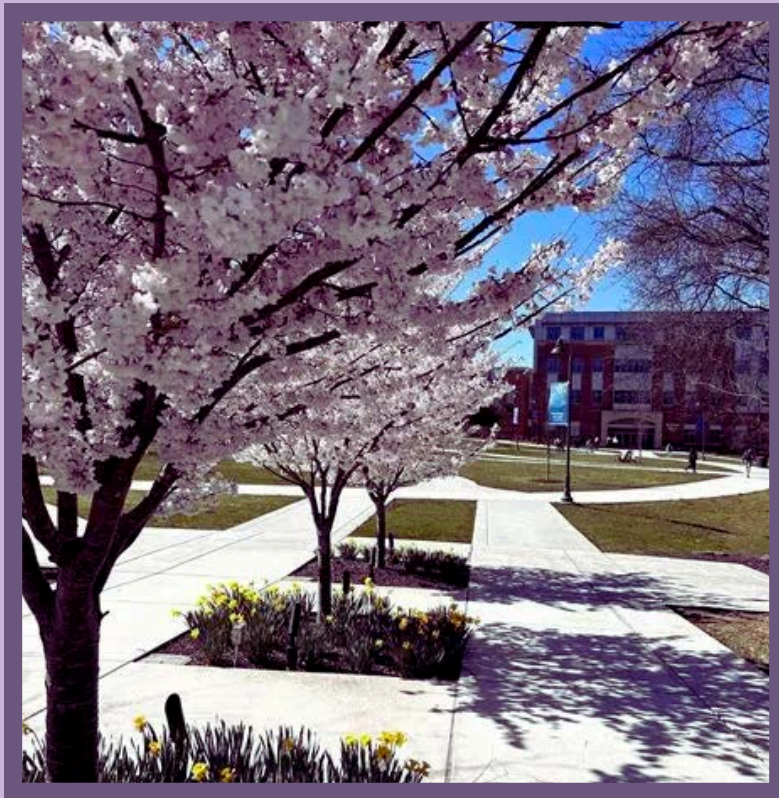


Department of Human Development and Family Science

Spring Newsletter

Spring 2026



 MESSIAH
UNIVERSITY®

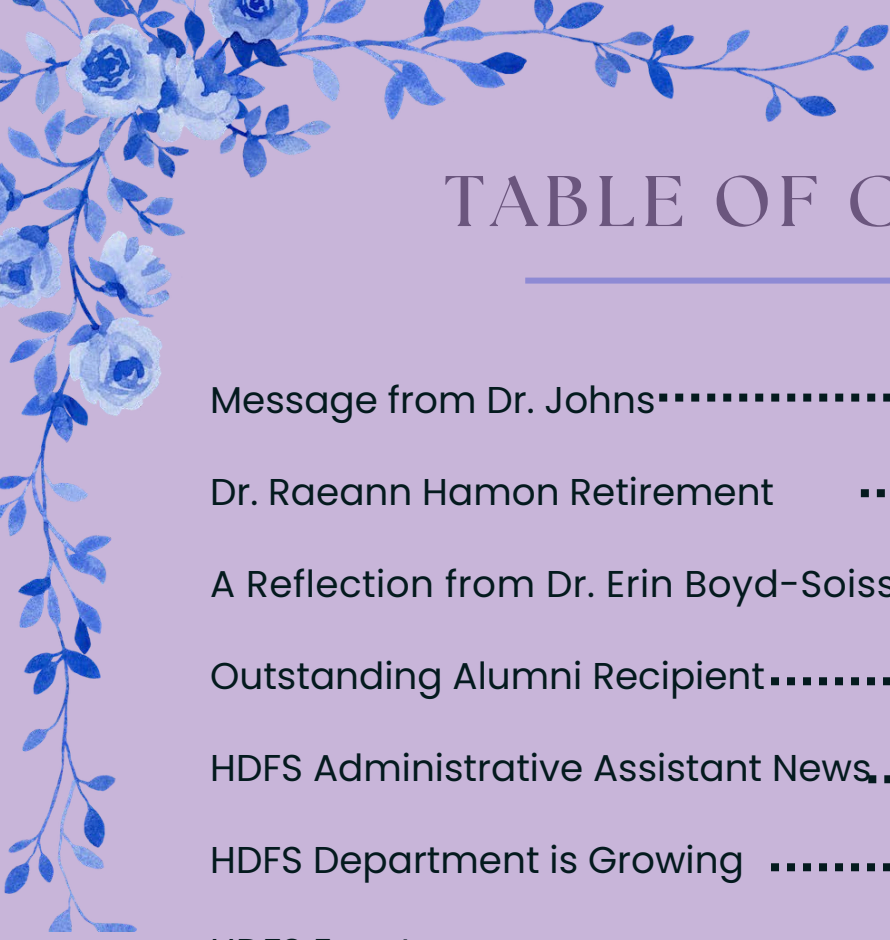


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A Message From Dr. Johns!



Quiz time!

What do Dr. Raeann Hamon, Tom Cruise, Oprah Winfrey, Mike Tyson, Pixar, and the Human Genome Project all have in common?



Answer: **1986 or 40 years.** I'll give you credit for both.

In **1986**, Raeann began her illustrious career at Messiah University. **That same year**, Tom Cruise starred in the blockbuster *Top Gun*; The *Oprah Winfrey Show* was broadcast nationally for the first time; Mike Tyson became the youngest heavyweight champion in history; Pixar was founded as an independent corporation; and the Human Genome Project was launched.

Next question: which of these has *personally impacted* you the most over the last 40 years? Whether you're a graduate of Messiah University or simply someone who has had the pleasure of working with or learning from Raeann, **I think the answer is clear.**

There is truly no adequate way to express in words the impact Raeann has made on my life and the lives of so many over the years. With that said, I will risk proposing just one word that I believe captures her essence – **luminary**. A luminary can be defined as a person of prominence, brilliance, or high achievement in a specific field. Raeann has certainly been a luminary in family science, Messiah University, and the lives of those she has taught and mentored.

But there is a second definition of *luminary*: a natural, light-emitting celestial body, such as the sun or moon. While it may seem that Raeann fits only the first definition, I believe she can – figuratively speaking – fit the second as well. I'm not saying Raeann is a celestial body... that might just mark the end of my run in the HDFS department. But bear with me. Just as the moon does not generate its own light but reflects the light of the sun, Raeann has been a reflection of the light of Christ throughout her career. In a field too often devoid of the knowledge of Jesus Christ, Raeann devoted 40 years of her life to combining two of her greatest passions – faith and family – for the benefit of all who had the privilege of learning from her.

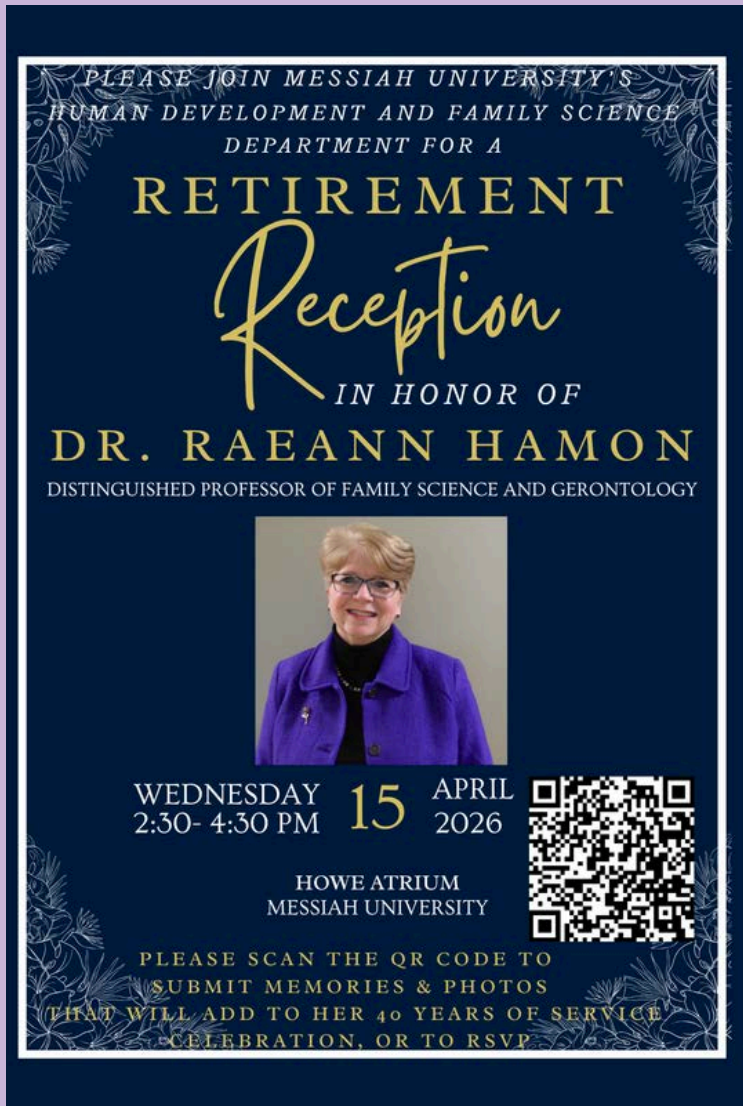
So, please don't picture a large, spherical version of Raeann illuminating the night sky– you'll have missed my point entirely. Instead, picture the real Raeann: smile on her face, offering an enthusiastic greeting and a convincing case for why you simply must become an HDFS or FCS major at Messiah University. That's our luminary. That's our Raeann.

From all of those you have touched, Raeann – **THANK YOU!**

– Paul Johns




Dr. Raeann Hamon Retirement: 40 Years of Service at Messiah



PLEASE JOIN MESSIAH UNIVERSITY'S
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY SCIENCE
DEPARTMENT FOR A


RETIREMENT Reception

IN HONOR OF
DR. RAEANN HAMON
DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR OF FAMILY SCIENCE AND GERONTOLOGY



WEDNESDAY 2:30- 4:30 PM **15** APRIL 2026

HOWE ATRIUM
MESSIAH UNIVERSITY



PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE TO
SUBMIT MEMORIES & PHOTOS
THAT WILL ADD TO HER 40 YEARS OF SERVICE
CELEBRATION, OR TO RSVP

After 40 years of dedicated service to Messiah University, the Department of Human Development and Family Science announces the retirement of Dr. Raeann Hamon.

Dr. Hamon has served the university with distinction for four decades, including 31 years as chair of the HDFS Department and one year as Interim Dean of the School of Education and Social Sciences. Since 2005, she has held the rank of Distinguished Professor. A Fellow of the National Council on Family Relations, she has published numerous books and scholarly articles—many co-authored with students—reflecting her deep commitment to mentoring students in research and writing.

Throughout her career, Dr. Hamon has invested significantly in innovative teaching and the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning. She also created two intergenerational programs for her aging courses that foster meaningful relationships between college students and older adults. In addition, she developed the Gerontology minor and helped facilitate the creation of several other minors and programs.

Raeann has facilitated increased resources for the HDFS department, securing scholarships specifically for HDFS students. Raeann co-initiated the HDFS Department Student Research and Professional Development Endowment (to support student research and conference attendance), as well as the Dorothy Gish Women in Leadership Endowment Awards. As a department, we are especially grateful for the collegial spirit Raeann brought to our work. As current HDFS chair Paul Johns notes, "Raeann has been an incredibly supportive, patient, and encouraging colleague." Her leadership helped nurture a positive departmental climate where both faculty and students could thrive. The breadth of Raeann's influence through her teaching, scholarship, and mentorship will be felt for years to come. We are deeply thankful for Dr. Hamon's many contributions to Messiah University and for her commitment to the academic and spiritual growth of her students. We wish her great joy and fulfillment in retirement.

Dr. Raeann Hamon Retirement: A Reflection from Dr. Erin Boyd-Soisson



In their book *The Reciprocating Self: Human Development in the Theological Perspective*, Balswick, King, and Reimer (2005, p.40) state, "To be human is not to live in exclusive relationship with God but to live in relationship with God and humans. For it is in and through these relationships that we not only grow to become the unique person that God created us to be, but we will enable others to become who God created them to be..." If you have taken a class with me, you may recall me reading this quote to illustrate the importance of relationships in development. Dr. Hamon demonstrates this trait more than anyone else I know. Her entire career has centered around empowering students, colleagues, friends and family to identify, explore, and utilize their gifts. She has been a mentor and teacher to countless colleagues and students. She develops intentional relationships with others which enables her to see the gifts that others have, even if they may not see those gifts themselves. When others succeed, she is genuinely thrilled for them. I doubt she truly knows the impact she has had on others by enabling them to develop their gifts. Thanks to Dr. Hamon for empowering so many of us!

-Dr. Erin Boyd-Soisson



It would be a very special tribute to Dr. Raeann Hamon and her continuing legacy at Messiah University if you would consider making a donation to The Raeann and Jeff Hamon Scholarship Endowment. This scholarship was established in August 2014 and currently provides active scholarship awards to HDFS program students. The recipients of this fund are selected through the financial aid process with preference given to a junior or senior student majoring in Human Development and Family Science with a cumulative GPA of 3.5. The recipient also must demonstrate leadership and service. Any gift to this scholarship will help increase the amount awarded to eligible worthy students. Currently, matching dollars are available from the Board of Trustees Scholarship Challenge to further enhance the impact of

Donations can be made by mail to:

Messiah University
Office of Development
Attention: Gift Processing
One University Avenue
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

your gift!

Or Online at

[https://slateadv.messiah.edu/portal/give?
fund=MAFD&form_fund_selector=messiahfund&form_messiah_fund=MAFD](https://slateadv.messiah.edu/portal/give?fund=MAFD&form_fund_selector=messiahfund&form_messiah_fund=MAFD)
At "Where would you like to give?" select "Scholarship"
and then scroll down in the "Name of Scholarship" tab until you reach
"Raeann and Jeff Hamon Scholarship Endowment"

2026 HDFS Outstanding Alumni Recipient

Congratulations to Jennifer Grove '97 (Family Studies)!

The Department of Human Development and Family Science Outstanding Alumni Award was initiated in 2012 and is designed to recognize HDFS alumni for distinguished contributions to the service of individuals and families.

The faculty of the Human Development and Family Science (HDFS) Department selected Jennifer Grove '97 (Family Studies) as the recipient for the 2026 Department of HDFS Outstanding Alumni Award!

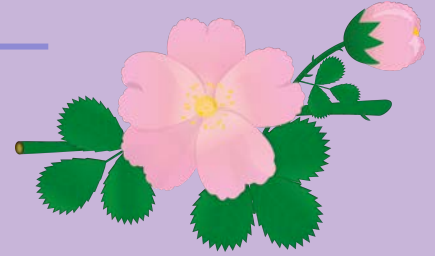
Jennifer graduated from Messiah College with a major in Family Studies. Beginning her work in 1998, Jennifer has served as a counselor, advocate, educator, rape crisis center director, and a nationally-recognized prevention expert. She has 3 decades of service providing advocacy, education, and resources to prevent sexual violence. Jennifer Grove is currently the Chief Operating Officer/Director of the National Sexual Violence Resource Center. She has served as a subject matter expert for the U.S. Army, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the International Association of Forensic Nurses, and the American Public Health Association. She is a member of the Safe States Alliance and the National Coalition to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse & Exploitation. She also does contract work as a Federal Government Grant Specialist, writing grants for community-based organizations. She is active in her community (Harrisburg), volunteering her time to help address food insecurity and promote green spaces in the city.

We applaud her for being such a valuable national and community leader and for the incredibly significant work she has done and continues to do to improve safety for children, individuals, families, and communities, not only supporting people, but working to prevent sexual abuse and exploitation.

Congratulations Jennifer!



HDFS Administrative Assistant News



Meet Amanda!



You may have seen Amanda sending you e-mails, posting reminders and class spotlights on our social media pages, taking pictures in your classes or at a HDFS or FCS event, and greeting you in the HDFS wing of 3rd floor Boyer.

Amanda arrived to the department in October of 2025 and is the new Administrative Assistant for the HDFS Department!

Amanda has a Master's degree in Social Work from SUNY Albany with a concentration in Gerontology and worked as a hospice social worker and bereavement coordinator for almost 10 years before staying at home with her 3 children that range from age 11 to 6.

In her free time, she loves to read, write, cheer on her husband and children at their baseball games, watch her daughters' dance recitals, teach 3rd grade religious education, and co-facilitate a mom's group at her church. She also is training for her 4th half marathon, where she runs and prays the rosary.

If you ever have a question, do not hesitate to reach out. asnyder@messiah.edu



The HDFS Department is Growing!

Have you heard about
the HDFS Department's
2 New Majors!

HDFS Pre-Occupational Therapy/ Master of Occupational Therapy



This major is ideal for students who are passionate about understanding and supporting individuals and families across the lifespan. With an interdisciplinary approach—including psychology, sociology and gerontology—it provides a strong foundation for occupational therapy. Coursework in lifespan development and family dynamics prepares you to work effectively with diverse populations in a healthcare setting.

HDFS Pre-Counseling/ Master in Counseling



This major is ideal for students who are drawn to working with individuals, couples, families and communities from a family systems perspective to promote relationships and well-being. Through an interdisciplinary approach, you'll study human growth and development, family dynamics and relational skills across the lifespan. Experiential learning and practical coursework prepare you to apply this knowledge in schools, community agencies and counseling-focused programs.

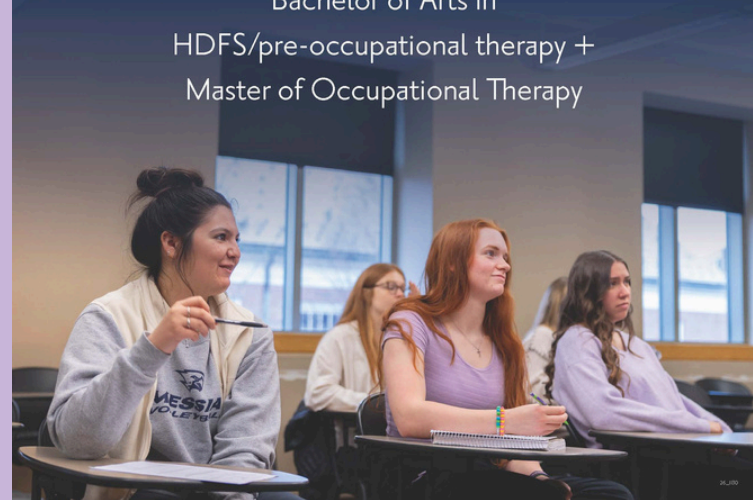
Earn your
Master's Degree
in 5 Years!

NEW ACCELERATED PATHWAYS

Bachelor's and Master's IN JUST 5 YEARS

Bachelor of Arts in
HDFS/pre-counseling +
Master of Arts in Counseling

Bachelor of Arts in
HDFS/pre-occupational therapy +
Master of Occupational Therapy



HDFS Events

2025 HDFS Christmas Party



Students baked cookies for the cookie contest. All the cookies were fantastic! Congratulations to the winners!



Congratulations to the Most Festive Attire Winner!



Wonderful, festive gifts during the gift exchange!



HDFS COMMUNITY PARTNERS EVENT

STOP IN FOR COOKIES, CAREER OPPORTUNITIES, AND DOOR PRIZES!

MILTON HERSHEY SCHOOL
NURTURES AND EDUCATES CHILDREN IN SOCIAL AND FINANCIAL NEED TO FULFILL PRODUCTIVE LIVES.

CATHERINE HERSHEY SCHOOL
CREATES HIGH QUALITY LEARNING COMMUNITIES THAT NURTURE, EDUCATE, AND EMPOWER CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN SOCIAL AND FINANCIAL NEED TO LEAD FULFILLING AND PRODUCTIVE LIVES

Catherine Hershey Schools
for early learning

JONI AND FRIENDS
TO GLORIFY GOD AS WE COMMUNICATE THE GOSPEL AND MOBILIZE THE GLOBAL CHURCH TO EVANGELIZE, DISCIPLE, AND SERVE PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITY

PAXTON MINISTRIES
PROVIDES HOUSING AND SUPPORT TO ADULTS WHO MAY NOT BE ABLE TO LIVE INDEPENDENTLY WITH CHRIST-LIKE LOVE.

Paxton Ministries

arkview behavioral health
A COMPREHENSIVE RANGE OF ADDICTION TREATMENT AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROGRAMS IN MECHANICSBURG AND EAST YORK, PENNSYLVANIA. OUR WARM AND DEDICATED STAFF OF PROFESSIONALS AND CLINICIANS PERSONALIZE TREATMENT PLANS FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE SEEKING GENUINE, LONG-LASTING RECOVERY.

MESSIAH LIFEWAYS
A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION THAT PROVIDES COMPREHENSIVE NETWORKING OF SENIOR COMMUNITY SERVICES AND RESIDENTIAL LIVING COMMUNITIES DESIGNED TO HELP YOU LIVE LIFE EMBRACED..

Messiah Lifeways

Meet representatives from these great organizations and learn about career and volunteer opportunities!

WHEN: NOVEMBER 19 4:00-5:00PM
WHERE: HOME ATRIUM IN BOYER 1ST FLOOR

DOOR PRIZES!

FCS Roundtable Event



HDFS Events

HDFS Bonfire Night!

Saturday • 11th October • 6:30pm



**JOIN US FOR
WARMTH, TREATS
(HOT CIDER, SMORES,
SNACKS) & GOOD
COMPANY!**

Address to come- Shiremanstown

Sponsored by the Conservatives of Messiah University Club
and
The Human Development and Family Science Department

WELCOME BACK SOCIAL







BRAVER ANGELS

Skills for Disagreeing Better Workshop



GOALS

Grow understanding of the values and concerns of people who differ from you politically

Learn skills for listening in a way the other person feels heard

Learn skills for sharing viewpoints in a way the other person might hear even if they disagree

**2026 April 18th, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.
Hostetter Chapel**

Learn about the values and concerns of the other political side and practice skills for communicating more effectively in the presence of disagreement
Free and Open to Everyone!

**SCAN HERE
TO
REGISTER**



Dr. Doherty's Visit to Messiah



Dr. William J. Doherty came to Messiah on April 16th. Dr. Doherty gave a lecture and facilitated discussion with HDFS classes, attended a dinner at the president's house with Messiah students and professors, and gave a presentation about bridging political divides. We were so grateful to host Dr. Doherty at Messiah!



Dr. William Doherty:

“Bridging Relationship Divides in an Era of Political Polarization”

**An Evening with Dr. Bill Doherty,
Marriage and Family Therapist and
Professor Emeritus at the University of Minnesota**

Bridging Relationship Divides in an Era of Political Polarization

William J. Doherty, Ph.D.



We live in a historically divided time. Public issues are unsolvable when they are caught up in the “red/blue” divide, and families and friends face internal conflicts over politics. Drawing on a decade of work on depolarization and reconciliation, the presenter will describe the sources of polarization and offer ways to manage important relationships so they don't become casualties. He will also describe how we can build community bridges in a time when bridges are burning down.

APRIL
THURSDAY 16 7:00PM
Parmer Hall
High Center, Messiah University

Bill Doherty is Professor Emeritus in the Department of Family Social Science at the University of Minnesota where he taught family science and marriage and family therapy for 38 years. He co-founded Braver Angels, a citizen initiative bringing conservatives and liberals together to counteract political polarization.

Admission is FREE thanks to the following sponsors: Messiah University's Human Development and Family Science Department, Honors Program, Graduate Program in Counseling, and Mid-Atlantic Council on Family Relations.



Dr. Bill Doherty, marriage and family therapist and professor emeritus in the Department of Family Social Science at the University of Minnesota, will deliver a lecture addressing the growing challenges of political polarization and its impact on personal relationships and communities. He will also be attending a dinner at Orchard Hill with faculty members, students, and President Stuckey prior to his presentation.

In his presentation, “Bridging Relationship Divides in an Era of Political Polarization,” Doherty will explore how the current “red/blue” divide affects families, friendships and civic life.

Drawing on more than a decade of work on depolarization and reconciliation, he will discuss the roots of polarization and offer practical ways individuals can preserve important relationships while engaging thoughtfully across political differences.

Doherty taught family science and marriage and family therapy at the University of Minnesota for 38 years and is widely known for his work on strengthening families and communities. He is the co-founder of Braver Angels, a national citizen initiative that brings conservatives and liberals together to reduce political polarization and build mutual understanding.

This lecture is sponsored by Messiah University's Department of Human Development and Family Science, the Honors Program, the Graduate Program in Counseling and the Mid-Atlantic Council on Family Relations. Dr. Doherty

Guest Speaker Jason Lee



IS AI THREATENING OUR RELATIONSHIPS?


A WAKE UP CALL FROM A TECH INSIDER AND THE FOUNDER OF THE LOVETRACK APP

JOIN JASON LEE FOR AN INFORMAL MEET AND GREET BEFORE THE EVENT
11:30AM - 12:30PM
LARSEN STUDENT UNION GLASS CONFERENCE ROOM

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2026
7PM
HOSTETTER CHAPEL SANCTUARY

HEAR REAL WORLD INSIGHT INTO TOPICS LIKE:

- THE HIDDEN SIDE OF AI
- DANGERS OF HARMLESS SWIPING
- HOW COMPANIES ARE LEVERAGING TECHNOLOGY AND AI
- GAMIFICATION

 Jason Lee, a 10-year tech industry vet, and the Founder of The LoveTrack App, will break down what we need to know ABOUT AI AND TECHNOLOGY to stay safe, protect ourselves, and protect the people that matter most.

Learn what this means for you, the ministries you serve, and your future.

Admission is FREE thanks to the following sponsors:
Messiah University's Human Development and Family Science Department and Honors Program



HDFS was honored to have Jason Lee, tec industry vet and the Founder of the LoveTrack App come to present in Hostetter Chapel on Wednesday February 11, 2026. Jason shared his insight on AI and how it is impacting our relationships. During his time on campus, he also graciously did a Meet & Greet in the Larsen Student Union, a Honors Tea, and a Relationship Education Event for MCFR. Jason shared more about his LoveTrack App as he spoke at the Relationships and the Brain and Marital & Couples Relations classes.

FCS News



Dr. Hamon, Lauren Sulzbach-Oliveira, Brenna Jones, Sarah Lynn, Shelby Yeager, Madi Woods, Ella Rhinehart, and Sarah Craig attended the PA FCCLA (Family, Career and Community Leaders of America) conference at the Kalahari Resort in the Poconos on March 23rd. The group served as STAR evaluators for various projects produced by 6th-12th grade FCCLA members. FCCLA is a national Career and Technical Organization (CTSO) for students in Family and Consumer Sciences education, offering resources and opportunities for students to promote career preparation and workforce readiness in careers that support families (fcclainc.org). FCS teachers often serve as advisors of FCCLA chapters in their schools so it is important for our graduates to understand their purpose and function.



FCS News



Seven Family and Consumers Sciences students and Dr. Hamon drove to IUP to participate in a 2-day PA Family and Consumer Sciences Conference, April 10-11. Sessions included active participation in making fermented soda, demonstrations related to upcycling clothing, incorporating AI in FCS instruction, and operating an entrepreneurial baking business, along with many others. Plus, it was a great bonding opportunity for our FCS majors.



MCFR News

Paint & Sip



Many students came out to paint canvases and tote bags and drink delicious mocktails!



Family Feud



David was a wonderful, lively host for Family Feud! Teams competed for raffle prize baskets!



MCFR News

LoveTrack App



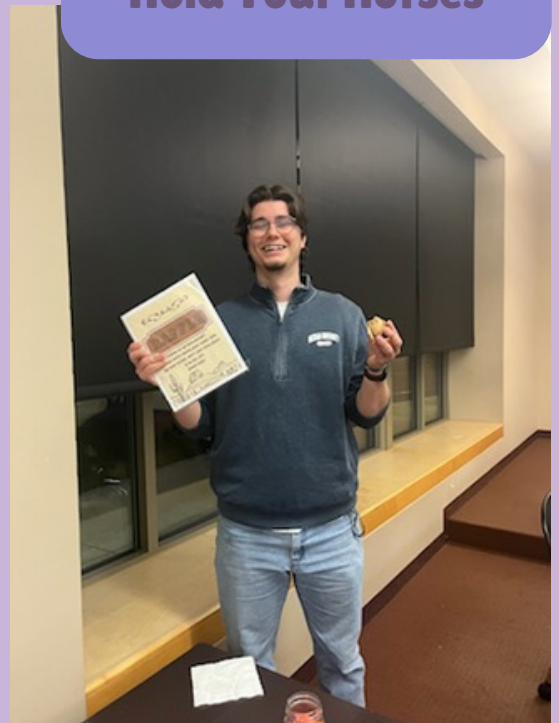
Jason Lee, creator of the LoveTrack app, presented details about the app. He explained how the app supports communication and intentional dating and provides relationship advice. Attendees also made Valentine's Day cards based on their partner's love languages.



Participants learned practical, evidence-based tools for handling conflict the right way, featuring Gottman's Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse, while enjoying Crumb!

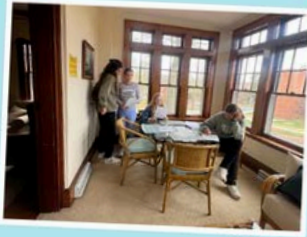


Hold Your Horses



HDFS Class Spotlights

HDFS Class Spotlight Marital and Couple Relationships



These students explored the "Marital Escape Room," where they solved 5 different tasks to promote learning in a more experiential way. This class was held in the Climenhaga Homestead.

HDFS Class Spotlight Interpersonal Relationships



Students in Intro to Interpersonal Relationships tried out various nonverbal conditions while talking to a partner to experience the importance of being aware of nonverbal messages.

HDFS Class Spotlight Community Services for individuals & Families



Students participated in a Family Group Conference simulation, which is an evidence-based practice utilized in the Child Welfare, Juvenile System, School Based and Hospital Settings to help address a concern and plan for next steps.

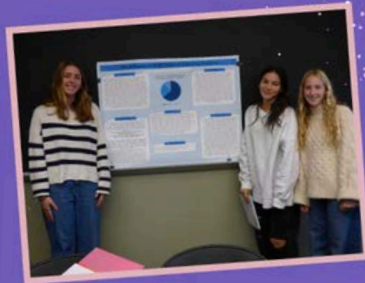
HDFS Class Spotlight Latino Families



A guest speaker, Mr. Natividad Quintanilla from Iglesia Bautista Internacional, shared with the students his personal journey from El Salvador to United States.

HDFS Class Spotlights

Research Methods



Students in Research Methods and Analysis in HDFS presented their HDFS Research Posters!

HDFS Class Spotlight Dynamics of Family Interaction



Dr. Hamon's Dynamics of Family Interaction class were plotting out their own family life cycle trajectory as part of a lesson on Family Development Theory.

HDFS Strategies



HDFS Strategies students celebrated turning in their Family Life Education Programs!! Congratulations Strategies Students!!

HDFS Class Spotlight Community Services for Individuals & Families



Phil Smith from Hope International lead the Discovering Hope Experience, where students engaged in a Savings Group Simulation!

HDFS Class Spotlights

HDFS Class Spotlight Family Resource Management



The Family Resource Management class did a Time Management simulation where they played the role of a family with a tight budget, trying to make ends meet, while making the best of their time management. They walked to the only convenience neighborhood store aka "Larsen Union," and as a family made a selection for dinner that would fit their budget and limitations.

HDFS Class Spotlight Community Services for Individuals & Families



The Community Services for Individuals and Families class welcomed Rafael Torres, founder of WEPA Empowerment Center Inc., which is a non-profit organization in Lebanon, Pennsylvania, focused on community and workplace development. Students engaged in meaningful conversations while learning about resources available in the community.



HDFS Class Spotlight Family Resource Management



The Family Resource Management Class welcomed Alexa Livelsberger, LCSW Outreach and Education Coordinator, Senior Grief and Clinical Services Specialist Highmark Caring Place. Students learned about individual and family grief resources available through Highmark Caring Place.



HDFS Class Spotlight Community Services for Individuals & Families



Ms. Heather Whitecomb, with Living Waters of Hope, presented on Human Services for Domestic Violence Survivors

HDFS Class Spotlights

HDFS Class Spotlight

Marital and Couple Relationships



These students explored the "Marital Escape Room," where they solved 5 different tasks to promote learning in a more experiential way. This class was held in the Climenhaga Homestead.



HDFS Class Spotlight

Sociology of Aging



Kim Korge, from Messiah Village, engaged students in Dr. Hamon's Sociology of Aging course in an aging simulation to increase empathy for frail older adults.



Marital and Couple Relationships

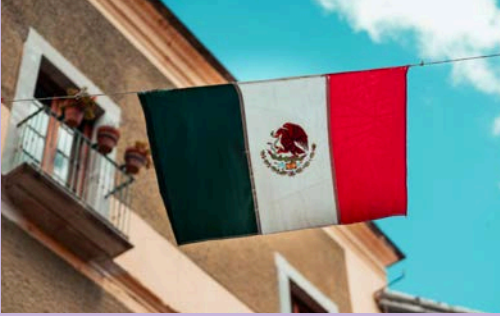
Students in Professor Wanner's Marital and Couple Relationships course had the unique opportunity to meet and hear from Jason Lee, creator of the LoveTrack app, a relationship tool designed to help couples build stronger, healthier connections. As part of the course, students explored the app and applied Family Life Education (FLE) principles to critically evaluate its content, user experience, and effectiveness in supporting real-life relationships. In addition to using the app, students completed an assessment examining how well LoveTrack aligns with FLE best practices, including its ability to promote meaningful communication, relationship growth, and practical application for couples. This project encourages students to move beyond theory and engage with a real-world relationship tool through a thoughtful and critical lens.

Mariah Riddick's Semester in Baltimore



In the spring semester, I studied in Baltimore with the Baltimore Urban Studies program. During the semester, I lived with six other girls from different colleges who were pursuing a variety of majors. Each of us took classes while in Baltimore and had one or two internships. I interned at Archbishop Borders, a Pre-K through 8th grade Catholic school, where I worked with the gym teacher to help plan and lead classes. I also worked with their social media department, creating content for them. While in Baltimore, we learned how to be more independent by taking public transportation, managing our money for food, and cooking for ourselves. This was a great experience because I got to make new friends, live in a city, and go on fun trips to New York City and Philly (my hometown). I encourage everyone to study away for a semester, whether in the U.S. or abroad.

Avy Keiper Semester in Mexico



Avy Keiper teaching art in the school with the children at the orphanage

I am a Sophomore HDFS student and this semester I am living in Mexico for one month as part of an internship. The mission I am working with is called Lost and Found International and they run an Orphanage. During my time here I am teaching English and art classes to the children. I also help with chores, play games and sports, teach Bible lessons, and participate in church activities. I am so grateful that my major at Messiah University allows for opportunities to gain real life experience in my field while sharing Christ's love with others.

-Avy Keiper

FCS Educator Day

MESSIAH UNIVERSITY'S HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

FCS EDUCATOR DAY

#FCSEDDAY #SAYYESTOFCS



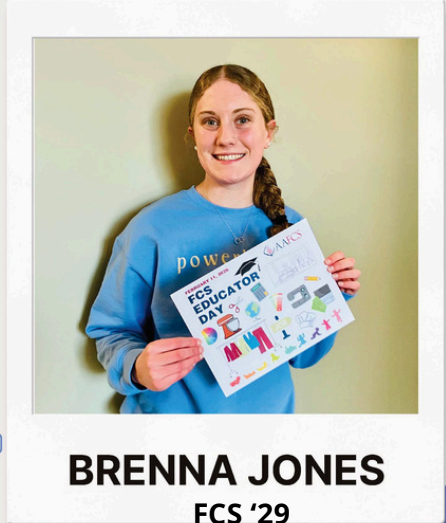
ELLA RHINEHART
FCS '27

AS A FUTURE FCS TEACHER, I HOPE TO EDUCATE STUDENTS IN HANDS-ON AND VALUABLE LIFE SKILLS.

MESSIAH UNIVERSITY'S HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

FCS EDUCATOR DAY

#FCSEDDAY #SAYYESTOFCS



BRENNA JONES
FCS '29

I BELIEVE FCS CLASSES TEACH IMPORTANT SKILLS EVERYONE COULD USE AND SHOULD KNOW IN THEIR EVERYDAY LIVES. I WANT TO BE ABLE TO TEACH THESE SKILLS TO STUDENTS WHILE HAVING SOME FUN!

MESSIAH UNIVERSITY'S HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

FCS EDUCATOR DAY

#FCSEDDAY #SAYYESTOFCS



JORDYN THOMPSON
FCS '26

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES IS A PEOPLE CENTERED SCIENCE THAT TEACHES STUDENTS AND FAMILIES HOW TO LEAD FULFILLING LIVES THROUGH VARIOUS LIFE SKILLS. I HOPE TO TEACH FCS AT A HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL POST GRADUATION.

MESSIAH UNIVERSITY'S HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

FCS EDUCATOR DAY

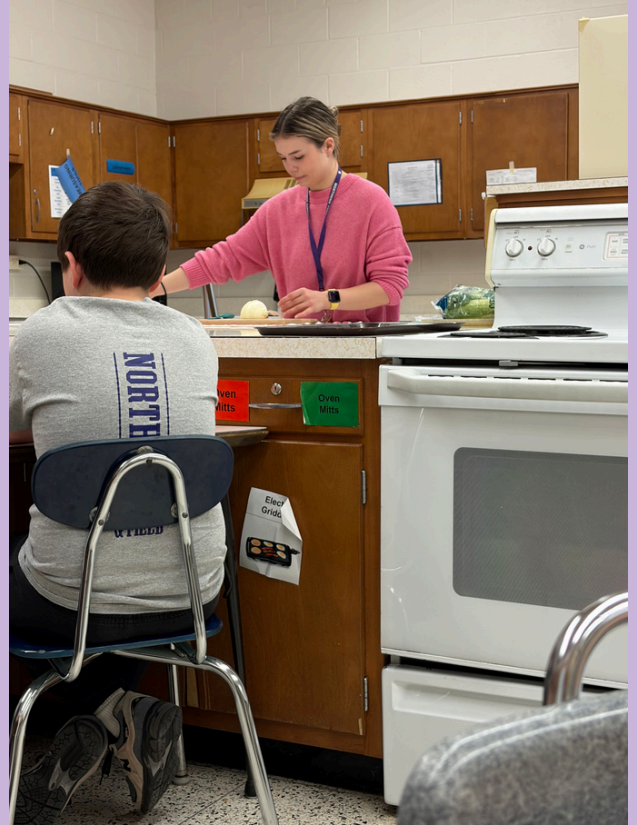
#FCSEDDAY #SAYYESTOFCS
PAFCS 2026 New Achiever Award Recipient



JULIAN COSTA
M.Ed. '26

I CHOSE FCS, BECAUSE I WANT TO PROVIDE PRACTICAL LEARNING EXPERIENCES FOR MY STUDENTS TO HELP THEM PREPARE FOR ADULTHOOD. I TEACH FCS FOR GRADES 8-12 AT PANTHER VALLEY JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL, WHERE I LAUNCHED A NEW PROGRAM AND DEVELOPED 8 NEW COURSES. MY EDUCATION AT MESSIAH UNIVERSITY MADE ALL THIS POSSIBLE!

FCS Student Teaching Spotlight: Jordyn Thompson FCS '26



"This spring I have been student teaching at Northern York middle school alongside my mentor teacher in her FCS classroom to 6-8th graders. I have gained so much insight on teaching, and my confidence grows each day in my capability to teach. The HDFS department prepared me very well to teach FCS, as I feel knowledgeable on the subject areas I teach and confident on delivering the content to students."

-Jordyn Thompson

Child Life Month

Child Life Month Spotlight

Department of Human Development and Family Science presents

Kendall McIntyre

Human Development and Family Science with Child Life Major '26



“Messiah’s Child Life program has equipped me with both practical knowledge and the necessary coursework to prepare me for a career in the child life profession. Its partnership with Penn State Children’s Hospital has provided hands-on experiences where I can support patients and be a light for families facing unfamiliar challenges by offering comfort and a sense of normalcy.”
— Kendall McIntyre



Learn more at messiah.edu/undergraduate/human-development-family-science-with-child-life



Child Life Month Spotlight

Department of Human Development and Family Science presents

Eden Grosh

Human Development and Family Science with Child Life Major '27



“Hi! I’m Eden and I chose child life because God has given me a passion for kids who need care and love.”
— Eden Grosh



Learn more at messiah.edu/undergraduate/human-development-family-science-with-child-life

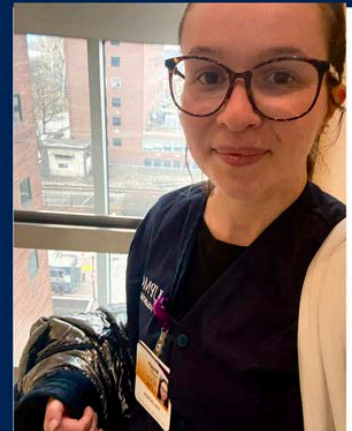


Child Life Month Spotlight

Department of Human Development and Family Science presents

Maggie Hegedus

Human Development and Family Science with Child Life Major '28



“I chose to major in HDFS with Child Life because it provides the opportunity to support children and their families during times of medical challenges and uncertainties. Messiah’s partnerships with UPMC Harrisburg and other surrounding hospitals have provided me with lots of hands-on experience, helping to prepare me for a future career as a Child Life Specialist.”
— Maggie Hegedus



Learn more at messiah.edu/undergraduate/human-development-family-science-with-child-life



2025-2026 Graduates

**Congratulations to our December 2025
and May 2026 grads! We are excited
to see all you accomplish!**

Angelina Bainbridge

Julia Bowen

Cassandra Epstein

Sarah Johns

Kendall McIntyre

Sarah Meeks

Margaret Pettus

David Switzer

Jordyn Thompson

Heather Woleslagle

