

Spring Newsletter

Department of Human Development
and Family Science

SPRING 2024



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message From Dr. Johns	2
Dr. Hamon Legacy Award	3
HDFS Administrative Assistant News Kim	4
Valvo-Outstanding Alumni Recipient	5
Jordyn Thompson-AAFCS Board Election	5
NCFR News	6
FCS News	7
Elder Service Partner Program	8
MCFR News	9
FCCLA and Dr. Hamon's PAFCS Award	10
FCS Educator Day	11
2023-2024 Graduates	12

A Message From Dr. Johns!



What a year it has been! Allow me to begin with just a few highlights:

- With COVID-19 much less common and severe, teaching and learning returned to “normal”; a “normal” we no longer take for granted. Believe it or not, Spring break 2020 marked the beginning of the COVID-19 shutdown...four years ago!
- A new major called HDFS with Child Life was recently approved and will begin Fall 2024. This major provides a customized HDFS major for those seeking to become a child life specialist and serve children and families in a hospital setting.
- I took over as the official Chair of HDFS after serving as interim last Spring. But no worries, Raeann is still here sharing her expertise and stellar teaching after having served 31 years as Chair.
- Heather Bledsoe joined the department as our fabulous new Administrative Assistant, replacing Debbie Chopka who had faithfully served in that role for thirteen years.
- Three students acting as Star Evaluators (evaluating various FCS projects by middle and high school students) attended the FCCLA state conference with Raeann Hamon.
- Two students attended the NCFR conference in Minneapolis, MN.
- Three students will be attending the PAFCS conference with Raeann Hamon in April.
- Nineteen amazing seniors completed their “strategies” family life education programs, the title pages of which are on display in Murray Library as I write.
- We continued to provide updated and high-quality education to FCS students who will be entering a profession in desperate need of new graduates (spread the word!).
- Many wonderful adjuncts have contributed their unique knowledge and skills to the mission of our department including Kristen Reitz, Sasha Roble, Joan McGeary, Austin Pritchard, Kim Bream, Veronica Kelly, Leah Connor, Margeaux Cronce, Bev Goodling, Olivia Cuartas, and Jody Brandt.

An additional highlight that I am very excited about is our continued work with various community partners. Bolstering our relationships with and increasing the visibility of our partners have been significant goals this year. Students are consistently bombarded with demands for their attention, including many opportunities that may come and go if they do not somehow stand out from the rest. As I stated in last year’s newsletter, our HDFS and FCS students are desperately needed in the world today. Thus, we as a department are developing ways to clearly communicate opportunities available for professional development, service, and post-graduation employment with organizations such as Catherine Hershey Schools, Milton Hershey School, Paxton Ministries, Heavenly Hands Daycare, Messiah Lifeways, PA Counseling, and Joni and Friends, just to name a few. Organizations such as these recognize the character and preparation that our students bring to their work, and we recognize the valuable work they do in the community! As I often discuss with students, it is not your work that makes you valuable, it is you that makes your work valuable as Christ works in and through you and as you do your work unto the Lord. Our community partners collaborate with us in developing students and graduates of integrity who use the vehicle of employment to imbue significance and value into all they serve. Family matters. Marriage matters. Relationships matter. We are blessed to be a part of a community of organizations who, in various capacities, seek to uphold these critical values in partnership with our department and the students we have the privilege of educating.

Colossians 3:23-24 (ESV): Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

Dr. Hamon Legacy Award

Dr. Raeann Hamon was presented the National Council on Family Relations' Advancing Family Science Legacy Award during the 2023 NCFR Conference held in Orlando, Florida. The Legacy Award recognizes members who make significant and lasting contributions to the field of Family Science through their teaching and scholarship of teaching/administration and/or advancement of the discipline of family science. Hamon's nominators included the following comments in their letters. Hamon "...has been an active and visible leader. At the organizational level [of NCFR], she has served as a member of a task force related to the future of the discipline; an academic administration and leadership focus group; the Association of Councils Board; and the NCFR Board of Directors. Additionally, she served on a journal editorial board and is a regular reviewer of manuscripts for two journals. Further, she has maintained her CFLE credential since acquiring it in 1996. Of special note regarding her visibility among her many colleagues, Raeann is a Legacy Circle member, NCFR Fellow, and past Conference Program Chair (2009)." "Dr. Hamon is a prolific and respected author/co-author of books, book chapters, journal articles, reports, and newsletter articles, most all of which have been peer-reviewed. She is also an accomplished presenter of symposia, papers, posters, as well as panel and roundtable discussions. For many of these, the focus has been one of several of her subject specialties (e.g., theory; aging and later life families; and social and cultural diversity)." "Raeann's selfless supportive nature, encouragement for others, ability to build relationships and communicate easily with others along with her high expectations and ability to see the potential in others have shown her extraordinary level of dedication and professionalism." Congratulations, Dr. Hamon!!

**NCFR
November
2023**



Thank you Debbie!

Debbie Chopka served as a cherished member of the Department of Human Development and Family Science team for 13 years. The faculty will miss her energetic approach to her work, her care for our students, her practice of exceeding expectations, her collegiality, her knowledge of our operations, her practice of anticipating our needs, her ability to manage our many departmental events, and her thoughtful contributions to our departmental problem-solving. While we will miss Debbie within our department, we are happy that she is only moving down the hall.



Meet Heather!

We are also thrilled to welcome our new HDFS department administrative assistant Heather Bledsoe. She comes to us with a host of valuable work experiences that are sure to make her an immediate asset to the department. Her devotion to Messiah's mission is clearly evident, and we are glad to have her as a part of the HDFS team.



Outstanding Alumni Award

We congratulate Kimberly Valvo as the recipient of the 2024 Department of Human Development and Family Science Outstanding Alumni Award!

Kim graduated in 2004 from Messiah College with a degree in Human Development and Family Science. Having spent time working for Bethany Village and Messiah Lifeways in various capacities since graduating, Kim is presently the Chief Operations Officer at Messiah Lifeways.

Kim, The HDFS faculty applauds you for the incredibly significant work you have done and will continue to do in meeting the needs of older adults. These are laudable professional accomplishments and a praiseworthy representation of Christ in our community! Congratulations!

The outstanding alumni award was initiated in 2012 and is designed to recognize HDFS alumni for distinguished contributions to the service of individuals and families. All award recipients are invited to our year end senior celebration and posted on our HDFS Department website: https://www.messiah.edu/info/20406/our_alumni



Congratulations Jordyn Thompson !

“I got elected to be on the board of the AAFCS National Student Unit, and through them I get the opportunity to go to the AAFCS annual conference that's being held in Minneapolis, Minnesota this year. At the conference, I get the opportunity to learn leadership abilities as well as connect with other FCS students! It's four days long filled with professional development opportunities” - Jordyn Thompson' 26



NCFR NOVEMBER 2023

Dr. Raeann Hamon (distinguished professor of family science and gerontology), Lauren Garcia (HDFS '25), and Abbey Welsh (HDFS '24) attended the National Council on Family Relations Conference in Orlando, Florida in November. Raeann and Lauren (Hamon's Smith Scholar Intern) co-presented a resource exchange entitled "Learning from their elders: Implementing an Intergenerational Life Lessons project in the family science classroom." As Chair of the International Section and as a member of the 2023 NCFR conference planning committee, Raeann was responsible for organizing part of the program and served as facilitator for two special sessions.

"This was my second year attending the National Council on Family Relations Annual Conference as funded by the HDFS department and the Dean of the School of Arts, Culture, & Society. The conference was held at the Rosen Centre in sunny Florida with family scientists and practitioners in the field of family science from across the nation and even from other countries. A major highlight of this year's conference is that Dr. Raeann Hamon and I had the opportunity to share some research we had done at a Roundtable Resource Exchange. It was so valuable for me to learn the process of crafting a proposal and preparing to present research at a conference. Also, I loved meeting and learning from professionals and researchers who are passionate about the same topics as myself at various paper sessions and networking events. Overall, I am grateful for the NCFR conference as I gained so much valuable knowledge surrounding the research process, presenting at a conference, networking, and the pressing issues in my field of study. As a result of this conference, I have an even deeper level of excitement for family science and am eager to find ways to contribute within my field." -

Lauren Garcia '25



Amber Smith Decemeber '23

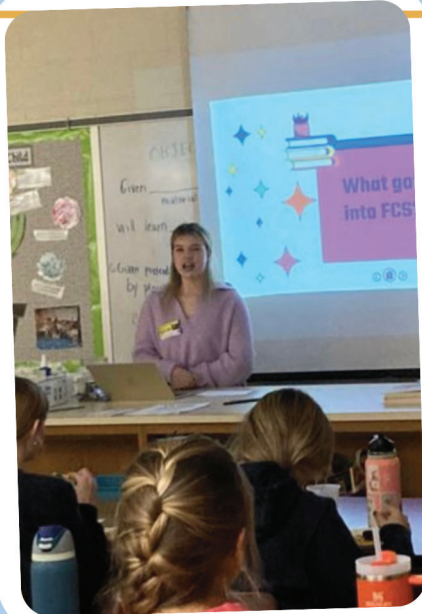
Amber Smith (Messiah University, Dec '23) and Joan Hammond teamed up to complete Amber's student teaching at Delone Catholic High School during the Fall semester. Ms. Hammond, retired family and consumer sciences teacher and adjunct instructor for the HDFS Department's HDFS 238

Textile Arts course, agreed to step out of retirement to serve as Amber's teacher of record during the fall of 2023 so Amber could assume the FCS teacher opening available at the school.

Amber was truly blessed by receiving Ms. Hammond's wisdom and guidance during the experience. As of December, Amber is the official FCS teacher at Delone Catholic and Ms. Hammond resumed the joys of retirement, time to travel and spend time with her grandchildren.



**Ms. Hammond
and Amber
Smith**



JORDYN THOMPSON MAY 26'

Jordyn Thompson, a sophomore family and consumer sciences student at Messiah, visited Hempfield High School over Christmas break and spoke to the FCCLA chapter about pursuing family and consumer sciences. Jordyn also assumed a work study position within the HDFS Department, where one of her many tasks is to help us promote our FCS program. We love Jordyn's enthusiasm for our FCS program and her willingness to serve as an ambassador for the field!!

Elder Service Partner Program

During Spring semester, students in Dr. Hamon's Sociology of Aging course were paired with an Elder Service Partner and joined them in community service. The program is designed to promote intergenerational relationships and service-learning.



My ESP is Larry Vittone, our experience together has been nothing short of fun. We have done sing along, adult daycare, and will eventually be playing pickleball together. We have shared memories, laughter, and smiles to each other. Mr. V has forever impacted my life
-Diana Paredes-Jimez



It has been a pleasure to volunteer with Mim! She is an amazing, caring, and genuine woman. The more I get to work along with her, the more I get to see how wonderful the Lord has worked through her! Mim enjoys bringing a smile to others and is intentional with spending quality time with others. She uses her voice and auto harp to bring joy to their face, as they sing hymns to praise God. Mim pours her heart out to these other older adults as she resonates with them and continues to have her interest in ministry and sharing of the gospel. It has been a wonderful experience to volunteer with Ms. Mim!
-Karina Chavez Zunun



Through the Elder Service Partner (ESP) program, I can form [close] knit connections with Ms. Moore. Listening and understanding more about her story in her field of corrections and being a person of color, allowed me to reflect on my life goals and purpose.
- Tammy Tay



"Dave and I were volunteering at Paxton Ministries in the kitchen serving breakfast! ... it is such a joy to be there serving and caring. One of my favorite parts about being there is how Dave and I enter the kitchen with energy and put smiles on the residents faces. It is so rewarding knowing that Dave and I are volunteering our time serving the people that God has given us as brothers and sisters.
-Hannah Thomas

Tis the Season... for service!

Who doesn't love to receive good old-fashioned snail mail? On December 6th, the Messiah Council on Family Relations hosted their third annual Christmas card making service event outside of the Lottie Nelson Dining Hall. At the campus-wide event, students and staff had the opportunity to make handmade or handwritten cards to be sent to local senior citizens at Messiah Village, Cross Keys Village, and more. After seeing the event being advertised, several students made it a point to attend because they remembered how much they enjoyed being able to send some festive mail to seniors in years past. Many students got creative with their cards, telling holiday-themed jokes and puns, or drawing beautiful designs on the fronts of the cards. MCFR looks forward to continuing this tradition as part of their commitment "to serve and strengthen individuals and families."



KAYLA KENNY MAY' 25

Just like Lauren mentioned with our Cards of Hope event shown above, one of the key aspects of MCFR is connecting with the larger campus community. In addition to our service events, a great outlet for connecting with others this semester has been our Bible study, "The Collective".

This year we have focused on many different books including 1 John, Philippians, and James. These guide our discussions of what it means to be Christ-like and to demonstrate God's love for us in our relationships with one another.

1 John 4:19 "We love because he first loved us"

FCCLA Conference March 18

Messiah University Family and Consumer Sciences students attended the PA State FCCLA Conference on March 18 in Lancaster, PA. Kathrine Beck, Jordyn Thompson and Isabella Benner served as evaluators for three different STAR events (e.g., cake decorating, child development, service). Dr. Hamon exhibited at the conference, speaking to many high school students about career possibilities in FCS and HDFS.



Conference Photo!



DR. HAMON RECEIVES AWARD AT PAFCS CONFERENCE

The Pennsylvania Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (PAFCS) presented Dr. Raeann Hamon the 2024 Outstanding Family and Consumer Sciences Professional Award at the PAFCS Conference on April 13. Hamon was selected for her “dedication and contribution to advancing the family and consumer sciences profession.” Hamon’s nominator also cited her “advocacy and research in many different aspects of FCS... [as well as her] dedication to the students to help them grow and succeed in FCS education.”

FCS Educator Day Quotes



From a young age I knew I wanted to help people but didn't really know what career I wanted to pursue. During my first year at Messiah, I stumbled across the Human Development and Family Science Department and fell in love with preventing harmful family dynamics. Being an FCS teacher allows me to help prevent these harmful dynamics by educating students who are about to step out and potentially create families of their own. FCS combines all of my loves: cooking, fashion, relationships, child development, and I couldn't be more excited to graduate in May from Messiah's FCS Education program."



"I chose FCS because in high school I fell in love with all the different classes they had. I had a lot of fun taking Interior Design my freshman year and knew I wanted to take as many FCS classes I could before I graduated. I took Child Development and got to spend 3 semesters in their preschool classroom and I absolutely fell in love with FCS and knew I wanted to go into that field. I also had such amazing teachers that inspired me to be a teacher, and combined with my love for the subjects, I knew what I wanted to do for my career. Since coming to Messiah, I knew I made the right decision! Their program is amazing and the department feels like family."



"I have always enjoyed working with my hands and being creative. However, when I was in middle school and high school, I put pressure on myself to go into a STEM field. When I first came to Messiah, I was studying civil engineering. After a lot of big and little curveballs, I realized that engineering wasn't giving me the fulfillment I thought it would. My boyfriend, Sage, pushed me to think about what things brought me life and joy. For me, those things are working with others, specifically kids, and getting to creatively work with my hands. I had always enjoyed taking FCS classes in middle and high school, so I decided to see if Messiah had a program. Amazingly, Messiah is one of the two schools in Pennsylvania that has an FCS program!! My decision from there was very simple. I switched my major to FCS and, since switching, have loved getting to take classes that are applicable and people oriented. I'm very blessed to be able to go to school to study FCS!!"



"Hi! My name is Kathrine. I chose FCS because I always wanted to work with kids, but I didn't want to teach ordinary subjects like math or history. FCS gave me an opportunity to combine working with kids and my love for baking and cooking."



"I chose Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) because I believe in the power of practical life skills, especially for those students not pursuing college. In the baking realm, FCS offers a unique opportunity to instill essential abilities that extend far beyond the kitchen. It's about teaching more than just recipes; it's equipping students with skills like budgeting, time management, and teamwork, providing a solid foundation for their entry into the workforce. FCS is the last step for many students to grasp these fundamental life skills before embarking on their career paths. My choice to be a part of FCS is fueled by the desire to empower students with the tools they need to navigate life successfully, regardless of their academic pursuits."

**Congratulations to our
December 2023 and May
2024 grads! We are so
excited to see all you
accomplish!**

Alexia Boltz

Bethany Brunk

Danielle Carney

Lillian Chamberlain

Katharine Cole

Bailey Coop

Cassandra Ebersole

Emily Garber

Carsyn Greene

Emily Grimm

Natalie Hamlen

Micheal Healy

Kate Ice

Amelia Montgomery

Lauren Parrish

Esmee Pillsbury

Morgan Pizzuti

Makenna Rodriguez

Amber Smith

Rebecca Synder

Abbey Welsh

Emily Wenger

Bethany Wilt