



## A Note from the Director

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to President Mooney for her support of the Social Work program and greetings to you during this commencement season. Please know that you are always in our thoughts and prayers. There is so much exciting news about the Saint Mary's College Social Work Program, and I am very pleased to provide you with this update.

We are very proud to send you our first Social Work Program newsletter. This newsletter is a result of numerous requests we received from alumnae, students, faculty, and community members to provide a forum to network with each other. The Saint Mary's College Social Work Program alumnae and students continue to succeed, and we have heard from many over the years. This newsletter will assist us in keeping in contact with each other,

*Left to right:  
Frances B.  
Kominkiewicz,  
Carol Ann  
Mooney, Governor  
Ann Richards,  
Patricia  
Hancock, JoAnn  
Burke*



as well as to keep you informed about the Social Work Program.

As you know, the Social Work Program was accredited by the Council on Social Work Education for the full eight year cycle in February 2003. This is the first time in the history of the Saint Mary's College Social Work Program that this accreditation has been granted. We are excited about the possibilities for our students and alumnae. As a result of

the national accreditation, students can enter graduate schools of social work with advanced standing. Most of our students are now entering graduate social work education, and are completing their MSW degrees in one year. Our accreditation has allowed students to gain state licensing as practicing social workers. Most importantly, it has been an empowering aspect of our students' careers, encouraging them to make the greatest use

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## 15th National Conference on Child Abuse & Neglect

Professor Pat Hancock, four community members, and 19 Junior and Senior Social Work students attended the 15<sup>th</sup> National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect in Boston, Massachusetts from April 20-23, 2005. The students, with guidance from the faculty member and with advice from the community members, attended a variety of workshops at the conference and gathered the most recent research findings. Students and community members learned about the most innovative treatment programs, and discovered the most recent legislative and federal policy initiatives relating to child abuse and neglect.

The 7 seniors and 12 junior students enhanced their working relationship with representatives from Child Protective

Services and, in the process, began to realize that they have the knowledge and the skills to be leaders at the national level. It is Professor Hancock's expectation that Saint Mary's College will soon be at the forefront in helping to develop best practice standards by continuing to engage in collaborative research efforts with the newly formed Department of Child Services in Indiana. It is indeed an exciting time in the child welfare arena.

All of this valuable data has been assembled and will be carefully examined over the summer break in order to produce PowerPoint presentations and develop information packets to disseminate to case managers,

CASA's, foster parents, and related persons in the community that were unable to attend this conference.

Three formal collaborative presentations will be made by the students, Professor Hancock, and the respective agency members. Specific dates for each presentation will be coordinated and announced as soon as possible in order for interested alumnae to attend. The presentations will be made to:

- 1) Family Case Managers & related staff members at Child Protective Services;
- 2) Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA's) for St. Joseph County;
- 3) Licensed Foster Parents

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# A Note from the Director, continued

of their Saint Mary's College Social Work Program education. The students and alumnae have worked diligently with us to attain accreditation as well as to maintain our accreditation status.

I want to introduce our faculty to you. JoAnn Burke, Ph.D., received her doctorate and master's degree in social work from Bryn Mawr College. JoAnn has numerous publications focusing upon her research area of interest, gerontology. JoAnn is the Coordinator of the Elderhood Institute as well the Social Work Program Field Practicum Coordinator. JoAnn and I both came to Saint Mary's College after the retirement of our emeritus/a faculty, Charles Martucci and Patricia Pilger.

Patricia Hancock, M.S.W., is a Center for Women's InterCultural Leadership Fellow, and is now in her third

year at Saint Mary's College. We are pleased to announce that next year she will be joining the Social Work Program as Assistant Professor. Pat, who previously worked in Child Protection Services, is dedicated to child welfare. She serves on numerous boards pertaining to child welfare and child abuse, and has even conducted research with students in this area.

Sharon L. Mayer, M.S.W., taught one course for us in the Spring on Child and Family Mental Health: DSM IV. Sharon is a school social worker and family resource center coordinator at Elm Road Elementary School who received her master in social work from Western Michigan University and has developed programs and presented education in Wellness for a variety of audiences in the Michiana area. In the Fall,

Sharon will be teaching a course on Child Abuse Across Cultures.

Susan M. St. Ville, Ph.D., M.S.W., received her master in social work from the University of Chicago as well as her Ph.D. in Systematic Theology. She is a therapist for Sex Offense Services at Madison Center. She taught for the program in the Spring and will teach again in the Fall.

We are indebted to the Center for Women's InterCultural Leadership, particularly to Sister Marianne Farina, Elaine Meyer-Lee, and Bonnie Bazata, for their support of the Social Work Program and the Justice for All Ages Conference.

*Frances B. Kominkiewicz, Ph.D.,  
Director, Social Work Program*

*Department Chair,  
Social Work & Anthropology*

## Social Work Class of 2005

**Amy Blue** will be spending a year in Ireland before attending either Washington University in St. Louis or the University of Michigan.

**Carrie Cravalho** will be attending Western Michigan University with advanced

standing.

**Bridget Gottlieb** is attending Western Michigan University with advanced standing.

**Erin Heidkamp** will be attending the Uni-

versity of Illinois at Chicago with a concentration in school social work with advanced standing.

**Laney Lee** will be attending the University

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## Conference, continued

(140 Homes in St. Joseph County).

One of our primary objectives for attending this conference was to be able to provide the most current research and "best practice" options to front line workers serving the neediest members of our community. In addition, it afforded

Saint Mary's students with the opportunity to engage in free dialogue with administrators in the field of child protective services and to connect with experts in the child welfare arena at the national level.

Professor Hancock is planning

to submit the resulting collaborative research projects and genuinely expects to be presenting (alongside students and community members) at the 16<sup>th</sup> National Conference on Abuse and Neglect in 2007.

## We'd Like to Hear from You

We want to know what is going on with our alumnae. Please send us information about your lives, careers, families, that you would like to share with other Social Work alumnae. Either visit the Alumnae page on the department's website at <http://www.saintmarys.edu/~swanth/alumnae.html> or send an email to [kominkie@saintmarys.edu](mailto:kominkie@saintmarys.edu). Or write to Frances Kominkiewicz, Saint Mary's College, 25 Madeleva Hall, Notre Dame, IN 46556. We'll share your information in our next newsletter and online (unless you tell us otherwise). We look forward to learning and sharing what being a Social Work major and SMC has done for you.

## Resource Center Fund

The Social Work Program Resource Center Fund was developed to strengthen funding for student learning. Funds have been used in such areas as conference/seminar development and student community leadership development. We hope to purchase Social Work Abstracts online for at least a year to increase student research abilities, and to purchase educational/training materials. If you are interested in contributing to the Social Work Program Student Resource Center, or have any questions, please contact Frances Kominkiewicz at [kominkie@saintmarys.edu](mailto:kominkie@saintmarys.edu), or by phone at 574-284-4515. Contributions can also be mailed directly to the Social Work Program, 25 Madeleva Hall, Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame, IN 46556-5001.

# Awards & Honors



Frances Kominkiewicz was named Woman of the Year in Education at the YWCA Tribute to Women on

April 26, 2005. She was nominated for this award by Saint Mary's College. The YWCA cited Dr. Kominkiewicz for making great contributions to the development of two social work programs in the area and for demonstrating her leadership in assisting in the national accreditation of two schools of social work. In particular, the YWCA praised Dr. Kominkiewicz for assuming a major role in gaining national accreditation for the Social Work Program at Saint Mary's College. Dr. Ko-

minkiewicz was also described as assisting first and second year students who are choosing their majors at Saint Mary's College. "Students have many questions as they search through a long list of possible majors, and she is well known as a concerned listener who works with students, their parents, and other colleagues to assist students in making suitable decisions as they move forward with their social work careers. In addition, she demonstrates a commitment to the profession of social work that has been seen in her work to improve the quality of social work education in this community."

Lilia Periquet, who taught Working with Diverse Populations for the Social Work Program in the Fall, was named Social Worker of the Year by the National Association of Social Workers for Indiana's

Region 2 this March.

Michelle Powell, '05 was named the Saint Mary's College Social Worker of the Year for her dedication and support of the Program.

Carrie Cravalho, '05 and Melissa Montoya, '05 received the Kristi A. Morris Award in Social Work for their commitment to respect and uphold human dignity in the spirit of social work.

The following awards were presented on May 1st during the Honors Convocation in O'Laughlin Auditorium: the Leadership Award in Social Work and Anthropology to Marguerite Ritchey, '05 and the Academic Excellence Award in Social Work and Anthropology to Amy Blue, '05 and Theresa Uhrich, '05.

**Congratulations to all!**

## Class of 2005, continued

of Illinois at Chicago with advanced standing.

**Natalie Litow** will be attending the University of Illinois at Chicago with a concentration in mental health with advanced standing.

**Melissa Montoya** will be attending the University of Denver with advanced standing. She has received one of two

Chancellor Scholarships awarded.

**Esther O'Connell** will be working in Angola, Indiana and is considering Ohio University, Ohio State, and Case Western for graduate school next year.

**Sarah Paladino** will be attending the University of Denver with advanced standing.

**Emily Pernotto** will be working in Louisiana.

**Michelle Powell** will be attending The Catholic University of America with advanced standing.

**Marguerite Ritchey** will be attending Ohio State University with advanced standing.

**Theresa Uhrich** will be attending the University of Wisconsin at Madison with advanced standing.

Good luck to all our graduates!

## Social Work Faculty News



Last summer senior Social Work major Marguerite Ritchey and I were awarded a summer experiential learning grant from the Lilly

Endowment Grant. Our project was to review abuse and neglect investigations opened in St. Joseph County during the month of July, 2004.

Senate Enrolled Act (SEA 194) went into effect on July 1st, 2004 and it has the potential to significantly change the investigative process and placement of children. This new legislation was designed to ensure that children who were removed from their home would only be placed with family members that had undergone a criminal, and a federal background check and had met other detailed criteria. In addition, the legislation mandated that prior to interviewing a child who

was an alleged victim of abuse or neglect, caseworkers were now required to obtain parental consent; unless certain exigent circumstances were present.

At the beginning of the summer, Marguerite was researching the new child welfare laws that were to go into effect on July 1st as well as identifying events that influenced the new legislation. We also looked at the legislative history of similar laws including the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997. This research amplified the severity of both the financial and bureaucratic difficulties within the state of Indiana. It also facilitated some bright new ideas about how child welfare could be improved. One proposal, Fostering the Future, was written collaboratively by social work graduate students, professors, and professionals in the field of social work at Georgetown University. The collaborative work conducted for our project, with the

staff at Child Protective Services, will provide valuable information and may possibly serve as a guide for future research.

By the end of the summer we had reviewed the 101 Child Protective Services cases that were opened for investigation during the month of July in St. Joseph County. We continued our research and reviewing and disseminating our findings through an independent research class over the fall semester. It should be noted that the line supervisors at CPS and Chuck Smith, the Director of DFC, have been very supportive of this research and expressed excitement about the potential for continued collaboration.

Professor Hancock hopes to build upon the research this summer with rising senior, Amy Rohm. They are currently writing a grant proposal and if it is

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**Social Work Program**  
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## Social Work Faculty News, continued

awarded, the expanded research will begin this summer and run into the fall semester.

*Patricia Hancock, M.S.W.  
Center for Women's InterCultural  
Leadership Fellow*



The Justice for All Ages Conference, held at Saint Mary's College on September 23 - 24, was a highlight of my social work career. After years of practice, experience, and research in family

elder care, it was gratifying to see our students, the general public, and professionals from the community engage in meaningful discussion about the benefits and challenges of extended longevity. We were fortunate to have Ann Richards as our keynote speaker because she energized all of us to examine this issue with vigor. This conference is the first major event sponsored by the Elderhood Institute. This institute is a joint effort between the Center for Spirituality and the Social Work Program. Major funding for the conference was provided by the Center for Women's InterCul-

tural Leadership. Additional funding was provided by Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center and Trinity Continuing Care Services. A pre-conference event was partially funded by Memorial Hospital.

I served as Faculty Advisor for a one week educational trip to El Salvador over Spring break. Michelle Powell and Melissa Montoya, social work seniors who had a field placement at Saint Joseph Health Center, worked with four other students to write two grants to fund this trip. Funding was received from the Garcia Fund at Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center Foundation and the Center for Women's InterCultural Leadership. Private funds were also contributed by the field instructors at the medical center. The Crispaz Organization provided a guide and made arrangements for our tour in El Salvador. The focus of the trip was connecting with people in rural communities there and building solidarity. We also learned about Archbishop Romero's work in the country. The students developed a PowerPoint presentation about this trip that will be used in our new Diversity course.

I will be at Catholic University of

Korea for a visiting professorship in Fall 2005. I will teach two courses in gerontology in the Department of Social Welfare and will conduct a small research project on family elder care in Korea. This sabbatical will provide a rich learning experience for me, and I will bring back my experience with building cultural practice competencies to share with our students here at Saint Mary's College.

As usual, I continue to use the "adult learning model" in courses and discuss career trajectories in advising appointments. That will not change, but I have assumed new responsibilities within the Social Work Program. After serving as Field Practicum Coordinator for seven years, I have decided to focus on teaching and developing courses. I resigned as Field Practicum Coordinator and am assuming the full-time faculty position effective in the 2005-2006 academic year. I send my very best wishes to Professor Hancock who is assuming the Field Practicum Coordinator position.

*JoAnn Burke, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor  
Coordinator, Elderhood Institute*