

NOVEMBER 2023 | SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT

**November****11/23-11/24**

Thanksgiving Break

December**12/05/2023**Last Day for Angel
Tree Donation Drop-
Off**12/09/2023**9:00am-10:00am
BSW Information
Session**12/15/2023**6:00pm-7:00pm
Department
Graduation Celebration**Salvation Army Angel Tree**

The Social Work Department at USF is sponsoring an Angel Tree in support of the Salvation Army of Joliet. We are sponsoring 80 children this Christmas season, our tree is in the entrance of Tower Hall. We are so thankful to everyone who has chosen to participate. All tags have been claimed and we are now waiting on your donations. Please have your gifts purchased and delivered by December 5th.

Delivering the Gifts:

- a. If you shop locally, please deliver the unwrapped gifts to the SW Department, Tower Hall S313, with the Angel's Code on a tag securely attached to the bag.
- b. If you shop online, ship the items to:
 - The Salvation Army | 300 Third Avenue | Joliet, IL 60433-1985 | Phone: 815-726-4834
 - Put the Angel's code in the shipping notes.



A note from the
Department Chair:

Dr. Dan Knapp

Good evening students, alumni and key stakeholders. From the faculty and administration of social work, we would like to acknowledge each of us are thankful for all of you. With a few weeks remaining in the Fall 2023 semester, our students remain steadfast in their learning. It is with great excitement we will soon consider them graduates and fellow alumni! Please consider them in future opportunities, as they are adequately prepared for future observations, internships and employment. As we collectively reflect on the achievements and progress of our academic community, we extend warm (and I hope soon to be snowy!) wishes to all for a joyous Thanksgiving and upcoming holidays. Your ongoing support is integral to the success of our students, and for that we express our sincere appreciation. Thank you to all.

**Faculty
Spotlight:
Dr. Laura
Honegger**



What does your job entail?

During any given week my job consists to a varying degree of teaching, service, and research related tasks. I spend much of my time creating course content, grading, responding to emails, attending meetings for various campus or social work-related endeavors, and feeling overwhelmed by the oodles of research data that I'm behind on analyzing. I also love creating PowerPoint slides and presentations, so whether I'm preparing for a conference presentation or a class, you may find me happily perusing Canva for an image or Google for a quote for a slide.

Who inspired you to pursue the career you have today?

There have been many people in my life who inspired me to pursue social work as well as working in higher education. But my biggest source of support and inspiration is my husband, Kyle. He has never wavered in his belief that I could be successful within a Ph.D. program, and that I could do anything I wanted to afterwards. He came with me to Barnes and Noble to purchase my GRE study guide to prepare for my doctoral applications, ate donuts with me late into the night while we worked side by side on our respective doctoral work, and cheered me on during my dissertation defense when I panicked and resorted to reading most of the contents of my slides. Kyle was also the one who encouraged me to apply to any and all research and academic jobs and willingly moved halfway across the country when I was offered a position at the University of St. Francis.

Which fun accomplishment are you most proud of?

I'm most proud of my two kiddos, Maya (4 years old) and Grey (6 years old). They are my greatest joys! They've shifted what I define as an accomplishment and what I value.

Which professional accomplishment are you most proud of?

I feel like I've barely scratched the surface in terms of professional accomplishments. I have so much more I want to do and be. But I guess I'm most proud of the program evaluations I've conducted for local criminal justice-related organizations. Identifying areas for an agency to grow and change, witnessing the implementation of those changes, and knowing the potential impact on vulnerable populations is empowering and keeps me striving to do more.

What do you want students to know about you?

That I see you. I see you as a person first, and a student second. I value your self-compassion and personal and professional growth more than you earning an A in a course. Also, I love chocolate, pizza, and cheese fries. That also seems important. :-)

Faculty Presentation



Dr. Laura Honegger and Dr. Stacy Dewald presented at the 2023 American Society of Criminology (ASC) Annual Meeting.

Problem-Solving Court Personnel's Perspectives of Incentives, Sanctions, and Therapeutic Adjustments

Problem-solving courts (PSCs) operate according to the premise that participant behavior can be modified through the use of incentives and sanctions. The purpose of this study is to explore how PSC personnel perceive the implementation of sanctions, incentives, and therapeutic adjustments; team dynamics; and program success across PSC programs within one midwestern county. Approximately twenty semi-structured interviews were conducted with PSC personnel, including program coordinators, prosecutors, public defenders, probation officers, case managers, and house managers. Results suggest that most of the PSC personnel perceive a lack of incentives. More specifically, most reported more sanctions than incentives, which contradicts the National Drug Court Professionals guidelines of four incentives to every one sanction. Further, PSC personnel varied in their views regarding the effectiveness of jail sanctions, as well as in their understanding of how sanctions and therapeutic adjustments differ. Additionally, personnel believe their courts are successful, however, the definition of "success" varies depending on the personnel's role in the court (e.g., prosecutor, house manager). Our findings underscore the importance of continually monitoring and assessing use of sanctions, incentives, and therapeutic consequences within PSCs to ensure alignment with research-informed practices.

Strategies for Fostering Collaborative Researcher and Law Enforcement Partnerships

Research with police presents unique challenges such as law enforcement practitioners not being receptive to outsiders or being leery to provide data that could be critical of their organization. This roundtable presentation will center on the strategies used to navigate the development and implementation of program evaluation measures in the context of a university-law enforcement partnership. Fostering a collaborative approach has been aided by the following methods: monthly joint meetings, soliciting feedback for all research instruments, and going through an iterative process for developing a "matching" code to ensure anonymity for pre- and post-test responses. Further, we will also discuss the agreed upon parameters for reviewing body camera footage as part of the evaluation of a grant-funded Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training project.

Social Work Club October Events

SELF-CARE WITH MOLLY



Date: October 12th
Time: 9:15 am-9:30 am
Location: Near SW Dept. (3rd floor, Tower)

DESTRESS FROM MIDTERMS WITH THE SOCIAL WORK CLUB
Substantial Reward: Cuddles



All students were invited for some self-care with Molly the dog to help students destress and relax after their midterms. Molly was the sweetest and gave all the much needed cuddles to students.

PUMPKIN CARVING party



The Social Work Club also hosted a fun Halloween event on October 26th at Turk Theatre. Students were invited to carve and paint pumpkins while watching the movie *Coraline* and enjoying pizza, cookies, and snacks.