

FAMILY SCIENCE & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

SEPTEMBER 2023



Meet Our Newest Faculty Member

The Department of Family Science and Human Development is proud to introduce Dr. Sei Eun Kim who joins our faculty as an assistant professor.



Dr. Sei Eun Kim

Dr. Kim earned her PhD in Family Studies and Human Development with a minor in Educational Policy from the University of Arizona. She comes to Montclair from Teachers College, Columbia University, where she was a postdoctoral research fellow.

Her research examines family racial-ethnic socialization, identity, educational experiences, and sociopolitical development of Asian American youth. She is committed to advancing racial justice for Asian Americans and translating knowledge that can be useful for families, schools, and community partners.

In the Fall 2023 semester, Dr. Kim is teaching FSHD 200 - Intro to Family Science and Human Development, and FSHD 314 - Child Development II. We welcome her to our FSHD family! ■

Saluting Our Hispanic Community

The US Hispanic population, at more than 19%, is the nation's largest ethnic minority. From September 15 through October 15, we celebrate the cultures and contributions of Hispanic and Latinx Americans with National Hispanic Heritage Month. The timing of this observance intentionally overlaps with the Independence Days of many Latin American countries.

As a nationally recognized Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI), Montclair State University enrolls more Hispanic and Latinx undergraduates than any other higher education institution in New Jersey. More than 20% of majors in the FSHD Department fall into this category.

Intent on maintaining an inclusive environment for Montclair's Hispanic community, the [Office for Hispanic Initiatives](#) will host a series of activities to commemorate Hispanic Heritage Month. Their widespread programs also include the [Hispanic Student College Institute](#) that helps high school juniors and seniors transition to college, and the Hispanic Latino Alumni Network that stays connected with Red Hawks after they launch their professional careers. ■

Department Chair's Corner

I am excited to welcome everyone back to a new school year! Every fall brings a new beginning and the promise of exciting things ahead. If you are brand new to FSHD, I am glad that you are here and hope you take the opportunity to learn more about your new home department and our wonderful community, get to know your professors, say hi to your advisor, make some new friends along the way, and simply soak in everything that this awesome campus has to offer.



Dr. Lyndal Khaw

I am thrilled to welcome the newest member joining our full-time faculty, Dr. Sei Eun Kim, Assistant Professor of FSHD. Dr. Kim is coming to us after completing her postdoctoral work at the Teachers' College at Columbia University and her PhD at the University of Arizona. We are truly excited to have her onboard as her research and teaching expertise in racial/ethnic minority youth development in context is an opportunity to benefit our students' learning and complement the great work that our faculty is engaged in. Please extend a warm wel-

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DATES TO REMEMBER

September 4
Labor Day - No Classes

September 5
Last Day to [Add/Drop](#)

September 15
Deadline to [Apply](#) for Teacher Education Program

September 30
[Homecoming](#)



Alumni Spotlight

Roxanne Ruiz-Adams

Roxanne Ruiz-Adams graduated from the FSHD program in 2008 with a concentration in Family Services.

Her Path: I entered Montclair State University as a psychology major. In reality, I didn't know what I wanted to do as a profession, so I just took the general education classes like everyone else. When it was time to choose an elective, I enrolled in Dr. Jonathan Caspi's *Sibling Relationships* class. It was a wonderful class that gave so much insight into family dynamics and really boosted my desire to work with families. After that elective, I switched my major to Family and Child Studies (now FSHD), which is what put me on my path.



At the time, the major required us to do internships and observations. In my first-year internship with Dr. Reid's Project C.O.P.E., I did field work with a social worker from Rutgers. Once I was in the field, I knew social work would allow me to help people in emotional distress much faster than a psychology degree. I really felt for the at-risk youth we were working with, and the way I was able to assess family dynamics. In my senior year, I was once again required to do a field observation of a family service agency. I found the Family Service League in Montclair, which is a Minuchin-style training center. After I completed my service there, they invited me back as an intern even before I was accepted to any social work program.

Her Career: I hold a Master's in Social Work from Fordham University and a Doctorate in Social Work from Rutgers University. My research focused on conducting family therapy with bilingual families. I own a private group practice in Montclair with two other clinicians, and I teach as a lecturer in the Social Work Program at the Graduate College of Health Professions in Kean University (all while becoming a new mom this year!).

Her Thoughts: Embrace the journey of life, for it's perfectly fine not to always end up where you initially envisioned; in fact, such unexpected detours often lead to extraordinary discoveries. Know that the path to success is not linear, but rather a meandering route of exploration, learning, and growth.

I also want students to recognize that while direct assistance to those in need can be impactful, often the most potent way to effect enduring change is by addressing and altering the systems within which they exist, be they familial or societal. ■

Be The One to... Prevent Suicide

September is National Suicide Prevention Month. All month, mental health advocates, prevention organizations, survivors, allies, and community members unite to promote suicide prevention awareness.

Suicide & Crisis Lifeline
Call or Text 988

The 988 Lifeline

The 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline (formerly the Suicide Prevention Hotline) is an easy-to-remember access code. Anyone experiencing suicidal thoughts, substance misuse or a mental health crisis can call or text 988 to reach a trained crisis counselor 24 hours a day. Online chat is available at [988Lifeline.org](https://988lifeline.org).

#BeThe1To

The Lifeline's message for Suicide Prevention Month -- #BeThe1To -- helps spread the word about actions we can all take to prevent suicide, promote healing, help and give hope.

Be the one to...Ask

Research shows people who are having thoughts of suicide feel relief when someone asks about them in a caring way. Acknowledging and talking about suicide may reduce, rather than increase, suicidal ideation.

Be the one to...Be There

Individuals are more likely to feel less depressed, less overwhelmed, less suicidal, and more hopeful after speaking to someone who listens without judgment.

Be the one to...Keep Them Safe

A number of studies have indicated that when lethal means are made less available or less deadly, suicide rates by that method decline, and frequently suicide rates overall decline.

Be the one to...Help Them Stay Connected

Studies indicate that helping an at-risk person create a network of resources and individuals for support and safety can help them take positive action and reduce feelings of hopelessness.

Be the one to...Follow Up

Studies have also shown that brief, low cost intervention and supportive, ongoing contact may be an important part of suicide prevention, especially for individuals after they have been discharged from hospitals or care services. ■

Career Corner

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

Immigration Lawyer

Immigration lawyers provide advice and legal representation to individuals, families, and businesses for issues and processes related to immigration, visas, citizenship and political asylum.



The responsibilities related to serving in this professional role could be to:

- Provide legal advice to individuals seeking to understand their options, rights, and obligations under immigration laws. Assess an individual's eligibility for programs or visas.
- Help individuals acquire citizenship or legal immigration status. Assist with paperwork and gathering documentation for work/student visas, asylum, permanent residency (green cards), and citizenship.
- Represent and advocate for clients during immigration hearings and other legal proceedings.
- Resolve visa-related problems and issues that may affect immigration status.
- Defend clients facing deportation. Explore avenues for relief, such as asylum claims or waivers.
- Help businesses comply with immigration laws and regulations by establishing procedures for verifying employment eligibility, and obtaining work visas or permits for foreign employees.

To pursue a career as an Immigration Lawyer, FSHD grads would need to acquire a law degree and possess strong skills in research, analytical thinking, and problem solving. Proficiency in other languages would round out the abilities necessary to be successful in this field. ■

Department Chair's Corner

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come to her and say hi when you see her!

Some more good news to kick off the new academic year: Dr. Soyoung Lee has joined the FSHD leadership as our new Associate Chair for Social Justice Initiatives. Dr. Lee brings years of expertise and leadership in the field of diversity, equity, and social justice, and is an amazing person to continue directing this work in FSHD. Much gratitude goes to Dr. Brad van Eeden-Moorefield for having served in this role over the last few years. I look forward to working with him in his new capacity as Senior DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) Fellow for our inaugural College for Community Health (more below), where he will help to establish and collaborate on DEI initiatives in our college. He is also serving as Acting Doctoral Program Director until November.

Please join me in congratulating two faculty members on their professional achievements. Dr. Steven C-Y Lee earned his promotion to Full Professor, and Dr. Ashley Ermer earned her tenure and promotion to Associate Professor. Well done! We are so proud of your many accomplishments that have put FSHD and MSU on the national and world map!

Fall 2023 is also a historic new start for our department as we are now a part of the brand new College for Community Health (CCHL). It is an exciting move for our department as FSHD has always focused on supporting the health of individuals and families as well as the communities in which we live, work, and play, through an intersectional and social justice lens.



Our new College for Community Health is based in University Hall.

Our students and faculty have dedicated their careers towards addressing injustice and promoting community strength and resilience in virtually all spaces in the fields of education, prevention health, family and community services, health advocacy, youth development, and social welfare, just to name a few. We look forward to working alongside Dean Rashid Ahmed and his team in CCHL and can't wait to see what we can accomplish together.

Lots of exciting things ahead indeed! I wish everyone a fabulous start to the Fall semester and a smooth-sailing 2023-24 academic year. ■

Internship Insights

Colleen Casenta (casentac@montclair.edu) is your Career and Internship Advisor. If you haven't met her yet or if you want to touch base, please make an appointment with her on [Handshake](#). With Colleen, you can discuss all things *career* - resumes, interviewing, internships, industry interests, and much more.

SENIORS in the Family Services Concentration: If you are planning to complete your FSHD 409 internship in Spring 2024, **now** is the time to start planning and searching. Meet first with Colleen to discuss!

FSHD 409 Internship Information Sessions: For FSHD students with a concentration in Family Services in all grade levels to learn more about the required senior year academic internship. Especially encouraged for those planning to complete the internship in Spring 2024.

- Thursday, September 28, 2:00-3:00 pm - ADP Center, UNIV 1120 or virtual. [Register via Handshake](#)
- Wednesday, October 18, 12:00-1:00 pm - virtual only. [Register via Handshake](#)

Career Fairs

Lots of career events, fairs, info sessions and workshops are planned for Fall 2023.

Fall 2023 Part-Time Student Job Fair
Wednesday, September 6 - 12:00-3:00 pm
Student Center Quad
[Registration required](#)

The Part-time Student Job Fair offers students the opportunity to meet with on- and off-campus employers interested in hiring various positions. Bring plenty of copies of your resume, and you must bring your MSU student ID.

Fall 2023 Career & Internship Fair
Wednesday, October 4 - 1pm-4:30pm
University Hall Conference Center (7th floor)
[Registration required](#)

Looking to launch your career and gain experience through a full-time job or internship? The office for Experiential Education and Career Connections invites students of all levels, alumni and community members to network with employers in a wide variety of industries! Students must bring their MSU student IDs.

CCHL Career Events and Workshops

Check out the full list of Fall 2023 CCHL [Career Events and Workshops here](#). ■

Teacher Education Deadline

Great teachers change lives. For more than a century, many of New Jersey's best teachers have been educated at Montclair State University.

If teaching is in your future, the deadline to apply for the Teacher Education Program for the Fall semester is Friday, September 15. Visit the Center of Pedagogy's [website](#) to view applicant criteria and information.

Remember...

Family Science and Human Development is the **ONLY** department at MSU that offers a P-3 Certification. ■

Need a Job This Semester?

Don't miss the Fall 2023 Part-time Student Job Fair!



Wednesday, September 6, 2023
12:00—3:00 pm
Student Center Quad
(rain location is Student Center Ballrooms)

Meet with more than 50 employers seeking to hire students for a variety of positions. Remember to bring your MSU ID and lots of resumes.

To register and see the growing list of employers, use this [link for Handshake](#).

Family Science and Human Development

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Dr. Lyndal Khaw, Chair
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