

# HDFS NEWSLETTER



SPRING 2014 | Newsletter of the Department of Human Development and Family Science

## THE BENEFITS OF ATTENDING THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON FAMILY RELATIONS

By Katie Bull '15 (HDFS)

The HDFS department had 15 students attend the National Council on Family Relations Conference in San Antonio, Tx., November 6-9, 2013, with financial support from SGA, the HDFS Department Endowment Fund, the Dean's Office and various fundraising efforts.

For incoming first-year students, transfers and underclassman, conference attendance is highly encouraged! Here's why:

Rebekah Mowen '17, a first-year Messiah student describes her experience this way: "It is really helpful to go as an underclassman because it opens your eyes to how many job opportunities are



**"[The NCFR conference] also allows you to see what the current issues or topics are and how they are developing in this field..."**

— REBEKAH MOWEN '17

out there and what they entail. It also allows you to see what the current issues or topics are and how they are developing in this field... and it helps you interact and build relationships with others in the department that you would not have known otherwise."

The three themes listed above in the student account were unanimous among other student NCFR attendees. Students who attended the conference left with a



Above: Lindsey Fye '14 (HDFS) and Abby Leach '15 (FCS) picking out what sessions to go to throughout the conference

Left: Family therapist Dr. Pauline Boss talking about ambiguous loss.

Top: Dr. Hamon and Messiah students take a break from the conference to visit the Alamo.

## The Department of Human Development and Family Science

### MISSION

The Department of Human Development and Family Science equips students with the knowledge, skills and expertise to enhance the well-being of individuals and families across the lifespan in diverse social and cultural settings. Within the context of Christian faith and values, the department prepares students, through experiential and application opportunities, to pursue leadership, service and reconciliation locally, nationally and globally.

### DEPARTMENTAL PROGRAMS

#### Majors

- Human Development and Family Science (B.A.)
- Family and Consumer Sciences Education (B.S.)
- Graduates of both the HDFS and FCSE majors are eligible to receive the provisional Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE) designation from the National Council on Family Relations.

#### Minors

- Children and Youth Services
- Disability and Family Wellness
- Gender Studies
- Gerontology
- Human Development and Family Science
- Multicultural Families
- Pre-Counseling and Therapy

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## FROM THE DEPARTMENT CHAIR

*Dr. Raeann Hamon*

I have to tell you, my enthusiasm and energy for family science never wanes. This spring I had the privilege to serve as an external reviewer for two family science programs: one at a state university in the western part of the country and one at a small liberal arts college in the southeast. Visiting these other campuses and carefully reviewing their family science curriculum reminds me of what a gift we have in Messiah College. We are blessed to be part of an educational institution which intentionally integrates Christian faith, values and perspectives into our learning and doing. We have a committed, hard-working faculty and excellent, nationally recognized family science programs in our Human Development and Family Science and Family and Consumer Sciences majors. We are gifted with engaged and interested students who want to grow as whole persons. As our mission suggests, we desire to “sharpen intellect, deepen Christian faith and inspire action in preparation for lives of service, leadership and reconciliation in church and society.”

However, no matter how idealistically I continue to view Messiah College and our programs here, my exposure to other family science programs and institutions around the country remind me that we can get better and do better. Consequently, the HDFS department, like other departments on campus, constantly engages in assessment in order to improve and to better meet the needs of our students and the individuals and families which they will ultimately serve. Some of our goals surround curriculum. In this newsletter, you will read about the new collaborative minor in Disability and Family Wellness that we created with the help of the education department. As a result of the closure of the Philadelphia campus, we also revised our Multicultural Families minor this year so that students can complete the program at Grantham and/or while studying abroad. We're also looking for tangible ways in which to include more field experience within our HDFS curriculum, exploring 2/1 credit options (2 credits in class and 1 credit in-field experience) for select courses. In addition to curricular reviews and revisions, we are also highly committed to better engaging our alumni. In addition to sponsoring alumni career panels each semester, compiling alumni career profiles for our website and inviting alumni to speak to our classes, we've recently initiated our HDFS department Outstanding Alumni Award and our HDFS department newsletter. We are very proud of our alumni and the relationships that we have developed with them over the years; you remain very important to us. I hope that you'll stay engaged. LIKE us on Facebook, connect with me and other faculty on LinkedIn, visit us whenever you are in the area and drop us an email when you get a chance.

Another goal that has come to the forefront is the need and desire to enable our students. The current economic climate makes attending and remaining at Messiah College increasingly difficult. I am deeply saddened at the number of excellent students who struggle to remain at Messiah and/or drop out due to financial reasons. Consequently, it seems that more and more of my time is devoted to identifying funding sources for department activities and student support. We are very fortunate to have our HDFS Department Student Endowment Fund, which aids students in pursuing life-changing professional development activities like you will read in the stories about the NCFR conference. I remain extremely grateful to Dr. Samuel Brubaker for his kindness in inviting friends and family of his late wife Lucy, one of our first home economics students, to donate to our endowment fund. Those gifts help to sustain our ability to support students in their professional endeavors. All this to say, while I think what we have here in the HDFS department at Messiah College is fantastic, don't expect me to become complacent. I will continue to look for ways to continue to improve our programs and support our faculty and students so that they can be good and faithful servants in the world in which God has placed us. I hope that you will join me in those efforts.



Raeann Hamon, HDFS department chair

## ANNUAL HDFS DEPARTMENT T-SHIRT

By Dr. Raeann Hamon

In case you haven't noticed, we try to have a good deal of fun in the HDFS department while we also work and study hard. One of the ways that we celebrate together is by uniting around our shared identity and goals. We want to help people! We want to strengthen families! We want to "Love one another" (John 13:34-35). Katie Bull's '15 (HDFS) winning design graces our 2013-2014 HDFS department T-shirts. To Dr. Boyd-Soisson's dismay, we selected PennDOT orange for the T-shirt color. Next year, we'll have to let her select the color! It is likely to be a bit more subdued.



Above: Dr. Hamon, Mrs. Chopka, Dr. Boyd-Soisson sporting our T-shirts. Above Right: Professors Johns and Reyes

*NCFR, continued from page 1*

greater understanding of the opportunities in Family Science, were more knowledgeable in current research and built deeper relationships with other students within the department.

Kimberly Scheffey '15 (HDFS) recalled, "I learned a lot! I was so excited to be learning so much about so many different topics, and it was amazing to hear new research that is emerging.... The sessions were so diverse, so I felt like I could go to sessions that focused on many different topics that appealed to me. I especially enjoyed the session on Ambiguous Loss, and it was so crazy that we were able to experience [Pauline Boss's] speech."

In addition to the benefits that students recounted above, attending an NCFR conference also allows you to develop professionally. Students are able to network with professionals and other student attendees, listen to a broad range of topics

and even participate in the conference as well. Can anyone say, "résumé builder?!" Scheffey states, "I was inspired to do my own research after realizing that there were high school seniors who were presenting at the conference. I realized that we are in the process of emerging into the field—even as college students!"

During the fall of 2014, the conference will be held in Baltimore, Md., making conference attendance even more affordable and feasible! With all the benefits mentioned above, and more to boot, Dr. Hamon and the HDFS department are going for a 100 percent attendance campaign, even if it is just for a day! Spread the word and mark November 19–November 22, 2014 on your calendars! This year's theme will be "Families at the Nexus of Global

Change," focusing on globalization and its impact on families.

**"I was inspired to do my own research after realizing that there were high school seniors who were presenting at the conference. I realized that we are in the process of emerging into the field—even as college students!"**

— KIMBERLY SCHEFFEY '15



Megan Dubbs '14 (FCS), Lindsey Fye '14 (HDFS), and Rebekah Mowen '17 (HDFS) meet Dr. Pauline Boss (U of MN)

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**NCFR CONFERENCE 2014**  
**"Families at the Nexus of Global Change"**

**BALTIMORE, MARYLAND**  
**NOVEMBER 19–22, 2014**



Above left: Katie (Kuplin) Bennett '08 and Becky (Kuplin) Stuckey '07; Above center: Becca '14 and Rachel '10 Franco; Above right: Nicole '15 and Michelle '12 Nagel

## “SISTERS” OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT & FAMILY SCIENCE AND FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES

By Nicole Nagel '15 (HDFS)

Throughout the years many pairs of sisters have gone through the programs of HDFS and FCS and have learned about what it means to be sisters in Messiah's program as well as after graduation. Becky (Kuplin) Stuckey '07 and her sister, Katie (Kuplin) Bennett '08 graduated from the FCS program and enjoy helping students as current family and consumer sciences teachers. Becca Franco '14 is a HDFS senior at Messiah pursuing a career as a Child Life Specialist and her sister, Rachel Franco '10 graduated from the HDFS program and is now working as a Transitions Counselor/Case Manager. My name is Nicole Nagel '15 and I am a HDFS major pursuing a career in creative art therapies and I also have a sister, Michelle Nagel '12, who graduated from the HDFS program and is now completing her master's degree in Social Work from Fordham University. Let's hear about what these sisters of HDFS and FCS have to say about going through school and learning about life together as sisters.

### BECKY AND KATIE

#### What was your favorite class?

**Becky:** Our favorite classes were honestly Human Sexuality and Marital Relationships. Professor Johns taught both,

and I remember that discussions were lively in each. The content was interesting, discussion was lively and I learned a lot about myself in each.

#### How have you connected as FCS sisters?

**Becky:** When it comes to both being FCS teachers, we certainly share ideas. I think any 'special bond' we share is rooted more so in the fact that we are teachers, not necessarily in FCS specifically.

### BECCA AND RACHEL

#### What are you doing now and how has the HDFS program prepared you for life after college?

**Becca:** I am currently a HDFS senior pursuing a career as a child life specialist. Messiah has given me the opportunity to take a class with a certified child life specialist and take part in a practicum at Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital. I have enjoyed taking all of the developmental courses at Messiah and feel prepared to graduate in the spring!

**Rachel:** I am a Transitions Counselor/Case Manager at Orange County Jail. My job is to counsel the inmates during their

time in jail to keep them accountable and also set up some career planning and exit goals for them for when they leave. I also help them get set up at a school to finish their education when they get released from their sentence.

I would not be able to do this job without HDFS. The program basically gave me so many skills and material to do what I do. I work with a tough population, so knowing how life stages, social develop-

ment and home environment have affected the inmates' life decisions to get them in jail helps me make sense of them as human beings with feelings and past trauma. These are the times I look back at my adolescent or child develop-

ment notes! I have learned a lot of counseling skills and therapeutic techniques when working with my clients. Thanks to HDFS, I get to practice everything I have learned over the years and put it to good use."

#### How have you connected as HDFS sisters?

**Becca:** I have loved hearing my sister's advice on projects and certain classes. It has been great having Rachel as a mentor

while I completed my Strategies project this fall as well! It is awesome to talk about HDFS with my sister and even though we are pursuing different interests it has been wonderful to share and compare our different experiences.”

**Rachel:** I love to hear about the process my sister is going through and be able to relate my own experiences. I think especially when she started Strategies, I told her how to prepare herself for it and gave her any tips that I know helped me. My sister and I have names starting with the letter “R” (Rachel and Rebecca) and we also look alike, so it’s always funny to hear how my sister’s teachers will unconsciously call her my name in class or make remarks to her how similar we are.”

#### **MICHELLE AND NICOLE** **What attracted you to the HDFS program?**

**Michelle:** HDFS has a great program that gives students a lot of opportunities. I have been able to go to the NCFR Conference in both San Francisco and Orlando. Taking courses like Dynamics of Family Interaction and Strategies have prepared me for working situations and graduate school. I have used my Strategies project as an example to implement activities when I worked in a nursing home. I have also used my skills in creating genograms in counseling sessions for my graduate program internship.”

**Nicole:** I have enjoyed all of the opportunities that the HDFS program has to offer to students, such as getting involved with MCCFR and attending the NCFR Conference. I was also drawn to this program because the program offers specific courses needed for obtaining future jobs, such as Introduction to Child Life and Child Development.

#### **How have you connected as HDFS sisters?**

**Nicole:** It has been great to share ideas with each other about the field of HDFS. It is always fun to discuss potential career paths because there are so many options with HDFS! Being in the same program has been a great bonding experience and it is fun to think that in the future we have the possibility of working together.



*Migrant Education Students*

## **STUDYING LATINO FAMILIES AT MESSIAH**

*By Dr. Robert Reyes*

During J-Term 2014, students in HDFS 393 Latino Families were introduced to the unique values and experiences of Latino families residing in our region. Through a series of classroom and field experiences, students had the opportunity to learn more about the issues affecting different Latino groups (i.e., Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban and Central American) and their experiences in both rural and urban settings. Special

attention was given to the study of immigration and acculturation. In particular, historical, political and economic factors that influenced the process of adjustment of these families into mainstream American culture were explained. Students were also able to study the delivery of social services to these families through visits to the Latino-Hispanic American Community Center in Harrisburg and the Migrant Education Program in Chambersburg.

## **HELPING COUPLES TO THINK SERIOUSLY ABOUT THEIR RELATIONSHIPS**

*By Professor Paul Johns*



*Paul and Melanie Johns*

“Are You Serious?!”: A Retreat for Seriously Dating and Engaged Couples is back for its seventh consecutive year. Paul and Melanie Johns will spend April 25 and 26, 2014 with Messiah College couples desiring to invest in the health of their relationship. The retreat focuses on the history, present

state and future trajectory of their relationship with an emphasis on healthy emotional attachment, communication skills, conflict resolution and a deeper knowledge of their relationship desires and expectations. Based on feedback from previous participants, the retreat has proven to be a valuable time for couples to break away from their frenetic pace and focus on growth and discernment. By the grace of God, this year will be no different. Please join us in praying for the retreat and the couples that participate.

# MESSIAH COLLEGE'S EARLY LEARNING CENTER: A VALUABLE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT FOR BOTH TODDLERS AND COLLEGE STUDENTS

By Dr. Erin Boyd-Soisson

As some of you may be aware, due to budgeting issues, Messiah College's Early Learning Center (the ELC) will undergo some changes for next year. As of fall 2014, the ELC will no longer be serving infants and toddlers. The infants and toddlers will be sadly missed by students who have enjoyed the hands-on and observational learning experiences at the ELC. However, there are some exciting new changes to the program that will continue to serve preschoolers both in childcare and preschool classes. Stacey Griffiths will continue to serve as the ELC's director in addition to master teacher. Denise Fogelsanger will return next year continuing her role as a master teacher. Jill Cowoski, a veteran teacher, will also continue with project work in the afternoon portion of the program.

Both the preschool and the childcare will be open to the community and will be utilizing a project approach: "The center has earned the highest accreditation for early childhood programs from NAEYC and will utilize the project approach to learning as a key component of its curriculum. This inquiry-based approach allows children and teachers to engage in-depth investigations of a topic or idea worth studying, resulting in the strengthening of academic skills and intellectual dispositions in an authentic manner."

Although there will be some changes, students will still have multiple opportunities to observe preschoolers, primarily for Child Development classes. This has been a valuable learning opportunity for students, and we are grateful to be able to continue this assignment! In addition, students will still be able to gain hands-on experiences working with children by volunteering, like Kirby Pohlidal '14 (FCS). Kirby is a Family and Consumer Sciences Education major who is volunteering in one of the preschool classrooms. She plans to be teaching child development or instructing a preschool at a high school when she graduates and her experience at



Above: Samantha Strohecker (HDFS '15) in the puppet theater at the ELC. Top: Brooke Dorwart (HDFS '16) and Anna Ellis at the ELC

the ELC fits well with these career plans. Students will also be able to obtain work study positions at the ELC, like Samantha Strohecker '15 (HDFS), who plans to become a Child Life Specialist. Working with the children at the ELC has given her experience, before graduating, of working with children. Finally, several HDFS students have completed internships at the ELC. Brooke Dorwart's '16 (HDFS) intern-

ship has involved helping the teachers in the classroom, as well as the staff in the office. The HDFS department and the ELC are excited to continue to provide these opportunities to students. To learn more about the ELC, please visit [http://www.messiah.edu/academics/early\\_learning/](http://www.messiah.edu/academics/early_learning/) or like its Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/elcmessiahcollege>.

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

### HDFS DEPARTMENT PRESENTS SECOND OUTSTANDING ALUMNI AWARD

By Dr. Raeann Hamon



Sarah J. Daniels '06, winner of the 2013 HDFS Outstanding Alumni Award

Messiah College Department of Human Development and Family Science awarded its second Outstanding Alumni Award to Sarah J. Daniels '06 (HDFS). The award is designed to recognize HDFS alumni who demonstrate significant professional

leadership and a legacy of distinguished contributions to the service of individuals and families.

For more than nine years, Sarah has boldly advocated for vulnerable individuals and families in her community. She continuously embraces her education, passion and talents to proactively influence societal change and connect organizations with the resources necessary to fulfill their missions. Sarah began her career as an intern at the YWCA of Greater Harrisburg during her senior year where she served as a legal advocate. Sarah successfully balanced

her academics and the responsibility of advocating for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Following graduation she was hired as a housing manager for the Domestic Violence Center of Chester County where she helped 14 women and their 36 children navigate paths toward self-sufficiency. In 2008 Sarah joined Big Brothers Big Sisters to manage more than 100 mentoring relationships for at-risk youth and coordinate volunteer retention efforts. She simultaneously worked towards a Certificate in Nonprofit Fundraising from Delaware County Community College and obtained a master's degree in Nonprofit Management from Eastern University. In 2013 she was hired as director of the Elite Charitable Foundation where she oversaw grant-making to nonprofits serving children and families. Within a few short months Sarah was recruited by one of her grantees to work as their development coordinator for the Garage Community & Youth Center. Within the first four months of the position Sarah has raised over \$69,500 of funding from brand new funding sources. She has also developed

and implemented program evaluation tools to more effectively capture the organization's impact in the community.

Nominate yourself or another Human Development and Family Science/Family Studies, Family and Consumer Sciences/Home Economics or Behavioral Science graduate for the 2014 Human Development and Family Science Outstanding Alumni Award.

Candidates must be five years removed from graduation and must show evidence of significant professional leadership and a legacy of distinguished contributions to the service of individuals and families.

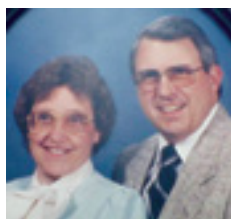
Download the nomination form from the HDFS website at [messiah.edu/HDFS/alumniaward](http://messiah.edu/HDFS/alumniaward).

Nominations should be submitted by **Oct. 1, 2014**. Email completed nomination forms to Raeann Hamon at [rhamon@messiah.edu](mailto:rhamon@messiah.edu) or mail to:

**Messiah College**  
**One College Avenue Suite 3047**  
**Mechanicsburg PA 17055**

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### IN MEMORY OF LUCY LENHERT BRUBAKER '56



Lucy Lenhart Brubaker joined the student body of Messiah Academy in September 1954 in the class of '56. Although her home was

in western Ohio, her life on campus was enriched by proximity of several close relatives, including her aunt, Professor Mary Eshelman who was head of the Department of Home Economics.

After graduation from Messiah Academy, Lucy continued at Messiah College, majoring in Home Economics. She transferred to Wittenberg University in 1958 to complete her degree in Home Economics with teaching certification in 1961. With

this educational foundation, she entered University of Pennsylvania School of Allied Medical Professions, where she completed training in occupational therapy in 1963.

Combining her training in two disciplines, she practiced occupational therapy with special interest in rehabilitation of the disabled homemaker. She was employed at Magee Memorial Rehabilitation Center in Philadelphia for several years.

She married Samuel M. Brubaker in 1962 and had three children. In time, she and her husband moved their young family to western Ohio. Her home economics training was reflected in her skills with foods, fabrics and home management. She became active in meal planning, food preparation and serving, both in her local congregation as a member of the deacon

team, and for the annual camp meeting of Brethren in Christ Central Conference.

Her teaching skills were applied as a volunteer in Christian Education at Fairview Church in Ohio. She established a student loan fund to assist Fairview youth to pursue college education. She was always eager to enhance the growth and learning of children and youth.

At her death in December 2013, her family suggested memorial contributions be directed to Messiah College Department of Family Science and Human Development Student Professional Development Endowment. We are particularly grateful for these gifts and trust that Lucy would be pleased to support current students in attaining professional development experiences.

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



### A SEMESTER IN THAILAND

By Hannah Hartman '16 (HDFS)

Thailand has been life changing. I have been here for two months now and have done some activities I would have never imagined doing. For starters, I spent my 20th birthday riding elephants. I also had the opportunity to pet and cuddle a tiger and cook Thai food! Not only did I do fun activities but I had a life changing internship. My internship was at Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University where I helped teach English to monks and help them practice speaking English. That internship changed my life. They have such a positive mind-set and great hearts. They show a great example on accepting all people and showing love to everyone. Leaving the internship I have gained experience teaching. I also left with new friends. I can't wait to see what the Lord has in store for me these next two months.



Above: Hannah Hartman '16 (HDFS) cuddling tigers at Tiger Kingdom in Chiang Mai.

Above Left: Hannah Hartman and three of her monk friends from Wat Suandok. She taught them English for her internship at the university that is at the temple.

Right: Annalena Vencil '16 (HDFS) is also studying in Thailand. Hannah and Annalena helped plant 2,200 banana trees, providing villagers with 100,000 additional pounds of bananas to sell next year.



### POST-ADOPTION SERVICES INTERN AT BETHANY CHRISTIAN SERVICES: ELISABETH MARTIN '14

By Dr. Raeann Hamon



Elisabeth Martin '14 (HDFS)

Elisabeth Martin '14 (HDFS) is spending her final semester at Messiah College as an intern at Bethany Christian Services (BCS), a global non-profit family preservation and child welfare organization caring for orphans and vulnerable children on five continents. The experience is particularly meaningful to Liz. She says, "I wanted to do an internship with an adoption agency because I am

passionate about adoption and the process. Being adopted and also growing up in a family that has many adoptees, I wanted to be able to use what I already know about adoption and gain even more knowledge and experience." As an intern, Liz participates in assessment processes with caseworkers, contributes to BCS adoptive family group meetings, joins in BCS staff meetings and attends trainings for adoptive parents offered by BCS. As a special bonus, Liz is helping with planning and registration for the upcoming Northeast Adoption Summit which will be held at her agency in Lancaster.



**LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!**

We'd like to keep you apprised of many of the things that we are doing in the department, so we're posting events and pictures on our new Messiah College Department of Human Development and Family Science Facebook page.

Like us at [facebook.com/messiah.HDFS](https://facebook.com/messiah.HDFS).

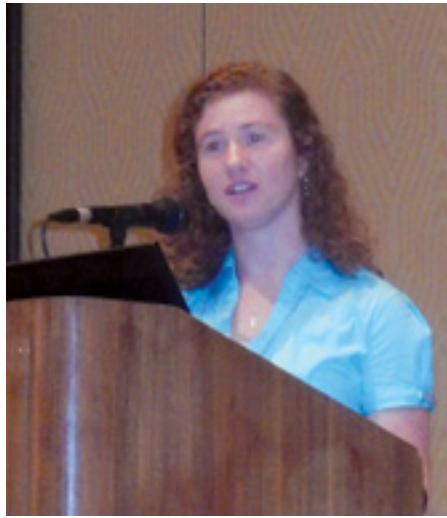


## UNEXPECTED BLESSING

By Lindsey Fye, '14 (HDFS)



Above: Lindsey Fye '14 (HDFS) with Dr. Maresa Murray; Above right: Lindsey Fye presenting "Reminiscing on our Inclusion and Diversity History and Moving Forward with our Future" at the NCFR Conference.



Upon becoming an HDFS major, I was confronted with the prospect of attending the National Council on Family Relations (NCFR) Conference. I knew about it but never gave serious thought to attending until my senior year when Dr. Reyes asked for help in creating a presentation for the conference. Beginning in the summer, I worked with Dr. Reyes and his work-study student, Brianne Holter '14 to research, design and create a presentation highlighting the diversity efforts in NCFR. I was then given the opportunity to present alongside Dr. Reyes, something that terrified my introverted self. But as some people say, the Lord works in mysterious ways.

Shortly after accepting the invitation to present a portion of the material, Dr. Reyes informed me that he had a family emergency and would not attend the conference. Asking if I would take over the entire

presentation, Dr. Reyes placed an enormous amount of trust in me as I (hesitantly) took on the responsibility. It turned out to be the best decision I have made in my college career. After a lot of practice, prayer and a whole lot of Jesus, I presented

the material. Although it lasted about 30 minutes, the lessons I learned will last forever. I am no longer afraid to participate or give speeches in class. (Compared to a national conference, a presentation for class is nothing!) I also have realized I am more willing to discuss why HDFS is such a fantastic major to be a part of. Attending the conference is by far one of my fondest memories of college, as well as one of the

most rewarding. A huge thanks goes out to Dr. Hamon and Dr. Reyes for not only trusting me with this responsibility but for also reassuring me that I was capable of it and keeping my nerves as low as possible. Thank you so much!

**"I was then given the opportunity to present alongside Dr. Reyes, something that terrified my introverted little self. But as some people say, the Lord works in mysterious ways."**

— LINDSEY FYE '14

## FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES STUDENT TEACHER: LAURA KREIDER '14

By Laura Kreider, '14 (FCS)

Currently, I am halfway through my student teaching at Spring Grove Area High School in York County. I have been blessed with the opportunity to teach a variety of subjects, including nutrition, child care, textiles and sewing, housing issues, and interior design. The highlight of my experience thus far has been working with the faculty and staff of the district. My cooperating teacher, Mrs. Claire Shubert, has served as a great model for demonstrating great care for her students and content. I greatly appreciate all of the knowledge she has to share and her daily encouragement.



Above: Laura Kreider '14 (FCS) student teaching in Spring Grove Area High School

Top: Laura Kreider leading a crepes-making demonstration

## PA ASSOC. OF FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES CONFERENCE

By Dr. Raeann Hamon



Six Messiah College Family and Consumer Sciences students, along with Professors Dawn Gearhart and Raeann Hamon, attended the PA Association of Family and Consumer Sciences Conference in Lancaster, Pa., April 4-5, 2014. Students were able to meet Family and Consumer Sciences teachers from across the state, attend sessions of relevance to them and glean resources and teaching ideas. Annette Kolb '17 (FCS) was elected to serve on the PAFCS student organization board and Sarah Ganung '15 (FCS) was presented the PAFCS undergraduate scholarship.

*Left: Professor Dawn Gearhart and three FCS students at the Beef Council's exhibit at the PAFCS conference.  
Far Left: Sarah Ganung '15 receiving the PAFCS undergraduate student scholarship*

## SOCIOLOGY OF AGING STUDENTS ENGAGE IN AN ELDER SERVICE PARTNER PROGRAM

By Dr. Raeann Hamon

This spring students in my Sociology of Aging course have the privilege of volunteering alongside an Elder Service Partner (individuals 65 years of age and older) for the duration of the semester. Students are volunteering at places like Messiah Village, Recycle Bicycle, House of Mercy Mission, Habitat for Humanity and food pantries. In the process of engaging in service work together, students develop a meaningful relationship with an adult much older than themselves. These older adults often teach students things about aging and living that I am unable to do within the classroom context. Lydia Snow '14 (HDFS) shares: "Volunteering with Mrs. (Joyce) Anderson has been a wonderful experience. I think that it is a great opportunity to not only get to personally know Mrs. Anderson, but to be able to make an impact on the local community as well." We look forward to an Elder Service Partner Reception at the end of the semester when we will celebrate these relationships.



*Ashtin Stoner '15 (HDFS) and Lydia Snow '14 (HDFS) with their Elder Service Partners, Hal and Joyce Anderson*

## HDFS ANNOUNCEMENTS

### NEW MINOR IN DISABILITY AND FAMILY WELLNESS

By Dr. Raeann Hamon

As a result of deep Christian convictions about the need to reach out and include persons with disabilities in our communities, the HDFS and education departments collaborated on a new minor in Disability and Family Wellness. Many students exhibit a keen interest in working with individuals with disabilities. Given that one out of every five Americans has some form of disability, with many more caring for individuals with disabilities, this interdisciplinary minor will enhance competency relative to special needs and help to prepare graduates for working with populations representing a range of disabilities (e.g., disabled veterans, disabled adults, children with a variety of special needs, older adults with cognitive and physical disabilities) in a variety of professional settings (e.g., Veterans Hospitals, group homes for adults, schools, homes, children's hospitals, long-term care communities, hospice, adoption and foster care agencies, churches, schools) in many professional capacities (e.g., therapeutic support staff, child life specialist, early intervention specialist, foster care or adoption case managers/recruiters, teachers, ministers).

### NEW OPPORTUNITY IN SERVING MULTI-CULTURAL FAMILIES

By Dr. Robert Reyes

As part of our department's continual mission to maximize opportunities for learning, efforts were made to revise and strengthen the Multicultural Families minor. This new minor will provide students with the unique opportunity to grow in four distinct areas. First, students will have the opportunity to develop further their understanding of ethnically and racially diverse families. Second, students will grow in their understanding of cultural diversity and its interaction with larger social/community structures. Third, students will deepen their understanding of personal attitudes, beliefs and values through rich experiential learning opportunities. Finally, students will gain rich insight through the study of specific areas of interest. Also, the program's distinct experiential learning focus will provide students with the chance to complete the minor through a number of unique domestic or international study field experiences. Some of the sites that have been approved for the minor include, GoEd Africa, GoEd Mekong (Thailand), the CCCU semester studies program (i.e., India, Latino America, China and the Middle East), as well as programs in the United States such as the Gordon Urban Campus in Boston and the Westmont Center in San Francisco.

### HDFS DEPARTMENT INITIATES MENTORING PROGRAM

By Dr. Raeann Hamon



Annette Kolb '17 (FCS) is helping with the HDFS department's mentoring program

In order to foster student adjustment, retention and success, the HDFS department is initiating a mentoring program for our students. Beginning in the fall of 2014, incoming first-year students will be assigned a junior HDFS/FCS major as a mentor. We are also currently trying to provide mentors for this year's first-year students. Our plan is to pair first years with juniors so they have the same mentor for two years. The second phase of the program will include pairing interested juniors and seniors with our HDFS/FCS graduates. We're in the process of developing some general guidelines for mentors so that they have a sense of the expectations for mentoring. Annette Kolb '17 (FCS), one of our very engaged first-year students, is helping to get the program off the ground. If you'd like to be a mentor, please contact me (rhamon@messiah.edu)!

### FAMILY SCIENCE WEEKEND PLANNED FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

By Dr. Raeann Hamon

The HDFS department is trying something new for the fall of 2014. We will host a Family Science Weekend event for prospective students on October 24 and 25. We hope that students will arrive on campus by 4 p.m. on Friday, October 24. Prospective students will meet current students and then attend an alumni career panel in Parmer Cinema at 4:30 p.m. where five alumni will share information about the work that they do, how their

education helps them in that work and how their faith interfaces with the work that they do. Current and prospective students will have opportunity to ask alumni specific questions about their careers. After the panel, prospective students will enjoy a light dinner in Howe Atrium, along with faculty and students hosts. An evening of fun events will follow. Prospective students will stay overnight in the dorms/apartments with current students in our pro-

grams. On Saturday, students will attend Open House events on campus where they can learn more about campus life, financial aid, the application process and the like. We encourage our alumni, family and consumer sciences teachers, parents and others to promote this event to promising high school students.

Visit [messiah.edu/departments/family/FamilyScienceWeekend.html](http://messiah.edu/departments/family/FamilyScienceWeekend.html) for more information.

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## HDFS DEPARTMENT ALUMNI CAREER PANEL



*Rachel Shenk, Amanda Lawrence, Tawny Bernhardt, Amanda Seal, Heather Barnhart*

Five alumni—Rachel Shenk '12 (HDFS), Amanda Lawrence '11 (HDFS), Tawny Bernhardt '08 (HDFS), Amanda Seal '13 (HDFS) and Heather Barnhart '13 (HDFS)—participated in an alumni career panel on March 26 in Parmer Cinema. Each described her current position, discussed how her faith interfaces with the work that she does and offered tips relative to how to make the most of the college experience to a room full of current students. Afterward, the graduates joined a group of majors in the Private Dining Room where they deepened their connections over dinner.

## INTERESTED IN HELPING CURRENT AND FUTURE HDFS/FCS STUDENTS?

- Become a mentor for a junior or senior
- Provide us your job information so that we might feature you in an alumni career profile on our website
- Make us aware of any internship or job openings for our students
- Volunteer to participate on an alumni career panel during fall or spring semester
- Visit one of our classes as a guest speaker
- Offer constructive feedback on how we can improve the program
- Encourage prospective students to attend our Family Science Weekend (October 24–25)
- Contribute to our HDFS Department Student Professional Development Endowment Fund
- Initiate an HDFS Department-specific endowed scholarship fund
- Pray for our ongoing work, that we might offer the best educational experience possible and glorify God in the process

Feel free to contact me about any of these items or other suggestions that you have at [rhamon@messiah.edu](mailto:rhamon@messiah.edu)