

# Sarazen Legacy

## 25<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY IN AUGUST '06

To mark the occasion of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the scholarship fund, the Sarazen Scholarship Committee announced a plan to raise \$250,000, between now and August '06, to add to the endowment to help increase both the number and the amount of the yearly scholarship awards.

This plan will include a committee effort asking potential donors for both outright and planned gifts and engaging all "lovers of the game of golf" and Siena/Sarazen affiliated philanthropists in thinking of various ways to achieve this goal. If you fit either of these categories and wish to help the committee in some way, we ask that you contact David Smith '79, vice president for development and external affairs, at: [dsmith@siena.edu](mailto:dsmith@siena.edu) or 518-783-2432 to express your willingness to serve and/or support.



## David Frost Wines Donates \$96,000

Three years ago Siena announced that the Sarazen Scholarship Committee had partnered with David Frost Vineyards, the winery owned by PGA golfer David Frost ([www.frostwine.com](http://www.frostwine.com)). For each bottle of the Sarazen wine sold anywhere in the world, the Sarazen Scholarship Fund would receive \$1. At the '05 event, Frost Wines announced that those proceeds amounted to \$96,000 and a symbolic "big check" was presented at both the wine dinner and the golf tournament.

Pictured at the presentation at the golf tournament are: Mary Ann Sarazen, daughter of Gene and Mary, Mike Chain, general manager, The Desmond Great Valley Hotel & Conference Center (PA), Pam Ilnicki, Sarazen's granddaughter, Gene Martin Ilnicki, Sarazen's grandson, and Fr. Kevin Mackin, O.F.M., Siena President. (Note: It was Mike, a Sarazen Committee member, who first approached David Frost about the partnership. Siena College is certainly grateful to Mike for being such a proactive committee member, and also to Mary Ann Sarazen, who chose the Sarazen Scholarship Fund at Siena College to be the beneficiary.)



# Sarazen Scholarship Fund

**Sarazen Invitational and Wine Dinner raises over \$40,000; Committee sets goal to raise \$250,000 in '06 in recognition of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Sarazen Scholarship Fund.**

The August '05 Gene and Mary Sarazen Invitational Golf Tournament at Schuyler Meadows Club (SMC) in Loudonville, and wine dinner the night prior at The Desmond Conference Center in Albany, raised \$41,700 net to be added to the Sarazen Scholarship Fund.

The fund is named in honor of golf icon, Gene Sarazen (H '78) and his wife, Mary, who established the scholarship in 1980. Since 1981, this annual scholarship golf tournament has been held at the SMC. Net proceeds are added to the fund each year to grow the endowment, which now stands at over \$1.2 million. Up until his death in 1999 (at the age of 97), "The Squire" graced us with his presence at the event and even participated each year, challenging the participants at one of the holes.

Nicknamed "The Squire" because he lived on a farm in Brookfield, NY during his playing days, Sarazen:

- invented the sand wedge in 1931, which revolutionized the game, and brought about the remodeling of golf courses.
- was the youngest golfer to win a major (20 years old in 1922 when he won the U.S. OPEN at Skokie CC in Illinois. Note: Tiger Woods, who won the '97 Masters at age 21, is the second-youngest.)
- was the first golfer to win the career professional grand slam (Masters, U.S. Open, British Open, PGA Championship). Only four other players, Ben Hogan, Jack Nicklaus, Gary Player, and Tiger Woods, have accomplished that feat.
- played in the first Ryder Cup.
- hit what is considered one of the greatest shots in golf history; at the '35 Masters—double eagle on the par-5 15<sup>th</sup> and still today it is called the "shot heard round the world".
- won 37 tournaments in his career.

In 1978 Sarazen, at the request of his dear friend, Dr. Albert Yunich of Albany, N.Y., accepted an invitation from Siena College to receive an honorary degree. He loved the idea

of being called "DR." Sarazen, particularly since he was a sixth grade dropout from Harrison, N.Y. A few years later he and his wife, Mary, endowed a scholarship at Siena, awarded annually to students "reflecting the high personal, athletic, and intellectual ideals of the Sarazens." That same year, the Sarazen Scholarship Committee, consisting of William J. Boland, M.D. '50, Charles Buchman, Hon. Erastus Corning II, Arthur Leonard, Jr., Frank Mackle, Jr., James



Murphy, D.D.S., Ara Parseghian, Joseph Phillips, Jr., Gen. A.C. O'Hara, Carl Touhey, Ken Venturi, Donald Wendling Harry Wood, and Albert Yunich, M.D., raised a "kick-off" fund of \$100,000 to add to the initial endowment.

In the 24 years of the scholarship fund, 88 students graduated after receiving four-year Sarazen scholarships. Currently, there are 20 Sarazen scholars (5 in each class) on campus. Each of these students is receiving a \$3,500 scholarship.