



FAMILY SCIENCE & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Department Newsletter

JULY/AUGUST 2025

Our Achievements

New Grant Battles Opioid Crisis



FSHD Professors Dr. Robert Reid and Dr. Pauline Garcia-Reid were awarded a \$35,587 grant from the Paterson Coalition for Opioid Assessment and Response (COAR) and the Department of Public Safety to address the urgent opioid crisis affecting youth and young adults in Paterson, NJ.

The Paterson/Montclair State University Opioid Prevention and Education Initiative focuses on enhancing early intervention, prevention, and health education efforts among vulnerable racial and ethnic minority youth, as well as leveraging community partnerships to reduce opioid use and promote healthier outcomes.

Podcast Highlights Caspi's Expertise

Dr. Jonathan Caspi, FSHD Professor and world-renowned expert on sibling relationships, is featured on "Raising Loving Siblings," an episode in the podcast series "Raising Wild Hearts by Ryann Watkin."



He discusses strategies to reduce fighting among siblings and foster positive relationships, as described in his newest book, "Raising Loving Siblings: How to Stop the Fighting and Help Your Kids Connect." [Watch it here.](#)

Bellum Marks 25 Years at Montclair



Shannon Bellum, FSHD Department Administrator, has been recognized for 25 years of employment at Montclair State University. Bellum began working at Montclair in 1999 as a graduate assistant while earning her Master's Degree in Fine Arts. She joined the FSHD Department full-time in 2004, when it was still known as Family and Child Studies.

Supporting Hispanic Initiatives

The FSHD Department participated in Montclair's Hispanic Student College Institute (HSCI) major fair in June. Through a 4-day immersive experience, HSCI enables rising high school juniors and seniors to get a head start transitioning to college.

Students participating in this unique and highly interactive opportunity sleep in the dorms, eat in the dining hall and learn what it's truly like to be a college student. The program helps them envision their future academic success, as well as increase confidence in their ability to navigate college admissions and financial aid processes.



Our lifespan-focused department was proudly represented by a child development expert — she's just not old enough to spell *college* yet! Three-year-old Selene, daughter of Department Chair Dr. Lyndal Khaw, did a great job greeting the students and helping them explore the FSHD field. ■



HSCI students loved our FSHD frisbees featuring a phrase in Spanish that proudly proclaims, "We study and support people and families."

DATES TO REMEMBER

August 28

Red Hawk Day

August 29

First day of classes — follow a Monday schedule

September 1

Labor Day—no classes



May 2025 FSHD Graduates

Abbatiello, Ava	Lopez, Sonia
Acevedo, Ashley	Lucero, Karen
Acosta, Grecia	Lugardo, Kiara E.
Aguilar, Michelle A.	Mahmoud Omar, Salma W.
Argiro, Olivia A.	Marshall-Behagen, Karysma E.
Awad, Sana I.	Martinez, Jocelyn
Barclay, Monica D.	Mcclard, Karina A.
Braverman, Lia	Miller, Jalyynn E.
Brown, Rochelle R.	Mincolelli, Courtney L.
Buchma, Matthew P.	Moskovitz, Helaina G.
Compton, Kylie J.	Mulligan, Madison G.
Cornista, Lareina R.	Mustafa, Sommer A.
Deberry, Jaily N.	Norris, Brooke L.
Dorn, Julia L.	Ogunbanwo, Tosin A.
Elias, Ashley N.	Parker, Gracie R.
Fiorentino, Jordan F.	Peralta, Noelia P.
Flanagan, Kaylee M.	Perez, Samira
Gale, Noah	Petralia, Kaylie I.
Glass, Jonah A.	Quevedo, Jessica I.
Greenspan, Alyssa R.	Roberts, Autumn R.
Harris, Khalli R.	Rodriguez, Amanda
Heinold, Maddie B.	Rosati, Victoria M.
Henderson, Kaitlyn R.	Sasso, Alexa M.
Henderson, Kiara L.	Severino, Victoria
Hubbard, Tawanda	Siri, Alexa
Idrissi, Sofia T.	Smith, Amber L.
Jadoon, Eemaan S.	Smith, Amy J.
Jardines, Mia	Stahlman, Nerys
Jensen, Maddie E.	Thornburg, Holly E.
Kaupas, Daniella P.	Timmons, Shaniquah M.
Khawaja, Aisha	Tula, Rosario
Klein, Karley A.	Usatin, Valerie S.
Koegler, Victoria L.	Velez, Melia S.
Laino, Alexis J.	White, Ashley M.
Leahy, Skyler M.	Witt, Allianna E.
Livingstone, Ashley M.	Xoletl Cortes, Daisy
Loibl, Sabrina K.	Yasin, Marium
Lomuscio, Neena O.	

Sage Advice from Commencement Speakers

Your superpower is the ability to think like an accomplished human being. Don't let artificial intelligence do it for you.

—Steven Levy, tech journalist

Whenever a doubt enters your mind, push it out and replace it with a positive thought.

—Henry Winkler, actor

Read fiction to keep your imagination alive.

—Abraham Verghese, physician/author

Find people you think are interesting and ask what they're working on.

—Jessica Livingston, Y Combinator founder

There's plenty of opportunity to go around. Don't get discouraged if someone achieves more than you right now.

—Elizabeth Banks, actor

Most of what you need to know, you haven't learned yet.

—Jerome Powell, Federal Reserve chair

Don't jump over someone to get ahead; reach out your hand and leap together.

—Kermit the Frog

Collect experiences. Moving up isn't always the best direction; sometimes lateral moves are better than promotions.

—Martina Cheung, S&P Global, CEO

The single most important factor in your career just might be your curiosity.

—Hank Green, YouTuber