June is LGBTQ Pride Month

June is designated as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) Pride Month, in honor of the Stonewall Uprising. On June 28, 1969, New York City Police raided the Stonewall Inn, a gay club in Greenwich Village. Tired of ongoing discrimination and oppression, the club’s patrons fought back, sparking a riot that led to six days of protests and violent clashes with law enforcement. The riots became the impetus for the gay rights movement.

One year later, the first Pride March was held in New York to commemorate the uprising 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."

The last Sunday in June subsequently became known as Gay Pride Day, and quickly grew to encompass a month-long series of events. Today, LGBTQ Pride Month attract millions of people around the world to celebrations including parades, picnics, workshops, and concerts, as well as memorials to honor those lost to hate crimes and HIV/AIDS.

The New York City Pride theme for 2021 is “The Fight Continues” and PrideFest is scheduled for Sunday, June 27 in Greenwich Village.

“Our journey is not complete until our gay brothers and sisters are treated like anyone else under the law, for if we are truly created equal, then surely the love we commit to one another must be equal as well.”

- Barack Obama
second inaugural address, January 22, 2013

Minor in FSHD Now Available

MSU is New Jersey’s only four-year public university with a major in Family Science and Human Development, and starting in Fall 2021 we will offer a minor as well.

The new 18-credit minor provides students in any major with a bird’s-eye view of the FSHD field through core courses as well as a wide range of electives on topics such as:

- Immigrant Families
- Gender in a Changing World
- Family Stress and Coping
- Women in Contemporary Society
- and many others!

To learn more about the FSHD minor, or to receive a worksheet listing the required courses, please make an appointment with any academic advisor in the CEHS Student Success Center, CEHSadvising@montclair.edu, or book through Navigate.

DATES TO REMEMBER

June 8
FSHD Baccalaureate Commencement

June 11
FSHD Doctoral Program Commencement

June 18
Juneteenth Holiday — No classes
Dr. Jennifer Brown Urban and Dr. Miriam R. Linver were guest editors for the issue of *New Directions for Evaluation* focusing on Relational Systems Evaluation. They co-authored several articles in the issue, including three written with students: “Applying the Systems Evaluation Protocol in the real world: Six case studies,” “Promoting evaluation in youth character development through enhanced evaluation capacity building: Empirical findings from the PACE Project,” and “Resonance, stickiness, and the value propositions of evaluation capacity building: Key takeaways and future directions.” In addition, they co-authored “Predicting positive youth development from self-regulation and purpose in early adolescence” in the *Journal of Research on Adolescence*.

Dr. Olena Nesteruk was published in the *Journal of Family Issues* with “Family dynamics at the intersection of languages, cultures, and aspirations: Reflections of young adults from immigrant families.” She also co-authored a chapter, “A tale of two cultures: Nigerian immigrant parents navigating a new cultural paradigm” for *Conceptual and methodological approaches to navigating immigrant ecologies*.

The Department of Family Science and Human Development is proud to have been nominated by the MSU Office for Social Justice and Diversity for an *Inclusive Excellence Award* in recognition of our perseverance and social justice advocacy within the campus community.

As a department, we are actively committed to social justice, equity and inclusion, and we vow to continuously and systematically strengthen that commitment. We invite everyone to read our *Statement on Social Justice and Inclusion* which was adopted in Fall 2020.

Our Social Justice Advisory Board is carefully crafting a strategic plan to guide our activities over the next several years. The two board members representing the FSHD faculty and staff are featured in this newsletter.

We are thankful to be part of the MSU community that is genuinely dedicated to championing practices and programs rooted in social justice and intersectionality through the lenses of anti-racism and anti-oppression.
Alumni Spotlight
John Gunn, Ph.D.

Dr. John Gunn graduated in May 2019 with a Ph.D. in Family Science and Human Development, having completed a dissertation titled “Suicide in Younger and Older Adults: A Comparison of Two Theoretical Models for Suicide.”

His Story: The FSHD doctoral program at MSU contrasted a bit with my previous education, and introduced me to a much more multidisciplinary environment. Having faculty from diverse educational backgrounds — psychologists, social workers, sociologists, family scientists and more — placed me at an advantage by enabling me to experience my education, and view the problem of suicide, through many different lenses.

I also look back with gratitude on FSHD’s centralized focus on social justice. Throughout my time in BA and MA psychology programs at other universities, I never heard the term “social justice.” It was not until I came to MSU and the FSHD program that I became introduced to the concept, and to intersectional thinking. This revolutionized the way I view the problem of suicide and opened my eyes to my own positionality and privilege. I take this knowledge with me into every project and classroom I now go – doing what I can to check my privilege and listen to those whose experiences are different from my own.

His Path: Following graduation, I went to the New Jersey Gun Violence Research Center where I focus on better understanding the relationship between access to firearms and suicide mortality. My work has included comparisons of state gun laws and suicide rates, in which we found that the more gun laws in a state, the lower the suicide and homicide rates, as well as examinations of the relationship between gun laws and youth gun carrying, in which more gun laws were associated with reduced youth gun carrying behavior. The Center encompasses many fields of study, and the multidisciplinary nature of my education at MSU directly contributed to my fitting in.

His Plan: I recently accepted an Assistant Professor position at Gwynedd Mercy University, where I’ll be joining the Department of Psychology.

His Thoughts: The FSHD program made me into the scholar I am. Though I came to MSU with a passion for research, my work with the faculty (especially my dissertation committee, Dr. Sara Goldstein, Dr. Constance Gager, and Dr. Amanda Birnbaum) helped mold me into the scholar and developmental scientist that I now am. These research skills were vital in my transition into a Postdoctoral Fellowship following my graduation from MSU.

Learn more about our unique Ph.D. program!
May 2021 FSHD Graduates

Congratulations

Kudos to our two graduates who were chosen as the CEHS Commencement Student Speakers.

Amanda Leon
Alexandra Torebka

What a great honor!