

## *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 Joe Zoske at 518-783-4123.**

*Advisory Board for 2008-2009:*

*Carrie Towle, Chair*  
*Valerie Albino\**  
*Mary Beth Finnerty\**  
*Stuart Gitlin*  
*Mary Lynne Hamilton\**  
*Heather Horton*  
*Andrea Pavlis Hubalek\**  
*Janet Jones*  
*Maria Morris-Groves\**  
*Elizabeth Pacini\**  
**Student Representatives:**  
*Theresa Wojtecki*  
*Amy McCarthy*  
*Allyson Sweeney*

*\*Alumni of the Program*

## **BSW Practice**



Front to back (left to right): Delaney Longo, Carli Atkinson, Elizabeth Murphy, Nadina Hartnett, Allyson Sweeney, Courtney Gomez, Louisa Boehlert-Vaughan, Meghan Williams, Kathleen Pesci, Amy McCarthy

## **The Siena Social Work Class of 2009**

### **A Few Highlights of BSW Seniors' Accomplishments**

- \* Worked on policyoptions.org to develop a policy brief on model services for homeless youth.
- \* Successfully raised funds and increased public awareness for the annual Alzheimer's Association Walk and created a statewide adopted advocacy campaign, "Build Futures, Don't Block Them" to oppose the Governor's proposed youth funding block grant.
- \* Served as team leaders for more than 180 BSW and MSW students and faculty at the annual Legislative Action Day of the NYS Social Work Education Association on March 31, 2009.
- \* Provided more than 4000 hours of field work in community organizations.
- \* Three seniors worked to promote awareness of national organ donation month on campus.
- \* Two seniors worked on the Vietnam Wall Memorial as a healing space including a visit to Washington to view the wall and complete some onsite research.



### Featured Alumni and BSW Practice

Since graduating Siena, I decided to take some time off from education. I know that no matter what, I will be going for my masters, but I wanted to be sure that Social Work was the right path, and not just the path right in front of me. I was lucky enough to become the House Manager for a private non-profit organization that provides permanent housing to people who are severely mentally ill and homeless. All of our clients are high functioning, and require minimal assistance in managing their illnesses. This allows me to help them work on any aspect of their life that they want. The program is the Least-Restrictive Care that one can be offered in at a group home setting. This allows me to have more freedom than I would in most other organizations.

I am very lucky to be where I am today. I have a job I love, and one that has truly affirmed that Social Work is the only path for me -- Jason.



**Jason Clark, Class of 2008**



**Bobbie Hunt, Class of 2007**

While approaching my 2007 BSW graduation I utilized some of the resources my professors gave me to get my resume' out. I went on four interviews and secured a full time, well paid job as a social worker at the Roarke Center, in Troy, which provides a food bank and emergency needs services. Currently, I am working for Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Services as a Case Manager, Shelter Counselor and Volunteer Coordinator. I have had the opportunity to learn more about diversity than I thought possible in one job. The cultures, needs, challenges, economics and the stories are all so unique. We go to schools to educate about relationship violence, to hospitals to support rape and DV victims, and to court to assist clients with their legal needs. The knowledge and support we give to those who are or were in DV relationships helps them to make the choices that are right for them. If they decide to stay, they know how to stay safely. If they decide to leave, we help them with their transition.

I know that there are many opportunities out there for a BSW. I have been lucky enough to find where I am meant to be and I hope that you will be able to do the same -- Bobbie.



Alumni and BSW Practice

After graduating from Siena I began working for Children and Family Services, Child Protection Services as a caseworker. I attended six weeks of training, two of which were extensively geared toward child protection, abuse and neglect. Working as a CPS investigator was certainly an eye opener as to what services are needed and are lacking in different communities.

Now I work on the opposite end, taking child abuse/neglect reports. Calls vary from simple educational neglect to very serious cases where children are sexually abused and/or die as a result of the abuse. In either case, you rely on your training, but feelings of anger, confusion, and disillusionment are common.

In both of these positions your emotional and psychological health is challenged. As a CPS worker, I found it extremely invasive to enter a family's home and question them about how they live, interact, discipline and function. Then, looking through kitchen cabinets for food and throughout the home to be sure it was safe and inhabitable. Having to remove a child from a home for whatever reason was very disturbing. You see the pain on the child's face mingled with fear. Trying to reassure a child you just removed from their home is difficult. Later, you might have to explain to that child why you

have to return him/her to the horrible situation from which he/she had been removed.

Daily, you look into yourself to find inner strength, conviction, compassion, patience, and a sense of humor. And then you have those days you just want to cry for all those children you can't help -- Marion.

Marion Dunlop, Class of 2004



Kathryn Horan, Class of 2004

After graduating from Siena with my BSW, I was ready for the next phase of my life. The AmeriCorps volunteer program seemed like a great way to gain experience while giving back to the community. My service in Boston with an organization called Generations Incorporated

was a great experience. Generations Incorporated runs brilliant intergenerational programming. It brings older adult volunteers from the community into Roxbury and Dorchester schools to help students improve reading skills and build mentoring relationships through one-on-one sessions. This experience helped me gain knowledge and understanding of the struggles children, families and community members faced daily in low income neighborhoods. Looking for adventure on the West coast moved us to San Francisco. Working as an employment counselor and trainer, I worked with a range of clients that found themselves out of work for different reasons. Addressing individual challenges with particular clients proved to be tough, but empowering individuals with resources and knowledge was rewarding. Working as an employment counselor sparked my interest on the other side of the table and I now work in human resources for a large non-profit. I am learning a lot about MACRO practice social work and how standards, innovation and communication can help programs and services reach the highest efficiency-- Kathryn.



## Siena College Social Work Department

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The Newsletter can be found online at [www.siena.edu/socialwork](http://www.siena.edu/socialwork)  
Contact Joe if you prefer an emailed electronic version, or to be removed from the mailing list.

**Interested in mentoring a Siena BSW student during their time at Siena? The Advisory Board and the Dept are exploring a mentoring program between alumni and students as a way to strengthen our career development advisement for students.**

**Contact Donna at: [McIntosh@siena.edu](mailto:McIntosh@siena.edu) if you are interested.**

**This newsletter is the partnership between The Advisory Board and the Social Work Faculty.**

### NEWS ABOUT FACULTY

Professor McIntosh was named the Social Work Educator of the Year by the New York State Social Work Education Association at the fall conference in October 2008.

Professor Strock-Lynskey was a nominated finalist for the newly created Siena College Matthew T. Conlin Service Award. Diana was presented with the President's Medal of Honor by the Association of Baccalaureate Program Directors in March of 2009 for her work in co-founding the Association's Committee on Disability & Persons with Disabilities.

Professor Sofka was a nominated finalist for the Siena College Raymond Kennedy Excellence in Scholarship Award.

Professor Robert Rivas will be moving full time into the first-year Foundations sequence of the college core curriculum starting fall 2009. He will continue to offer a social work elective.

Joe Zoske had a poem accepted as a poster presentation (WWII poem and talk) at Siena's "A Day of Living History" on April 18, 2009. The poem (*Up there...somewhere*) was given a layout design by the Communications Dept and mounted for display. The poem speaks to the experiences of WWII 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force flyers who flew B-24s over Europe.

Kevin O'Connor will be starting as a full time visiting assistant professor starting fall 2009. Kevin has served as an Advisory Board member, Field Educator, and adjunct instructor.

We want to thank our adjunct instructors including Leslie Grossmann-Brown, Elizabeth Pacini, Tammy LaBrake, Peter Lacy, and Karla Digirolamo. They are the best!

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