Over 60 years ago, a small group of faculty at our university began to meet on a regular basis to discuss social science issues. This “Social Science Round Table” originally included faculty with expertise in sociology, history, economics, political science and others who had interest in the social sciences. In 1950, the Roundtable recommended and helped establish the Social Science Research Center as the first campus-wide research enterprise. The Center, from its very origin, has emphasized interdisciplinary research and the application of social science knowledge to problems of the state, region and nation. The number of disciplines participating in the Center has grown to include psychology, business, social work, public administration and computing science. In addition, it is now not uncommon to find projects that blend the social sciences with agriculture, engineering, medicine, veterinary medicine, communication and law.

The Social Science Research Center has also become a place for scientists from other institutions to come and conduct research, study and participate in the special environment of the Center. These important collaborations have not only expanded the capacity of the Center to address research questions, but have also invigorated and stimulated the intellectual dialogue in the Center. We have and continue to welcome social scientists from throughout the world to come and study with us.

The Center has had a very productive year. Our research portfolio includes many new, as well as continuing grants, contracts and awards. In addition, the Wolfgang Frese Survey Research Laboratory conducted a growing number of major social science survey projects. Our scientists’ and students’ research contributions routinely appear in leading scientific publications. There were numerous presentations given on the progress of our research and numerous members of the Center who received special recognitions for their accomplishments. This report provides an overview of these important contributions to the social sciences.

My colleagues in the Center and I are most appreciative of the fine support we receive from the leadership of Mississippi State University and are thankful for the opportunities they have provided.

Sincerely,

Arthur G. Cosby
William L. Giles Distinguished Professor and Director
research environment to ensure objective, relevant and superior research environment with an impressive array of research opportunities and options, state-of-the-art facilities, laboratories and support units that enhance and expand both the scope and quality of social science research. The SSRC fosters a rigorous and independent research environment to ensure objective, relevant and unbiased analyses. The Social Science Research Center (SSRC) was established at Mississippi State University in 1950 to promote, enhance and facilitate social science research and related scholarly activities. The Center is organized with university-wide responsibilities and reports to the Vice President for Research and Economic Development and the Vice President for Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine. The Center offers a superior research environment with an impressive array of research opportunities and options, state-of-the-art facilities, laboratories and support units that enhance and expand both the scope and quality of social science research. The SSRC fosters a rigorous and independent research environment to ensure objective, relevant and unbiased analyses.

Research issues facing the social scientists are now so profoundly complex that their solutions demand the combined resources of multiple disciplines, multiple professions and multiple institutions. From its origin, the SSRC has had a strong interdisciplinary emphasis. Scientists from a number of disciplines, both on campus and off, come together in the SSRC to work on common research problems. It is the norm to find various combinations of such diverse disciplines as psychologists, business professors, sociologists, social workers, geographers, historians, economists and political scientists joining together to bring to bear their expertise on a given research problem.

The range of interdisciplinary involvement goes beyond the social sciences. The Center often becomes a place where social scientists team with colleagues from agriculture, engineering and other disciplines. The SSRC also forms partnerships, strategic alliances and collaborative agreements with entities such as state agencies, off-campus national-level research organizations and professional groups. These various interdisciplinary research enterprises provide a steady stream of innovative projects and creative investigations.

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The success of the SSRC relies primarily on the expertise, talents and entrepreneurial skills of its scientists. Individual scientists, or self-organized teams of researchers, provide the impetus and direction of funded research projects. They determine their research agendas and benefit from the SSRC facilities as they choose. Research fellows and research associates, supported by an administrative staff and graduate and undergraduate research assistants, conduct both sponsored and unsponsored research projects. Funding for projects comes from a variety of sources including federal and state agencies, foundations, MSU units and other public and private entities. The SSRC research portfolio usually exceeds $10 million a year.

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The Center also recognizes as part of its mission the importance of combining the expertise and capacities of multiple institutions, disciplines and professions in addressing complex problems. The Center seeks to develop perspectives and approaches that lead to effective cooperative investigations. The SSRC follows the land grant tradition by serving Mississippi and the nation through research, education and public service.

Service Goals:
To provide a support system for the university to plan, develop, secure funding for and conduct social research on problems of interest to the scientific community and to consumers of research findings; to maintaining a mechanism whereby existing social science research capabilities in the university can be matched with funding sources; to contributing to the university’s graduate and undergraduate program by involving students in research projects through assistantships and other work arrangements; and to offering a vehicle for unique social research and public service programs that do not fit more traditional academic structures.

Statement of Goals
At its annual retreat, the SSRC formulates specific goals for the year and evaluates the activities of the previous year. In addition, the research faculty and the various research entities within the Center also set goals. All of these fit within the broad set of goals outlined below.

Academic Goals:
To contribute to the University’s graduate and undergraduate program by involving students in research projects through assistantships and other work arrangements.

Research Goals:
To conduct rigorous, objective and unbiased research on relevant social, economic, political, human resource and social-environmental problems facing the state, nation and world.

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Service Goals:
To provide a support system for the university to plan, develop, secure funding for and conduct social research on problems of interest to the scientific community and to consumers of research findings.

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The Social Science Research Center is committed to conducting objective, rigorous and unbiased research on social, economic, political, human resource and social-environmental problems facing the state, nation and world; to providing a support system for the university to plan, develop, secure funding for and conduct social research on problems of interest to the scientific community and to consumers of research findings; to maintaining a mechanism whereby existing social science research capabilities in the university can be matched with funding sources; to contributing to the university’s graduate and undergraduate program by involving students in research projects through assistantships and other work arrangements; and to offering a vehicle for unique social research and public service programs that do not fit more traditional academic structures.

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To provide a mechanism whereby existing social science research capabilities in the University can be matched with funding sources.
The organizational structure of the Social Science Research Center is purposely flat, with several internal research units, normally led by coordinators, reporting to the Director. Project directors operate with a great deal of autonomy and take full responsibility for the conduct of their projects.

Over the years, the SSRC has developed strong working relationships with faculty members and administrators in the College of Arts and Sciences, the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station, the Division of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine, the College of Business and the College of Education. In addition, it has established strong linkages with outside funding sources, including federal and state agencies, research entities and foundations.

The research faculty members in the SSRC give the driving force for the Center activities. Together they define the Center goals, develop research agendas, prepare and submit proposals and conduct research. The SSRC maintains a small staff of full-time research faculty to support ongoing research activities. These individuals are normally affiliated with an academic department. Other faculty members hold joint appointments on a continual basis between academic departments and the SSRC. A third category of faculty members works in the Center on a periodic basis, depending upon funding of a particular grant or contract, or is supported via summer appointments while developing research proposals. In order to facilitate the efforts of the research faculty, the SSRC seeks to maintain collegial, cooperative relationships with academic departments and other campus entities.

The Center maintains a core staff of experts to assist in the financial and personnel aspects of preparing, submitting and administering research grants and contracts, as well as individuals who manage specific center programs, such as the Mississippi Alcohol Safety Education Program (MASEP). Research associates and graduate and undergraduate assistants support research and administrative activities. In addition, the Center employs many individuals on an intermittent basis to serve the needs of the individual projects.

The continued success of the SSRC is clearly dependent upon the personnel who participate in its activities. Attracting bright, capable, energetic and entrepreneurial individuals and then encouraging their continued intellectual and professional growth is a key element in the SSRC organizational philosophy. By keeping bureaucratic requirements to a minimum, the SSRC seeks to create an environment that fosters, facilitates and enables innovative and creative research efforts.


Cosby, A. G., Jones, W. A., Jones, L. B., & Shivaji, S. (Eds.). (2010). What if we were equal: A Mississippi health assessment. A report from the Mississippi Institute for the Improvement of Geographic Minority Health at the University of Mississippi Medical Center and the Social Science Research Center at Mississippi State University.


** Linda H. Southward served on the 15-member nationally selected IOM committee.

Konkle-Parker, D. J., & Robertson, A. A. (2011). HIV discharge planning: from correctional setting to community care in Mississippi. HIV Clinician, 23(1), 1-5.


Mississippi KIDS COUNT, part of a national network of KIDS COUNT state grantees, is housed within the SBCRC’s Family and Children Research Unit (FCRU). The Annie E. Casey Foundation (AECF), a private charitable organization dedicated to helping build better futures for disadvantaged children, started the KIDS COUNT state-level work in the early 1990s, and the FCRU became the Mississippi grantees in 2005.

Mississippi KIDS COUNT is one of only eight university-based KIDS COUNT grantees. Since becoming the grantee in 2007, the FCRU has built a solid reputation as a credible, reliable source of information about Mississippi’s children and families.

Directed by Dr. Linda H. Southward, Mississippi KIDS COUNT is the leading resource for comprehensive information on Mississippi’s children and serves as a catalyst for improving outcomes for children, families and communities in the state. Throughout the year, the KIDS COUNT team collects, analyzes and maintains a comprehensive database of indicators reflecting the health, education, safety and well-being of Mississippi’s children. An annual Data Book is published examining in-depth one of these four topics. The theme for the 2011 Data Book is safety: transportation safety, school safety (primarily on bullying), environmental safety and safety in the household (abuse and neglect).

In addition to the measures tracked in state and national Data Books, the KIDS COUNT Data Center provides easy online access to the latest child well-being data from hundreds of indicators by state, county, city and school district. The complete Data Book is available for download online.

New to the website this year are Community Fact Sheets designed to assist community leaders, economic developers and school administrators in assessing their hometowns and making comparisons to other communities across the state.

Also new in 2011 is the KIDS COUNT Mobile Site. This application provides instant access to all Data Center indicators from any Smartphone.

“Imagine its usefulness when in need of instant facts and figures on Mississippi’s children and children across the country, to have these at your fingertips,” explained Dr. Southward.

Each year KIDS COUNT hosts the annual Summit, a special event where the new Data Book is released, and Success Story winners are featured and applauded for their work. Past recipients include Mississippi Public Broadcasting (MPB) for their “Between the Lions” Literacy initiative; the Pascagoula School District for their “Early Beginnings” teen parenting program; the Community Foundation of Northwest Mississippi for their “Get A Life” obesity prevention program; and CATCH Kids, Inc. for their community child health care program.

“These Success Stories are meant to inspire and encourage people around the state,” said Anne Bunting, KIDS COUNT staff member.

The second annual Egg Ball, a fundraising event that occurs on the eve of the Mississippi State versus Ole Miss “Egg Bowl” football game, is scheduled for Nov. 25. The event will feature silent and live auctions and a live band. The 2010 Egg Ball raised $72,000 for KIDS COUNT.

The KIDS COUNT staff – Doris Baggett, Anne Bunting and Colleen McKee – split time between KIDS COUNT activities and other FCRU research projects. Mississippi KIDS COUNT has a stellar advisory board that continues to work on a variety of events, such as the Mississippi KIDS COUNT Summit and the annual Mississippi KIDS COUNT Egg Ball.
PRESENTATIONS


Breen, J., & Fowler, L. (2010, November). The impact of state political factors on renewable portfolio standard adoption: An EHAA analysis. Presented at the 2010 Mississippi Political Science Association Annual Conference at the Mississippi University for Women, Columbus, MS.


Buffington, A. & Minor, M. (2010, September). Low Cost Community-Based Efforts to Prevent Obesity: Spotlighting Mississippi's Successes. Presented at the Southern Obesity Summit, Atlanta, GA.


Chi, G., & Voss, P. R. (2010, October). Small-Area population forecasting: Borrowing strength across space and time. Presented at the annual meeting of Southern Demographic Association, Knoxville, TN.


Edwards, J., Chervenak, E., Campbell-Smith, R., & Van Hyning, T. (2010, October). The diversity of applied survey research. Presented at the Social Science Research Center's 60th Anniversary Seminar, Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS.

Presentations continued on page 13
Special Collaborative Partnerships

The productivity of SSRC scientists remains high and the support from extramural organizations is quite varied. Our research benefits from awards from the following:

- American Academy of Pediatrics
- Annie E. Casey Foundation
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Dreyfus Health Foundation
- E Q Health Solutions
- Flight Attendant Medical Research Institute
- Harvard Law School
- Harvard School of Public Health
- Health Resources and Services Administration
- Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium
- National Center for Intermodal Transportation
- National Institutes of Health
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- New York University
- Oak Ridge National Laboratory
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- Tec de Monterrey, Mexico
- Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- U.S. Department of Commerce
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security
- U.S. Department of Justice
- U.S. Department of Transportation
- University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
- University of Catania, Italy
- Washington University

Within Mississippi, the SSRC has partnerships with and/or funding from the following:

- Blue Cross / Blue Shield of Mississippi
- The Bower Foundation
- Center for Mississippi Health Policy
- Delta Health Alliance
- Delta State University
- Department of Transportation / Public Safety
- Foundation for Mid South
- Health Care Foundation of North Mississippi
- Healthy Mississippi
- Mississippi Alcohol Safety Education Program
- Mississippi Area Health Education Center
- Mississippi Case Management Consortium
- Mississippi Center for Education
- Mississippi Center for Justice
- Mississippi Department of Education
- Mississippi Department of Health
- Mississippi Department of Human Services
- Mississippi Department of Marine Resources
- Mississippi Department of Medicaid
- Mississippi Department of Mental Health
- Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services
- Mississippi Development Authority
- Mississippi Division of Public Safety Planning
- Mississippi Education Innovation
- Mississippi Health Advocacy Program
- Mississippi Health Care Association
- Mississippi Institute for the Improvement of Geographic Minority Health
- Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning
- Mississippi Non-profits
- Mississippi Office of Highway Safety E Q Health Solutions
- North Mississippi Medical Center
- Office of Research and Economic Development
- Mississippi State Department of Health, Office of Tobacco Control
- Preusser Research Group, Inc.
- Southern Research Group
- University of Mississippi Medical Center
PRESENTATIONS


McMillen, R. (2010, November). Heart attack admissions in rural Mississippi counties following smoke-free ordinances. Mississippi Rural Health Association annual meeting in Natchez, MS.

McMillen, R. (2010, October). Guest speaker, Clearing the Air Forum in Cleveland, MS, and Hattiesburg, MS.


McMillen, R., Hughes, K., & Davis, D. (2010, October). Health risk behaviors and the social sciences. Presented at the Social Science Research Center’s 60th Anniversary Seminar, Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS.


Ragsdale, K. (2010, October). Risky sex, alcohol and drug use and HIV disparities. Presented at the delegation of faculty and students from the University of Catania, Italy, participating in the 10th anniversary of the collaborative exchange program with the Social Science Research Center, Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS.


Ragsdale, K., & Kasu, B. (2011, March). Individual, Sociocultural & structural barriers to condom use among female brothel workers: Empowerment programs & policy implications. Presented at the MSU Gender Studies Program to commemorate Women’s History Month, Starkville, MS.


Robertson, A. A., Sennett, R., McIntyre, G., & Myers, L. (2010, October). Safety, security and the social sciences. Presented at the Social Science Research Center’s 60th Anniversary Seminar, Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS.

Rosas Gutierrez, M. A. (2010, October). A Hispanic looking at Hispanics. Presented at the First Hispanic Seminar at Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS.

Shappley, J. R. (2011, March). The social climate of political change: Matching Obama’s presidential mandate on healthcare reform alongside the public demand for change. Poster presented at the American Society for Public Administration Conference, Baltimore, MD.

Shappley, J. R. (2010, October). The social climate of political change: Matching Obama’s presidential mandate alongside the public demand for change. Presented at the Southeastern Conference for Public Administration, Wilmington, NC.


Southward, L. H., Baggett, D., Greenberg, R. E., Wiseman, P., & Sanford, E. (2010, October). Working with families, children, and communities: An applied social science perspective. Presented at the Social Science Research Center’s 60th Anniversary Seminar, Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS.

Sparks, C., Denson, J., & Sinclair, H. C. (2011, October). Is it hate or is it love? Examining the influence of prototypes on lay perceptions of hate crimes. Poster presented at the 2011 Undergraduate Research Symposium at Mississippi State, MS.


SSRC Renovations

The Media Collaboration Lab (MCL) has been a part of the SSRC since June 2009. Previously located on the first floor in the space now occupied by the Tobacco Control Unit, the MCL moved upstairs into a space almost three times larger in May 2011. The newly renovated MCL offers students access to the latest technology and a more professional and collaborative working environment. In addition to the productivity benefits of the new space, the lab also has more aesthetic appeal, with ice blue walls and sleek iMac desktops.

Not only are the students thrilled with the renovations, but Dr. Laura R. Walton, Assistant Professor and MCL Coordinator, is delighted with the completed Lab. She now has a private office in the same space with her students, allowing them quick access to her, but providing a working environment more conducive to her research productivity.

“I am very pleased with the final outcome. My goal was to create a work environment for students that is comparable to what they will encounter in the PR industry,” Walton stated. “I am confident we have done that.”

The lab provides students with the opportunity to work with the most current versions of Adobe Creative Suite and Final Cut Pro. Walton is grateful the MCL has been allowed to expand.

“The new space elevates the MCL image, and I am appreciative to Dr. Cosby for making the students and our lab a priority within the SSRC,” said Walton.

Mississippi Tobacco Data

The Tobacco Control Unit recently moved into a new location within the Social Science Research Center. Previously located in the “bomb shelter,” the distance between Dr. McMillen and his staff became problematic. The new workspace allows them to be more centrally located and it also helps the staff to communicate better and work more efficiently.

“The line of sight between my staff and students is more direct rather than being buried in cubicles. They can actually talk about things while they are working, so I think they are more efficient that way,” said McMillen. “It is just a much more comfortable work environment for collaboration with my staff and with me.”

Wolfgang Frese Survey Research Laboratory Annex

The Wolfgang Frese Survey Research Laboratory (SRL) has been conducting telephone, online and mail surveys for the Social Science Research Center and other universities since 1982. These surveys cover a broad range of topics including healthcare, vocational rehabilitation, children’s well-being, alcohol and tobacco use, land management and political climate. With all of the different research projects the SRL has recently taken on, it was time for an expansion. With financial assistance from MASEP, 12 new computer terminals were added, giving them a total of 30 survey stations.

“We now have up to 30 interviewers a night and that dramatically increases the number of surveys we can do,” said Kyle Rinehart, Data Entry and Management Assistant.

This expansion is beneficial to everyone, and will allow the SRL to function more efficiently. Assistant Research Professor Dr. John E. Edwards believes the expansion was a necessary move and that further expansion could be a possibility.

“We really needed to grow and this was a wonderful opportunity and good timing. I look forward to seeing this expansion continue to prosper and hopefully if it warrants, further expansion in the future,” Edwards said.

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The Mississippi Alcohol Safety Education Program (MASEP) has been part of the SSRC since 1972. MASEP offers classes in over 50 locations across the state for drivers who have been convicted of driving under the influence (DUI) charge. A four-week course is mandated for all first-time DUI offenders and MASEP is responsible for the production of all of the materials. MASEP got a complete face lift, it’s like a breath of fresh air,” says Jennifer Alberson, Project Coordinator for MASEP. The staff are all very pleased with the new work environment.

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MASEP recently underwent a significant expansion by knocking out a wall and adding a room for all of its heavy equipment, such as printers, collators and scanners. Not only does the unit now have more available workspace for staff, it also has a more modern appearance. The new carpet, tile and a fresh coat of gray paint with a maroon accent wall, make the MASEP headquarters more welcoming.

“She got a complete face lift, it’s like a breath of fresh air,” says Jennifer Alberson, Project Coordinator for MASEP. The staff are all very pleased with the new work environment.

by Melanie Peoples

Mississippi Tobacco Data

The Tobacco Control Unit seeks to provide objective, timely data to inform programmatic and policy decisions regarding tobacco control. Its projects with the American Academy of Pediatrics strive to change the clinical practice so physicians and pediatricians will see how tobacco use is an issue and how they can play a vital role in improving the situation. Dr. Robert McMillen, Coordinator of the Tobacco Control Unit, has a staff of research associates, as well as graduate and undergraduate students. He also has a team of graphic designers, who are tasked with presenting data in a more reader-friendly format.

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by Cameron White
**NEW**


Baird-Thomas, C. (2011). “Home visiting program updated state plan,” Mississippi Department of Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), and Maternal and Child Health CFDA.


**ONGOING**


Cossman, J. S. (2010). “Northeast Mississippi Area Health Education Center, Year Four,” University of Mississippi Medical Center and Health Resources and Services Administration.


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**TOTAL GRANTS & CONTRACTS = $ 8,597,268**

**ONGOING (Internal)** $ 725,449

**ONGOING (External)** $ 3,493,818

**New (External)** $ 4,378,001
SURVEYS

Mississippi Delta Oral Health Survey - Delta Health Alliance
Distracted Driving Survey - The Center for Mississippi Health Policy
The 2010 MASEP Participant Survey - Mississippi Alcohol Safety Education Program
Mississippi 8-County Social Climate of Tobacco Control - Mississippi State Department of Health
The 2010 National Social Climate Survey of Tobacco Control - American Academy of Pediatrics
The 2010 North Mississippi Health Climate Survey - North East Mississippi Medical Center
SHAPE (Strengthening Health And Physical Education Program) Survey - Health Care Foundation of North Mississippi
IHL Survey - Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning
The 2010 Mississippi Social Climate Survey of Tobacco Control - Mississippi State Department of Health
2011 Mississippi Older Adult Needs Assessment Survey - Mississippi Department of Human Services/Division of Aging & Adult Services
2011 Mississippi Older Adult Needs Assessment Survey (Waiting List Participants) - Mississippi Department of Human Services / Division of Aging & Adult Services
The 2011 Mississippi Vocational Rehabilitation Client Survey - Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services
2011 Delta Rural Poll - Institute for Community-Based Research at Delta State University
2011 Mississippi Tourism Division Website Survey - Mississippi Development Authority: Tourism Division
2011 Evaluation of Arkansas Act 1220 of 2003: Parents and Children - University of Arkansas For Medical Sciences
2011 Mississippi Consumer Confidence Index Survey (Economy Watch) - The Department of Finance and Economics at Mississippi State University
2011 Impact of the MS Healthy Students Act on Childhood Obesity: Parents and Children - Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
2011 University Students in Mississippi Tobacco Survey - Mississippi State Department of Health
Food Environment Survey - Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine
Medicaid Family Planning Survey - E Q Health Solutions
Mississippi Manufacturing Association Survey - The National Strategic Planning & Analysis Research Center at Mississippi State University
Chronic Disease and Obesity in Mississippi Survey - Prevention Research Center at Washington University in St. Louis
Merchants & Marine Bank Survey - Merchants & Marine Bank
Broadband Technology Opportunities Program - Office of the Governor of Mississippi and MSU Extension Service
2011 Impact of the MS Healthy Students Act on Childhood Obesity: School Superintendents - Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Colleen Sinclair

Assistant professor of psychology Dr. Colleen Sinclair began her research career with the Social Science Research Center in 2008.

"After my annual report that year, my department head said, ‘Why don’t you go see what’s going on at the SSRC?’ I set up a meeting with Dr. Cosby as soon as possible and the rest is history," Sinclair said.

Since joining the SSRC, Sinclair has lent her expertise to several research projects ranging from aggressive behavior to social influence. At any given time of the academic year, Sinclair and her research assistants are working on around six different research projects. With 20 undergraduate research assistants and 12 graduate assistants, Sinclair oversees the largest laboratory in the psychology department.

"Our official name is the Advanced Social Psychology Lab, but we refer to ourselves as the ‘Mad Scientist Lab, because we’re looked upon as doing all the ‘deceptive’ research," Sinclair said.

For her “particularly ambitious” students, Sinclair has introduced mini-projects this year. These projects cover various topics such as examining people’s perceptions of break-up norms and constructing a scale of prejudice toward immigrants. These research projects are developed to be completed by the end of an academic semester.

Sinclair has both American and New Zealander roots. "I was born in New Zealand, so I can always win the ‘I’m from a place further south than you’ bet. Half of my family is from the Texas/Louisiana area and the other half is from New Zealand," Sinclair said.

Her geographical roots played a significant role in the naming of her 2-year-old daughter, Sabine, named after both the river that divides Texas and Louisiana and the Sabine River in New Zealand.

"When Sinclair isn’t engaged in the latest social psychology research, she dabbles in a number of different artistic endeavors. 'Part of the problem is I have too many interests, and people often tell me to focus. Just as I have multiple research interests, I have multiple things I like to do,' Sinclair said.

Sinclair has an undergraduate degree in creative writing and some training in photography. She also draws, makes jewelry and occasionally designs Mardi Gras masks.

"I find that with social psychology there is a lot of overlap between creativity and research. The more I overlap creative writing and academic writing, I find that I get more done. I used to think they were two very different things, but I find that they are both about telling a good story," Sinclair said.

With her work and research in the field of social psychology proving to be both timely and relevant, Sinclair’s future in academia is bright. She is currently in the promotion and tenure review process for the Department of Psychology.

by Marissa Beth "M.B." Humphrey
Ms. Matilda Asuzu, Undergraduate Research Assistant, toured the nation's capital during spring break as a part of the MSU Distinguished Scholars program.

Mr. Joseph J. (Dallas) Breen and Mr. N. Luke Fowler received the 2010 Mississippi Political Science Association award for Outstanding Graduate Paper at the 2010 Mississippi Political Science Association Conference for their paper, "The Impact of State Political Factors on Renewable Portfolio Standard Adoption: An EHA Analysis." Mr. Breen was also elected as a student representative to the Political Science and Public Administration department for 2010-2011.

Ms. Tonya T. Neaves attended the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill.

Ms. Anne Buffington was appointed to the Parents for Public Schools National Board of Directors.

Dr. Guanqin Chi, Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology and Research Fellow with the SSRC, was named the February 2011 Researcher of the Month by the College of Arts and Sciences at Mississippi State University.

Ms. Elizabeth Fine, an intern with the Media Collaboration Laboratory (MCL), was named the 2011 Northeast Mississippi Area Health Education Center (AHEC) at the SSRC, received the Department of Sociology's Outstanding Doctoral Student Award. Ms. Fine also received a $1,000 scholarship.

Mr. Philip Mason, a Graduate Research Assistant for the Northeast Mississippi Area Health Education Center (AHEC) at the SSRC, received the Department of Sociology's Outstanding Doctoral Student Award.

Dr. Mary McThomas and Ms. Tonya T. Neaves attended the University of Michigan's Interuniversity Consortium for Political and Social Research Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research held in June 2010 at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill.

Ms. Tonya Neaves was elected as a Board Member for the Section on Crisis and Emergency Management of the American Society for Public Administration. She also received the University Centers and Institutes Graduate Student Award via the Offices of Vice Presidents for Research and Economic Development and Vice President for Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine for 2011.

Dr. Kathleen Ragsdale was selected as a Fellow in the Society for Applied Anthropology (SFAA) and was also appointed to a three-year term on the MSU Institutional Review Board. In addition, Dr. Ragsdale was competitively selected to attend the National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA) Special Populations Research Seminar Series Workshop in Bethesda, MD.

Ms. Jessica R. Shappley, Graduate Research Assistant, was named the Outstanding Graduate Student in the Department of Political Science and Public Administration at Mississippi State University.

Dr. Colleen Sinclair, Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology and Research Fellow with the SSRC, was selected to receive the Oldham Outstanding Mentorship Award. Dr. Sinclair was also named MSU's College of Arts & Sciences October 2010 Researcher of the Month.

Dr. Linda Southward was appointed to the KIDS COUNT National Steering Committee. She was also invited to serve on the Institute of Medicine Committee.

The Social Science Research Center's 2010 Annual Report was recognized by the Southern Public Relations Federation with an Award of Excellence during its annual Luncheon Awards. The Luncheon Award program recognizes the best public relations practices in the southeastern region. The Annual Report was designed and produced by the Media Collaboration Laboratory.

The national non-profit organization, Americans for Nonsmokers' Rights, recognized Mississippi municipalities and Mississippi Smokefree Air advocates as the National Challenge First Place Winner of the Smokefree Indoor Air Challenge. This award is given to the state whose cities pass the most smoke-free air policies each year, and it recognizes the leadership role that local governments play in protecting the public from exposure to secondhand smoke.

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An organization's annual report should be a reflection of the accomplishments and efforts of its people during the previous year. This annual report is no different in that regard as it highlights an impressive list of publications, presentations, funding awards and individual accomplishments. What distinguishes this report from others is that it is almost entirely designed and composed by Mississippi State University students. The SSRC's commitment to quality education and providing practical experience for both undergraduate and graduate students is truly embodied in the pages of this report. From the spotlight feature stories to the original photography to the careful editing, the knowledge and expertise of MSU students is truly reflected.

Jordan Lear, a senior Communication major and communication assistant in the MCL, was the lead designer and project coordinator for the 2011 SSRC Annual Report. She spent months developing the concept, designing the individual pages and coordinating the information input. Her dedication to the task is evident in the impressive design.

Each student in the MCL contributed feature stories and/or original photography for this year's annual report. In addition to conducting interviews and gathering information for their contributions, they each spent many hours proofreading and editing the copy that comprises this impressive document. Many thanks to Jillian Garrigues, Marissa Beth "M.B." Humphrey, Melanie Peoples, Ashlee Sheffield and Cameron White, all senior Communication majors, for their contributions to the 2011 SSRC Annual Report. Without their contributions, both individual and collectively, this document would not have been possible.

Ms. Madeline Hardy (now working with the SSRC's Family and Children's Research Unit and a former MCL communication intern) deserves special recognition for the outstanding photography provided for this report. Her eye for unique angles and characteristics of our facility has given this document a creative flair that many annual reports lack.

A special thank you to Ms. Ashley Cole Loftin, Facilitator, for her assistance in gathering the information used in many sections of this report. Her assistance in providing the most accurate and timely information for this report was invaluable.

Laura Richardson Walton, Ph.D., APR Coordinator and Research Fellow, SSRC Assistant Professor, Department of Communication