

Awards & Recognitions

Sarah Gresham Barr was selected as a Robert W. Woodruff Fellow in Theology and Ministry at Emory University's Candler School of Theology, where she will start her Masters of Divinity this fall.

Dr. Cindy Bethel gave a speech to Congress on December 12th about the future of artificial intelligence based on her research projects at Mississippi State University. The speech was given before the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, & Transportation's subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Innovation, and the Internet. Details of her speech and the panel were featured in multiple papers and news outlets: WJLA, Y'all Politics, CIO Divide, GCN, MeriTalk, and the Daily Journal.

Dr. Cindy Bethel was the recipient of a Fulbright U.S. Senior Scholar award. A story on her award and her future plans was featured on the Mississippi State Newsroom: <https://www.msstate.edu/newsroom/article/2018/03/msus-bethel-chosen-fulbright-scholar/>.

Dr. Cindy Bethel's research with the Social, Therapeutic and Robotics Systems Lab (STaRS) was featured in an NBC article on AI: <https://www.nbcnews.com/mach/science/why-scientists-are-teaching-robot-hug-ncna882026>.

Alan Burns won an Award of Excellence from the Southern Public Relations Federation's Lantern Awards for his work on the 2016 SSRC Annual Report.

Alan Burns was recognized for his work at the 2018 Public Relations Association of Mississippi State Conference. He received a PRISM Award for his work on the 2017 SSRC Annual Report.

Dr. Heather Hanna and Mississippi KIDS COUNT were featured in a Clarion-Ledger story, "Inequity in Mississippi as clear as black and white." <https://www.clarionledger.com/story/news/local/2017/10/24/inequity-mississippi-clear-black-and-white-report/783103001/>

Dr. Heather Hanna and Mississippi KIDS COUNT were quoted in multiple news outlets on Mississippi's progress in the 2018 National KIDS COUNT Data Book: WREG, Mississippi Public Broadcasting, WCBI, the Daily Journal, and the Clarion Ledger.

Laura Herring, intern for Dr. Kathleen Ragsdale, was awarded three honors at the Spring Undergraduate Research Symposium including: first place in Social Sciences category for Visual Displays, first place in Arts & Humanities/ Social Sciences for the Community Engagement Research Track, and third place (tied) in the Public Health Research Competition.

Hasna Khandekar and **Nia Sims** received the first Greenberg Scholarship Award. The award was presented at the SSRC Open House by Dr. Linda Southward on October 26, 2017.

Marisa Laudadio was accepted to the prestigious 2018 Harvard Kennedy School Public Policy Leadership Conference for Freshmen and Sophomores in Cambridge, Massachusetts. This three-day program focuses on exposing first- and second-year college students to graduate programs in public policy, career opportunities, and fellowships. Over 800 students from 220 different colleges and universities applied to attend the conference this year, and only 73 students were selected.

Marisa Laudadio won first place in the humanities poster division at the Mississippi State Honors Conference in Jackson, Mississippi. She was also invited to present her work at the Posters in the Rotunda event held at the state capitol.

Kelly Lower gave an oral presentation at the 2018 MSU Graduate Research Symposium. Lower placed 2nd in the Masters section for Social and Behavioral Sciences.

Dr. Robert McMillen was quoted and featured in multiple news outlets on the topic of a possible tobacco tax increase: WJTV, Mississippi News Now, the Daily Journal, and Mississippi Public Broadcasting.

Dr. Robert McMillen's research from Mississippi Tobacco Data was featured in the news: <http://www.wdam.com/story/37519399/push-for-tobacco-tax-increase-continues-at-state-capitol>.

Stories in recent newspapers cited data from **Dr. Robert McMillen**, Mississippi Tobacco Data, and the **Wolfgang Frese Survey Research Lab (SRL)**: the Commercial Appeal and the Daily Journal.

Dr. Robert McMillen's research was featured in multiple articles: MPB Online and University of Kentucky News.

Dr. Robert McMillen was featured in an article and video segment on WCBI for World No Tobacco Day: <https://www.wcbi.com/world-no-tobacco-day/>.

Izzy Pellegrine was named Outstanding Graduate Student by the MSU President's Commission on the Status of Women. Read their spotlight on Izzy and the other outstanding women in the Maroon MEMO feature: <http://www.memo.msstate.edu/story.php?id=4557>.

Dr. Kathleen Ragsdale's research was featured in the Soybean Innovation Laboratory's February Newsletter:

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<https://mailchi.mp/illinois/keep-up-with-sils-latest-happenings>.

Drs. Kathleen Ragsdale and **Mary Read-Wahidi's** work on the USAID-funded Feed the Future Soybean Innovation Lab was highlighted in the USAID Agrilinks blog: <https://agrilinks.org/post/building-capacity-gendered-agricultural-research>.

Drs. Kathleen Ragsdale and **Mary Read-Wahidi's** work on the CDC-funded Focus4Teens Initiative to address teen pregnancy in the Mississippi Delta was highlighted in the Winter edition of MAFES Discovers Magazine: <http://www.mafes.msstate.edu/discovers/article.asp?id=105>.

A presentation by **Dr. Gina Rico Mendez**, **Dr. Kathleen Ragsdale**, and **Dr. Mary Read-Wahidi** was featured in a Soybean Innovation Lab Newsletter: <https://mailchi.mp/illinois/stay-up-to-date-with-the-latest-sil-news?e=1438403ce8>.

Research from **Drs. Kathleen Ragsdale**, **Mary Read-Wahidi**, and **Gina Rico Mendez** was featured on the Agrilinks website in a story titled "Land Tenure Research Shows Men's Role in Households Impacts Women's Access to Land".

Dr. Holli Seitz was competitively selected by the MSU Center for Community-Engaged Learning to participate in the inaugural class of the Community-Engaged Learning Fellows Program.

Megan Stubbs-Richardson was awarded the Graduate Paper of Distinction Award for her paper entitled, "Strain among Bullying Victims: Considering the Effect of Alternative Relationships on Prosocial, Asocial, and Antisocial Responses to Physical, Verbal, Relational, and Cyber Bullying" at the Mid-South Sociological Association.

Research from **Mississippi Tobacco Data** was featured in a WTVA article about the decrease in tobacco use among Mississippi students: <http://www.wtva.com/content/news/Data-shows-smoking-and-smokeless-tobacco-rates-decreasing-among-Mississippi-students--482970981.html>.