

Communication Kudos

October 2019

AWARDS/HONORS/APPOINTMENTS:

Dr. Melanie Loehwing delivered an invited talk titled “Tiny Houses for the Homeless: Reinventing Housing Assistance as Picturesque Poverty,” for the annual Distinguished Alumni Lecture for the Department of English at Indiana University.

Dr. Tyler G. Page will receive a top paper award in the open competition of the Public Relations Division of the National Communication Association on November 15 in Baltimore, Maryland. The award is for a paper entitled “The Power of Pre-existing Relationships: Situational Crisis Communication Theory and the Revised Model of Reputation Repair” on which Dr. Page is the lead author.

For their work on the PROMISE Initiative (Preventing Opioid Misuse in the Southeast), David Buys, Ann Sansing, Alisha Hardman, Amanda Stone, Mary Nelson Robertson, Je’Kylynn Steen, and **Holli Seitz** received the Distinguished Team Award from the Rho Chapter of Epsilon Sigma Phi, an organization for Extension professionals. Dr. Seitz is an assistant professor in the Department of Communication.

FACILITATOR/PRESENTER:

Fisher, M.T., and Gardner, A. (2019). Researching the special public: A quantitative assessment of readiness for barbershop-based HIV prevention programs among rural African American barbershop patrons. Presented during the “Brightest and Best Academic Research in Public Relations” session of the Public Relations Society of America conference, San Diego, CA.

Dr. Melanie Loehwing facilitated a community forum on October 28 titled “Safety and Justice: How Should Communities Reduce Violence?” The forum is part of an ongoing dialogue program presented by the Civic Life Lab and the Holmes Cultural Diversity Center.

GRANTS:

Dr. Melanie Loehwing received a micro grant from the National Issues Forums Institute to conduct a community forum on political polarization in the spring. The funding supports local efforts to increase community dialogue and deliberation around important issues of public concern. She will host the dialogue in her role as co-director of the Civic Life Lab at the Social Science Research Center and in partnership with the Holmes Cultural Diversity Center.

NEW PROJECTS:

Dr. Melody Fisher, Dr. Melanie Loehwing, and Dr. Tyler Page traveled with a group of researchers from the MSU Social Science Research Center to the University of Alabama to visit their Public Opinion Laboratory and discuss potential future collaborations with MSU faculty and students.

NEW PROJECTS, continued:

Dr. Holli Seitz received an undergraduate research program award from the MSU Office of Research and Economic Development for the 2019-2020 academic year. The project, "Advancing Undergraduate Research in Communication Science," will fund research assistantships for undergraduate students in the SSRC Message Laboratory, a communication laboratory directed by Dr. Seitz. Department of Communication student and Provost Scholar Madeline Enlow is one of the students being supported by this award.

STUDENT NEWS:

Communication students were recognized at the 2019 College of Arts & Sciences Scholarship Ceremony: Abbie Hancock, Anna Alexander, Audra Myers, Bryanna Trulove, Courtney Carver, Eli Thurman, Emily Box, Emily McCall, Erica Dixon, Ethan Foster, Flora Dedeaux, Gavin Wasson, Gracie Byrne, Hannah Blankenship, Holly Emery, Kathryn Moore, Kristopher Scott, Makaela Dickerson, Marisa Laudadio, McKinsy Harris, Peyton Neal, Preslie Cowley, Py'Necious Cowart, Rachel Shumaker, Tate Smith, Tracy Woodruff, Victoria Newton, William Cole Brundage, and William Wilder.

Broadcast students moved into the brand new, fully operational television studio and control room located in the newly named **MaxxSouth Digital Media Center** in the Mitchell Memorial Library. Take 30 News, Mississippi State's live, award-winning student television newscast, will take advantage of this broadcast facility and as a result the show been added to two local station's regular programming line-up. Take 30 News is 100% student produced, featuring news, weather, and sports.

The MSU Speech and Debate Team recently opened its competitive season at the Hot and Spicy IPDA (International Public Debate Association) Tournament at Louisiana Tech University. The students combined to earn their spot as the 2nd place squad in Team Debate.

The MSU Speech and Debate Team also competed at the Hub City Swing event at the University of Southern Mississippi. This tournament was attended by 19 colleges and universities, from eight states. As a team, MSU won the 3rd place TIPDA (a form of partner debate) sweeps award, and the fourth place comprehensive points award.