

**John E. Forde**  
**Associate Professor and Head**  
**Department of Communication**  
**Mississippi State University**

Dr. John E. Forde, APR, has been teaching at Mississippi State University in the Department of Communication since 1987. John became head of the department on July 1, 2004, and he continues to teach Principles of Public Relations, both in person and online. The department of approximately 500 students and 21 full-time faculty includes concentration areas of public relations, broadcasting, journalism, theatre, and communication studies. The department also serves hundreds of other students in partnership majors and minors. Before being named department head, he had been coordinator of the public relations concentration and coordinator of the internship program in the department since his arrival.

He also has been very involved as an officer in several public relations and community organizations. He served in 1997 as President of the four-state Southern Public Relations Federation and received the organization's Professional Achievement Award in 1999. He also was named previously as the Public Relations Association of Mississippi's State Practitioner of the Year. At MSU, John has been presented with a John Grisham Faculty Excellence Award and received the university's Outstanding Academic Advisor Award and a similar national advising award.

He earned degrees from Jones County Junior College and Mississippi State University and graduate degrees from the University of Southern Mississippi. Prior to returning to MSU to teach, he was Director of Public Relations at William Carey College in Hattiesburg.

His wife, Connie, teaches at MSU in the Department of Instructional Systems, Leadership, and Workforce Development. They have two sons, John David, 19, and Daniel, 17, who also help keep them active.