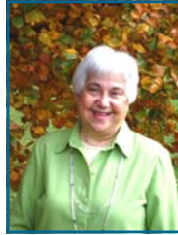




Social Work News

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 1 FALL/WINTER 2009

A Word from the Chair and Director



Dr. Kominkiewicz is the chair and director of the Social Work Department

As we move closer to our Christmas season, I want to thank you for all of your prayers, support, and good wishes as we end the first semester of our academic year and start our second semester in 2010.

We have been truly blessed this semester. The Department of Social Work is now very much at home in Spes Unica Hall, our new academic building in its second year of operation. We have been visited by many graduate schools of social work and have hosted many community speakers in our classrooms. The students are involved in various and diverse College and community projects, and we continue to expand our educational initiatives. Professor Leonard Sanchez collaborated with Jan Pilarski, Director of the Justice Education Program, and will serve as a faculty advisor during an immersion educational experience in El Salvador. Dr. JoAnn Burke is continuing her efforts to increase student knowledge of gerontological issues, and is developing an interdisciplinary gerontology minor for the College. The need for a gerontology minor was addressed in our departmental strategic plan, as was the need to increase learning opportunities for students with Spanish-speaking populations. The department has made great progress in both areas.

The seniors are completing their first semester of their 500-hour field placements. With all of the issues regarding the economy, social work students are rising to the challenge. In the Social Work Research Methods class, seniors are conducting original, cutting-edge community-based research projects approved through the Saint Mary's College Institutional Research Board. These projects will provide the community with necessary and helpful research in agencies and organizations. The students will also enhance their knowledge of evidenced-based research. Research projects include conducting a needs assessment and census with the Pokagon Band of the Potawatomi Indians;

program evaluations of the three YMCA after-school youth programs at the elementary, intermediate, and high school levels; and a qualitative/quantitative program evaluation at the South Bend Heritage Foundation. The juniors are conducting federal law research in their Social Policy class, and are including a policy practice component in their curriculum.

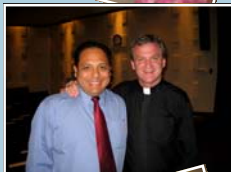
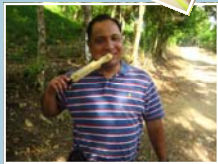
I continue to work on a major assessment of our program as we prepare our Council on Social Work Education Reaffirmation Self-Study. I am also very involved in other activities, including presenting at the Council on Social Work Education in San Antonio in November and at the Baccalaureate Program Directors Annual Meeting (BPD) in Atlanta in March. I was appointed as a co-chair of the national BPD Research Committee, and am working on a collaborative research project for this committee.

All of you are so very special to me. Please know that I wish you the most blessed year and that you are always in my prayers. Keep in touch with us this year.

We want to especially thank our Social Work Program Advisory Board members who continue to so strongly support Saint Mary's College and the Department of Social Work. The Advisory Board is providing great expertise to us as we continue to work on the reaffirmation. The Board met at the College on September 22, 2009, and on November 17, 2009.



Members are from left to right: Vickie (Faulkner) Warner '77, Professor Leonard Sanchez, Dr. Frances Kominkiewicz, Greg Ballew, Gladys Muhammad, Lynn Coleman, Lorette (Borda) Schmuhl '66, Dr. JoAnn Burke, Jesse Whittaker, Warren Outlaw



Notes from the Field

I cannot believe that the fall semester is almost at an end. The students have been working hard to integrate their academic learning into their work at their practicum placements. The students have reported in their field logs many great opportunities and exposures that they have encountered in the field. I would like to thank all the practicum placements for all their efforts thus far.

With the educational field instruction, the students put their "learned theory" into practice. The practicum adds a dimension to the social work major that cannot solely be taught in class. With an increase of students in the social work major, it was necessary to add five more placements. We now have students at Individuals and Families in Transition, Salvation Army Rehab, Healthy Families Center, REAL Services, and the Sisters of the Holy Cross. (For a full list of all the social work placements please

visit our Social Work website).

This fall I had the pleasure of visiting the Dominican Republic to assess Creighton Uni-



versity's study abroad program. The "El Encuentro Dominicano" is more than just a study abroad program. It is a global opportunity to immerse the student into the cultural strengths and challenges of the Dominican population by way of education, mission and service learning. The student works at a service placement for 4-6 hours weekly within the community of Santiago. Examples of placements are working with the elderly, mentally and physically disabled children, and with school children. Twice a semester the students spend 10 days fully immersed in the "campo" with a host family. The students experience how the families live, they are able to strengthen their Spanish skills, and also complete a service project. The present group helped construct an aqueduct system so that the community at the "campo" would have

drinking water. The goal is that Saint Mary's students will be able to attend such an empowering and life changing program.

In my continued efforts to educate students on Spanish speaking populations, the Social Work Department is sponsoring a guest speaker to present on Latino culture and immigration. The presenter is Daniel Groody, C.S.C., Ph.D., the director of the Center for Latino Spirituality and Culture at the University of Notre Dame. Fr. Groody spent many years doing pastoral work and research in Latin America, particularly along the U.S.-Mexican border. He teaches and lectures on U.S. Latino globalization and the relationship of Christian spirituality to social justice. He has written several books, articles and other publications and he has produced several films including: *Dying to Live: A Migrant's Journey*, (2005) and *Miracles in Mexico: The Story of Poverty 24/6*, (2009).



Prof. Leonard Sanchez is the field practicum Coordinator.

Class of 2010 Field Placements



LaQuay Boone
Youth Service Bureau
Shotunus Peterson, MSW

Natalie Bui
Hope Ministries
Abbey Carr, BSW

Katherine Check
Ryan's Place
Aileac Deegan, BSW

Kathryn Doornbos
REAL Services
Latanya Newhouse

Anna Foldenauer
Sunshine Club
Paul Curry, MSW

Amy Kendziorski
Healthy Family Center
Beth Temple, MSW

Lauren Kominkiewicz
Office of Congressman
Joe Donnelly
Hodge Patel

Audrey Leonard
Memorial Prenatal Clinic
WIC Office
Jamie Reinbold, MSW

Katie Lewis
SBCSC (Coquillard School)
Mark Geissler, MSW

Patricia Luna
Individuals and Families
in Transition
Carrie Zickefoose, BSW

Jenifer McCauslin
YWCA
Laura Kobek, Ivy Petra,
MSW

Alysia Porter
Dismas House
Yolanda Toschlog, MSW

Mallory Price
REAL Services
Pam Huffer

Mia Ravasio
The Salvation Army
Adult Rehabilitation Center
Thomas Hoff, MSW

Sarah Ridley
Oaklawn Hospital
Carrie Miller, MSW

Mary Ryan
REAL Services Case Management
Kim Charles, MSW

Ashley Sears
Sisters of the Holy Cross
Kathy Decker-Burrous,
MSW

Autumn Whipple
Family Justice Center
Katie Jones, MSW

Burke's Blurb



Associate Professor
Dr. JoAnn Burke

The juniors are busy in the social work lab with their interviews. These interviews have become quite dramatic. Last year one of the students came to the lab wearing make-up that simulated a "black eye." As she walked down the hall, she received sympathetic looks because it looked very authentic! After several years of patiently and not so patiently waiting to teach a gerontol-

ogy course, we finally will be offer a social gerontology course this coming spring. In addition, I am working with the College to explore the possibility of offering an interdisciplinary minor in gerontology. The Council on Social Work Education has worked with programs to offer gerontology content so this should serve us well as we are reviewed for continued accreditation.

Alumnae News

Beth Lewis Rompf, '73

I am an Associate Professor at the University of Kentucky where I teach undergraduate practice, undergraduate field, and our Masters capstone class.

I taught part-time from 1976-1989, when our 4 children were small, and in 1989 accepted a tenure-track position in the College of Social Work. With two colleagues, I have just completed the 6th edition of our book, *Field instruction: A guide for social work students*. My main research interest has always been Social Work Education, so my Ph.D. in Higher Education gave me a solid foundation for understanding the literature and honing my writing skills.

What I love most about academic life is that I never tire of learning nor of teaching! I live with my husband John, in Winchester, KY.

Jennifer Chmielewski, '07

I graduated from IUPUI with my MSW and a concentration in school social work in May 2008. I immediately took a job with CICOA Aging & In-Home Solutions - as there were no school social work jobs available in May. Fortunately, the aging population is another area in which I am interested (thanks largely in part to Dr. Burke), and I have enjoyed my work at CICOA a great deal. However, I was recently offered and accepted the position as a school social worker in Shelbyville, Indiana. I'll be working at Coulston Elementary School.

Maureen Donovan, '00 CADC, LSW, is a Trauma Social Worker at Mount Sinai Hospital in Chicago.

Teresa Coyo Nihill, '84

I spent a number of years in direct practice after I received my Master's from Tu-lane U. I am now the Executive Director of Metropolitan Family Services DuPage--a branch of Metropolitan Family Services. My office is located in Wheaton, IL, but we have locations throughout metro Chicago.

Mary Anne Schell Mayle, '06

I graduated (advanced standing) from Case Western 2 years ago, with a specialization in gerontology. I have been working for Heartland Hospice ever since. I am mostly connected with hospitals & nursing homes in the NW Ohio area, and while my work is focused in the aging/medical field I often work with multiple generations regarding loss & crisis.

Deanna Molosky, '09

Work is keeping me busy, but for the most part I am loving what I do. I work at Vincentian Service Corporation. I am seeing clients for our housing program regularly on Monday/Tuesdays. I do home visits, but I also take the men on grocery shopping trips, to food pantries, to doctor's visits, etc.

Jenna Creveling '09 returned from her first deployment with the United States Navy. She was on a Southern Partnership Tour in South America. Jenna relates, "We visited St. Lucia, Argentina, Uruguay, and Brazil before heading back to Virginia. I also got to meet some Navy individuals from Peru, Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay and Chile since they were on our ship during the tour." She is at Virginia Beach, VA. Thanks for all you do for us, Jenna!

Amy Mastagh '01 began employment with the Social Security Administration (SSA) in June 2001 as an SSI Claims Representative. From 2003-2004, Amy completed her Masters in Social Work from Indiana University while working part-time. She continued her employment in a local SSA field office through 2006. Amy writes, "In addition to my daily responsibilities as a Claims Rep, I also played a vital role in community outreach for the Medicare Part D Prescription Drug program and subsidy. In 2006, I completed a 4-month assignment as an Area Operations Analyst in the Indiana Area Director's office which oversees all 26 Indiana SSA field offices. Then in September 2006, I relocated to Kansas City, Missouri where I continued with SSA as a Quality Review Analyst in our Office of Quality Performance. As part of this job, I visited beneficiaries in their homes to conduct face-to-face reviews. In June 2009, I relocated again to our headquarters in Baltimore, MD to work for a brief period as an IT Specialist. Next month, August 2009, I am pleased to announce that I will begin a new position with SSA as a Policy Analyst working closely with the Department of Homeland Security, Department of State, and other SSA headquarter components on three large-scale projects involving immigration." Congratulations, Amy!

Liz Rectenwal, '08

I am working as a case manager now at a residential facility known as the Shady Rest in Plymouth, Indiana. I absolutely love it!



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Notre Dame, IN 46556-5001

Social Work Club



The Social Work Club has been off to a great start this year. Joining forces with the Africa Faith and Justice Network, the clubs worked to raise \$96 for the St. Joseph County CROP Walk which will benefit the South Bend Community and work to fight hunger across the world. The next big event is the Annual Outing to Matthys Pumpkin Patch with the resi-

dents of Hope Ministries, the local homeless shelter. This is a major event for the Social Work Club, and was very successful last year. The residents from Hope will take a bus to the pumpkin patch where they will get to go on a hay-ride, go through a corn maze, pick a pumpkin, and end with a trip to the petting zoo. It is a great chance for students to get to know the residents one on one, and it gives the residents the chance to take a break from daily life and enjoy themselves. The Social Work Club has also worked very hard creating trick-or-treat bags for the children at the event. In November, the Social Work Club is planning to raise awareness of the role of Social Work in the VA and to show their support for Veterans. Likewise, they are planning a talent show that they will put on for the Sisters of the Holy Cross. Thanks to the support of Professor Sanchez, Dr. Kominkiewicz, and the amazing Kathy Hammond, one can expect to see great things from the club this year.

Find us on the Web!

The Department of Social Work has a new Facebook Group! Check it out and stay current with pictures and upcoming events, and stay connected with friends and faculty!

The Facebook group name is:
SMC Social Work Department!

The department website is:
www3.saintmarys.edu/departments/social-work

The department photo site is:
picasaweb.google.com/smcsocialwork