

Awards & Recognitions

Anne Buffington was appointed to the Mississippi Department of Education's Task Force on Chronic Absenteeism. The task force will meet periodically to develop strategies to bring awareness to the issue and to provide assistance to schools in decreasing the rate of chronic absence across the K-12 landscape.

Rachel Booth, a graduating senior and an undergraduate research assistant with the SSRC's Mississippi Tobacco Data, represented MSU and the United States while spending 10 months studying cognitive psychology and conducting research at Germany's Universität Ulm.

Dr. Ronald Cossman's Op-Ed "Why Primary Care Access is Wildly Overstated," which originally appeared in *Medical Economics*, was reprinted in the *Population Association of America's* (PAA) *Applied Demography* September newsletter.

Dr. Ronald E. Cossman completed a two-semester sabbatical at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center. He collaborated with the director of the Center for Health System Improvement, analyzing the demographics of a multi-state diabetes outreach and coaching program. He also co-taught a graduate class in Health Systems for medical students.

Susana Cervantes was featured in an MSU article on the Delta Scholars Program: <https://www.msstate.edu/newsroom/article/2018/07/high-achieving-students-convening-msu-s-delta-scholars-program/>.

Dr. Heather Hanna and **Dr. Holli Seitz** were selected to attend the Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science workshop on science communication, held on the MSU campus August 28-30.

Laura Herring and **Krishna Desai**, traveled to Washington D.C. to take part in the Andi Leadership Institute for Young Women.

Lisa Long was awarded a certification as a Zero to Three Provisional Trainer on the Growing Brain by the Zero to Three: National Center for Infants, Toddlers, and Families. Long recently attended their regional course entitled "The Growing Brain: From Birth to Five Years Old Training-of-Trainers" in New Orleans, LA.

Dr. Robert McMillen's paper "Adolescent Use of Different E-cigarette Products" was featured in an article on Healio.

<https://www.healio.com/pediatrics/adolescent-medicine/news/online/%7B06eeac42-89b4-4608-8e10-79bad508e9c6%7D/adolescents-prefer-open-system-e-cigarettes>

Dr. Kathleen Ragsdale, Dr. Mary Read-Wahidi, and their team members have been interviewed and/or featured five times for their work on the USAID-funded Feed the Future Soybean Innovation Lab's (SIL) Socioeconomic and Gender Equity Research (SGER) team. The posts include:

- Keane, R. (2018, September 13). SIL SoyBytes: Dr. Kathleen Ragsdale and Dr. Mary Read-Wahidi on gender equity and agricultural development [SoundCloud podcast]. Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Soybean Value Chain Research, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. <https://soundcloud.com/user-948098783/sil-soybytes-dr-kathleen-ragsdale-and-dr-mary-read-wahidi>.
- CGIAR / A4NH. (2018, September 5). Gender-Nutrition Idea Exchange: SIL research identifies challenges, constraints experienced by women smallholder farmers [Web log post]. CGIAR Research Program on Agriculture for Nutrition and Health (A4NH), International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). <http://a4nh.cgiar.org/2018/09/05/identifying-challenges-and-constraints-experienced-by-women-smallholder-farmers-in-northern-ghana/>.
- Keane, R. (2018, July). SIL Newsletter: Notes from the field: SIL students conduct on-site focus groups in Ghana [Online newsletter post]. Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Soybean Value Chain Research, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. <https://mailchi.mp/illinois/check-out-sils-july-news>.
- Keane, R. (2018, July 25). Student reflections as researchers return home [Web log post]. Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Soybean Value Chain Research, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. <http://soybeaninnovationlab.illinois.edu/student-reflections-researchers-return-home>.
- Keane, R. (2018, July 17). Students gain insight into gender equity and land tenure during fieldwork in Tolon and Karaga [Web log post]. Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Soybean Value Chain Research, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. <http://soybeaninnovationlab.illinois.edu/students-gain-insight-gender-equity-and-land-tenure-during-fieldwork-tolon-and-karaga>.

Dr. Kathleen Ragsdale was invited to serve as an abstract reviewer for three programs for the 147th American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting, which was held in Philadelphia on November 2-6, 2019. The three APHA programs include:

- International Health Program
- Maternal and Child Health Program
- Public Health Education and Health Promotion Program

Dr. Angela Robertson was a member of the National Institute of Health (NIH) and National Institute on Drug Abuse

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review panel for the Helping to End Addiction Long-term (HEAL) Initiative, a trans-agency effort to speed scientific solutions to the nation's opioid public health crisis. NIH devoted \$1.1 billion in funding for this initiative. Dr. Robertson reviewed applications for funding and participated in site visits of finalist.

Mary Grace Payne, an undergraduate research assistant in the Social Relations Collaborative, won first place in the student poster competition at the Alabama-Mississippi Sociological Association meeting at the Hunter Henry Center at Mississippi State University.

Dr. Holli Seitz was named a member of the Cancer Control, Epidemiology and Cancer Disparities Research Program at the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

Dr. Holli Seitz was certified as a Mental Health First Aid Instructor by the National Council for Behavioral Health.

Dr. Holli Seitz was certified as a Youth Mental Health First Aid Instructor by the National Council for Behavioral Health.

Dr. Colleen Sinclair was nominated for Most Admired Scholar by this year's Diversity Awards graduate student recipient.

Ciarra Smith, an undergraduate research assistant, was awarded a prestigious Graduate Research Fellowship from the National Science Foundation. This award will help fund her doctoral studies at northwestern University, where she will pursue a PhD in the Interdepartmental Neuroscience Program.

The Civic Life Laboratory, led by **Dr. Brian Shoup** and **Dr. Melanie Loehwing**, was awarded an Undergraduate Research Program grant from the Office of Research and Economic Development.

Andrew Tatch was one of twenty individuals selected from a competitive admission process to attend a short workshop 'Exploring and Analyzing Monitoring the Future Data: A Primer' hosted by the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research at the University of Michigan. The Monitoring the Future Project is a long-term epidemiologic and etiologic study of substance use among the nation's youth and adults and also includes questions on subjects such as attitudes toward government, social institutions, race relations, changing gender roles, educational aspirations, occupational aims, and marital plans.

Dr. Mary Read-Wahidi served as an abstract reviewer for a program for the 147th American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting, which was held in Philadelphia on November 2-6, 2019.

Ismail Yigit was named the Outstanding Graduate Research Assistant (GRA) of the Year Award – Doctoral Level by the Graduate Student Association and The Graduate School of Mississippi State University.

Ismail Yigit was a nominee for the Dr. Harold Grier Doctoral Scholar's Program—Institutional SREB Fellowships by the Sociology Department of the Mississippi State University.

Ismail Yigit was awarded a Travel Award from the Marion T. Loftin fund to attend the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting and the Society for the Study of Social problems Annual Meeting in New York City, NY.

Mississippi Tobacco Data was featured in multiple news stories regarding their joining of Attorney General Jim Hood, the Mississippi Department of Health, Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics, and The Partnership for Healthy Mississippi. Find the article below, as well as video of Emily McClelland addressing the media in a press conference with MTD's 2017 Youth Tobacco Data:

- <https://www.wlox.com/2018/09/28/state-officials-address-epidemic-among-teens-mississippi/>
- <https://www.clarionledger.com/story/news/politics/2018/09/28/state-officials-want-regulations-sale-e-cigarettes-state/1454632002/>
- <https://www.wjtv.com/news/metro/attorney-general-hood-calls-e-cigarettes-dangerous-and-epidemic-among-teens/1482578328>
- <http://www.mpbonline.org/blogs/mississippiedition/mississippi-edition-monday-october-1st/>

The AIM for CHangE project was featured in multiple news stories.

- <http://www.jacksonfreepress.com/news/2018/sep/21/senate-debate-millsaps-aim-change-msu-and-belhaven/>
- <https://www.gulflive.com/news/2019/02/center-for-disease-control-prevention-provides-34-million-grant-to-coast-counties.html>
- <https://www.sunherald.com/news/health/article226283405.html>