

Joshua Awua, PhD
Rural Drug Addiction Research Center
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
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joshuaawua.com

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy in Addictive Disorders and Recovery Studies August 2024

Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX

Dissertation: *Using Social Network Analysis to Examine College Students' Friendship and E-cigarette Use*

Chair: Antover P. Tuliao, PhD

Committee: Jon R. Webb, PhD, Devin Mills, PhD, & Matthew K. Meisel, PhD

Master of Philosophy in Clinical Health Psychology

March 2018

University of Cape Coast, Cape Coast, Ghana

Thesis: *Quality of Life following Traumatic Brain Injury: Perspectives of Survivors and Caregivers in Accra.*

Advisors: Joseph K. Ofosuhene-Mensah, MPhil & Kofi Krafona, PhD

Bachelor of Science in Psychology

May 2013

University of Cape Coast, Cape Coast, Ghana

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE

Licensed Clinical Health Psychologist, Ghana

December 2018 - Present

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant Professor

September

Rural Drug Addiction Research Center, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

2026- Present

Postdoctoral Research Associate

September 2024

School of Social Work, University of Texas at Arlington, TX,

-August, 2026

PhD Researcher

August 2021

Department of Community, Family, and Addiction Sciences College of Human Sciences, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX

– August 2024

PUBLICATIONS

(*Undergraduate and **graduate student mentees)

Refereed Journal Articles

1. Lopez, D.A., Agordzo, M.P., Ayenigbara, I.O., **Awua, J.**, Lewis, L.E., Botor, N.J.B., & Tuliao, A.P. (Accepted). Client satisfaction as a mediator of recovery capital in collegiate recovery communities. *Emerging Adulthood*

2. Washburn, M., Ziemba, P., **Awua, J.**, Thomas, L., Ziemba, J., & Bordnick, P. (2026). Assessing usability and acceptability of a VR digital therapeutic for treatment of substance use disorders. *Journal of Social Work Practice in the Addictions*, 1–18. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1533256X.2026.2707476>
3. Washburn, M., Ziemba, P., & **Awua, J.** (2026). The use of VR cue exposure for treatment of substance use disorders: A pilot study of presence and immersion. *Int J Psy Res Rev*, 1(2), 01-14.
4. Washburn, M., Carr, L. C., Mauldin, R., Xu, W. & **Awua, J.** (2026). Exploring MSW students' attitudes toward research: What predicts them, and do they change over time? *Journal of Practice Teaching and Learning in Health and Social Work*, 23(3), 1–24. <https://doi.org/10.1921/jpts20572622>
5. **Awua, J.**, Washburn, M., Agordzo, M**, Wang, Y., Aidoo, E., Gabben-Mensah, D*, Mullarkey, C.A*, Falk, D., Meisel, M.K., & Tuliao, A.P. (2026). Perceived norms and e-cigarette use: the mediation role of e-cigarette use outcome expectancies. *Journal of American College Health* 1–8. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07448481.2026.2630041>
6. **Awua, J.**, Washburn, M., Baiden, P., Brewer, K.B., Asante, R.K.B. & Gearing, R.E. (2026). Mental Health Stigma, Informal Help-Seeking, and Professional Care in Ghana: A Mediation Analysis. *Social Work in Mental Health*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15332985.2025.2612520>
7. Agordzo, M.P., Tuliao, A.P., & **Awua, J.** (2025). Drinking civility: A conceptual review. *Alcoholism Treatment Quarterly*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07347324.2025.2599109>
8. Baiden, P., **Hall, A. J., LaBrenz, C. A., **Awua, J.**, Glikpo, R., & *Nartey, P. (2025). Exposure to neighborhood violence and substance use among adolescents: Findings from a population-based study. *Journal of Affective Disorders*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jad.2025.120626>
9. Ohene, L., Tuliao, A. P., Botor, N. J., **Awua, J.**, Adeyemo, Q., Mullet, N. D., ... Soloski, K. L. (2025). The Role of Alcohol-Related Protective Behavioral Strategies in the Relationship Among Facets of Trait Impulsivity, Alcohol Use Severity, and Risky Sexual Behavior Among College Students. *The Journal of Sex Research*, 1–13. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00224499.2025.2568692>
10. Washburn, M., Asante, R., Boateng, D., Brewer, K. B., Baiden, P., **Awua, J.**, Scott, G., Fogel, S.J., Moore, S., Robbins, S.P. & Gearing, R. E. (2025). The relationship between stigma and perception of mental health problems in Ghana. *International Journal of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences* 6(10). doi: 10.56734/ijahss.v6n10a6
11. Baiden, P., Amuta-Jimenez, A., Jacobs, W., **Awua, J.**, **Hall, A., & **Sesay, B. (2025). Association between adverse childhood experiences and binge drinking among adults: The moderating effect of race/ethnicity. *Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40615-025-02522-6>
12. **Awua, J.**, Tuliao, A. P., Webb, J. R., Mills, D. J., Washburn, M., & Meisel, M. K. (2025). Associations between interpersonal communication, perceived norms, and e-

cigarette use: the moderating role of social network size. *Addiction Research & Theory*, 33(6), 498–506. <https://doi.org/10.1080/16066359.2025.2514212>

13. **Awua, J.**, Meisel, M.K., Tuliao, A.P. & Barnett, N.P. (2025). Social achievement goals as predictors of alcohol drinking outcomes in a network of college students. *Substance Use & Misuse*. 60(10), 1506-1513. doi.org/10.1080/10826084.2025.2505143.
14. **Awua, J.**, Tuliao, A.P., **Agordzo, M., Washburn, M., Botor, N.J.B., Lewis, L.E., **Adeyemo, Q.E., Mullet, N., Monica M.J, & Oak-Hee, P. (2025). Perceived norms and alcohol-related problems: A moderated mediation role of alcohol consumption and protective behavior strategies. *Substance Use & Misuse* 60(9), 1298–1307. doi.org/10.1080/10826084.2025.2496930.
15. Adeyemo, Q.E., Aidoo, E., **Awua, J.**, Ohene, L., Ashnita, M., Austin-Robillard, H. (2025). Parental alcoholism, childhood adverse experience, and intimate partner violence among adult children of alcoholics: A scoping review. *Alcoholism Treatment Quarterly*, 43(3), 367-383. doi.org/10.1080/07347324.2025.2460831
16. **Awua, J.**, Tuliao, A. P., *Gabben-Mensah, D., *Kanjor, F., Botor, N. J. B., **Ohene, L., & Meisel, M. K. (2024). Interpersonal communication and perceived norms as social influence mechanisms of e-cigarette use among adults: a systematic review. *The American Journal of Drug and Alcohol Abuse*, 50(3), 291-304. [doi:10.1080/00952990.2024.2346928](https://doi.org/10.1080/00952990.2024.2346928)
17. Botor, N.J.B., Tuliao, A.P., Felipe, V., **Awua, J.**, & *Babcock, C. (2024). Factors influencing bullying and sexual orientation microaggression perpetration: the role of intergroup contact, heterosexual ally identity, and attitude towards sexual minorities. *Psychology of Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity*. [doi: 10.1037/sgd0000765](https://doi.org/10.1037/sgd0000765)
18. Hatch, S.M., Nichols, Z.C., Lewis, L.E. & **Awua, J.**, & Austin-Robillard, H. (2024). Investigating the lived experience of persons who participated in the Substance Abuse Felony Punishment Facility: A qualitative study. *Journal of Offender Rehabilitation*, 63(7), 440-461. [doi: 10.1080/10509674.2024.2406761](https://doi.org/10.1080/10509674.2024.2406761)
19. Zhang, M., Doi, L., **Awua, J.**, Asare, H., & Stenhouse, R. (2023). Challenges and possible solutions for accessing scholarly literature among medical and nursing professionals and students in low-and-middle-income countries: A systematic review. *Nurse Education Today*, 105737. PMID: 36753870. [doi: 10.1016/j.nedt.2023.105737](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.nedt.2023.105737)
20. **Awua, J.**, Ofosuhene-Mensah, J. K., & Krafona, K. (2019). Psychosocial, cognitive, and behavior after-effects of traumatic brain injury: Perspectives of survivors and caregivers in Ghana. *Journal of Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Mental Health*, 6, 121-130. [doi:10.1007/s40737-019-00142-y](https://doi.org/10.1007/s40737-019-00142-y)

Submitted Manuscripts

1. Ohene, L., Tuliao, A.P., Maxton, A., Aidoo, E., Felipe, M.V., **Awua, J.**, Ferguson, G.E., Paddy, A., Adeyemo, Q., Brown, C., & Mills, D. (Under Review). Alcohol use and risky

sexual behavior among emerging adults: A systematic review of sexual partner influence. *Archives of Sexual Behavior*.

2. Scaria L., Devassy, S.M., Washburn, M., **Awua, J.**, & Gearing, R.E. (Under review). Barriers to accessing mental health care for adults in India. *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*.
3. **Awua, J.**, Tuliao, A.P., Agordzo, M.P., Washburn, M., Meisel, M.K., & Munn-Chernoff, M. (Revise and Resubmit). Perceived norms, interpersonal communication, and e-cigarette use among young adults in the United States: A multilevel mediation analysis of egocentric networks. *Journal of Health Psychology*.
4. Tuliao, AP., Tuliao, M., Lewis, L.E., Agordzo, M; Botor, NJB., & **Awua, J.** (Revise and Resubmit). Examining the role of recovery capital, social network and social support on lapse and relapse in collegiate recovery communities. *Substance Use: Research and Treatment*.
5. Litt, DM., Graupensperger, S., Hicks, R., Cross, A., **Awua, J.**, Stankus, R., & Lewis, MA (Submitted). Feasibility and acceptability of a novel parent-based intervention for addressing social media influences on adolescent alcohol use. *Addictive Behaviors*.
6. **Awua, J.**, Tuliao, A.P., Webb, J.R., Mills, D.J., Washburn, M., & Meisel, M.K. (Under review). Social network discussion of e-cigarette related issues among college students: A multilevel modeling analysis. *Journal of American College Health*.
7. Stenhouse, R., **Awua, J.**, Doi, L., Enyan, NE., Asare, K., Amoo, S., & Zhang, M. (Submitted). NEAR Ghana: Nurses' and Midwives' experiences of accessing evidence for teaching, research and clinical practice in Ghana: A mixed methods study. *Nurse Education Today*.
8. Tuliao, A.P., **Awua, J.**, Mullet, N., Soloski, K., Bradshaw, S., & Oak-Hee, P. (Revise and resubmit). Development, factor structure, and psychometric properties of the Injunctive Norms of Intoxicated Behaviors Scale (INIBS). *Substance Use & Misuse*.

CONFERENCES, INVITED TALKS AND COLLOQUIA

Conference Presentations

National and local Conferences (Refereed Oral Presentations):

1. **Awua, J.** (2025, September 5). Faculty- and Student-led Exploration of Educational Challenges of the African Immigrant and Refugee in the United States. Virtual Presentation.
2. **Awua, J.**, Tuliao, A.P., Webb, J.R., Mills, D.J., Washburn, M., & Meisel, M.K. (2024, September 20). Association between e-cigarette use and young adult friendships. [Oral presentation]. Collaborative approaches for building resilience in mental health and recovery, Fall Symposium, University of North Texas at Dallas, Dallas, TX.

3. **Awua, J.** (2018, August 18). Quality of life after traumatic brain injury: Perspectives of Survivors and Caregivers in Ghana. [Oral presentation]. 4th Scientific Conference, Ghana Psychological Association, University of Professional Studies, Accra, Ghana.

National and International Conferences (Refereed Poster Presentations):

1. **Awua, J.**, Washburn, M., Ziemba, P., LaTisha, T., Ziemba, J & Bordnick, P (2025, September 19). *Assessing the usability and acceptability of a VR-based digital therapeutic for treatment of substance use disorders* [Poster presentation]. 2nd University of Texas Postdoctoral Research Symposium, The University of Texas at Arlington, Rio Grande Ballroom, Arlington, Texas, USA.
2. **Awua, J.**, Washburn, M., Agordzo, M., Wang, Y., Aidoo, E., Conor, AM., Meisel, MK. & Tuliao AP. (2026, January 14 – 18). *Perceived norms and vaping among young adults in college: The mediation role of expectancies* [Poster presentation]. 30th Annual Conference of the Society of Social Work and Research, Marriott Marquis Hotel, Washington, DC, USA.
3. **Awua, J.**, Washburn, M., Baiden, P., Brewer, K.B., Asante, R.K.B. & Gearing, R.E. (2026, January 14 – 18). *Mental Health Stigma, Informal Help-Seeking, and Professional Care in Ghana: A Mediation Analysis*. [Poster presentation]. 30th Annual Conference of the Society of Social Work and Research, Marriott Marquis Hotel, Washington, DC, USA.
4. Brewer, K. B., Washburn, M., Asante, R., Boateng, D., Baiden, P., **Awua, J.**, Scott, G., Fogel, S.J., Moore, S., Robbins, S.P. & Gearing, R. E. (2026, January 14-18). *Understanding public perceptions of mental illness in Ghana: Implications for community-based mental health care* [Poster presentation]. 30th Annual Conference of the Society of Social Work and Research, Marriott Marquis Hotel, Washington, DC, USA.
5. Baiden, P., Hall, A. J., LaBrenz, C. A., **Awua, J.**, Glikpo, R. M., & Nartey, P. (2026, January 14 – 18). *Unpacking the harmful effects of exposure to neighborhood violence on substance use among adolescents: Findings from a population-based study*. [Poster presentation]. 30th Annual Conference of the Society of Social Work and Research, Marriott Marquis Hotel, Washington, DC, USA.
6. Chinwokwu, C., Falk, D., **Awua, J.**, O'Brien, J.E., Colburn, D., Mitchell, K.J. (2026, January 14 – 18). *Fostering trust in research: Ethical and practical approaches to engaging vulnerable youth*. [Poster presentation]. 30th Annual Conference of the Society of Social Work and Research, Marriott Marquis Hotel, Washington, DC, USA.
7. **Awua, J.**, Tuliao, A.P., Agordzo, M., Aidoo, E. & Meisel M.K. (2024, June 24-30). *Alter- and network-level predictors of e-cigarette discussions among US college students: A multilevel analysis*. [Poster presentation]. International Network for Social Network Analysis (INSNA) SUNBELT 2024, Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh, Scotland.
8. Agordzo, M., **Awua, J.**, Botor, N.J.B., Lewis, L.E., Ohene, L., Adeyemo, Q.E. & Tuliao, A.P. (2024, April 11 - 13). *Perceived norms and alcohol problems: the roles of alcohol*

use and protective behavior strategies. [Poster presentation]. 12th Annual Collaborative Perspectives on Addiction Conference, Grand Hyatt in Downtown Denver, Colorado.

9. Adeyemo, Q.E., **Awua, J.**, Botor, N.J.B., Ohene, L., Adeyemo, Q.E. & Tuliao, A.P. (2024, April 11 - 13). *Alcohol use and STI's scare in young adults: the mediation roles of risky sex and HIV risk perception*. [Poster presentation]. 12th Annual Collaborative Perspectives on Addiction Conference, Grand Hyatt in Downtown Denver, Colorado.
10. **Awua, J.**, Meisel, M.K. & Tuliao, A.P. (2023, May 11 -15). *Social network characteristics and alcohol-related consequences among college students: How do social goal orientations fit in?* [Poster presentation]. Social Network & Health Workshop, 2023, at Duke University, Durham, North Carolina.
11. **Awua, J.** & Tuliao, A.P. (2022, June 24 - 29). *Development, factor structure, and psychometric properties of the Injunctive Norms of Intoxicated Behaviors Scale (INIBS)*. [Poster presentation]. 45th Annual Research Society on Alcohol (RSA) Scientific Meeting, Orlando, Florida.
12. Lewis, L.E., Botor, N.J.B., **Awua, J.**, Kimball, T., Shumway, S. & Tuliao, A.P. (2022, June 24 - 29). *Examining the role of alcohol use, gender, drinking motives, and outcome expectancies on alcohol-involved risky sexual behavior*. [Poster presentation]. 45th Annual RSA Scientific Meeting, Orlando, Florida.
13. Botor, N.J.B., **Awua, J.**, Lewis, L.E., Kimball, T., Shumway, S. & Tuliao, A.P. (2022, June 24 - 29). *The role of protective behavioral strategies in the relationship among pregameing, alcohol use, and alcohol-related consequences*. [Poster presentation]. 45th Annual RSA Scientific Meeting, Orlando, Florida.
14. **Awua, J.**, Botor, N.J.B., Lewis, L.E. & Tuliao, A.P., (2022, March 18). *Alcohol cravings, depression and effective coping as predictors of drug avoidance self-efficacy of students in collegiate recovery communities*. [Poster presentation]. Annual Conference on Addiction, Recovery, and Families, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX.
15. Honsford, S., **Awua, J.** & Egbe P. (2022, March 18). *Reducing Symptoms of drug dependency with psilocybin and relieving trauma with mdma: a solution for substance use disorders and codependency in couples*. [Poster presentation]. Annual Conference on Addiction, Recovery, and Families, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX.
16. Botor, N.J.B., **Awua, J.**, Lewis, L.E. & Tuliao, A P. (2022, March 18). *Intrapersonal and interpersonal correlates of recovery capital among adult students in collegiate recovery communities*. [Poster presentation]. Annual Conference on Addiction, Recovery, and Families, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX.
17. Boye, C., **Awua, J.** & Webb, J.R. (2022, March 18). *Stress symptoms and alcohol problems among college students: The mediating role of drinking refusal self-efficacy*. [Poster presentation]. Annual Conference on Addiction, Recovery, and Families, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX.
18. Lewis, L.E., Botor, N.J.B., **Awua, J.**, Kimball, T., Shumway, S. & Tuliao, A.P. (2022, March 18). *Determinants of relapse for students in collegiate recovery communities*.

[Poster presentation]. Annual Conference on Addiction, Recovery, and Families, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX.

Invited Talks

1. **Awua J.**, Sanchez, J., Murphy, J., Rafieifar, M. (2025). Thriving on the Dissertation Journey. UTA School of Social Work PhD Program Professional Development Series. March 4, 2025.
2. **Awua, J.** (December 2023). Challenges and possible solutions for accessing scholarly literature among medical and nursing professionals and students in low-and-middle-income countries, Tamale Teaching Hospital, Tamale, Ghana.
3. **Awua, J.** (April 2023). Using social network analysis in substance use research. Department of Community, Family, and Addiction Sciences Brown Bag Series, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas.
4. **Awua, J.** (November 2022). Basic concepts in social network analysis. Department of Community, Family, and Addiction Sciences Brown Bag Series, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas.

Departmental Colloquia

1. **Awua, J.**, Tuliao, A.P., Agordzo, M., Aidoo, E. & Meisel M.K. (2024, June 15). *Alter-and network-level predictors of e-cigarette discussions among US college students: A multilevel analysis*. [Oral presentation]. Department of Community, Family and Addiction Sciences Spring Research Colloquium, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX.

GRANT SUBMISSIONS

Funded

1. Stenhouse, R (PI). *NEAR Ghana2: Growing research capacity among nurses and midwives in Ghana*. ESRC Impact Acceleration Accounts (\$15,700). Role: Co-Investigator 2026-2027.
2. Stenhouse, R (PI). *NEAR Ghana: Nurses' and midwives' experiences of accessing research evidence for practice in Ghana*. Knowledge Exchange and Impact Grant. The University of Edinburgh (\$6,355.50). Role: Co-Investigator. 2023-2024

Submitted

1. Washburn, M. & Ziemba (Multiple Principal Investigators). *Using virtual reality to reduce young adult e-cigarette use*. PAR-24-133: Small Business Transition Grant for New Entrepreneurs (R43/R44 Clinical Trial Required). National Institute on Drug Abuse. (Re-submitted 9/5/26). Role: Co-Investigator

In preparation

1. Washburn, M. & Ziemba (Multiple Principal Investigators). *Using virtual reality to reduce youth substance use*. PAR-24-133: Small Business Transition Grant for New Entrepreneurs (R43/R44 Clinical Trial Required). National Institute on Drug Abuse. (Planned submission January 2027). Role: Co-Investigator.

Unfunded

1. Awua, J (PI). *Social network analysis of nicotine vaping among college students: whole and personal network study*. Charles S. Peirce Interdisciplinary Graduate Fellowship. Institute for Studies in Pragmaticism, Texas Tech University (\$5,000).
2. Awua, J (PI). *Using mixed methods social network analysis to examine peer influence in the drinking context*. Doctoral Student Small Grants Program (DSSGP). Research Society on Alcohol 2022 (\$5,000)
3. Tuliao A.P. (PI). *A longitudinal social network analysis of collegiate recovery centers: Examining the mediating effects of loneliness and social support on the relationship between social connectedness and recovery*. RFA-DA-23-009: Exploratory/Developmental Grants (R21 - Clinical Trial Not Allowed). National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) (submitted 7/15/22). Role: Graduate Research Assistant.
4. Stenhouse, R (PI). *REACH-GHANA: Resources and evidence access in healthcare in Ghana*. Research networking and partnership. The Research Society of Edinburgh (\$25,422). Role: Co-Investigator

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Adjunct Assistant Professor

School of Social Work, University of Texas at Arlington
Courses: Substance Use Treatment (SUT 3321), & Treatment Planning
Collaboration and Referral (SUT 3319)

Fall 2025
Summer 2025

Supporting Instructor

School of Social Work, University of Texas at Arlington
Course: Grant writing (SOCW 6393)

Fall 2024

Instructor

Department of Community Mental Health, College of Health and Wellbeing,
Kintampo, Ghana
Courses: General Psychology I (DMB 211), General Psychology II (DMB 222), Introduction to Research Methods (DMB 321), & Contemporary Issues in Mental Health (DMB 421),

Fall 2019
– Fall 2021

Lecturer

College of Distance Education and e-Learning, University of Education,
Winneba, Ghana
Course: Research Methods in Education (PDGE 513)

Fall 2019
– Fall 2021

Senior Tutor

College of Distance Education, University of Cape Coast, Cape Coast, Ghana
Courses: Adolescent Psychology (EPS 401D), Psychology Personnel
Management (EPS 462D), Educational Research (EPS 421D),

Fall 2014
– Fall 2021

MENTORING**Undergraduate Students Bachelor's thesis**

Francis Kanjor
Department of Mental Health, College of Health and Wellbeing, Kintampo,
Ghana

August 2020 –
May 2021

Annabelle Amoako
Department of Mental Health, College of Health and Wellbeing, Kintampo,
Ghana,

August 2019
– May 2020

Lydia Yeboah
College of Distance Education and e-Learning, University of Education,
Winneba, Ghana, Bachelor's thesis,

August 2019 –
May 2020

Lucy F. Ladzro
Department of Mental Health, College of Health and Wellbeing, Kintampo,
Ghana,

August 2019 –
May 2020

ADMINISTRATIVE AND CLINICAL EXPERIENCE**Program Coordinator/Head**

Department of Community Mental Health, College of Health and Wellbeing,
Kintampo, Ghana

January
– August 2021

School Counselor

College of Health and Wellbeing, Kintampo, Ghana

July 2020
– August 2021

Chair, Mental Health Students Clinical Practicum Oral Defense

Department of Community Mental Health, College of Health and Wellbeing,
Kintampo, Ghana

August 2019
– July 2021

Field Supervisor, Health Students on Clinical Placement

College of Health and Wellbeing, Kintampo, Ghana

August 2019
– July 2021

Coordinator, World Health Organization, Quality Rights Training

College of Health and Wellbeing, Kintampo, Ghana

July 2020
– August 2021

Clinical Health Psychology Intern

Clinical Psychology and Social Services Department, Trust Hospital & Ghana
Police Hospital, Accra

August 2016
– May 2018

HONORS AND AWARDS

Best Poster Award 2 nd University of Texas Postdoctoral Research Symposium, The University of Texas at Arlington.	September 19, 2025
Graduate Student Travel Award School of Graduate Studies, Texas Tech University	May 2022 & May 2024
Carol Anderson Bell Scholarship Department of Community, Family, and Addiction Sciences, Texas Tech University	March 2022 – May 2024
Graduate Student Fellow Travel Award Social Network & Health Workshop, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina	May 2023
James and Eliz May Scholarship College of Human Sciences, Texas Tech University,	March 2023
President Doctoral Excellent Research Assistant Award Texas Tech University	August 2022 – January 2024
President Doctoral Excellent Teaching Assistant Award Texas Tech University	August 2021
SERVICE AND OUTREACH	
University/Departmental Service	
<i>Member, Scholarship Committee</i> School of Social Work, University of Texas at Arlington	June - July 2025
<i>Member, Bachelor of Substance Use and Treatment Committee</i> School of Social Work, University of Texas at Arlington	September 2024 – Present
<i>Undergraduate Research Reviewer</i> <i>Discover 2025</i> , University of Texas at Arlington	June 2025
<i>Undergraduate Research Reviewer</i> Center for Transformative Undergraduate Experiences, Texas Tech University	March 2022 & March 2023
<i>Member, Students' Library Advisory Board</i> Texas Tech University Library	September 2022 – May 2023
<i>Reviewer</i> <i>Journal of Mental Health Training, Education, and Practice; BMC Public Health; Journal of Social Work Practice in the Addictions; Education Sciences; Journal of Research on Adolescents; Journal of Social and Personal Relationships; Journal of Ethnicity in Substance Abuse, Journal of Health Psychology, Emerging Adulthood, Journal of Health Psychology, Journal of American College Health, Scientific Reports, Social Sciences</i>	

Community Service

Founder / Award Administrator

Rose Afia Konamah Memorial Awards, Annual donation of cash prizes and books to public basic school students in Berekum West District, Ghana, December 2023 – Present

Speaker

Educational Outreach Association of Ghanaian Educators, USA July 26, 2025

Scholarship Essay Reviewer

Coalition of Ghanaian Associations in Dallas, Fort Worth May 2025

Cultural Ambassador

Office of International Affairs, Texas Tech University, Cultural Fest, February 2024

Volunteer

Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, Lubbock, medication clear out October 2021

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) December 2024 - Present

Ghana Psychological Association June 2018 - Present

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Structural Equation Modeling (SEM): Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA); Exploratory Structural Equation Modeling (ESEM); Path Analysis

Social Network Analysis: Network autocorrelation Models; Network visualization; Generalized Estimation Equations (GEE); Exponential Random Graph Model (ERGM) Multilevel-Modeling (MLM)

Statistical Software: MPLUS; R; SPSS

IN THE MEDIA

Ghanaian Times

<https://ghanaiantimes.com.gh/red-means-stop-understanding-addiction-to-promote-recovery/>

Medical x press

<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2025-06-college-vaping-linked-social-discussions.html>

<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2025-05-students-overestimate-alcohol-peers.html>

EurekAlert

<https://www.eurekalert.org/news-releases/1087275>

Science Daily

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2025/05/250520183846.htm>

earth.com

<https://www.earth.com/news/heavy-drinking-among-students-is-fueled-by-misperceptions/>

Business and America

<https://businessandamerica.com/thinking-peers-drink-more-drives-risky-behavior/>

Neuroscience news

<https://neurosciencenews.com/peer-pressure-misconception-drinking-28992/>

Science Magazine

<https://scienmag.com/peers-who-drink-more-influence-risky-driving-behavior/>

Burada Biliyorum

<https://en.buradabiliyorum.com/students-often-overestimate-how-much-alcohol-their-peers-drink-study-shows-how-to-reduce-risk/>

The Globe

<https://the-globe.info/2025/05/21/scholars-incessantly-overestimate-how-a-lot-alcohol-their-friends-drink-learn-about-displays-the-right-way-to-scale-back-chance/>