

- **Jean Dutton ('08)** completed her MSW and is currently a social worker at the Project of the Quad Cities and works at an infectious disease clinic in Davenport as a medical case manager with clients who are HIV-positive. In this role she helps patients find stable housing, assists them with medical concerns, and as a certified HIV test counselor, provides partner testing to help HIV-positive partners receive necessary medical care.
- **Colleen Savory ('09)** recently completed her master's degree. She has donated her time and talent to "Sleep out Dubuque," the American Cancer Society, Loras College, the National Meningitis Association and worked with three different organizations to help with rebuilding efforts in New Orleans. She has worked with youth through the "Hidden Talents" program and was a leader/mentor to many middle school students. She was recently recognized as a 2011 Loras College Distinguished Young Alumni. A small group of her classmates, led by Savory, created a memorial award in honor of Audrey Fitzgerald, a Loras student who passed away from meningitis in 2008, to help future Loras students pay for their education.

### Faculty

**Michelle Bechen, L.M.S.W.**, received her bachelor's degree in Social Work from Clarke College and her Master of Social Work from University of Iowa. Bechen has worked extensively with abuse victims of all ages. She has done work in gang prevention in San Francisco as well as work in prevention of HIV/AIDS, LGBT, drug addiction and homelessness.

**Nancy Zachar Fett, L.M.S.W.**, holds a bachelor's degree in Social Work from Loras College. She received her Master of Social Work from Jane Addams School of Social Work at the University of Illinois in Chicago. Fett has experience as a community organizer in Chicago, has worked extensively with social causes in the Dubuque area, and has 17 years of experience as a Social Work faculty member at Loras College.

**Brad Cavanagh, L.I.S.W.**, received his bachelor's degree in Social Work from the University of Iowa and his Master of Social Work from Saint Louis University. Cavanagh joined the faculty of the Social Work program at Loras College in 2010 after ten years of practice experience working with a wide variety of client populations in diverse settings.



# SOCIAL WORK



LORAS COLLEGE™

# SOCIAL WORK

Social work is a profession that seeks to improve the functioning and life satisfaction of people across the life span. They work with individuals and groups but also focus on improving the communities and the larger environments in which people work and function. They improve the lives of people primarily through individual and social advocacy.

The Loras Social Work program emphasizes both classroom learning and experiential learning. In the classroom professors use active learning processes to teach essential theories, principles and skills. Practicum placements then provide opportunities for student to apply those principles and practices. The experiences students have in Practicum also importantly assist students in designing career goals that fit who they are as a person. Practicum sites are available in a wide variety of agencies and organizations such as residential treatment centers for children and adolescents, nursing homes, probation departments, domestic violence and foster care agencies, and others.

The Social Work discipline is recognized by many employers as an exciting, multifaceted discipline which offers a valuable knowledge base and skill level in a wide variety of settings. When Social Work majors complete their undergraduate education, they can be employed as a school counselor, a probation officer, child abuse investigator, domestic violence advocate, hospital worker, elder in-home worker and others.

Social Work majors will tell you they find their education meaningful and rewarding because they are able to make the world a better place for us all.

- The Loras Social Work program is accredited by both academic and Social Work accrediting agencies.
- Majors complete the Social Work major with an excellent foundation in both the principles and practices in the field.
- Majors receive individual assistance in designing their educational experience as well as developing life goals.



- Practicum opportunities include a wide variety of professional settings and provide important networking prospects.
- Students run a highly active Social Work Club which sponsors activities designed to raise awareness about important social issues such as domestic violence and homelessness. They also effectively raise funds and create resources to aid those in need. The Social Work Club at Loras is recognized as one of the most active and successful student organizations on campus.
- Many graduates go on to master's programs in Social Work and related fields.
- A Social Work major can easily be combined with other majors and minors.
- Social Work faculty hold Master's Degrees in Social Work and have experience working in the field.
- Social Work faculty value effective teaching and regularly update and expand their teaching knowledge and practices.
- Social Work faculty belong to and actively participate in professional associations.



## Alumni

- **Jenna Unsen ('07)** is currently working at an agency that provides services and supports for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. She supervises a team of eight case managers in Keller, Texas.
- **Andy Wilkinson ('08)** is a recent graduate of Drake Law School, Des Moines, Iowa.
- **Maureen Ryan ('06)** works as a case manager with hospitalized patients, meeting with patients and families as they are trying to make end-of-life decisions. She also assists with children's bereavement programs.
- **Kelly Mannion ('04)** is a senior prevention specialist with Breaking Free, works with middle- and high school-aged students doing drug prevention. She also volunteers as a hospital advocate with Mutual Ground, a sexual assault and domestic violence shelter in Chicago, Illinois, providing advocacy services to victims of violence.
- **Sean Jarvis ('11)** works with troubled youth at the Nachusa Lutheran Home. He acquired this job after a successful field placement at this location.
- **Ranee Boettner ('02)** is currently employed as a probation/parole officer for the Department of Corrections in Dubuque, Iowa.
- **Tara Nelson Velez ('04)** earned her masters of social work (MSW) and is currently the director of the Multicultural Center in Dubuque, Iowa.
- **Katie Angell ('09)** is currently a volunteer with the Peace Corps in Gambia, Africa.