

FAMILY SCIENCE & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Department Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2024

Welcoming Each of Our Freshmen

For the first time in FSHD Department history, our alumni enthusiastically greeted the newest cohort of FSHD majors through our new Welcome Wishes program.

Alumni volunteers sent personalized postcards to each of our incoming freshmen, congratulating them on their acceptance, offering words of encouragement and sharing their own experiences as FSHD students. Department Chair Lyndal Khaw also penned individual messages to each new student. Excited to receive handwritten notes from their new “family,” the freshmen were encouraged to share photos of themselves with their postcards on Instagram and tag the FSHD page.



Any alumni or graduating seniors who would like to participate in next year’s postcard program can express interest by emailing Lisa Mills at millsl@montclair.edu. ■

Dr. Jennifer Urban to Lead Character Education Development

Montclair State University is launching a first-of-its-kind effort to create a Character Education course for the new general education curriculum (aka SEEDS) using virtual reality. Supported by a \$1 million, three-year grant, this project will be led by principal investigator Dr. Jennifer Urban, professor of Family Science and Human Development.



Dr. Jennifer Urban

The project, *Planting the SEEDS of Character Growth: Developing Civic and Community Responsibility through Ethical Inquiry Using Virtual Reality*, received the 2024 Institutional Impact Grant, which aims to help develop the moral, civic and/or intellectual character and capacity of faculty, staff and students. The grant is awarded by the Educating Character Initiative, a part of Wake Forest University’s Program for Leadership and Character.

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Department Chair’s Corner



Dr. Lyndal Khaw

I am super excited to welcome everyone back to a new academic year in Family Science and Human Development. Whether you are returning after a well-earned summer break or joining us for the first time, we are thrilled to have you as part of our community!

I know what you’re thinking, how did summer end already?! Like many of you, this summer has been busy but fulfilling. As you can see by the photos on page 6, our faculty and staff stayed active both professionally and personally - presenting at professional conferences, writing manuscripts and grants, enjoying time with their family and friends, traveling the world, and celebrating life’s most precious milestones. It’s surely hard to tear ourselves away from the “dog days of summer,” but it is also exciting to consider the promise of a new semester.


This Fall, we continue to embrace new opportunities for learning, growth, and connection. FSHD continues to be a hub for innovative and impactful research, compassionate teaching, and engaging community reach. We remain committed to our shared mission of advancing social justice, equity, and inclusion in FSHD as we support our students’ goals in making the most of their learning experiences at Montclair and beyond.

(Continued on page 4)

DATES TO REMEMBER

September 3
Red Hawk Day

September 4
Fall 2024 classes begin

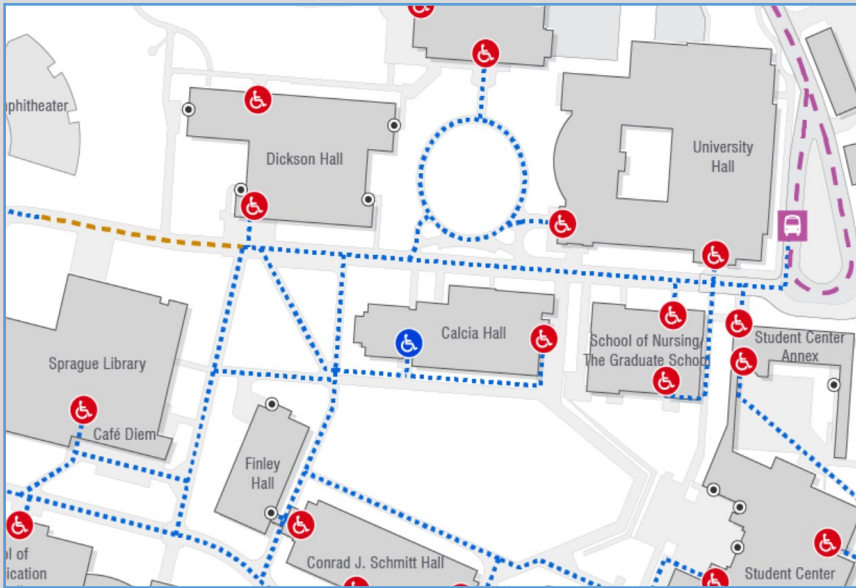
 **September 11**
Last Day to [Add/Drop](#)

- September 15**
- ◆ Deadline to [apply](#) for January graduation
 - ◆ Deadline to [apply](#) for Teacher Education Program for Spring 2025

September 28
Homecoming

Social Justice Initiatives

New Map Highlights Campus Accessibility



Strengthening its commitment to provide an accessible campus experience in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), University Facilities has released a newly-updated [Campus Accessibility Map](#) to help individuals navigate the Montclair campus.

Developed in consultation with the university's [Disability Resource Center](#), the new map pinpoints all accessible building entrances, including those with an automatic door operator. It also reflects accessible parking locations, barrier-free pedestrian routes, and shuttle bus stops.

View and download the map [here](#). For more information about ADA accommodations, visit the [Information for Persons with Disabilities](#) page. ■

Celebrating Hispanic Americans

National Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated from September 15 through October 15 to recognize the cultures and contributions of Hispanic and Latinx Americans. This year's theme is "With Latinos, Everything is Possible."

During this month, the [Office for Hispanic Initiatives](#) celebrates Montclair State University's diverse and dynamic Latinx community with a series of events focusing on both culture and challenges, while commemorating Latinx Pride. Dr. Katia Paz Goldfarb, Associate Provost for Hispanic Initiatives, says, "This month gives us an opportunity to share, recognize and celebrate de donde venimos y a donde vamos (where we come from and where we are going) as an intrinsic part of the society."

Check out these interesting facts:

- Hispanic Heritage Month started 55 years ago as a week, then became a month-long celebration in 1988.
- Hispanics are the fastest-growing group in the U.S., with a population of 63.7 million.
- One out of every four children in the U.S. is Hispanic.
- More Latinos than ever before are going to college, with 33 million currently enrolled.
- Latinos make up 25% of Major League Baseball players.
- Lin-Manuel Miranda is the youngest person ever to win the Pulitzer Prize for Drama for his hit musical "Hamilton."
- Latin music rocks the world, with artists like Peso Pluma and Bad Bunny topping the charts. ■



Meet Our Newest Instructor

The FSHD Department congratulates Dr. Leslie Moorman for joining our faculty as a Postdoctoral Teaching and Learning Fellow.

Moorman earned her PhD in Family Science and Human Development in 2024 right here at Montclair. Her dissertation was titled *How CPS-Involved Parents Make Meaning of Their Parenting*.



She is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, and has been an adjunct professor in the FSHD Department since 2021, teaching Child Development I.

Her research interests include parenting experiences, child protection services, child development, behavioral healthcare for low-income families, bioecological theory, and social justice and equity.

Moorman is teaching Child Development I & II during the Fall 2024 semester. We welcome her to our FSHD family! ■

Character Education

(Continued from page 1)

Montclair's new SEEDS curriculum answers a call for universities to educate for character, in addition to preparing students for the workforce. SEEDS courses share a character-focused mission statement and follow a set of five values:

- **S**ocial Justice and Equity
- **E**ducated Citizenry
- **E**ngagement, Agency and Leadership
- **D**iversity and Intercultural Competency
- **S**elf-discovery and Self-care

"In these particularly fraught and divisive times, character education, ethical reasoning and a focus on community engagement have never been more important," said Urban, who is also co-director of the Institute for Research on Youth Thriving and Evaluation (RYTE).

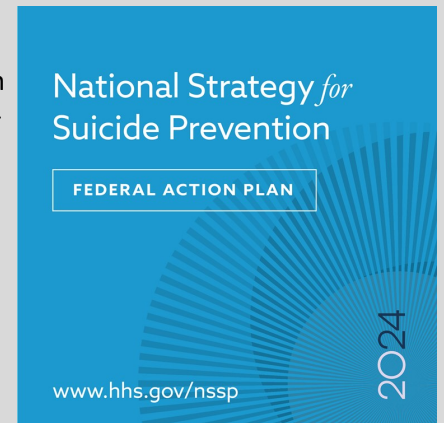
"The new SEEDS core curriculum operationalizes our aspiration to educate students who will contribute to civil society. Imagine the potential power of virtual reality when applied to prosocial endeavors. Our students will be able to see what it feels like to truly walk in someone else's shoes and reflect on those experiences through guided coursework," she added. ■

Suicide Prevention Month

Suicide — an urgent and growing public health crisis — claimed more than 49,000 lives in the United States in 2022. That's one death every 11 minutes.

National Strategy for Suicide Prevention

Suicide Prevention Month in September is the ideal time to highlight the *2024 National Strategy for Suicide Prevention* developed by the US Department of Health and Human Services. The *National Strategy* is a bold 10-year, whole-of-society approach to suicide prevention that provides concrete recommendations for addressing gaps in the suicide prevention field. This coordinated and comprehensive effort at the national, state, tribal, local, and territorial levels relies upon critical partnerships across the public and private sectors. People with lived experience are essential to the success of this work.



The *National Strategy* seeks to:

- prevent suicide risk in the first place
- identify and support people with increased risk through treatment and crisis intervention
- prevent reattempts
- promote long-term recovery
- support survivors of suicide loss

An accompanying *Federal Action Plan* identifies more than 200 actions to be taken across the federal government over the next three years in support of those goals. These actions include:

- Evaluating promising community-based suicide prevention strategies
- Identifying ways to address substance use/overdose and suicide risk together in the clinical setting
- Funding a mobile crisis locator for use by 988 crisis centers
- Increasing support for survivors of suicide loss and others whose lives have been impacted by suicide

These actions will be monitored and evaluated regularly to determine progress and success, and to further identify barriers to suicide prevention. ■

Source: HHS.gov

Dr. Soyoung Lee Selected to Teach at International Summer Program in Seoul

Dr. Soyoung Lee, Associate Professor in the FSHD Department, was selected to participate in the 2024 International Summer Program at Seoul National University (SNU) as a visiting professor. SNU is considered one of the most prestigious public universities in South Korea, and one of the world's leading institutions of higher education.

The intensive six-week summer program, taught entirely in English by distinguished SNU and visiting faculty members, offers international students a chance to learn in depth about Korea and East Asia, as well as a range of topics from dozens of disciplines. Lee taught students from the Department of Child Development and Family Studies, and collaborated in research with the department's faculty.

Participation in such a global exchange is vital for fostering cross-cultural collaboration, enabling the exchange and sharing of knowledge, and overall contributing to academic and cultural enrichment across borders. ■



New Campus "Zen Dens" Create Peaceful Setting



Montclair State University places a strong emphasis on student mental health, and this semester the university is introducing new "Zen Dens." The dedicated spaces in Life Hall provide students with areas to relax, unplug, nap, meditate and/or de-stress. Zen Dens complement existing support resources including counseling services, pet therapy and wellness programs. ■

Our Achievements

Dr. Lyndal Khaw was promoted to Full Professor in the FSHD Department. She has been serving as Department Chair for more than four years.

Department Chair's Corner *(Continued from page 1)*

To our FSHD students, be sure to take advantage of all that FSHD and Montclair have to offer - and there are many perks! Connect and network with your classmates and fellow peers, reach out to your professors and advising team, and dive into this new chapter with much curiosity, open-mindedness, and enthusiasm. If you need some inspiration, this newsletter will include lots of great ideas every month.

As we navigate this semester together, and especially with an election coming our way, I hope our FSHD family continues to support one another, collaborate, and create space to talk and listen to each other - in and out of the classroom. No matter our differences, we can always coalesce around a sense of humanity, our respect for each other's civic duty, and a desire to advocate for the success and wellbeing of the people we educate and serve in the community.

Remember that you bring a unique perspective to the table, and you add much strength and value to our shared goals and experiences. I look forward to the accomplishments and milestones that this semester will bring.

Welcome back everyone, and cheers to a remarkable Fall '24 semester! ■

University Launches Online MSW Program

Beginning in Fall 2025, Montclair State University will offer an [Online Master of Social Work \(MSW\)](#), which prepares graduates — many from the FSHD Department — to provide social work practice and advocacy services to individuals,



families, groups, and communities. The Children, Youth and Families concentration is uniquely focused on supporting children and families within diverse groups and populations.

This online program offers the flexibility to balance work, school and busy lives while gaining valuable skills in communication, critical thinking, empathy, ethical decision-making, and culturally-responsive assessment and intervention. Students will also have the opportunity to customize their elective coursework to build additional competencies based on career goals and interests. Options include school social work, trauma-informed practice, forensic interviewing of children, and many more.

To learn more, attend a **Virtual Information Session**. Click on a date to register:

[Tuesday, September 17 at 8:00 pm](#)

[Tuesday, October 8 at 12:00 pm](#)

[Tuesday, December 3 at 12:00 pm](#)

For additional insight, attend the **Current Student Panel** on [Wednesday, November 6 at 7:00 pm](#). ■

Teacher Education Deadline 9/15

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



If teaching is in your future, the deadline to apply for the Teacher Education Program for Spring 2025 admission is 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. ■

Are you Following FSHD on Social Media?

We've got exciting things happening on our social media channels, and we want YOU to be a part of it! From updates on upcoming events to behind-the-scenes peeks, our social media is your go-to place for FSHD news.

Stay in the loop with the latest announcements. Get inspired by student spotlights and success stories. Connect with fellow students and celebrate our community!

Don't miss out! Find us on:

- **Instagram** @FSHDMontclair
- **Facebook** @Family Science & Human Development at Montclair State University
- **X (Twitter)** @FSHDMontclair
- **LinkedIn** @Family Science & Human Development at Montclair State University

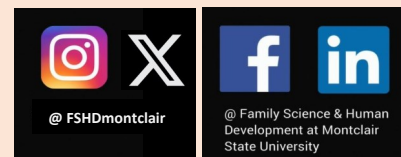
Follow us online, and let us know what else you'd like to see on our platforms! ■



Family Science and Human Development

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Dr. Lyndal Khaw, Chair
Lisa Mills, Newsletter Editor



How We Spent Our Summer Breaks



Dr. Lyndal Khaw attended a leadership conference in Denver, and hiked beautiful Red Rocks Park in Colorado with an old friend.



Lisa Mills discovered the beauty, history, architecture and delicious pastries of Southern Italy.



Dr. Miriam Linver and her husband Matt took time to relax and unwind at the beach.



Dr. Sei Eun Kim and her family were enthusiastic spectators at the Olympics in Paris.



Dr. Jen Urban vacationed with her family in the picturesque pastels of Punta Cana.



Dr. Olena Nesteruk enjoyed spending time with her family locally, and having her college daughter back home.



Dr. Jon Caspi finished writing his new book, and relaxed by taking beachside strolls with his family on Long Beach Island.



Dr. Ashley Ermer explored Acadia National Park in Maine with her husband Paul, and presented at the International Association for Relationship Research conference in Boston.



Dr. Pauline Garcia-Reid and Dr. Robert Reid, along with their daughter Rebecca, attended an annual family gathering with their extended family members.