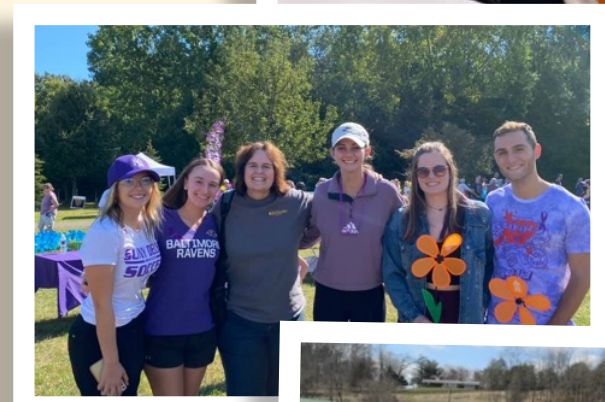
Be able to laugh at yourself sometimes, it helps with perfectionism. We must strive to give our best and deliver quality, but perfection does not exist while living and working in service to others.

There are so many other sayings I have lived by over the years, and I leave you with this last one: “Sitting on the sidelines is not an option.”



Donna with the Social Work Club during their Apple Picking trip in Fall 21'

Donna began her career at Siena College in 1995. Throughout her career Donna has had many roles and achievements. A staunch advocate for runaway and homeless youth, Donna served 31 years on the Board of Directors of the Coalition for Homeless Youth. In her 27 years at Siena, she spent 14 serving as the Social Work Department Chair, and several more as Field Coordinator. In 2016, Donna received the Legislative Advocacy Leadership Award by the NYS Social Work Education Association in recognition of her years organizing the annual legislative action day as well as her advocacy work for many other areas. In 2008, Donna was named the Social Work Educator of the Year by the NYS Social Work Education Association. In 2020, Donna received Siena’s Matthew T. Conlin, O.F.M. Distinguished Service Award.



PROGRAM UPDATES



MEGAN CONTI accepted the position of Assistant Professor. Megan comes to us with extensive direct-practice experience including clinical, administrative, and supervisory roles in outpatient mental health facilities and non-profit organizations. Her practice has focused on trauma-informed care with a wide range of marginalized populations, with special attention to sexual trauma. Her scholarship focuses on storytelling and critical theory (queer, CRT, post-modern) as a means of challenging contemporary social work norms and practices. Welcome Megan!



After serving six years as the Program Coordinator for the Social Work Department, **ROBIN MACHATTIE** graciously hands over the role to start her new position as Assistant Professor. Robin continues her service with the New York Army National Guard as a Behavioral Health Officer and Victim Advocate, holding the rank of Captain. Robin's practice experience includes working with homeless and foster care youth, victim/ survivors of domestic violence, victim/ survivors of sexual assault, and military populations. Congratulations Robin!



DAVINA MAYO- DUNHAM has been hired as the Program Coordinator overseeing the SWRK 301 course and the smooth running of the Department. Davina comes to us from the Troy City School District where she was a School Social Worker. During her time there Davina facilitated community engagement, conducted assessments and provided clinical support for students. Davina was also a Equity Liaison for the district and assisted with identifying inequalities in the district conducting reform. Welcome Davina!



SAINTS GO MARCHING INTO AN MSW PROGRAM

The Siena College Social Work Department embarks on a path toward creating a Masters in Social Work (MSW).

The number of social work positions is projected to increase 12% from 2020 to 2030. This translates to approximately 78,300 social work positions each year over the decade.

We believe we can create a rigorous educational program that prepares graduates for micro, mezzo and macro level practice within a global context grounded in social, economic and environmental justice, equity, and cultural humility. Our vision is for students graduating from the program to be equipped to engage in systemic change while also being prepared to sit for the social work licensing exam required for clinical practice.

Developing a good program takes time, we anticipate to enroll the first advanced standing class fall 2025, and the first two year MSW students fall 2026.

