



Social Work News

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 2 SPRING/SUMMER 2009

A Word from the Chair



Dr. Burke is chair of the Social Work Department

As the spring semester comes to a close, the campus is once again ready to burst forth in bloom. The Sisters of the Holy Cross surely found a beautiful setting for this campus. Our seniors are nearing graduation, and it is always a joyous occasion to recognize them at our hooding ceremony and honors convocation and to be with them at commencement. Our juniors are looking at the seniors wondering how they will survive their senior year, but somehow they manage to not only survive but also thrive! Our faculty has had a busy semester. Our spring luncheon has become a major event for us each year. We are so grateful to our field instructors and community health and social service organizations for their support of our program. We are engaged in planning for next year already. Dr. Kominiewicz will be leading us through our reaffirmation for CSWE, Professor Sanchez is developing our initiative in Social Work with Spanish-speaking populations, and I have proposed an Interdisciplinary Pro-

gram of Study in Aging. In addition, I am the evaluator for a 1.3 million dollar national grant awarded to REAL Services, Inc. and the Community Foundation of St. Joseph Co. \$780,000 came from the Weinberg Foundation and the Community Foundation provided the matching funds. It will focus on the provision of an innovative neighborhood caregiver training program with additional funding available for respite care, home modifications, and case management. The project will be done in a very low income neighborhood on the west side of South Bend. In order to work on the Aging Studies minor and the grant, I am leaving the Chair position one year before my appointment is finished. I am grateful to the Department for supporting me in developing the interdisciplinary aging studies minor and working on the grant. Dr. Kominiewicz will be assuming responsibilities as Chair as well as Program Director for the coming year. It has been a pleasure to serve the College as Chair of this wonderful Department!



Awards and Honors

Jennifer Bulmer
Leadership Award,
Excellence in Social Work in Healthcare and Gerontology Settings

Kimberly Case
Excellence in Social Work in Healthcare and Gerontology Settings

Christine Cesak
Excellence in Social Work in Healthcare and Gerontology Settings

Caroline Cox
Excellence in Social Work in Healthcare and Gerontology Settings



Sarah Dapkus
Excellence in Social Work in Healthcare and Gerontology Settings

Maureen McQuade
Kristi A. Morris

Award

Deanna Molosky
NASW Social Work Student of the Year,
Josephine Murphy Kuhl Research Award

Erin Newsom
Excellence in Social Work in Healthcare and Gerontology Settings

Nina Philippsen
Excellence in Social Work in

Healthcare and Gerontology Settings

Jessica Porter
Kristi A. Morris Award,
Excellence in Social Work in Healthcare and Gerontology Settings

Jessica Sobczyk
Academic Excellence Award

Anne Therese Stroude
Excellence in Social Work in Healthcare and Gerontology Settings



Notes from the Field

The annual Social Work Luncheon was a great success. It was an occasion for the students, field instructors, faculty, and community members to come together to acknowledge the achievements of the past year. Dr. Kominkiewicz and the research class presented their research project tri-folds. The students and Dr. Kominkiewicz put in many hours of work this past year to obtain their findings. The project was a great learning tool for the students to understand how research plays an important role in the field. The luncheon also gave the Social Work Department the opportunity to honor Carrie Cravalho Miller for her many accomplishments in both the field as a field instructor and in the classroom as a faculty member. Professor Miller gave an impressive and moving speech about her social work career working at Oaklawn Hospital and her academic experiences as a Saint Mary's student. After the luncheon, students discussed how inspirational it was to see a Saint Mary's alumna have such impact in the community at a young age. Congratulations again, Professor Miller and thank you for all support.



Carrie Cravalho Miller ('05) receiving an honorary leadership award from Jen Bulmer

This semester, the junior class has been preparing for their practicum year 2009-2010. The young women started the semester with some soul searching about

their calling into the field. The students all wrote an empowering and heartfelt reflection paper about their future in social work. The students have all completed interviews with their prospective placements. The junior class is ready for the challenge to put their academic knowledge and theories into practice. I believe that next year holds great learning opportunities for the students and field instructors.

As the academic year comes to an end I have been inspired by the professional demeanor of the senior class in the field. The field instructors reported how the practicum students have added a strong compassionate presence in the field. They also expressed how the student's contributions and eagerness will be missed in the community. I often reflect on the countless number of individuals, couples, families, children, victims, and communities who have been aided by a social work practicum intern. As the Field Practicum Coordinator I am so proud of the class of 2009 and I want to thank you on the behalf of the Social Work Department. I wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors.



Professor Sanchez is the field practicum coordinator

Jessica Strong, '06



Jessica Jarvis Strong ('06) has been accepted into the Social Work Ph.D. program at Rutgers University.

Sarah Jones ('07) is working at the I AM ABLE Center in Chicago doing intake coordination, counseling a small caseload of clients, and with a recent promotion will also be doing community education. She says, "My agency teaches a curriculum on healthy relationships. I've taught it with one of my co-workers (our primary community educator) in a women's unit at the Cook County jail. It's also been taught in the Chicago Public schools and at neighborhood churches. Now I will get to lead more groups as well. I'm really excited." She also just took her LSW test and passed!

with advanced standing. I am in the concentration titled Social Justice and Social Change, which is the macro social work concentration. I will also graduate with a certificate in international social development.

My field placement is at an organization called Pax Christi USA, which is the National Catholic Peace Movement. I work under the policy director, and I am getting some excellent macro social work experience. Our organization follows issues such as nuclear disarmament, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, anti-torture work, anti-death penalty work, immigration, and many other peace and justice issues.

I attend a lot of meetings with coalitions, such as the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, and briefings put on by different organizations and offices. I also do a lot of writing, editing, and other work to help promote peace and nonviolence

issues. The experience I am getting because of my Washington, DC location is irreplaceable.

I have recently also become involved with a committee to improve the website and recruitment of Catholic University's social work school and the macro concentration in particular. Everyone is very hopeful that we can increase the number of macro students and promote Catholic University social work.

I have been to class at the World Bank and have attended numerous briefings with staff of Congress members on a whole range of issues. It is fascinating to see the policy process up close and personal, and it is wonderful to be surrounded by so many other people who are informed about policy."

Katy Yoder ('07) will be graduating in May from IUPUI with her MSW.

Sarah Jones, '07



Molly LaBarge, '08

From **Molly LaBarge ('08)**: "I am attending The Catholic University of America in Washington, DC

Future Plans for the Class of 2009

Jennifer Bulmer-

St. Catherine's University with advanced standing

Kimberly Case-

Possibilities include University of Toledo, work in Toledo area, work for Holy Cross Ministries

Christine Cesak-

University of Illinois, Chicago, Jane Adams School of Social Work with advanced standing

Allison Cooney-

Western Michigan University with advanced standing

Caroline Cox-

Washington University, George Warren Brown School of Social Work, with advanced standing

Jenna Creveling-

Officer in the United States Navy through the University of Notre Dame NROTC Unit. Stationed in Little Creek, VA for first tour.

Sarah Dapkus-

Washington University, George Warren Brown School of Social Work with advanced standing

Anastasia Kaloydis-

Working in either South Bend or Fenton, MI

Maureen McQuade-

Has applied to University of Illinois, Chicago, Arizona State University, and Loyola

Deanna Molosky-

One year of service with Vincenian Service Corp. in St. Louis, Missouri

Erin Newsom-

Working at REAL Services as a case manager

Nina Philippsen-

Washington University, George Warren Brown School of Social Work, with advanced standing

Jessica Porter-

Working with the Veterans Affairs Hospital

Katie Putz-

University of Wisconsin Milwaukee with advanced standing

Jessica Sobczyk-

Case Western Reserve University with advanced standing

Anne Therese Stroude-

Washington University, George Warren Brown School of Social Work, with advanced standing



Hooding, May 3, 2009

Notes from the Director

I want to wish you a great spring and summer. We have had a wonderful academic year, and it is hard to believe that we are now celebrating the graduation of sixteen great Social Work majors. Our soon-to-be 2009 alumnae have accomplished so much as highlighted in this newsletter.

We now have nineteen Social Work junior majors, many of whom have been involved with me in many class-related activities, including our Annual Community Forum held on March 26, 2009. The Forum was featured on the front page of the South Bend Tribune. The Forum, titled "The Economy's Effects on Jobs, Family, and Education," focused on the role of the community in collaborating on working toward providing assistance and advice in these challenging economic times. Panelists included Dr. Jerome McElroy, Professor, Saint Mary's College, Department of Business and Economics; Jessie Whitaker, M.S.W., director of the LEND Homeownership Center in South Bend; Mark Geissler, M.S.W., South Bend Community School Corporation social worker; Judith Fox, Associate Clinical Professor, University of Notre Dame School of Law; Thomas Kavanaugh, Work One, State of Indiana; and Annie Envall, Sex Offense Services, Madison

Center. Many community members, faculty members, and students attended the forum and much feedback was received on the community dialogue initiated by the Social Work students.

We are busy at work in writing the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Self-Study under new standards. These standards are competency-based, and will be most helpful to students and field directors in the field practica. I was recently appointed Co-Chair of the Research Committee for the Baccalaureate Program Directors, and am greatly enjoying working with colleagues on a national basis. I am very fortunate to have two excellent colleagues at Saint Mary's, Dr. Burke and Professor Leonard Sanchez, who are totally committed to the education of the students.

I have served as the Director of the Social Work Program for over a decade and was Chair of the Department for three years. I was asked to again assume the position of Chair and I am very happy to serve the Department and the College in this capacity and look forward to a superb academic year. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or comments. I look forward to hearing from you.



Dr. Kominkiewicz is director of the Social Work Department



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

NON PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
NOTRE DAME IN
PERMIT NO. 14

Social Work Club News

This semester has been pretty busy! The Social Work Club hosted Social Work Week February 9th through the 15th. During that week we held several events that served to promote the field of Social Work and raise awareness

about the profession, including a forum that discussed the differences between the fields of psychology, sociology, and social work. We included Dr. Leslie Wang from the Sociology Department as well as

Dr. Kominkiewicz from the Social Work Department to help answer questions and mediate discussion.

During that week, the Social Work Club and some departmental members also attended the Career Crossings event in Stapleton Lounge. Club members were there to answer questions about the social work field, as well as advertise upcoming service events. Later, club members

dined with the Social Work Department faculty members at Hacienda Restaurant together so that professors and students could get to know one another better.

On April 5th, club members got together to

participate in the "Yes We Can Walk" that was held at Saint Mary's and Notre Dame. This was a Lenten walk for the hungry to benefit Little Flower Catholic

Church's food pantry, CROP (Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty) International, and Operation Rice Bowl. Club members and other students who wished to participate were asked to bring a canned food or a \$2 donation. The Social Work Club also donated \$25.



Find us on the Web!

The Department of Social Work has a new Facebook Group! Check it out and stay current with pictures and upcoming events, and stay connected with friends and faculty!

The Facebook group name is:
SMC Social Work Department

The department website is:
www.saintmarys.edu/~socwork/

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