



# THE TALKING CIRCLE



## ADVISORY BOARD UPDATES:

Current Members  
 Amanda Ricciardi, Chair  
 Christine Connolly, Secretary  
 Mari Brick  
 Stuart Gitlin  
 Deb House  
 Carrie Towle  
 Kate Kaufman Burns  
 Carly Sunderlin  
 Gordon Collier  
 Sean Cochrane  
 Bruce Grossman  
 Stephanie Capoine  
 Class of 2020 Student Representatives  
 Kayla Sweet  
 Hayley Pijanowski  
 Davina Mayo-Dunham  
 Class of 2021 Student Representatives  
 Regina Guzzo  
 Gabrielle Scauri  
 Gianna Di Gregorio  
 Bridget Scoendorf

In the Spring of 2019 the Advisory Board hosted a Safe Talk presentation about suicide prevention on the campus for social work students and others. The Board will be offering specialized trainings such as this as well as planning to host some informational sessions by alumni about different practice fields.

Thank you to Beth Pacini (class of 1987) for your leadership, commitment and support as a member of our Advisory Board, former Chair, and also adjunct instructor teaching SWRK 200. Beth served on our Board from 2002 to 2018. We love you and appreciate all you brought to our students and the program.

If interested in the program advisory board, donating to the social work endowed scholarship, providing an info session on a field of practice, please contact the department at [rmachattie@siena.edu](mailto:rmachattie@siena.edu)

Check out our Facebook page – Siena College Social Work Program

We would love to hear from you with updates!



STEPHANIE CAPONE,  
MAJOR FIELD AWARD



SUMMER LEGAL FELLOWS 2018 - STEPHANIE M LOPEZ AND EMMA HENDERSCHEDT



GARY THOMPSON  
VETERAN OF THE YEAR  
AWARD, 2017, 2018



Front Row: Kaspian Lasell, Nicole Bulger, Emma Henderschedt, Mikayla Lansing, Katelyn Guarino, Melissa Zamora, Sadie Ventura  
 Back Row: Christopher Offermann, Kenia Ramirez, Grace Lavertu, Gary Thompson, Taylor Blanco, Nicholas Pantelides, Isabel Kaczegowicz, Stephanie Lopez, Francesca Barone, Charlotte Miller, Stephanie Capone, Cara Byrant, Imani Strickland





Louisa Boehlert-Vaughan, Amy McCarthy, Kathlenn Pesci, Nadina Hartnett, Courtney Gomez, Allyson Sweeney, Meghan Williams, Delaney Longo, Carli Atkinson, Elizabeth Murphy



Elizabeth (Murphy) Sica is a banking attorney and is mother of three



## ALUMNI UPDATES CLASS OF 2009

My name is Kathleen Pesci and I was a member of the class of 2009. I can't believe it's been ten years.

After graduating from Siena in 2009, I earned my Master's Degree in Social Work from Syracuse University in 2010. I became licensed as an LMSW in 2010 as well.

Since earning my LMSW, I have had the opportunity to work in many settings as a social worker. Each setting has provided me with the opportunity to learn and grow. I have had jobs in emergency rooms both in level 1 trauma centers and psychiatric emergency rooms. I have also had the privilege to work with individuals with disabilities who were chronically homeless as well as people and their families at the end of their lives.

I care about everyone I meet. One of the individuals I have had the privilege to work with is a gentleman who was having a mental health crisis when I met him. I spent some time talking to him. We were standing next to each other looking out a window. All of a sudden, he started to talk faster and faster and point outside the window. He asked me if I saw what he saw which involved police shooting at a woman who was not wearing the proper clothing for a New York winter. I told him I did not. This individual told me to quickly get behind a wall. I followed directions because he seemed very concerned. I asked him why this was important and he told me that he did not want the police to shoot and hurt a young lady like myself. I was stunned. Here was a man who was struggling with staying in reality due to his mental illness and he was worried about protecting me. I felt very privileged to have had the opportunity to work with such an individual.

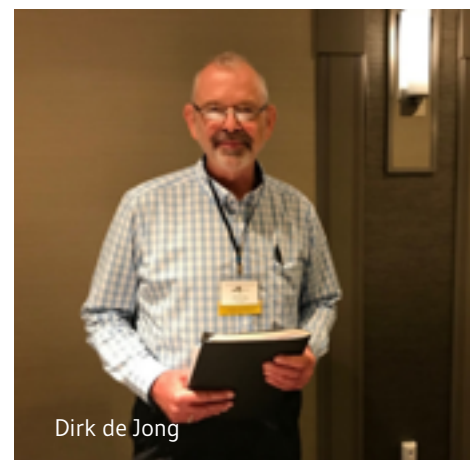
This man is just one of the people I have met over the years that has changed my perspective on humanity and reminded me that no matter what the circumstances, we all have a gift to offer.

I am excited to see what lies next in my career and I know I will always be grateful for the strong social work foundation from my time at Siena College.

Thank you, Kathleen Pesci

After Siena, I attended Wheelock College where I obtained my MSW. I interned and then worked at the nation's oldest child service organization, The Home for Little Wanderers, for the past ten years. During that time, I started a brand new program, called the Boston-Suffolk County Family Resource Center, which was an incredible professional experience. I recently started a new position at Boston Children's Hospital as the Director of Mental Health in Adolescent & Young Adult Medicine, which also gives me the opportunity to be a lecturer within Harvard Medical School. I was recently very lucky to be honored with the Franciscan Spirit Award at Alumni Weekend. After spending many glorious years living in Boston with Courtney Gomez (BSW '09), I am taking a leap and now live with my partner, Abdul, and our puppy, Wally. I also was accepted this spring to law school and am considering beginning next summer. Amy McCarthy

## FACULTY UPDATES



Dirk de Jong



Carla Sofka, Cythnia Bott and Elisa Martin



Donna McIntosh with Class of 2019 members, Charlotte Miller and Fran Barone

Congratulations to Dr. Cynthia Bott, Dr. Elisa Martin and Dr. Dirk de Jong for earning tenure and promotion to the rank of Associate Professor. Dr. de Jong will be on sabbatical fall 2019 and Dr. Bott will be on sabbatical Spring 2020

Professor Donna McIntosh earned a Graduate Certificate in Environmental Sustainability from American Public University in October 2018 and is now pursuing a Master's degree in the same field.

Dr. Carla Sofka continues to present and publish on death and social media. Check out this article on "netiquette" - <https://www.nextavenue.org/addressing-loss-on-social-media/> In addition, in the fall of 2018 Dr. Sofka co-chaired the Digital Legacy Conference at Siena College, did an individual presentation at the conference, and established new working relationships with colleagues in England as a result.

Robin MacHattie was promoted to the rank of Captain in the New York Army National Guard. Robin served as Club Advisor to the Military and Veterans Club, which was established this year.



Launch of RED (Remember Everyone Deployed) Friday Awareness Campaign



Congratulations to Dr. Cynthia Bott, recognized by Siena Student Affairs with the Advisor of the Year Award for her leadership and mentoring in the role of Social Work Club Advisor. Also pictured Emma Henderschedt - recipient of the Fr. Cyprian Mensing O.F.M. Award.



Front: Robin MacHattie and Carla Sofka  
Back: Cynthia Bott, Elisa Martin, Dirk de Jong, and Donna McIntosh