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# Social Work News

FALL 2013

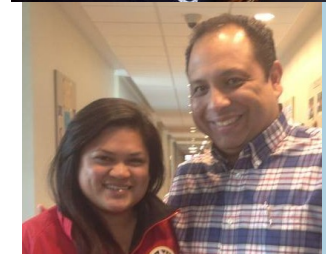
VOLUME 10, ISSUE 1



Corinna Martinez



Amy Kendziorski '10



Crystal Vinalon '12



Dr. Kominkiewicz, chair and director

## A Word from the Chair

Dear Friends, I am sending you warmest wishes during this beautiful Christmas season! Our first semester found our seniors either writing graduate school applications, planning their employment, or researching service opportunities after graduation. As our students receive advanced standing in M.S.W. programs due to our CSWE-national accreditation, many of our senior Social Work majors will soon be deciding which M.S.W. programs they will be attending. The Social Work Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) national accreditation allows students to earn an M.S.W. degree in one year as their undergraduate courses are used to fulfill graduate school requirements. We see students complete their graduate education in such highly respected programs as the University of Michigan, Washington University in St. Louis, the University of Pennsylvania, Columbia University, the University of Chicago, Case Western University, and the University of Illinois-Chicago. The senior Social

Work majors collaborated with their Social Work Practicum field placement instructors to recommend grants and community-based research projects for their field placement agencies in the Fall 2013 semester in the Social Work Research Methods class that I teach, and presented their research during class periods on campus at the end of this semester. Community agencies were also invited to their presentations. During this class last year, students were able to assist their agencies in writing and being awarded grant funding. Please read about the grant research results of Elizabeth Morales '13 at the following websites: <http://www.familyjusticecenter.org/index.php/newsroom/1495-grant-to-help-s-o-s-program-for-teens.html> and <http://www.wndu.com/home/headlines/St-Joseph-County-rape-crisis-center-receives-donation-180278101.html> I continue to serve on the national board as an elected member-at-large of the Association of Baccalaureate Social Work Program Directors (BPD), and attended BPD board meetings in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, in March 2013, and in Dallas, Texas, in October 2013. I wish you the most blessed Christmas and a wonderful New Year. Please continue to keep in touch throughout the year. May you have the best year in 2014! Take care. Fran Kominkiewicz

## Dr. Burke's Blurp

The big news for me is the arrival of Maggie and Luke! I became interested in animal assisted activities and therapy three years ago. In 2011, I attended a seminar with Delta Pet Partners to learn about becoming certified with that organization. Last spring, I introduced animal assisted activities and therapy as a curriculum module in the Mezzo course. The students and I enjoyed learning about the research and group practice approaches that included animals. Luke and Maggie are now 11 weeks old, and they will come to school with me in January. They need to be socialized to travel and be handled by many people so I am counting on our students to help me with this process. In addition, they will be part of the curriculum in the Mezzo course again. Wish us all luck with this endeavor. Happy Holidays to each of you!



Dr. JoAnn Burke

## Notes from the Field



Professor Sanchez Field Practicum Coordinator

While driving in South Bend and the surrounding communities I pass many field placements that have taken on a Saint Mary's College Social Work Practicum student. A great deal of growth has developed in the working relationship between social services agencies and the practicum students. The practicum serves as their "firsts" of many encounters in the field. These encounters build the foundation for the students to grow academically and professionally. Many of our graduates have gone to graduate schools to receive their Master's in Social Work. Others have entered the work force as a social worker with their undergraduate degree. Some complete a year or two of volunteer service in the United States or abroad. A couple of students have gone on to serve our country in the armed forces. I truly believe that the practicum experience has prepared them to take on new life challenges. With the varied directions the students have taken after graduation it is evident that they will carry the seed of knowledge and experience to new communities near or far. To all the social work alumnae of the Saint Mary's College, continue with your great work and endeavors.



Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson

This semester in my leadership class we discussed the many aspects of servant leadership and welcomed several female leaders from the community. Students were assigned to write a letter to a female leader inviting her to the class to present on the topic of leadership. Brooke Fowler, a junior social work major wrote a letter to Karen Freeman-Wilson, the mayor of Gary, Indiana. I printed out the letter on Saint Mary's letterhead and dropped it in the mail. The following leadership class Brooke stated that she already received a positive response from the mayor. With the help of Erika Buhring, the director of the Office for Civic and Social Engagement, we were able to extend the presentation to all students and faculty on campus and the local communities. Mayor Freeman-Wilson made a wonderful presentation about her failures and successes in life. The students in the leadership class said that it was nice to see a great leader with great vision and wisdom be so personable. I would like to thank the leadership class, Brooke Fowler, and Erika Buhring for all their hard work. If you go the mayor's twitter page you will see that she posted a nice tweet and picture on her visit to Saint Mary's College. Thanks again, Mayor Freeman-Wilson for taking time out of your day to share your inspirational story with the Saint Mary's Community.



Adriana Perales, Gabby Masini, Julia Fletcher Class of 2013

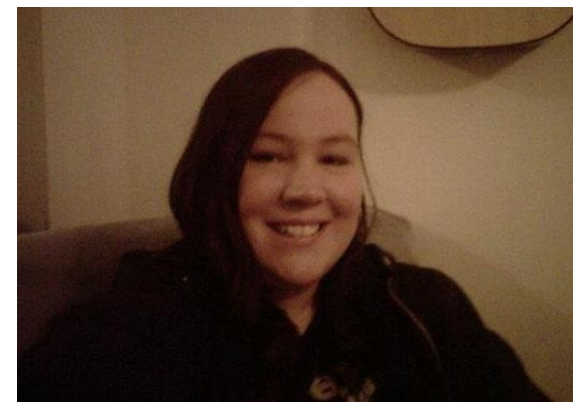
## Social Work Club News

This Fall semester, the Social Work Club has been busy! President Natalie Stoerger and Vice President Corinna Martinez started the year with lots of recruiting and getting involvement from the incoming freshman class. The seniors played a key role in volunteering opportunities this semester. The seniors each have an internship experience and at these placements they were able to provide volunteers through the Saint Mary's Social Work Club. The Social Work Club also raised \$737.50 for the CROP Hunger Walk in South Bend. This was the largest amount the club has raised for an organization! The next event the Club participated in was Ivy Tech Community College's The Facing Project: Voice of a Teenage Girl video. The video was about girls here in South Bend talking about their life. This event was a wonderful way for the Club to see the perspective of teenage girls in the community. The club also helped out with the Christmas event at Hannah's House by watching the children and having extra hands to assist. This event was a great way for the Club to get out into the community to work with a diverse population. The Club is currently planning events for the Spring semester in hopes for another great semester of volunteering! If you'd like to have more information regarding the Social Work club, please contact Natalie Stoerger at [nstoer01@saintmarys.edu](mailto:nstoer01@saintmarys.edu) or Corinna Martinez at [cmarti02@saintmarys.edu](mailto:cmarti02@saintmarys.edu). Our first meeting in the Spring semester will be January 19<sup>th</sup> at 6pm in the student center rooms A, B, and C.

## Field Placements for the Class of 2014

- \* Samantha Carey  
River Bend Cancer Services  
Instructor: Stacy Garton, MSW
- \* Maria Courtney  
Youth Service Bureau  
Instructor: Shotunus Peterson, LCSW
- \* Emma Derheimer  
Kids Peace St. Joseph County Office  
Instructor: Emily Magagula
- \* Galicia Guerrero  
Riley High School  
Instructor: Nary Dunn, MSW
- \* Corinna Martinez  
St. Joseph Probate Court Juvenile Division  
Instructor: Jennifer Martin, MSW
- \* Jade Pressler  
YWCA  
Instructor: Karen Shivers, MSW
- \* Kerry Puckett  
REAL Services  
Instructor: Mary Carroll, MSW
- \* Kathleen Pummill  
The Salvation Army Adult Rehabilitation Center  
Instructor: Thomas Hoff, MSW
- \* Gabrielle Sanchez  
Oaklawn: The Children's Campus  
Instructor: Sarah Ridley, BSW
- \* Natalie Stoerger  
IVY Tech  
Instructor: Joann Phillips, MSW
- \* Mallory Welsh  
Hannah's House  
Instructor: Kristi Kubicki, MSW and Sheila Holody

## Alumnae



"I am still working at the I AM ABLE Center for Family Development in Chicago, where I completed my internship during my master's program at UIC and was subsequently hired after graduation back in 2008. I triple function as a therapist, community educator and the intake coordinator. About half of our clien-

tele are court mandated by DCFS to receive individual and family therapy in order to have their children returned home. I also provide case management and psycho-educational workshops for women incarcerated at the Cook County Department of Corrections per contract our agency received with the sheriff's department a few years back.

Between working with DCFS and inmates I have developed a strong interest in forensic social work and one day hope to gain further employment in a correctional setting. I'd also like to teach part-time should an opportunity open up. My roommate is also a social worker and teaches Introduction to Social Work and

HBSE classes part time at Northwestern Illinois University. A few times that she was either on vacation or away I've had the opportunity to fill in for her. I loved the experience working with future social workers!

- Sarah Jones, MSW, LSW  
Class of 2007

Sarah also passed the LCSW exam—  
Congratulations, Sarah!