

The Talking Circle

Summer 2012

Issue 9

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**

Resources at Siena

**Career Center
518-783-2339**

**Office of Alumni
Relations
518-783-2340**

**Registrar
518-783-2368**

Social Work Dept's future home



Rosetti Hall

On June 7th College leaders and donors broke ground on Siena's newest academic building, Richard and Joan Rosetti Hall. "We get to bring three significant departments in our School of Liberal Arts together – sociology, social work and education," said Siena College President Fr. Kevin Mullen '75, O.F.M., Ph.D

Rosetti Hall is Siena's first LEED certified construction project, with such innovations as: geothermal heating/cooling, photo-voltaic solar panels and LED lighting. The building will include high-tech classrooms, seminar rooms, a video production studio, 29 offices, and computer labs.

It is being built into the hillside where the green canopy stairway to the Social Work House now exists. The House, home of the Social Work Program for the past 15 years, will remain behind the new building for future use by others. In the meantime, due to safety considerations at the construction site, the SW Program has temporarily relocated the offices in the basement of Morrell Science Center (MSC 034). The new building is scheduled for opening September 2013.

Members of our department have been actively involved in the planning and design of Rosetti Hall, and are very pleased with the results. We will occupy the left side of the top floor in the picture above.

We want to thank Ralph Blasting, out-going Dean of Liberal Arts, for his unwavering support of the Social Work Program and his continuing stewardship of this project; lead donors, Richard and Joan Rosetti; as well as the Senior Class of 2012 that raised more than \$16,000 to finance a lounge in Rosetti Hall.

*For additional info, see the related Siena College website article at
<http://www.siena.edu/pages/179.asp?item=325649>*



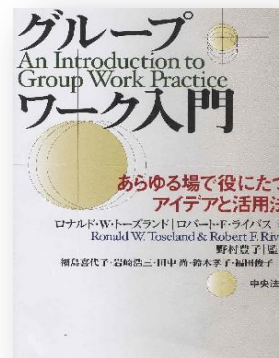
It's Time to Go: Farewell Professor Rivas

“It’s time for you to go.” I have been telling graduating seniors that for many years. For them, it meant leaving behind the security of Siena and moving on to new endeavors. I came to understand that these words applied to me as well. So, I decided that it was time for me to go. I am retiring from the Siena faculty as of September 1st 2012. I have been privileged to work at Siena for over 30 years; it is a wonderful place to work and to learn. When I first came to Siena in 1981 there was only a concentration in Social Work and it was part of the Sociology department. I helped to design and implement the new social work major and to achieve our first accreditation from CSWE. Since then, the program has thrived on and I am very proud of that. I was also privileged to have worked with many wonderful faculty members in the Department and in the College. As you know, I finished my last few years here by pursuing my teaching interests in the Foundation and First-year experience courses. I am truly grateful for being able to do this, and also grateful to Siena for supporting my research and writing interests. I am off to new adventures. My wife Donna Sue and I own a home in New Mexico and we hope to move there soon. I know I will continue to pursue my interests in writing and research, particularly in the field of Native American Studies. I also know that I will always feel like a member of the Siena community. This is one of the nice things about Siena; you are always part of the community, even after “it’s time for you to go.” *Adieu, Bob Rivas*



Bob's last graduation with Siena- May 2012

Earlier days of a ponytail and always the music!



Bob's influence is international. The Toseland and Rivas Group Work Practice Book in Japanese!

Bob zip-lining in Costa Rica.

Thanks Bob for all you have given of yourself to us, Siena, and the Social Work Profession!



You can send Bob a message at rivas@siena.edu.



Social Work Advisory Board Mentoring Project

The Social Work Advisory Board, comprised of alumni, community members and students, is establishing a Mentoring Project. The goal is for Social Work Alumni to support and encourage Siena students and young alumni throughout their time at Siena and as they embark upon their careers. This is a great way to give back to Siena and the field of social work. Feedback thus far from students and alumni has been very positive. If you have not yet completed the survey that was sent this spring about this project, we would greatly appreciate your input. You can take the short survey by visiting the link:

https://siena.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_a99c6XExSD4D3Eg

Stay Connected with Siena!

As alumni, there are many ways to stay connected with Siena. Please be sure to keep your contact information updated with the Office of Alumni Relations so that you continue to receive Siena News, monthly e-news, and other mailings. To update your personal contact information or change your name, visit <http://www.siena.edu/pages/3117.asp> to submit changes online.

You can also stay connected by joining the alumni Facebook group at <http://bit.ly/sienaalumni>.

Lastly, please join the alumni online community for access to the alumni directory, register for events, and more. Contact the Office of Alumni Relations at alumni@siena.edu or 518-783-2430 for instructions and password information. We look forward to hearing from you!

Alexandra Georgieva (class of '12)

2011-2012 BSW Student of the Year!

Recognized by the New York State Social Work Education Association at the annual conference, Saratoga Springs, NY, Fall 2011.

Alex has a long record of service and leadership from her first year to her last at Siena. She worked on a number of service endeavors with the Franciscan Center for Service and Advocacy. In all that she accomplished, Alex personified both the Franciscan values of Siena and the values of the Social Work Profession.



left-right: NYSSWEA Board President Carl Mazza, Alexandra, Siena Professor Donna McIntosh

To make a contribution to the endowed Social Work Scholarship, contact the Development Office at Siena College at development@siena.edu, 518-783-2432. 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).**



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
Joe Zoske:
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>

CLASS OF 2012



Kneeling, L to R: Meghan Davis, Hakim Collier, Lauren McGuire, Alexandra Georgieva, Maggie O'Donnell, Emily Isenberg

Standing, L to R: Laila Wahdani, Arielle Sicluna, Wendy Petroci, Caitlin Slaybaugh, Rosemary Himmelmann, Kaite Wilczewski, Erin Manchester, Marissa Gentile, Allison Montecallo, Lauren Komp, Sarah Clark, Stephanie Sosa (not pictured: Katherine Schaible)

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

