



Social Work News

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A Word from the Chair



*Dr. JoAnn Burke Chair,
Department of Social Work*

I returned to campus in January after a busy sabbatical during the fall semester. Sabbatical is supposed to be a time to focus on scholarly work and to rest. To insure that I would receive a sabbatical, I proposed several projects hoping that at least two of them would come to fruition. Well, all of them evolved so I was very involved in scholarly work during my sabbatical. I completed the internal evaluation for the Caregiver Connection Program with REAL Services and several partnering organizations in South Bend. This project was funded by the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation with supporting funding from the Community Foundation of St. Joseph County. Total funding exceeded over \$3,000,000 for a three year period so the internal evaluation was intensive. In addition, I was invited by the Indiana

Department of Health to work with a nursing home training project in St. Joseph and Marion counties. In this project, we focused on assessing the impact of a training program for Indiana nursing homes to promote a better quality of care for the residents. Also, I continued my work in a rural central Indiana county to strengthen the services of the Council on Aging. These projects certainly gave me updated information to bring into my courses. This semester I added two new curriculum modules in the group practice course. One of these modules involves social work with faith communities in rural areas and the other involves pet assisted activities/therapy in social work practice. I hope to bring a social worker to campus who uses pets in her or his practice. If any of you have suggestions, please let me know. It is always good to hear from you. Please keep in contact with us!



Jade Pressler '14 with her mother, Sheri Pressler, and her maltipoo dog, Pumpkin, giving a presentation on "Animal-Assisted Therapy" in Dr. Burke's Mezzo Methods class.

Gerontology



Sharon Zint Marts '92 is the author of the study titled: Sandwich Generation Caregiving: Legacy of Care in the Family.

Five seniors completed the gerontology minor this year: Maria Malm and Meghan Casey have majors in Communicative Disorders and Anne Zimmnicki, Jordan Feigen, and Ciara Ward are Social Work majors. The Gerontology Program invites the community advisory board, gerontology faculty, and senior gerontology minors to the spring luncheon held in late April. This year our advisory board members include Sheila Varda from Milton Adult Day Services, Karen Martindale from Healthwin, Steven Watts from Centier Bank, Brandon Blosser from REAL Services, and Andrea Moon Verteramo '08 from REAL Services. Our faculty include Rebecca Stoddart from the Department of Psychology and Communicative Disorders, Megan Zwart from the Department of Philosophy, Mary Ann Kanieski from the Department of Sociology, and Toni Henke-Wheeler, Kathy Decker-Burrous, and JoAnnBurke from the Department of Social Work. We appreciate the involvement of our community partners in the education of our students and plan to continue to expand courses in the interdisciplinary gerontology curriculum. Sharon Zint Marts recently passed her University of San Francisco dissertation defense in February. She has a background in corporate and hospice work. Sharon spoke to Dr. Burke's Gerontology: Service & Policies class on April 24th.



Notes from the Field



Professor Leonard Sanchez Field Practicum Coordinator

As a professor what do you say to 20 social work seniors graduating from Saint Mary's College? I told them with deep gratitude in my heart, "Thank you so much for leaving your personal mark in the community of South Bend, Indiana." Each student contributed an invaluable service for their field placement. They should hold their heads up high and be very proud of their work. The seniors have completed a year at a social service agency where they encountered the hardships and the oppression that individuals in community have to endure. It takes a special student to process a client's conflicts and be able to promote the client's accomplishments and strengths. It takes a wise student to celebrate the small successes of their client's hard work. I found that the students grew both in personal maturity and professional demeanor. The students also developed a personal investment and became protective of their field placement. The seniors' protectiveness became more evident when they started instructing the junior social work students who will be their replacements for next year. As they become attached to their placement, I too become attached to the students. Every year it is more difficult to say good-bye to students that you have worked with for the past four years. I believe that the senior class of 2013 will move mountains in the social work profession and continue to improve the lives of people in their community.

I would like to give special thanks to Kathy Hammond an incredible woman in the Social Work Department. Kathy, our administrative assistant, will be retiring in the near future. Kathy has worked for Saint Mary's College for 26 years and 8 of those years for the departments of Social Work, Political Science, and Sociology. Kathy has dedicated her services to the College with its mission always present with her actions. She worked countless hours with the staff and faculty with eagerness and professionalism. She also served as motherly support to students in need of a helpful ear in a stressful moment. I cannot thank her enough for all the support she has given me professionally and personally. When I came to Saint Mary's College five years ago Kathy was the first person on campus to go out of her way to make my family feel at home. Thank you so much for all the wonderful memories. You will be missed at Saint Mary's College.



Awards and Honors



Kristee A. Morris Award was presented to two Social Work students: Paige Edwards and Meghan O'Rourke pictured with Dr. Burke and Professor Sanchez.



Gabiella Masini received The Josephine Murphy Kuhl Research Award in Social Work.



Adrienna Perales received The Leadership Award in Social Work.



President Carol Ann Mooney presented Social Work student Kelly Gutrich '15 with the Saint Catherine Medal. The Saint Catherine Medal is presented to a sophomore or junior who has demonstrated high standards of personal excellence and scholarship and has contributed to the College community in the spirit of Christian leadership. Congratulations Kelly!



Professor Sanchez presented an honorary Phi Alpha Award to Visiting Professor Jennifer Bauwens-Byers.



Rebekah Kohn received The Academic Excellence Award in Social Work.



Professor Sanchez presented an honorary Phi Alpha Award to JoAnn Burke.

Memories from this Spring!



Social Work Advisory Board members attend the Field Education Luncheon



Sarah Ridley '10 received the Leadership Award at our Field Education Luncheon April 4th.



2013 Phi Alpha Honor Society Members: Jennifer Bauwens-Byers, Jordan Fiegen, Kari McClowry, Adrienna Perales, Samantha Carey, Emma Derheimer, Galicia Guerrero, Jade Pressler, Molly Welsh and Dr. Burke.



Griselda Palma received the Phi Alpha Honor Award at Hooding, May 5th.



Jennifer's Blurb



*Visiting Professor
Jennifer Bauwens-Byers*

The Human Behavior in the Social Environment II class worked hard to plan for a South Bend Community Forum that is an assignment with the course. In preparation for the event, we had a three speakers come to our class to help the students develop the focus for the forum. Sister Veronique Wiedower, C.S.C., Vice –President of Mission for Saint Mary’s College, was the first speaker to come to class. She highlighted Saint Mary’s mission

statement and the mission of the Sisters of the Holy Cross. John Sovinski was the second speaker and he represented United Way 211, which is a calling center which helps to link individuals to the services. He emphasized the importance of supporting single parents. Finally, Peter Lombardo came from the Center for the Homeless where the students delved into experiential learning during the semester.

While the three speakers spoke about different topics, a common theme emerged. In order to make a difference in the world, social workers work through their relationships with clients. In order to work daily in stressful situations, they need to care for themselves as well as their clients. Thus, the

topic for the forum became learning ways to handle their own stress and anxiety. The class invited Dr. Catherine Pittman from the Saint Mary’s Psychology Department to speak on the topic. Dr. Pittman does clinical work in the community and has written a book on the subject. During the forum, Dr. Pittman addressed specific cognitive and behavioral strategies to deal with anxiety and stress. While they may be needed, relying solely on medications to deal with stress carries risks because many of the drugs are addictive and have to be used with caution and under medical supervision.

Because of the importance of this topic, the forum was scheduled for two hours to allow time for questions and discussion. We were able to purchase lunch for those who attended through a grant from the Cross Currents Collegiate Speaker Series that is funded by the Lilly Endowment’s Initiative to Promote Opportunities through Educational Collaborations. The students took different roles including making phones calls to get donations, helping to set up and clean up, and working on advertisement. We were happy to host this event for the South Bend community, and we were very happy to have students from Ivy Tech Community College at this event. Thanks to all the students for their work on this and also to Kathy Hammond.

Congratulations SW Class of 2013!



First row left to right: Kenzie Carpenter, Megan Considine, Paige Edmonds, Jordan Fiegen, Julia Fletcher, Rebekah Kohn. Second row: Gabriella Masini, Kari McClowry, Anna McMahon, Elizabeth Morales, Monica Murphy, Meghan O'Rourke, Griselda Palma. Back row: Adrienna Perales, Julie Reed, Beth Roitz, Katelyn Roitz, Alexandra Sassano, Ciara Ward and Anne Zimmicki.

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:
www3.saintmarys.edu/departments/social-work

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

Find us on the Web!



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