FSA
family science association

SUMMER NEWSLETTER

August 2024 Volume 8, Issue 2

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.

Summer Reflections

The summer started for many of us with a warm and wonderful gathering in Puerto Rico. I hope the months since then have brought moments of rest and sunshine to all of you. We have an exciting year ahead in FSA. Please read below for opportunities to get involved as well as information for our next Teaching Family Science Conference which will be held in Costa Rica. I am looking forward to working with all of you as our next adventures unfold.

– Laura Evans

GET INVOLVED IN FSA – WE NEED YOU!

Opening Board Positions

Student/New Professional (elected, 3-year term)

If you would like to work with other students and new professionals and ensure that FSA is meeting the needs of the next generation of educators, scholars, and practitioners, this is the role for you!

Secretary (elected, 3-year term)

The person in this role helps keep us organized by taking minutes at meetings, communicating with members, and working collaboratively with the treasurer on membership and dues records.

Editorial Team (appointed, 3-year term)

Work with the team who keeps the Family Science Review and the FSA website running! Bring your editorial and/or web expertise to the team OR bring your desire to learn about both to the team. There is a lot to do and we need your help!

If you are interested in any of these positions or would like to learn more about them, please reach out to Laura Evans at lme20@psu.edu. We will be conducting elections in October, so please reply with your interest as soon as possible.

CONFERENCE WRAP-UP: 2024 Teaching Family Science Conference

Our 2024 conference in San Juan was an incredible success! Many of us gathered to learn from each other and connect after another year. During the conference there were 34 presentations, two poster sessions, business meeting and executive board updates, and lots of trivia with prizes! There was also ample time for questions, conversation, and sharing ideas and resources with each other. Bethany Willis, Ph.D. was our incredible conference chair and coordinator. She worked tirelessly for months to find the ideal location for the conference, make sure the presentation space was comfortable, and organize a conference schedule that was engaging and cohesive. She also provided us with information to make our travels and stay go smoothly and helped us learn about Puerto Rico during our immersive experience there. Thank you, Bethany, for taking such good care of conference attendees and providing a conference experience that made us all better professionals. Thank you, too, for all who attended and presented for sharing your expertise, ideas, and experiences. Presentations will be available on the Resource Nexus on the FSA website soon.

2025 TEACHING FAMILY SCIENCE CONFERENCE:
Conference Theme – Breaking Boundaries in Teaching: A World of Perspectives



[University for Peace Campus,]

The 2025 TFS Conference will be held at the University for Peace campus in San Jose, Costa Rica on June 12-13 (Thursday-Friday). The conference will be chaired by Mamta Saxena and Hilal Kuscul.

Details about proposal submission and hotel accommodations in San Jose will be posted on the FSA webpage this Fall.

The last date for proposal submission will be Jan 20, 2025
Check Passport Application Information and Visa and Other Information Here.

Questions and Concerns Contact Program Chairs at
mamta.saxena@oswego.edu and hilal.kuscul@uconn.edu

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE NEXT FSA BUSINESS MEETING
Tuesday, October 15th 2:00pm – 3:00pm (EST) on Zoom

All are welcome to attend our FSA Business meeting in October! We hope meeting on Zoom will make the meeting more accessible and allow more of us to attend. Please use this link to join (https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89884138849?pwd=TM2gC7hbId4szWH3bmXJkECVJ63bdK.1
Meeting ID: 898 8413 8849
Passcode: 563509).

CALL FOR REVIEWERS: Family Science Review

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).

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Mamta Saxena, Ph.D.



Position: I am an associate professor in the Department of Human Development at the State University of New York at Oswego. I also serve as the co-chair of the sibling relationship focus group, NCFR, and program evaluator for Sibshops – a national program offering social support and recreational activities to siblings of individuals with disabilities.

I earned my PhD in Human Development and Family Studies from the University of Connecticut and my doctoral dissertation focused on adult sibling caregivers of individuals with developmental disabilities.

How long have you been a member of FSA? I have been a FSA member since 2017.

What do you enjoy most about being a member of FSA? As a member of FSA, I find it quite enjoyable to be part of a community that aims to enhance pedagogy in family science. I particularly love participating in discussions and presentations on innovative teaching approaches, meeting fellow faculty members, and creating supportive connections and networking with them. I also love that FSA integrates family-friendly cultural activities into the conference schedule. It's a great way to unwind after a long day of sessions and to experience the local culture. I have several fond memories of attending conferences in the Bahamas and Hawaii, where the beautiful surroundings and the cultural activities were a bonus to an already enriching professional experience.

What is one thing you are looking forward to doing this summer? I am looking forward to growing vegetables. During the pandemic, I developed a small kitchen garden, which has been growing in size since then. It is extremely satisfying to see seeds transforming into plants and fruits or vegetables. This year, I have added some fruit trees to my vegetable garden and look forward to enjoying them.

What is one fun fact about you that will help people get to know you better? There are no fun facts and in fact, I am quite boring as a person. I enjoy simple things in life and therefore love nature walks, sitting in the sun, watching feel-good drama, having a good conversation with someone, and reading spiritual content.

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

LOOKING FOR MORE?

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