



Our new home: Spes Unica Hall

Social Work News

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 1 FALL/WINTER 2008

A Word from the Chair



Dr. Burke is chair of the Social Work Department

Holiday greetings from our new offices in Spes Unica Hall! When I came into the new building a week before classes were scheduled to begin, I wondered if the building would be ready for the first day of classes, but in the midst of a flurry of activity we started classes in our new surroundings. I invite you to stop and visit with us when you come back to campus. We even have a social

work lab! Some of you came by this fall, and it is always wonderful to see you. Leonard Sanchez joined our faculty this year as our Field Practicum Coordinator. In addition to working with Field Education, he is developing some exciting learning opportunities with students who wish to work with Spanish-speaking populations. Dr. Kominkiewicz continues to provide learning and research opportunities for students wishing to work in legal and educational settings, and I continue to develop learning opportunities for students who wish to work in health and gerontology settings. Because social work is very context driven, the

current political and economic events surely have provided much content for discussion in our classes. We know many of you are working with clients who are struggling with the downturn in the economy. If you would like to submit a brief article for this newsletter related to issues you are experiencing in your practice during this economic downturn, please send it to us. As the Saint Mary's College social work community, I am sure our thoughts and prayers are with all who are suffering during this economic crisis. And now as the fall semester comes to a close, we remember the glad tidings of the Christmas season!

Thoughts from the Director

I hope that this finds all of you doing very well and looking forward to spending time with your families during the Christmas season.

We were visited by several graduate schools this semester, including such highly-ranked institutions as the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Jane Addams Graduate School of Social Work, University of Illinois, Chicago, Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis University, the University of Pennsylvania, and the University of Chicago. We appreciate the visits by our colleagues from our neighboring schools. The seminars they conducted were most helpful to the Social Work students.

The seniors are close to completing their first semester of their 500 hour field placements. We are also pleased to report that the Social Work seniors are also conducting cutting-edge research in their field placements. We are now requiring students to submit a research proposal through the Saint Mary's College Institutional Research Board for their original research projects in the Social Work Research Methods course. This will increase their knowledge of evidenced-based research and allow them to also assist the community agencies in such areas as program assessment and program evaluation. Several students already presented at the Spes Unica Dedication Day, and all will be presenting their research findings to their field in-

structors, colleagues, and other community members during December. The juniors are quite involved in completing their Social Policy public law research, as well as videotaping their social work practice interviews for Dr. JoAnn Burke in the new Social Work Lab in Spes Unica Hall.

I attended the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Reaffirmation Workshop in September in preparation for our work over the next two and a half years. The Social Work Program is re-evaluated every eight years. Our Self-Study is due in the spring of 2010, the CSWE site visit will occur in the fall of 2010, and CSWE will inform us of the results in February 2011. We are now applying new CSWE standards as of April 2008 in the form of competencies to student learning, and the students are quite excited about these changes. We will be one of the first programs to be evaluated under the new standards.

I continue to wish you the most blessed year, and please know that all of you are always in my prayers. You are all so very special to me.



Dr. Kominkiewicz is director of the Social Work Department



Welcome Professor Sanchez!



Prof. Sanchez with his family

"The Holy Cross order has done so much for me, I thought it was payback time."

The Social Work Department warmly welcomes Professor Leonard Sanchez as an associate professor and field practicum coordinator! Professor Sanchez earned his undergraduate degree in Sociology from the University of Portland and then continued on to Arizona State University where he

earned his Masters in Social Work. After graduation, he took a Social Work position with the Gilbert Police Department in Arizona where he handled things like death notifications, suicide talk-downs, and crisis counseling. He met his wife (Michelle Van Meter Sanchez '97) in Arizona while she was completing a year of service with the Holy Cross Sisters. He proposed at the grotto at Notre Dame and they now have two beautiful boys- Teo, 4, and Max, 18 months.

After 11 years of work with the police force, an opportunity arose to teach at Saint Mary's. He had always dreamed of teaching, but was waiting for the right time, place, and position. He has also always had a connection with the Order of the Holy Cross- his home parish was a Holy Cross parish, the University of Portland is a Holy

Cross school, and his wife is also the alumna of a Holy Cross school. He said, "The Holy Cross order has done so much for me, I thought it was payback time" when asked why he chose Saint Mary's. His first exposure to Saint Mary's occurred when he was in the fourth grade and an alumna was working in his elementary school. His mother-in-law, Karen Van Meter, is an education professor here at Saint Mary's and suggested he look into the opening position.

Professor Sanchez's fluency in Spanish and experience with the police force made him a prime candidate for the position. He says he loves Saint Mary's, especially the students. He remarked that everyone has been very warm and welcoming, but the students have really embraced him and made him feel at home. He sees a lot of similarities between the students here and at the University of Portland which he attributes to the Holy Cross influence.

Professor Sanchez really enjoys biking and hiking, which he realizes will be far more limited here in South Bend than they were in Arizona, but he is determined to do them anyway. He takes his ipod with him everywhere and loves music and movies. When it comes to sports, the Diamondbacks are his true love; though he has also been a Notre Dame fan his whole life. Spending time with his family is his ultimate hobby and he really enjoys spending time with his sons and seeing them grow.

Alumnae News



Left: Lauren (DeLuca) Leech ('07)



Katie Cosimano ('08)



Kathleen Walton ('08)

Lauren DeLuca ('07) was recently married in January and became Lauren Leech. She and her husband are living in South Carolina where she was recently offered a position with the Department of Social Services as a DCS caseworker under the formal title of "Human Services Specialist II." She says, "I can't wait to get back into Social Work. It's always been my passion and now I get to do what I loved learning so much about."

Katie Cosimano ('08) is currently earning her MSW from Boston College's Graduate

School of Social Work. She received Advanced Standing and has already completed two semesters. She will graduate in May 2009 with a Clinical Concentration of Children, Youth and Families. She is currently working in a not-for profit organization in the Boston area doing family advocacy and community resourcing. Next semester she will be transitioning to a Family Clinic where she will be doing direct practice individual and group therapy. She is looking forward to graduating and starting life in the "real world"! After graduation she is hoping to work for a not-for-profit agency or with the Department of Children and

Families (DCF).

Kathleen Walton ('08) started at George Warren Brown School of Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis this past August concentrating in Health Social Work. Her practicum is currently at Barnes Jewish Hospital doing liver and kidney outpatient transplant social work. Kathleen states, "I absolutely love my practicum and could not ask for a better experience! My classes are also great; they correspond exactly to what I am doing at the hospital. I feel that I was prepared for grad school and even better prepared for my practicum!"

Class of 2009 Field Placements

Jennifer Bulmer

Oaklawn Hospital,
Carrie Cravalho, MSW

Kimberly Case

Dismas House
Yolanda Lozano To-
schlog
Dr. Fran Ko-
minkiewicz, MSW,
Ph.D.

Christine Cesak

Ryan's Place,
Aileac Deegan, BSW

Allison Cooney

SJRM Office of Care
Management,
Betsy Lattanner, MSW

Caroline Cox

REAL Services
Pam Huffer
Dr. Joanne Burke, MSS, Ph.D.

Jenna Creveling

Hope Rescue Ministries,
Beth Morlock

Maureen McQuade

Youth Service Bureau
Shotanus Peterson, MSW

Nina Philippsen

Memorial Prenatal Clinic, WIC
Office



Jamie Reinbold, MSW

Jessica Porter

South Bend Heritage
Foundation
Jesse Whittaker, MSW
Katie Putz
Family Justice Center,
Peter Morgan,
Dr. Fran Kominkiewicz,
MSW, Ph.D.

Jessica Sobczyk

South Bend Community School
Corporation,
Mark Geissler, MSW

Anne Therese Stroude

Sunshine Club
(Madison Center),
Paul Curry, MSW

Sara Dapkus

REAL Services
Kim Charles, MSW

Anastasia Kaloydis

YWCA,
Deborah Goldsmith, MSW

Deanna Molosky

Office of Joe Donnelly
Hodge Patel,
Leonard Sanchez, MSW

Erin Newsom

REAL Services
Lea Schrock, Paula Williams, MSW

Notes from the Field

I would like to thank the students, faculty, and staff for welcoming me to Saint Mary's College. Departing from Arizona was a hard decision to make but I believe my heart and desire drew me to Saint Mary's College. The transition into academia from the workforce has been challenging and very rewarding. I'm so appreciative of the patience and kindness the students have shown me.

I'm impressed with all the accomplishments the students have completed this semester in the field. I find each student to be professional, competent, and dedicated. The skills the students have put into practice have benefited a countless number of individuals in the community. The clients that I have encountered in the field have given high

remarks in regard to the students' contributions. The students have shown that the practicum experience is not solely a means to learn but to empower change and provide viable options for the people they serve. The core value of Saint Mary's College, "justice," has been carried out by the interns' strong and compassionate presence.

The students have also displayed a greater understanding on how theory and research enhances the generalist practice level of social work. The extra effort the students have put into their academics and practicum is evident as the students have started presenting case studies in seminar class. The presentations have illustrated how manipulation of theory and practice allow the students to

make positive movement in the social work field.

As the semester comes to an end I would like the seniors to reflect on their experiences this past semester.

Students should take into account that social work can be demanding but should not over shadow how rewarding it is to help a person with a new perspective in his/her life.



*Prof. Leonard Sanchez
is the field practicum
coordinator*



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Social Work Club News

This semester the Social Work Club has been extremely busy planning and organizing fun activities and events that try to connect our members to the surrounding South Bend community. This year, the club has five active committees, which include: Stall News, Publicity, Fund-raising, Social Events, and Service Opportunities. These committees are made up of various club members, who ultimately work together to spread the word about the Social Work profession, as well as make our club events successful!

On October 12th, the club teamed up with Hope Ministries to enjoy a fun day at Mathy's Pumpkin Patch in South Bend. The Social Work Club provided pizza and beverages to over 25 children and adults who came to enjoy hay rides, pumpkin picking, the petting zoo, and other various Fall activities offered by Mathy's. Vice-President Mallory Price was interviewed by News Center 16 for her



efforts in helping plan and organize this community event.

On October 27th, the club paired up with the Social Work Department to host the Divided We Fail Program at Saint Mary's College. Carla Hartman, JD, from the AARP came to hold a "community conversation". This was in the form of a guided discussion about the trade-offs that might be associated with solutions to the health care and financial security problems that Americans are

dealing with today. The program had a great turn out from both faculty and students.

The club pre-sold navy fleece monogrammed blankets from November 10th through the 21st. This fundraiser was designed to provide Saint Mary's students, faculty, and staff with a great holiday gift idea, as well as the opportunity to raise funds for the Social Work Club.

On November 24th, the club met for a social activity, where personalized Thank-You cards were written and addressed to all of the Saint Mary's staff. These cards are a specialized way of expressing our gratitude for all of the hard work that Building Services, Grounds keeping, and Maintenance Services do in order to keep our campus looking beautiful year-round!

Nina Philippsen
President
Social Work Club