



Discover Family Science...



Explore the Possibilities!



Amanda Lawrence,
2012 HDFS

After discovering my desire to work with older adults I began searching for colleges that offered Gerontology. I came across Messiah and its Human Development and Family Science major with Gerontology minor. I like the fact that each class can be molded to fit my personal career interests. I have been able to tailor fit classes ranging from child development, interpersonal relationships, social research, parenting and family resource management to topics relating to the aging population. The flexibility of the major to many different career options is a big plus of the HDFS Department.



Bryan Fagan,
2013 FCSE

I always wanted to become a teacher, and I thought I wanted to teach social studies. In middle school I thought about attending culinary school and becoming a chef. When I entered high school, my energetic Family and Consumer Sciences teacher started to speak with me about becoming an FCS teacher. As I researched and thought about my future, it was clear that FCSE was the path I should take. Today, I am a sophomore FCSE major at Messiah College.



Lauriana Blessing,
2013 HDFS

I discovered FCSE when taking a child development class in high school. A soon-to-be Messiah College graduate was doing her student teaching in my school.



Traci Hana,
2009 HDFS

School Age Teacher

I am responsible for the before and after school program at a local child care center. My responsibilities include lesson planning, curriculum implementation and overall care for school age children. I am also the center "champion" for Conscious Discipline and am responsible for implementing this with all the children in the center and teaching it to my fellow educators.



Jessica D. Thomas,
2008 HDFS

Language Bank Coordinator,
Coordinator of the Network to
Combat Human Trafficking

I conduct research of current domestic and international events related to human trafficking. We provide interpretation and translation services to various agencies throughout the Capital Region. I train interpreters, communicate with requesters from courthouses, school districts, hospitals, law-enforcement agencies, social service agencies, etc to secure interpreters for their meetings, appointments, hearings, etc.



Erika Sheaffer,
1996 FS

Senior Child
Life Specialist

In the same day surgery unit, I provide pre-operative teaching and distraction to patients. I also cover the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, providing sibling and parent support, as well as bereavement support. I also provide rotating coverage for various hospital procedures and the trauma team.



Paul Boyed,
2013 HDFS

When I looked into Messiah College, I was almost certain I would be doing Psychology. But after looking around in the catalog of classes, I found the HDFS Department to be more focused around the family, so I decided to go this route instead.



Rachel Shenk,
2013 HDFS

Going into college, I knew that I wanted to work with people, but was unsure of which major would fit my interests and prepare me for the future. When I discovered HDFS, I knew it was the right choice. Now, I am learning about families, marriages, children, and more. I am also learning about older adults in the gerontology minor. I am passionate about older adults and the gerontology classes have encouraged me to learn more about how to best serve and care for them.

The Human Development and Family Science major is great because it not only prepares me for my future career, but I am also able to apply the things I learn in class directly to my personal life.



Katelyn Golda,
2011 HDFS

I first learned about HDFS during an open house for prospective students. I knew it was the major for me due to the attentiveness of the professors and their passion towards families. HDFS seemed like such a close, supportive group of students and I wanted to be a part of it myself!



Lisa Zieger,
2003 HDFS

U.S. Department of
Labor Specialist

I work in Immigration Support Services helping a variety of employers, including private companies, universities, and public school districts, to successfully navigate the US Department of Labor laws and procedures for legally hiring foreign national employees.



Emily Hess,
2001 FS

Federal Bureau of
Intelligence
Intelligence Analyst

Research and analyze information. Present information and analysis in oral briefings to executive management. Produce instruction materials for teaching new analysts and agents. Deliver instruction to new analysts and agents on briefing, critical thinking, and practical exercises.

HDFS prepared me with critical thinking and analytic skills. It also gave me insights into interpersonal interaction and typical psychological responses.



Jonathan Cagwin,
2003 FS

Director of Campus
Ministries for the CCO at
Church of the Ascension

I help transform students to transform the world through Bible study, service learning, mentoring, and discipleship.



Jessica Short,
2013 HDFS

I learned about the HDFS program through one of Messiah's Open House programs. Because my admissions counselor knew of my interests, she suggested that I check out the HDFS seminar.



Susanna Bean,
2011 HDFS

I learned about HDFS/FCSE from my sister. She went to Messiah too and had heard about the HDFS Department. On her recommendation, I came to an open house and heard Dr. Hamon present the major. I was so excited, HDFS fit me perfectly! This was exactly what I had been searching for and I have loved it ever since. HDFS is the best!



Amanda Alexander,
2011 FCSE

I decided to come to Messiah for the HDFS Department as soon as I saw the exciting course descriptions online. I wanted to receive a background for Christian Counseling. After hearing alumni speak at an Alternate Chapel about their jobs in FCS, I switched to FCS so that I could teach the subjects that I loved so much. The more I thought about it the more I realized how valuable FCS teachers are. They teach life skills to students that may not have had the best role models in life. I hope to be that teacher that inspires and really cares for students, and then eventually go for my masters in Christian Counseling. HDFS has been a perfect fit for me.



Lenelle Roberts,
1982 HEC

Training Coordinator and
Supervisor for the Nutrition
Links Program for the Capital
Region of Penn State
Cooperative Extension

I supervise 12 paraprofessionals who teach basic nutrition to the income stressed audience. I also serve as the training coordinator for my region, training new employees and ongoing training for my staff. In addition, I interface with the family living educators working in my region, as well as other professionals working across the state in the management of the Nutrition Links program.



Nora Neidlinger,
2000 FS

Human Relations
Representative II

I'm an investigator for the State of PA. I investigate cases of discrimination in employment and public accommodations based on age, sex, race, national origin, ancestry, disability and religion.



Laura Fritz,
2009 FCSE

Family and Consumer
Sciences Teacher

I teach FCS in high school, grades 10, 11, and 12. The courses I teach are Child Development I and II. Child Development Independent Study, Marriage and Family, and the required 10th grade course: Family and Personal Management. The Child Development course includes a Preschool Lab where we have 3, 4, and 5-year-olds that the high school students get to work with.