

The Talking Circle

Summer 2013

Issue 10

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

New Faces, New Places, New Changes

Comings and Goings.....

Professor Diana Strock-Lynskey is on assignment to teach in the First Year Seminar for the next two academic years. This is a wonderful opportunity to expand Diana's teaching and interests beyond the realm of social work while sharing with freshmen the core values of the social work profession.



Visiting Professor Kevin O'Connor, after 4 years of teaching, advising, and field coordination, is returning to Joseph's House and Shelter in Troy NY, as the new Executive Director. Congratulations, Kevin! This will further enrich our long partnership with Kevin and Joseph's House for student internships, field placements, and special class projects.



Dean Janet Shideler of the School of Liberal Arts joined Siena last summer, and she has already provided us with key assistance on a number of projects during her first year.
Welcome Dean Shideler!

Keep reading for more news of transitions!



Rosetti Hall: The Social Work Department's New Home

Ground breaking on Siena's newest academic building occurred June 7, 2012, and we move in July 2013! The entire college community watched excitedly as Rosetti Hall was completed within one year. This summer the Social Work Department (along with Education and Sociology) will be settling into our new offices, classrooms, and interactively designed student-faculty common spaces. All of our Fall social work classes are scheduled in the building, which will help foster a sense of community among all our social work majors. The official ribbon-cutting on Rosetti Hall - Siena's first LEED certified construction project with such innovations as: geothermal heating/cooling, photo-voltaic solar panels and LED lighting – is scheduled for early September.

Next time you are on campus, stop by and say hello. We'll be on the 3rd floor!

**Save-a-Date: SW Dept Open House!
Sept 23rd, Monday 4-7**

A time for students, faculty, adjuncts, advisory board members, alumni to gather, celebrate, and network.



Cynthia Bott, Ph.D., MSW – Cindy has taught a wide variety of social work courses at both the MSW and BSW level, at San Francisco State and more recently at U Albany. She is a licensed clinical social worker in New York and California, with broad experience in individual, family, and group practice. She keeps her clinical edge doing mental health evaluations for a psychiatric crisis team. Her dissertation focused upon social worker attitudes regarding social justice, change agency, and work with LGB clients. Congratulations on her May 2013 Ph.D. graduation!

Dirk de Jong, MS, MSW, ABD – Dirk brings a unique blend of experience from the fields of both social and special education. He has been an MSW educator at U Albany for many years, is a practicing school social worker, and is a former special education teacher. His area of scholarship is gender identity and youth, and his dissertation topic is: "School social work and gender variance in the elementary classroom." Originally from the Netherlands with studies in journalism, he has a strong global generalist practice perspective in social work.



Meet the new Assistant Professors!



Educational Policies and Accreditation Standards 2008

To remain an accredited program, we must comply with the standards set forth by the Council on Social Work Education. The newest version of these (EPAS 2008) now stresses competency-based learning. Because these apply to our next re-accreditation in 2015, we are busy infusing these within our policies and practices, syllabi and course assignments, and field education requirements. Reformatting materials and measuring student competencies among these 10 Standards and 41 Practice Behaviors is a challenging task, but critical. We are all on a learning curve – faculty, students, and field educators alike.

Alumni also have an important role in providing longer term feedback about the implementation and effectiveness of our curriculum in social work practice. Be on the lookout for an email from us later this year with a link to an online survey.

Congratulations to the Class of 2013!

Of the 20 students graduating from the BSW Program: 16 were sworn into the National Social Work Honor Society (Phi Alpha); 3 graduated Cum Laude, and 4 graduated Magna Cum Laude. An impressive group!

Jessica Zikaras (class of '13) *Magna Cum Laude*

Jessica achieved a 4.0 social work GPA and a 3.8 GPA overall. While in Ecuador, she interned at a women's prison. Her senior field experience was a joint social work and academic AmeriCorps placement with disabled youth. Her campus involvement included the Siena Service Club, Leadership Institute, Residence Hall president, Social Work Club, and more. Her independent study project on Bullying Prevention was noted at the campus-wide Academic Celebration. Truly a deserving awardee who represents the best of social work!



**Jessica Zikaras, 2013
Social Work Endowed Scholarship winner!**

Every dollar helps a future student! 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 2013



1st step: Shaniqua Dunn, Kristin Case, Amanda Zarrillo, Laura Koonz, Melanie Griffith.
2nd step: Amanda Murphy, Katie Urbanski, Linley Frankel
3rd step: Laura Urena, Jessica Zikaras, Laura Murphy, Kelly Woodard, Jessica Baade, Aletta French
4th step: Michele Dawson, Audrey Gleason, Megan O'Shea, Meryl Tremblay, Kathleen Graziose, Caedran Parker

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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

