

FAMILY SCIENCE & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Department Newsletter

DECEMBER 2024

Shattering the Shadows of Domestic Abuse

The Family Science and Human Development Department, in conjunction with the Montclair State University Police Department, hosted a panel discussion titled *Shattering the Shadows: Domestic Violence and the Power of Awareness* during Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October. This program was an open discussion exploring the physical and emotional impact of domestic violence on individuals, and offering insight into prevention, as well as resources for students.



University Nurse Barbara Ackerson (right) discusses campus resources for students who are victims of sexual or domestic violence, as panelists Adela Caceres (left) and Danielle Francois listen.

DATES TO REMEMBER

December 20

Last day of Fall semester

December 23

Winter session begins

December 25 - January 1

University closed

January 7

Deadline for Spring 2025 FSHD Internship approval

On college campuses, common forms of domestic violence include dating violence, sexual assault, and roommate violence. Many participants shared their personal experiences with intimate partner violence, and called for improved education to help victims recognize the tell-tale signs of being in an abusive relationship.

FSHD Associate Professor Dr. Soyoung Lee opened the program by welcoming the participants and the panelists: Tisheka Allen, Victim Services and Compliance Manager for the [University Police Department](#), who served as moderator; Adela Caceres, Director of the University's [Office for Social Justice and Diversity](#); Barbara Ackerson, Sexual Assault Response Team Nurse at the [Student Health Center](#); and Danielle Francois, Health and Outreach Coordinator for the [Essex County Family Justice Center](#).

The Student Health Center can work directly with victims of sexual assault. The services are outlined on their website at <https://www.montclair.edu/student-health-center/sexual-assault/sexual-assault-survivor-resources-fags/>. ■



Dr. Gerry Costa Receives Lifetime Champion Award

Dr. Gerard Costa, Professor in the Department of Family Science and Human Development, has been named the 2024 *Lifetime DIR Champion* by the



International Council on Development and Learning (ICDL) for his longstanding and steadfast commitment to DIR.

DIR is the **D**evelopmental, **I**ndividual-differences, and **R**elationship-based

model which provides a foundational framework for understanding human development and how individuals perceive and interact with the world differently. DIR outlines the critical role of social-emotional development on overall human development starting at birth and continuing throughout the lifespan.

Costa has dedicated his career to advancing developmental perspectives, and has been a leader in promoting the continued growth of DIR over the past 30 years. In 2011, he founded Montclair State University's [Center for Autism and Early Childhood Mental Health](#) as a resource on the issues of autism, infant and childhood development and mental health. Serving the university and neighboring communities, the Center's programs include clinical family support services, research, professional development and consultation, a post-graduate certificate program, and continuing education.

In announcing Costa as the recipient of the Lifetime Champion Award, ICDL commented, "He has positively impacted countless professionals with his deep DIR knowledge and his warm compassionate soul. Not only has he championed DIR, he has lived out its core values and principles in every aspect of his life."

Costa has been serving on ICDL's Board of Directors for 14 years, including a decade as president. The organization envisions a world where neurodiversity and individual differences are accepted and everyone achieves their fullest potential.

In FSHD, we are proud to call him our colleague, and we congratulate him on this outstanding achievement. ■

Career & Internship Insights

Alumni Panel to Share Successful Careers Working with Older Adults

Hosted by the university's Interdisciplinary Collaborative on Aging, this panel discussion features a group of Montclair alumni who will present their professional success stories working with aging populations in New Jersey.

Panelists will share their career trajectory, offer tips for success, and expose attendees to the various opportunities to work with aging populations. The program is open to all students and alumni. [Register on Handshake.](#)

Thursday, December 5
6:00-7:00 pm
University Hall 1050

The newly-formed Interdisciplinary Collaborative on Aging will explore the field of Gerontology and the exciting opportunities for students interested in working with the aging population. (See page 4 for information on the Gerontology minor offered through FSHD.)

Deadline for Spring Internships

Students in the Family Services concentration who are registered for their Spring 2025 internship, FSHD 409, must have a fully approved internship by **Tuesday, January 7.**

Digital paperwork must be fully APPROVED by the site supervisor and by Career & Internship Services. To allow time for approval, please submit the Handshake Experience by mid-December.

Any student with questions or concerns, should contact Career & Internship Advisor Colleen Casenta at casentac@montclair.edu.

Career Services for All

Whether you're a freshman or a graduating senior, you can take advantage of the programs offered by Career & Internship Services in the College for Community Health. Advisors will help you through the career planning process, from creating a resume, to honing your interview skills, to establishing a career development plan. They also offer an ongoing series of [CCHL events and workshops](#) including:

Preparing for Your Internship and Job Search

Thursday, December 5
12:00—1:00 Virtual

Resume Review Drop-in Hours

Tuesdays 10:30—12:00 Virtual
Thursdays 1:30—3:00 in University Hall 1180

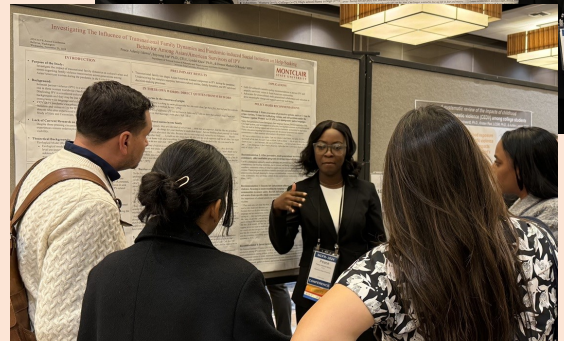
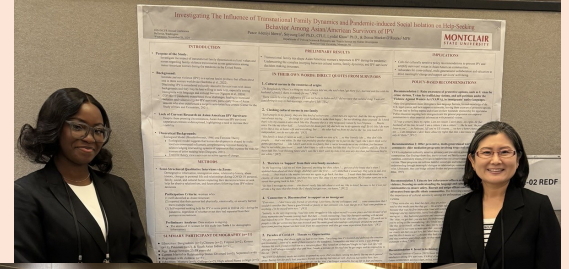
If you have questions or would like to meet with a career advisor, email CCHLcareer@montclair.edu. ■

FSDH Focuses on Building Resilience

Faculty and students from the Family Science and Human Development Department recently participated as panelists and presenters at the Annual Conference of the National Council on Family Relations (NCFR). The conference theme, *Building Resilience among Individuals, Families, and Communities*, encompassed a wide variety of topics, including societal division and healing from the pandemic. Impressive speakers presented evidence-based solutions on topics including bridging ideological divides, implementing restorative practices, and honoring cultural differences when conducting research or delivering programs. NCFR is the premier professional association for understanding and strengthening families through interdisciplinary research, theory, and practice.

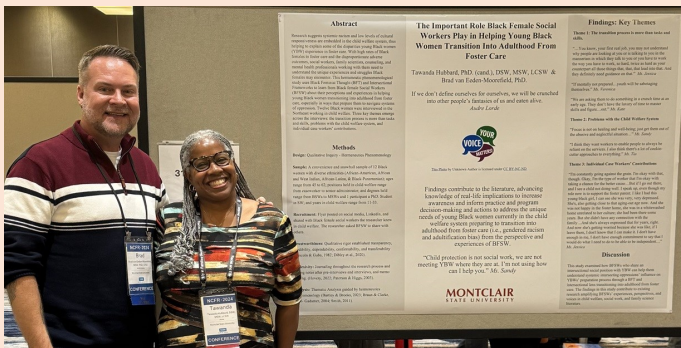


Montclair was well-represented at the conference. Gathering at the display table are (l to r) Tawanda Hubbard, Dr. Soyoung Lee, Dr. Ashley Ermer, Danielle Napoli, Dr. Jackie Keenoy (alum), Dr. Brad van Eeden-Moorefield, Dr. Pearl Stewart, Anglin Theravaja-Chao, Dr. Autumn Bermea (alum), Jane Sanchez-Swain, Dr. Kani Diop (alum) and FSDH Department Chair Dr. Lyndal Khaw.



Political Science undergraduate student Peace Adeniyi-Idowu and her FSDH faculty mentor, Dr. Soyoung Lee, present a poster on Intimate Partner Violence. Funding for their project was made possible by the inaugural University Undergraduate Research and Scholarship Program.

Doctoral student Danielle Napoli presents a poster on Physical Disability Research with her faculty mentor, Dr. Brad van Eeden-Moorefield.



Doctoral student Tawanda Hubbard presents a poster on Social Workers and Foster Care with her faculty mentor, Dr. Brad van Eeden-Moorefield.

Dr. Ashley Ermer (right) presents a poster on Human Development and reconnects with colleagues from other institutions.



FSHD Academics

Student Assistance in FSHD

Jackie Ortiz, a Graduate Assistant in the FSHD Department, is now available to assist FSHD students as a peer mentor.



Jackie earned her B.A. in FSHD (Family Services concentration) and is working toward her master's degree in Counseling. As an FSHD alum, she is familiar with the major, the required courses, and the career options.

If students are confused by Degree Works, or are not sure which classes to take next, Jackie can walk them through the processes and answer their questions.

Jackie is available to meet in-person or online. Students can make an appointment with her at <https://ortizj25.youcanbook.me/>. ■

FSHD Course Updates

The FSHD Department has updated several course titles and numbers as follows:

- FSHD 200 *Intro to FSHD* has been renumbered to FSHD 101.
- FSHD 348 *Family Development* has been changed to FSHD 248 *Family Life*.
- FSHD 315 *Fieldwork in FSHD* has been renamed *Community Engagement*.

Students who have completed these classes under the original names/numbers may not retake the courses.

Additionally, FSHD 216 *Adolescent Development* is offered only to **non-majors**. FSHD majors are required to take FSHD 314 *Child Development 2: Adolescence*. FSHD **minors** may take either 216 or 314, but not both. ■

Gerontology Minor

FSHD offers an exciting Gerontology minor for all Montclair students.



Possessing knowledge in Aging Studies leads students to careers with the fastest-growing segment of the U.S. population in a variety of settings, including senior living facilities and community service agencies. To learn about the study of aging, [click here](#). ■

Social Justice

The Ongoing Battle Against HIV

Nations around the globe unite every year on December 1 to commemorate World AIDS Day, an annual reminder to remain steadfast in our worldwide commitment to prevent new HIV infections and provide essential services to all people living with HIV.



The 2024 theme, *Collective Action: Sustain and Accelerate HIV Progress*, encapsulates the significant progress that has been made through global and domestic HIV programs over the last 40+ years, and reinforces support for initiatives based on new research, scientific advancements, and lessons learned from existing programs in the field. ■

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