

The Spirit of Siena



SIENA
COLLEGE
CAMBERWELL

Issue 12 | 2017

Mission Statement

Siena College, a Catholic secondary school in the Dominican tradition, offers young women an education which challenges them to make intelligent and responsible use of their personal gifts and develop a lifelong love of learning.

Vision

As a vibrant, faith filled, Catholic community we will provide exemplary and inspiring education with a commitment to justice, truth, reconciliation and compassion. In the spirit of St Catherine of Siena, by word and action, young women are nourished in faith and encouraged to spread the Good News and embrace the future with hope.

Values

We value and live the Dominican pillars of:

Prayer by nurturing spirituality and celebrating as a community of Faith

Study by striving for excellence, thinking critically and seeking truth

Service by empowering young women to actively engage in local and global justice issues

Community by recognising God's presence in others and fostering right relationships

Editorial Team

Tracey Grobbelaar, Susan Law,
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Photography

Susan Law, Amy Stubbs, Matt Graham and
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Siena College

connecting girls • empowering young women

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The Siena College Editorial Team apologises for the following errors in The Spirit Issue 11:

- Meg Curtin was incorrectly captioned as Megan Curtin on page 17, *Where are they now?*
- Emily Bignold was incorrectly captioned as Lauren Bignold on page 20

Additionally, the Siena College Alumnae Association Careers Showcase will now be held on Wednesday, 28 June 2017.



Message from the Principal



The beginning of the year marked the much anticipated arrival of one hundred and thirty-nine, eager Year 7 students who are now well and truly part of the Siena community. They met their Year 12 'big sisters', got to know each other, dressed up in House colours for the Swimming and Athletics Carnivals, and are now preparing to perform in their first ever 'Fiesta' on St Catherine's Day. Their arrival was followed closely by the return

of students in other year levels, and a breakfast with the 2017 Year 12s and their parents in the convent courtyard. This has been a long standing tradition at Siena College and the gracious hospitality offered by the Siena Parents' Association that hosts the breakfast each year.

The Year 12 students continue to inspire our community, none more so than the Class of 2016. Their achievements in the Victorian Certificate of Education were once again cause for celebration. Based on the Median Study Score and percentage of Study Scores of forty or above, Siena College was again ranked in the top ten per cent of all Victorian schools offering the VCE and in the top five Catholic schools in Victoria, including co-educational and boys' schools. In summary:

- 14% of Siena students achieved an Australian Tertiary Admissions Ranking (ATAR) of 95 or above, placing them in the top 5% of students in the State
- 22% of our students achieved an Australian Tertiary Admissions Ranking (ATAR) of 90 or above, placing them in the top 10% of students in the State
- 52% of students, over half, achieved an ATAR of 80 or above, placing them in the top 20% of students in the State
- The College maintained a Median Study Score of 34 for the fifth consecutive year
- 16% of Study Scores were 40 or above (top 9% in the State)
- Emily Spagnol (Year 11 in 2016) achieved a perfect Study Score of 50 in Psychology

Congratulations are extended to the College Dux, Georgia Efthimiou who achieved an ATAR of 99.7 and to three other students, Alexandra Tasios, Isabel Marsh and Georgia Cotter, also achieved ATARs above 99. Bryony Candiloro and Mariah Kehaidis were selected to exhibit their work at the 2017 Exhibition of 'Top Designs' and Sarah Dornseiff was shortlisted until the very last stage. The Siena College Gallery in the Visual Arts and Technology area continues to house amazing creations developed by our students under the guidance of Kim Svendsen and scarcely a year goes by when the work of one or more of Kim's students is not featured in 'Top Designs'. Mariah Kehaidis was one of only four students offered a seven day internship by the Museum on the night of the exhibition opening. The Creative Museums Program, a first for Museums Victoria, aims to foster and inspire young Victorians who have a passion for design to further develop their creativity by immersing them in the multifaceted world of a creative Museum. Isabella Punterere achieved full marks for her VCE Drama performance exam and was invited by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority to audition for Top Class Drama.



Deputy Principal Wellbeing, Sue Thompson, College Dux 2016, Georgia Efthimiou, Principal, Gaynor Robson-Garth Deputy Principal Learning Teaching, Bernadette Donnelly



Mariah Kehaidis, Bryony Candiloro, Isabella Punterere

Message from the Principal

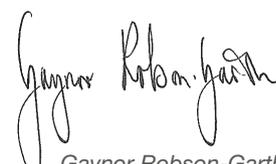
Each year, we welcome new staff to Siena College. Anne Muirhead commenced in January as Deputy Principal Mission and Identity. Anne has a deep appreciation of the Dominican charism and has brought new insights and great creativity to our liturgies and celebrations. Three new staff are alumnae of the College, Ella Olsen (Class of 2009 and College Captain in that year), Samantha Redman (Class of 1990) and Niamh O'Farrell (2016 College Captain). Ella joined the English and Performing Arts Faculties, Sam is providing support in the Library and Niamh has taken on the role of AFL Trainee. We welcomed Ansalia Hanrahan and Goran Spoljaric to the Learning Enhancement Department and Elyse Manson, Louise Lancuba and Michael Petrie all joined the English and Humanities Faculties. Jill Foley teaches English and works with students and staff on public speaking. Rob Devling has taken on a part time, coaching role as part of a leadership program. We also extended a warm welcome to Belinda Biggins and Carolyn Currie who are behind the welcoming new smiles at Reception and to Kathleen Zammit who joined the Finance team.

Past student, Dr Millie Holmes (Class of 2006), will replace Dr Jennifer Lear as a College Counsellor for Terms 2 and 3. We wish Jennifer Lear and her husband Phil all the best for the impending arrival of their baby. Stephanie Hill joined the cocurricular music program as a Voice teacher and Dee Casey commenced as a volunteer, assisting Clare Timmins in Careers. Michael Hanrahan's title has changed to Director of Strategy and Risk to more accurately reflect his responsibilities and a number of staff have taken on new roles as of the start of the year. Michelle Robertson will continue to work with all teaching staff as Director of Learning and Innovation; James Houghton took on responsibility for major sporting events in the form of the Swimming and Athletic carnivals and later in the year, the Snowsports. Laine Rice is the Senior Pathways Coordinator and Anna Apfelstedt is the Head of the Library as of January 2017. Michelle Theron's role as Head of Visual Arts and Technology has expanded to include leadership of the Performing Arts as well, and Georgina Plasto and Catherine Ryan have moved to House Offices as House Assistants of Dianella and Kurrajong respectively. Katrina Honey has taken on additional responsibility for all College databases and is now the Community Database

Coordinator, and Liz Merrett is the Alumnae Coordinator. During the term we gave a fond farewell to Cathie Zucchelli (Reception) and Gabrielle Harradine (ICT Department).

The College will host the inaugural Dominican Education Australia Conference over two days on May 12 and 13. The Conference mandate is to develop a new identity as Dominican Education Australia, deepen our understanding of our mission and identity as Catholic schools in the Dominican tradition and explore the many faces of Truth and our search for Truth on personal and structural levels, and as those involved in the ministry of education. The keynote speaker is Timothy Radcliffe OP, theologian, writer and former Master of the Dominican Order. There will be a number of concurrent sessions exploring the theme of Truth Searching. Members of the broader Siena community are welcome to register for the Conference via www.sienaconnect.com.au/event/DEA.

The year has got off to a great start as we look ahead to Term 2 and all it brings.



Gaynor Robson-Garth
Principal



Gaynor and Dianella House Captain, Rebecca Smith at the 2017 Swimming Carnival



SPA Year 7 Parent Welcome Evening



Sue Thompson and Gaynor at the Siena College and Marcellin College Fun Run / Walk



Sinead Hickey, Sasha White, Karen Paxman, Gaynor Robson-Garth, Susan Alberti AC, Melissa Hickey, Lucy Flower and Jessica Sexton with the very first AFLW Premiership Cup



Dominican Sisters Celebrating 150 Years



On 5 June 1867, eight brave young Irish women set out from Dublin's port, Dun Laoghaire, then known as Kingstown, for a land on the side of the earth – about as far away from their convent home

and family members as they could go! These Dominican Sisters were volunteer responders to a call from Bishop James Murray who had just been appointed to the new Diocese of Maitland NSW. He needed Sisters to begin a network of Catholic Schools to nurture the faith of the Irish born settlers who had begun to see the colony of NSW as their home. The young women travelled on a small wooden sailing ship, *Martha Birnie*, as unlike today's cruise liners as a two-seater plane would be to an A380. After an eventful three month journey, they landed in Sydney, and set out for flood bound Maitland, near Newcastle, where they would begin their ministry on 10 September 1867.

Today, 150 years later, we can look back with astonishment at what these Sisters' generosity put into operation – thousands of students and their families along the eastern seaboard of Australia and the Solomon Islands have been touched by the Dominican story. We give thanks for the pioneering women, and honour their memory by our own commitment to the Dominican educational tradition that was begun by their community in Melbourne in 1926.

Sr Julianna Drobik OP

Dominican Education Conference



**DOMINICAN
EDUCATION
CONFERENCE** **2017**

TRUTH SEARCHING...

FRIDAY, 12 MAY and SATURDAY, 13 MAY
BOOKINGS: www.sienacconnect.com.au/event/DEA

**DOMINICAN SISTERS
CELEBRATING
150 YEARS
IN AUSTRALIA**

**1867
2017**

Update on the Butterfly Campaign and Building Projects



Thank you to the Siena College community for your support of our philanthropic campaign. We have much to be proud of. The Butterfly Campaign has been a wonderful success and has created a culture of philanthropy at Siena College. The Butterfly Campaign was designed to raise funds for specific building projects:

Pillar One: The conversion of the planned Lecture Theatre into a new Auditorium

Status: *Building works complete*

Pillar Two: Transforming the Library into a Student Resource Centre, renamed the Albertus Magnus Library

Status: *Building works complete*

Pillar Three: The Agora and Terraced Gardens

Status: *Planning stages*

Pillar Four: Transforming the Convent and Cloisters into the gateway of the College

Status: *Planning stages*

All were identified by the College as imperative to the success and future of our College.

The College is in the process of planning the future building works for the final two Pillars. Pillar Three, The Agora and Terraced Gardens and Pillar IV, the Convent and Cloisters. Both of these projects require extensive planning. The Agora and Terraced Gardens works includes the redevelopment of the undercroft and pathway to the St Catherine Centre, along with the Agora and terraced gardens. Due to the high cost of this project we envisage it being rolled out in stages.

Transforming the Convent into the gateway of the College requires the relocation of the Music Department and Performing Arts classes. Given the scope and cost of these works, this will also be staged. Whilst the campaign has raised significant funds for both of these Pillars the costings are a lot higher than originally anticipated.

The College has engaged Williams Ross Architects to further develop costings and designs. As we receive further information this will be shared with the community and a timeline set for the various stages.

This is an exciting time for Siena College as we embark on the next stage of our master plan. We look forward to sharing the ongoing transformation of Siena College into a student focused, learning community.

Tracey Grobbelaar
Director of Development and Community Relations



Susan Alberti Auditorium



Albertus Magnus Library



The Agora and Terraced Gardens



The gateway to the College

BE A PART OF OUR STORY

Inscribe your name on our Alumnae Wall



The installation of the Alumnae Wall will occur in 2017. This project is in line with the restoration of the Convent and provides the College with an opportunity to create a tribute to our alumnae in the historic convent cloisters. Please contact the Alumnae Office **03 9835 0217** if you wish to have your name inscribed. The cost is \$50 per name inscription. Names will be inscribed in decades on aluminium panels located in the passageway of the cloisters.



SIENA COLLEGE ALUMNAE
Connecting Past, Present and Future

Visit www.sienacollect.com.au/event/alumnaewall or contact **9835 0217**

Learning and Teaching



Congratulations to the Class of 2016 whose outstanding results again placed Siena College in the top 5 ranking of Catholic schools and in the top 10% of all Victorian schools. Siena College performed above the state average with a median study score of 34 for the fifth consecutive year and 16% of all Study Scores were over 40. These are impressive statistics and we are very

proud of their academic achievements. We are also proud of the way our students worked during the year, participated in their classes, supported each other in their learning and contributed positively to the life of the College. We look forward to continuing our relationship with the Class of 2016 as they follow their dreams and make valuable contributions to the Siena College community as alumnae.

As we continue to strive to offer ever higher quality learning and teaching for our students, the focus for 2017 remains the embedding of greater collaboration through our learning and teaching teams. Following a successful trial in 2016, subject learning teams have been formed at every year level. The agreed purpose of these learning teams is to continue to develop a consistent approach to the teaching of a course and to share teaching pedagogy and resources to improve student outcomes and experiences. Sharing ideas, expertise and professional discussions enhances the learning experience for all.

This year, we have implemented a new Learning Management System, which has enabled us to not only share and store our resources in one spot, but also to learn together how to effectively

use it as an interactive and collaborative system. As part of this learning, the College has committed to setting aside five professional learning sessions over the course of Semester 1. This has provided staff, time and support to develop their confidence and expertise by learning with and from each other. The Siena College student and staff body was encouraged to put forward appropriate names for the new system and by popular vote 'Siena Central' was the run-away winner. Congratulations to Olivia Wilhelm, Year 10, who suggested the name.

We concluded Term 1 with a full and exciting Activities Week program across all year levels. Years 7 and 8 attended a three day camp, Year 12 a three day Retreat, and Years 10 and 11 participated in a combination of academic, social, spiritual and future planning activities.

The Year 9 students enjoyed the 'Siena in the City' program, which is an inquiry focused, experiential program that extends their learning beyond the classroom. This year, the program changed focus with the integration of the Year 9 Geography curriculum 'Siena in the Interconnected City', into the already successful program. Jemimah Walsh, Head of Humanities, Kate Gotlib, Siena in the City Coordinator, and the Year 9 Geography teachers lead the program. The students were involved in the Amazing Race vying for the 'Siena Melbourne Cup', visited important Melbourne icons and community service organisations, and completed a Geography research project. Students will present their research findings to parents and staff at a Siena in the City Showcase Night, early in Term 2.

Bernadette Donnelly
Deputy Principal Learning and Teaching



Staff Learning Series



As part of our ongoing commitment to reflecting on and sharing our own classroom practice, the staff 'Learning Series' program at Siena College will continue to run through 2017. Each Learning Series consists of:

- A presentation aimed at sharing an effective teaching practice or a Professional Learning experience
- A group discussion/collaboration following the presentation to further share ideas and experiences

Our focus in the first Learning Series for 2017 was Siena Central,

our new Learning Management System, and 'How to make the most of your Class Page' and was presented by Rosanna Merriweather. The purpose of this session was to identify ways of improving the functionality and layout of the Class Page, in order to make it more user-friendly and engaging for both staff and students.

The feedback from staff regarding this Professional Learning Activity has been overwhelmingly positive. There is great value in learning from the experiences and expertise of our colleagues in order to improve our learning and teaching outcomes.

Michelle Robertson
Director of Learning and Innovation



New Staff Profile

Anne Muirhead, Deputy Principal Mission and Identity

Joining the Siena College community has been both literally and figuratively like coming home for Anne Muirhead, Siena College's new Deputy Principal Mission and Identity. Not only did Anne grow up around the corner from Siena College in North Balwyn, but she also filled a leave replacement position at the College for just over a year in late 2003 and early 2004.

Anne completed most of her primary schooling in North Balwyn, interrupted by a break when the family moved to England for a couple of years. Anne went on to complete her secondary education at Loreto Mandeville Hall in Toorak before heading to The University of Melbourne where she completed an Honours Degree in History, Psychology and Music. She completed her Diploma in Education at the Australian Catholic University and earned her Masters in Pastoral Liturgies from Santa Clara University in California.

Anne's love of learning and education is deeply rooted in her genes with her grandmother and great aunt being primary and secondary school teachers and her father being an educator in nuclear physics in the tertiary sector. She marvels at the fact that her grandmother was forced to give up teaching when she married, as married women were not permitted to teach if they were married at the time.

Through her family experiences, her own secondary school experience and her training, Anne's motivation for going into the education sector was to have a positive impact on young people and to be able to facilitate learning in different ways to different students based on how they learn best. Having grown up in a family with diverse interests and learning styles from nursing, nuclear physics, the arts, mechanics and veterinary sciences, Anne realised that there were different ways of learning and that traditional ways were not suited to all learners. Her own education at Loreto had a strong social justice element, which she valued and believes is a critical part of any young person's education. These influences fostered Anne's belief that education needs to be holistic and as an educator it is our responsibility to educate the whole person, body, mind and soul.

Anne has worked in education for over thirty years in primary, secondary and tertiary education in Melbourne, Ballarat, Sydney and California. While completing studies in liturgy in California, Anne supervised twenty chaplains in a residential college in California, where she was based when the events of September 11 unfolded in 2001. One of the college's students and an alumnus of the college were victims in the tragic events and Anne was charged with notifying the students, including the partner of the deceased student. She organised prayer services and groups to focus on harmony, to bring together heart, mind and spirit and to provide support to the local Islamic families who were being targeted. They reached out to their Islamic neighbours accompanying them to get groceries and their local mosque. It was a formative experience.

Anne's love of learning filters through all her interests and passions which include reading both non fiction books and good detective novels, a love of art and visiting art galleries, singing, history, travel and spirituality. She particularly enjoys spending time with her family and studying art and the history of the Church and finds it empowering to learn how women have been leaders in the Church since its inception, despite this not being well documented.



Two of Anne's greatest mentors are her first employer, when she graduated as a teacher, Sr Deirdre Rofe IBVM and our own Dominican Prioress, Sr Judith Lawson OP. Sr Deirdre offered Anne her first leadership role in only her second year of teaching, while Sr Judith appointed Anne to the role of Director of Ministry across the whole of the Santa Sabina College community in Sydney. Sr Judith modelled great personal integrity and a deep commitment to social justice which struck a chord with Anne. In fact, the Dominican charism was an influencer in Anne's decision to join the Siena College community. She loves the Dominican 'story', is inspired by their commitment to justice and truth and enjoys being a part of an international family.

Anne has much to offer the Siena College community in faith and spirituality and this is encapsulated in her own words, 'At this time in the Church's history, I feel blessed to be a part of a community that lives its faith in creativity and compassion, joy and justice.'

We are delighted to welcome Anne to the Siena College community and the wealth of experience and expertise she brings with her.

Susan Law
Director of Marketing and Communications

Welcome to New Staff



The College is so pleased to welcome new staff through its doors in 2017. The wealth of experience, enthusiasm and expertise brought to the College was evident from the first Induction Day in December 2016. Although some of these are replacing Siena staff on leave, they have been warmly welcomed into the Siena Dominican family.

From graduates to highly experienced teaching and support staff, the students will gain immensely from our new recruits. We are also very privileged to welcome back as staff members two former College Captains: Niamh O'Farrell who joins us as an AFL Trainee and Ella Olsen as a member of the highly successful English Faculty.

Michael Hanrahan
Director of Strategy and Risk



Belinda Biggins
Office / Reception



Carolyn Currie
Office / Reception



Carolyn Dinneen
Curriculum Secretary



Ansalie Hanrahan
Educational Support



Daniel Henderson
IT Support Officer



Louise Lancuba
English and Humanities
Teacher



Elyse Manson
Humanities and
Psychology Teacher



Anne Muirhead
Deputy Principal
Mission and Identity



Niamh O'Farrell
AFL Trainee



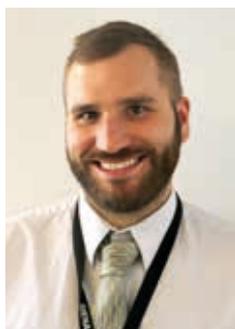
Ella Olsen
English and Drama
Teacher



Michael Petrie
English and Humanities
Teacher



Samantha Redman
Library Technician,
Acquisitions Officer



Goran Spoljaric
Educational Support



Kathy Zammit
Finance Officer



Welcome to Year 7 (Class of 2022)

The first welcome assembly saw the new Year 7 classes parade in to the standing ovation of the College community. As a part of the proceedings two of those girls were invited to address the assembly. Below are their charming speeches:

Olivia

Good morning Mrs Robson-Garth, Deputy Principals, guests, staff and students. My name is Olivia and this is Chloe and together we are going to share with you our thoughts on starting Year 7 at Siena College.

First, I will talk to you about my transition into Siena. Last November we had our first orientation day, I was really excited that not only was I going to miss a day of primary school, but I was going to meet heaps of other girls and teachers. The teachers told me everything, from what to bring to what to do, it was very helpful. Before I knew it, it was the day before the first day of Siena. I was extremely nervous for the whole day and hardly got any sleep that night. My first day at Siena was one of the most amazing days I have ever experienced. All the staff and other girls were so kind and supportive, we were given many tours of the school and classrooms. We were given our locks for our lockers, which by the way I was able to win a certificate for opening my lock the fastest out of all the Year 7s in Waratah. Anyway, we were also given our timetables, our username and passwords and heaps more, it was all very helpful.

Chloe

Siena gives us the opportunity to learn new subjects that our primary school did not teach us for example: science, extended reading, music, health and lots of other subjects. Siena gives us lots of different sporting opportunities. This includes the Siena Swimming Carnival, GSV sport, athletics and cross country. We have so many more opportunities than we did in primary school which is so amazing and makes me actually want to come to school. It still doesn't feel real that we are in Year 7. I feel like it was just the other day my mum was doing my hair and getting me ready for my first day of Prep. But, here I am at secondary school with so many more students and no boys. Anyway without the teachers and the school timetable I don't think that I would be able to find my classes on time. We have now learned a lot of different teachers' and students' names because of the name games that we played. We can't wait for the years ahead because of the wide range of activities. It is all very helpful to know that if we get lost we can ask a teacher nearby for directions, which is very comforting and takes so much off my shoulders.

Olivia

As you heard before I was quite nervous about the first day at Siena. I felt stressed about everything including 'what if everyone else is much smarter than me and I get F's on every subject' and 'what if everyone else's shoes are different to mine and they all laugh at me' and so much more and yes I know I don't even know why because, once school started I have had the best time. Also a big part of my nervousness was that I wouldn't know where my classes were and that I would be late for class, but surprisingly I haven't got lost once, which is a relief. All the staff and girls have been so welcoming to not just me but all the Year 7 girls here at Siena. It has been such a pleasure to come to this wonderful school.

Chloe

I would now just like to take some time to thank the students, the staff, Mrs Robson-Garth, for making this time at Siena so joyful and memorable and the start to the school year so exciting and I can't even imagine how amazing my time will be in the years ahead. I would also like to thank the parents for all your hard work on bringing us to Siena College and giving us such an amazing secondary school to spend the most important years of our education here. Overall Olivia and I have had an extraordinary time here so far and we are just so excited for the years ahead at this amazing school with such great people by our sides. Thank you.

Michael Hanrahan
Director of Strategy and Risk



International Women's Day Breakfast



IWD Breakfast at Siena.

This was the SRC's second year of hosting the International Women's Day breakfast in the Susan Alberti Auditorium. It was a year of firsts: our first year with a panel discussion, our first year with an alumna interviewer and our first year of selling out within a week. Once again, funds raised have gone to Kopanang to support the women with their embroidery

initiatives that allow them to earn a living wage and also support their families, many of whom are affected by HIV and AIDS.

The panel consisted of Kate Sheahan (Class of 1999) Michele Timms (Class of 1982) and our 2008 AFL Trainee, Stephanie Chiocci. A huge thank you also to alumna and AFL Media journalist, Sarah Black (Class of 2011), for leading the panel discussion and to Susan Alberti AC for her eloquent closing remarks.

The biographies of each of these women does not do justice to the sense of hope, optimism and humour that they all brought to the panel discussion. The questions ranged from where the women found their love of sport (a common narrative was that passion was found in the backyard with siblings) to how the women dealt with fanatical cheer squads (Michele Timms had a donkey named after her while playing in the WNBA).

One of the most poignant observations came from Steph who told a story of her Dad once saying that it would be great if Steph was a boy so she could play footy professionally. 'But he doesn't have to worry about that anymore' Steph mused.

We thank these pioneering women who are living the IWD theme of 'Be Bold for Change'. Their boldness is paving the way for our students. They have a true pathway now.

Kate Gotlib

Head of Student Formation and Justice Education



Stephanie Chiocci is considered a Siena alumna as she is a former Siena College AFL Trainee. Her list of achievements prior to being drafted to Collingwood is extensive. Steph is not only a three time senior all-Australian, but an inaugural player in the AFLW and the Collingwood Football Club Captain.

Our second panel member was Siena alumna, **Kate Sheahan**. Kate is a tennis coach, running her own business working with elite juniors, and at one time was a State grade player. She played football until she was about fourteen, the only girl in an all boys league. She is now a member of the Collingwood Football Club and has been referred to as 'a fearless sporting goddess' by news site *MammaMia*, for only taking three days of maternity leave after the birth of her son, Will, in 2010. Kate also honoured her commitment to our breakfast despite suffering a season ending knee injury just days prior.

Michele Timms is a household name. The three time Olympian claimed bronze and silver medals with the Australian Opals basketball team. Her bronze medal was the first for Australian basketball, men or women, at an Olympic level. Michele became the first Australian to break into the USA, joining the Phoenix Mercury in the WNBA in its inaugural season, 1997. Part of the Mercury team that made it all the way to the WNBA Finals a year later, Michele left the club as its all-time leader in assists and had her jersey retired in 2002. Michele was World Basketball's Women's International Player of the Year in 1994 and 1996. Last year, Michele was inducted into FIBA – the international basketball federation hall of fame.

Sarah Black graduated from Siena in 2011 and completed a Bachelor of Arts (Media and Communication) at the University of Melbourne. Always a big footy fan, she discovered she had turned many of her assignments into articles and essays about sport, so decided to look into journalism. Sarah studied a Graduate Diploma of Journalism at RMIT University in 2015, and was an intern at AFL Media last year. She is now employed as a freelance journalist at AFL Media, mainly covering the AFL Women's League. A Tigers fan since birth, Sarah is struggling to come to terms with the fact Carlton's Darcy Vescio is her new favourite player.

Many of us are very familiar with **Susan Alberti AC**. She is a business woman, philanthropist and former Vice President of the Western Bulldogs Football Club. She is a director of the AFLW advisory group and an AFLW premiership cup ambassador. Further, Susan is passionate advocate for women in sport, Companion of the Order of Australia and Siena College alumna.





AFL Women's League Season Launch

Siena College was the venue for one of the launches for the inaugural AFLW season. Susan Alberti AC and Melbourne football stars Melissa Hickey and Karen Paxman were on campus the day before the official season launch to field questions from an auditorium full of excited staff and students and also show off the very first AFLW Premiership Cup.

The words of Hickey and Paxman were inspirational and well timed for the beginning of the new academic year as they urged students to never lose sight of their goals, work hard and stay positive. Wise words for both inside and out of the classroom.

Kate Gotlib

Head of Student Formation and Justice Education

The visit was well timed as the College also reflected on the 'Be Bold for Change' theme for IWD and made preparations for our 2017 breakfast which will focus on some of the incredible efforts made by Siena alumnae in the AFLW.



House Carnivals



Introducing the 2017 College Captains



Sasha White

Sasha White's Siena College history spans two generations. She follows in her aunt, mum and sister's footsteps in coming to Siena College for her secondary education. Not that the history predetermined her choice. Sasha chose to come to Siena College, rather than join her twin brother, Ben at a coeducational school, as she had a sense of the strong community spirit that Siena offered and liked the idea of an all girls school.

In her time at Siena, Sasha has been involved in the Student Representative Council, volleyball, netball and athletics, but what she has loved most is the amazing support that the girls give each other and how the whole community gets behind causes and initiatives that the Student Representative Council (SRC) and College choose to support. In addition to her commitments at Siena College, Sasha plays club netball and this season is coaching the clubs nine-year-old team.

Despite all she has done while at Siena, Sasha sees her greatest achievement as being appointed College Captain. To have earned the respect of her peers and teachers and be elected to this position is not something she takes lightly. As Captain she aims to lead by example, by upholding her values and with Sinead to be able to put their own stamp on the initiatives they undertake and how they carry them out.

Siena College has instilled in Sasha a strong social justice consciousness and late last year she was actively involved in supporting the Eltham Refugee Initiative which supported and welcome 120 Syrian refugees who were due to take up residence in a local aged care facility.

Although only a few months into the year, Sasha has loved her leadership role and been so inspired by the people she has met including alumna Susan Alberti AC and the AFLW players who participated in the International Women's Day Breakfast. While the year may be challenging in terms of balancing the various demands of being Captain, her academic work and sport, she feels confident that she will navigate it by remaining grounded and keeping focused on the big picture. She feels it is going to be harder to leave Siena College at the end of the year, than all she will have to manage through this year.



Sinead Hickey

Sinead Hickey is the eldest of her Irish born parents' three children, but being Irish and Catholic was not the sole reason they chose Siena College for Sinead's secondary education. It was the strong Dominican values and how these are integrated into the life of the College along with the strong emphasis on social justice awareness and action that tipped the scales in favour of Siena. Siena College also offered more opportunity to learn about religion, not only the Catholic faith, but the exposure to other religions through the interfaith dialogue program.

Having come from a coeducation primary school, it was initially quite a shock for Sinead to be in a girls only school. The shock didn't last long though and Sinead has grown from the quiet achiever to loving public speaking and getting involved in as many things as possible. Sinead has played volleyball, basketball, hockey and softball for the College and even played the trumpet in her junior years. She believes that getting involved is an important part to building social connections at school whether it be through sport, helping wrap up packages for McAuley House or contributing to Fiesta.

Sinead's aim as Captain is to build enthusiasm and desire in all students at Siena to get involved in something, not because they have to, but because they really want to. She particularly wants to drive involvement to help those less fortunate than ourselves. She believes that taking action, no matter how small, can go a long way when there are many of you doing it together.

While Sinead loves art and drawing, she has a real love of sport particularly AFL, which she intends to play further when she finishes Year 12. She was so inspired by the players that attended the launch of the AFLW League at Siena College earlier this year, in particular Steph Chiocci, who she admires for the way she has managed to balance all her AFL commitments while still working and developing a career.

In reflecting on how her time has Siena has influenced her, Sinead believes that the wonderful sense of community and support that the girls show each other enables our young women to feel empowered and able to speak their mind without fear of being judged. Siena has made her more aware of how privileged she is and has made her want to pursue a career in something that will enable her to help others.



Susan Law

Director of Marketing and Communications



Celebrating Community Events

Year 12 Breakfast



Siena's Night of Jazz



Year 7 Parent Welcome



Siena College Alumnae

Siena College is committed to maintaining strong relationships with the community and in particular, our alumnae. The Siena College Alumnae Office welcomes Liz Merrett (née Davis) to her new role as Alumnae Coordinator. Liz is a Siena alumna (Class of 1978), mother of past student Molly and sister to Alumnae Association President, Gayle Peggie. Liz invites alumnae to reconnect with the College and is available Monday to Thursday on **03 9835 0217** or via alumnae@siena.vic.edu.au.



We encourage alumnae to update their details regularly with the Alumnae Office and share their stories, career updates and family news. Your alumnae profile can be updated via Siena Connect: www.sienaconnect.com.au. We are currently upgrading our databases and appreciate your patience and understanding during this process.

This year we will be hosting the Annual Decade Reunions at the College followed by an optional dinner at Hellenic Republic Kew. Please spread the word to your classmates and book your tickets at Siena Connect.



Many alumnae will recognise Dr Lorien Parker (Class of 1999). Lorien is one of the alumnae featured in our 75th Anniversary Notable Alumnae Book.

Inspired by parenthood, Dr Lorien Parker has recently started her own business running science classes for children aged two to six. SciencePlay Kids developed from a combination of Lorien's love for science (she has a PhD in Biochemistry from The University of Melbourne) and the pleasure she gets from watching her children investigate the science of the world around them. SciencePlay Kids provides a space for children to explore science concepts in a fun, creative and messy way. Find out more at www.facebook.com/SciencePlayKids



fun experiments for creative little minds

'If Siena College taught me anything,' Lorien says 'it's the attitude that whatever you want in life, you can achieve. You just have to try... sometimes really, really hard, but you get there in the end.'

We look forward to sharing many more stories of our alumnae, please keep us updated on your stories.

Tracey Grobbelaar

Director of Development and Community Relations



SIENA COLLEGE ALUMNAE

Connecting Past, Present and Future

REUNIONS 2017

Class of 40s, 50s, 60s Brunch

Saturday, 21 October 2017 | 10.30am – 12.30pm
Siena College Hall

Class of 1977 and Class of 1987 Decade Reunion

Saturday, 9 September 2017 | 4.30pm – 6.30pm
Drinks and canapés at Siena College
Followed by dinner at Hellenic Republic, Kew (optional)

Class of 1997 and Class of 2007 Decade Reunion

Saturday, 16 September 2017 | 4.30pm – 6.30pm
Drinks and canapés at Siena College
Followed by dinner at Hellenic Republic, Kew (optional)

Class of 2012 Five Year Reunion

Friday, 21 July 2017 | 6.30pm – 8.30pm
Drinks and canapés at Siena College

BOOKING DETAILS

Please book at www.sienaconnect.com.au/reunions

CONTACT

The Alumnae Office can be contacted on **03 9835 0217** or via email at alumnae@siena.vic.edu.au



Alumnae Association



Alumnae Association Presidents, Kate Gotlib, née Kelly (Class of 1996) and Gayle Peggie, née Davis (Class of 1974)

Alumnae Association Meeting Dates for 2017

Monday, 8 May Monday, 11 September
Monday, 5 June Monday, 23 October AGM
Monday, 17 July

6.30pm – 7.30pm
Siena College Conference Room

Careers Showcase

The 2017 Careers Showcase is on Wednesday, 28 June and will be open to students in Years 9 to 12. Bookings will be advised closer to the date.

Please note, the Careers Showcase has recently been rescheduled, so this date will differ to previous publications and advertisements.

Contact

Email: alumnae@siena.vic.edu.au | Phone: 03 9835 0217

The Siena College Alumnae Association is the proud sponsor of the following awards:

Dr Ursula McKenna Award 2016

The Siena College Alumnae Association provides the annual Doctor Ursula McKenna Award. This award is presented to an alumna of the College in recognition of their achievements and excellence in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

Awarded to: **Dr Lisa Begg**



Gaynor Robson-Garth, Alumna, Professor Anne-Maree Kelly, Siena College Board Chair, Dr Beverley Begg and 2016 Dr Ursula McKenna Award Recipient, Dr Lisa Begg

Siena Award 2016

This award, instituted by the Siena College Past Students' Association, is presented to a Year 12 student on completion of her studies. The Award acknowledges excellence based on Siena College values as espoused through the College Mission Statement.

Awarded to: **Jaya Gaillard**



Jaya Gaillard and Professor Anne-Maree Kelly

We Remember

May they rest in peace

Kay (Kathleen) Kelly, mother of **Anne-Maree Kelly** (Class of 1977) passed in January this year. Anne-Maree said her mother was passionate about education for women and fought for Anne-Maree to attend Siena.

Jeanne Johnston, née McKenna, passed away peacefully on 25 January 2017 in the United States. She started at Siena in 1940 and was number eight on our school register. Jeanne was Head Prefect in 1942 and left in December 1943. A tribute to Jeanne will appear in the next edition of *The Spirit*.

Sally Moran (Class of 1973) passed away on 12 February 2017 after battling ovarian cancer for eight years.

Mary Gill, née Duffy (Class of 1946), passed away on 14 March 2017. Her husband, John Gill, said Mary reflected great credit to Siena College for her education all those years ago.

Norma Green, mother of Carolyn Scriven (past staff member), passed away on 13 December 2016.

Bronya Schoner (Class of 1994) passed away in November 2015.

Congratulations

Engagements

Bernadette Axiaq (Class of 2007) is engaged to James Faulks.
Sarah Currie (Class of 2008) announced her engagement to Justin Geaney on 13 January 2017.

Marriages



Mercy Fulia (Class of 2007) was married to Andrew at St Patrick's Cathedral in August 2016.



Katherine Chan (Class of 2006) and Luke Bradshaw married on 24 September 2016 at Ormond College, University of Melbourne. Their wedding party included **Jennifer Chan** (Class of 2007), **Vanessa Loh** and **Melissa Francis** (both from the Class of 2006).



Grace Day (Class of 2007) married Joshua Hanger on 18 February 2017 at Portsea. The bridal party included **Beth Ferguson** (Class of 2007), **Lily Day** (Class of 2008) and **Sophia Day** (Class of 2015).



Alana Smarrelli (Class of 2004) was married on 10 April 2016 to Anthony Rossitto at St Peter's in Toorak. Alana's two sisters, **Marcia** (Class of 2003) and **Carla** (Class of 2007), and her best friend **Vanessa Rossoukas** (Class of 2004) were bridesmaids.

Births



Kylie McMahon (Class of 1996) and her partner, Nick, announced the safe arrival of Jack McMahon-Rodgers on 23 October 2016.



Welcome to Scarlett Catherine Roberts and congratulations to **Emma Norris** (Class of 2003) and Michael Roberts. Scarlett was born on 20 January 2017.



Sarah McBride (Class of 2009) and her partner, Aaron, are delighted to announce the safe arrival of Daisy May Charlton on 12 February, weighing 3.8kg.



Kristy Biggs (Class of 2000) and her partner welcomed Valerie Irene Bon on 14 February 2017, weighing 3.3kg.



Welcome to Jasper Angus Jones and congratulations to **Meg Law** (Class of 1993), partner, Matt, and new big sister, Daisy.

Jasper was born on 7 March 2017, weighing 3.47 kg.



Siena College Principal, **Gaynor Robson-Garth** and partner, Phillip, are overjoyed to welcome their granddaughter, Isla Maeve, into the world. Isla was born on 25 April 2017 to proud parents, Justine and Andrew. Justine is Gaynor's daughter.

Congratulations

Loyis Gibson, née Olive (Class of 1944) enjoyed celebrating her eighty-ninth birthday in January with her family and friends.



Liz Merrett
 Alumnae Coordinator



Archives



The journey continues...

In 1206, St Dominic de Guzman founded a convent consisting of nine women at Prouilhe in France.

Our staff area at Siena, which occupies the old refectory of the convent and a new level to house the staff work room, was opened on 20 November, 2006 and named 'Prouilhe' in honour of this earliest

of Dominican foundations.

The following year, on 9 October 2007, we honoured the arrival of our Dominican Sisters to eastern Australia, with the naming of our amphitheatre, Pioneer Place.

The Order of Preachers, as we know them today, was given official blessing in December of 1216 and we celebrated the 800th year of this foundation last year. In honour of that occasion, a beautifully tiled entrance was created for the side door of the Chapel.

This year marks another important milestone in the Dominican journey. 150 years ago, eight extraordinary women accepted the request for Dominican nuns to travel to New South Wales to help support their Dominican brothers.



The completion of the Centenary Wing 1967



The new tiling to commemorate the 800th year of the Order of Preachers



The *Martha Birnie* in Aberdeen Harbour, 1867

They left Kingstown (Dun Laoghaire) on 8 June, 1867 on the *Avoca* for the trip to Plymouth, England, where they set sail on the *Martha Birnie*, arriving in Sydney on 3 September. They left the ship and travelled to Maitland arriving on 10 September. It is this date which has now become known as Founders' Day.

Here at Siena College, we marked the centenary of the arrival of the Dominican Sisters with the building of Siena's first extension to the original school buildings. The 1967 Centenary Wing was attached to the 1961 building and comprised classrooms, a library space, a third floor and the Undercroft.

The entire school community was photographed in celebration of this historic event.

It is now 150 years since our pioneer Sisters journeyed to Australia. They little realised how they would help spread the message of St Dominic but we do! We recognise their considerable achievements and the legacy upon which further generations of Dominican Sisters have continued to build.

The 1867 journey of the original eight Dominican Sisters to Australia continues to inspire us today reminding us that we are part of a larger Dominican community, rich in tradition and faith.

Catherine Judd
College Archivist



1967 whole school photo to commemorate the centenary of the arrival of the Dominican Sisters to eastern Australia.



Siena College and Marcellin College Fun Run / Walk



Connecting girls, empowering young women
Stay connected ...



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