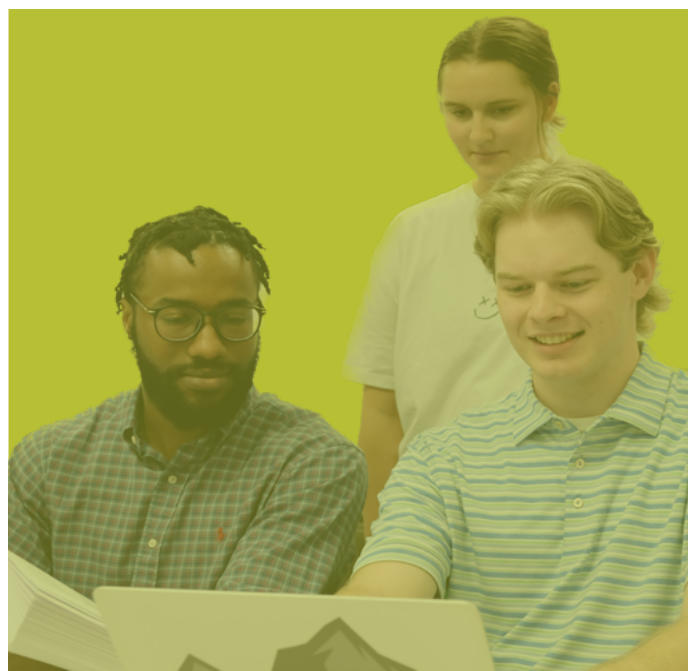


ANNUAL REPORT

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION | 2023-24



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION

**ONE MAJOR.
FIVE CONCENTRATIONS.**

INNOVATIVE CURRICULUM. EXPERT FACULTY.

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BROADCAST & DIGITAL JOURNALISM

COMMUNICATION & MEDIA STUDIES

PRINT & DIGITAL JOURNALISM

PUBLIC RELATIONS

THEATRE



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION



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ENROLLMENT

Fall 2023 Communication student enrollment by concentration

B&D JOURNALISM	143
COMM & MEDIA STUDIES	75
P&D JOURNALISM	29
PUBLIC RELATIONS	206
THEATRE	23



DEGREES AWARDED

Communication degrees awarded by concentration in 2023-2024

3 DEGREES BROADCASTING	25 DEGREES BROADCAST & DIGITAL JOURNALISM
23 DEGREES COMMUNICATION & MEDIA STUDIES	2 DEGREES JOURNALISM
10 DEGREES PRINT & DIGITAL JOURNALISM	68 DEGREES PUBLIC RELATIONS
7 DEGREES THEATRE	

MISSION

The Mississippi State University Department of Communication prepares students through scholarship, creative practice, and ethical and cultural awareness to be empowered professional artists and communicators.



VISION

Graduates of the Mississippi State University Department of Communication will excel in diverse professional landscapes and will contribute to an ever-evolving global society as critical thinkers, savvy consumers, life-long learners, storytellers, content creators, and audience-focused artists and communicators.



A LETTER FROM DR. TERRY LIKES



TO FACULTY, STUDENTS, ADMINISTRATORS, ALUMNI AND FRIENDS,

Welcome to our 2023-2024 annual report. It has been another year of program growth, faculty achievement and student excellence. Major initiatives were achieved or are in progress including the growth of our graduate program, seeking of both the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication and the National Association for Schools of Theatre accreditations, and the approval and launch of new collaborative degree programs. Seven non-tenure track faculty earned promotion to the rank of Instructor II.

THEATRE

Students and faculty, once again, earned honors from the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival and the Mississippi Theatre Association while students attended, and faculty led, workshops at the Southeast Theatre Conference. In addition to producing our annual children's production, a major endeavor this year involved the collaboration with the Department of Music to produce "Pippin" in April 2024. "Pippin" included financial support from the deans of the College of Education and Arts & Sciences. Faculty were also productive in the summer months with international travel and domestic summer theatre productions. Theatre continues its additional offerings for students including student organizations, such as The Scene, Lab Rats, and Black Friars Drama Society. Theatre welcomes Greg Thorn as a new faculty member starting August 2024. Greg is a theatrical lighting designer from Whitsett, North Carolina. Greg holds an Master of Fine Arts in theatre arts with a concentration in lighting design from the University of Idaho.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

The big news from PR is the news that John Forde, a longtime faculty member and former head of the department, announced his retirement effective May 2024. We greatly appreciate John's years of dedicated service and teaching excellence. PR students, again, earned regional, state and local awards stemming from work in the capstone class and the Public Relations & Integrated Student Media agency, the student agency. PR continued its regular chapter meetings of the Public Relations Student Society of America, hosting various speakers. PR is one of two communication concentrations to also offer a program online.

COMMUNICATION & MEDIA STUDIES

CMST continues to grow its enrollment in both in-person and online offerings. CMST welcomes two new faculty starting August 2024. Gil Carter is a teacher and scholar of rhetoric and political communication. He has been an assistant instructional professor at the University of Florida. An Alabama native, Carter earned his doctorate and master's at the University of Alabama. Another new hire is a joint position with African American Studies. Keven Rudrow joins the department from Syracuse University. Keven earned his doctorate from the University of Memphis. MSU speech and debate students, winner of numerous awards this year, hosted Debate Nationals April 2024.

BROADCAST & DIGITAL JOURNALISM / PRINT & DIGITAL JOURNALISM

B&DJ and P&DJ welcomed two new faculty August 2023. Rex Jones, assistant professor, specializes in documentary production. Marcus Hunter is an associate professor of practice having worked in television news and sports. Both the B&DJ and P&DJ concentrations held another successful MS Association of Broadcaster's event for students in March. Students won 38 awards from the Southeast Journalism Conference and 25 from the MS Press Association, including "General Excellence" for the fourth year in a row. For the PR, B&DJ and P&DJ concentrations, faculty have been writing a self-study with an official ACEJMC accreditation site team visit scheduled for February 2025.

I hope you will enjoy reading in greater detail about our success stories. I am proud of our faculty and students for their significant achievements. We greatly appreciate your support.

**SINCERELY,
DR. TERRY LIKES
DEPARTMENT HEAD AND PROFESSOR**



INITIATIVES

FALL 2024 NEW COMMUNICATION FACULTY



DR. GIL CARTER will join the department fall 2024 in the **COMMUNICATION & MEDIA STUDIES** concentration area. Carter, a teacher and scholar of rhetoric and political communication, comes to Starkville from the University of Florida’s Dial Center for Speech and Communication Studies where he has been an assistant instructional professor and a state-championship-winning director of debate. An Alabama native, he earned his doctorate and master’s degrees at the University of Alabama, where he was recognized with the university wide award for Outstanding Teaching by a Doctoral Student in spring 2023. In addition to being published in Electronic News, his research has won awards in multiple divisions of the National Communication Association.

“Mississippi State has a national reputation for excellence in teaching and researching communication, and I am beyond excited to join the faculty in the MSU Department of Communication,” Carter said.



DR. KEVEN JAMES RUDROW will also join the department fall 2024 in the **COMMUNICATION & MEDIA STUDIES** concentration area. Rudrow received his doctorate at the University of Memphis and has most recently been an assistant professor of rhetoric, media and race. Using rhetorical criticism and audience analysis, Rudrow’s scholarship focuses on how ideas about race, gender and sexuality converge in public and vernacular discourses to construct complex identities, investments and advocacies in the U.S. and abroad. Rudrow has published in ranked communication and ethnic studies journals, including Critical Studies in Media Communication, Journal of Black Studies, Communication and Critical/Cultural Studies and Communication, Culture & Critique.

“I am excited to help create a supportive and explorative university experience for our students,” Rudrow said.



GREG THORN will join the department fall 2024 in the **THEATRE** concentration area. Thorn is a theatrical lighting designer from Whitsett, North Carolina. His work primarily has focused on lighting contemporary plays, musical theater and modern dance. He has also delved into lighting and projection design for live concerts. Thorn holds a Master of Fine Arts in theatre arts with a concentration in lighting design from the University of Idaho and a Bachelor of Arts in theatre from Davidson College.

“I am excited to join MSU’s theatre team and look forward to helping guide the next generation of theatre creators,” Thorn said.

DR. JOHN FORDE

RETIREMENT CELEBRATION

Words cannot describe our gratitude for Dr. Forde's 37 years of dedication to the MSU Department of Communication. Thank you, Dr. Forde, for everything you have given to our students, faculty and university! You are and will always be truly special to us.





COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT GAINS NEW ACADEMIC ADVISING COORDINATOR

CASEY KING serves as the communication academic advising coordinator for the department. King oversees communication orientations, works with major changes to welcome students to our department, and works with faculty members on advising majors, among many other duties. She has worked at MSU for more than 12 years, most recently in Industrial Engineering as the business manager. King has a BBA in risk management, insurance and financial planning from the MSU College of Business.

COMMUNICATION COLLABORATES WITH A&S TO DEVELOP CROSS-DISCIPLINE CONCENTRATIONS

MSU'S COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES has collaborated with the Department of Communication to offer students new ways to combine multiple interests with two additional degrees. Begun fall of 2023, a new concentration in **ENTERTAINMENT TECHNOLOGY** was added as a Bachelor of Science in interdisciplinary studies option and **POLITICAL COMMUNICATION** now is offered as a Bachelor of Arts in liberal arts choice.



MAB DAY 2024

The department held its annual Mississippi Association of Broadcasters Day March 19. The event hosted about 80 media students and 20 broadcast professionals from around the state.



FACULTY NEWS & AWARDS

COMMUNICATION FACULTY AWARDS

EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING



HOLLI SEITZ

Associate Professor
**COMMUNICATION
& MEDIA STUDIES**

EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH



PETE SMITH

Associate Professor
**COMMUNICATION
& MEDIA STUDIES**

EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE



CARRIE MCCORMICK

Instructor I
**COMMUNICATION
& MEDIA STUDIES**

OUTSTANDING LECTURER



AUNDREA NICHOLS

LECTURER

HOLLI SEITZ, an associate professor in **COMMUNICATION & MEDIA STUDIES**, received the 2024 Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching. "Communication is constantly evolving and so are Dr. Seitz's teaching practices as she has designed two new courses. Her willingness to serve as a mentor to others is evidence that teaching is not only a job to Dr. Seitz but a way of life," said an alumni external reviewer.

PETE SMITH, an associate professor in **COMMUNICATION & MEDIA STUDIES**, received the 2024 Faculty Award for Excellence in Research. "Dr. Smith's research continues to bring positive attention to the university and communication department as he cements himself as a leader in the field of media and journalism history," said an alumni external reviewer.

CARRIE MCCORMICK, an instructor in **COMMUNICATION & MEDIA STUDIES**, received the 2024 Faculty Award for Excellence in Service. "Carrie has clearly gone above and beyond the requirements of her job. She has plugged in not only with the department but also with the university and in the larger academic and Starkville communities," said an alumni external reviewer.

AUNDREA NICHOLS, a **LECTURER**, received the 2024 Outstanding Lecturer Award. "Aundrea gives students a first-hand account of the career they are entering while teaching core broadcasting concepts. Her decades of experience are an invaluable asset to students and the communication department as a whole as the field evolves. MSU is fortunate to have Aundrea as a lecturer to enlighten and encourage the next generation of broadcasters," said an alumni external reviewer.

CHAMBERS, HAYS WIN COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES ANNUAL AWARDS

CHERYL CHAMBERS, an instructor in **COMMUNICATION & MEDIA STUDIES**, received the inaugural Distinguished Service Award recognizing faculty who have demonstrated exemplary institutional service. The College of Arts & Sciences Distinguished Service Award was created to recognize meritorious service contributions that fulfilled the core vision of the college.

TONYA HAYS, an assistant professor in **THEATRE**, was awarded the Teaching Award in Humanities for demonstrating exemplary performance in and out of the classroom and leading her department and college in identifying more effective ways to improve overall pedagogy.



PICTURED L TO R: TONYA HAYS & CHERYL CHAMBERS

FACULTY MEMBERS SERVE AT STATE CONFERENCE

The Mississippi Communication Association 2024 conference took place in February at Mississippi College. **PETE SMITH**, an associate professor in **COMMUNICATION & MEDIA STUDIES**, was the keynote speaker, and **PHILIP POE**, an associate professor in **PRINT & DIGITAL JOURNALISM**, served as first Vice President of MCA for 2023.

As 1st Vice President, Poe helped with planning and administering this year’s conference. The conference’s theme was “Technology Meets Humanity.” Smith spoke on advanced topics of technology, describing its history and surrounding context. The Department of Communication co-sponsored the conference, and many from the department participated.



PETE SMITH

PHILIP POE

LIKES WINS MULTIPLE BROADCAST AWARDS



DR. TERRY LIKES, professor and head of the Department of Communication, won two Broadcast Education Association awards for his audio documentaries, **“Cowbell Culture: Small instrument—big impact ... the cowbell as a fixture in American music, sports, and popular culture”** and **“Sharing a Laugh – a historical view of the White House Correspondents Dinner.”** Likes’ “Cowbell Culture” won Best of Competition in the Faculty Sports Division, and “Sharing a Laugh” won Best of Competition in the Faculty Audio category. Likes received his awards at the April BEA conference in Las Vegas.

LIKES was also featured on the College of Arts & Sciences’ **“VISION”** podcast to discuss the audio documentary.

LIKES WINS 2024 BROADCAST HISTORIAN AWARD

Likes won the 2024 Broadcast Historian Award, an award presented by co-organizations Library of American Broadcasting Foundation and the Broadcast Education Association. Likes received this award for his audio production, “Sharing a Laugh” The impact of popular culture on the White House Correspondents. In addition, Likes had two reports earn “Best of Competition” in the BEA Festival of Media Arts.

READ THE FULL ARTICLE.

LIKES WINS THREE AWARDS AT MAB

Likes won three awards at the Mississippi Association of Broadcasters’ annual ceremony. He won first place in “Radio Sports Story,” first place in “Radio Use of Sound” and second place in “Radio Documentary.”

“MAB is a great resource for professionals and students. Their news directors and general managers are kind to give so much of their time to our students,” said Likes.

READ MORE ABOUT LIKES.

HUNTER JOINS ANCHOR TEAM AT WCBI-TV

MARCUS HUNTER, an associate professor of practice in **BROADCAST & DIGITAL JOURNALISM**, now anchors the 6, 9 and 10 p.m. weeknight newscasts at WCBI TV. Hunter’s new role will allow him to “practice” what he is teaching.

“They can look for me and Aundrea tonight on WCBI TV news at 6, and they can watch me at 9 and 10. I hope to represent the university, my colleagues and students well,” Hunter said.



JONES RECEIVES AWARDS FROM MISSISSIPPI HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Rex Jones, an assistant professor in **BROADCAST & DIGITAL JOURNALISM**, received Awards of Merit for his documentaries “**LIBATION & LEGISLATION**” and “**STEVE HOLLAND: JESUS WAS A DEMOCRAT.**”

Awards of Merit are presented annually to individuals or organizations for their outstanding work to preserve Mississippi history. The recipients of all 15 Awards of Merit were formally announced at the annual meeting of the Mississippi Historical Society.

JONES’ DOCUMENTARY PREMIERES

Jones screened “Libation & Legislation” and “Steve Holland: Jesus Was a Democrat” at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. The screening took place April 24 as part of the History Is Lunch series at the museum. Conversations with Steve Holland and Marshall Ramsey followed the screening.

Jones also showcased “Steve Holland: Jesus Was a Democrat” at McComas Hall Theatre for MSU faculty, staff and students and the Starkville community.

The Southern Register featured Jones’ documentary in an article about Steve Holland’s defeat after 36 years in the Mississippi legislature.

READ MORE ABOUT JONES AND HIS DOCUMENTARY.

READ THE FULL SOUTHERN REGISTER ARTICLE HERE.

ROUSSIN RECEIVES THREE AWARDS FOR PHOTOGRAPHIC ARTWORK

WENDY ROUSSIN, an associate professor in **PRINT & DIGITAL JOURNALISM** at Mississippi State, received three awards at the International 20th Julia Margaret Cameron Award Competition for her encaustic photographic artworks. Roussin’s artwork was recognized in the Professional Category: Alternative Processes Single Image category. Each piece earned an Honorable Mention.



CHOI CONDUCTS SURVEY ABOUT LATE NIGHT TALK SHOWS

DR. HEESOOK CHOI, an assistant professor in **PRINT & DIGITAL JOURNALISM**, conducted a survey in August about the two different political comedians Greg Gutfeld and Stephen Colbert. Choi’s study suggests that Americans of today live in two disparate late-night ecosystems and complexities inherent in both audience and satire matter more than ever in the study of contemporary political satire.



FOREMAN FEATURED AT MISSISSIPPI BOOK FESTIVAL ‘LITERARY LAWN FESTIVAL’

JOSH FOREMAN, an instructor in **PRINT & DIGITAL JOURNALISM** and advisor to The Reflector, connected with literary fans in August at the Mississippi Book Festival’s “Literary Lawn Party.”

Now in its ninth year, the festival includes book signings, workshops and 50-panel discussions ranging in topics like civil rights, nature, true crime and Mississippi football.

READ MORE ABOUT “LITERARY LAWN FESTIVAL.”





SEITZ PROVIDES INSIGHT FOR ARTICLE IN 'THE CONVERSATION'

DR. HOLLI SEITZ, an associate professor in **COMMUNICATION & MEDIA STUDIES**, provided her perspective for an article in "The Conversation" titled, "**HOW EFFECTIVE ARE PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS? THREE SCHOLARS WEIGH IN.**" Seitz offered her opinion on what makes a public service announcement effective.

MCCORMICK RECEIVES AWARD FOR 'TOP G.I.F.T.S. PRESENTATION'

CARRIE MCCORMICK, an instructor in **COMMUNICATION**

& MEDIA STUDIES, was awarded the "Top G.I.F.T.S. Presentation," Great Ideas For Teaching Students, at the Mississippi Communication Association's annual convention. McCormick presented an activity titled "Where y'all from?: Linking our Culture and Communication" that focused on linking dialect and accent to our various cultures.



EDMONDS NAMED DIVISION CHAIR AT EMCC

KHRISTI EDMONDS, former instructor and current

lecturer, was named division chair of the Humanities and Fine Arts Division at the Golden Triangle Campus of East Mississippi Community College
**CONGRATULATIONS
ON YOUR APPOINTMENT,
KHRISTI!**



HERNANDEZ AND COLLEAGUES RECEIVE FUNDING FOR DATA VISUALIZATION TOOL

A Mississippi State University research team is using nearly \$300,000 from the National Science Foundation to study the intersection of human emotions, information spread and behavior during the COVID-19 pandemic, a project that could inform future health policies.

Principal Investigator Megan Richardson and Co-PI Sujan Ranjan Anreddy—both assistant research professors with MSU's Social Science Research Center—are collaborating with Co-PI and SSRC researcher **TERRI N. HERNANDEZ**, also an assistant professor in the Department of Communication, on the two-year grant from the NSF Behavioral and Cognitive Science, Human Networks and Data Science-Infrastructure. Christopher Lightsey, a research engineer from MSU's High Performance Computing Collaboratory, is serving as senior personnel on the project.

"This grant will enable us to develop a powerful data visualization tool for exploring the COPE-ID—COVID-19 Online Prevalence of Emotions in Institutions Database. Through this tool, we aim to shed light on the complex interplay of emotions, information spread and human behavior during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our ultimate goal is to improve access to this valuable social media data resource, empowering researchers from various fields to uncover insights that will inform future public health policies and interventions," Hernandez said.

The COPE-ID contains online discussions of COVID-19, including posts about emotions—such as fear and anxiety—and social institutions—such as health care and family. Improving access to data such as this can inform future public health policies and interventions, Hernandez said.

"Users can request samples of data that can be labeled using qualitative or content analysis," said Hernandez. "This labeled data can then be used to make predictions about future events—predictions that are generated by advanced statistical analyses or machine learning techniques. The tool improves scientists' access to social media data and allows researchers to test theories of human behavior using user-generated big data."

This project also is funded by the NSF's Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research, or EPSCoR.





FISHER JOINS MAROON ACADEMY FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE

DR. MELODY FISHER, an associate professor in **PUBLIC RELATIONS**, joins the faculty for Maroon Academy for Teaching Excellence. **THE MAROON ACADEMY** is a certificate program for faculty teaching at MSU. Fisher will lead Inclusive Teaching to Welcome All.

READ MORE ABOUT MAROON ACADEMY.

FISHER FEATURED IN REFLECTOR ARTICLE

Fisher was featured in an article in The Reflector about minorities in the public relations field. In “I hate that we’re still having firsts,” Fisher tells stories of minority PR professionals.

READ THE FULL ARTICLE.



ANTHONY ELECTED TO SERVE ON UNIVERSITY PROMOTION, TENURE COMMITTEE

KELLI ANTHONY, an instructor in **PUBLIC RELATIONS**, was elected to serve on MSU’s promotion and tenure committee for a three-year term as an instructor representative. This election process was the first to appoint an instructor to the promotion and tenure committee. Instructors were added to the committee after the institution of non-tenure track promotions during the 2023 academic year.



BROWN ELECTED TO SERVE ON CCAS NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

KARYN BROWN, MSU Arts & Sciences assistant dean of communications and media and a **PUBLIC RELATIONS** instructor, was elected to serve on the Council for Colleges of Arts & Sciences National Board of Directors. Additionally, she will serve as co-director of the CCAS Communication Community.

COMMUNICATION INSTRUCTORS WIN AWARDS AT PUBLIC RELATIONS CONFERENCE

At the 2023 Southern Public Relations Conference, **KELLI ANTHONY** and **KARYN BROWN**, communication instructors, along with the full Arts & Sciences communication team, won three Awards of Excellence for Vision Magazine 2022, Vision Podcast and Vision TV. The A&S communication team also received a Lantern Award for the overall Vision branding campaign. The communication team consists of **KARYN BROWN, KELLI ANTHONY, SARAH NICHOLAS (COMMUNICATION ALUMNA) AND SAM KEALHOFER.**



KELLI ANTHONY



KARYN BROWN

HAYS RECEIVES COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AWARD

Mississippi State honored a theatre professor for her outreach project during the university’s sixth annual Excellence in Community Engagement Awards.

TONYA HAYS, an assistant professor in **THEATRE**, won the **2023 MSU Excellence** in Community Engagement award in the Scholarship of Engagement category. Her project, “**REMEMBERING ANNE & EMMETT**” was cited as a great example of an engaging learning experience for MSU students, faculty, staff and external partners.

Winning projects received \$3,000 to further their engagement projects. The recipients were selected by MSU’s Center for Community-Engaged Learning, Office of the Provost and Executive Vice President, Office of Research and Economic Development and Division of Student Affairs.



PRESENTATIONS & PUBLICATIONS

BAZAA, UYANGA. (2023, May 25 - 29). Value congruence: Explication and measurement scale development [Conference presentation]. The 73rd ICA Annual Conference, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.icahdq.org/resource/resmgr/conference/2023/ICA2023-Program_sm.pdf

Coman, I. A., **BAZAA, UYANGA.**, Guidry, J. P. D., & Miller, C. A. (2023). #EndtheSTigma: An exploratory analysis of the 2019 HPV Awareness Day conversation on Twitter & Instagram. Health Communication, DOI: 10.1080/10410236.2023.2196466.

CHOI, HEESOOK. 2023. Satirical humor matters for liberals? MSNBC and political satire in the context of political participation. Paper presented at the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Midwinter Conference, Norman, OK.

CHOI, HEESOOK. 2023. Gutfeld vs. Colbert: Situating Gutfeld! in the landscape of contemporary late-night talk shows in the context of political outcomes and climate change. Paper presented at the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Annual Conference, Washington, D.C.

FISHER, MELODY. (2023, September). Blurred Lines II: Public Relations Ethics. Presentation given at the chapter meeting of the Starkville – MSU, Public Relations Association of Mississippi, Starkville.

FISHER, MELODY. (2023, April). Blurred Lines: Public Relations Ethics. Presentation given at the annual meeting of the Public Relations Association of Mississippi, Tupelo.

Starrett, Ryan and **FOREMAN, JOSH**, Hidden History of the Mississippi Delta. Charleston, S.C.: The History Press. 2003.

FOREMAN, JOSH, “Mississippi Culture.” Panel discussion moderated by Marshall Ramsey. Mississippi Book Festival, Jackson, Miss., Aug. 19, 2023.

HAYS, TONYA. 2023, “Theatre in a time of War,” A presentation on theatrical work with students from Poland, Ukraine and Belarus.

HAYS, TONYA. 2023, “Youth Play Stated Reading,” - A presentation of the winning play and moderated talkback with the playwright and audience response.

Harris, Jonathan, **HAYS, TONYA, WADE, JESSE.** 2023, “Using Improvisational Technique and Experiential Learning in the Stem/Steam/Stream Classroom,” - A presentation and workshop.

HUNTER, MARCUS, 2024. “Marketing Yourself as a TV News Reporter.” Mississippi Association of Broadcasters student conference, Jackson, MS.

JONES, REX. 2024. “Teaching podcasting: Effective Techniques for Elevating Student Work.” Broadcast Education Association conference, Las Vegas, NV.

JONES, REX. 2024. “Doc Film for Non-Majors.” Broadcast Education Association conference, Las Vegas, NV.

JONES, REX. 2024. “Effective Storytelling Techniques Using Sound and Video.” Mississippi Association of Broadcasters student conference, Jackson, MS.

LIKES, TERRY. 2024. “Cross-Campus Collaboration. How it has worked, or not worked?” Broadcast Education Association conference, Las Vegas, NV.

LIKES, TERRY. 2024. “Getting Creative (Output): Best Practices for Advancement of Non-Tenure Track Faculty.” Broadcast Education Association conference, Las Vegas, NV.

LIKES, TERRY. 2023. “Cowbell Culture: Small instrument, big impact - the cowbell as a fixture in American music and popular culture.” Report aired on WMSV-FM.

LIKES, TERRY , 2023. “Sharing a laugh: The impact of popular culture on the White House Correspondents’ Dinner.” Report aired on WMSV-FM.

Athearn, L.J., Barefoot, K.B, Smith, L.H., Kalbfleisch, P., Klesman,C.

MCCORMICK, CARRIE R., Mestayer, C., Nagy, D. (2023, April). Intersections Between Interpersonal and Instructional Communication, Panel Presentation. In C.R. McCormick (presenter) Teaching Civility to Cultivate More Respectful Interpersonal Relationships. Panel conducted at the meeting of the Southern States Communication Association, St. Petersburg, FL.

MCCORMICK, CARRIE R. (2023, February). Describe that Object! GIFTS session presented at the meeting of the Mississippi Communication Association, Clinton, MS.

NICHOLSON, JOHN. (2023). “The Critical, Comedic, Offensive and Absurd in South Park: Exploring Message Design Logic and Viewer Responses.” Southern States Communication Association, St. Petersburg, FL; April 16, 2023.

NICHOLSON, JOHN. (2023). Keynote Speaker, Mississippi Communication Association Annual Convention, Feb. 2023.

Vaughn, C., Sherman-Morris, K. and **POE, PHILIP** (2023). Factors influencing retweeting of local news media tweets during Hurricane Irma. Natural Hazards, 119, 583-611.

POE, PHILIP , (17, June 2023). “If Texas Tech really wants to honor Mike Leach, they should pay him.”

POE, PHILIP , (5, August 2023). “Let’s go fishing.”

POE, PHILIP , (26, August 2023). “Stan Murray gets it right: Legendary SEC official enters eighth year in review booth.”

POE, PHILIP , (5, September 2023). “Hope springs eternal in the fall” Columbus Commercial Dispatch.

POE, PHILIP , (12, September 2023). “The night time is the right time.” Columbus Commercial Dispatch.

POE, PHILIP , (19, September 2023). “Déjà vu all over again.” Columbus Commercial Dispatch.

POE, PHILIP , (26, September 2023). “(Flag) football is life.” Columbus Commercial Dispatch.

POE, PHILIP , (3, October 2023). “A light in the distance.” Columbus Commercial Dispatch.

POE, PHILIP , (11, October 2023). “Take them out to the ballgame.” Columbus Commercial Dispatch.

POE, PHILIP , (17, October 2023). “Bye-week bliss.” Columbus Commercial Dispatch.

POE, PHILIP , (24, October 2023). “A blast from the past.” Columbus Commercial Dispatch.

POE, PHILIP , (1, November 2023). “A matter of perspective.” Columbus Commercial Dispatch.

POE, PHILIP , (8, November 2023). “Stool pigeons.” Columbus Commercial Dispatch.

POE, PHILIP , (15, November 2023). “Two wrongs don’t make a right.” Columbus Commercial Dispatch.

POE, PHILIP , (22, November 2023). “Playing with house money.” Columbus Commercial Dispatch.

POE, PHILIP , (2,9 November 2023). “It’s good to be king.” Columbus Commercial Dispatch.

POE, PHILIP , (6, December 2023). “Title Town, Mississippi.” Columbus Commercial Dispatch.

POE, PHILIP , (13, December 2023). “Help wanted.” Columbus Commercial Dispatch.

ROUSSIN, WENDY. 2023. Contemporary Landscape Virtual Exhibition ‘23. International Juried Exhibition. SE Center for Photography, Greenville SC. November 3-5, 2023. Juror: Stephen Johnson. Image: Untitled, Encaustic Print.

ROUSSIN, WENDY. 2023. By Hand: Alternative Processes, International Juried Exhibition. Center for Contemporary Arts, Abilene, TX. December 7, 2023- February 3, 2024. Juror: Christina Z. Anderson. Image: Untitled, Encaustic Print.

SEITZ, HOLLI. “Formative research to inform college health communication campaigns about COVID-19 prevention behaviors.” Health Promotion and Practice (online ahead of print) <https://doi.org/10.1177/15248399231160768>.

SEITZ, HOLLI. “Using Diffusion of Innovation Theory to Predict Engagement with Healthy Recipe Posts in Social Media. National Communication Association 109th Annual Convention.

SEITZ, HOLLI. “Perceived similarity and the intention to safely dispose of and store opioids.” National Communication Association 109th Annual Convention.

SEITZ, HOLLI. “Effects of community-engaged learning on student perceptions and outcomes.” 73rd Annual International Communication Association Conference.

SEITZ, HOLLI. “Effects of a social marketing campaign (SMC) on campaign awareness, fruit and vegetable consumption, and physical activity during the COVID-19 pandemic.” 2023 Association of SNAP Nutrition Education Administrators (ASNNA) Conference.

SEITZ, HOLLI. “Transforming health communication pedagogy through community engagement and experiential learning.” American Association of Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) Conference on General Education, Pedagogy, and Assessment.

SMITH, PETE. (2023). “Birddogs and Tough Old Broads: Women Journalists of Mississippi and a Century of State Politics, 1880s-1980s (Women in American Political History).” Lexington Books.

THEATRE MSU

A YEAR IN THEATRE MSU

THEATRE MSU faculty attended the Mississippi Theatre Association and Southeastern Theatre Conference and saw over 300 auditions of high school students and met with students. Faculty also led workshops with students at SETC and MTA. Ten students attended MTA and nine received jobs, with one receiving other offers outside of SETC.

This semester Theatre MSU has formed partnerships with the Lyceum Series and the MSU Riley Center to present a production of "Charlotte's Web."

Student organizations **BLACKFRIARS** presented two shows and **LAB RATS** performed 11 times and attended a festival. **THE SCENE** submitted a film to the 48 Hour Film Festival and won awards. In addition, they produced several short films. Theatre MSU students and faculty members led workshops in public schools.



2023-2024 THEATRE MSU SEASON

PANTS ON FIRE

Sept. 27 –
Oct. 1, 2023

THEATRE
MSU

PUFFS

Nov. 15 –
19, 2023

THE WOLVES

Feb. 28 - March 3, 2024

PIPPIN

APRIL 24 - 28, 2024

MABRY DIRECTS STARKVILLE COMMUNITY THEATRE PLAY, RECEIVES MANY HONORS

PAULA MABRY, a lecturer in communication, directed the play “**UNDERNEATH THE LINTEL**” for Starkville Community Theatre. The play won honors at the Southeastern Theatre Conference, and in the summer of 2023 it advanced to the national level to compete at the American Association of Community Theatre festival. The play won awards in “Outstanding Achievement” for Leading Actor, People’s Choice, Favorite Actor and more.



THEATRE MSU COLLABORATES WITH COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

THEATRE MSU students and faculty worked with Dr. Shahram Rahimi, chair of the MSU Computer Science and Engineering department and the director of the Predictive Analysis and Tech Integration Lab, on a new project. It involves students voice acting in the roles of physicians and patients. The collaboration focused on developing a natural language processing model that works with conversations, summarizes them and builds a knowledge graph from the dialogues. The goal of the project is to improve patient care and treatment plans.

THEATRE MSU CONDUCTS PLAY FOCUSED ON ENDING GUN VIOLENCE

THEATRE MSU students, along with students from various parts of Mississippi, came together to read six award-winning, 10-minute plays from across the country written by high school students. “Enough! Plays to End Gun Violence” is a campaign of theatre activism for middle and high school students to address the impact gun violence has on their lives.



THEATRE MSU HOSTS DRAMAFEST

Each December, Theatre MSU hosts **DRAMAFEST**, an event that includes about 700 high school students with teachers and chaperones in attendance. The event lasted two days, with 14 participating schools.



THEATRE MSU STUDENTS ASSIST WITH MSU SYMPHONY CONCERT

Three Theatre MSU students worked with an MSU symphony concert beginning in December. MSU students performed in the community concert for over 3,000 children.

THEATRE MSU RECEIVES 34 NOMINATIONS FROM KCACTF

THEATRE MSU received 34 nominations from KCACTF, Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival. KCACTF honors students through awards and scholarships for their excellence in theatre and production.

STUDENT NEWS & AWARDS

MSU DEBATE TEAM CLAIMS NATIONAL TITLE



The MSU Debate Team claimed the national championship at the April 2024 International Public Debate Association National Tournament. Members include, first row, from left: Claire Carter, Tanner Marlow, Guillermo Hoffman, Lindsay Culpepper, Claire Green, Anoop Mishra; second row, from left: Isaac Riggins, Anamica Khadgi, Hannah Daniels; third row, from left: Luke Chaney, Asahi Lama Sherpa, Samata Luintel, Pragati Gautam, Joseph "Hays" Romano; fourth row: Nicolas Neal, Devin Hutchins, George Utz, Evan Garrison, Ben Harvey, Dustin Gavins. (Photo by Jonah Holland)

For the first time, the Mississippi State Bulldogs are national champions of collegiate debate. The MSU Debate Team claimed top honors at the April 2024 International Public Debate Association National Tournament. In another first, MSU also served as the tournament host, with 50 colleges and universities making their way to Starkville to compete for national titles.

The International Public Debate Association is the largest intercollegiate debating association in the U.S., with more than 200 colleges and universities from across the country competing in IPDA tournaments in 2023-24. IPDA debating emphasizes a mix of logic, rhetorical skill and adaptability, as students debate a new topic each round and have only 30 minutes to prepare.

The MSU team squared off over four days of competition against hundreds of top competitors from programs across the country, including the universities of Arkansas, Alabama, and Tennessee, and Southern Methodist, Boise State, California State, Abilene Christian, Dallas Baptist and Union universities.

GRADUATE PROGRAM PRESENTS SPECIAL PROJECT PRESENTATIONS

The Communication Graduate Program held its 2023 Master of Arts in Communication Special Project Presentations in December in the MSU John Grisham Room. Master's students eagerly shared their professional and internship projects for faculty members, students and friends.



MASTER'S STUDENT FEATURED IN MSU 'OUR PEOPLE'

JOY NABORS, a communication graduate from Starkville, was featured in an MSU "Our People" online series for her work ethic in the College of Veterinary Medicine.

READ THE FULL ARTICLE.

STUDENTS RECEIVE SCHOLARSHIPS AT A&S CEREMONY

Many communication students received awards at the College of Arts and Sciences' 2023 Scholarship Ceremony. Ryan Bergman, a senior communication major with a concentration in theatre, received the Paula Mabry Scholarship, a scholarship reviewed by faculty, with selections based on students' theatre potential and leadership. Sidney Fonville, a junior pursuing a Bachelor of Science with an entertainment technology concentration, addressed the audience as the first student to explore this new interdisciplinary concentration.



ANNUAL AWARDS AND SENIOR CELEBRATION CEREMONY

The department held its annual End-of-Year Awards Ceremony April 23 in the John Grisham Room in the MSU library, recognizing student achievement, celebrating student scholarship winners and saluting seniors. The annual faculty awards were also announced for excellence in teaching, research and creative scholarship and service, along with outstanding lecturer.



BROADCAST & DIGITAL JOURNALISM STUDENT AWARDEES



COMMUNICATION & MEDIA STUDIES STUDENT AWARDEES



PRINT & DIGITAL JOURNALISM STUDENT AWARDEES



PUBLIC RELATIONS STUDENT AWARDEES



THEATRE STUDENT AWARDEE



GRADUATE STUDENT PRESENTS AT AEJMC

JEFFREY NYABOR, a Master of Arts in communication student, was recently awarded \$700 in Travel Assistance Grants for graduate students and \$1,200 from the Judy and Bobby Shackouls Honors College to present research at the AEJMC MidWinter conference. Nyabor is the first communication student to present at AEJMC. Nyabor will present his study, “The Role of Social Media in Public Health Communication: A Study on CDC’s Rx Awareness Campaign,” at the University of Oklahoma.

SOWELL SELECTED AS OUTSTANDING GRADUATE STUDENT IN COMMUNICATION

ALENA READ SOWELL, a communication graduate student, was selected as the 2024 Communication Outstanding Graduate Student at the College of Arts & Sciences’ graduate awards program. The ceremony was held April 18 in the John Grisham Room at the Mitchell Memorial Library.



COMMUNICATION STUDENTS COLLABORATE FOR ECOCAR CHALLENGE

Communication and engineering students partnered for the 2023 EcoCAR Challenge. MSU is one of 15 universities that compete in the challenge of turning a gas-powered car into an electric vehicle. Communication students worked to tell the story of this four-year project, guided by the expertise of **MEAGHAN GORDON** and **HOLLI SEITZ**.



SPEECH TEAM MEMBER WINS PROSE AWARD

MSU’S SPEECH TEAM attended the Pi Kappa Delta National Tournament in Glendale, Arizona. **ALYSIA MOORE**, a communication major, was awarded National Champion in “prose interpretation.” A first for MSU, Moore also was selected to perform in the Showcase, which was reserved for a select number of competitors. **VINEETH VANGA**, a biochemistry major, placed fourth in persuasive speaking and in the top 15% for “extemporaneous speaking.”

STUDENTS LEAD WORKSHOPS AT DISCOVERY CENTER

CARRIE MCCORMICK, an instructor in **COMMUNICATION & MEDIA STUDIES**, and her family communication class created and taught workshops to Starkville families titled “What Would You Do,” “Tough Talks” and “Building your Blended Family.” As part of a community-engaged learning class, the students created, practiced and led the three workshops using a combination of activities, lectures and worksheets. Each workshop focused on either building parent-partner communication, parent-child communication or creating a cohesive family unit.

FORT SHARES ECOCAR EXPERIENCE

SAVANNAH FORT, a senior communication major with a concentration in **PUBLIC RELATIONS**, served as communication manager for the MSU EcoCAR team. Fort shares that because of EcoCAR, she has gained valuable skills and experiences.

“As the Communications Manager for the MSU EcoCAR team, I have been able to strengthen the communications skills that I have learned in the classroom and apply them in an industry-level setting. In my year as the Communications Manager, I have gained invaluable experience through these activities that align with industry practices and have had the opportunity to network within the communication and automotive industry. Being a part of the MSU EcoCAR team has truly been one of the best decisions I have made in college, not only have I strengthened my professional skills, but also been able to connect with students from different majors through my time on the team.”



Story State offers a student competition, accepting entries in oral, written and film categories. Listed below are the 2024 winners.

ORAL STORIES CATEGORY WINNER:

1st place, **RAYLEN LADNER**, for “Crawfish”

WRITTEN STORIES CATEGORY WINNERS:

1st place, **KAMREE HOWARD**, for “Magnolia”

2nd place, **EVELIN AGUILAR**, for “Master Plan”

3rd place, **SAMUEL HUGHES**, “Saddiq Dzukogi:
exploring identity through poetry”

TWO COMMUNICATION STUDENTS INDUCTED INTO PHI BETA KAPPA



Congratulations to two communication students who were inducted into Mississippi State University’s Phi Beta Kappa, Gamma of Mississippi Chapter April 3.

AVERY SMITH, a communication major with a concentration in **PUBLIC RELATIONS** from Atlanta, and **NATALIE STAGGERS**, a communication major with a concentration in **PRINT & DIGITAL JOURNALISM** from Columbus, joined 43 other MSU students as inductees.

READ MORE ABOUT PHI BETA KAPPA.

MSU WINS 38 AWARDS AT JOURNALISM CONFERENCE

Student journalists from Mississippi State University won 38 awards at the 2024 Southeast Journalism Conference, including first place overall in the “Onsite” competition. The conference was hosted by Troy University in February.

Between the “Best of the South” and “Onsite” competitions, Mississippi State took home nine first place awards. Aubrey Carter, a junior communication major from Alabaster, Alabama, was named “Best Television Journalist” in the competitive “Best of the South” competition. Caleb Bowman, a senior meteorology major from Brock, Texas, was named “Best Special Event Reporter” for his coverage of environmental issues in Mississippi.

“We placed in almost every category we entered,” said Communication Department instructor Josh Foreman, who organized the Best of the South competition this year. “It shows the quality of our program as a whole.”

Mississippi State competed against students from the University of Kentucky, University of Alabama, University of Tennessee, University of Mississippi, and some 20 other universities from around the Southeast.

For the Best of the South competition, students enter the work they have produced over the previous year. Mississippi State had more placements than any other university.

Mississippi State will host the 2025 Southeast Journalism Conference.



STUDENTS WIN BIG AT BEA CONFERENCE

Mississippi State University students and faculty received top awards for their broadcasting skills at the recent Broadcast Education Association Festival of Media Arts.

In the student Sports competition, communication graduate students **CODY BLASZCZAK**, of Pelham, Alabama, and **TANNER MARLAR**, of Corinth, earned an Award of Excellence for play-by-play announcing. Senior geoscience major Dylan Hudler, of Kernersville, North Carolina, won second place for Best TV Weathercast for his submission from “Take 30,” MSU’s student television newscast.



More than 80 colleges and universities were represented in the virtual submission process, and a total of 1,885 submissions were reviewed during the juried event.

“BEA’s Festival of Media Arts is a prestigious and highly competitive national collection of faculty creative scholarship and student media work,” Likes said. “This is external validation of high-quality work, allowing students to add a national credential to their portfolio.”

FOUR MEDIA STUDENTS WIN AT BEA FALL ON-LOCATION CONFERENCE

Awards of Excellence and Best of Show were awarded to MSU students in three categories in advance of the 2023 Broadcast Education Association’s fall On-Location conference. Student winners include **AMELIA MIDDLETON (AUDIO & NEWS), OLIVIA BECK (NEWS) AND 10 STUDENTS WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE MUSIC VIDEO CATEGORY.**

Awards were presented at the fall conference in October at the University of South Carolina.



BROADCAST STUDENTS WIN TOP AWARDS AT CBI AWARDS

Four Mississippi State students won media awards at the College Broadcaster’s Inc. National Student Production Awards for their work in broadcast news and sports reporting. Awards ranged from **“BEST SPORTS SHOW”** to **“BEST HARD NEWS REPORTING.”** Students received three overall wins and one fourth-place award.



B&DJ STUDENT WINS MAB SCHOLARSHIP

AARON LAMPLEY, a sophomore communication major with a concentration in **BROADCAST & DIGITAL JOURNALISM**, received the Mississippi Association of Broadcasters Scholarship. Lampley is

a Noxapater, MS, native and attended the conference in Jackson to accept the scholarship.

MEDIA STUDENTS WIN NATIONAL HONORS

MSU media students won three national honors from the Associated Collegiate Press and College Media Association. Awards first, second and fourth were presented to MSU students.

REFLECTOR DEFENDS ‘GENERAL EXCELLENCE’ TITLE AT MPA AWARDS



Mississippi State students took home 11 first-place awards at the 2024 Mississippi Press Association’s Better News/Media conference. The Reflector, Mississippi State’s student newspaper, won “General Excellence” for the fourth year in a row. Results were announced in March at the conference in Ridgeland. MSU students won first place in several core categories, including “Best General News Story,” “Best General Interest Column” and “Best Sports Photo.” Overall, Mississippi State students won 25 awards.

At the conference, students from MSU, the University of Mississippi, the University of Southern Mississippi, Jackson State University, Mississippi College and several community colleges heard from some of Mississippi’s journalism legends.

Sam Hughes, a senior communication major from Biloxi won first place in the “Best General News Story” category, first place in the “Best Front Page” category, and second place in the “Best Feature Story” category. The awards add to a growing list of accolades for Hughes; he also won first place in the onsite feature writing category at the Southeast Journalism Conference in February.

The Reflector Editor-in-Chief Joshua Britt, a senior information technology services major from Nesbit holds an unusual distinction: he has been an editor at The Reflector for all four years of his time at Mississippi State (he was online editor from 2021-2023), and has never known defeat in the “General Excellence” category at the MPA awards. Ole Miss’s Daily Mississippian won second place in the category, and Jackson State’s Blue and White Flash won third place.

Britt won first-place in the “Best Website” category, along with Kennedy Keyes, a senior from Taylorsville. Britt and Keyes overhauled The Reflector’s website (www.reflector-online.com) over the winter break.

Communication Department graduate Amelia Middleton won first place in the “Best Use of Social Media” category for conducting surveys about Netflix usage, and then visualizing the data she collected in a series of graphs.

In an unusual turn for the MPA contest, the “Best Series of Investigative Package” award was given to The Reflector and Ole Miss’s Daily Mississippian for a joint climate change-focused project the two newspapers’ staffs worked on in fall 2023. Dr. Deb Wenger, who oversees undergraduate studies in journalism at the University of Mississippi, led the project.

READ FULL LIST OF WINNERS.

PRISM STUDENTS RECEIVE EIGHT AWARDS AT SPRF CONFERENCE

Recent PRISM students and communication graduates, **ZOIE HENSON** and **SARAH COLVERT**, received SPRF Lantern Awards on behalf of their peers in PRISM student agency. Awards ranged from Student Excellence to Award of Merit. Congratulations, PR students!

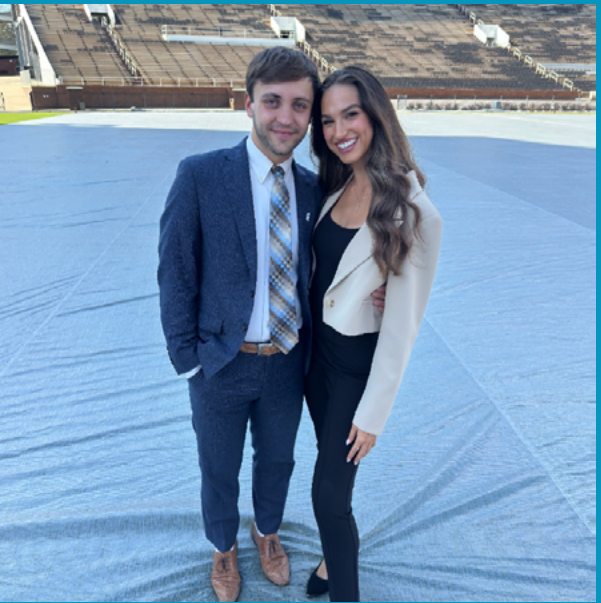


MAURO WINS SPIRIT OF STATE AWARD

MATTEO MAURO, a senior communication major with a concentration in **PUBLIC RELATIONS** from Gulf Breeze FL, received a Spirit of State award for 2024. Organized by MSU’s Division of Student Affairs, the 19th annual Spirit of State Awards honor students making a positive impact on peers and the broader campus community through organization involvement, service to the university and personal actions promoting school spirit and tradition.

PUBLIC RELATIONS STUDENTS REPRESENT MSU ON HOMECOMING COURT

Two public relations students represented MSU on the 2023 Homecoming Court. **MATTEO MAURO**, a senior communication major from Gulf Breeze, Florida, was named Mr. MSU. **BÉBÉ RAYBORN**, a senior communication and philosophy/religion double major from Brandon represented the senior class as a maid.



STOCKING RECEIVES TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIP

ELISA STOCKING, a senior **PUBLIC RELATIONS** student, received a travel scholarship from the Plank Center for Leadership in Public Relations to attend the leadership summit and gala in Chicago. Through the help of **B&DJ INSTRUCTOR CHRIS MISUN** and his creative projects class, Stocking was able to create her winning submission video.

STOCKING shared her experience at the leadership summit and gala in Chicago.

“I was honored to have been selected as one of the 10 scholarship winners, the first in MSU history for this particular scholarship award. I traveled to Chicago, toured a PR firm, networked, and attended the conference and gala. I am so grateful to the Department of Communication for nominating me to apply and to the Plank Center for Public Relations for selecting me among all the applicants for this scholarship award.”



PUBLIC RELATIONS ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI 2024 AWARDS



STUDENT OF THE YEAR
Chloe Evans



OUTSTANDING PR STUDENT
Matteo Mauro

PRISM FALL 2023 & SPRING 2024 CLIENT LIST



- FALL 2023:**
Glo Cubes: Matteo Mauro, Greta Allen, Zaheim Bender
Starkville/MSU Symphony: Jessica Manley, Chloe Evans, Mary Bradley Warnock
Whittington Gifts & Decor: Ella Sisk, Abby Rutherford, Anica Hankey
- SPRING 2024:**
Oktibbeha Starkville Emergency Response Volunteer Services: Matteo Mauro, Makenzie Stone, Erin Buckley
Starkville/MSU Symphony: Chloe Evans, Mary Bradley Warnock, Rileigh Campbell
The Dave C. Swalm School of Chemical Engineering: Georgia Caparos, Annalise Rome



AWARD OF EXCELLENCE CAMPAIGN
“GLO”



STUDENT BEST OF SHOW
“Power of the almond”

COMMUNICATION SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

AGGIE WEEMS
SCHOLARSHIP

Megan Gordon
Katherine Grisham
Cadence Harvey
Emma Hardy
Elizabeth Keen
Isabelle Mecherle

DOMINIC J.
CUNETTO, SR.
ENDOWED
THEATRE
SCHOLARSHIP

Ryan Bergman

EARL LOVE GUYTON
MEMORIAL
SCHOLARSHIP

Shelby Hodgkiss
Chloe Jackson
Hannah Lane
Eleanor Palmer

FOUNDERS
SCHOLARSHIP-
HENRY MEYER
AWARD

Matteo Mauro

HANK FLICK
MEMORIAL FUND

Kathryn Miller
Leah Pennington

HELEN AND JOE
PHILLIPS
SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Shelby Hodgkiss
Adamari Posadas

JACK CRISTIL
ENDOWED
SCHOLARSHIP

Parker Acosta
Jonathan Addy
Cadence Harvey
Emma Nisbet
Natalie Robertson
Callie Simonton
Hannah Stevens
Benjamin Tallant

LORA J. DEFORE
MEMORIAL
ENDOWED
SCHOLARSHIP

Emma Crouch
Chloe Jackson

PAULA MABRY
ANNUAL
SCHOLARSHIP

Ryan Bergman

STEVEN AND
ANNA MINOR
GRIZZLE ANNUAL
SCHOLARSHIP

Caroline Flint

TURNER CATLEDGE
MEMORIAL
JOURNALISM FUND

Parker Acosta
Caroline Flint
Nina Gault
Alice Ann Haab
Matteo Mauro
Jessica Manley
Anna Mattox
Jurdan May
Kathryn Miller
Bralynn Newell
Leah Pennington
Margaret Walters
Anna Welborn

SPOTLIGHTS

FACULTY SPOTLIGHTS



HOLLI SEITZ
Communication & Media Studies
Associate Professor



PETE SMITH
Communication & Media Studies
Associate Professor



HEESOOK CHOI
Print & Digital Journalism
Assistant Professor



JOHN FORDE
Public Relations
Professor

STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS



CHASE CRAWFORD
Broadcast & Digital Journalism
Madison, Mississippi



SARAH KATE WOLF
Communication & Media Studies
Franklin, Tennessee

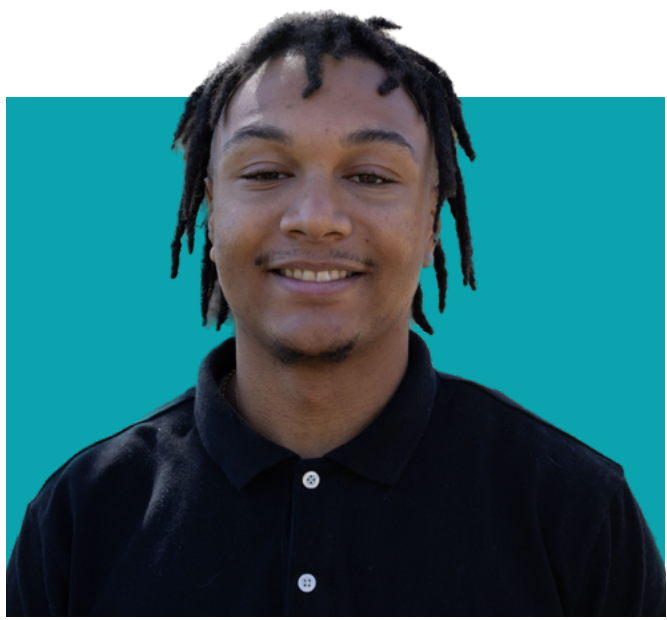


NATHAN DOWLING
Communication & Media Studies
Calhoun City, Mississippi



AUBREY CARTER
Print & Digital Journalism and
Broadcast & Digital Journalism
Alabaster, Alabama

STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS



JUSTICE SANDLE
Print & Digital Journalism
Clinton, Mississippi



SAMUEL HUGHES
Communication and Spanish
Print & Digital Journalism
Biloxi, Mississippi



ANNA-KATHERINE THOMPSON
Public Relations
Ruston, Louisiana



CAROLINE CUNNINGHAM
Public Relations
Kennesaw, Georgia

STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS



EMMA CROUCH
Public Relations
Saltillo, Mississippi



HELEN ANNE HORECKY
Public Relations
Madison, Mississippi



PRECIOUS CORNEJO
Public Relations and
Conservation Biology
Memphis, Tennessee



RYLEE JONES
Public Relations
McKinney, Texas

STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS



VERONICA WASHINGTON
Theatre
West Palm Beach, Florida



KELAN TRAYLOR
Theatre and Public Relations
Tupelo, Mississippi



TABITHA RAFFERTY
Theatre
Clinton, Mississippi

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHTS



ALVIN IVY
Broadcasting 2000
Chief Videographer at WTVA 9 News



JAMES CARSKADON
Journalism and Broadcasting 2012
Marketing and Communications
Manager for the Mississippi State
University High Performance
Computing Collaboratory.



MELISSA SPARKS
Broadcasting 2007
Freelance Stage Manager



STEFAN TRIBBLE
Broadcasting 2013
Solution Specialist and Project
Manager for global sports and live
events at Ross Video

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHTS



TRACEY AMICK PEER
Broadcasting 1999
News Reporter for WXIA 11 Alive
News



COURTNEY GOOLSBY
Public Relations 2002
Host of the “Say it Southern” podcast



JENNIFER HOLLOWAY
Public Relations 2010
Marketing and Automation
consultant for “Jennifer Does
Marketing”



KIT WALLACE
Public Relations 2004
Sales and Reservations Manager for
TVG Hospitality and The Orion
Amphitheater

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHTS



MICHAEL FARRIS SMITH

Public Relations 1994
Novelist and Screenwriter



PHILLIPS HARBARGER

Public Relations 2010
Sr. Acct. Executive for 4Wall Entertainment



RIVERS RESTER HUGHEY

Public Relations 2010
Digital Media Consultant



GABE SMITH

Theatre 2005
Executive Director for Starkville
Community Theatre



MYRNA SOWELL

Theatre 1992
Standardized Patient in the Center
for Experiential Learning
and Assessment at Vanderbilt
University Medical School

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION FACULTY & STAFF 2023-2024

BROADCASTING & DIGITAL JOURNALISM

Terry Likes, Ph.D., **Department Head & Professor**
Kevin Williams, Ph.D., **Associate Professor**
Larry Strout, Ph.D., **Associate Professor**
Rex Jones, MFA, **Assistant Professor**
Marcus Hunter, BA, **Associate Professor of Practice**
Chris Misun, MA, **Instructor I**
Victoria Bailey, MA, **Instructor I**

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John Nicholson, Ph.D., **Associate Professor**
Pete Smith, Ph.D., **Associate Professor**
Holli Seitz, Ph.D., **Associate Professor**
Cheryl Chambers, MA, **Instructor II**
Amy Fountain, MA, **Instructor II**
Amy Knight, MA, **Instructor II**
Logan Copeland, MA, **Instructor I**

PRINT & DIGITAL JOURNALISM

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Wendy Roussin, MFA, **Associate Professor**
Heesook Choi, Ph.D., **Assistant Professor**
Josh Foreman, MFA, **Instructor I**

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Melody Fisher, Ph.D., **Associate Professor**
John E. Forde, Ph.D., **Professor**
Terri Hernandez, Ph.D., **Assistant Professor**
Uyanga Bazaa, Ph.D., **Assistant Professor**
Karyn Brown, MA, **Instructor II**
Kelli Anthony, MA, **Instructor II**
Meaghan Gordon, MA, **Instructor II**
Anna Blount, MA, **Instructor I**

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Tonya Hays, MFA, **Assistant Professor**
Melanie Harris, MS, **Instructor II**
Jesse Wade, MFA, **Clinical Assistant Professor**

STAFF

Casey King, MA, **Academic Coordinator**
Kala LeGrand, MBA, **Business Manager I**
Myra Keasler, **Business Coordinator**

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interviews a faculty member, student
or alumnus about their work!

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