2012 BSW GRADUATES
(name & field placement)

LIZ BRICE, BSW
Chicago Coalition for the Homeless

JENNY BRINK, BSW
Chicago Westside Christian School

BRIDGET CAREY, BSW
Children’s Advocacy Center

CHRISTINE CARTER, BSW
The Salvation Army, Crossgenerations

DULCE CIRA, BSW
St. Pius V Church

LAUREN FISHER, BSW
The Baby Fold

LISSETTE LUCERO, BSW
South Suburban Family Services

ALICE OVANDO-LOPEZ, BSW
Carmen Bajo (quito, Ecuador)

ANTHONY NARDUCCI, BSW
Chicago Coalition for the Homeless

JACQUI RISHER, BSW
Lawndale Community Development Association

MELISA RODRIGUEZ, BSW
Carmen Bajo (quito, Ecuador)

GINA SMITH, BSW
PASS Pregnancy Care Center

JEANETTE STALLINGS, BSW
Bethany Christian Services

SCOTT VERMEER, BSW
Restoration Ministries

JILL VISKER, BSW
PASS Pregnancy Care Center

BRENDA ROMO-JAMISON, BSW
Casa Central
GREETINGS!
This past year many conversations in the department and with our community partners have centered on the importance of guiding future leaders. Our graduates are poised to serve as leaders in the social work profession, and we must equip them for this important work.

This annual review will highlight some of the steps we have taken to guide our students and future graduates as leaders. You will read how our students have seized these opportunities to build professional networks and challenge themselves to grow personally and professionally in their service as future leaders.

This work preparing, shaping, and mentoring future leaders for our profession was not done alone and we are thankful for the many partners who have worked with us over the past year. Your commitment to this task is crucial and significant. Thank you for the expertise and dedication you have shared with our program and students. We look forward to additional opportunities to partner together.

Please enjoy reading these stories and highlights from the year. We are excited about this work and the impact it will have on the social work program at Trinity Christian College. Thank you for your continued support of our program.

Mackenzie Huyser ‘98 Ph.D., MSW
Department Chairperson

FUTURE LEADERS

2011-2012 DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK FACULTY AND STAFF

Cini Bretzlaff-Holstein, assistant professor
Mackenzie Huyser, department chairperson
Rose Malinowski, director of field education

Amy Terpstra, adjunct professor
Mikal Rasheed, adjunct professor
Nikki Bruna, adjunct professor


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STUDENTS ATTEND CCDA CONFERENCE
For the fourth year in a row, social work students attended the Christian Community Development Association (CCDA) conference. The 2011 conference was held in Indianapolis and titled “Innovate: Society, Neighborhoods, Education.” Students participated in plenary sessions and attended numerous workshops on economic development, approaches to education reform, family issues, and immigration. For Dulce Cira ’12, this was her first CCDA conference. “As a result of the sheer quantity and diversity of the workshops that are offered at CCDA, I was able to not only gain some further knowledge in my area of interest, but I was able to sit in on workshops that helped me grow as a person. All the while, I got to hear the practical applications and implications of the theories and practices from people with tremendous field experience.”

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY SERVICE DAY
For the past few years, social work students have kicked off the school year by partnering with Habitat for Humanity for a day of service. This past fall semester was no exception. On Saturday, September 3, 2011, 7 social work students assisted with work on a Habitat home in Park Forest, IL painting a few of the rooms and closets, as well as working in the yard weeding and mowing the lawn. The day of work was both an exhausting and enjoyable experience for all. Students were able to impact a family and build a sense of community by working alongside fellow students.

NASW-IL ADVOCACY DAY
Seven students participated in NASW-IL’s 2012 Advocacy Day in Springfield. During the morning, students attended general sessions and break out meetings about topics such as the Illinois economy, health care reform, and strategies for successful lobbying. In the afternoon, the students went to the state capitol building and called out of the House general assembly, Rep. Monique Davis and Rep. LaShawn Ford to talk to them about their bill HB 1239—SCH CD TRANS FAT PROHIBITION. The bill calls for the amendment of Illinois School Code to require each school board to prohibit making food items available to students which contain industrially produced trans fat. As Alicia Tracy ’15 stated, “I realized how simple it was to advocate and to use your voice. NASW Advocacy Day in Springfield will definitely be something I do the next three years, and I cannot wait to make that little difference in the world around me.”
CAPSTONE PRESENTATIONS

On April 27, 2012, the class of 2012 presented their capstone projects to their peers and community partners. Partners included South Suburban Family Services (SSFS) and the Criminal Justice Department at Trinity and Cook County Jail. One student group worked with SSFS in The Sanctuary, a transitional housing program for young mothers who are homeless and have experienced domestic violence. The students conducted interviews with residents to evaluate the program. The second student group working with SSFS conducted research on data collection storage methods to assist in the improvement of the agency’s referral process. The third student group worked with the Criminal Justice Department at Trinity who has a partnership with Cook County Jail Day Reporting Program. The students created a survey for the participants in the program who range in age from 17-22 to assess the educational needs of the participants.

FIELD PLACEMENTS IN QUITO, ECUADOR

Social work students, Melisa Rodriguez '12 and Alice Ovando-Lopez ’12 completed their field placements in Quito, Ecuador at Carmen Bajo through the Semester in Ecuador study abroad program. Rodriguez and Ovando-Lopez lived in community with other students and Ecuadorian families, participated in cultural activities, and were challenged and affirmed in their faith journey. Ovando-Lopez expressed her overall experience with her field placement in this way, “I worked with women at a community center who have dealt with domestic violence, with young girls at a human trafficking agency who were sexually exploited, and with children from indigenous schools through the department of education. I admire their strength and willingness to move forward regardless of the injustices that they face every day. This field placement has taken me to a whole new level as a social worker and as a follower of Christ.”

STUDENT AND FACULTY PARTNERSHIPS

This past academic year has allowed for a number of student opportunities to partner with faculty in professional activities outside of the classroom. Melissa Kwafo ‘11 served with Dr. Rose Malinowski and Nikki Bruna on the planning committee for the Moody Bible Church conference “To Heal the Heart.”

Also with Dr. Rose Malinowski, three social work students, Rachel Grobacik ’13, Keli Ooms ’13, and Hannah Ruckman ‘13 presented at the National Association of Social Work Illinois Statewide Conference “How Do Social Work Ethical Principles Challenge Students' Growth as Leaders?”

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful concerned citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

- Margaret Mead
DEATHIC: SOCIAL WORK WITH THE DYING CLIENT

The Department of Social Work began its CEU workshop series for the 2011-2012 academic year with an ethics focused CEU workshop. On August 5, 2012, Rachel Guimond, LCSW, AM, Assistant Professor of Social Work at Olivet Nazarene University presented a CEU workshop on how death challenges every social worker to examine his/her own values within the context of the NASW’s Code of Ethics, and causes professionals to make difficult decisions. The presentation tackled issues like: managing personal anxiety about death, expressing cultural competence when making end-of-life choices, addressing the role of social work in allocating resources to the dying, carrying out advanced directives, and handling requests for assistance with suicide.

SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE AND SOCIAL NETWORKING

On October 3, 2012, social workers and social work students participated in a workshop that examined and explored social networking and how it affects our professional use of self as social workers. Workshop presenters included Misty Drake, MA, Service Line Director at Access Community Health Network, and Trinity staff members Chris Bohle, M.Ed, and Kyle Wigboldy, M.Ed. The workshop described the history, significance, and long-reaching impact of social networking sites (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, etc.) and explored case studies which will guide supervisors and workers on ways to ethically approach social networking. Attendees spent time in a computer lab learning about different social networking sites and options for choosing privacy settings that best fit their needs and the needs of their agency.

CREATIVE INTERVENTIONS WITH CHILDREN, ADOLESCENTS, AND ADULTS

On March 7, 2012, the Department of Social Work at Trinity Christian College hosted a CEU workshop titled “Creative Interventions with Children, Adolescents, and Adults.” The speaker for this CEU workshop was Executive Director of Bridges to a New Day, Carolyn Khan, LCPC, CDVP. This workshop examined and explored creative individual and group modalities in working with clients across the lifespan. Strategies that were explored in the workshop included play, art, and book therapy. Attendees learned observation and communication approaches that were developmentally appropriate and relevant to client issues. Attendees spent time adapting these strategies to their individual practice setting through the use of case situations and discussions.

WELCOME NEW ADVISORY GROUP MEMBERS!

In November, the department welcomed new members to the advisory group. These members represent social work and social service professionals from the Chicagoland area. Advisory group members serve a two year term (2012-2014) and assist the program in making connections to the practice community.


PROGRAM OUTCOMES

Throughout the year, assessment data on program competencies is collected from students and program partners. During the 2011-2012 academic year the program piloted new measures to assess these competencies. The data below shows two areas which our graduates excelled in with regard to the program competencies and their field performance (mean scores are based on a 5.0 scale).

Engage in diversity and difference in practice.  
(Field Instructors $\mu=4.50$)

“Student created a diversity training for staff and engaged in many discussions with me before or after client contact to learn more about communication with clients from many diverse backgrounds.” – Field Instructor

“In a challenging placement serving the homeless population, this student took risks, engaged in discussions to learn and also to best facilitate interactions with consumers and providers from a wide range of professions and backgrounds.” – Faculty Liaison

Engage, assess, intervene, and evaluate with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities.  
(Field Instructors $\mu=4.64$)

“This student engages well with host families during home visits, especially with the children. Many of these families became comfortable working with her, and she began to see helpful relationships develop.” – Field Instructor

“Student is professional, sharp, bright, strategic, helpful, accommodating, and serves as an excellent advocate to those with real needs.” – Field Instructor

“The student demonstrated many strengths in initiating action to improve the well-being and standard of life for many clients from diverse backgrounds.” – Faculty Liaison

To request a full report of program competencies, please contact Dr. Mackenzi Huyser, department chairperson, at 708.239.4809.

FACULTY AND STAFF ACTIVITIES

PROF. CINI BRETLAFF-HOLSTEIN
Cini Bretzlaff-Holstein taught an interim course on food justice and will be presenting on food citizenship at the annual Christian Community Development Association conference this September with a social work student who took the Interim course. She took 6 students to the annual CCDA conference for the 4th year in a row, as well as 5 students to the “To Heal the Heart Conference” at The Moody Church in Chicago. Bretzlaff-Holstein has also been working with a community garden in the Kankakee area to provide fresh, organic produce to shelters and food pantries serving the under resourced members of the community.

DR. MACKENZI HUYSER
Mackenzi Huyser served as a panel moderator for the NASW-IL Jobs Summit Symposium in February. She also read and wrote on the virtues and practices of generosity and hospitality in social work practice, work that is a continuation of research done with Chicago Semester colleague Dr. Rebecca Burwell. Lastly, she partnered with Kuyper College colleague Dr. Judi Meerman to research the impact of gentrification on a low-income neighborhood in West Michigan.

DR. ROSE MALINOWSKI
Rose Malinowski continues to collaborate with colleagues in the Chicago Metropolitan area sharing strategies to address family violence as a Christian community. These activities have resulted in a community event to be held at The Moody Church, “To Heal the He[Art]”, an art’s based performance focused on mending the broken hearts of those who have experienced family violence through various art media. Dr. Malinowski also continues to examine best practices for field education and presented approaches to building effective partnerships in international social work field education at the The Association of Baccalaureate Social Work Program Directors Conference.
Based on excellent feedback from our increased CEU offerings during the last year, we will continue to offer four workshops per year, each with at least two CEUs per session for a small fee. If your organization is interested in partnering with us, please contact Cini.Bretzlaff-Holstein@trnty.edu for additional information about workshops.

For questions about upcoming events contact Cini Bretzlaff-Holstein at Cini.Bretzlaff-Holstein@trnty.edu or 708-239-4850.