



# Social Work News

SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE, NOTRE DAME, IN  
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## A Word from the Chair



*Dr. Kominkiewicz,  
chair and director*

Friends, we have had a great year in the Department of Social Work! We have had many accomplishments this academic year. Seniors also conducted Institutional Research Board (IRB) research projects in groups this semester in the Social Work Research Methods (SW 430)

course which I teach. Groups of students completed a program evaluation at the Charles Martin Youth Center and the Colfax Cultural Center, a needs assessment and program evaluation with the Pokagon Band of the Potawatomi Indians, and three program evaluations at the YMCA of St. Joseph County. They also presented their research at the Department of Social Work Annual Spring Luncheon. Juniors conducted policy analysis of federal laws in another class I teach, Social Policy and Welfare (SW 334), and impacted these laws as part of their policy practice.

We have been exceedingly busy this year in preparation for our Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) reaffirmation process. As you know, the Social Work Program was first accredited in 2003. Since that time, I have continually strengthened our assessment measures. The Social Work Program will now be evaluated under the 2008 CSWE accreditation standards which focus on competencies and practice behaviors. The Program must now evaluate student achievement of these ten competencies and the accompanying forty-one practice behaviors. The students have risen to this new challenge and can actually identify the competencies by number! I am so proud of our students who see the great value in moving to

competency-based social work education.

I participated in CSWE Site Visit Training in San Antonio, in November 2009, and will begin serving as a CSWE Site Visitor this year. I am most honored to serve CSWE in this capacity. I also co-presented with Lauren Kominkiewicz at the CSWE Annual Program Meeting, also held in San Antonio, on a three-year research project. In March 2010, I attended the Baccalaureate Program Directors (BPD) conference held in Atlanta, and continued to serve as Co-Chair of the BPD Research Committee. In that capacity I organized and assisted in conducting focus groups of faculty to assess how research is being taught nationally to undergraduate social work students. I also co-presented on research conducted on mentoring of social work faculty in five Midwestern states.

During our spring midterm break, I participated in a distance education seminar to increase my knowledge of teaching in a distance education format. I will be teaching a course in the College's first distance education learning group of classes this summer, and I am most excited about this exciting learning opportunity. As I write my blog about my virtual learning adventures, I will keep you posted!

Thanks to our full-time Social Work faculty (JoAnn Burke and Leonard Sanchez), our part-time faculty, field instructors, our College administrators, our administrative staff (Kathy Hammond), our student assistants (Lauren Hall and Chelsea Cicero), and our Social Work Program Advisory Board who give so much to our Program. The dedication of these wonderful individuals has so positively affected the Social Work Program.

## Awards and Honors

**The Academic Excellence Award in Social Work**—Kate Doornbos

**The Leadership Award in Social Work**—Audrey Leonard

**The Josephine Murphy Kuhl Research Award**—Lauren Kominkiewicz

**The Kristi A. Morris Award in Social Work**—Patricia Luna



*Professor Sanchez with  
Patricia Luna receiving the  
Kristi A. Morris Award.*



*Vickie Faulkner Warner '77  
receiving the leadership  
award at the spring luncheon,  
March 23rd*



*Lauren Kominkiewicz (left) shown with  
Nicholas Kristof. Lauren earned a Certificate in Women's  
Intercultural Leadership*



# Notes from the Field



Professor Sanchez is the field practicum coordinator



"Class, what are the six core values of social work?" A year and a half ago I asked the junior class that question. In the social work field the six core values are the foundation that social workers aspire to achieve. As juniors the core values were merely written words to learn for an exam. This year as graduating seniors they were able to utilize the values within the community as practicum interns.

Students experienced how the micro, mezzo, and macro areas of social work were heavily influenced by various systems in a person's life. All students had the opportunity to work in the generalist field of social work at their placements. Students worked with victims of abuse, both spousal and child, homelessness, substance abuse, mental illness, schools, runaways, pregnancies, bereavement, aging population, political concerns, and the list goes on.

This spring students presented to the social work faculty in oral comprehensives their knowledge of the ten competencies as directed by the Council of Social Work Education. We learned that many students had to push themselves out of their comfort zone and take calculated risks. They also learned from failures and to celebrate in the "small successes." They were able to put a face to the humanity that they read about in books and in class. As the Field Practicum Coordinator I saw great growth in the students' understanding and capabilities academically and in practice.

This year I asked the same question in regard to the social work core values to the present juniors as if it were a rite of passage. The senior class was kind enough to help pass down their wisdom by allowing the junior class to shadow the seniors at their placement. I wanted the juniors to see interaction of the placement's environment but most importantly I wanted them to see the passion that seniors possess toward the work that they accomplished. I am so proud of the work the seniors completed this year. I believe that the juniors have a wonderful adventure awaiting them next year in the social work field.

The field instructors and their agencies made the practicum program possible. It was clearly demonstrated in class that the students have learned a great deal from the guidance and skill they received. I know that I will never be able to thank you enough but I greatly appreciate all your contributions towards the students and the community.

"Professor Sanchez, the six core values of social work are service, social justice, dignity and worth of the person, importance of human relationships, integrity, and competence." Congratulations class of 2010!



## Alumnae News

### Connie Adams '08

I graduated with my Masters (advanced standing) from Washington University in St. Louis with an individualized specialization, Outreach and Prevention in Intimate

Partner Violence. While in St. Louis, I worked at Redevelopment Opportunities for Women (ROW), an organization serving women who experienced domestic violence, poverty, and/or homelessness. My role was a combination of development, administrative, and direct service responsibilities. In April, I returned to Saint Mary's assuming the role of Assistant Director of Violence Against Women Grant. I am privileged to return to the place where I found my passion in order to share it with others.

### Abbey Carr Foster '06 Phi Alpha Honor Society Recipient 2010

The following is an update on what I have been up to since graduating the program and earning my BSW in May 2006. In June 2006, I was hired as a

family case manager at Hope Ministries (formerly Hope Rescue Mission) Family Life Center in South Bend, IN. Hope Ministries serves the homeless population. I work with women and families. We are a transitional housing facility and offer a variety of programs and services to help individuals and families transition back into permanent housing and make positive life changes that will lead to a better future. I have been working as a case manager for Hope ever since. I am currently serving as a field instructor for SMC and I absolutely LOVE being a field instructor! On November 14, 2009 I was married in South Bend, IN. I married Kevin Robert Foster and we have made our home in South Bend. In the New Year, I am seriously considering applying to graduate school so I will keep you posted on that. As for now I am enjoying my job, being a mentor to SMC students, and my new role as wife.

Jenn McLean Morgan '08, graduated with advanced standing, earning her MSW from the University of Pennsylvania School of Social Policy and Practice in May 2009. Immediately after graduation, Jenn moved to Baltimore, MD, and began working in

Washington, DC, at Providence Hospital as a maternal and child health social worker, a job Jenn said that she loves. Jenn works in the Special Care Nursery, Labor and Delivery, and Postpartum units, as well as the Critical Care Unit, which is the hospital's ICU step-down. She attributes her field placements (Memorial Hospital Prenatal Clinic in South Bend with field instructor Jamie Reinbold, MSW, and her University of Pennsylvania placement at Catholic Charities ) as helping her in attaining her present position. Jenn states, "In addition to finishing grad school, moving to Baltimore, starting a new job, and passing my licensing exam-- I also got engaged and married! We were married in Pittsburgh in September."

Theresa Uhrich '05, M.S.W., was our featured speaker at the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Luncheon on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. She is the Case Management Supervisor of Operations at the Region IV Area Agency on Aging, St. Joseph, MI. Theresa provides supervision to a staff of 14 nurse and social worker care managers with a combined caseload of approximately 600 clients in multiple state and federally funded programs.



# Future Plans for the Class of 2010

**LaQuay Boone**, Dominican University (Advanced Standing)

**Natalie Bui**, New York University (Advanced Standing)

**Katherine Check**, AmeriCorps; University of Michigan (Advanced Standing) Fall 2011

**Kathryn Doornbos**, University of Pennsylvania (Advanced Standing)

**Anna Foldenauer**, University of Pittsburgh (Advanced Standing)

**Amy Kendziorski**, Fordham University (Advanced Standing)

**Lauren Kominkiewicz**, University of Michigan (Advanced Standing)

**Audrey Leonard**, Washington University in St. Louis (Advanced Standing)

**Katie Lewis**, Washington University in St. Louis (Advanced Standing)

**Patricia Luna**, Indiana University Purdue University at Indianapolis

**Jenifer McCauslin**, plans to work

**Alysia Porter**, Indiana University South Bend (Advanced Standing)

**Mallory Price**, University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration

**Mia Ravasio**, University of Pennsylvania (Advanced Standing)

**Sarah Ridley**, on wait list for University of Toronto and Wilfred Laurier University, both in Ontario, Canada

**Mary Ryan**, plans to work and attend University of Oklahoma, Spring 2011

**Ashley Sears**, Catholic University (Advanced Standing)

**Autumn Whipple**, Western Michigan University (Advanced Standing)

Hooping, May 2, 2010



## Burke's Blurb



Dr. JoAnn Burke,

I have had some wonderful opportunities this spring to include students in my current research projects. Ashley Sears and I presented a poster session at the Aging in America Conference in Chicago in March. This research project was funded through a John Templeton Foundation grant to the Center for Spirituality at Saint Mary's College.

Last summer,

Ashley and I interviewed Catholic sisters in a religious community in the United States and a religious community in Canada. We explored the impact of health and retirement policies in each country on the ministries of the sisters who were ages 55-70.

The second research project was funded by the Tipton County Community Foundation (Indiana) and focused on changes taking place in the community as it attempts to adjust to a growing older population. Students from the Mezzo Practice course accompanied me to Tipton (my hometown!) and we conducted a

focus group with key stakeholders who are working toward change. This project will continue for two more years.

The third project is funded by the Weinberg Foundation and the St. Joseph Community Foundation to REAL Services, Inc. and other associated community partners and involves the implementation of a person/family-centered approach to geriatric care management services and funding for home modifications and caregiver training for families in a very low-income area in South Bend who have an older family member who needs supportive services. I am the evaluator on this \$1.4 million grant that spans a three year period. The Mezzo class visited the Caregiver Connection

Center (caregiver house) in the neighborhood and two of the students will be involved in an independent study working with me on this research next year. It is always a pleasure to involve students in these projects!





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## Social Work Club News

The Social Work Club is grateful that we have been able to organize many enriching events this year. Last semester we raised, funded, and walked in the CROP walk to benefit the Northern Indiana Food Bank and we were able to continue our new tradition by taking residents from Hope Ministries to Matthys Pumpkin Patch. On Veteran's Day, we passed out information on how a social work profession can be a great career for those who aim to assist older veterans and those coming back from the current wars. We also held a talent show for the Sisters of the Holy Cross in which Professor Sanchez and Social Work Club Vice-President, Audrey Leonard, stole the show with their juggling act, "The Leonard Show." We began our Spring semester with the activities for Social Work Week. Thanks to the Social Work Student Academic Council representative, Anna Frantz, we were able to have a great week full of events which gave students an opportunity to hear from many community members. Social Work Week was held during the first week of February and during that time, we had the pleasure of having Pam Huffer the Director of the Advocacy Department at REAL Services and Alieac Deegan BSW from Ryan's Place speak to students about their field of work. We also hosted a night of Arts and Crafts for the residents at Hope

Ministries. We also provided students with the opportunity to work with children and teens at the Children's Dispensary which holds events on campus every Saturday morning. Likewise, we provided information to students and support for the LGBTQ community on Saint Mary's campus by passing out information about how important it is to be an ally for "Ally Week" which was held in early March. We also had the opportunity to participate in the "Yes We Can Walk" on campus which is held annually by the Office for Civic and Social Engagement. The club gave a donation that will benefit the Little Flower Catholic Church Food Pantry in South Bend. We feel that we have had a very successful year and hope to increase participation in the Social Work Club and the Social Work major for years to come. Finally, we recently held elections for next year's officers and we are happy to announce the leaders for the 2010-2011 school year:  
President- Maria Kenney  
VP- Maire Ready  
Secretary- Ali Costanzo  
Treasurer- Hannah Snyder  
Community Liaison- Joan Chen  
Historian- Symone Pompey  
Next year should be great with this new group of student leaders!

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

**The Facebook group name is:**  
*SMC Social Work Department*

**The department website is:**  
*[www3.saintmarys.edu/departments/social-work](http://www3.saintmarys.edu/departments/social-work)*

**The department photo site is:**  
*[picasaweb.google.com/smcsocialwork](http://picasaweb.google.com/smcsocialwork)*