

# FAMILY SCIENCE & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

JANUARY 2021

## Advances in Our Social Justice Initiative

As another semester comes to a close and we prepare for what likely will be a challenging winter break, we are hopeful for the possibilities of 2021. Our social justice efforts in Fall 2020 focused mostly on developing sustainable ideas and processes to support our initiatives moving forward.

However, they also involved several specific actions aimed at being transparent and accountable, and that we committed to in our social justice statement. Many of these were detailed in an earlier newsletter as well, and are ongoing. We now are in a good place to act more widely and deliberately in the semester and years ahead.

### Advisory Board Formation

Importantly, we have identified and invited potential Advisory Board members and plan to have the inaugural meeting at the beginning of

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*"The Advisory Board will be made up of...  
undergraduate and doctoral students,  
alumni and community members."*

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the Spring 2021 semester. As a reminder, the Advisory Board will be made up of various stakeholders including undergraduate and doctoral students, alumni, and community members. This Board will provide direction and input on the department's social justice strategic plan,

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## DATES TO REMEMBER

### January 15

Last Day of  
Winter Classes

### January 19

Spring Semester  
[Payment](#) Due

### January 25

Deadline to confirm  
Internship Site for  
FSHD 409

### January 29

Deadline to [Apply](#) for  
May 2021 Graduation

## Department Chair's Message



Dr. Lyndal Khaw

Happy new year! I hope this newsletter finds you in good spirits and good health as you continue to enjoy your winter breaks. For so many of us, 2021 could not have come soon enough. The 2020 fatigue was real! But with every new year comes a sense of a new beginning.

Every time a new year rolls around, I think of New Year's resolutions. And while we all have our own targeted checklists of accomplishments, I am keeping my 2021 resolution pretty simple: to do my **personal best** in keeping myself, my loved ones, and

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## Alumni Spotlight

Sara Iorillo

Sara graduated in May 2018 with a BA in Family and Child Studies, concentration in Family Services, as well as a minor in Psychology, and a certificate in Child Advocacy.



**Her Story:** Sara looks back on her time at Montclair State University and regrets nothing. In her freshman year, she had full intentions of going through this program to eventually apply to the Teacher Education Program. After some reevaluation, she realized this was not her path. However, she

knew she still wanted to work with kids, be in a school, and make a difference each day. With the help of Mr. Cottle, Dr. Khaw, and other amazing professors in this program, she discovered that School Counseling was her true passion.

**Where is She Now?** Immediately upon graduation, Sara continued her education at MSU's Graduate School in Counseling, School Counseling. She had the privilege of working in CEHS Career Services as a Graduate Assistant, furthering her skills and connections with students and staff. In December 2020, she graduated from the Master's Program and left Montclair after 6.5 years!

**Her Thoughts:** "The Family Science and Human Development program led me to my true calling. The coursework, faculty, and staff that I connected with during my four years as an undergraduate student prepared me not only for graduate school but for life. This program showed me the range of possibilities I can take with my degree, and made me feel comfortable in choosing a profession that is right for me. I will truly be forever grateful for the impact this program had on myself not only as a professional, but as a person." ■

## Social Justice Initiative *continued from page 1*



programming, community impact, and other social justice initiatives. It also ensures a strong voice for all stakeholders.

### Seeking Your Input

We have continued to brainstorm additional potential social justice initiatives through seeking input from some stakeholders. In the Spring semester we plan to hold open Town Hall events to gain additional input and ideas from all stakeholders, particularly current students. We believe the Spring will be quite active and we are excited to hear your thoughts and ideas such that we can all engage this work as a community.

As a reminder, we have created a virtual feedback form to ensure everyone has an anonymous way to provide feedback and/or make suggestions related to the department's social justice work. It can be found [here](#) or you can use this link:

[https://montclair.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_3JHboG6J8W0DO4J](https://montclair.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3JHboG6J8W0DO4J)

Please take care of yourselves and your loved ones as much as possible over the winter break. Be empathetic. Be compassionate. Be kind. Be you! ■

***"At a distance you only see my light -  
come closer and you'll see,  
you are made of the same light."***

***~ Abhijit Naskar***



## Faculty Spotlight

**Dr. Bradley van Eeden-Moorefield**  
Faculty member since 2012

**What He Teaches:** Brad most frequently teaches Intro to Family Science & Human Development. During his career at MSU, he has taught a variety of undergraduate level classes including Research Methods, Working with Diverse Families, and Queer Identities and Families. At the PhD level, he has taught all of the methods courses and special topics courses on partnering, cohabiting, and marriage as well as remarriage and stepfamilies, and other courses too!



**Fun Fact:** He loves to cook and experiment in the kitchen, and enjoys growing his own food in the garden in the summer.

**Words of Wisdom:** “Remember to color outside of the lines from time to time.”

**Main Research Areas:** Brad’s research is applied and focuses on bridging research and practice, meaning that he wants his findings to be easily usable in the real world. His work seeks to understand how experiences of discrimination and microaggressions influence the stability, health, and well-being of minoritized families, as well as how families buffer themselves from those negative experiences. Most of his research is with LGBTQ+ families and stepfamilies.

**Publications:** Currently, Brad is finishing two books! He will then begin writing curriculum updates and revisions to “Smart Steps,” the national program that helps stepfamilies adjust to the early years of becoming a family. He is also co-guest editing a special issue for *Journal of Family Theory & Review* on Anti-Racism and Social Justice in Families. ■

## Furthering your education? These Webinars are Chock-full of Information

### FSHD Doctoral Program

Monday, January 4

1:00—2:00 pm

The [Application Information Webinar](#) explains the application process in detail and offers suggestions on how to write personal statements, prepare writing samples, and select recommenders.

### MA in Educational Leadership: Fast Track

Saturday, February 13

10:00 am—12:00 pm

This informative [webinar](#) explains how the practice-driven program enables you to earn the full master’s degree with principal and supervisor certifications in 14 months while working full-time.

## Department Chair’s Message *continued from page 1*

my community physically, socially, and emotionally healthy. Admittedly, I first learned the term “personal best” from my children’s first grade teacher, but then again, maybe there’s no better time to go back to basics! Striving for your personal best - whatever that looks like - to get through these coming days and months safely and successfully, may be a more achievable and manageable goal.

And if it’s hard to even think of a New Year’s resolution, know too, that many good things are finally working in our favor, including science-based preventions to combat the spread of COVID-19, advocacies and allyships are growing worldwide to fight against systemic oppressions based on race, gender, and sexual identities, healthcare workers and teachers are front and center in the national conversation (we always knew how important they are, but now *everybody* knows!) and we have the promise of the most diverse government in U.S. history being sworn in. There are good things ringing in the new year with us, and with them, comes an encouraging renewal of hope for even more good things to come.

We’ll see you for Spring classes in February (a first for us). In the meantime, have a Happy January, and let your personal best shine!

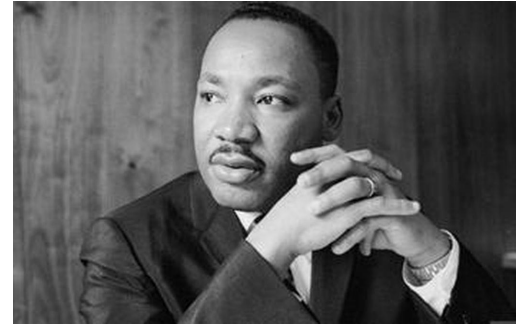
Warmest regards,  
Dr. Khaw

## Remembering Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

January 15, 1929—April 4, 1968

We all know Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was a staunch civil rights activist and a charismatic orator. Here are some interesting, lesser-known facts about the courageous advocate who helped change the world.

- He entered Morehouse College at age 15 and graduated with a Sociology degree. He went on to earn a divinity degree and then his PhD in systematic theology.
- He went to jail 29 times, mostly for acts of civil disobedience.
- At age 35, he received the 1964 Nobel Peace Prize.
- He barely survived an assassination attempt by a woman who stabbed him with a letter opener during a book signing in 1958.
- His mother was targeted and murdered in 1974 as she played the organ during a church service.
- His birth name was Michael Luther King, Jr. His father, Michael Sr., changed both of their names after being inspired by Martin Luther who launched the Protestant Reformation in the 16th century.
- He has 4 children.
- The Martin Luther King Jr. National Memorial opened in Washington, DC in 2011 with a 30-foot tall granite sculpture of the civil rights leader. It's the only memorial on the National Mall not dedicated to a president or a war. ■



## January is Human Trafficking Prevention Month

Today nearly 21 million people are victims of forced labor and commercial sexual exploitation around the world, including hundreds of thousands here in the United States, where it was not illegal until 2000 when the Trafficking Victims Protection Act was passed.

As consciousness of “modern slavery” expanded, January was declared National Slavery and Human Trafficking Month. The US Department of Homeland Security launched its [Blue Campaign](#) to increase awareness of human trafficking, and teach the public how to recognize and report suspected instances.

#WearBlueDay

The campaign's largest annual initiative is Wear Blue Day on January 11, the National Day of Human Trafficking Awareness, when the public is encouraged to wear blue clothing, take photos and post them to social media with the #WearBlueDay hashtag.

The campaign also offers training to law enforcement and others to increase detection, protect victims, and bring traffickers to justice. ■

**WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?**

**HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS...**

- Exploiting a person through force, fraud, or coercion
- Sex trafficking, forced labor, and domestic servitude
- Anyone under the age of 18 involved in a commercial sex act
- A highly profitable crime
- Exploitation-based and does not require movement across borders or any type of transportation

**THERE ARE DIFFERENT TYPES OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

**SEX TRAFFICKING**  
Victims are manipulated or forced against their will to engage in sex acts for money.

**FORCED LABOR**  
Victims are made to work for little or no pay. Very often, they are forced to manufacture or grow products that we use and consume every day.

**DOMESTIC SERVITUDE**  
Victims are hidden in plain sight, forced to work in homes across the United States as nannies, maids, or domestic help.

**HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS HAPPENING IN THE UNITED STATES**

SUBURBS RURAL TOWNS CITIES

**IT CAN HAPPEN TO ANYONE**  
NO MATTER AGE, RACE, GENDER IDENTITY, SEX, ETHNICITY, NATIONALITY, IMMIGRATION STATUS, AND SOCIOECONOMIC CLASS

**RECOGNIZE AND REPORT HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

- To report suspected trafficking to federal law enforcement, call 1-866-347-2423 or submit a tip online at [www.icje.gov/tip](#)
- Get help from the National Human Trafficking Hotline by calling 1-888-273-7889 or text HELP or INFO to 233733 (BEFREE)
- Call 911 or local law enforcement if someone is in immediate danger.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO**

- Visit the Blue Campaign website to learn more about the indicators of human trafficking: [DHS.gov/BlueCampaign](#)
- Use Blue Campaign materials to raise awareness of human trafficking in your community
- Follow @DHSBlueCampaign on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter

**BLUE CAMPAIGN**  
Don't Just Stop Slavery. End Trafficking.