

FAMILY SCIENCE & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

JUNE 2022

Celebrating LGBTQ Pride Month

Over the years, Montclair State University has successfully endeavored to create and maintain safe, inclusive, and affirming spaces for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) members of our campus community. The [LGBTQ Center](#), located in Student Center 113B, advocates for LGBTQ inclusiveness, and offers a myriad of educational and social programs for students, faculty and staff.

In recognition of these efforts, MSU is proudly listed in Campus Pride's [Best of the Best Colleges and Universities for LGBTQ+ Students](#). Campus Pride is the preeminent resource for LGBTQ leadership development, diversity inclusion and advocacy within higher education. MSU is also featured on Study.com's list of the [Top 50 LGBTQ Friendly Colleges](#).

Every June, we celebrate LGBTQ Pride Month, commemorating the 1969 Stonewall riots that erupted in New York City in response to ongoing discrimination and oppression by police. The first Pride March occurred in 1970 when "thousands of homosexuals went to the streets to demonstrate against centuries of abuse ... from government hostility to employment and housing discrimination, Mafia control of gay bars, and anti-homosexual laws."

Our nation has come a long way in the half-century since the riots. According to the US Census Bureau:

- Approximately 980,000 same-sex couples are residing in the United States.
- About 58% of same-sex couples are married.
- There are more female than male same-sex couples.
- Same-sex married couples are half as likely to have children as opposite-sex married couples.
- Metro areas with the highest percentage of same-sex couples are Washington DC, San Francisco, Seattle, and Portland (Oregon).



LGBTQ Pride Month events now attract millions of people around the world. New York City hosts its annual Gay Pride Parade on the last Sunday in June. This year's parade theme is "Unapologetically Us." ■

Social Justice Initiatives and Department Chair's Message

Dr. Brad van Eeden-Moorefield is serving as Acting Department Chair while Dr. Lyndal Khaw is on leave.



I want to start by congratulating Dr. Khaw and her family on their new addition, Selene (her adorable photo is on page 3). Welcome to our FSHD family, Selene!

I also want to offer our congratulations to all the FSHD graduates. Seeing each of you grow and develop during your time with us is one of the greatest joys we experience in FSHD, and knowing the type of positive change you will continue to make in people's lives after graduation only makes our joy all the more meaningful. We are invested in your continued success, and you will forever be part of our FSHD family, so please stay in touch and let us know if we can ever support you as you move into the next phase of your life's journey!

Pride Month

I wish everyone a happy, healthy and safe Pride Month. The [Stonewall Riots](#) are considered the symbolic beginning of the modern LGBTQ movement. They took place just across the river from NJ at the Stonewall Inn in Greenwich Village on June 28, 1969. That is how June came to be designated as Pride Month, with celebrations taking place in the US and across the globe.

Thanks to the immense courage of the many activists who paved the way for Stonewall to occur, as well as those that participated in the riots and those that have stood up and fought valiantly for the queer community (used as an umbrella term) to be seen,

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DATES TO REMEMBER

June 2
Convocation on Campus

June 17
Juneteenth—MSU Closed

Social Justice Initiatives

(Continued from page 1)

heard, and treated justly since then, members of the queer community now have greater access to equality in the US and around the globe. That said, full equality still does not exist in the US, and many other countries continue to punish anyone found or suspected to be LGBTQ, in some cases by exercising the death penalty. Clearly, much progress has been made and a great deal more is needed; that work is part of our social justice commitment in FSHD.

Our Social Justice Initiatives

I am proud to provide a brief update on our social justice initiatives, particularly the progress we made during the spring semester. The updated strategic plan that documents our key accomplishments can be found [here](#).

Over the past several months, we continued to see tremendous collaboration and progress resulting in a more just, equitable, inclusive, and diverse FSHD community and experience. Many staff and faculty participated in two reflexive sessions where we shared stories of who we are as full people (not just our work selves), and how who we are and what we experience in life influences the way we approach teaching and interactions with students and each other. These sessions have left me with an even greater appreciation for my colleagues and understanding of who they are.

We continued to offer townhalls for additional student feedback and to maintain multiple spaces for students to share their voices and ideas. In terms of programming, monthly colloquia on gender continued during the spring semester, and we offered an antiracism and pedagogy session for faculty; another will be offered over the summer. We also identified ways to enhance inclusiveness across our department website, social media platforms, and other materials we use to make FSHD visible across campus and beyond.

Finally, we completed the assessment of inclusion and social justice in our core curriculum. Results from this assessment will provide the foundation for updating the curriculum beginning next fall.

These are but a few examples of our continued efforts and commitments to ensure we not only speak social justice, but our actions match those important words. This continued progress is the result of so many collaborations across our community. Each of you is appreciated, valued, and seen. We look forward to more work together in the fall!

Social Justice Concept

The FSHD Social Justice Advisory Board is hoping to increase understanding of our efforts by defining a different social justice concept in each newsletter. In conjunction with Pride Month, our term for June is:

Queer

“Queer is an umbrella term for people who are not heterosexual or [cisgender](#). Originally meaning "strange" or "peculiar," *queer* came to be used pejoratively against those with same-sex desires or relationships in the late 19th century. Beginning in the late 1980s, queer activists, such as the members of Queer Nation, began to reclaim the word as a deliberately provocative and politically radical alternative to the more assimilationist branches of the LGBT community. In the 21st century, *queer* became increasingly used to describe a broad spectrum of non-normative sexual and/or gender identities and politics.”

Source: Wikipedia

Helpful Resources

The Social Justice Advisory Board is happy to share these links to resources related to LGBTQ:

- [MSU's LGBTQ Center and Campus Programs](#)
- [Explore the history of LGBTQ+ Pride in the US](#)
- [OutMontclair](#)
- [The Trevor Project](#)
- [LGBTQ Legal Rights Across the Globe](#)
- [GenderQueer Identities and Terminology](#)
- [Sexual Identities and Orientations Terminology](#)
- [How to Be An Ally](#)

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! ■



Juneteenth

Our Newest Federal Holiday

On June 19, 1865, Union soldiers arrived in Texas with news that the Revolutionary War had ended and slavery was abolished. Although President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation had become official 2.5 years earlier, there had not been enough military to enforce his executive order in Texas, where slaves were still being held.

Since that time, June 19 has been celebrated as the end of slavery in the United States, and it was officially declared a federal holiday by President Joe Biden in 2021. Juneteenth commemorates African American freedom and emphasizes education and achievement. Marked with celebrations, guest speakers, picnics and family gatherings, it is a time for reflection, rejoicing, self-improvement and for planning the future. Its growing popularity signifies a level of maturity and dignity long overdue in America. ■

JUNE
19

Source: Juneteenth.com

June 1 is Global Day of Parents



Established by the United Nations in 2012, Global Day of Parents provides an opportunity to appreciate all parents in all parts of the world for their selfless commitment to children and their lifelong sacrifice towards nurturing this relationship.

Welcome Baby Selene!

We are "super" excited to congratulate FSHD Department Chair Dr. Lyndal Khaw and her husband Dr. Brian Nichols, on the birth of their fourth beautiful child. Selene Naomi made her grand entrance on May 3, 2022. She is a precious addition to our FSHD family!

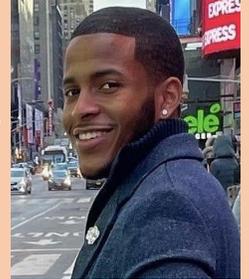


Student Spotlight

Mekhi Rivers

Mekhi Rivers is a senior majoring in Family Science and Human Development, with a concentration in Family Services.

His Thoughts: The number one question I'm asked as a college student is, "What's your major?" When I say FSHD, they ask what it is. My response: "World changers!"



His Story: Coming into college, Mekhi had no idea which major he wanted to pursue. He was just choosing classes based on personal interest and where he wanted to expand his knowledge. After realizing that all of his electives were fulfilling the requirements for FSHD, his path became clear.

Mekhi always knew his purpose was to give back to his community, acknowledging that the support he received accounts for his success today. He recognizes that there is a need for help in urban communities, a need for unity within suburban communities, and a cry for love for an entire generation. But the question that always struck him was *how* is it going to change?

He found his answer in the "Poverty & Families" class, where Professor Christopher Cottle teaches us that education is the way to change the things you wish to see in this world. Suddenly Mekhi's question switched from *how* to *who*, and the response was no other than *us!* Each and every FSHD major carries the heart of a world changer. We can make a difference by taking education outside of the classroom and teaching our communities not only about the resources that are externally available to them, but by pulling out the resources they possess internally!

His Plan: Mekhi will graduate in Summer 2022 and has landed a position as a middle school Dean of Students. His FSHD major, combined with his natural leadership skills, have equipped him with the tools for success he'll need to become the world changer he's called to be! ■

MSU Research Study Recruiting Participants



- Are you a woman over 18 years old?
- Do you identify as Asian or Asian-American?
- Have you ever left or tried to leave a violent relationship at any time since the COVID-19 pandemic started?

We want to learn more about Asian women's experiences of leaving during COVID-19.

- A one-time interview (around 2-3 hours) will be conducted on Zoom or in-person
- Participants will receive a \$60 gift card
- Your participation will be kept confidential and your privacy will be protected

If you might be interested in participating, please email us at msuipvstudy@gmail.com for more information or scan this QR code with your mobile phone.



Researchers:

Dr. Lyndal Khaw and Dr. Soyoung Lee msuipvstudy@gmail.com
Associate Professors, Department of Family Science and Human Development



This study has been approved by the Montclair State University Institutional Review Board, MSU IRB #FY 21-22-2415

FSHD Academics

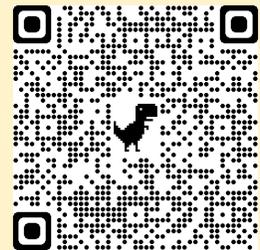
Minor in Family Science and Human Development

Scan this QR Code to learn more or [click here](#).



Gerontology Minor

To learn about the study of aging, scan this QR code or [click here](#).



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