



FAMILY SCIENCE & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Department Newsletter

JULY/AUGUST 2026

FSHD's Innovative Course Offerings

Interpersonal Relations

Weekend session complements online work
FSHD 141-18, CRN 47614, 3 credits, Dr. Jon Caspi

Designed to balance flexibility with meaningful engagement, this course explores current, relevant perspectives on human relationships across the lifespan (and fulfills a SEEDS requirement).

The course begins with four weeks of asynchronous learning, allowing students to build a strong foundation in the material at their own pace. This is followed by an immersive in-person weekend — Friday, Saturday and Sunday — where students deepen their understanding through discussion, collaboration, and applied learning experiences in a focused, interactive environment.

Following the in-person weekend, students will complete a final paper that encourages reflection, synthesis, and integration of the concepts and insights gained throughout the course. ■

Responsible AI Use in Human Services

Asynchronous online
FSHD 208-01, CRN 47698, 1 credit, Dr. Soyoung Lee

As future family and human services professionals, FSHD students must stay current with the trends shaping our world so they can effectively support diverse families, children, and communities. With artificial intelligence (AI) becoming increasingly integrated into society, the ability to use these tools ethically and responsibly is emerging as a valuable skill for students entering our field.

This one-credit online course provides iterative training in foundational AI literacy and critical discernment, with a focus on the use of AI as a creative and professional tool in human services settings. Students will:

- explore how AI systems generate information
- examine where bias and cultural assumptions may emerge
- Apply ethical reflection when using AI-generated content

Through hands-on practice with prompting techniques, students will gain practical experience and confidence to use AI in ways that support professional work in human services settings. ■

Hispanic Students Discover FSHD Major

The Family Science and Human Development Department joined the excitement of Montclair's Hispanic Student College Institute (HSCI) in June, connecting with ambitious high school students as they began envisioning their college futures.

HSCI included a Major Fair where students explored the wide range of undergraduate academic programs available at Montclair. At the FSHD table, Department Chair Lyndal Khaw welcomed conversations about academic interests, career pathways, and the many



Students learn about the career paths and job opportunities available within the FSHD field.

opportunities available within our field. She also engaged in enthusiastic chats about various World Cup soccer teams! Students were especially excited to take home FSHD materials printed in Spanish to share with their parents who haven't mastered the English language.

Sponsored by the [Office for Hispanic Initiatives](#), HSCI offered 200 rising juniors and seniors a transformative four-day residential experience, immersing them in campus life and providing a firsthand look at what it's really like to be a college student. Through meaningful workshops and engaging activities, students gained valuable insight into the college experience and were able to envision themselves thriving in higher education. ■

DATES TO REMEMBER

August 27
Opening Day

August 28
Fall semester begins



May 2026 FSHD Graduates

Abreu, Caitlyn
Abushanab, Eiman
Alexander, Danielle
Alves, Angela
Amadeo, Yanira
Amato, Sabrina
Ariza, Johanna
Atieh, Tia
Baron, Michelle
Bell, Daijah
Bisono, Clarissa
Choi, Junghyun
Chowdhury, Julie
Dejesus, Samantha
Dobrijevic, Tatjana

Dunwoodie, Karlie
Eakins, Brianne
Endara, Kayla
Espinal, Ailany
Falcon, Amanda
Ferrerri, Jenevive
Frederic, Vanessa
Fucci, Antonia
Gafare, Seham
Geiger, Madison
Han, Christina
Han, Luke
Hidalgo, Flavia
Iqbal, Zeba
Jackson, Rasheema

Jones, Natasha
Les, Elaine
Magliulo, Sabrina
Markoff, Jordan
May, Lindsey
Millan, Isabella
Miolan, Amber
Navarro, Nicole
O'Donnell, Kailey
Ogletree, Kylasia
Osborn, Emma
Pagan, Kimberly
Pereira Rocha, Shawn
Perry, Yasmine
Rios-Alvarez, Paula

Rodriguez, Brianna
Sanchez Vidal, Abril
Schrum, Nayla
Screven, Melissa
Simpson, Mackenzie
Strollo, Alexis
Torres, Luz
Tosic, Alina
Tresierra, Angie
Veloso, Erin
Walker, Brianna
Warner, Logan
Wolff, Lauren
Wolff, Rosemary
Zanzalari, Alexandra

Our Achievements

Dr. Pearl Stewart was promoted to Professor in the Family Science and Human Development Department.

Dr. Jennifer Urban, FSHD Professor and co-director of the Institute for Research on Youth Thriving and Evaluation, and **Dr. Elyse Postlewaite**, Senior Research Scientist, received a \$257,505 grant from the John Templeton Foundation for their project, "Developing Student Agency and Purpose in AI-Supported, Independence-Driven Learning Environments."



Jennifer Urban



Elyse Postlewaite

Dr. Pauline-Garcia Reid, Dr. Miriam Linver, Dr. Robert Reid, and **Dr. Jennifer Urban** were honored with the Distinguished Research Award from the College for Community Health during Faculty Research Day.

Dr. Soyoung Lee was elected to the Board of Directors of the National Council on Family Relations as a member-at-large. ■

Family Science and Human Development

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Dr. Lyndal Khaw, Chair

Lisa Mills, Newsletter Editor

