

FAMILY SCIENCE & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

MAY 2021

Planning to Become a Teacher?

MSU prides itself on preparing knowledgeable teachers with a strong commitment to equity, diversity, critical thinking and social responsibility.

The nationally and internationally recognized Teacher Education Program has many unique features, which include curricular emphasis, the Center of Pedagogy, and partnerships with local schools and communities.

If teaching holds a place in your future, tune in to an informational webinar on **Thursday, May 6 from 6:00-7:00 pm** to learn about:

- Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT)
- Dual Certification Master of Arts in Teaching
- Post-Baccalaureate Initial Certification

It will be time well spent! [Register today.](#) ■

Commencement is June 8 In-Person!

The CEHS Commencement Ceremony for FSHD Bachelor's degrees will be held at Sprague Field on **Tuesday, June 8 at 2:00 p.m.** The Ph.D. ceremony will take place on Friday, June 11 at 2:00 p.m., also at Sprague Field.



All graduates who plan to participate must [purchase regalia](#) no later than Wednesday, May 12.

Strict safety protocols will be in place. Each student will be allotted two tickets, and guests must preregister and complete the Commencement Hawk Check prior to arriving on campus. For additional information, visit the university's [Commencement website.](#) ■

Department Chair's Message

As we enter our final, grinding weeks of the Spring semester, I know this time of the year is typically more challenging for students and faculty. Being in a pandemic just pushes the bar even further, to a point where even I find myself wondering out loud, “*when* will this semester end?” In class and in my interactions with our students, I see the exhaustion, the stress, the “too many balls in the air,” as you

hustle and bustle from one Zoom to the next.

I see you.

The gist of my Chair's message last December was to ensure that you self-care and do things to promote your self-preservation. This month, I en-

courage you to do the same, but to do so more in the spirit of *celebration*. Celebrate your strength and fortitude throughout a very tough year. Celebrate the day you get your vaccinations, or the ability to see your beloved family members and friends again. Celebrate your school or work accomplishments, no matter how big or small, they're all worth cheering for.

And to our many, many students who are graduating this Spring, celebrate your achievement to the fullest, knowing that you didn't get here by sheer luck or chance. You have earned this moment of distinction through hard work, grit, and determination.

Congratulations to all of our Spring 2021 graduates! Our FSHD family proudly celebrates this milestone with you. ■



Dr. Lyndal Khaw



Student Spotlight

Megan Murnick

Megan Murnick is a Junior majoring in Family Science and Human Development with a concentration in Family, Children and School Settings, and a minor in American Sign Language. She is in the BA/MA Dual Certification Program for Elementary Education with a double concentration in Students with Disabilities and a Middle School Math Endorsement.



Her Story: I knew I wanted to be a teacher very early on in my academic career. I took any and every opportunity to spend time with children in or out of the classroom. MSU has always been known as one of the best programs in the state for education and it has given me the opportunity to be taught by amazing professors who opened my mind to what a teacher is. This will definitely sound cliché, but I've learned here that as a teacher, we have the power to change the world one student at a time.

I chose FSHD because in our careers we will work with families from different backgrounds, and as teachers we need to understand where a person comes from to help them find the path they will take. A common misconception with this major is that we are just learning about the biology of children and how they grow into teenagers, but it is so much more than that. FSHD educates us about family relationships and how they connect to the relationships we will build in our society. Dr. Ashely Ermer opened my eyes that this department is not solely about children and teenagers, but it's about all generations and how they connect to one another. Gerontology is a factor in Pedagogy.

Her Plan: With my American Sign Language minor, I plan to work with deaf, hard-of-hearing, and students with disabilities that use American Sign Language as their form of communication. My middle school math endorsement will help open doors to teaching mathematics in grades 5-8.

Her Thoughts: When I tell people the degrees I am earning, their jaws drop open and they ask me what that actually means. I find that I need to simplify it to, "I am studying to be a teacher." ■

Montclair Student Council on Family Relations Appoints 2021 Board

The Montclair Student Council on Family Relations (MSCFR), a student affiliate of the National Council on Family Relations, is proud to introduce its newly appointed 2021 Executive Board.

- President: Edith Marin
- Vice-President: Israa Assaf
- Secretary: Liany Jimenez
- Treasurer: Carolina Torres
- Publicity Chair: Jakeli Lliguicota

One of only 26 student affiliates in the nation, MSCFR is a student-run organization that unites members for a common cause: strengthening communities through education, awareness, and civic engagement.

MSCFR aims to educate its members on important topics that are relevant to their personal and professional development. The group plans to provide a variety of programs and events such as community outreach, anti-racism workshops, cultural celebrations, and more. All are welcome! Email mscfr2021@gmail.com for more details about joining MSCFR. ■



Edith Marin
President



Israa Assaf
Vice-President



Liany Jimenez
Secretary



Carolina Torres
Treasurer



Jakeli Lliguicota
Publicity Chair

Social Justice Remains at the Forefront

Welcome to May and the last few weeks of the semester! I know we all have been working incredibly hard this semester and am sure everyone is beyond exhausted, including myself. I am so proud of our community-- the work we do for social justice, the compassion we have for each other and people around the globe, and for the amount of support and resilience we demonstrate.

I also must acknowledge the continuing violence and other injustices being experienced across the U.S. These are being felt by most, if not all, of our FSHD community to one degree or another. Unfortunately, many in our FSHD community experience some form of injustice or violence against them, potentially daily, and frequently in the form of microaggressions.



Experiencing and/or being consistently surrounded by sights of violence and injustice (on top of the immense suffering due to the pandemic and that which was present long before the pandemic) has a (re)traumatizing effect. Research is

clear about how these *trauma effects* harm our mental, physical, and emotional health in the short- and long-term.

Pay attention to this within yourselves and those around you. Practice self-care and remember how impactful and helpful the seemingly smallest acts can be. For example, take 5 seconds to drop someone a quick hello text or dm, create moments of humor, ask people how they are doing and ask yourself, reach out to your FSHD community and/or CAPS for support, and prioritize your and your family's health and well-being.

Finally, create an outlet for the hurt, anger, frustration, and trauma. For example, find a way to act against injustice and work for social justice. This can be as simple as getting involved more deeply in the FSHD community; starting a conversation about social justice with yourself, with friends, or with family; reading something that expands your understanding, empathy, and culture; or something more involved such as participating in or organizing some form of virtual and in-person protest.

Importantly, it sometimes means creating a boundary between you and the outside world for a little while, and if possible, even for 5 minutes, to take a moment. Social justice work takes on many forms and is a process and an outcome.

Updates

We are excited to share the following updates on our social justice initiatives. 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](https://montclair.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3JHboG6J8W0DO4J) or you can cut and paste this link:

https://montclair.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3JHboG6J8W0DO4J

1. The Social Justice Advisory Board will meet again soon to continue defining their role and purpose as well as review some of the efforts we have accomplished or that are in progress.
2. We will create a new page on our Department's website that makes who we are and what we do more visible and transparent. We will do this using infographics.
3. We plan to offer a social justice professional development activity for faculty and staff in May.
4. We plan to offer a Town Hall to students before the end of the semester to get feedback, understand some of their hopes and dreams for our social justice work, and, more simply, listen. We also are currently surveying students to get their input on what core social justice concepts any historically minorized populations should be emphasized in the core curriculum to inform curricular updates and a strengthening of our expertise and student training, especially in ways that make sense for the communities most of our students will work in and with.
5. We have drafted a procedure for developing and disseminating various types of Departmental Social Justice Statements and resources. We will get feedback and input on the draft from all stakeholders before the end of the semester.
6. We are drafting a Departmental data collection plan as well. This will make clear what data we need to collect, when, and who is responsible. Data key to our understanding of departmental diversity, inclusion, and social justice will be a priority.
7. We have begun a process to work on further decolonizing our syllabi and pedagogy.
8. We have an early draft of a social justice strategic plan that is moving to the input/feedback phase of its development soon.

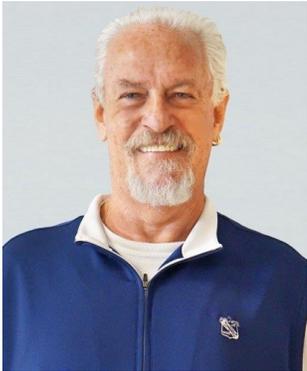
Be empathetic. Be compassionate. Be kind. Be you! ■

Written by Dr. Brad van Eeden-Moorefield, FSHD Professor and Associate Department Chair for Social Justice Initiatives.

Meet the Social Justice Advisory Board Members

The FSHD Social Justice Advisory Board provides direction and input on the department's social justice strategic plan, programming and community impact. Meet three more members.

Community Representative



Jim Walsh, C.S.W.

(he/him/his)

**Chief Operating Officer
Director of Community Outreach
Oasis - A Haven for
Women & Children**

"For me, Social Justice means equality for all, in all aspects of our life. Unfortunately, in today's climate, we face many important issues, voting rights, gender equality, climate change, wealth disparity, gun violence, hunger, immigration, incarceration, just to name a few. Awareness is the key, and this community Advisory Board allows us the opportunity to voice our concerns and affect change in our society."

FSHD Undergraduate Representatives



Ana Guzman

(she/her, they/them)

**Sophomore FSHD major (Family Services), minor in LGBTQ Studies
Montclair State University**

"To me, social justice represents the significance behind everyone having an equal chance at the same opportunities. It requires recognition and understanding of the information that we ignore or look past as a society. Social justice means battling and challenging the injustices and oppressions that our systems have embedded in them in order to create a future of equality for every individual, but especially those who carry intersectional identities."



Jasmine Rae Williams

(she/her/hers)

**Senior FSHD major (School Settings), minor in Psychology; pursuing Master's of Education
in School Counseling
Montclair State University**

"Allyship, integrity, and collaboration: these are the values that lay in my core principles of life and I believe are imperative to embody as a professional in the Education and Human Services field. Being raised in a diverse community with an extremely strong minority presence in every facet of our human identities, from race to religious identities to the LGBTQIA+

What's the problem with being "not racist?"

It is a claim that signifies neutrality: "I am not a racist, but neither am I aggressively against racism." But there is no neutrality in the racism struggle.

The opposite of "racist" isn't "not racist." It is "antiracist."

What's the difference?...One either allows racial inequities to persevere, as a racist, or confronts racial inequities, as an antiracist. There is no in-between safe space of "not racist."

The claim of "not racist" neutrality is a mask for racism. This may seem harsh, but it's important at the outset that we apply one of the core principles of antiracism, which is to return the word "racist" itself back to its proper usage.

"Racist" is not—as Richard Spencer argues—a pejorative. It is not the worst word in the English language; it is not the equivalent of a slur. It is descriptive, and the only way to undo racism is to consistently identify and describe it—and then dismantle it. The attempt to turn this usefully descriptive term into an almost unusable slur is, of course, designed to do the opposite: to freeze us into inaction. — Ibram X. Kendi

community, I recognized that an effective leader must have constant consideration for the unique experiences of others and use any privileges to uplift disadvantaged groups. As an empowered individual, I strive to help all students to find their voice and foster a community of activists across community lines."

Congratulations to Our 2021 Scholarship Recipients

Ruslink Doctoral Scholarship

Paula Perrone, MA ■ Ph.D. Class of 2024



While pursuing her FSHD doctoral degree, Paula works full-time as an elementary school principal in Newark, NJ. Her research is centered on the School to Prison Pipeline and how educators can disrupt this inequitable system within education that disproportionately impacts marginalized groups of students. She hopes her research will help prevent students from entering the pipeline, and instead strengthen their educational experiences. Her long-term goal is to affect policy and systems-level changes that push for equitable education.

Doris Ruslink Scholarship

Arlin Hernandez ■ Class of 2023

Arlin chose FSHD with hopes of gaining skills and experience from classes and field work to then apply those skills at her own high school to reduce the drop-out rate and motivate students to look beyond working at mediocre jobs. She wants to counsel students to know that, regardless of where they come from, they can be successful within their desired careers, whether they choose to attend college or a trade school.



Katharine B. Hall Scholarship

Denisse Vargas ■ Class of 2022



Denisse's decision to pursue a career in elementary education stemmed from the exploration of basic child development concepts in her high school classes. She looks forward to having an impact as a teacher of students with special needs, as well as English as a Second Language. She co-founded *Soul Empowered Women*, a nonprofit that strives to empower, strengthen and unify women and children by collecting and distributing meals, clothing, school supplies, toys, and other resources to those in need.

Lois Guthrie Scholarship

Ariana Molina Sanchez ■ Class of 2022

Ariana believes she did not choose her major, but rather it chose her. Her personal experiences made her realize she wanted to help families, including children exposed to family trauma and developmental issues that parents might not be prepared to handle. During the pandemic, she started *Cared Package*, a project that delivers clothing and basic necessities to the homeless.



Family Science & Human Development Award

Michelle Hirs ■ Class of 2022



After an eye-opening experience with discrimination while visiting another country, Michelle decided to major in FSHD to empower underprivileged children around the world to achieve an education of their dreams. She aspires to use innovative teaching methods to connect with her students, with a strong focus on enforcing positive recognition.

Celebrating Asian and Pacific Islander Heritage

According to the US Census Bureau, Asians and Pacific Islanders are the fastest growing minority group in the United States, numbering more than 20 million people, or nearly 5.6 percent of the total population. Their diversity represents more than 30 ethnic groups who speak more than 300 languages and dialects.

May is **Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month**, a time to celebrate their bountiful contributions and rich cultural heritage. In light of the recent hate crimes directed at Asian Americans, it is crucial that we stand in solidarity in support of AAPI communities and people of Asian descent.

In 1979, President Jimmy Carter signed a proclamation declaring the first week of May as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week. The dates coincided with the arrival of the first Japanese immigrants on May 7, 1843, and the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869. The western portion of the railroad was laid primarily by 20,000 Chinese immigrants.

The heritage commemoration was ultimately expanded to cover a full month, and to include Pacific Islanders. President Barack Obama's 2009 proclamation declared "Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have contributed in great and significant ways to all aspects of society. They have created works of literature and art, thrived as American athletes, and prospered in the world of academia." The proclamation acknowledged that they've played significant roles in our economic and technological growth, in government leadership, and in military ranks defending the US from threats at home and abroad.

During this month, we are called upon to learn more about the history of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. For example, we can educate ourselves by:

- Watching a documentary about the transcontinental railroad and the working conditions for Asian immigrants.
- Learning about the history of Asian countries or the Polynesian background of Hawaii.
- Visiting museums/websites such as the [Asia Society Museum](#) or the [Museum of Chinese in America](#).
- Reading about Buddhism. ■

Asian Americans Who Changed Our World



Amanda Nguyen, a first-generation Vietnamese, was nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize for writing legislation that established consistent rights and protections for victims of sexual violence.

Steven Chen (left) who was born in Taiwan, and **Jawed Karim** of Bangladeshi descent, are two-thirds of the team that developed YouTube.



Pediatric immunologist **Katherine Luzuriaga**, a Filipino American, is credited with the first documented case of curing a child infected with HIV.

Chinese-American brothers **Stanley** (left) and **Derald W. Sue** forged ahead in the field of ethnic minority psychology and founded the Asian American Psychological Association.



Filipino **Larry Itliong** advocated for farm workers to receive fair wages and better working conditions, and was instrumental in the creation of the United Farm Workers union.

Dalip Singh Saund was the first Asian/Indian American to serve in Congress.



Chien-Shiung Wu, a Chinese physicist, was instrumental in the development of US atomic weapons during World War II.





★ Our Achievements ★

Dr. Rahjuan Gordon successfully defended his FSHD doctoral dissertation entitled "Leaders of the New School: Exploring the Origins of Leadership Quality in First Generation Black Male College Students." His doctoral committee included **Dr. Pearl Stewart** and **Dr. Robert Reid**.

You Deserve a Study Break

Check out some ways you can relax, unwind and have fun. Sponsored by the Campus Recreation Center, all events are free to students with a valid MSU ID.

Archery Balloon Burst

Tuesday, May 4
6:00-8:00 pm

Test your archery skills in this brand new event using arrows to pop as many balloons as you can. No registration, just show up at Rec Center MP2.

Pick-up Soccer & Flag Football

Wednesdays, May 5 & 12
7:00-10:00 pm

Show up at DioGuardi Field for open format traditional pick-up games of soccer or flag football. Bring your friends and enjoy a night of sports!

Friday Night Fire Pit

Friday, May 7
6:00-8:00 pm

Relax around the fire on the Rec Center's Back Patio and enjoy free s'mores! [Register](#) in groups of 4.

Open Volleyball & Basketball

Take a study break and play some volleyball or basketball at the Rec Center.

[Register here](#) for various times and days.

Hats All Folks!

Tuesday, May 18
6:00-8:00 pm

Come to the Rec Center MP2 and create a hat that reflects your individual personality! No registration, just show up!

Celebrating Memorial Day

More than 150 years ago, following the Civil War, a national day of remembrance was organized "for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country ... and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in the land."

On that first Decoration Day, as it was called, communities across the country honored their fallen war heroes. In Arlington National Cemetery, volunteers



adorned the 20,000 graves with flowers and ribbons. Today that cemetery is the final resting place for more than 400,000 Americans.

Decoration Day eventually evolved into Memorial Day which, in 1971, was declared a federal holiday to be celebrated on the last Monday of May. ■

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