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...
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

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

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**Class of 2008 Field Practicum**

**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.

**Brandy Stroncek** ('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.

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**Social Work Workshop**

On October 18, 2007, the Social Work Department hosted a workshop on “Making Supervision Effective.” This workshop 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 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.
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!

A Note from the Director

Dr. Kominkiewicz, Director
Department of Social Work

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."

Social Work El Salvador Experience

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 Spanish-speaking populations.

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.

Dr. Burke is the new Chair of the Department of Social Work
Notes from the Field
Prof. Sharon Mayer

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.

Social Work Club News

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.

Please Support the Department of Social Work Programming

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