

The Talking Circle

Summer 2016

Issue 13

Social Work

Advisory Board

The Advisory Board of Siena College's Social Work Program is composed of a wide variety of persons whose input and assistance is important to the Program. The Advisory Board supports the program's mission to prepare undergraduate baccalaureate students for competent generalist social work practice.

Interested in serving on the Advisory Board as a voting member or as part of a particular committee or project?

Contact

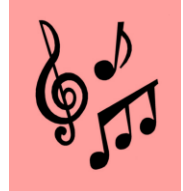
Robin MacHattie,
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Resources at Siena

Career Center
518-783-2339

Office of Alumni
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518-783-2340

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“I say Goodbye, and You say Hello!” Lennon/McCartney 1967

As a product of the 60s, and a bit of a guitar player myself, I couldn't help but reach for a musical hook for this issue. Just as we say *goodbye* to our graduating class of 2016, we prepare to say *hello* to the Class of 2020! Coinciding with that change is one of my own. On August 31st, I shall say *goodbye* to Siena College as I begin my retirement, and our department says *hello* to Robin MacHattie (see p4) as the new Administrative Coordinator of the program.

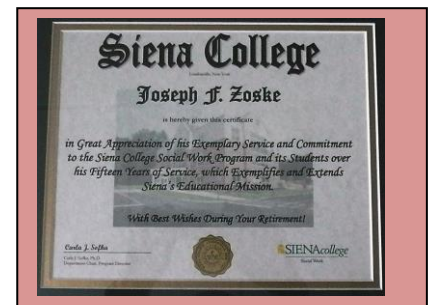
That's the nature of time... changes occur, academic studies start and finish, people come and go, work begins and ends. Memories travel with us, accomplishments stand, and new people and ideas foster innovation for the future.

My 15 years here has been a wonderful concluding chapter to my fulltime career: helping students to discover social work, as I did in my own BSW program (University of Buffalo '72). Working in the supportive environment of Siena College. Sharing the path with my many talented colleagues. The numerous extra-curricular opportunities to teach and mentor students through classes, internships, Ropes Course activities, chaperoning Spring Break trips, and so much more.

Many ask the common question, “What's next?” I reply with the Buddhist notion of “don't know?” I will when I get there, but for now I will let the process of transition take the time it needs to show me my next steps.

Lastly, how to say *thank you* to the countless students, employees, and community professionals whom I have had the pleasure to know, to serve, and to learn from? Again, “don't know?” Your names alone could fill pages of this newsletter. Suffice it to say - we are each all that we've experienced, and in that regard I am a better person for having known and been enriched by all of you.

To Everyone... my sincerest regards. *Joe*



Congratulations Class of 2016!

A wonderful Honoring Ceremony was held on Saturday, May 14th, where we got to acknowledge our seniors' achievements, tell stories, give out awards, say our goodbyes, and hold an induction into Siena College's Delta Upsilon Chapter of the National Phi Alpha Social Work Honor Society.

Congratulations to the entire class of 19 students for their hard work and impressive achievements!

A crowning achievement for Paolo Fiore Class of 2017



For the 1st time one of our own social work majors was chosen as... *Mr. Siena 2016!* This annual fundraiser for Siena's Habitat for Humanity Club is a major fun-filled campus event each Spring. Congratulations, Paolo!

Fast Facts...

We currently have 15 entering freshmen social work majors – the most ever! Together with the trend of larger social work classes each year, we look forward to starting the 2015-16 academic year with a total of 80 social work majors.

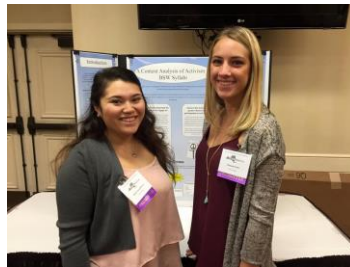
The CSWE Council on Accreditation's letter came through in the Spring, letting us know that we are reaccredited to February 2024. Hooray!

The Marketing Dept at Siena is helping us create alumni video stories, which will be posted on our website. Look for them soon!

Every dollar helps a future student! To make a contribution to the endowed Social Work Scholarship, contact the Development Office at 518-783-2432, or at development@siena.edu. Contributions can also be sent by mail:

**Siena College Development Office, 515 Loudon Rd., Loudonville, NY 12211.
(Please reference 'Social Work scholarship' on your check).**





Social action and research...

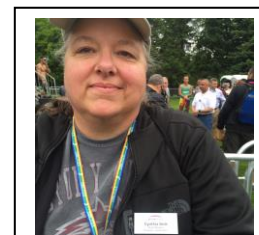
Assistant Professor Cynthia Bott and a team of student researchers (seniors: Alli Clark, Kimi Chavez, Taryn Dwyer, Hannah Sontz) concluded a two year research project utilizing content analysis BSW syllabi, to specifically, examine the question: *To What Extent is Activism Reflected in BSW Syllabi?* Taryn and Hannah did a poster presentation of the research at the NYS Social Work Education Assn Conference in November. In April the entire team of student researchers presented at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research in No Carolina!

The Social Work Club, with Cynthia Bott - faculty advisor, had an active year. In the fall, they conducted a successful winter apparel drive for Joseph's House and Shelter. In the spring they partnered with Schenectady Co Community College's human services program to help prepare and serve a dinner at the City Mission, and also raised funds for purchasing toiletry supplies for the mission.

Teams of social work juniors used a SWRK315 course assignment to engage in numerous projects of change, including: Alzheimer's Disease fund-raising, exploring day care availability, further training on sexual assault prevention, and increasing recycling efforts at Siena. Below right is the team that even secured vending machines for Rosetti Hall!



Cynthia Bott was elected to the Board of Directors of the Pride Center of the Capital District.





Welcome Robin!

Robin MacHattie, LCSW (Siena '07) returns to us as the new Administrative Coordinator of the Social Work Program. Following her MSW (Fordham '08), she has held a number of professional positions in the Capital District. Most recently with the New York Army National Guard as part of the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response program. She is a Behavioral Health Officer and holds the rank of 1st Lieutenant. She has participated in our program in numerous roles such as a junior intern supervisor, classroom speaker, and participating with our accreditation process. It is with great pleasure that we have an alumna joining us as a colleague.

Honorary Honor Society Inductees: adjunct lecturers Dacey Bonney & Peter Lacy



A long overdue tribute was made at our Honoring Ceremony to our two stalwart adjunct instructors. Specialists in their respective fields of domestic violence and substance abuse, Dacey and Peter have taught hundreds of students through their elective courses: Relationship Violence and Drugs & Alcohol. Both of their courses are perennial favorites among students, where these challenging and complex social issues are critically examined with an engaging style.

Not only are they skilled teachers, both Dacey and Peter are also exemplary models of professionalism, and the value of BSW education. Each became established and well respected professionals in their fields, prior to pursuing their Master's education, providing another positive role model to our students. We are privileged to have them in our program.





Donna McIntosh was awarded a *Legislative Advocacy Leadership Award* by the board of directors of the NYS Social Work Education Association in recognition of her years organizing the annual legislative action day for the Association as well as her advocacy work in many other arenas.



Also at the NYSSWEA conference, **Elisa Martin** and her Siena summer scholars student Kristen Lancto ('16), presented on a project completed with St. Catherine's Center for Children: *Mrs. Doubtfire Mentoring Project – Serving the Client by Engaging the Community*.
Elisa also had a baby girl this summer – Viera. Congratulations, Mom!

Dirk de Jong co-taught an International Studies course and joined 26 students at a 2-day conference on "Sustainability, Biodiversity, and Social Action" at Concordia University in Montreal, where several of the students made presentations.
Dirk also taught our SWRK100 Intro course at Green Meadows Correctional Facility, as part of Siena's role with Hudson Link, a program which supports prisoner's college education. He looks forward to continuing this role.
He also had two articles accepted for publication:
* Transgender issues and BSW programs: An exploratory study of faculty perceptions, practices, and attitudes. *Journal of Baccalaureate Social Work*; 20 (1), 2015.
* A new paradigm in social work research: It's here, it's Queer, get used to it! *Reflections -- Narratives of Professional Helping*; 20 (4), 2014.



Carla Sofka presented a webinar for the Assn for Death Education and Counseling entitled "Using Digital and Social Media in your Work with the Dying and Bereaved," based upon her recent research.
She and her summer scholars student Meghan Reilly ('17) conducted research exploring options for a mentoring program for older children.



Many Ways of Giving Back

There are many ways to contribute to the Social Work Department!

- **Scholarship Contribution**
- **Volunteer Work**
- **Advisory Board Membership**
- **Social Work Internship**
- **Mentoring Current Students**

If you have an interest in any of these, or other ways of giving back, contact

Robin MacHattie
518-783-4123

We want to partner with you!

Sign on to the Siena College Social Work Alumni Facebook page. Stay in touch, post jobs, and network. Reconnect!

<http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Siena-College-Social-Work-Alumni/128440443833947?v=wall&ref=ts>



L to R/front: Kimi Chavez, Kristen Lancto, Danielle Gonzalez, Mackenzie Bennett.
L to R/middle: Lamayry Cruz, Hannah Sontz, Gianna Rodino, Erin Bies, ReAnn Appel, Taryn Dwyer, Sarah Perkins, Emily Sherman.
L to R/back: Katie Hawksby, Sara Leavitt, Alli Clark, Molly McConnell, Kim Ramirez, Sarah Trendell, Karley Votraw.

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If you wish to be removed from the mailing list or have other inquiries about the Department please contact Robin at rmachattie@siena.edu or 518-783-4123

