

Communication Kudos

January 2020

AWARDS & HONORS:

Dr. Terri Hernandez and student Madeline Burdine received the Award of Merit for the Tier Three Tactical Materials Projects in the Digital section of the Bulldog PRISM Awards. The project featured the Children's Foundation of Mississippi. The Bulldog PRISM Awards are held annually by the The Starkville-MSU Public Relations Association of Mississippi chapter and recognize student and professional outstanding public relations work.

Dr. Terri Hernandez and student Tate Smith won an Award of Merit for the Tier Two Short Term Strategic Programs in the Marketing section of the Bulldog PRISM Awards for their work with the Public Relations and Integrated Student Media organization on MSU's campus.

The LGBTQ dramatic screenplay "The Reverend," written by **MSU Communication Instructor Jason Hibbs** will be featured during the Professional and Alumni Competition presentations at the National Broadcasting Society's Annual Convention in Burbank, California in March.

Khristi Edmonds, communication lecturer, received a stipend from the University of Mississippi for Open Educational Resources.

Dr. Melanie Loehwing was named a 2020 College of Arts & Sciences Dean's Administrative Faculty Fellow. In this position, Dr. Loehwing will be working on student success initiatives and special projects relating to curriculum revision and graduate education.

GRANTS, PRESENTATIONS & PUBLICATIONS:

Choi, H., & Thorson, E. (2020, May). Satire type matters: Differential effects of Juvenalian and Horatian satire viewing on political participation. To be presented at the 70th Annual ICA Conference, Open Communication, in Gold Coast, Australia, May 21-25, 2020.

Choi, H. (2020, May). Fox News vs. political satire: Discrete partisan pathways to participation. To be presented at the 70th Annual ICA Conference, Open Communication, in Gold Coast, Australia, May 21-25, 2020.

Sherman-Morris, K., **Seitz, H. H.**, Strawderman, L., & Warkentin, M. (2020, January). Perceived costs associated with protective actions across multiple threats. Poster presented at the American Meteorological Society 100th Annual Meeting, Boston, MA.

Steen, J., Robertson, M. N., **Seitz, H.**, Downey, L., Hardman, A., & Buys, D. (2019). Addressing the opioid epidemic: Defining Cooperative Extension's role [Ideas at Work]. *Journal of Extension*, 57. Retrieved from <https://joe.org/joe/2019december/iw3.php>

Dr. Melanie Loehwing and her colleagues at the Civic Life Laboratory recently received a \$10,000 Arts & Sciences Strategic Research Initiative seed grant for a project examining rural consciousness in Mississippi and its implications for rural-urban political polarization. The grant will fund a series of focus groups and data collection in a number of Mississippi communities.

EVENTS:

Mississippi State University Speech and Debate Council, coached by Communication Instructor Cheryl Chambers, hosted almost 200 college students for a regional speech and debate tournament January 24-26. The Southern Forensics Championship drew in competitors from 27 schools across nine states. This is the first time MSU has hosted the regional tournament, which also serves as the state championship for each of the events in Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi.

Dr. Melanie Loehwing and her colleagues at the Civic Life Laboratory hosted a community forum on bullying in partnership with the Holmes Cultural Diversity Center on January 24. Their next dialogue in the series will be on the national debt, and will be held on February 7.

NEW RESEARCH PROJECTS:

Dr. Melanie Loehwing and her colleagues at the Civic Life Laboratory have begun a collaboration with the Emmett Till Memorial Commission to facilitate a series of community dialogues in 2020. This project will capture community views in order to contribute to the research on which the new commemorative sites may be designed.

STUDENT NEWS:

Bulldog PRISM Awards held annually by the The Starkville-MSU Public Relations Association of Mississippi chapter and recognize student and professional outstanding public relations work. **The following students recently won awards:**

Annie Price received a Bulldog PRISM for her work in the Writing category for "Creating the Portal to Kindergarten Readiness."

Blake Williams received a Bulldog PRISM for his student social media campaign for Mercedes-Benz of Tuscaloosa.

Annie Price was awarded the Student Top Dawg winner for the Writing category.

Marisa Laudadio won the Student Award of Merit for her project in Advertising and Public Relations.

Tori Boatner was awarded a Student Award of Merit for her work in the Writing group.

Annie Price, Mariah Stevens, and Tori Boatner were recognized for the Student Award of Merit for the Social Media Management category.

Mariah Stevens received the Student Award of Excellence for her project in the Writing category.

Mississippi State University is represented in five finalist categories in the 2020 National Broadcasting Society student media competition. The purpose of the National Broadcasting Society is to enhance the development of college and university students and entry-level professionals involved in electronic media by promoting excellence, providing exposure to the electronic media industries and assistance in career preparation.

MSU students earned finalist honors in:

Website: Reflector

Student Academic Paper: "What Reflector Readers Want from Their Paper"

Web News Article: Bob Swanson: Instructor and "Singing Weatherman"

Video Promo: MSU Communication Department - Broadcast Concentration Promo

Video Promo: PRISM Recruitment Video

STUDENT NEWS, continued:

The Southern Forensics Championship was hosted by the MSU Speech and Debate Council. MSU students competing in the event walked away with many awards:

Dawn Jackson earned 4th place in Informative Speaking and is the Mississippi Champion in this event.

Mia Robertson won the Persuasive Speaking contest and is the Mississippi Champion.

Mia Robertson also earned the 5th place spot in Extemporaneous Speaking and went undefeated in a field of 42 debaters in the Junior Varsity division to become the Mississippi Champion for that event.

Tyler Melvin also competed in the JV division, where he finished as a quarter-finalist and earned the 4th place Speaker Award.

Amanda Kronenberger finished as an octo-finalist in a field of 49 in Novice Debate and earned the 4th place Speaker Award in that division.

Alicia Brown finished as an octo-finalist in a large field of Varsity Debate, where she earned the 4th place Speaker Award and was named the Mississippi Champion.

Alicia Brown and Josh McCoy paired up to compete in partner debate (TIPDA), and they finished the weekend as semi-finalists.

MSU earned the 1st place Debate Team Sweepstakes and the 3rd place Overall Team Sweepstakes for this major tournament.