

FAMILY SCIENCE & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

JUNE 2023



Project C.O.P.E. Supports HIV Prevention

Communities Organizing for Prevention and Empowerment, better known as [Project C.O.P.E.](#), is a grant-funded program led by FSHD professors Dr. Robert Reid and Dr. Pauline Garcia-Reid, that strives to prevent substance misuse and the spread of HIV among African American and Latino youth in Paterson, NJ.

With funding from Project C.O.P.E.'s \$1 million federal grant, Montclair State University recently hosted an intensive, three-day intervention training for community agencies to meet the behavioral health needs of people living with, or at risk for contracting, HIV/AIDS. The program featured trainers from the Center for AIDS Prevention Studies (CAPS) at the University of California, San Francisco, who demonstrated how to implement the Mpowerment Project at the local level. Mpowerment is a targeted HIV prevention program that mobilizes young gay/bisexual men to shape a healthy community for themselves, build positive social connections, and encourage safer sex.



“We were incredibly fortunate,” Dr. Reid said, “to secure the services of CAPS to provide community-based agencies from around the country with the necessary tools to engage their target populations more effectively.”

Drs. Reid and Garcia-Reid received the grant from the Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI), Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Project C.O.P.E. introduces integrated prevention activities throughout the Paterson community to decrease HIV infection and substance misuse among the youth. Their prevention specialists educate individuals and families about risks in the community and connect them with resources to help them make healthier life choices. ■

Department Chair's Corner



Dr. Lyndal Khaw

As I write this message, I am currently on a bus heading from the Prudential Center back to campus after the 2023 College of Education and Human Services commencement ceremony. It was simply delightful to be able to celebrate the accomplishments of our eight doctoral students and 180 FSHD undergraduates who have successfully completed our program and are about to embark into their next exciting chapters! Congratulations to our new FSHD alumni!

While tonight was certainly a celebratory one, I was also struck

(Continued on page 4)

Advising Excellence

CEHS Internship Coordinator Colleen Casenta was honored with the university's *Advising Excellence Award for Career*



Advisor in recognition of her exemplary advising and counseling services to our students. Advising is a vital component to student success,

and the Provost's Office presents this award annually to acknowledge a staff member for outstanding work.

Casenta's nomination was supported by FSHD students whose comments included:

- “She... goes the extra mile and really takes time to know you as a person.”
- “Approachable, optimistic, and always willing to brainstorm ideas with you.”
- “Ms. Casenta helped me navigate my major when I was lost and did not know what to do...supported and recognized my strengths, achievements, my hard work, and even my obstacles.” ■

DATES TO REMEMBER

June 16
Juneteenth Holiday -
University Closed

Congratulations and Farewell
Mr. Christopher Cottle



**Congratulations on your Retirement and the Grand Finale
of an extraordinary 17-year career
as an Academic Advisor, mentor and friend
for thousands of students and colleagues at MSU and
in the Department of Family Science and Human Development.**

We will miss you!

Social Justice Initiatives

I want to start off by acknowledging the tireless efforts of Mr. Chris Cottle, FSHD Department Advisor, over his time at Montclair State University. His impact



**Dr. Brad
Van Eeden-
Moorefield**

on students, faculty, staff, and the broader community is immense and will last for many decades to come. I wish there was some manner to even begin to capture the ways in which he has touched all our lives and worked tirelessly

to keep justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion centered in the work we do and the way we live. Chris, we love you, we thank you, and we wish you nothing but joy as you move into retirement!

Congratulations to our newest FSHD graduates who now join our large group of alumni. Each of you is full of so much potential to positively impact people and families, and many of you have been doing so all your lives because of the tremendous, compassionate people you are. Never underestimate the impact of a simple smile or letting someone know you are in their corner. You will forever be part of our FSHD family and we hope you will stay in touch and let us know what great things you do next!

Pride Month

I wish everyone a happy, healthy and safe Pride Month. Unfortunately, a recent count from the ACLU suggests that over 400 anti-LGBTQ bills have been proposed across the U.S. already this year, which is more than double the total number introduced and/or passed last year. Several pieces of legislation have passed in the last few months, a few have been defeated, and others are at various stages of the legislative process. Much of this legislation focuses on preventing or reducing LGBTQ-

inclusive education, banning or limiting the art of Drag, and limiting access to gender-affirming health care.

All of this simply is harmful, and a wealth of research is clear that when schools are not inclusive and when people do not have access to affirmative care, the incidences of suicidal thoughts and attempts increase exponentially, along with a variety of additional negative impacts on health and well-being. As professionals in, or going into, human service and educational roles, it is more important than ever to be, and to create, a safe space for all people and families. It literally can help save lives.

Update on Our Initiatives

I want to provide a brief update on our social justice initiatives, particularly progress made on our strategic plan over the course of this past academic year. The updated strategic plan that lists key accomplishments and progress can be found [here](#).

As a department, we dedicated time at all department meetings except one to engage in discussions and reflections regarding anti-racism, and we hosted several colloquia for additional learning and dialogue. For me, these discussions are particularly meaningful times where we were able to reflect, share thoughts and strategies, and be proactive in our social justice work. They also demonstrate how we embed social justice into the way we operate as a department and community. I look forward to continuing and expanding these dialogues moving forward. A draft Social Justice Statement currently has been shared with the FSHD community for input and we expect to adopt the statement in June or as soon as we come back in the fall depending on the amount of suggestions for ways to further strengthen it.

With the creation of the university's

new College for Community Health and FSHD's exciting move to be part of this new college, we are working on many exciting things. We are taking the opportunity to more deeply infuse social justice into all aspects of our department and programs. We already were working on some curriculum updates based on suggestions provided by the FSHD community and many employers in the area, as well as various updates from current research and the social justice curriculum initiative we already started. These broader curriculum updates allow for an ever deeper and more intentional infusion of justice, equity, inclusion, and diversity into our programs, student experiences, and preparation for the jobs of today and tomorrow.

Briefly, we also started and made progress on our departmental policy and procedures social justice initiative. Thus far we have identified several policies and procedures that will be reviewed using a policy equity tool. We also started collecting some data needed to inform the equity review. This work will be a major focus in the 2023-24 academic year and we are excited for all there is to come.

Share Your Thoughts

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 FSHD community's social justice work. It can be found [here](#) or you can cut and paste this link: https://montclair.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3JHboG6J8W0DO4J

Be empathetic. Be compassionate. Be kind. Be you! ■

Dr. Brad van Eeden-Moorefield is the FSHD Associate Department Chair for Social Justice Initiatives.

Celebrating Our New PhDs

The Family Science and Human Development Department teaches students to employ a social justice perspective in order to understand and strengthen individuals, families, and communities.

Using a holistic approach, our PhD program incorporates interdisciplinary research, policy, and prevention and education programming. It is the only program of its kind in New Jersey, and one of 52 in the United States.



FSHD PhD graduate Krystal Woolston can barely contain her excitement as she receives her doctoral hood from Dr. Jennifer Urban during the Commencement Ceremony in May.

We are proud to congratulate five PhD students who worked tirelessly to achieve this degree and successfully defended their doctoral dissertations during the Spring semester!

Dr. Ismat Abbas

Undocumented Young Adults Navigating Liminal Space to Carve Their Futures in the U.S

Dissertation Chair: Dr. Kathryn Herr

Dr. Lishelle Franklin

The Influence of Community Trauma and the Behaviors on Gang Members

Dissertation Chair: Dr. Pearl Stewart

Dr. Christin Haynes

A Critical-hermeneutic Phenomenological Examination of Adult Black Women's Experiences with the Strong Black Woman's Role when Mothered by Women with Perceived Depression

Dissertation Chair: Dr. Pearl Stewart

Dr. Jeanie Park

A Longitudinal Investigation of Korean Adolescents' Transition to Post-Secondary Education

Dissertation Chair: Dr. Steven Lee

Dr. Krystal Woolston

"It Was Like Double Damage:" An Exploration of Clergy-Perpetrated Sexual Abuse, Institutional Response, and Posttraumatic Growth

Dissertation Chair: Dr. Jennifer Urban

Congratulations doctors! ■

Department Chair's Corner

(Continued from page 1)

for a moment by a sad fact. One of the constant persons at this event is our dear Department Advisor Mr. Chris Cottle, and this year marks his last commencement day as he is retiring at the end of this month.

Every FSHD undergraduate who walked that stage this evening (and every FSHD graduate over the last 17 years) *knows* Mr. Cottle. Chances are, he has guided them in some little or big way along their college career. He is one of the first friendly faces in our department who greets and welcomes every new FSHD student and their families at open houses and Accepted Students Days; meets with students all year to advise on classes and schedules; connects students professionally to campus resources, faculty, and other students; supports them tirelessly through the good and the bad, and like tonight, is there at commencement to cheer loudly and celebrate our students' finest moment.

As faculty and Chair, I see firsthand the dedication Chris has poured into advising, mentoring, and advocating for our students. At department, college, and university levels, Chris uses his voice and skills to advocate for our first-generation, black, and brown students. During department meetings, we often hear his words of wisdom reminding us that "students are why we are here doing what we do."

On behalf of our FSHD staff and faculty, I am tremendously grateful for the honor of having worked alongside Chris Cottle, who embodies what it means to be "family" and "human" and brings them to life in Family Science and Human Development. We are his FSHD family, and he is ours. While we will certainly miss him, we are joyful for the fact that he will be able to enjoy his retirement spending time with his beautiful daughters and grandchildren, and to travel to *all* the places and collect *all* the mugs (if you know Chris, you know).

Thank you Chris, much congratulations on your retirement! And love from your very grateful FSHD family. ■



Student Spotlight

Sean Bielitz

This column ordinarily features students majoring in Family Science and Human Development. This month, however, we'd also like to spotlight our amazing student worker,



Sean Bielitz, who joined our department during his sophomore year and has been the force behind FSHD's social media presence for the past two years. Sean graduated in May, summa cum laude, with a major in Communication and Media Arts and a minor in German.

His Story: I knew that Montclair State was the place for me when I went to the Accepted Students' Day in the Spring of 2019. Right away I saw the

vibrant culture of the university and I knew it was the place I wanted to spend my undergraduate years. During my first semester, I was an undecided major, but after speaking to students within the School of Communication and Media, I found a major that interested me significantly: Communication and Media Arts. In my sophomore year, I also became a German minor, which has helped me achieve my goal of having strong fluency in another language outside of English.

His Path: The path to my degree has been a challenge and I've had to work very hard in each of my classes to achieve success. In my communication and media classes, I found myself having to adapt quickly to learn new skills, such as video editing. For my German classes, Covid had a significant impact as it limited how much German I was able to speak to other classmates outside of Zoom calls until the Fall 2021 semester. But, I was able to adapt quickly and make the most of each situation to become a better student and to help prepare myself for my career.

His Thoughts: "I am looking forward to going into a career that I will enjoy. My plans are to work in marketing, whether it would be in sports or social media marketing. Another goal of mine is to attend graduate school and to continue my studies of communication. I will never forget the great memories I made at Montclair State and all of the great people I met during my time here. It was truly a wonderful experience and something I will always reflect on." ■

Jalynn Miller

Jalynn Miller is a sophomore majoring in Family Science and Human Development with a concentration in Families, Children and School Settings, the teaching track.



Her Story: Since I was young, I had always known that I wanted to have a career where I could truly make a difference. There are several educators in my family and I have been able to see firsthand the genuine passion and dedication it requires to be a teacher. My family members, as well as my own teachers, had a large impact on not just my education

but who I am as a person. My mom has always pushed me to be the best version of myself and work hard to achieve my goals.

Her Path: When it was time for me to make a decision about where to go to college, it was incredibly difficult due to us being in the middle of the pandemic. The pandemic highlighted the need for teachers and staff within schools that truly want to help students succeed. I want my classroom to be a welcoming and safe environment that promotes learning while creating people that make this world a better place. I stumbled upon the Family Science and Human Development major and I was interested in how many different routes I could take with this degree. Every class has resonated with me in some way and what I have learned will greatly contribute to my career.

Her Thoughts: "Wanting to help people is one thing but I believe this major has given and will continue to give me the tools I need to be an effective teacher. Being at Montclair State has reassured me that I am making the right career choice for me. In two years, I have learned so much about child and family development as well as gaining experience in diverse backgrounds. I believe it is crucial to have representation and diversity within our schools to best prepare students for the real world." ■

FSHD Offers Two Interdisciplinary Minors

Gerontology minor—To explore the study of aging and how it relates to other fields, [click here](#).

Family Science and Human Development minor— To learn more about this interdisciplinary field, [click here](#).

Milestones in the LGBTQ Movement

As expressed in our *Statement on Social Justice, Equity, and Inclusion*, the Department of Family Science and Human Development believes “in a world that affords all peoples, families, and communities dignity and respect, full access to every opportunity, and the resources and tools to make every dream and hope become reality.” This month (and every June) we celebrate Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) Pride Month to promote equality and diversity, and to commemorate the 1969 Stonewall Uprising when police raided a prominent gay bar in Manhattan. Six days of protests followed that raid, marking the turning point in the Gay Liberation Movement and the fight for equal rights in the United States.

Since the 1960s, many significant milestones have been achieved in the ongoing battle for LGBTQ rights:

1961 - Illinois is the first state to decriminalize homosexuality.

1969 - The Stonewall riots spark the gay rights movement.

1973 - The foundation for PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) is established.

1973 - The American Psychiatric Association removes homosexuality from its list of mental disorders.

1978 - Gilbert Baker creates the first rainbow flag as a symbol of pride and hope for the LGBTQ community.

1979 - The first National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights takes place with an estimated 100,000 individuals marching.

1995 - The Hate Crimes Sentencing Enhancement Act goes into effect, allowing a judge to impose harsher sentences if evidence shows a victim was targeted because of sexual orientation, race, religion, gender, etc.

2004 - The first legal same-sex marriage in the U.S. takes place in Massachusetts.

2011 - The “Don't Ask, Don't Tell” law is repealed, allowing openly gay and lesbian Americans to serve in the military.

2013 - The Supreme Court rules that legally married same-sex couples are entitled to federal benefits.

2014 - California becomes the first state to ban the gay/trans panic legal defense which blamed a defendant’s violent actions on the victim's sexual orientation or gender identity.

2015 - The Supreme Court rules that states cannot ban same-sex marriage.

2015 - Boy Scouts of America drops its national restriction on openly gay leaders and employees.

2016 - The Pentagon lifts the ban on transgender people serving openly in the US military.

2020 - The Supreme Court rules that federal law protects LGBTQ workers from discrimination.

2020 - The 4th Circuit Court of Appeals rules that restroom policies segregating transgender students from their peers are unconstitutional and violate federal law prohibiting sex discrimination in education.

2023 - The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) creates a [digital dashboard](#) to track anti-LGBTQ legislation. ■

Source: CNN



Artist and activist Gilbert Baker designed the first pride flag in 1978. He dyed strips of fabric and sewed them together into a huge rainbow banner that has become the undeniable symbol of gay pride. He unfurled this mile-long flag in 1994 to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising and the turning point for the gay rights movement



The 2023 Pride March in New York City will take place on Sunday, June 25 at noon, starting at 5th Avenue and 25th Street.

Career Corner

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

Preschool Teacher

Preschool teachers provide early childhood education and care to young children, typically 3-5 years old. Their primary role is to create a safe, nurturing, and engaging environment where children can learn and play, as well as develop social, emotional, cognitive, and physical skills.



It is important to note that

Family Science and Human Development is the only department at MSU that offers [teacher certification \(BA and BA/MAT\) at the P-3 level.](#)

In their daily roles, preschool teachers will:

- Develop age-appropriate lesson plans and curriculum that promote multi-disciplinary learning and personal development.
- Teach lessons through methods such as storytelling, games, songs, and hands-on experiences.
- Maintain a structured classroom environment; establish rules and routines.
- Stimulate children's imagination, problem-solving, and social interactions.
- Collaborate with other teachers and staff to create a cohesive and supportive educational environment.
- Assess and document children's behavior, skills, and developmental milestones
- Communicate with parents.
- Offer emotional support and encouragement to help children develop self-confidence, independence, and positive relationships with peers and adults.

Duties will vary depending on the specific preschool and educational philosophy, but the overall goals are to foster a love of learning, promote holistic development, and prepare children for the transition to elementary school. ■

Internship Insights

Looking for Experience? Consider a Micro-Internship

The university has partnered with Parker Dewey to identify micro-internships that help smooth the college-to-career transition for our students and recent grads.

Micro-internships are short-term, individual assignments similar to projects given to interns or new hires. They enable you, as a *career launcher*, to demonstrate your skills, explore different career paths, build your resume, and create professional networks.

Each assignment lasts between one week and one month, requires 10-40 hours of work, and is paid a pre-determined amount. Explore the year-round postings and apply for any that interest you. Companies large and small use micro-internships to complete work in departments including sales, marketing, technology, HR, and finance.

For more information and to register, [visit Parker Dewey.](#)

Don't Skip the Summer

FSDH Internship Coordinator Colleen Casenta is available all summer to provide career services support. Summer is a great time to brush up your resume/cover letter, practice interviewing skills, discuss career paths, and learn about internship opportunities. Colleen works with employers who have summer internships available for all grade levels, so stay in touch and keep an eye out for her emails. Don't hesitate to contact her for an in-person or virtual meeting this summer! Email casentac@montclair.edu or readily book an appointment with her on Handshake.

We Moved!

The Career & Internship Services office, along with the entire Student Success Center, has moved downstairs to the first floor of University Hall in Suite 1180 where the Center of Pedagogy was previously located. We traded spaces! ■

Family Science and Human Development

University Hall 4144

(973) 655-4171 ■ FSDH@montclair.edu

[FSDH Website](#)

Dr. Lyndal Khaw, Chair

Lisa Mills, Newsletter Editor



FREE

Montclair State University
Network for Educational Renewal

FREE

2023 MSUNER SUMMER CONFERENCE

Let Your Light Shine

How Mindfulness Can *Empower* Children and *Rebuild* Communities

MONDAY, JUNE 26TH, 2023

9:00 AM - 3:30 PM

"PROVIDING TEACHERS AND CHILDREN WITH RESOURCES TO UNDERSTAND AND TRANSFORM THEIR CIRCLE FOR WHAT IS HAPPENING AROUND THEM AND WITHIN THEM (MINDFULLY) IN CLASSROOMS AND COMMUNITY."

● Celebrating the
25th Anniversary of
the MSUNER

● **Keynote presented by:
Ali Smith, Atman Smith,
and Andres Gonzalez
(Holistic Life Foundation)**

● Teaching children
and their teachers
to live a life of
embodied awareness



FOR REGISTRATION, PLEASE CLICK

[REGISTER HERE](#)

OR SCAN THE QR CODE



THIS CONFERENCE IS OPEN TO:

SCHOOL, UNIVERSITY,
AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS!