



Esteemed Dyslexia Researcher and School Leader Join Siena Advisory Board

*Dr. Guinevere Eden is a national leader in dyslexia research
(Georgetown University Medical Center)*

*Abigail Wiebenson is a distinguished former head of school
(Lowell School)*

SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND, October 4, 2007 – The Siena School (“Siena”) announced today that **Dr. Guinevere Eden** and **Abigail Wiebenson** have joined Siena’s Advisory Board. Dr. Eden is Director of the Center for the Study of Learning at Georgetown University Medical Center and is a national leader in the scientific, neurobiological research of dyslexia and reading. Ms. Wiebenson recently retired as Head of Lowell School in Washington, D.C., after 19 years of service. Ms. Wiebenson has been a supporter of Siena since its founding in 2005, and last fall was recognized as a “Key Supporter” at Siena’s awards banquet.

“We have benefited greatly from the advice and counsel of the experienced professionals on our advisory board,” said Erik Heyer, Siena’s founder and executive director. “The addition of Guinevere and Abigail will help ensure that Siena’s faculty, staff and students continue to benefit from access to the very best guidance and expert advice available in the field.”

Using functional brain imaging technology, Dr. Eden and her colleagues at Georgetown are investigating the neurobiological representation of reading in dyslexic individuals, and how reading is impacted by instructions or mode of communication. She is a Vice President of the International Dyslexia Association and serves on the editorial boards of the *Annals of Dyslexia*, *Dyslexia*, and *Human Brain Mapping*.



“I am delighted to be involved in the activities of the Siena School”, said Dr. Eden.
“Researchers and educators need to work hand in hand if we are to make headway in understanding the best conditions by which to promote children’s learning. The Siena School is innovative and dynamic in its approach and this will be reflected in the individual successes of the students it nurtures.”

Ms. Wiebenson currently serves on several boards, including Edmund Burke School in Washington, D.C., and served on the board of AISGW (the Association of Independent Schools of Greater Washington). Her special interest in student and staff diversity led to her involvement with the NAIS (National Association of Independent Schools) Summer Diversity Institute.

“It is a personal and professional privilege to be asked to be part of Siena’s Advisory Board. I have the utmost respect for Erik Heyer’s intentionality, optimism and accomplishment in creating a community of learning for capable students and families who thrive in Siena’s smaller and purposefully attentive atmosphere,” said Ms. Wiebenson.

On the Siena Advisory Board, Dr. Eden and Ms. Wiebenson join national educators such as Pearl Kane of Columbia University Teachers College; Katherine Merseth of Harvard University; Nancy Streim of Columbia University Teachers College; Lou Salza, head of Lawrence School in Ohio, and Margaret Harrington, chief operating officer of Victory Schools.

Distinguished local professionals on the Advisory Board include William Stixrud, a well-known area psychologist specializing in learning disabilities and director of William Stixrud & Associates in Silver Spring, MD; Claire Nissenbaum, founder of the Atlantic Seaboard Dyslexia Education Center, a nationally accredited training program for dyslexia teachers and tutors located in Rockville, MD; Robin Church of the Kennedy Krieger Institute; and Janet Wintrol, director of Ivymount School Programs in Rockville, MD. The Advisory Board also includes Matthew Moyer of National Geographic, one of the nation’s rising young photojournalists.



About Guinevere Eden, Ph.D. - International Dyslexia Association; Center for the Study of Learning

Dr. Eden is Director of the Center for the Study of Learning at Georgetown University Medical Center and is a national leader in the scientific, neurobiological research of dyslexia and reading. Using functional brain imaging technology, Dr. Eden and her colleagues are investigating the neurobiological representation of reading in dyslexic individuals, and how reading is impacted by instructions or mode of communication. She is a director and officer of the International Dyslexia Association and serves on the editorial boards of the *Annals of Dyslexia*, *Dyslexia*, and *Human Brain Mapping*. Dr. Eden has served as a permanent member of a standing NIH Study Section. She holds a bachelor's degree in physiology from University College London and a doctorate in physiology from Oxford University.

About Abigail Wiebenson - Lowell School

Ms. Wiebenson stepped down in June after 19 years as Head of Lowell School. She will be staying on half-time as Director Emerita, working on special projects. She currently serves on the boards of The Barker Foundation and Edmund Burke School. She also served two terms on the board of AISGW (the Association of Independent Schools of Greater Washington) and on the faculty of NAIS (National Association of Independent Schools) Summer Diversity Institute. Prior to coming to Lowell, Abigail worked for 10 years in the Lower School administration at Georgetown Day School. She is the mother of three grown sons and has two grandsons.



About The Siena School

The Siena School is an outstanding new private school in Silver Spring, Maryland serving bright, college-bound students with language-based learning differences, such as dyslexia. Siena's staff and board of advisors include distinguished national, state and local education leaders and professionals. The school was established in 2006 and will grow to serve students in grades 4 – 12. Siena's program is designed for students with mild to moderate learning needs who are experiencing a discrepancy between their academic achievement and intellectual abilities in one or more areas such as reading, writing, oral expression or math. Siena delivers an individualized educational program featuring small class sizes, research-based instructional methodologies, a highly trained staff and an educational environment specifically designed to meet the unique needs of our students. For further information, The Siena School can be contacted at (301) 592-0567 or on the web at www.thesienaschool.org.

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