

FAMILY SCIENCE & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

FEBRUARY 2021

DATES TO REMEMBER

February 8

Spring Semester Begins

February 15

Last Day to Add/Drop

February 15

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

February 22

FSHD Scholarship/Award Application Deadline

March 1

Deadline to [Register](#) for Summer Internships

FSHD Department Offers Scholarships

The FSHD Department proudly announces four tuition-based scholarships available to undergraduate FSHD students in any concentration, and one doctoral scholarship. Recipients must have at least one semester remaining at MSU. Awards will be applied to Summer or Fall 2021 tuition, and recipients will be recognized during the CEHS Awards Ceremony on Thursday, April 29, 2021.

Deadline for applications is Monday, February 22, 2021. Download the undergrad application [here](#) and the doctoral application [here](#).

Katharine B. Hall Scholarship

This \$2,000 scholarship recognizes the professional and academic accomplishments of a full-time undergraduate prospective senior student with a minimum 3.5 GPA. Preference is given to students who are active participants in FSHD department activities or members of a professional organization affiliated with their course of study.

Lois J. Guthrie Scholarship

This \$500 scholarship will be awarded to a full-time undergraduate junior with a minimum 3.0 GPA. Preference is given to students who provide evidence of involvement in community service with families and/or children.

Doris Ruslink Scholarship

This \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded to a full-time or part-time undergraduate student with a minimum 3.0 GPA. Preference is given to students who provide evidence of financial need.

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Department Chair's Message

Welcome back to the Spring 2021 semester. Indeed, we are finding ourselves in yet another unusual semester of mostly online or hybrid classes. While you'd think we would get used to pandemic life by now, we all know that these are hard times. This pandemic to date has claimed over 400,000 American lives, and has



Dr. Lyndal Khaw

far-reaching impacts that no doubt have hit home for us here in FSHD.

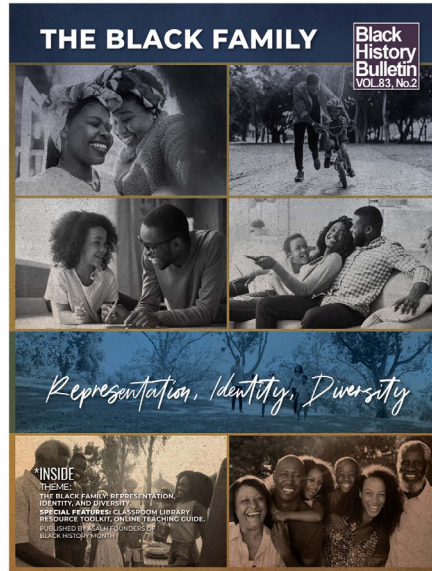
The faculty, staff, and fellow students of FSHD acknowledge the heartfelt loss of loved ones that members of our community may have experienced over the year and the fears felt for the well-being of yourself, your friends, and family who may have contracted the virus. We continue to see and

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Celebrating Black History Month

2021 BLACK HISTORY THEME: **THE BLACK FAMILY:** **Representation, Identity, and Diversity**

The black family has been a topic of study in many disciplines—history, literature, the visual arts and film studies, sociology, anthropology, and social policy. Its representation, identity, and diversity have been revered, stereotyped, and vilified from the days of slavery to our own time. The black family knows no single location, since family reunions and genetic-ancestry searches testify to the spread of family members across states, nations, and continents. Not only are individual black families diasporic, but Africa and the diaspora itself have been long portrayed as the black family at large. While the role of the black family has been described by some as a microcosm of the entire race, its complexity as the “foundation” of African American life and history can be seen in numerous debates over how to represent its meaning and typicality from a historical perspective—as slave or free, as patriarchal or matriarchal/matrifocal, as single-headed or dual-headed household, as extended or nuclear, as fictive kin or blood lineage, as legal or common law, and as black or interracial, etc. Variation appears, as well, in discussions on the nature and impact of parenting, childhood, marriage, gender norms, sexuality, and incarceration. The family offers a rich tapestry of images for exploring the African American past and present.



ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF AFRICAN AMERICAN LIFE AND HISTORY
THE FOUNDERS OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH
WWW.ASALH.ORG | 202-238-5910 | #ASALH

Learn & Play: Black Heritage Bingo

Join Campus Rec on Wednesday, February 24 from 7-9pm for a virtual, educational Bingo event celebrating Black History Month! Multiple rounds of Bingo will be played, with a prize for each round.



Bingo is free to MSU students with a valid ID. Extra raffle tickets can be purchased during the event to increase your chances of winning (1 ticket for \$1, 10 tickets for \$5 through Venmo or Cash App). [Register here](#) using Engage. ■

Ode to Black Womxn

by Jasmine Rae Williams

the harshness comes before the soft;

Black skin, clear heart...

stomped on: broken glass
somehow the future mimics the past

to pave the way to better days
we start with chipping away
the "strong persona"
which survival is mislabeled as



"Strong Black Girl"

"Impenetrable Black Girl"

"Punching Bag Girl"

"Weight of the World
Goes on the Girl"

Soft Black Girl
Vulnerable and Resilient
from Birth Kind of Girl
Join Us into our World
for this is to be Shared.



Student Spotlight

We Asked FSHD Students...“What Does Black History Month Mean to You?”

To me, Black History Month is a celebration of my people. It's an opportunity, not only to learn about the hardships and accomplishments our people have gone through, but also to celebrate what we were able to accomplish. I use Black History Month as a reminder that slavery is not the beginning of our history.

- Soleil Townes '22

Black History Month is celebrating those who came before us and paved the way for us as well as embracing the current individuals helping to fight for equal rights in all facets of life today. As the great niece of a Tuskegee Airman, Lt. Robert Ashby, our family stressed the importance of knowing our history and where we came from.

- Tyisha N. Fortune '21

Black History Month is a time to commemorate the bravery and innovation of those before us. It's a time to remind everyone about the true stories of our martyrs, not the palatable, whitewashed history told in our textbooks. It's a time to organize and rejuvenate the movements striving towards true equality, as the work has only just begun. Although many of the images we see are in black and white, these historical milestones are only a few generations back. Black History Month is a time for community, inspiration, creation, mourning, and mobilization.

- Jasmine Rae Williams '21

Black History Month has always been very special to me. As a child, I took joy in learning about all the great things my people had done, and as an adult I still find joy in seeing Black people continue to prevail despite the obstacles we face. To me, this month is about acknowledging all of the individuals that strived to break so many barriers for generations to come. This time is also about honoring all of our fallen brothers and sisters that were killed while fighting the systems of oppression.

- Debreë Rucker '21

“I use Black History Month as a reminder that slavery is not the beginning of our history.”

- Soleil Townes '22

“Does your family have any Black History Month traditions or celebrations?”

My husband and I started a monthly tradition of showing our two young daughters images of those who paved the way for them. We do this so they can understand that some children and people of color were not afforded certain privileges that they, as young girls, have today. Each year we also plan a family trip to a black historical site. In 2019, we visited Selma and Montgomery, Alabama. We went to church on Easter Sunday at Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church where Dr. Martin Luther King was a Pastor and my daughters' great uncle is currently a minister.

We also went to the house where MLK was born, and to his family church, Ebenezer Baptist Church. During Black History Month in 2020, we went to the National Museum of African American History in Washington, DC.

- Tyisha N. Fortune '21

Although my family doesn't have special traditions for this month, I try to share what I learn with them every day. When I start my own family, I look forward to starting my own traditions and teaching my kids they come from

royalty. While celebrating the victories of Black people during this month (and everyday) is imperative, we must not forget that the fight continues. Our ancestors started the job, and it's up to us to finish it.

- Debreë Rucker '21

Starting this year, I'd like to include a Black History Month collection for my small business. All sales I receive from the collection will be donated to black people in need. Giving back to my people is something I'd like to do for the rest of my life.

- Soleil Townes '22



The National Council on Family Relations (NCFR) shared this photo of a special guest who “dropped in” on a conference in Fort Worth, Texas, attended by FSHD faculty and doctoral students.

Department Chair’s Message

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acknowledge the devastating and disproportionate impact of the virus in communities of color, women, and individuals in minoritized groups.

My Chair’s message starts on a somber note because these *are* somber times. The past ten months have felt much like a sacrifice to many of us – a sacrifice of time, money, human connections, happiness, autonomy and experiences. And as members of the Family Science and Human Development field, we see these impacts firsthand on the children, individuals, and community members that we serve.

There is plenty of heartache and worry to go around – just read, listen to, or watch the news. But as you pay attention, don’t forget to recognize too the voices of strength and resilience. Take notice and appreciate the many creative solutions that show the determination of so many out there who make do, and even thrive, in spite of a challenging environment.

True to our FSHD mission, take notice with a critical eye on social justice – not everyone is treated the same, not everyone receives or perceives the same opportunities, and not everyone thrives in the same way. As FSHD students and as future family professionals, your awareness of social inequities and YOUR creative solutions to pro-

mote resilience matter – and will be so needed to help address the lingering physical, mental, emotional, and social costs of the pandemic and beyond.

Like many of you, I watched the presidential inauguration on TV on January 20, 2021. It was a historic moment, as we witnessed Kamala Harris, the first Black and South Asian woman get sworn in as Vice President of the United States. As a mom of three kids, this was a poignant moment for me and for my daughter – girls can do and be anything, even hold a position in the highest office in the land. Perhaps more important is what this moment signifies for Black women and girls – a future realized where gender and racial equality become a thing that we just *do*, and not merely something we continue to wish for.

Another historic highlight that has been on my mind about the inauguration was

Amanda Gorman, a National Youth Poet Laureate, reciting her poem, [“The Hill We Climb.”](#) If you haven’t seen it, it’s definitely



worth taking notice. I quote these lines

from her poem that have left me awed and inspired:

*“When day comes we step out of the shade,
aflame and unafraid,
the new dawn blooms as we free it.
For there is always light,
if only we’re brave enough to see it.
If only we’re brave enough to be it.”*

- Amanda Gorman

With this positive spirit in mind, I wish all of you light and luck as you start your Spring semesters. Let’s get this done! ■

February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

With the celebration of Valentine's Day, February is often called the "month of love," but dating violence is not about love. It is entirely an expression of power and control.

Also called adolescent relationship abuse or intimate partner violence, dating violence can involve harassment, stalking, physical/sexual violence, or verbal/psychological abuse.

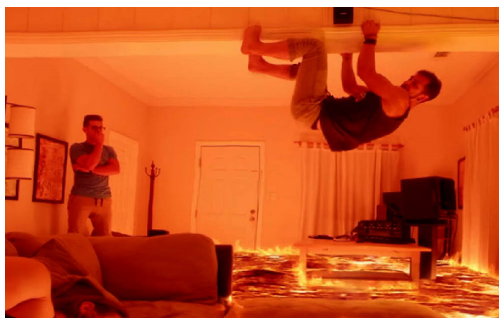
National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline
866-331-9474

If you or someone you know is a victim of dating violence, call the dating abuse hotline today for free, confidential help. And visit the Centers for Disease Control website for information on [Preventing Teen Dating Violence](#). ■

"Floor is Lava" Challenge

If you're looking for a fun February activity, enter the "Floor is Lava" Challenge sponsored by Campus Recreation. Based on the game show, participants must maneuver through a room-sized obstacle course without touching the imaginary "lava" floor!

In this MSU version, you must design your own creative, formidable "Floor is Lava" room. Then record yourself completing the challenge and submit your video online using the [Google form](#).



The challenge is free and open to all MSU students with a valid ID. Video submissions will be accepted from February 8-19, and then voting will begin to name MSU's favorite "Floor is Lava" course! ■

Considering Grad School? Attend These Informative Webinars

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.

Getting into Graduate School
Tuesday, February 16
1:00—1:45 pm

The [Graduate School Webinar](#) provides an overview of graduate school, the admissions process, and how to make your application stand out. ■

Resume Writing Webinar

Wednesday, February 24, 2021
11:00-11:45 am

Writing an effective resume requires an understanding of both format and content, as well as the needs of an employer. Learn how to make your resume stand out at this webinar is presented by the Center for Career Services. Free to all students and alumni. Register online [here](#). ■

Scholarships *continued from page 1*

Family Science and Human Development Award

This \$250 award will be presented to a full-time or part-time junior or senior with a minimum 3.3 GPA. Preference is given to students who have demonstrated significant contributions in the area of community service with families and/or children.

Ruslink Doctoral Scholarship in FSHD

This \$500 scholarship will be awarded to a full-time or part-time student in the FSHD Doctoral program with a minimum 3.5 GPA. Preference is given to a student who has demonstrated great potential for contributing to the field through practice, research, and/or policy, and who demonstrates financial need. ■