



## A Note from the Director

Dr. Fran Kominkiewicz



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Dr. Kominkiewicz, Department of Social Work Chair

We welcome you to our Spring Newsletter, and want to wish you a very wonderful spring and summer. We are now completing a most successful academic year, and will

graduate eleven students. The students, soon to be our alumnae, are quite accomplished, as you will see from the newsletter sections highlighting them and their accomplishments.

We also have composed a Department of Social Work

Strategic Plan draft which has been sent to our Vice President/Dean of Faculty, and we have already accomplished most of the objectives on that plan. For example, we have increased our enrollment dramatically. The Department now has nineteen declared Social Work majors in the sophomore class! The Department also has accomplished much in the area of curriculum, including revisions in our required courses and adding a minor in Social Work. We are also adding departmental certificates in three specific areas, including working with children, Spanish speaking populations, and older adults. We thank all who worked with us as a team to achieve so many of our Strategic Plan objectives, including our students, faculty, Social Work Program Advisory Board members, field instructors, administrators, and staff.

I have served as the Director of the Social Work Program for close to a decade, and have been the Chair of the Department for the last three years. I will continue as Program Director, and have recommended that Dr. JoAnn Burke assume the Chair responsibilities for the next three years so that I give more of my time to our national accreditation reaffirmation from the CSWE. Dr. Burke's tenure as Chair will begin at the end of this academic year until May of 2010, and we are wishing her the very best in her new position!

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, comments, or would like to update us on your news. I look forward to hearing from you.

## Dr. JoAnn Burke's 2 Mezzo Projects

The Mezzo Class was involved in two exciting group projects this spring. The first project was the second phase of the project, "Empowering Indiana Families to Meet the Challenges of Population Aging." Students in this course have spoken to over 600 people in the Michiana Community to inform them about services and policy issues related to older people and their families.

In April, Dr. Burke presented this project in Indianapolis and Muncie, Indiana where there is interest in replicating it. The presentations were sponsored by the Center for Aging and Community at the University of Indianapolis.

On May 1st the class members were featured presenters at the Michigan Intergenerational Conference held at the Cass County Council on Aging in Cassopolis, Michigan.



## Majors Plan Fall '07 Trip to El Salvador



My name is Jenn McLean and I am a Junior Social Work Major here at Saint Mary's. I am writing to inform you of an exciting opportunity that others and myself have been planning over the past few months. We are traveling to El Salvador to understand the daily reality of the people and develop relationships of solidarity between the Salvadoran community and our campus. We will be traveling over Fall Break of 2007, and on the trip we will meet with governmental organizations, women's groups, health agencies, USAID, & other groups interested in helping the poor and marginalized in El Salvador. By meeting with these groups, we hope to better understand the poverty in the Latino communities more fully so that we can make a difference in the lives of people across the world. Dr. Burke is the faculty liaison for the trip. 10 Students will be involved in this encounter trip. If you are interested in donating money to this trip fund, contact Kimmy Case, Treasurer, c/o the Social Work Department at 339 Madeleva Hall, Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame IN 46556. Make checks payable to Saint Mary's College. We thank you in advance for any of your contributions.

Congratulations to Abby Hinchy and Adriana Lopez, social work majors from the Class of 2008, for being elected as the 2007-2008 Student Diversity Board President and Vice President. Both Adriana and Abby use their social work major and training to help them succeed in their every day lives and in their new roles as President and Vice President of the Student Diversity Board.



Abby Hinchy and Adriana Lopez

According to Abby, "I have viewed life and people very differently since I became a social work major. My social work courses and experiences in the community have allowed me to truly accept people as people. My social work courses have also opened my eyes to the many injustices people are faced with and the many ways that I as a human being and a social worker can help them."

Adriana also finds great pride in her social work major. According to her, "Social Work has definitely provided me with the tools to better enhance my leadership skills and has given me the opportunity to broaden my knowledge on issues related to social justice and diversity, as well as ways in which I can

address these issues in the different communities that I am involved in. As I get ready to take the leadership role of the Vice-President of Student Diversity Board, the knowledge gained in social work will help me be better prepared for my position."



Kimberly Hodges '08,

Social Work Major Kimberly Hodges '08 was recently elected as the 2007-2008 Student Body President.

Hodges has big plans for next year and hopes her reforms and actions will enrich the Saint Mary's community. "As a leader, I pray that I am the best leader I can be and in my capacity I will lead student government better than when I came in. I already sent out an e-mail to the Board for next year saying 'I'm ready to make history'," Hodges reiterates.

No stranger to leadership, Hodges has also served as the Vice President on the 2006-2007 Student Diversity Board. She had an integral part in planning a campus wide conference, the Diverse Student Leadership Conference that was a huge success among students. We expect to see Hodges' penchant for diversity appear in her student leadership. "Diversity is an essential component of higher education, and it is our responsibility to do what we can to educate others," Hodges has said in the past.

The Department of Social Work would like to congratulate Kimberly Hodges on her success and dedication to the Saint Mary's community.

**Saint Mary's Alumnae Speak to Students**

**Michelle Powell, SMC '05**, Social Work Program, presented "Human Trafficking: The Critical Role of Social Workers in Anti-Trafficking Practices," on March 19<sup>th</sup>, to students, faculty, staff, and community members. Michelle, a member of the Emerging Leaders Program of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, completed her M.S.W. with advanced standing from Catholic University in Washington, D.C., in 2006, during which time she completed her field placement at the U.S. Conference on Catholic Bishops. Michelle also presented "Social Work Values and Ethics in Macro Practice: Implementing Anti-Human Trafficking Policies" at the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Social Work Global Leadership Seminar and Spring Luncheon held on campus on March 20<sup>th</sup>. The Department appreciates the sponsorship of CWIL in hosting Michelle's visit to Saint Mary's College.

The students and faculty were greatly honored by a visit from SMC alumna, **Hollye Harrington Jacobs '93**. Mrs. Harrington Jacobs is also a member of the Saint Mary's College Board of Trustees. She spoke with students on April 18th regarding a career in Social Work, and is also assisting three of the Social Work seniors in becoming acclimated to the Graduate School of Social Work at Loyola University, Chicago, from which Mrs. Harrington Jacobs received her M.S.W. We want to thank Hollye for all that she has done for our students.



Hollye Harrington Jacobs with students

**Psychiatric Medicine Lecture**

Dr. Khutb M. Uddin, M.D., Ph.D., Director of Star Psychiatric Services PC in South Bend, Indiana, presented the a seminar and continuing education to the students, faculty, and community on April 24<sup>th</sup>. The seminar, "Psychiatric Medication for Helping Professions," focused on the use of psychiatric medications with diverse ages and new trends regarding this medication. Thanks to Dr. Uddin for this very informative presentation, and to the Center for Women's Inter-Cultural Leadership (CWIL) at Saint Mary's College for their sponsorship of the presentation.

**Students Lead Community Forum**

Students in Dr. Frances Kominkiewicz's Human Behavior and the Social Environment II class planned and implemented a community forum "Empowering the Community: Become an Agent of Change. A Discussion of Violence, Poverty and Education affecting the children in our community." Students invited several panelists to participate in the forum on April 10<sup>th</sup> at the Charles Martin Youth Center, including Nikki Gonzalez, SMC Social Work Program alumna, B.S.W., a social worker employed by the office of Congressman Joe Donnelly; Jessie Whitaker, M.S.W., Director of the LEND Home-ownership Center in South Bend; Warren Outlaw, Director of the Educational Talent Search Program at Notre Dame and Social Work Program Advisory Board member; Mark Geissler, M.S.W., South Bend Community School Corporation social worker; Pastor Hardie Blake, a member of redevelopment commission for South Bend; and Lilia Periquet, M.S.W., part-time faculty member, field instructor for the Department of Social Work, Social Work Program Advisory Board member, and Social Worker with the Sister Maura Brannick, C.S.C. Health Care Center. Many community members attended the forum and favorably commented on the community dialogue begun by the Social Work students.

# Students Enjoy Annual Spring Luncheon/Global Seminar



Honoree Lynn Coleman and his wife, Myrtle, Michelle Powell '05, Honoree Sr. Joy O'Grady, C.S.C. and Mayor Steve Luecke at the Spring Luncheon.

On March 20, 2007, Social Work Majors, field instructors, faculty and special guests attended the Annual Spring Luncheon where featured speaker, Michelle Powell '05 (See page 2) spoke on implementing Anti-Human Trafficking Policies.

Lynn Coleman, Assistant to Mayor Steve Luecke, was awarded with the annual Leadership Award. Mayor Steve Luecke was also in attendance to honor Lynn. Barbara Butler Henry '85, Director of Alumnae Relations, also spoke on the importance of maintaining a Social Work network.

Eighteen upperclasswomen were inducted into the Phi Alpha Social Work Honor Society: Constance Adams, Katie Cosimano, Julianne DeMaio, Kelly Higgins, Abigail Hinchy (See page 2), Kimberly Hodges, Mary LaBarge, Adriana

Lopez (See page 2), Joanna Mackiewicz (See page 2), Erin Mahoney, Jennifer McLean, Whitney McMillin, Andrea Moon, Kathleen Orr, Kathleen Walton, Lesley Weaver, Perryn White, and Colette Zavala.

Inducted alongside the juniors and seniors were Honorary members Sister Joy O'Grady, C.S.C., and community leader Warren Outlaw.



Above, Dr. Kominkiewicz and Dr. Burke present Honorary award to Sr. Joy O'Grady.



Dr. Burke presents, Honorary inductee, Warren Outlaw, with an award.



The Class of 2007 with field instructors

After the induction, seniors were recognized. They then introduced their field instructors and presented them with a gift. Afterwards, seniors presented their portfolios to the luncheon attendees. Everyone was very impressed with the amount of time and effort that went into their excellent portfolios.



## Notes from the Field: Sharon Mayer

The end of the 2007 Spring semester concludes another successful semester of Field Placement. Senior Social Work students have successfully completed their year of field experience. We had eleven students in diverse placements including hospitals, mental health, child welfare, elder care, and schools. Each of the students worked in their assigned placement at least sixteen hours a week and oftentimes gave extra hours. Students demonstrated their ability for flexibility and adjusted well to change. Taking on social work roles in their placements and adjusting to new environments in a professional manner were only part of the maturity these students presented in their placements. At their practicum placements, they practiced Social Work skills in interviewing, assessment and group settings with populations at risk. Their commitment to and interest in their placements were expressed through weekly documentation submitted for review. All have fulfilled the criteria at a generalist practice level to prepare them for admission to a Social Work Masters program. It was a pleasure for me to be part of the student's professional evolution. The students demonstrated responsibility and experience in their placements. It has been exciting to see them develop in their professional knowledge and presentation with their practicum experience. I look forward to another year of new Senior Social Work Students entering their field experience.



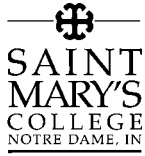
Professor Sharon Mayer and Jennifer Chmielewski '07 were this year's honorees from Saint Mary's College at the National Association of Social Workers' Annual Awards Banquet. Professor Mayer was honored as the Social Worker of the Year and Jennifer Chmielewski was honored as the Social Work Student of the Year.

The banquet was attended by fellow faculty members and students who wanted to recognize the hard work of their fellow instructor and peer. Congratulations on your hard work and leadership!

### Special Appreciation:

The Department of Social Work wants to extend special thanks to Mary Esler, SMC '08, Communication Studies major, who is our Student Assistant, and to Mrs. Kathy Hammond, our Administrative Assistant, who are responsible for the design, layout, and printing of our newsletter. Mary is most talented, as you can see by the design of our newsletter, and has accepted an internship with ABC News in New York during the summer of 2007. She will be working with the news shows 20/20 and Primetime. Congratulations, Mary!





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- (L to R) **Perryn White**: Joining the US Army as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant.
- Sarah Jones**: University of Illinois at Chicago, MSW Program, Advanced Standing
- Stephanie Doran**: Loyola University Chicago, MSW Program, Advanced Standing
- Ann McConville**: Loyola University Chicago, MSW Program, Advanced Standing
- Joanna Mackiewicz**: Loyola University Chicago, MSW Program, Advanced Standing
- Christina Latty**: University of Georgia, MSW Program, Advanced Standing
- Sophia Del Fabro**: Indiana University School of Medicine
- Chelsa Meek**: IUPUI, MSW Program, Advanced Standing
- Katy Yoder**: IUPUI, MSW Program, Advanced Standing
- Jennifer Chmielewski**: IUPUI, MSW Program, Advanced Standing
- Lauren DeLucca** (Not Pictured): Accepted to University of Nebraska at Omaha , MSW Program

**Congratulations! Good Luck to the Class of 2007 in the future.**

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