



# Social Work News

SPRING 2014

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 2

## A Word from the Chair



Dear Friends,  
I hope that this news-  
letter finds all of you  
doing very well! The  
semester seemed to  
end very quickly as  
there was so much  
happening within our  
department. The senior Social Work majors

presented their community-based research proposals from the Social Work Research Methods class at the Department of Social Work Spring Luncheon. Many of the junior Social Work majors in the Human Behavior and the Social Environment II class (SW 236) completed an Academic Experiential Learning opportunity at St. Margaret's House in South Bend through training and guidance provided by Kathryn Schneider, Executive

Director, Patricia Marvel, Assistant Director, and Sister Betty Smoyer, Guest Services Assistant. I received a Faculty Development and Indiana Connections Grant through the Saint Mary's College Cross Currents Program developed from a sustaining grant received by the Lilly Foundation to design and implement this learning opportunity for our students. This course culminated in a Community Forum focusing on homelessness that was organized and implemented by Social Work students in the SW 236 class. The students did a stellar job at bringing the community

together to dialogue on this issue. Further information can be found at <http://www.wndu.com/home/headlines/Students-discuss-homelessness-in-South-Bend-and-how-they-can-help-252833061.html>; <https://www.saintmarys.edu/news-events/news-releases/social-work-community-forum-2014>; <http://ndsmcobserver.com/2014/03/community-panel-discusses-homelessness/>; and [http://www.southbendtribune.com/news/local/homelessness-focus-of-forum/article\\_5c953406-a9cc-11e3-8522-0017a43b2370.html?mode=jgm](http://www.southbendtribune.com/news/local/homelessness-focus-of-forum/article_5c953406-a9cc-11e3-8522-0017a43b2370.html?mode=jgm). I conducted research with my colleague, Elizabeth Blue, at the Baccalaureate Program Directors (BPD) Conference in Louisville in March, and continue to be very involved in that organization as a nationally elected At-Large BPD Board Member. I also presented research with my colleague at the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) APM in October in Dallas. I attended BPD Board meetings in Louisville and Dallas.

I wish you the best.  
Please continue to  
keep in touch throughout the year.

Take care.

*Fran Kominkiewicz*

Fran Kominkiewicz



*Dr. Kominkiewicz and Professor Elizabeth Blue at BPD conference in Louisville*



## Gerontology –Dr. JoAnn Burke



*2014 Gerontology Minors*

This spring brought visits from my kittens to the Mezzo class. Luke is a very sociable cat, and he enjoyed visiting the classroom. On the other hand, Maggie is rather shy. I am working with them so I can be registered with Pet Partners and take them for visits with nursing home residents. The kittens need to be socialized so I appreciate the assistance of students in helping to socialize them. Last year I added a curriculum module to the Mezzo Course that includes information about animal assisted activities and therapy that can be used in social work practice. It also gives us an opportunity to have some fun in class!

I am getting more involved in public policy issues related to older adults. Governor Pence appointed me to the Indiana Commission on Aging, and Congresswoman Susan Brooks (Indiana 5th District) just asked me to be an advisor on aging issues for her Washington D.C. office. In addition, I continue to serve on the Board of Directors for REAL Services in South Bend and AREA 5 in Logansport. These activities keep me well informed for teaching and advising students who are interested in gerontology.



# Notes from the Field Practicum Coordinator -Leonard Sanchez



Field Practicum Coordinator - Leonard Sanchez

This spring break I had the pleasure of going to Honduras to complete a service project with nine Saint Mary's students. It was an eye opening experience for everyone in the group to see the poverty and poor living conditions of the Hondurans. We spent most of our time at a residential program for boys called El Hogar Diamante. The boys are at risk youth who spend most of their time on the streets panhandling and their parents do not have viable resources to provide for their children. I was so proud of the Saint Mary's students who went on the trip. These eight service students awakened at 6:30am to start the day. They worked with the demolition and reconstruction of El Hogar Diamante's pool. The pool was estimated to be over 50 years old. The payoff was playing and spending time with the boys of the hogar. The boys had such a great time developing a little brother-big sister bond with the Saint Mary's students. I believe the students will hold this memorable experience of Honduras for a lifetime. I would like to give Marc Belanger special thanks for all his work and dedication to both the community of El Hogar Diamante and the students of Saint Mary's College.

Class of 2014, thank you for all the wonderful memories here at Saint Mary's College. Where did the time go? I remember many of you from sophomore advising when we worked on the social work four-year advising sheets. Some of you thought it was too early to think about the four-year plan. Now, here you are with cap and gown walking the last steps of your college journey here at Saint Mary's College. I will miss the discussions that I had with you in class, in the field, or just in hallway of Spes Unica. A five minute question in the hallway would quickly turn into a 45 minute or hour chat. Thank you for all the learning lessons you provided me with your logs and journals. I know that you are ready for the next step in your academic or professional career. Best of luck with your future endeavors and conquer those mountain tops.



## Awards and Honors



Galicia Guerrero, proud recipient of the Lumen Christi Award  
-Graduation Day May 17, 2014



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Galicia Guerrero received an Academic Excellence Award in Social Work  
-Honors Day May 4, 2014



## Memories from the Spring 2014 Field Practicum Luncheon!



## Congratulations Social Work Class of 2014!

Samantha Carey

Maria Courtney

Emma Derheimer

Galicia Guerrero

Corinna Martinez

Jade Pressler

Kerry Puckett

Kathleen Pummill

Gabrielle Sanchez

Natalie Stoerger

Mallory Welsh



**Please support the Department of Social Work educational goals—any amount you can donate to the Social Work Resource Center Fund assists in such areas as purchasing educational equipment, Social Work student community experiences and student research. Your support is greatly appreciated!**

I am enclosing a donation of \$25 \$50 \$100 \$500 \$1000  
Other \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to:

**Saint Mary's College**  
**265 Spes Unica Hall**  
**Notre Dame, IN 46556**

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

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

**The Facebook group name is:**

*Saint Mary's College Social Work*

**The department website is:**

*www.saintmarys.edu/departments/social-work*

**The department photo site is:**

*picasaweb.google.com/smcsocialwork*

**Find us on the Web!**



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