

Social Work News

FALL/WINTER 2011

A Word from the Chair

Dear Friends,

As we prepare for the beautiful Christmas season, I hope that you, your families, and friends are doing well. The Department of Social Work has great news to share with all of you. We learned in June 2011 that the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) accredited the Social Work Program for the next eight years! Therefore, the Social Work Program is accredited until 2019. Adding to this is the great news that we received no additional questions to address. The reaffirmation of our Program will have continued great benefits for the students, including the opportunity for advanced standing in graduate schools of Social Work, allowing them to complete their graduate Social Work education in one year instead of two years in many Social Work graduate programs, and allowing them to complete licensing requirements in many states. I want to thank all of you who have made this accreditation so successful.

We want to report the very sad news of the deaths of Patricia McAndrews Pilger '54 on October 30, 2011, and Mary Osmanski Ferlic '70 on May 7, 2011. Mrs. Pilger was a founding member of the Social Work Program and the Social Work Program Advisory Board, and worked with us on our CSWE candidacy. She was truly a mentor to me before and after my arrival at Saint Mary's. She was always encouraging, caring, and kind to me. Mrs. Pilger was a role model for all of us to follow. Her support of the Social Work Program continues to be so strong as she mentored so many of us into the profession of Social Work. We will miss her dearly. Mary Ferlic will always be appreciated for all of her contributions to the Social Work Program. Both of these women have influenced the Social Work Program and have worked with so many students over the years. Our hearts and prayers go out to their families.

The majority of our senior Social Work majors are busy preparing their applications for admission

to M.S.W. programs. Responding to student requests, the Social Work faculty has been writing reference letters to support their applications. We have hosted Social Work graduate school seminars on campus. The senior Social Work majors presented their community-based research on December 5th and December 7th on the Saint Mary's campus. Invited were the community agencies, as well as members from the Saint Mary's community. The seniors worked collaboratively in small groups to conduct their research. The Saint Mary's College Institutional Research Board approved these community-based research projects. This was a great accomplishment since the studies were designed and completed in one semester during the Social Work Research Methods class, which I continue to be privileged to teach. Congratulations, Seniors!

I have also had the privilege this semester to teach one of the four inaugural Critical Thinking Seminars on our campus. I have served for the third year as a First-Year Faculty Advisor in the First Year Studies Faculty Advising Program. As a Faculty Advisor to First-Year students, I am now teaching the Introduction to Social Work course as a Critical Thinking Seminar to twenty First-Year students. We have gone into the community as a class and dialogued with social workers in the field, including Erin Newsom '09, now working at REAL Services, Inc., and Abbey Carr Foster '06, working at Hope Ministries. These alumnae are doing such great work in our community and are great representatives of our Program. Special appreciation to them as they continue to mentor students at Saint Mary's College.

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



Dr. Frances Kominkiewicz

Patricia McAndrews Pilger '54

Pat Pilger passed away October 30, 2011, after a lengthy siege of cardiac and pulmonary difficulties. She is survived by her husband, Richard C. Pilger, Jr., professor emeritus of Chemistry at Saint Mary's College, her son, and three grandchildren. A daughter, Andrea Pilger, preceded Pat in death. After graduating from Saint Mary's in 1954 with a degree in Social Science, Pat earned a Master's in Social Work from Saint Louis University and then entered clinical practice. In 1964, Pat returned to South Bend with her husband, Dick, who came to Saint Mary's to teach Chemistry. After serving as a social worker for Catholic Social Service in South Bend, Pat began teaching Social Work at Saint Mary's on a part time basis in 1969. Appointed to the first full time position in Social Work at the College in 1971, Pat was one of the guiding hands in the development of the program that evolved into a separate degree in Social Work with full accreditation by the Council on Social Work Education. Pat, along with her husband Dick, retired from the Saint Mary's College faculty in 1998.

In 1999, Pat and Dick established the Patricia McAndrews Pilger Endowed Scholarship in Social Work as a tribute to their life's work at Saint Mary's and to the recently accredited Social Work program. At that time, Pat said: "The women who taught me were brilliant, and my faith was very deeply developed here. My Saint Mary's education has given me the courage to make decisions and to stand up for what I believe in." Pat's husband requested that contributions in her memory be made to the scholarship fund.



Notes from the Field



Professor Sanchez is the field practicum coordinator



Saint Mary's alumnae working with current seniors in the field. From left to right Sarah Ridley '10, Andrea Moon Verteramo '08, Barbara Burlingham '70, Erin Newsom '09, and Abbey Carr Foster '06. Not pictured: Carrie Cravalho Miller '05

Wow, time has flown by! I am in my fourth year of teaching social work at Saint Mary's College. I have learned so much from my interactions with faculty, staff, community members, and most importantly the students. I have seen the mission of Saint Mary's College and the social work profession take 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 in numerous types 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 five 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.

I want to thank the Social Work Club for all their hard work this semester. They raised money and walked in the Crop Walk. Students passed out yellow ribbons for Veterans Day and collected funds for the Pat Tillman Foundation. The club also made desserts, prepped and served a Thanksgiving dinner, and also helped with the celebration of mass for the L'Arche/Emmaus community. The students have sacrificed personal time and money to continue the social work legacy of helping others near and far. This year we have adopted the Lazarus Community in Uganda. A former social work alumna Anne Therese Stroude is working to improve the living conditions of the Lazarus Community. The Social Work Club is going to sell products made by Lazarus community to help fund their program.

It will soon be time to say good bye to the social work senior class of 2012. They started their Saint Mary's College adventure the same year I did. You will be missed.



Alumnae News

many diverse populations and advocating for the medically underserved, my true passion has been specializing in crisis intervention for victims of violent crime, inner city violence and trauma. For the past couple of years, I have been a field instructor for several students in the Chicagoland area, continued to work at a Level One Trauma Hospital on the West Side of Chicago and am looking forward to expanding my practice to a private setting in the near future.

Mary's College, it is wonderful having a Saint Mary's senior intern work with me because it not only allows me to reach back into my college roots, but also urges me to move forward in my own practice and help another to do the same. Saint Mary's College will always hold a dear place in my heart, even more so knowing that the Social Work department is doing so much to give back to the community by turning out the best and the brightest social workers. It is a real honor knowing that I will continue to be a part of that mission as one of their field instructors.

Maureen Donovan '00

Following graduation from Saint Mary's College, I spent a year as the Treatment Coordinator and Chemical Dependency Counselor at Asumbi Treatment Centre in Nyanza Province, Kenya. After returning to the States, I moved to Chicago and became a Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor (CADC) and worked primarily with disabled individuals who are also struggling with a dual diagnosis of drug/alcohol addiction and psychiatric illness. In 2005, I completed my Masters of Social Work with a Healthcare Concentration from the University of Illinois-Chicago Jane Addams College of Social Work and began working in the local hospitals. While I have enjoyed working with

Barbara Burlingham '70

Having a Saint Mary's student intern is like moving back in time, calling forth memories of what it was like to be in a real life agency setting for the first time. Catholic Charities has worked with at least half a dozen interns over the years and they have all been well prepared. Their enthusiasm, energy and eagerness act as a renewal for me of why I am still in social services after four decades!

Andrea Moon Verteramo '08

As a Social Work field instructor, one has the unique advantage of being able to help students put their learning into practice in a very real way. As an alumna of Saint

Katherine (Katie) Putz '09

Katie Putz is now a healthcare social worker at Molina Healthcare in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She graduated with her M.S.W. in 2010 from the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, after receiving advanced standing. Katie's job includes completing bio-psycho-social assessments and planning interventions with members. She works with medical provider offices, nurses and other social workers to ensure that members' healthcare needs are being met. Katie is also responsible for tracking her results and, through her skills learned in Social Work Research Methods, was able to help her team set up their tracking tools. We wish Katie continued success!

Field Placements for the Class of 2012

* Alma Bravo,
Catholic Charities
Instructor: Barbara
Burlingham

* Jennifer Leakakos,
American Red Cross
Instructor: Gena
Robinson

* Sarah Shoff,
IVY Tech
Instructor: Joann
Phillips, MSW

* Monica Drettmann,
Oaklawn Hospital
Instructor: Carrie
Miller, MSW and Sarah
Ridley

* Jane McNaughton,
Family Justice Center
Instructor: Sareen
Lambright Dale

* Kirsten Thornton,
Office of Joe Donnelly
Instructor: Hodge
Patel

* Aileen Hurd,
Hope Ministries
Instructor: Abbey
Foster, BASW

* Jill Meet, REAL
Services Guardianship
Program
Instructor: Tricia
Gorden and Erin
Newsom

* Lauren Toth,
REAL Services
Instructor: Trisha
Gorden and Andrea
Verteramo, LSW

* Jennifer Kline,
Southfield Village
Instructor: Steve
Summers

* Symone Pompey,
The Activity Center
Instructor: Kregg Van
Meter and Jessica
Kennedy Herman,
MSW

* Crystal Vinalon,
Youth Service Bureau
Instructor: Shotunus
Peterson, LCSW

Social Work Club News

This year, the Social Work club is very excited to continue to develop relationships with agencies in our community here in South Bend. The purpose of the club is to foster the relationship of the Social Work department and students with the school and surrounding community. We aim to organize events to keep students on campus aware of social work and its importance in the community. Our club strives to help struggling agencies in the community. This year the club is eager to collaborate with a Saint Mary's College Social Work Alumna, Anne Therese Stroude '09, and the community she is working with in Uganda. We are also providing information about Veterans Day to the student body and distributing yellow ribbons to show our support for the troops. We are hoping to get donations so that we can send them to the Pat Tillman Foundation. We are committed to making positive changes on the Saint Mary's campus, our South Bend community, and beyond.

Kirsten Thornton '12
Social Work Club President



Burke's Blurb



What's Dr. Burke Doing????

I started on an adventure this summer when I decided to take training for teaching on-line courses. Next summer I hope to offer the Perspectives in Gerontology course on-line.

As I looked for materials to use for the course, I became interested in videography. So I used some department funding from a very generous alumna to purchase a HD camcorder and external microphones and launched some videography projects. In addition, I have two of our senior social work majors working with me. Each is doing an independent study with me this semester, and we have integrated a social media project into their work. These students are developing narrated PowerPoint presentations that will be placed on the website and Facebook page for a small non-profit organization in rural Indiana. The top-

ics they have chosen focus on changes in entitlement programs and housing programs for older adults. I am just learning video editing. Here is a link to my first published video on You Tube <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4RshU2Eoj4Y>.

This presentation was done at SMC in October and included both students and community members in the audience. I am developing a curriculum module in the Mezzo course that will utilize social media for social services organizations. Let us hear how you are using social media in your practice. Wishing each of you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Dr. Burke at REAL Services with SMC alumnae Andrea Moon Verteramo '08 and Sofia Kodanashvili '06



Department of Social Work
100 Spes Unica, Room 265
Notre Dame, IN 46556-5001

A Letter From Anne Therese Stroude '09, MSW

Currently I am volunteering as a co-founder and the program coordinator of a grass-roots community based organization called Lazarus Community in the most underprivileged district of Jinja, Uganda, East Africa. Lazarus Community is specifically committed to working with women. A significant percentage of Lazarus Community is either infected or affected by HIV/AIDS. Nearly 85% of Lazarus Community is elderly widowed grandmothers who are strained beyond their capability to provide for their grandchildren; the remaining 10-15% is single mothers. Lazarus Community is striving to implement sustainable income by generating activities to encourage self-support and provide the members with entrepreneurial, business, and practical skills. The founders are dedicated to alleviating impoverishment among its members by instructing the Lazarus Community members in the following areas: land management, proper harvesting, marketing, craft-making skills, proper animal rearing, and financial savings. We have three income-producing activities including our crafts program, garden project, and an animal rearing project. Presently, Lazarus Community is not receiving financial support from outside

assets; therefore, the founders and I are providing funding from out of pocket resources for things such as materials for crafts, small funding to assist with hospital bills, burial costs, and necessity items. As a growing dedicated organization, we appreciate any amount of support you are able to provide. I also continue to pray for further donations to help personally support my mission to work with the members of Lazarus Community; without sponsorship from family and friends I would not have been able to take on this volunteer position to follow my heart's calling. Please follow my journey:
www.jinjajourney.blogspot.com

Anne Therese Stroude, MSW



**Check us out on our
new Facebook page!**

[http://www.facebook.com/
pages/Saint-Marys-College-
Social-
Work/279706278738015](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Saint-Marys-College-Social-Work/279706278738015)

Find us on the Web!

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

**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/
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