

The Talking Circle

Summer 2014

Issue 11

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

Connections...



Did you meet your BFF at Siena? Or your life partner? Has a Siena social work grad helped you to decide about graduate school, or linked you to a job? Do you stay in touch with your BSW alumni for personal and professional connections?

In these times of hyper-connectivity and rapid technological change, we are doing our best to utilize modern tools of social media, to facilitate improved connection among alumni, current students, faculty, and the larger community of Advisory Board members, field educators, internship supervisors, and adjunct instructors. Through these we get to learn about you, and you get to learn about us, to our mutual enrichment.

Do you know that we have had at least two sets of sisters graduate from our program? There are social work alumni who have married! We see your pictures of friends and family gatherings, weddings, trips, and babies born!

Alumni have returned to teach courses in our program, serve as internship and field supervisors, join our advisory board, and serve as guest lecturers and events speakers. Our connections have even gone global in many instances as alumni travel, work and serve in other countries.

Our Facebook page <Siena Social Work Program> has seen rapid growth in utilization. Our efforts of creating a Mentoring Program are continuing, with plans to post brief alumni "career stories," with links for current students to pursue contact with those whom they feel may be an asset in sorting out educational and career goals. We also have a LinkedIn site where you can sign up to help current students with future paths <under: Groups / Siena Social Work Circle>.

Internally, we have transitioned our field and internship evaluation tools to online formats, enabling supervisors and students to make easier submissions, and for us to do to prompt data analysis. The college's new web will offer some additional versatility for us to be more interactive with prospective students.



While we're not on YouTube nor have a Twitter or Flickr accounts yet, we are interested in optimizing our capacity to reach out and stay connected. So, please visit our FB page, sign up with Linked in, give us your ideas on how we can be even better at enhancing this continuing circle of electronic communication. So whether you Like, Link, Tweet, Pin or Post... we love hearing from you!



Congratulations to the Class of 2014!

For the 1st time ever, the entire graduating class of 10 seniors earned induction into the National Social Work Honor Society (Phi Alpha). Well done, everybody!

In addition, many earned membership in other national honor societies:

- * Sandra Ganzevoort, our major field award winner – Delta Epsilon Sigma (Honor Society for Students in Catholic Colleges and Universities);
- * Marisely Rodriguez & Hansel Salcedo – Alpha Mu Gamma (Foreign Language Honor Society);
- * Sandra, Marisely, Hansel, along with Alyssa Lowell and Laura Priest – Pi Gamma Mu (International Honor Society in Social Science)

Further, there were numerous other distinctions earned, including:

- * Laura Priest, Honors Fellow
- * Hansel Salcedo, HEOP Leadership Award, and recipient of the Social Work Department's Social & Economic Justice Award
- * half the class graduated Cum Laude or higher!

Welcome Elisa Martin, Ph.D.!

Elisa is our new 2-year Visiting Assistant Professor beginning this Fall. She brings a wealth of teaching and undergraduate field coordination experience from U Albany, and will help fill the gaps from Carla and Donna's upcoming sabbaticals.



Saying goodbye...

Most of you remember the Social Work House, as it was the home of the social work program for 16 years, until our new Rosetti Hall location last year. We must now report that it will be no more.

After being vacant two years, flooding occurred in the basement, resulting in cracks in the foundation. This Spring the foundation began to collapse, so the building is officially slated for demolition this Fall.

The homelike, welcoming nature of the House gave our program a distinctive friendly community character. From our teaching, advising, club meetings, and picnics in the backyard, we are left with many warm memories of our years there, and the countless majors who came through its doors.



Re-Affirmation Process to Maintain Accreditation Status

Having been continuously accredited since 1985, we are busily preparing ourselves for next spring's CSWE visit to secure the next 7 year (2015-2022) accreditation cycle for the program. Specifically, we'll be crunching outcome data and writing our Self-Study document this summer and through the Fall. This is a complex and demanding process, but one that is leading us toward better competency-based evaluation of our program for ongoing improvement. In keeping with the standards, some program outcome results will eventually be available on our website, as is now required of all accredited programs. Kudos to all the faculty for their involvement in developing more definitive rubrics and outcome measures, and in particular to Carla and Donna for their ongoing 2-year stewardship of this process.

- Web site overhaul -

The college has recently launched a brand new Siena website, better formatted for accessing on various portable hand-held devices. This is the "external" site, with an "internal" site to be integrated with it. It will be a work-in-progress for a while, so thanks for your patience as we develop our social work pages of it.

Marisely had a stellar experience in our program and at Siena. She received our scholarship based on her academics (graduated Cum Laude with a 3.68 GPA!), and also her extensive change agent activities on campus. In fact, in recognition of her outstanding record of leadership, voice, and action in promoting cultural diversity and acceptance, she was the recipient of our department's *Gerald Irizarry Award for Cultural Diversity, Equality and Equity*. Only the 5th recipient since the award's inception in 2002!

She is pictured with her Academic Celebration poster presentation from her independent study project. A wonderful role model for future social work students!



**Marisely Rodriguez, Class of 2014
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 2014



L to R: Megan Town, Alyssa Lowell, Hansel Salcedo, Erica Salcedo, Marisely Rodriguez, Laura Priest, Meghan MacVicar, Sandra Ganzevoort, Brianna Pine, Emily Ungberg.

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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

