



IONA
COLLEGE

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Iona Social Work: Progress Notes

WINTER 2017 ISSUE II

Greetings from the Department Chair

It gives us great pleasure to present to you the winter 2016 Issue of the Department's Newsletter. This issue shines the "spotlight" on our Alumni. One article features two alumni whose stories and careers will inspire you. Under "Alumni News" you will read about others who "Move the World" every day in their careers. Equally impressive is the recognition of current student leaders for their service. In addition, you will observe that we now have a newly constituted Community Advisory Board that met in early December. Finally, this issue has done a great job of updating you on faculty teaching, scholarship and service, and other annual events in the life of the department. Enjoy!

In the Department

Professor Ilene Haspel coordinated the Fall 2016 Field Education Workshop, co-sponsored by the Social Work Departments of The College of New Rochelle, Concordia College and Iona College. The program, entitled "Getting the Most Out of Supervision" was held at Iona on Friday, November 4th. The panel was composed of field instructors and students from all three colleges and over 25 people were in attendance. In addition, Professor Haspel has recently attained certificates of completion in: Love at First Sight: Understanding of Parent-Child Bonds and Attachment; Problem Gambling Training Partnership; and Human Trafficking 101.

Dr. Jeanne Matich-Maroney returned from a yearlong sabbatical during which she focused on pedagogy and student engagement in both the *Research for Social Work Practice* and the new first-year seminar, *Columba Cornerstone* courses. The *Research for Social Work Practice* course was the focus of both a published article in the *Council for Undergraduate Research (CUR) Quarterly, Winter 2016* and a presentation at the CSWE 65th Annual Program Meeting in Atlanta, GA. Both were co-authored/presented with Dr. Penelope Moore. Additionally, Dr. Matich-Maroney has published a digital Research Case Study titled, *Using Quantitative Research to Inform Mental Health Services for People With Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Who Have Experienced Sexual Abuse. (Sage Research Methods Cases)*.

Dr. Penelope Moore and co-author, Jennifer Crumpley, published their book, *Reaching Our Neediest Children: How to Bring a Mental Health Program into the Schools*. The book is currently available on Amazon.com. School and mental health agency administrators may find this guide useful if considering a partnership in the provision of mental health services to school children.

Dr. Meryl Nadel, has continued to write and conduct research for her book on social work and summer camp. In addition, she taught one of the new freshman Cornerstone classes (Planet, People, Place), an interesting and challenging experience. She also serves as Secretary of the Faculty Senate and College Council. In April, Dr. Nadel will participate in the teach-in for Heritage Week and plans to focus on the UN's Sustainable Development Goals in relation to her experience in Zambia with Iona in Mission.

Dr. Robyn Brown-Manning, was named 2016 Iona College Adjunct of the Year by the Faculty Senate. She accepted her award at the Fall 2016 Convocation with social work students and faculty on hand to celebrate the well-deserved recognition.



Congrats to Dr. Robyn!

Student News

As part of her senior field practicum at Columbus Elementary School (New Rochelle), **Karly White ('17)** facilitated and accompanied a group of 5th grade students to the "Kids Day Out" event sponsored by the Iona College Athletics Department. Columbus students had the opportunity to attend an Iona Women's Basketball game on January 10th, 2017. Caryn Da'Loia, the school social worker and Karly's field instructor, reflected on the meaning and value of this experience for their students in a thank you note to the Athletics Department which is excerpted below....

Our students had such an amazing time. Many went home and told their parents they want to go to Iona when they graduate!! That in itself is worth so much as many of our students are children of Mexican immigrants who had very little education in their own country before coming here. For most of our students, it was the first time they ever saw a college campus. One parent of a student with some learning issues reported that it is usually so hard for her son to communicate about his day at school, but yesterday he came home and told her that he wants to go to Iona College!

During **Make a Difference Week 2016**, the Social Work Club sponsored an event, called P.A.S.S. A Hand that was held on September 29th. The Social Work Club collected over 1150 sanitary products and will distribute them to women affected by domestic violence.

The Social Work Club and the Social Work Department jointly sponsored a Thanksgiving Basket that was donated to a local family in New Rochelle. **Elizabeth Tompkins ('18)** led this year's Invocation.



Student Recognition

Karly White ('17) earned her second straight Academic Team honors.

Kade Lamontagne ('19) was featured in the Student Spotlight column in *The Ionian* on Dec. 14, 2016

Students in Leadership & Service

A number of social work majors and social welfare & diversity minors are currently actively involved in Iona's Mission and Ministry activities.

Justin Pellegrino ('19) is presently serving as a Campus Minister. His work within the Success Center was featured in the recent issue of *The Challenger* newsletter put out by the Office of Mission & Ministry.

Hannah Smith ('17) chairs the Iona in Mission Committee.

Jane Frumberg ('17) heads up the Best Buddies program.

Kayla Edwards ('18) will be the Student Leader on the Spring Break Mission Trip to Chicago. Senior **Shave Thompson ('17)** and **Jillian Mitchell ('18)** will serve on the team.

Ellie Tompkins ('18) and minor **Jillian Mitchell ('18)** are also serving as Campus Ministers.

"As you think further about what you have learned, I hope you will realize how many opportunities you have to affect the future." Ron Federico

*Touch a life,
make a
difference....*

*Social
workers
make a
difference
every day!*

Alumni Fields of Practice

Alumni Dinner / Fields of Practice “Calling the Circle” 2016 Program

Social Work alumni returned to campus this fall to participate in the Alumni Fields of Practice Event. Alumni look forward to connecting with old friends and meeting new alums and this year was no exception. The evening started with the gathering of members from different graduating classes who enjoyed a light supper. The supper was followed by a panel discussion and opportunity for junior majors to speak informally with the alumni.

Graduate School Information Session

The Annual Graduate School Information Session was held on November 10, 2016. Eight MSW programs were in attendance. Along with Iona College social work students, students from the College of New Rochelle attended. The program was coordinated by Dr. Meryl Nadel.

Community Advisory Board

On December 8th, the Social Work Department hosted a meeting and holiday reception for the Community Advisory Board. Field Advisors, alumni and community members were present. The next Advisory Board meeting will be held in the spring.

Alumni News

Belated Congratulations to Social Work Leaders in the Class of 2016!

A number of social work majors and minors were honored at the *11th Annual Gala for Achievement and Excellence in Leadership* late last spring: **Kathryn Baller ('16)**, **Julia Klingler ('16)**, **Nastasha Osamwonyi ('16)**, **Rachel Spear ('16)**, **Corrine Valenti ('16)** and **Caroline Zepeda ('16)**.

Sr. Petronella Lubanga, ('04), MSW visited with social work students **Hannah Smith ('17)** and **Elsy Bonilla ('016)**, and **Dr. Meryl Nadel** during a Mission Trip to Zambia. As noted in our last newsletter, in addition to serving as Dean of Social Science at The Zambia Catholic University, she is also directing an orphanage! Here she is with some of the children. Zambia is just beginning to transition from orphanages to foster care, but the available funding is insufficient.



New Jobs

Amanda Cioffi ('15), LMSW recently started a job as an Education and Training Specialist at the Long Island Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (LICADD). In this capacity she is working as a member of a clinical team and providing field instruction to social work interns.

Jennifer Mott ('08), LMSW has been appointed to the position of Community School Coordinator and School Social Worker at Park Avenue Elementary School in Port Chester, New York.

Michael Rodriguez ('12), LMSW, was recently appointed Bilingual Program Director at the Samuel Field YM/YWHA CAPE Program, providing satellite clinic based mental health services including psychotherapy to individuals, groups, couples and families along with engagement and clinical groups to senior center members under the Department for the Aging initiative and Office of Mental Health.

SPOTLIGHT ON ALUMNI

When Passion & Profession Meet

Luis Amador ('13) has found his dream job as Program Director of Strong Youth. In recent correspondence with Professor Haspel, Luis shared...

"I am officially working for an organization that brings me such joy and happiness. I tell anyone who will listen that I have finally found a career that I love, that allows me to make a difference and that pushes me everyday to do and be better. I stay late and come in early because I love the work I do, I love the youth and communities we serve and I also love working with the people I work with. It is a huge plus when you come to work everyday with people who all want to accomplish the same goal. From the president of the board to my executive director to my counselors we all believe in the mission of the organization.



I was speaking with **Mike Rodriguez ('12)** over the weekend (we still keep in touch almost daily) and we were discussing our undergrad years and how much we learned from the BSW program at Iona. We discussed trying to visit soon. If you ever want Mike and I to come in and speak about the work we do...please let us know, we would be extremely interested!"

Alumna Applies Her Lived Experience to Social Work Practice

Kaylene Quinones ('09) is an LMSW who is currently serving as the BraveLife Intervention Coordinator at The Children's Village. BraveLife Intervention is a component of Westchester Building Futures, a multi-year, multi-million dollar federal grant from the Department of Health and Human Services' Children's Bureau awarded to Westchester County DSS to develop an innovative model to alleviate homelessness for youth transitioning out of the foster care system by 2020. The BraveLife Intervention is a collaboration between DSS, Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service, The Children's Village, and other community-based providers. The intervention utilizes the experience of Peer -to-Peer Navigators who are youth advocates with lived experience in multiple child/youth serving systems and who use that personal experience to engage, empower and connect with youth in care. Peer Navigators help youth to navigate and access housing, employment, education or well-being programs. Most importantly, the Peer Navigators work as a bridge to help youth connect and form relationships with professionals in the systems they frequent.

Kaylene is also one of the founding members of Bravehearts M.O.V.E. N.Y., which is a youth movement and the first youth-led non-profit in the Hudson Valley. This organization aims to improve the child welfare system through collaborative efforts; it empowers youth to lift their voices and share their expertise with professionals to inform best practices, along with how to authentically engage young people in the services they receive. Kaylene has a unique understanding of her profession because of her personal experience within the foster care system. She devotes her life to helping others and motivating them to use their stories to overcome the odds, as she did. It is her dream to help others become successful in life. Kaylene often refers to and lives by the quote,

"It does not matter the cards you were dealt, what matters is how you play the game."

Social Work Faculty:

Penelope J. Moore, DSW, ACSW, LCSW-R; **Jeanne Matich-Maroney**, PhD, LCSW-R; **Meryl Nadel**, DSW, ACSW, LCSW; **Ilene Haspel**, LMSW, ACSW

Adjunct Professors: **Robyn Brown-Manning**, PhD, M Phil, LMSW; **Glenda Bryan**, LMSW; **Pearl Hacker**, LCSW; **Christopher John**, LMSW; **Mebane Powell**, LMSW; **Vito Tomanelli**, LMSW



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