FSA
family science association

WINTER NEWSLETTER

January 2026 Volume 10, Issue 1

The Family Science Association (FSA) is an independent organization of family science professionals and students who have joined together to strengthen and enhance the Family Science profession.

Winter Reflections

Welcome, Family Science Association members, to our winter newsletter! I hope that you all experienced some period of rest and rejuvenation, even if it was brief! As we moved through the shorter days of the winter break, I was encouraged by the multiple cultural and faith celebrations of light during this darker time of the year. Many of us were coming off of a long and busy semester, during what continue to be stressful times. Let the work that we do, the collegial connections that we have, and the positive impact that you are each making in the field of Family Science be a light that we collectively shine brighter together as we look towards spring. This is also a great time to think of warmer days and weather which we look forward to spending together in **Wilmington, NC** for our **2026 TSF Conference**. Proposal submissions are still open for a few more days and more details are below. Read on for the latest updates and happenings in the Family Science Association. We look forward to hearing from you!

~ Kate Riera, President

2026 TEACHING FAMILY SCIENCE CONFERENCE:

Conference Theme – Teaching Family Science Amidst Growth and Change



[Wilmington, NC Waterfront]

Get ready for the 2026 TFS Conference to be held in Wilmington, North Carolina on June 15-16! Co-chairs Meeshay Williams-Wheeler and Teresa Brooks Taylor have been working hard planning an excellent conference for us. In addition to engaging conference sessions during the day, there will even be a beautiful dinner river cruise on the Cape Fear River on Monday evening.

Details about proposal submission and hotel accommodations in Wilmington are posted on the 2026 TFS Conference webpage. Registration info will be coming soon. Check it out!

Questions and Concerns, Contact Program Chairs
mwwheele@ncat.edu and taylort@mail.etsu.edu

Teaching Corner: Student Belonging & Engagement

Quick tips for the Spring Semester

Looking for a few new ideas to strengthen student belonging and engagement in your course(s) this spring? This Inspiring Minds piece by Zach Mercurio addressing educators suggests some conversation starters to consider using to build the rapport with students that makes them feel noticed, included, and engaged in the classroom community. One practical suggestion is to do a check in with students at the beginning of class; one way to do this would be through online polling tools. To find out more read the full article.

Journal News: Family Science Review

NEW JOURNAL EDITION

Family Science Review is pleased to announce that they published their second 2025 issue just before the new year. If you have not gotten a chance to check it out yet, here is the link Family Science Review Vol 29 Issues 2. Topics covered include an interesting look at authentic and reflexive teaching practice for instructors in Family Science as well as an examination of students' internal control of study and learning strategies and their outcomes on academic performance. Additional exciting news is that since the journal was indexed with ERIC it has received over 5,000 views in 2025 and over 3,000 downloads of articles!

CALL FOR REVIEWERS

Family Science Review is seeking reviewers to help evaluate and review manuscripts submitted for publication consideration. This is a wonderful opportunity to provide service to the organization, further the discipline of family science, and support innovative original research and the scholarship of teaching and learning within family science. For more information, please contact our Editor-in-Chief, Karen Lee Doneker (kdonekermancini@towson.edu).

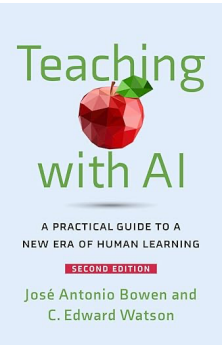
Diversifying Family Science Curriculum

RECENT ARTICLE SPOTLIGHT

Are you considering adding a course about LGBTQ+ families to your Family Science curriculum? This article from an issue of Family Science Review earlier this year, details for readers the development and rationale for such as course from the author's own experience. From an overview of readings and assignments to included appendices with additional useful teaching tools and rubrics, this article provides a framework for diversifying and updating Family Science curriculums to include LGBTQ+ families.

FSA Book Club Starting!

Mark your Calendars



The FSA Book Club will be starting soon in February with the very recently published *Teaching with AI: A Practical Guide to a New Era of Human Learning* (2nd ed.), by José Antonio Bowen and C. Edward Watson. The three different parts of the book will be discussed at three zoom book club meetings this spring (February, April, June). There is still time to join! Contant our SNP representative Ellie Wroten (ewroten@mcneese.edu) if you are interested.

Looking for another good read?

Many excellent suggestions and book recommendations were submitted in our survey earlier this year. Thank you and we would like to make that available to all of you. Thanks to our new SNP rep Ellie Wroten who compiled all this shared list. You can access it here and also add to it!

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Ellie Wroten, Ph.D.



Position: I am an Assistant Professor of Family Science, McNeese State University.

How long have you been a member of FSA? I have been an FSA member since 2021

What do you enjoy most about being a member of FSA? My favorite thing about FSA is that FSA fosters an environment where family science is not only valued but nourished. We share resources as well as resources to encourage ourselves and colleagues to conduct cutting-edge research and encourage our students as the field of family science continues to grow and evolve with our ever-changing social contexts.

What is one thing you are looking forward to doing this spring? I am coordinating internships for the upcoming spring semester for my seniors. I am also so excited to continue some very exciting research endeavors while I study for my CFLE exam. I'm also excited to get started with our FSA book club!

What is one fun fact about you that will help people get to know you better? I am a polyglot! I am a native English speaker, but I also speak French (which comes in

***Family Science Review* – Editor's Corner**

Interested in learning the editorial process? The editorial team needs assistance and is looking for someone to join the team. The individual will participate in weekly team meetings and have the chance to explore and learn all the levels of the editorial process including formatting and webpage development. Editorial board experience is not required. This is a great opportunity to gain experience. Please email journal@familysciencereview.org if you are interested.

Best Regards,
Karen Lee Doneker, Editor-in-Chief

Don't forget to look for us to connect on our social media platforms!
Instagram: @familyscienceassociation
LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/company/family-science-association
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/FamilyScienceAssociation

LOOKING FOR MORE?

If there is something you would like to see in the Family Science Association quarterly newsletter, let us know!

CONTACT US

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