

**ALUMNAE NEWS**

**Jennifer Chmielewski '07**

apolis.

Since graduating from Saint Mary's College, I've graduated from IUPUI with my MSW and a concentration in school social work in May 2008 and earned my LSW in April 2009. I worked for the Central Indiana Council on Aging (CICOA) for fourteen months as a care manager before I was hired in August 2009 as a school social worker at Coulston Elementary School in Shelbyville, Indiana. I am currently learning Spanish and enjoying living in Indian-



**Jessica Sobczyk '09**

I graduated from Case Western Reserve University in July 2010 with a Masters degree in Social Science Administration. I am currently living in

Mishawaka, IN, and working for the Salvation Army as a Financial Assistance Case Worker.

**Jennifer McCauslin '10**

I recently acquired a job at the Bowen Center in Plymouth, a mental health practice, as a Rehabilitation Specialist Provider. I work with at-risk children within the Marshall County community and with their families helping them in school, learning life skills, and helping their families teach them along the way.

**Alumnae — We Want To Hear From You!**

*We would love to hear from you and share your information in our upcoming newsletters. Please send your information to:*

*Fran Kominkiewicz  
Department of Social Work  
256 Spes Unica Hall  
Notre Dame, Indiana 46556  
Or  
kominkie@saintmarys.edu*

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**SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE**

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 1

**SOCIAL WORK NEWS**

FALL / WINTER 2010

**A WORD FROM THE CHAIR AND DIRECTOR**



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

Dear Friends, I hope that all is going very well with you at this most beautiful time of year! As we end our first semester with great

plans already in place for the spring semester, we anticipate our senior Social Work majors learning of their admissions to M.S.W. programs. The Social Work faculty has been very busy writing reference letters! As we look at what our alumnae have accomplished, and how the Class of 2011 has been so greatly mentored by the Class of 2010, we again see what makes Saint Mary's College so very special.

The senior Social Work majors presented their community-based research on December 6<sup>th</sup> on the Saint Mary's campus. The community agencies, as well as members from the Saint Mary's community, were invited to those pres-

entations. The seniors worked collaboratively in small groups to conduct their research. The research projects, all of which were approved by the Saint Mary's College Institutional Research Board, were planned, conducted, and completed in one semester during the Social Work Research Methods class, which I am privileged to teach. This is an amazing accomplishment for the students considering that the seniors are also in their field practicum assignments during this entire semester (as well as the spring semester). Congratulations to our seniors!

The junior Social Work majors have been very busy researching and analyzing federal policy on a number of issues, including health care, veterans' housing and mental health care, older adult needs, violence against women, education, and child support. They shared their findings through a PowerPoint presentation. The students also practiced social policy in action by participating in community events addressing policy issues, such as the

City of South Bend Council meetings and the South Bend Community School Corporation School Board meetings. The reflection papers they wrote truly captured the essence of advocacy for those individuals and groups who need support in having their voices heard.

I attended the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Annual Program Meeting in Portland, Oregon, in October and was able to meet with colleagues from across the country as well as with our Council on Social Work Education educational specialist. It was a privilege to represent Saint Mary's College at this national social work event.

We wish you the most blessed Christmas and New Year. Please continue to keep in touch throughout the year. May you have the best year ever!

Take care,  
Fran Kominkiewicz

**DR. QUINTIN SULLIVAN-CSWE SITE VISITOR**

On November 9, 2010, Dr. Quintin Sullivan, University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, served as our Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) site visitor. In many meetings throughout the day, Dr. Sullivan met with President Carol Mooney, Patricia A. Fleming, Senior Vice President/Dean of Faculty, students, Advisory Board members, field instructors, and full-time and part-time faculty. We greatly appreciate all of you who gave your time to meet, and shared your expertise, with Dr. Sullivan. It was a very wonderful day in which we again saw the great support with which we are blessed from all involved with the Saint Mary's College Department of Social Work. Thanks also to Dr. Sullivan for his wonderful work. We will receive word of our reaffirmation status in June, 2011. We will keep you updated in future newsletters!



*Dr. Quintin Sullivan from the University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh*

CLASS OF 2011 FIELD PLACEMENTS



**Monica Aguirre**  
The Salvation Army  
Adult Rehabilitation Center  
Thomas Hoff, MSW

**Joan Chen**  
Sisters of the Holy Cross  
Kathy Decker-Burrous, MSW

**Brittany Corr**  
Healthy Family Center  
Beth Temple, MSW

**Alison Costanzo**  
Oaklawn Hospital  
Carrie Miller, MSW

**Megan Flynn**  
Office of Congressman  
Joe Donnelly  
Hodge Patel  
Leonard Sanchez, MSW

**Anna Frantz**  
Ryan's Place  
Aileac Deegan, BSW

**Angela Hollar**  
REAL Services  
LaTonia Newhouse  
JoAnn Burke, LCSW

**Laurel Javors**  
YWCA  
Ivy Petra, MSW

**Maria Kenney**  
Individuals & Families in Transition  
Kelly Metzger  
Leonard Sanchez, MSW

**Katherine Kohler**  
The Activity Center  
Jessica Kennedy Herman, MSW

**Colleen Lake**  
IVY Tech  
Joann Phillips, MSW

**Maire Ready**  
REAL Services

**Hannah Snyder**  
REAL Services  
Guardianship Program  
Pam Huffer  
JoAnn Burke, LCSW

**Monica Way**  
Youth Service Bureau  
Shotunus Peterson, LCSW



NOTES FROM THE FIELD



Professor Sanchez with his son, Teo

As the semester comes to an end, I have been reflecting on a number of discussions that I had with the social work students. One discussion that has continually come to mind was to see the client as a person and not a symptom. The students have been engaging in issues and concerns by placing a human face to the people they encounter. The students found a deeper investment in their learning and realized how their presence and aid truly impacts a client's life. Therefore, a number of the students questioned life events and how some people embraced each day by helping a fellow human being. They also

questioned how other people do not see the world through the same lens of service and compassion. In past newsletters, I have thanked the students and field instructors for their service. As students gave presentations on their practicum placements, I became mindful that thanks should also be given to the clients and the community of South Bend for allowing the social work intern to enter into their personal, and at times, traumatic lives.

The leadership class this fall gave me a greater understanding of students' views on leadership. Many of the students did not believe that they were leaders. I introduced a number of concepts such as diversity, mentors, goal setting, and barriers of success. As the semester progressed, I saw a number of students blossom into leadership roles by way of their critical thinking presented in class. I invited a number of leaders who made an impact in South Bend or on Saint Mary's Campus to present in class. I would like to thank Diane Fox, Director of Student Success at Saint Mary's College, Stacie Jeffers, Director of Opportunities, Career Crossing at Saint Mary's College, Gene Robinson from Ameri-

can Red Cross, Lt. Cynthia Kilgore of the South Bend Police Department Crime Stoppers, Alana Greenfogel of WNDU News, the Honorable Jenny Manier, a South Bend judge, Dr. JoAnn Burke, Social Work professor, and Father Chris Cox, C.S.C., a Holy Cross priest.

Many of the presenters stated that at one point in their lives they sat in the similar setting as a young student waiting to take on the world. Students were amazed to hear their personal stories. I know the presenters are very busy. Both the students and I are very grateful for the time and for the great presentations given. I am always looking for leaders in the community to present in the leadership class. If you would like to present or if you know someone who would like to present, please contact me (lsanchez@saintmarys.edu).



FROM THE DESK OF DR. JOANN BURKE



As you can see from this picture, I had to use a new means of transportation around campus for a few weeks this fall. I had foot surgery over fall break and had some complications. I am

now healing well, but I did get some attention from using my scooter as I zoomed down the halls of Spes Unica! Our junior social work majors have been hearing my stories as we work within the Micro Practice Course to socialize them into the profession. They are now writing their case study paper and are wondering how they will know enough to work with clients in the field next fall. I keep reminding them this is a learning process that has been well tested, and they are in a learning process. You probably remember those days while you were

here!  
Two of our senior social work majors, Maire Ready and Hannah Snyder, are working with me on the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg grant for family caregiving research. We will present some of our research at the Association of Gerontology in Higher Education conference in Cincinnati this coming March. I enjoy involving our students in research projects and community projects. Wishing each of you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

SOCIAL WORK CLUB NEWS



Social Work Club October Outing

The beginning of a new school year marks the beginning of a new year for the Social Work Club, and with it brings new members, ideas, and activities. This year our focus has been on using our members' interests to create events and bringing back the mentoring aspect of the Club. The Club has been busy doing events with different community partners and enjoying the time we spend together. The Club members and officers have been working hard to incorporate new events that reflect the many interests of the group and the changing needs of

our community. During the first semester, we had the privilege of working with wonderful organizations such as Hope Ministries, St. Margaret's House, L'Arche/Emmaus Community, and some Title I schools in South Bend. In October, Mathtys Farm hosted us and families from Hope Ministries for a fun day picking pumpkins and enjoying hay rides, their corn maze, and the petting zoo. The event was a wonderful success and everyone went home with their own hand-picked pumpkin.

The same month, the Club conducted our annual food drive for Saint Margaret's House, but this year coupled the delivery of the food with an agency visit. Margaret Kenney, a volunteer at the agency since it opened its doors in 1990, gave Club members a wonderful and informative tour of the agency. In November, we were able to help L'Arche/Emmaus Community put on

their yearly Thanksgiving event at Sacred Heart Parish. We had a great time meeting the community members, attending Mass with them, and helping to serve the meal. Our latest event was taking part in a Saint Mary's College sponsored event, with Title I schools in South Bend called Winter Wonderland. There were different events set up throughout campus for children and their parents. The Club helped children make picture frames after they took their pictures with Santa. We had a great time with the children and made a few picture frames ourselves. We have truly had an amazing first semester and are looking forward to what second semester may bring!

Maria Kenney '11  
Social Work Club President



Dr. Burke and Maria Kenney compare casts.



The Social Work Club enjoys a trip to the pumpkin patch.



Comfort Arthur, a novice with the Sisters of the Holy Cross, is pictured with Maria Kenney '11 and Max Sanchez.



Social Work students were entertained by the novice Sisters of the Holy Cross.