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A Note from the Chair

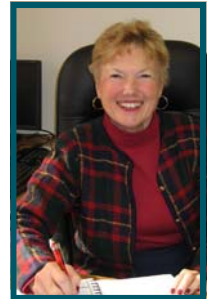
Dr. JoAnn Burke

The Department of Social Work has had an exciting fall semester. Dr. Kominkiewicz decided to move to the third floor "penthouse" and I moved down here to the first floor "corner"---otherwise known as the Chair's office. The first order of business in my term as Chair was to develop a relationship between the department and our new VP of Faculty/Academic Dean, Patricia Fleming. Dr. Fleming was well acquainted with the Department of Social Work at her previous university and thus was familiar with our CSWE accreditation needs. During this semester, she worked with us to equip a Social Work lab in the new academic building. This lab will enable our students to better develop interviewing skills. In addition, it will give us the capacity to work with individuals and groups in the lab and show these images simultaneously in a classroom. Not only will this lab be used for teaching purposes, it will also be available for research projects.

will be coming to campus in January, and we hope to have the position filled shortly thereafter.

Through the generosity of an alumna of the class of '93, we have funding for a special project which we have titled: "Social Work Leadership in the Twenty-first Century: Working with Youth and Elders at Risk." This funding will give us an opportunity to expand the community forum in the Human Behavior in the Social Environment II Course, will permit us to expand the community education project in the Mezzo Practice course, enable us to engage students in other community research projects, and make it possible for us to take students to state and regional conferences to give presentations on these projects. We are very excited about this leadership project for our students because it will also greatly benefit vulnerable populations in the community!

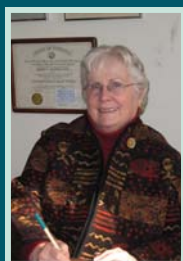
Wishing each of you a very blessed Christmas and New Year!



p. 2 "Making Supervision Effective"



p. 3 Fall Break El Salvador Trip



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In addition, we have been conducting a faculty search this fall for a new field practicum coordinator. We hope this person will also be able to coordinate our certificate in social work with Spanish-speaking populations. The final pool of candidates

Social Work Students Present at the 3rd Annual Latino Behavioral Health Summit – Pokagon State Park, Angola, Indiana

"Building Sustainable Behavioral Health Initiatives with the Latino Community"

Nine students presented their research at the 3rd Annual Latino Behavioral Health Summit on November 8, 2007, at Pokagon State park in Angola, Indiana. The students are all in the three-credit course, "Social Work with El Salvador," taught by Dr. JoAnn Burke, and were participants in the immersion experience in El Salvador in October. Dr. Burke also worked with the students in preparing for their research Powerpoint presentation



at the conference. The students were most knowledgeable about El Salvador, and the conference participants were greatly impressed with the students' presentation. The students were asked several questions during the presentation which the students answered very fully, and much was learned by the participants about

El Salvador. The students are Jennifer McLean, Lauren Kominkiewicz, Deanna Mollloskey, Kimberly Case, Kimberly Hodges, Adriana Lopez, Patricia Luna, Colette Zavala, and Sarita Fritler. The students were also asked to submit a copy of their presentation which will be placed on the conference website. Students, we are so proud of you!



Class of 2008 Field Practicum

Connie Adams
YWCA

Instructor: Laura Kobek

Katie Cosimano

SBCSC Edison School
Instructor: Jill Waggoner, MSW

Kelly Higgins

SBCSC Dickenson School
Instructor: Mark Geissler, MSW

Abby Hinchy

Maura Brannick Health Center
Instructor: Lilia Periquet, MSW

Kimberly Hodges

South Bend Heritage Foundation
Instructor: Jesse Whittaker, MSW

Molly LaBarge

Big Brothers, Big Sisters
Instructor: Deborah Walker, MSW

Adriana Lopez

Office of Congressman Joe Donnelly

Instructor: Nikki Gonzales, BSW

Erin Mahoney

Office of Care Management SJRMC
Instructor: Betsy LaTanner, MSW

Jennifer McLean

Memorial Prenatal Clinic
Instructor: Jamie Reinbold, MSW

Whitney McMillin

REAL Services/ Elkhart
Instructor: Theresa Ulrich, MSW

Andrea Moon

Little Brothers
Friends of the Elderly
Instructor: Christine Bertrand

Kathleen Orr

SJRMC Associates in Family Medicine
Instructor: Beth Temple, MSW

Elizabeth Rectenwal

Madison Center-Sunshine Club House
Instructor: Paul Curry, MSW

Kathleen Walton

Healthwin Specialized Care Facility
Instructor: Steve Summer, MSW

Lesley Weaver

Office of Senator Evan Bayh
Instructors: Julie Vukovich,
JoAnn Burke, MSW, Ph.D.

Colette Zavala

Oaklawn Hospital
Instructor: Carrie Cravalho, MSW



Notes from Alumnae

Ann McConville ('07) is currently attending Loyola University in Chicago working on her Master's in Social Work. Ann has found that her preparation in the SMC undergrad program has really prepared her for her graduate work. She is currently working at a field placement at the Center for Law and Social Work. The center was created as a pilot program through a grant from the federal government to assist adoptive parents who are older in age or failing in health. Ann has been helping these families through her home visits. In April, Ann will be assisting in a three day therapy retreat for children affected by HIV/AIDS.

Sarah Jones ('07) is attending graduate school at the University of Illinois at Chicago. She recently received the Chicago Foundling Home Scholarship for her academic achievement. Congratulations, Sarah!

Jennifer Martell Brown ('02) is currently a MBA candidate for the class of 2008 at the University of Notre Dame.



Jennifer (left) and Brandy (right) recently enjoyed a visit to their alma matter.

Brandy Stroncsek ('02) has earned her MSW since graduation and is now the Social Services Director at Children First Pediatric Rehabilitation in San Benito, Texas.

Elizabeth O'Connor (Bradley) ('03): I completed my Masters Degree in 2005 at Western Michigan University and am currently working toward my LCSW. I am now a Day Treatment Therapist at Madison Center for Children. My current focus is working with children 3-12 with severe behavior difficulties that led to being suspended from school or day care. I am also slowly working toward being a Registered Play Therapist after my licensure and sensory integration. I married Tim O'Connor (ND '02) in October 2005 and have been living in South Bend since then. This program will help you more than you will ever realize.

Social Work Workshop

On October 18, 2007, the Social Work Department hosted a workshop on "Making Supervision Effective." This work shop was attended by senior social work students, Field Instructors and Social Work faculty. The workshop presenters, Susan Myers, RN, HNC, LCSW and Sharon Mayer MSW, LCSW, presented the latest in NASW



Susan Myers and Prof. Mayer at the workshop on "Making Supervision Effective"

clinical supervision theory, rules, and regulation. They shared information from past workshops in this topic, as well as their professional expertise in clinical supervision and personal history in social work field supervision. Sue and Sharon also discussed the NASW Ethics that pertain to clinical supervision of social workers as students as well as social workers applying for and maintaining state licensure. There were twenty participants in this half day workshop and those with licensure received CEUs for attendance. This type of workshop is a yearly requirement for maintaining licensure in the Social Work profession. The workshop was also valuable to social work students as they continue to pursue their professional careers in Social Work.

A Note from the Director

Dr. Frances Kominkiewicz



Dr. Kominkiewicz, Director
Department of Social Work

Dear Friends,

All my best to you at this especially beautiful time of year! We are most proud to send to you our Department of Social Work fall newsletter. We have received so many positive comments about the newsletter, and it has also

served as a great way to keep all of us in contact with one another.

The students are very busy completing their final papers and research projects, and the senior Social Work majors are saying goodbye until next semester to all those individuals with whom they work at their field placements. The senior Social Work majors are also writing grant proposals for their field placements, and are thoroughly enjoying their

field practicum experiences. The juniors are working hard in their Social Work Practice and Social Policy courses, and the first and second year students are completing the Introduction to Social Work course and the Human Behavior and the Social Work course.

The faculty have been very busy as well! I presented my research on spirituality and social work education at the October Council of Social Work Education (CSWE) Annual Program Meeting in San Francisco, and also had an opportunity to meet with our CSWE educational specialist. I was also very fortunate to accompany our Social Work students to the 3rd Annual Latino Behavioral Health Summit at Pokagon State Park in November to present on their October immersion experience to El Salvador, and their three-credit course and research regarding El Salvador with Dr. JoAnn Burke (please see below). I was on the planning committee for the conference, and greatly enjoyed seeing the students present their research.

Please feel free to contact me if you would like to share any news or information with us. I greatly look forward to hearing from you. Take care. Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year to you!



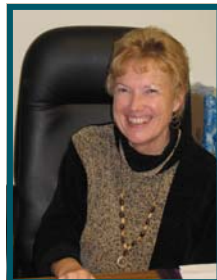
Thank you to all the advisory board members for all the time and effort they put into the generation of the strategic plan for the department.

Social Work El Salvador Experience



As social workers, we work closely with emerging needs in our communities. While I do not speak Spanish, I became increasingly aware of the need to educate our students to work with growing numbers of Spanish-speaking populations. In spring 2005, I went to El Salvador with six students. The following fall I discussed

issues related to immigration and showed pictures from this trip, and several students began to develop an interest in another El Salvador immersion trip. External and internal grants enabled me to develop this immersion experience into a three credit course. In this course, we looked at social, political, and economic issues from the perspective of vulnerable populations. We met as a class for several weeks this fall before going to El Salvador with Crispaz for six days over Fall Break. Sr. Linda Kors accompanied me and nine students on this trip. We met with representatives from many NGOs (non-government organizations) as well as the U.S. Embassy and a liberation theologian at the University of Central America. A Catholic sister who works in northern El Salvador made a particularly poignant statement to us. She said, "Once your eyes have been truly opened to see the plight of the very, very poor (who are being excluded from the benefits of the free market global economy), you can never really forget."



Dr. Burke is the new Chair of the
Department of Social Work



Spanish-speaking populations.

Upon their return, the students made a presentation at the Latino Behavioral Health Conference in Indiana in November. In addition, our students are making presentations related to this learning experience in several classes. We are currently conducting a search for a new Field Practicum Coordinator who will be responsible for our department certificate in Social Work with

The Co-Madres organization works to find the "Disappeared," help their families, and raise awareness. The Disappeared are those El Salvadorians who protest and are killed by secret death squads.



Upcoming Event

The annual Social Work Spring Luncheon will be held on Tuesday, March 18, 2008 in the West Wing of the Noble Family Dining Hall. Guest speaker will be Hollye Harrington Jacobs '93. Students will display their SW portfolios and tri-folds at this luncheon. For more information please contact Kathy Hammond at 574/284-4545.



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 Notre Dame, IN 46556-5001

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Notes from the Field Prof. Sharon Mayer	Social Work Club News
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Social Work Seniors are completing the Fall semester in their Practicum Placements. We were fortunate to have a large class and the Field Placements to provide their internships. There are sixteen seniors placed with field instructors and social work agencies. I have enjoyed working with students and field instructors this Fall. My visits with field instructors have resulted in extremely positive reports on the student progress in their Field Placements. The field instructors have been very creative and productive in providing highly professional settings for academic learning and field experience for these senior students. And I am always pleased with the professional and academic abilities each student provides in their settings. This group of senior students are energetic, creative, and committed to their professional field experience. I look forward to continuing to work with them and follow their progress in the coming Spring semester of their field experience.



The Social Work Club has become involved in many activities this year. We have chosen St. Margaret's House, a day center for women and children here in South Bend, as our partner organization this year. We have been volunteering at St. Margaret's house while also organizing very successful fundraisers in which part of the proceeds are donated to St. Margaret's House. We have held babysitting nights here on campus, installed monthly stall news in every bathroom on campus to inform the Saint Mary's community about the Social Work Program, and started a mentoring program among SMC Social Work Program students. We recently concluded a very successful fundraising campaign in which we sold over 100 Saint Mary's College tote bags. We look forward to more community involvement next semester and are currently planning more events such as a trivia night and an event with the Holy Cross Sisters. *Article by: Katie Cosimano '08*



Connie Adams '08, Social Work Club President, models tote bag sold for fundraising

Please Support the Department of Social Work Programming

I am enclosing a donation of \$25 \$50 \$100 \$500 \$1000 Other _____
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E-mail Address _____

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On the memo line of your check or in the online giving designation comment field, please indicate the designation: **Social Work Resource Center Fund.**