THE TALKING CIRCLE

A SIENA SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER FOR STUDENTS, ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF SIENA COLLEGE - SPRING 2020 - ISSUE 16

ADVISORY BOARD UPDATES:

Current Members
Amanda Ricciardi, Chair
Christine Connolly, Secretary
Mari Brisk
Stuart Gillin
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Kaya Sweet
Hayley Pijanowski
Davina Mayo-Dutham
Class of 2021 Student Representatives
Regina Guzzo
Gabrielle Scauri
Gianna Di Gregorio
Bridget Scenendorf

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

Check out our Facebook page—Siena College Social Work Program

We would love to hear from you with updates!

SUMMER LEGAL FELLOWS 2018 - STEPHANIE M LOPEZ AND EMMA HENDERSCHEDT

VETERAN OF THE YEAR AWARD, 2017, 2018

STEPHANIE CAPONE, MAJOR FIELD AWARD

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
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 I 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 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

FACULTY UPDATES

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 an incredible professional experience. I recently started a new position at Boston Children’s Hospital 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