

# FAMILY SCIENCE & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

MARCH 2023

## Women’s History Month Celebrates Storytellers

Women’s History Month in March is “Celebrating Women Who Tell Our Stories.” The 2023 theme gives a nod to women who play a critical role in sharing our experiences – from Native American grandmothers who passed down cultural folklore, to poetic singer/songwriters, to pioneering journalists reporting on pressing national issues.

The National Women’s History Alliance, which spearheads the annual tribute, says, “The timely theme honors women in every community who have devoted their lives and talents to producing art, pursuing truth, and reflecting the human condition decade after decade.” NWA focuses on recognizing women “who have been active in all forms of media and storytelling including print, radio, TV, stage, screen, blogs, podcasts, and more.” FSHD is proud to feature a few groundbreakers below.

During Women’s History Month, we also celebrate International Women’s Day. See the related article on page 2. ■



**Diahann Carroll**

Actress who played a nurse in *Julia*, the first TV sitcom with a Black protagonist who was not a domestic servant.



**Jane Pauley**

Journalist who became the first woman to anchor an evening network news program.



**Rachel Carson**

Marine biologist and writer whose influential book, *Silent Spring*, helped to advance environmental conservation.

## Department Chair’s Corner

It’s already March, and you know what that means...the semester is halfway over. Some of you (students and professors alike) are **so** ready for a break right about now, and with spring break upon us, I hope you do get a chance to catch up on some R&R and have fun. You’ve earned it! No matter where you go or what you end up doing this spring break, stay safe and healthy.



**Dr. Lyndal Khaw**

March is also when we observe Women’s History Month in the U.S. to celebrate the exceptional and everyday accomplishments and contributions of women. And there are so many; I encourage you to take a moment to dive into some light reading (or maybe watch a YouTube video!) to learn about these amazing **heroes** and their important accomplishments that have collectively made our society infinitely better. As you read about their fascinating stories, remember that these women’s efforts were not without obstacles. There is a theme here: challenges

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## DATES TO REMEMBER

**March 1**

Deadline to Register for Summer Internships

**March 6-12**

Spring Break

**March 12**

Daylight Savings Time Begins—  
Turn clocks ahead 1 hour

**March 30**

Registration Begins for Fall 2023

## Department Chair's Corner

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usually stemmed from how society perceives gender roles and dictates what women can/should or cannot/should not do, especially in traditionally "male" spaces. Experiences of sexism, gender bias, sex discrimination, anti-women policies, and gender wage gaps, to name a few, are commonplace in women's stories. Nevertheless they persevered.

While we have made strides in gender equality in all realms of society, unfortunately these issues *still* exist today. For example, women still earn 82 cents to every \$1 a man makes in comparable jobs (Center for American Progress) and about 1 in 4 women are still targets of intimate partner violence (U.S. Department of Justice). These challenges are often amplified for women of color, queer or trans women, and mothers. And just last year in 2022, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*, which limits choices, access, and rights for girls and women in America to make decisions about their own bodies.

No doubt we still have a long way to go and sometimes it feels like we are sliding backwards in time. As a feminist and as leader of this department, I am committed to the efforts we must continue to do as a department community to challenge the status quo and advocate for gender equality. I am proud to report that many of our FSHD students and alumni find careers that combat gender inequalities and advance girls' and women's rights. Needless to say, I am always in awe and inspired by what our students can do and the positive impact they have in the families and communities they serve.

Have a dynamic month ahead! ■

## Social Justice Initiatives

### International Women's Day - March 8, 2023

#### #EmbraceEquity

The Department of Family Science and Human Development proudly celebrates International Women's Day, honoring the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women around the globe. With the theme of *Embrace Equity*, the day represents a call to action for accelerating women's equality, and the creation of a gender equal world free of discrimination, bias or stereotypes.

A variety of missions can help forge a gender equal world:

- Build workplaces where women thrive
- Empower women's choices in health
- Improve equality for women in tech
- Celebrate women forging change
- Applaud equality for women in sports
- Forge women's empowerment worldwide

**Equality** and **equity** are often used interchangeably, however, it is important to distinguish between the two.

- **Equality** means each individual or group of people is given the same resources or opportunities.
- **Equity** recognizes that each person has different circumstances, and allocates the exact resources and opportunities needed to reach an equal outcome.

This image created by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation provides a clear visualization of the difference:



According to the [website](#) for International Women's Day, collective action for driving gender parity is what makes March 8 an impactful day. World renowned feminist Gloria Steinem once stated, "The story of women's struggle for equality belongs to no single feminist nor to any one organization but to the collective efforts of all who care about human rights."

Take action on International Women's Day and do whatever you can to make a positive difference for women. ■

## Alumni Spotlight

### Emily Aguirre

Emily Aguirre graduated from the Family Science and Human Development program in 2022 with a concentration in Family Services.



**Her Story:** I always knew from an early age that I wanted to help others. At first, I wanted to be a nurse; I even got my certification as an EMT. Then I changed my mind and wanted to become a vet. This indecisiveness went on for a few years, until I had the opportunity to discover the FSHD major.

I am so grateful for learning about the diversity of families, how we as humans develop, and all the other knowledge I gained while completing this major, as it prepared me for the role that I play in the lives of the community members I serve today.

**Her Path:** I am currently a support supervisor/area director at Community Supports Network. I work directly with adults with developmental disabilities, helping them gain the knowledge, confidence and skills to accomplish their own personal goals and foster independent living.

My goal is to shed light on the work that we do to help others, and to bring an even greater understanding for a community of individuals who are filled with so much hope, determination and eagerness to learn new skills in order to be a helping hand in their own communities.

**Her Thoughts:** “As children we are naturally curious but this tends to go away as adults, as we develop self-doubt and fears. Try your very hardest to stay curious and keep learning; education is not only in a class, but it happens everywhere in the world around you. Take advantage of opportunities to learn new things and explore your interests. Don't be afraid to make mistakes, as they are great opportunities for growth and improvement. Finally, remember that success is a journey not a destination; enjoy the ride and have safe fun!” ■

## FSHD Welcomes New PhD Program Associate

The Department of Family Science and Human Development is excited to welcome **Vian Sabat** to our family as the new program associate for the PhD program.

In this role, Vian will work alongside Doctoral Program Director Dr. Ashley Ermer to assist with the student application process and act as liaison for faculty, students and mentors. She will coordinate dissertation proposals and defenses, and will assist with the hiring and facilitation of graduate assistantships and fellowships.



An MSU alumna, Vian received her BA in History and Political Science, and her MA in Law and Governance. Before joining our staff, she worked at Rutgers-Newark as a general advisor in the Office of Academic Services. ■

## March is National Social Work Month

FSHD joins the National Association of Social Workers in celebrating National Social Work Month in March. The 2023 theme, “Social Work Breaks Barriers,” highlights how social workers enrich society by empowering people and communities to overcome hurdles that prevent them from living life to the fullest.

This annual campaign educates the public and policymakers about the

**SOCIAL WORK  
BREAKS BARRIERS**

ways social workers break barriers with the services they provide in an array of sectors, including hospitals, mental health centers, schools, social service agencies, community centers, and politics.

Many FSHD majors earn a [minor in social work](#) or a [master's in social work](#) to pursue careers in this growing field. Nearly 720,000 professionals are employed in the United States and that number is expected to rise to 800,000 by 2030. Each day, social workers break barriers in a plethora of innovative ways that help millions of Americans live their best lives. They also work in politics and in communities to improve living conditions for all. Social Work Month is the perfect time to educate ourselves about the profession and acknowledge the social workers in our lives.

To learn more about social work, visit the National Association of Social Workers at [socialwork.org](https://socialwork.org). ■

## Build Your Skills with Career Workshops

Prepare for your job search with these free [career workshops](#) held in person at the CEHS Student Success Center in University Hall 3102. Registration is not required.

### Professionalism

**Tuesday, March 14, 11:00 am—12:00 pm**

Learn how to look and act like a professional, with proper wardrobe, skilled writing, and an appropriate social media presence.

### Resume Writing

**Thursday, March 16, 2:00—3:00 pm**

Your resume is a potential employer's first impression of you. Make it stand out! Learn how to format and tailor it to fit each position for which you are applying.

### Interviewing Skills

**Wednesday, March 22, 1:00—2:00 pm**

This workshop explains how to prepare for an interview and how to respond to commonly asked questions.

Questions? Email [CEHScareer@montclair.edu](mailto:CEHScareer@montclair.edu). ■

## Spring 2023 Career and Internship Fair

If you are looking to launch your career and/or gain valuable experience through a full-time job or internship, don't miss the upcoming Career and Internship Fair hosted by MSU Career Services.

**Wednesday, March 15**

**1:30-4:00 pm**

**University Hall 7th floor**

You will have the opportunity to network with 60+ employers who are ready to hire. Bring plenty of copies of your resume and your MSU student ID.

Registration is required through Handshake. Click [here](#). ■

## Career Corner

With a degree in Family Science and Human Development, you can pursue a career as an...

### Adoption Caseworker

In general, adoption caseworkers help to match children with their adoptive families, and they might specialize in domestic placements or international adoptions for children from specific countries. They often find employment opportunities in settings such as adoption law centers and adoption agencies.

Responsibilities of an adoption caseworker could be to:

- Serve as primary contact for pre-adoptive parents.
- Assist in securing birth certificates and other essential documentation.
- Conduct or coordinate adoption home studies.
- Prepare adoption summaries, clearance forms, fingerprinting reports and medical reports for children and foster parents.
- Work collaboratively with courts and/or adoption attorneys.
- Establish a network of services for adoptive parents.
- Maintain adoption case records.

To pursue a career as an adoption caseworker, individuals generally need a master's degree in social work, as well as solid communication skills and experience with child welfare. ■



**Career and Professional Development Badge**

Career Services is Launching a New Suitable Badge!

These activities are designed to help students develop the skills and tools needed to succeed when entering the professional world.

**Complete 4 of the achievements below and you'll have the opportunity to join us for a year-end celebration!**

- **Achievement 1:** Attend 1 MSU Career Fair or Event
- **Achievement 2:** Complete Your Resume for Review in Handshake & Include a Screenshot of Your Submission in Handshake
- **Achievement 3:** Complete the Focus-2 Online Self-Assessment (Career Services Assessment)
- **Achievement 4:** Select 1 of 11 Career & Professional Development Electives

**To Access Suitable:**

Download the Suitable App from the Google Play Store or Apple Store.

Log in with your NetID@[mail.montclair.edu](mailto:mail.montclair.edu) and password

Questions? Reach out to: [CEHScareer@montclair.edu](mailto:CEHScareer@montclair.edu)

## Congratulations and Best Wishes to our FSHD Graduates

January 2023



Aguilar, Alexis E.	Maiello, Meghan K.
Aigotti, Kristen A.	Marin, Gineth M.
Almiron Castillo, Giannella M.	Maure Maurisset, Stephanie
Alston, Almetra	McLaughlin, Brianna R.
Arney, Rita	Mendoza, Andrea G.
Ben-Romdhane, Sarra	Miller, Melanie M.
Blackburn, Sara K.	Monsalve, Maria C.
Bunce, Despoina A.	Mora, Yeralis
Bussard, Emily L.	Morrison, Carley E.
Calleo, Gina R.	Munoz, Ashley M.
Castillo, Yonairis L.	Nieves, Isabella R.
Catizone, Mariela A.	Onuigwe, Ogochukwu C.
Compres, Jeanette	Paredinha, Hillary
Conte, Giovanna G.	Perez, Claribel
Council, Niara K.	Proietto, Christina
Delasalas, Kiel	Rivera, Alicia M.
Diez, Lexie M.	Rodriguez, Suheily
Feledy, Caralyn M.	Rossino, Victoria C.
Flaz, Angelli	Rotonda, Victoria J.
Fuentes, Victoria G.	Rubiano, Kiara M.
Gigerian, Summer N.	Sanchez, Samantha
Kalynovych, Jenna L.	Santos, Amanda F.
Lambert, Gabrielle M.	Torres, Nathally
Lewis, Ashley M.	Vazquez, Paola S.
Lightbody, Sarah J.	Yousef, Liliyan M.
Lliguicota, Giselle	Zambrano, Rebecca M.
Lukovic, Edita	

## Join Our Student Group

The Montclair Student Council on Family Relations (MSCFR) is the university's student affiliate group of the National Council on Family Relations. One of only 26 student affiliates in the nation, MSCFR enables students to connect their academic experience to the real world, and to strengthen communities through education, awareness, and civic engagement.

MSCFR will host a new member information session on Friday, March 3 at 1:00 via Zoom. Use the QR code below or contact Israa Assaf at [assafi1@montclair.edu](mailto:assafi1@montclair.edu).



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Lisa Mills, Newsletter Editor

