

A Word from the Chair

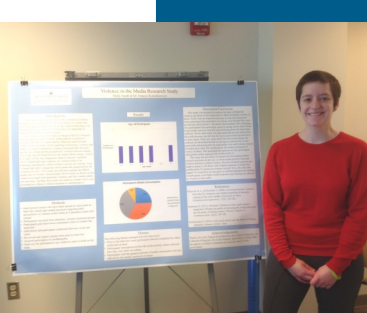
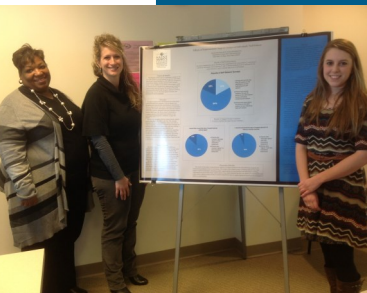
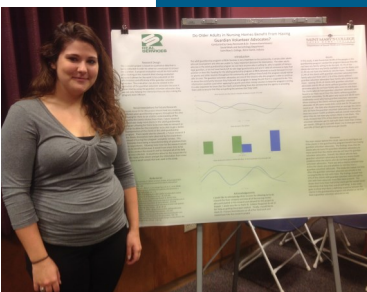
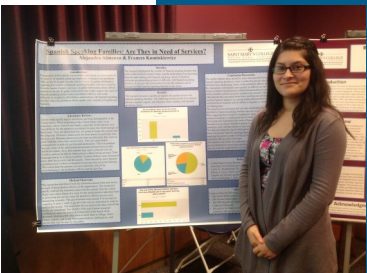
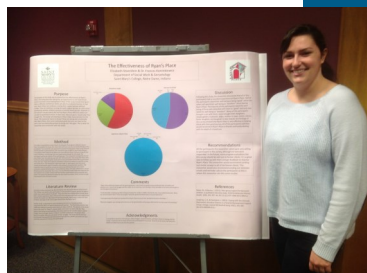
Dear Friends,

My best wishes to you during this wonderful time of year! We have grown and are now the Department of Social Work and Gerontology! Dr. JoAnn Burke is heading up that program, a program that is also growing exponentially. As you know, social workers are working in gerontology in record numbers. Dr. Burke saw this need, developed the Gerontology Minor, and added the important area of gerontology to our department. We are excited about our collaboration with the Gerontology Minor. The seniors have been very busy presenting their Social Work Research Methods (SW 430) research. All seniors presented a proposal to the Saint Mary's Institutional Review Board (IRB) and received permission to conduct community-based research. The students constructed a research question after collaboration with at least one representative of the community agency/organization. They not only conducted the research, but they also presented their research to the agency, and are still continuing to present to agency boards and representatives. The seniors will be presenting their research during the Social Work Program Field Practicum Spring Luncheon in March 2015. To give you an example of their excellent work, please go on this link, a front-page article in *The Observer*: <http://ndsmcobserver.com/2014/12/social-work->

students-determine-homeless-youth-count-methods/.

I am ending my three-year term as a Baccalaureate Program Director (BPD) Member-at-Large in December 2014. However, I already began serving as an appointed member of the CSWE Council on the Role and Status of Women in Social Work Education, and am greatly enjoying this honor. The link to that front-page article in *The Observer* is <http://ndsmcobserver.com/2014/10/smc-professor-appointed-cwse/>. I was interviewed on Fox 28 in July for a special report titled, "Screen Time, Your Kids & Violence." <http://www.fox28.com/story/26075373/2014/07/21/special-report-screen-time-your-kids-violence>. I also presented at Council on Social Work Education APM, Tampa, Florida, in October 2014 on "Advancing Social Work Assessment: A Quantitative Evaluation of CSWE-Accredited Undergraduate Program Websites." Thank you all for your support and kindness during the last year. We could not do this without you.

Take care.
 Fran Kominkiewicz



Gerontology

The Gerontology Program announced the launch of the Gerontology Club in September. We had 30 students at the first meeting. The club has been busy at Healthwin this fall visiting residents and participating in activities each week. The students helped Healthwin on Trick or Treat night on October 30th, and 194 children visited the facility for the event. We are grateful to Karen Martindale, Director of Volunteers at Healthwin, who is working closely with the club. In addition, the club is also working with Milton Adult Services and students have been participating in activities there. In addition, we are happy to be in our new departmental home with social work! I have been busy with my positions on two Area Agency on Aging boards. In June, Governor Pence appointed me to the Indiana Commission on Aging and U.S. Rep. Susan Brooks invited me to be an advisor on aging issues to her Washington, D.C. office. These opportunities help me to be informed on current policy issues related to older adults. The Gerontology Program continues to grow!

JoAnn Burke

Notes from the Field



*Professor Leonard
Sanchez Field Practicum
Coordinator*

The social work practicum field has nineteen Saint Mary's College students in the community of South Bend. The new placements for this year include the South Bend Career Academy, Holy Cross Village, Milton Adult Day Services, United Way of St. Joseph County, and Battell Elementary School. The new placements are doing a great job with the practicum students. I want to thank the five new placements for mentoring practicum students in the profession. I want to extend my "thank you" to the existing placements for their continued support with the program.

The past six years I have seen so much growth with field opportunities and experiences. The legacies of past students in the social work field have paved the way for the current students to benefit from enriching and challenging placements. Students have sent me text messages and stated, "I felt the burn." The "burn" is a term that I use when the student encounters a challenging client, a resistant client, or when the student has to say "no" to a client. In class the students presented their case studies. I am able to see the students' engagement in the community and with their clients as they use critical thinking of the social work competencies in their presentations. It is the students' ability to put theory into practice that prepares them for their students' future endeavors in both the academic and professional worlds.

Every year I write a large number of letters of recommendation. As I write the letters of recommendation for the students, I realize how the mission of Saint Mary's College and the social work profession has taken root by both the alumnae and present students. Many students have gone on to higher education to receive their Masters in Social Work. Others completed a year or two of service. We have alumnae who worked abroad in various countries like Uganda and Korea. Students have entered numerous types of social work professions in the communities around the world. Alumnae are working with family and children, homelessness, substance abuse, domestic abuse, aging population, veteran affairs, and many other aspects of human behavior and social environments. This year in the social work practicum field we had the pleasure of having alumnae from Saint Mary's College serving as field instructors. It has been a true blessing to have them share their knowledge and guidance to the students.

Here is a link from the South Bend Tribune covering a nice story about the great work the practicum students do in the community:

http://www.southbendtribune.com/news/community/saint-mary-s-social-work-majors-working-to-serve-community/article_a21e89f6-44e4-5052-b845-70683448050f.htm

"The Ethics of Self-Care" ~Dr. Charlie Stoops

The Department of Social Work and Gerontology and the Office of Special Events sponsored Charlie Stoops, Ph.D., LCSW, Dean and Associate Pro-

fessor in the Graduate School of Social Work at Dominican University, River Forest, Illinois, in presenting a continuing education ethics seminar. The seminar, "The Ethics of Self-Care: Social Workers, Heal by Self," was held on Monday, September 29, 2014, at Saint Mary's College. Many area social workers, counselors, agency representatives, and Saint Mary's College Social Work Program faculty, students, and field instructors were in attendance. Dean Stoops discussed the ethical responsibility of social workers to care for themselves while providing care for others

and how self-care is necessary in ethical social work practice. Using the National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics in his discussion, Dean Stoops demonstrated how self-care is integrated throughout the Code of Ethics. Seminar participants developed a personal self-care plan through exploring their physical, emotional, and spiritual self-care needs. Special appreciation to Patricia Fleming, Provost and Senior Vice-President, Vickie Hess, Dean of Faculty, and Richard Baxter, Director of the Office of Special Events, in the development of this seminar.



Jenna Creveling, Social Work Alumna, at NCIS

Jenna Creveling, SMC '09, completed Navy ROTC classes in her undergraduate years at Saint Mary's College in the Social Work major. Jenna was accepted into the Master's Degree in Public Administration at Penn State University. She is working toward her career in management in the human services profession and public administration with a focus on assisting veterans. Jenna serves in the United States Navy and works at the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) in Virginia. In her position, Jenna is responsible for providing timely, relevant information to the Navy and Marine Corps assets around the world. Jenna also served as the Deck Department Division Officer on the USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75) in Norfolk, VA, where she coordinated all aspects of personnel management for 146 sailors and managed four shipboard maintenance work centers for Deck department, spearheaded the collaboration and production of professional development manuals for over 100 sailors aged 18-23 to significantly improve a sailor's career development, training and expertise in Navy-wide programs. Jenna also served as the Communications Officer on the USS Oak Hill (LSD 51) in Virginia Beach, VA. Jenna was deployed twice to over eight different countries in the Caribbean and South America serving with partnership nations including Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay. She completed her Social Work internship at Hope Ministries Family Life Center, South Bend, IN, where she supported and guided residents through their program along with promoting positive decision making and assisted residents to stay on track with their goals by using timelines and an evaluative tool known as the Family Development Matrix. Jenna conducted a homeless population and street count to directly help the community along with Hope Ministries to find gaps in services. Jenna has received numerous awards including two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals. We are most proud of you, Jenna, and Dr. Kominkiewicz really enjoyed visiting with you at the Alumnae Reunion.

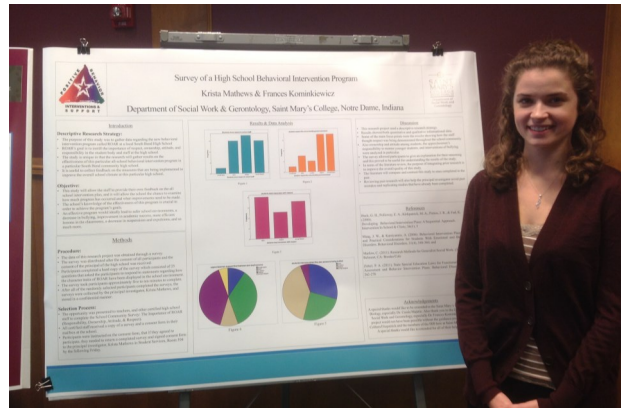


"I finished my accelerated Master's program just this last summer. My Master's program internship was from August 2013 to April 2014 and was through our main hospital in Sioux Falls, SD. I worked with single organ transplant patients at the Transplant Institute. Once I had completed my internship, I applied and was hired to be the new social worker at their new Dialysis Unit that opened in January 2014."

- Jordan Fiegen, '13



Left: Dr. Frances Kominkiewicz & Elizabeth Murray with parents, Irene & Howard Murray at Sophomore Parents Weekend.



Right: Krista Mathews presenting her research to the community in the Social Work Research Methods class taught by Dr. Kominkiewicz.



Professor Leonard Sanchez with Social Work Seniors.



Social Work students present at Justice Friday, Dec. 5, 2014.



Please support the Department of Social Work and Gerontology educational goals—any amount you can donate to the Social Work Resource Center Fund and to the Gerontology Program assists in such areas as purchasing educational equipment, student community experiences and student research. Your support is greatly appreciated!

I am enclosing a donation of \$25 \$50 \$100 \$500 \$1000 Other _____

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On the memo line of your check or on the online gift designation comment field, please indicate the designation: Social Work Resource Center Fund, or Gerontology Fund, or both.

The Department of Social Work has a Facebook Group, website, and photo site!

The Facebook group name is:

Saint Mary's College Social Work

The department website is:

www.saintmarys.edu/departments/social-work

The department photo site is:

picasaweb.google.com/smcsocialwork