

CSCA 2026

TRANSLATE!

Minneapolis, MN - April 14-19



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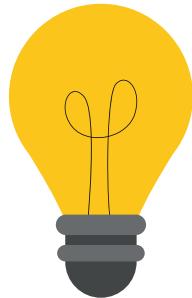
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CSCA 2026

TRANSLATE!

Minneapolis, MN - April 14-19

Central States Communication Association

95th Annual Meeting

Translate!

April 14-19, 2026

Hyatt Regency Minneapolis
Minneapolis, MN

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ABOUT CENTRAL STATES COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION

Central States Communication Association (CSCA) is an academic organization of communication professionals including college and university professors, students, and K-12 educators.

CSCA was founded in 1931 to promote the communication discipline in educational, scholarly, and professional endeavors. The association, which consists of the 13 Midwestern states of North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan, Indiana, and Ohio, is governed by an Executive Committee and is legislated by its constitution and bylaws.

The organization has grown to become the largest regional communication association in the United States and the fourth largest academic communication association in the world.

CSCA has 27 Interest Groups, Caucuses, and Sections that promote particular communication areas or other member interests. The association hosts a yearly convention within the 13 states, maintains a website (www.csca-net.org), publishes a newsletter three times yearly, and publishes the journal *Communication Studies* every two months as well as the *Journal of Communication Pedagogy* on an annual basis.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Land and Water Acknowledgment	10
2026 Convention Donors	10
Life Members	12
Department Members	14
Emeritus Members	14
Patron Members	16
Standing Committees	16-17
Unit Planners	18-19
States Advisory Council	20
2025-2026 Interest Group, Caucus, and Section Officers	20-23
Association Awards	24-25
2027 Call for Papers and Panels	26
Throughout the Years: Association Presidents	30-31
Throughout the Years: Association Executive Directors	32
CSCA Hall of Fame	34-36
Recent and Future Convention Sites	43
Wednesday Schedule	44-45
Thursday Schedule	46-106
Friday Schedule	106-150
Saturday Schedule	150-208
Index of Participants	209-218
Index of Business Meetings & General Sessions	219-221
Index of Sponsors	222-223
Convention Room Maps	224-227

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Department of Communication Studies

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Welcome to the 95th annual meeting of the Central States Communication Association (CSCA). It is with great pleasure that I invite you over the next few days to dive into the incredible sessions programmed by Kristina Scharp (1st VP) around the theme of *Translate!* There has never been a better time to think about everyday life outside of the academy and how our research-based communication practices can make a profound difference in connecting people, enhancing perspective taking and problem solving, and strengthening the communities we live in and serve as diverse scholars. I am inspired by the program that Kristina has put together and I know you will walk away from this conference with deeper insights about ways to translate the research we conduct for different purposes, goals, and audiences.

I wish to express my gratitude to all of the people who make this conference possible. This includes Kristina Scharp, the program planners, Stevie Munz (2nd VP) who planned an exciting pre-conference about navigating uncertainty in the academy, the entire CSCA executive leadership team, conference staff, student volunteers, the interim executive director – Tiffany Wang, and of course our most talented member services associate – Kathie Cesa. Without this connected community of leaders this conference would not be possible.

Coming back to Minneapolis carries so much meaning to me. As a graduate student in Fargo, North Dakota over twenty years ago I would frequently come to this city for fantastic food, frivolity, friends, and a fun time. Please take the opportunity while visiting to explore this beautiful city. I hope to see you all at the President's reception hosted at *the Dakota Jazz Club*, where we will have the opportunity to strengthen existing friendships and expand our ever-growing community by welcoming newcomers to our conference.

I also had the privilege this year of planning CSCA's Undergraduate Honors Research Conference. The future of the discipline is in great hands. Come, listen, network with, and learn from our over 50 undergraduate students who will present their inspiring work at this conference. Thanks to the faculty mentors, reviewers, respondents, and session chairs who make this possible. I also wish to think Dr. Carol Bruess, whose keynote address, "*Your (Beautiful) Communication Contagiousness*," will elevate and inspire deeper thinking about the transformative power that social connections and interactions have on one another in society.

It has been my absolute privilege and pleasure to serve as your president. Thank you for coming to this conference, sharing your talents, and making CSCA the welcoming place it is.

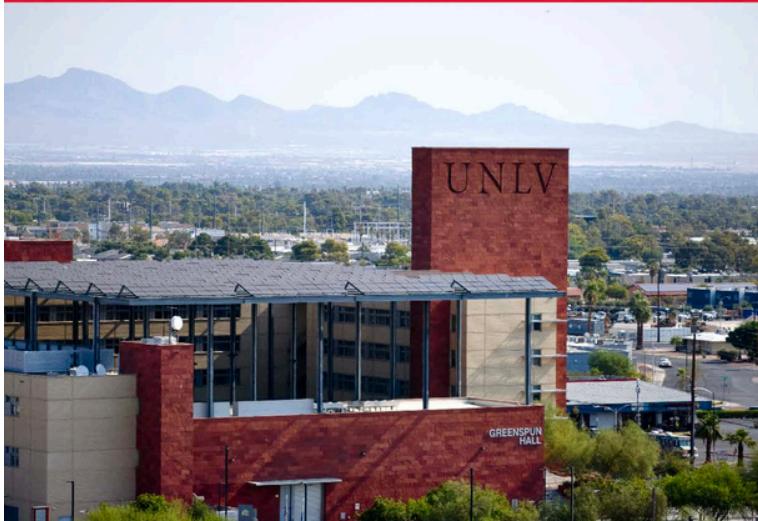
My best,



Jeffrey T. Child, Ph.D.
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Dear Friends and Colleagues:

Welcome to the 95th annual meeting of the Central States Communication Association (CSCA). Over the course of the next few days, you will have several opportunities to engage in conversations surrounding this year's theme: *Translate!* I chose this theme because of our discipline's potential and capacity to make a meaningful difference for individuals, families, classrooms, organizations, and communities. For those of you who are attending for the first time, I want you to know you are welcome here. We hope that you have a wonderful time in Minneapolis and that CSCA grows to be your academic home.

As I think about all that goes into a conference, I am overwhelmed with gratitude for our staff, program planners, reviewers, volunteers, and the support systems that made everything possible. With the unanticipated transition of Executive Directors, there have been many people who have exceeded the typical demands of their role. First, I want to recognize Deb Ford (Past Executive Director) who set this conference up for success despite significant challenges. Second, Kathie Cesa (Member Services) should be lauded for providing guidance and continuity through uncertain times. Third, I am grateful for Jeff Child (President) whose collaboration and friendship helped everything stay on course. Fourth, I need to acknowledge Rutgers University (and my graduate assistants Heather Davenport and Haley Nolan-Cody) who provided support in myriad ways. Finally, I would be remiss if I did not express my sincerest appreciation for Tiffany Wang (Interim Executive Director), without whom we would not have a conference. Your leadership, attention to detail, and willingness to go above and beyond for both me and the association cannot be recognized sufficiently. Thank you for always being only a phone call away.

When considering your schedules, I would like to spotlight a few exceptional sessions:

- **Second Vice President's Preconference:**
 - Communicating in the Unknown: Navigating Uncertainty in a Changing Field
- **First Vice President's Spotlight Panels:**
 - Translating Research to Communities and Publics
 - Planning, Supporting, and Promoting Translational Scholars and Scholarship
 - Translating Your Passion into a Podcast Launch
 - Putting Communication to Work: Translating Theory, Methods, and Skills for Industry
- **President's Undergraduate Honors Research Conference**
- **Next Leaders Network Series:**
 - Career Mentorship for Teaching, Promotion, and Job Application Materials
 - Translating Research into Publications: Advice from Journal Editors on Article Publication
 - CSCA Next Leaders Network Mentoring and Networking Reception
- **Carolyn Calloway-Thomas Inclusivity Keynote: A Winding Road, A Worthy Journey**
- **GIFTS and Live Podcast Sessions with Abbie VanMeter**

It has been an honor to serve as First Vice President and collaborate with everyone who made this program possible. Thank you so much. Please enjoy the conference!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kristina M. Scharp".

Kristina M. Scharp, CSCA First Vice President

Associate Professor, Rutgers University

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January 12, 2026

Dear Central States Communication Association Attendees,

On behalf of Meet Minneapolis, it is my pleasure to welcome the Central States Communication Association to Minneapolis. Thank you for choosing our city as the host destination for your 2026 conference.

We hope you'll take time to experience all that Minneapolis has to offer—from expansive parks and scenic lakes to award-winning dining, vibrant performing arts, and world-class sports and entertainment. With convenient light rail access and a downtown skyway system connecting hotels, dining, and attractions indoors, getting around the city is easy in any season.

We are thrilled to welcome you April 14–19 at the Hyatt Regency Minneapolis and hope your time here is both productive and memorable. It would be our pleasure to host Central States again in the future.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that appears to read "Melvin Tennant".

Melvin Tennant, CAE
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LAND AND WATER ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We acknowledge and honor the Dakhóta Oyáte (Dakota People), who are the original stewards of the magnificent land and vibrant waterways of Minneapolis. The Dakota, as well as Ojibwe and other Indigenous people cared for the land, lakes and the Haha Wakpa (Mississippi River) for thousands of years before the arrival of Europeans.

Today, this place continues to hold significant spiritual and cultural importance for the strong, resilient and growing Indigenous community in Minneapolis and Minnesota.

We invite you to learn more about the Dakota, Ojibwe and other Indigenous people of this area, as well as the non-colonial history of Minneapolis and Minnesota. (Courtesy of Meet Minneapolis)

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The Central States Communication Association would like to acknowledge those who so generously donated in support of this year's convention (as of February 10, 2026).

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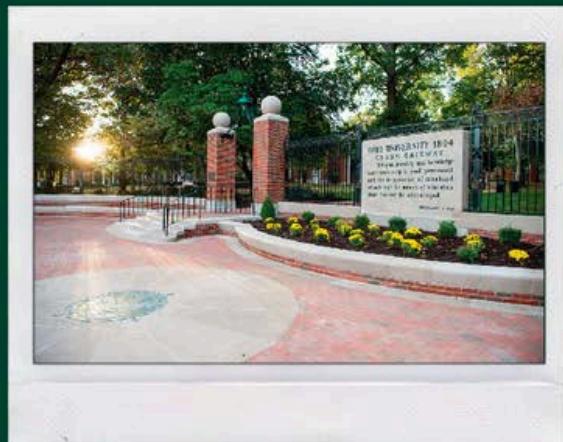
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Dr. Katherine Denker, Director of Graduate Studies
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3:30 - 4:00 (NICOLLET PROMENADE)

FRIDAY, APRIL 17

12:30-3:00 (NICOLLET PROMENADE)

FIND ABBIE AT CSCA!

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10:45-12:45 (NICOLLET PROMENADE)

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11:00 - 12:30 (NORTHSTAR BALLROOM)
2:00 - 3:30 (MIRAGE)



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2025-2026 INTEREST GROUP, CAUCUS, AND SECTION OFFICERS

Activism, Communication Ethics, and Social Justice Interest Group

Chair: Heather Walters, Missouri State University

Vice-Chair: Samentha Sepúlveda, Northeastern Illinois University

Secretary: Kristi Scholten, Ferris State University

Adjunct/Temporary Faculty Caucus

Chair: Kate R. LaPierre, University of Nevada, Reno

Vice-Chair: Stacey Mirviss-Jossart, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Secretary: Heather Nesemeier, Minnesota State University Moorhead

Argumentation and Forensics Interest Group

Chair: Ryan Scott Rigda, Saginaw Valley State University

Vice-Chair: Ryan Scott Rigda, Saginaw Valley State University

Secretary: Jonathen Hart, Ferris State University

Basic Course Interest Group

Chair: Kathryn B. Golsan, University of Northern Iowa

Vice-Chair: Evan Kirksey, University of Missouri

Secretary: Jennifer Hough, University of South Dakota

Communication & Technology Interest Group

Chair: Xialing Lin, University of Central Florida

Vice-Chair: America Edwards, University of Kentucky

Secretary: Kyle Vareberg, Northeastern State University

Communication Education Interest Group

Chair: Kyle Vareberg, Northeastern State University
Vice-Chair: Caroline Waldbuesser, University of Missouri
Secretary: Robert Sidelinger, Oakland University

Communication Theory Interest Group

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Vice-Chair: Austin T. Frederick, Wayne State University
Secretary: Abby VanMeter, CMM Institute for Personal and Social Evolution

Community College Interest Group

Chair: Tammie Wiebers, North Central Missouri College
Vice-Chair: Myron Covington, Washtenaw Community College
Secretary: Jeremy Basso, City Colleges of Chicago

Ethnicity, Race, International, and Class Concerns Caucus

Chair: Anjana Mudambi, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Vice-Chair: Sofia Elena Salazar Carballo, Nemours Hospital
Secretary: Alima Abdul-Karimu, Texas A&M University

Graduate Student Caucus

Chair: Abigail Adediran, University of Missouri
Vice-Chair: Md Sazzad Mahmud Shuvo, Florida State University
Secretary: Aklima Begum, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Great Ideas for Teaching Interest Group

Chair: Tracie Devault, Missouri University of Science and Technology
Vice-Chair: Angela Glunz, The University of Tennessee at Martin
Secretary: Amanda Medlock-Klyukovski, Truman State University

Health Communication Interest Group

Chair: Jessica Rick, Illinois State University
Vice-Chair: Michelle M. Matter, Crown College
Secretary: Najma Akhther, Nazareth University

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Secretary: Lauren J. Johnsen, University of Wisconsin-Stout

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Secretary: Irene Martha Lutterodt, Southern Illinois University Carbondale

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Vice-Chair: Brooke Wolfe, Michigan State University

Secretary: Haley Nolan-Cody, Rutgers University

Media Studies Interest Group

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Secretary: Stephen E. Rahko, Illinois State University

Organizational and Professional Communication Interest Group

Chair: Abigail N. Kingsford, Drury University

Vice-Chair: Hayden Barber, South Dakota State University

Secretary: Breanna Prater, University of Missouri

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Chair: Vianna Isbister, East Tennessee State University

Vice Chair: Shelby Swafford, Southern Illinois University Carbondale

Secretary: Christina Ivey, Southern Illinois University Carbondale

Political Communication Interest Group

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Secretary: Joshua P. Bolton, Salisbury University

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Vice-Chair: Vianna Isbister, East Tennessee State University

Secretary: Elliot Powell, University of South Florida

Sports Communication Interest Group

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Vice-Chair: Scott Jensen, Webster University

Secretary: Jake Manning, Marshall University

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Vice-Chair: Rodrigo Soares, University of Vermont
Secretary: Alicia Mason, Pittsburg State University

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Vice-Chair: Aimee Lau, Wisconsin Lutheran College
Secretary: Joshua Young, Divine Word College

Women's Caucus

Chair: Kristin L. Fitzsimmons, University of Minnesota Twin Cities
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ASSOCIATION AWARDS

Communication Studies Article of the Year Award

What and Where Do I Learn About the Baby Formula Shortage Crisis?
Exploring Crisis Communication Patterns, Influencers, and Information Resources
Xianlin Jin, The University of Toledo
Patric R. Spence, University of Central Florida
Ken Lachlan, University of Connecticut

Cooper Award

Jeremy Murphy, Ohio University (Ph.D.)
Habeeb Abdulrauf, Western Michigan University (M.A.)

Federation Prize

Families Under Pressure:
Communication, Technology, and Coping in Politically Divided Parent-Child Dyads
America L. Edwards, University of Kentucky
Hannah E. Jones, University of Kentucky

Inclusive Scholarship Award

Navigating Tensions, Building Resilience:
A Communicative Framework for HIV/AIDS Service Organizing
Jacob Sanders, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Journal of Communication Pedagogy Article of the Year Award

Addressing Black "Student Outsiders" at AANAPISI/HSIs:
Toward (Radical) Transgressive Teaching for Black College Students in Higher Education
Nicholas B. Lacy, Purdue University

**Kay Award for Community Engagement and
Applied Communication Scholarship**

Sarah S. LeBlanc, Purdue University Fort Wayne

Outstanding State Journal Award

Journal of the Communication, Speech, & Theatre Association of North Dakota
Editor: Kimberly M. Weismann, Bismarck State College

Outstanding State Manuscript Award

It Felt Like the End of an Era.
Instructor Perceived Self-Competency During COVID-19 Pandemic
Journal of the Communication, Speech, & Theatre Association of North Dakota
Anne Seidler, Bismarck State College
Ashley Henley, North Dakota State University
Justin Walden, North Dakota State University

Past Officers Debut Paper Award

Understanding How Adult Survivors of Childhood Cancer Narrate Their Lived Experience:
Memorable Messages of Childhood Cancer Survivors
Bailey Hughlett, University of Connecticut

Pearson and Nelson Outstanding New Teacher Award

Emi Kanemoto, Bryant University
Kyle R. Vareberg, Northeastern State University

Warren Mentorship Award

Benjamin R. Warner, University of Missouri

CSCA 2027 CALL FOR PAPERS AND PANELS



You are invited to submit competitive papers, panel discussions, and performance sessions for our 96th Annual Convention in Madison, WI. Members are encouraged to reflect on the theme of Navigate—Finding Inspiration in Uncharted Terrain. In our everyday lived experiences, we form deep and mutually meaningful relationships as well as face conflict, strain, and uncertainty in our personal and professional communities. Our desire for stability, certainty, and even predictability in our lives is made even more challenging in increasingly changing and complicated social worlds. The theme Navigate is an invitation to consider the possibilities in our everyday lives and to find opportunity, inspiration, and illumination as we navigate our collective futures.

Our lived experiences are complex, incomplete, partial, and are woven into ongoing realities. As we Navigate our experiences, we look for explanatory power and understanding through social, political, cultural, and community ongoings. To engage in the possibility of deeply understanding our journey, we must engage both the near and the far of lived realities. We ought to find inspiration in the uncharted terrain of past, present, and future human experiences.

Too frequently our understanding of human experience fails to Navigate the uncharted, complex, or unknown of lived experiences and often borders are installed to disallow all identities and voices from participation. To this end, I hope each of us may engage with the theme Navigate to foster spaces of deeper collaboration, reflection, and communication.

Faculty, students, independent scholars, K-12 educators, and community members are encouraged to submit and attend the convention. Institutional and community partnerships are particularly welcome. Submissions inclusive of all methodological perspectives in the communication discipline are expected and embraced.

Look for specific calls and submission information from each of the CSCA Interest Groups, Caucuses, and Sections.

Questions regarding the general call or the 2027 conference:

Contact Stevie Munz (Smunz@uvu.edu)

Deadline for Submissions: October 9, 2026, 11:59 pm CDT

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2028 GRAND RAPIDS,
MICHIGAN



2029 LINCOLN,
NEBRASKA



2030 MINNEAPOLIS,
MINNESOTA

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ASSOCIATION PRESIDENTS (1931-1998)

1931-34 Alan H. Monroe
1934-37 Harry G. Barnes
1937-38 Charles R. Layton
1938-39 Franklin H. Knower
1939-40 H. Clay Harshbarger
1940-41 Wilbur E. Gilman
1941-42 Charles Green
1942-45 James H. McBurney
1946-47 D. W. Morris
1947-48 John W. Black
1948-49 Leroy T. Laase
1949-50 Paul Moore
1950-51 William M. Sattler
1951-52 John W. Keltner
1952-53 Martin J. Holcomb
1953-54 John E. Dietrich
1954-55 Max Fuller
1955-56 Charles Balcer
1956-57 Wilbur E. Moore
1957-58 Wayne E. Thompson
1958-59 N. Edd Miller
1959-60 Donald K. Smith
1960-61 Charlotte G. Wells
1961-62 H. L. Ewbank, Jr.
1962-63 G. Bradford Barber
1963-64 Raymond G. Smith
1964-65 Merrill T. Baker
1965-66 Winston L. Brembeck
1966-67 Orville A. Hitchcock
1967-68 Charlotte Lee

1968-69 Paul H. Boase
1969-70 Wilmer A. Linkugel
1970-71 Robert K. Gilmore
1971-72 Ernest G. Bormann
1972-73 Larry D. Clark
1973-74 Jerry M. Anderson
1974-75 Kenneth E. Andersen
1975-76 William Brooks
1976-77 Donn Parson
1977-78 Bruce Gronbeck
1978-79 Barbara Larson
1979-80 David M. Berg
1980-81 Gustav V. Friedrich
1981-82 Judith S. Trent
1982-83 Donovan J. Ochs
1983-84 Mary M. Roberts
1984-85 Dennis Gouran
1985-86 Edward J. Pappas
1986-87 David Zarefsky
1987-88 Barbara S. Wood
1988-89 Charles J. Stewart
1989-90 Judy C. Pearson
1990-91 Douglas M. Trank
1991-92 Larry D. Miller
1992-93 Melissa L. Beall
1993-94 Linda L. Moore
1994-95 Ellen Reid Gold
1995-96 Carolyn Calloway-Thomas
1996-97 Dan P. Millar
1997-98 Lawrence R. Frey

THROUGHOUT THE YEARS:

ASSOCIATION PRESIDENTS (1998-2026)

1998-99 Sandra Metts
1999-00 Arlie V. Daniel
2000-01 Cynthia Berryman-Fink
2001-02 J. Kevin Barge
2002-03 Pamela Cooper
2003-04 Roberta A. Davilla
2004-05 Lynn H. Turner
2005-06 Diana B. Carlin
2006-07 Deanna Sellnow
2007-08 Jack Kay
2008-09 Nancy J. Brule
2009-10 Christina S. Beck
2010-11 Stephen Hunt
2011-12 Scott A. Myers
2012-13 Mitchell S. McKinney
2013-14 Chad Edwards
2014-15 Leah E. Bryant
2015-16 David T. McMahan
2016-17 Shawn T. Wahl
2017-18 Blair Thompson
2018-19 Amy Aldridge (Sanford)
2019-20 M. Chad McBride
2020-22 Alberto González
2022-23 Debra J. Ford
2023-24 Ahmet Atay
2024-25 Katherine J. Denker
2025-26 Jeffrey T. Child

THROUGHOUT THE YEARS: ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

1931-34 Charles R. Layton
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1939-45 Orville A. Hitchcock
1946-47 Wayne N. Thompson
1947-50 William M. Sattler
1950-53 J. Garber Drushal
1953-56 Wayne N. Thompson
1956-57 Halbert E. Gulley
1957-60 H. L. Ewbank, Jr.
1960-63 Merrill T. Baker
1963-66 Paul H. Boase
1966-69 Larry D. Clark
1969-72 Kenneth E. Anderson
1972-74 David M. Berg
1974-76 Gustav V. Friedrich
1976-81 David M. Berg
1981-85 James F. Weaver
1985-88 Larry D. Miller
1988-91 Linda L. Moore
1991-94 Daniel P. Millar
1994-97 Arlie V. Daniel
1997-00 Lynn H. Turner
2000-04 Terry Perkins
2004-06 Scott A. Myers
2006-09 Shelly Schaefer Hinck
2009-14 Nancy J. Brule
2014-18 Jimmie Manning
2018-20 Chad Edwards
2020-25 Tiffany R. Wang
2025-25 Debra J. Ford
2025-26 Tiffany R. Wang

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Dr. Tiffany R. Wang
CSCA Second Vice President Elect
CSCA Interim Executive Director
CSCA 2026 Communication Education
Interest Group Top Panel Award

Communication Studies Faculty

Sherry G. Ford, Ph.D.	<i>Louisiana State University</i>
Sally Bennett Hardig, Ph.D.	<i>The University of Memphis</i>
Raymond R. Ozley, Ph.D.	<i>The University of Kansas</i>
Jefferson Walker, Ph.D.	<i>The University of Alabama</i>
Tiffany R. Wang, Ph.D.	<i>University of Nebraska–Lincoln</i>

CSCA HALL OF FAME (2004-2012)

2004

Ernest Bormann, University of Minnesota
Wilmer Linkugel, University of Kansas

2005

Loren Reid, University of Missouri

2006

Samuel L. Becker, University of Iowa
Bernard L. Brock, Wayne State University
Bobby Patton, Central Missouri University
Mary M. Roberts, Pittsburg State University
Judith S. Trent, University of Cincinnati
George Ziegelmueller, Wayne State University

2007

Robert L. Scott, University of Minnesota

2008

Kenneth Anderson, University of Iowa
Charles Stewart, Purdue University

2009

Douglas Trank, University of Iowa

2010

Arlie V. Daniel, East Central University
Gustav W. Friedrich, Rutgers University
Bruce E. Gronbeck, University of Iowa

2011

Tom Pace, Southern Illinois University Carbondale
Donn Parson, University of Kansas
Judy Pearson, North Dakota State University
David Zarefsky, Northwestern University

2012

Melissa L. Beall, University of Northern Iowa
Carolyn Calloway-Thomas, Indiana University
James W. Chesebro, Ball State University
Lynn H. Turner, Marquette University

CSCA HALL OF FAME (2013-2022)

2013

Sandra Metts, Illinois State University
Bill Seiler, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

2014

Dennis Gouran, Pennsylvania State University
Cynthia Berryman-Fink, University of Cincinnati

2015

William Cupach, Illinois State University
Steve Duck, University of Iowa
Dorthy Pennington, University of Kansas

2016

Lawrence Frey, University of Colorado-Boulder
Pamela Cooper, University of South Carolina-Beaufort

2017

J. Kevin Barge, Texas A&M University

2018

Diana B. Carlin, University of Kansas
Robert C. Rowland, University of Kansas
Deanna D. Sellnow, University of Central Florida

2019

Scott A. Myers, West Virginia University

2020

Patrice M. Buzzanell, University of South Florida
Shelly Schaefer Hinck, Central Michigan University
Mitchell S. McKinney, University of Missouri

2021

Mike Allen, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Paul Siddens III, University of Northern Iowa

2022

M. Chad McBride, Creighton University
Donna R. Pawlowski, Bemidji State University

CSCA HALL OF FAME (2023-2026)

2023

Christina S. Beck, Ohio University
Alberto González, Bowling Green State University
Edward A. Hinck, Central Michigan University
Roberta Davilla Robbins, United Methodist Church

2024

Dawn O. Braithwaite, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Chad Edwards, Western Michigan University
Debra J. Ford, Creighton University
John Heineman, Lincoln Public Schools
Shawn T. Wahl, Missouri State University

2026

Nancy J. Brule, Bethel University
Leah E. Bryant, DePaul University



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- Intercultural Communication
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- Mass Media
- Health Communication
- Social Media
- Advocacy and Organizing
- Gender, Race, and Class
- Strategic Communication

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WANT MORE INFO?



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CSCA 2026 PRESIDENT'S PARTY



Celebrating the Service of **Jeffrey T. Child**

Thursday, April 16, 2026

7:00 to 8:30 PM

Dakota Jazz Club

1010 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN 55403

Join us to celebrate the first day of the convention and the service of **Jeffrey T. Child**, who has served this past year as President.

In addition to catching up with all your CSCA friends and family, you can make new friends as the music plays, delicious food is served, and bartenders at cash bars serve beverages.

The president's party will take place at the Dakota Jazz Club which is a 5 minute (.2 mile) walk from the convention hotel. Please e-mail csc.a.ed@gmail.com if you would like to request transportation accommodations to the event.

PRESIDENT'S UNDERGRADUATE HONORS

RESEARCH CONFERENCE KEYNOTE ADDRESS



Dr. Carol Bruess

Saturday, April 18, 2026,

9:30 to 10:45 AM

Hyatt Regency Minneapolis

Northstar Ballroom

Carol J. Bruess has a PhD in relationships communication and is Professor Emeritus of Communication and Family Studies at the University of St. Thomas, MN. She currently serves as Scholar in Residence for Relationships & Dialogue at the College of St. Benedict and St. John's University, Minnesota. For more than three decades she has been a researcher, author, social scientist, teacher and speaker passionate about how humans create healthy relationships and marriages through micro-moments of interaction, ritual, and dialogue. She is particularly interested in the way the digital age and smart phones impact in-depth listening, robust conversations, and human empathy. The author/c0-author of six books, she has a popular TEDx Talk "Are All Relationships Messy?" and has published her research in dozens of peer-reviewed journals and books. Dedicated to translating research into actionable, practical tools for creating human connection, she is a University of Washington / Gottman Relationship Institute, Seven Principles for Making Marriage Work Certified Educator, and highly sought provider of community-based workshops on nurturing healthy families and marriages. Carol is also a contributing writer at TED.com on human interaction, and has given more than 400 TV, podcast, radio and media interviews, including MPR, NPR, CBS, NBC, ABC, The New York Times and PBS.

FACULTY LEARNING COMMUNITY

Brief Description of the FLC

The CSCA Faculty Learning Community (FLC) engages students/scholars of color in a year-long curriculum program to help enhance teaching and research in a specific area of scholarship. The FLC intends to help create a sense of community at CSCA for BIPOC scholars.

Submission Deadline: September 30, 2026

Look Out for the Call for Submissions in August on CSCA/NCA listservs!

Find out more at these CSCA 2026 FLC Events:

- 1505 Holding Space, Affirming Voice: Faculty Learning Community Research Presentations (Thursday 2:00-3:15 PM, Greenway J)
- 1606 Holding Space, Affirming Voice: Faculty Learning Community Teaching Presentations (Thursday 3:30-4:45 PM, Greenway J)

NEXT LEADERS NETWORK

Brief Description of the NLN

The Next Leaders Network's (NLN) goal is to build the future of the field and our organization by supporting up and coming scholars. NLN events provide an opportunity for members to learn about CSCA, interact with CSCA members, and help shape the future direction of the association. All members are strongly encouraged to attend, but especially early career scholars, students, and first-time CSCA attendees.

Join us for these CSCA 2026 NLN Events:

- 1502 Career Mentorship for Teaching, Promotion, and Job Application Materials (Thursday 2:00-3:15 PM, Mirage)
- 1710 Translating Research into Publications: Advice from Journal Editors on Article Publication (Thursday 5:00-6:15 PM, Mirage)
- 3503 CSCA Next Leaders Network Mentoring and Networking Reception (Saturday 2:00-3:15 PM, Mirage)

OUTGOING OFFICERS SALUTE

With Warm Gratitude, CSCA Salutes Four Members Who Gave Their Talents, Energy, and Time in Service to the Association.



Katherine J. Denker
Past President



Debra J. Ford
Executive Director



**Sarah Symonds
LeBlanc**
Member at Large



Tiffany R. Wang
Interim Executive
Director

CAROLYN CALLOWAY-THOMAS

INCLUSIVITY SPEAKER SERIES KEYNOTE ADDRESS



Dr. Fernando Delgado

A Winding Road, A Worthy Journey

Friday, April 17, 2026, 6:00 to 6:45 PM
Hyatt Regency Minneapolis
Northstar Ballroom

This presentation reflects on three decades of Dr. Fernando Delgado's work within the field of communication and, more broadly, higher education institutions, to create ever more space for diverse voices and diverse bodies. The path toward diversity and inclusion is fraught with challenges and frustrations, but the goal remains as the field broadens its intellectual and cultural horizons. The lasting lessons include how to navigate institutional barriers and community obstacles established by those fearful of change and wary of losing institutional power and status. The response, therefore, must be concerted, and the march forward must always be intentional - even if incremental.

Since 2021, Dr. Delgado has served as the fourth president of Lehman College, an HSI located in Bronx, NY. After completing an undergraduate degree in political science at San José State University and two graduate degrees in communication studies at The University of Iowa, Dr. Delgado began his career at Arizona State University (ASU). His administrative career also began at ASU and has included deanships at Minnesota State University, Mankato and Hamline University and vice chancellorships for Academic Affairs at the University of Wisconsin - River Falls and the University of Minnesota Duluth.

Dr. Delgado's keynote address is sponsored by the Carolyn Calloway-Thomas Inclusivity Speaker Series Endowment Fund and CSCA's Ethnicity, Race, International, and Class Concerns Caucus.

CSCA ANNUAL CLOSING CELEBRATION



Celebrating the Service of **Kristina Scharp**

Saturday, April 18, 2026
7:00 to 8:30 PM
Hyatt Regency
Minneapolis
Northstar Ballroom

Join us to celebrate the service of
Kristina Scharp, who at the time of this party will have just
moved into the role of President.

In addition to catching up with all your CSCA friends and family, you can make new friends as the music plays, delicious food is served, and bartenders at cash bars serve beverages.

RECENT AND FUTURE CONVENTION SITES

March 23-28, 2021
Cincinnati, OH (Virtual)

April 3-6, 2024
Grand Rapids, MI

April 7-11, 2027
Madison, WI

March 30-April 3, 2022
Madison, WI

April 1-6, 2025
Cincinnati, OH

April 5-8, 2028
Grand Rapids, MI

March 29-April 2, 2023
St. Louis, MO

April 14-19, 2026
Minneapolis, MN

April 11-14, 2029
Lincoln, NE

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2026**Wednesday 12:00 PM CDT**

0000

Wednesday 12:00 PM to 6:00 PM CDT

Nicollet Registration

CSCA Registration - Wednesday

Sponsor: CSCA Executive Director
Chair: Kathleen Cesa, KOC Member Services

Check in and pick up your convention materials.

Wednesday 1:00 PM CDT

0100

Wednesday 1:00 PM to 3:30 PM CDT

Lakeshore C

Pre-Conference -
Communicating in the Unknown: Navigating Uncertainty in a Changing Field

Sponsor: CSCA Second Vice President
Chair: Stevie Munz, Utah Valley University
Presenters:
Anna Wright, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Tim McKenna-Buchanan, Manchester University
Justin Rudnick, Minnesota State University, Mankato
Sidi Becar Meyara, Utah State University
Jeff Kuznekoff, Miami University
Stephen Hunt, Illinois State University
Kevin R. Meyer, Illinois State University

This pre-conference explores how communication scholars and practitioners can effectively operate amid rapid change, ambiguity, and emerging challenges within the field. Speakers will share how uncertainty shapes courses, perceptions of our field, resources, and so much more.

Wednesday 4:00 PM CDT

0200

Wednesday 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM CDT

Executive Boardroom

CSCA Executive Committee Meeting #1

Sponsor: CSCA Executive Director

Chair: Jeffrey T. Child, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Presenters:

Kristina Scharp, Rutgers University

Stevie Munz, Utah Valley University

Kathy Denker, Ball State University

Tiffany R. Wang, University of Montevallo

Sandra L. Faulkner, Bowling Green State University

Meggie Mapes, University of Kansas

Patric R. Spence, University of Central Florida

Sarah Symonds LeBlanc, Purdue University Fort Wayne

Matthew Meier, DePauw University

Gayle M. Pohl, University of Northern Iowa

This is a closed meeting for members of the CSCA Executive Committee listed here.

Wednesday 7:30 PM CDT

0300

Wednesday 7:30 PM to 9:30 PM CDT

Offsite

CSCA Staff Dinner

Sponsor: CSCA Executive Director

Chair: Tiffany R. Wang, University of Montevallo

Presenters:

Sara Baker Bailey, Southern Connecticut State University

Joy L. Daggs, Northwest Missouri State University

Patric R. Spence, University of Central Florida

Lindsey Thomas, Illinois State University

Anne Kerber, Minnesota State University, Mankato

Justin Rudnick, Minnesota State University, Mankato

Kristina Scharp, Rutgers University

Kathleen Cesa, KOC Member Services

This dinner is limited to the volunteer members of the Central States Communication Association staff listed here.

WED

THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2026

Thursday 7:30 AM CDT

1000

Thursday 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM CDT

Nicollet Registration

CSCA Registration - Thursday

Sponsor: CSCA Executive Director

Chair: Kathleen Cesa, KOC Member Services

Check in and pick up your convention materials.

Thursday 8:00 AM CDT

1100

Thursday 8:00 AM to 9:15 AM CDT

St. Croix

Audio Podcasting in the Classroom and Beyond

Sponsor: Instructional Resources Interest Group

Chair: Breena Johanna Brockmann, Gustavus Adolphus College

Presenters:

Hagar Attia, Gustavus Adolphus College

Patricia Jeanne English-Schneider, Gustavus Adolphus College

Adrian E. Meza, The University of Texas at El Paso

Susan J. Stanfield, The University of Texas at El Paso

Phillip A. Voight, Gustavus Adolphus College

Isaac West, Vanderbilt University

This discussion panel explores how audio podcasts function as versatile teaching instruments—serving as assignment formats, assessment tools, and vehicles for content delivery. Panelists will share practical classroom applications, including student-created audio reflection journals and assignment examples, while demonstrating strategies for leveraging podcasts to strengthen engagement and deepen student learning.

Panel Topics:

- Designing instructor-created podcasts for effective content delivery
- Developing innovative student-generated podcast assignments
- Encouraging students to adopt podcasts as active study tools
- Applying podcasts in specialized contexts: conveying historical narratives, teaching investigative journalism principles through true-crime formats, and enhancing reflection and content integration in intercultural courses and study-abroad programs

THU

1101

Thursday 8:00 AM to 9:15 AM CDT

Minnehaha

Best in Translation: How Students Benefit from International Intercultural Sojourns

Sponsor: Intercultural Communication Interest Group

Chair: Rick Malleus, Seattle University

Presenters:

Alice Fanari, University of Oklahoma

Phil Chidester, Illinois State University

John R. Baldwin, Illinois State University

Kakali Bhattacharya Chakrabarti, Austin Peay State University

Ahmet Aksoy, Winona State University

Rick Malleus, Seattle University

The field of intercultural communication benefits when audiences within and outside the academy see value in students' international intercultural interactions. This panel interrogates translating the benefits of university student education abroad experiences for different audiences. From considering "controlled-culture shock" to forming deep friendships in Brazil, from examining complex intercultural identities to learning from language immersion, from partnering across campuses to learning from Zimbabwean vendors. Panelists highlight specific areas of learning, skill development and personal growth.

1102

Thursday 8:00 AM to 9:15 AM CDT

Greenway G

Competitive Papers in the Graduate Student Caucus

Sponsor: Graduate Student Caucus

Chair: Aklima Begum, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

"A Perfect Replika: AI Soulmates and Power Dynamics" Caroline King, Bowling Green State University

"Aesop's Menagerie: Manufacturing Innocence Through Fables" Jawad Chowdhury, Minnesota State University, Mankato; Mahbub Bin Sarwar Pulok Pulok, Feni University; Ataharul Islam, Brac University

"From Promises to Practice: Manifesto Commitments and Environmental Action in Bangladesh's Party Politics (2001–2024)" Mehedy Hassan Razib, University of Kansas; Farzana Tasnim, University of Alberta

"The Rhetoric of Air: War Metaphors in Silent Spring" Athena Maria Lee, The Pennsylvania State University

These are selected competitive papers sponsored by the Graduate Student Caucus.

THU

1103

Thursday 8:00 AM to 9:15 AM CDT

Greenway F

Negotiating Power, Gender, Media, and Voice in Postcolonial Bangladesh

Sponsor: Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Caucus

Chair: Justin Rudnick, Minnesota State University, Mankato

Presenters:

Adeeb Kasem, Minnesota State University, Mankato

Md Ragib Rahman, Missouri State University

Sadia Ashrafi Thizbee, International Islamic University Malaysia

Janifar Kamal Nova, Southern Illinois University Carbondale

Tahura Tabassum Tari, Minnesota State University, Mankato

This panel examines how gendered voices in postcolonial Bangladesh navigate, resist, and reproduce power through everyday communication. While Bangladesh projects an image of female leadership, patriarchal and heteronormative discourses persist across political, religious, and media spheres. Drawing on feminist and intersectional communication theories (Allen, 2011; Bohrer, 2019; Pauly & Buzzanell, 2020), panelists analyze how control and resistance are played out in sermons, workplaces, television, and digital culture. Topics include religious moralization of women's roles, political promises of inclusion, labor and class-based inequities, and the erasure of queer identities in popular media. Together, these studies reveal how communicative spaces, both formal and mediated, shape who is heard, silenced, or erased. By centering Bangladeshi perspectives within global feminist and postcolonial frameworks, the panel expands discussions on gendered power, intersectionality, and voice in the Global South.

1104

Thursday 8:00 AM to 9:15 AM CDT

Greenway H

Regimes of AI: Critiquing Generative Artificial Intelligence

Sponsor: Communication & Technology Interest Group

Chair: Radhika Gajjala, Bowling Green State University

"Artificial Appropriation: Ownership and Co-optation of Marginalized Identities" Rianna Walcott, University of Maryland, College Park

"Navigating Virtual Infidelity: Narratives of AI Romantic Relationships on Reddit" Zehui Dai, Radford University

"Producing Selves Across Platforms" Kelsey Stanfield, Bowling Green State University; Saaka Falilatu, Bowling Green State University; Shahla Shahnaz Dyuti, Bowling Green State University; Allyson Ritchey, Bowling Green State University; Radhika Gajjala, Bowling Green State University

"The Gendered Regimes of AI" Kelsey Stanfield, Bowling Green State University; Shana MacDonald, University of Waterloo

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has crept into almost every facet of our day-to-day lives, and its advances have fostered numerous concerns. This panel seeks to elevate critiques that go beyond the oft-discussed concerns of AI, highlighting instead the complex, uneven hierarchies that implicitly, if not openly regiment, AI production, application, and use. Forefronting these overlooked perspectives, this panel centers critical discussions of how experience and identity are translated within and beyond generative outputs.

**Research in Progress:
Exploring Communication Barriers and Innovations in Health Contexts**

Sponsor: Health Communication Interest Group

Chair: Jenn Anderson, South Dakota State University

Respondents: Nichole Egbert, Kent State University; Jenn Anderson, South Dakota State University

"Communication Gaps in Public Health: Evaluating NGO and Government Policies in Rural and Ethnic Minority Regions of Bangladesh" Rezaul Karim, Arizona State University; Mamunor Rashid, University of Colorado Boulder; Sultana Jahan, Kansas State University

"Danger for Us, Not Me: Exploring the Role of Surveillance Motivation in Shaping Social Risk Perceptions" Albert Junior Nyarko, University of Kentucky

"Patient-Provider Communication Among Immigrants in the United States: Barriers, Power, and Pathways Toward Culturally Competent Care" Parwana Hamdam, Ohio University

"Social Media Cosmetic Beauty Standards: Effect on Young Women's Mental Health" Sekina Saah, Texas Tech University; Ellen Ampem, Texas Tech University

"The Role of AI Generated Fact Checking in Combating Health Misinformation: Trust, Perception, and Effectiveness" Evans Frimpong, University of Kentucky

"Towards a Better Understanding of the Risk of Food Insecurity Among International Students: A Qualitative Exploration of Communication, Cultural, and Institutional Factors" Mathias Aboba, University of Oklahoma

This session showcases emerging research examining communication challenges and innovations in health across diverse populations and contexts. Studies investigate immigrant patient-provider communication and cultural competence in the U.S., food insecurity risks among international students, public health policy gaps in Bangladesh, AI-generated fact-checking to combat misinformation, surveillance motivation and social risk perception, and social media's impact on young women's mental health. Panelists will share preliminary findings and invite feedback to refine their work.

THU

1106

Thursday 8:00 AM to 9:15 AM CDT

Greenway J

Talk the Walk: Translating Organizational Values into Employee Experiences

Sponsor: Organizational and Professional Communication Interest Group

Chair: Bukola Oloba, North Dakota State University

Presenters:

Ngozi Oguejiofor, University of Nevada, Reno

Irene Martha Lutterodt, Southern Illinois University Carbondale

Clementina Edema, University of Missouri-Columbia

Lois Domena - Attafuah, North Dakota State University

Uchenna Eze, University of Iowa

Rosemary Charway, Ohio University

This panel explores how organizations attempt to "translate" mission statements, DEI values, and ethical commitments into meaningful internal communication practices. Drawing on insights from diverse professional and academic contexts, panelists will examine the tensions between stated values and lived employee experiences, and offer strategies for narrowing the credibility gap in organizational culture (Christensen et al., 2013).

1107

Thursday 8:00 AM to 9:15 AM CDT

Greenway D

The Power of Bitching With Your Girlfriends

Sponsor: Women's Caucus

Chair: Amanda L. Brown, University of Wisconsin-Stout

Presenters:

MF Casper, Boise State University

Becky L. DeGreeff, University of Wisconsin-Stout

Heather Nesemeier, Minnesota State University Moorhead

Joy L. Daggs, Northwest Missouri State University

Amanda L. Brown, University of Wisconsin-Stout

This panel explores the power of sharing and commiserating with other women. While complaining can have negative results, venting has numerous benefits including reducing stress, empowerment (knowing that you're not alone in your experiences), solidarity/united front used to set boundaries, creating personal connections, etc. These bitch sessions often lead to brainstorming and problem solving, allowing both emotional release and intuitive response.

1108

Thursday 8:00 AM to 9:15 AM CDT

Greenway E

The Power of Protest Music, From Then to Now

Sponsor: Popular Culture Interest Group

Chair: Adam W. Tyma, University of Nebraska Omaha

"Learning from the Defeat of the Nazi Punks" Andrew Herrmann, Independent Scholar

"Which Flag To Embrace? The Intersection of Heritage-Based (aka "Trad") Music and Social Protest: Dropkick Murphys and Gogol Bordello" Adam W. Tyma, University of Nebraska Omaha

"I just started singing the news': Platform Politics and the Protest Music of Jesse Welles in Context" Megan M. Wood, Ohio Northern University

"See It. Say It. Censored': Kneecap, Punk Ethos, and the Politics of Protest" Austin Ulmer, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

From the time of Woodie Guthrie and Pete Seeger (and before) calling for Labor Rights to Bruce Springsteen barely cloaking his call for the Working Class in popular rock hooks to now with Dropkick Murphys and Gogol Bordello overtly calling against authoritarian rule and ethnic obliteration, protest music has been a centerpiece of cultural and countercultural moments in the US. In our current hyper-polarized political climate, protest music is finding new/renewed power and audiences. This panel works to understand how protest music (particularly within the Punk and Alternative spaces) works to translate ideological and political concepts into easily consumable and actionable songs and anthems.

1109

Thursday 8:00 AM to 9:15 AM CDT

Greenway I

Translating African American Music as Epistemology and Cultural Interlocutor

Sponsor: Rhetorical Theory and Criticism Interest Group

Chair: Dorothy Lee Pennington, University of Kansas

Presenters:

Saiemeh Wahidi, University of Kansas

Omolola Lasisi, University of Kansas

This panel discussion is a follow-up to a workshop presented at the 2025 CSCA Convention by Dorothy Pennington on the rhetorical dimensions of Black music, used interchangeably here with the term African American music. This panel discussion is also a carryover of a Spring 2025 graduate class in Black rhetoric at the University of Kansas, focusing on the theory and performance of Black music as rhetorical and ways of translating cultural and epistemological underpinnings that are informational and transformative in function. Contexts presented in this panel discussion and performance include the civil rights/protest genre, the religious/civil rights/eulogy genre, and the religious/Spiritual/folk song genre.

THU

1110

Thursday 8:00 AM to 9:15 AM CDT

Greenway C

Translating Power and Identity

Sponsor: Political Communication Interest Group
Chair: Edward A. Hinck, Central Michigan University
Respondent: Hsin-I Sydney Yueh, University of Missouri

"Masculine Reproduction of the Fascist Future in Trail Life USA" Aubrey Studebaker, University of Wisconsin-Madison

"Queer Gaymer Actualized Citizenship and Political Participation in a Core Gamer and Debate Bro World" Ash Diane Denchfield, University of Kansas

"Texas v. Care Economies: An Exploration of the Use of Transantagonism for Fascist Energizing" Isabelle Stahr, University of South Florida

"The Public Construction of Leadership and Identity by a Non-Elite Woman in Ghanaian Politics" Pamela Ofori Boateng, Purdue University

These papers investigate how various identities are shaped by political and cultural power.

1111

Thursday 8:00 AM to 9:15 AM CDT

Greenway B

**Translating Profit and Entertainment into Harm:
Dark Sides of Reality Television (Top Panel)**

Sponsor: Media Studies Interest Group
Chair: Joe Watson, Baker University
Presenters:
Jennifer C. Dunn, Dominican University
Tasha R. Dunn, The University of Toledo
Sierra Kane, Roosevelt University
Jimmie Manning, University of Nevada, Reno
Dana Schowalter, Western Oregon University

This panel will examine problematic issues in ways the reality television genre translates profit and entertainment into harm of participants and audiences. These include how reality television frameworks influence participants' behaviors and mental health post-production; how "inappropriate" touching and relationships have been handled (or not handled) by production; how representations and online discussions of relationships are negotiated between participants, production, and audiences; and how contradictory portrayals of motherhood influence reality television participants and online engagements.



Western Oregon
UNIVERSITY

The Department of Communication Studies at Western Oregon University congratulates Dana Schowalter for receiving the Top Panel Award from the Media Studies Interest Group!

1112

Thursday 8:00 AM to 9:15 AM CDT

Lakeshore C

**Translating Student Needs Into Pedagogy:
Communication as a Bridge to Wellbeing and Lifelong Skills**

Sponsor: Communication Education Interest Group

Chair: Megan Pope, San Jacinto College

Presenters:

Caroline Waldbuesser, University of Missouri

Kyle Vareberg, Northeastern State University

Evan Kirksey, University of Missouri

In the wake of political instability, global stressors, and rising student mental health concerns, communication instructors are uniquely positioned to translate student needs into responsive, supportive pedagogical strategies. This session explores how faculty can design inclusive assignments and classroom experiences that promote well-being and build transferable mental-health & wellness skills. Drawing from research linking communication to improved relationships and health outcomes, panelists will share practical tools for reimagining coursework. The session will actively engage the audience through reflective questions and discussion prompts, encouraging participants to share insights and collaboratively explore strategies for fostering compassionate, skill-building communication classrooms.

1113

Thursday 8:00 AM to 9:15 AM CDT

Regency

**Translating the Public Speaking Curriculum:
Culturally Responsive Pedagogy for Middle School Mentorship**

Sponsor: Short Courses

Presenters:

Madison A. Pollino, University of South Florida

Melissa McCormick, University of South Florida

Grounded in critical communication pedagogy, this short course will equip educators, mentors, and communication scholars with a culturally responsive framework for teaching public speaking skills to underserved middle school students whose first language is not English. Drawing from my ongoing community engagement initiative with a local mentorship program in Tampa, participants will explore how public speaking instruction can foster youth empowerment and translate knowledge and skillsets beyond a higher education context. By attending this short course, attendees will learn about practical tools and frameworks that can make public speaking accessible for other educational and/or community contexts.

THU

Thursday 9:00 AM CDT

1114

Thursday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM CDT

Nicollet Promenade

Exhibit Hall Featuring Publishers and Technology - Thursday

Sponsor: CSCA Executive Director

Chair: Joy L. Daggs, Northwest Missouri State University

Come see the latest in offerings from publishers and technology companies.



**SCHOOL OF
COMMUNICATION**
Illinois State University

The School of Communication at Illinois State University appreciates the Redbird graduate students who assisted with technology at the 2026 CSCA Convention!

Thursday 9:30 AM CDT

1200

Thursday 9:30 AM to 10:45 AM CDT

Greenway E

An Intended or Unintended Consequence?: The Rhetorics of Health and Gender in the Maintenance of Competitive Sporting Modalities

Sponsor: Sports Communication Interest Group

Chair: Karly Poyner-Smith, Columbia College

Respondent: Pat Loebs, Grace College

"(De)constructing Bad Bunny: An Ideological Discourse Analysis of Mediated Super Bowl LX Commentary" Connor Wilcox, Concordia College

"Consubstantiality on Ice: The Rhetorics of National Health in the NHL's Four Nations Face-Off" Nick Hunkins, Columbia College

"Serena Williams' GLP-1 Endorsement—Internalized Patriarchy or Healthcare?" Diana Rose Humble, The University of Memphis

"Taking Mental Health Out of Second Base: A Qualitative Approach to Understanding Rhetorics of Urgency Regarding Physical Health and the Stigmatization of Mental Health" Luca Stevens, Columbia College

"The Crisis of Sexual Deviancy: Counterpublics in Digital Gaming Spaces and the Structural Limitations of Community Moderation" Trent Luebbert, Columbia College

"The Olympic Golden Girls Fight Back: A Reclaiming of Agency and Identity in USA Women's Gymnastics" Lexi Taylor, Ball State University

Issues of physical health and bodily outcomes within contact sports is a well-developed area of research in which we understand health within competitive sports (Anderson & Kian, 2012; Sanderson et al., 2016). When it comes to mental health discourse within a sporting context, research has focused on athletes within contact sports publicly disclosing their mental health (Elsey et al., 2020) and operating within hegemonic masculinity scripts (Lavelle, 2021). However, within the competitive sporting context, how do ideas of healthy behavior, the "perfect athlete," and sexuality mess with the ways we understand health and gender within various competitive sporting modalities?

1201

Thursday 9:30 AM to 10:45 AM CDT

Lakeshore B

Breaking the Silence: Visible and Invisible Disability in Academia

Sponsors: CSCA Equity & Inclusion Committee, Health Communication Interest Group; Performance Studies and Autoethnography Interest Group; Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Caucus

Chair: Elizabeth M. Lozano, Loyola University Chicago

"Autistic Burnout in Mid-Life: An Autoethnographic Portrait of 'Becoming' Disabled" Michaela D.E. Meyer, Christopher Newport University

"Balancing Health and Academic Life on the Tenure Track" Jessica Rick, Illinois State University

"From Challenges to Triumphs: A Co-Cultural Perspective on Navigating a Doctoral Program as a Blind Student" Kendal Catherine Lyssy, University of Missouri

"Paradoxes of Hidden Disabilities in the Academy" Jimmie Manning, University of Nevada, Reno

In U.S. academia, disability often remains hidden or rendered invisible by institutional ableism, productivity mandates, and dominant narratives of meritocracy. While diversity discourses have gained visibility, disability—particularly when non-apparent or multiply marginalized—continues to be under-theorized, under-represented, and under-supported. This panel creates a space for critical engagement with visible and invisible disability in higher education, from multiple experiences and backgrounds. Panelists share personal experiences that illustrate the complexities of navigating academia with hidden and visible disabilities such as neurodivergence, blindness, autistic burnout, and ADHD. Together, the panelists interrogate how disability shapes affect and engagement; scholarly labor; pedagogical practice; institutional belonging; and intellectual identity.

1202

Thursday 9:30 AM to 10:45 AM CDT

Greenway D

Central Communication: Emotional Labor, Mental Load, and Burnout in the Academy

Sponsor: Women's Caucus

Chair: Dana Schowalter, Western Oregon University

Presenters:

Dana Schowalter, Western Oregon University

Kate LaPierre, University of Nevada, Reno/Ivy Tech Community College

Brigit Talkington, Metro Community College

Jennifer Morey Hawkins, St. Cloud State University

Jerralyn Moudry, Wisconsin Lutheran College

Tasha R. Dunn, The University of Toledo

Stephanie Young, University of Southern Indiana

Art Herbig, Purdue University Fort Wayne

Building on the work of Womentoring panels at NCA, this panel brings a feminist mentoring approach to CSCA to share knowledge and create communities of success for our regional scholars. This panel explores the issue of mental load and emotional labor, discussing the realities of taking on these responsibilities, setting boundaries in an era of precarity, strategies for sharing the load with colleagues, and how to work through burnout to create meaningful and sustainable change.

THU

1203

Thursday 9:30 AM to 10:45 AM CDT

Executive Boardroom

CSCA Finance Committee Meeting

Sponsor: CSCA Executive Director

Chair: Patric R. Spence, University of Central Florida

Presenters:

Ahmet Atay, The University of Alabama at Birmingham

Justin Rudnick, Minnesota State University, Mankato

Kathy Denker, Ball State University

W. Benjamin Myers, The University of Toledo

Jeffrey T. Child, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Kyle Vareberg, Northeastern State University

Tiffany R. Wang, University of Montevallo

This is a closed meeting for members of the CSCA Finance Committee listed here.

1204

Thursday 9:30 AM to 10:45 AM CDT

Greenway F

Evolving Landscape of Strategic Crisis and Risk Communication

Sponsor: Strategic and Applied Communication Interest Group

Chair: Rodrigo Soares, University of Vermont

Respondent: Xianlin Jin, The University of Toledo

"Navigating Crisis Communication: How Undergraduate Students Perceive University Responses During Campus Emergencies" Alfred Kwabena Obiri, Illinois State University

"Translating Brands into Senses: A Ghanaian Case Study of Multi-Sensory Branding in Integrated Marketing Communication." Adraina Kukuwaa Adu, University of Minnesota Twin Cities

"Translating Evidence into Action or Inaction: The Communicative Constitution of an Emerging Industry Risk" Rodrigo Soares, University of Vermont; Amy Maciel, Clemson University; Timothy L. Sellnow, Clemson University; Deanna Sellnow, Clemson University

"Does the University Know I Exist?": Evaluating the Impact of Crisis Communication Strategies on University Stakeholders" Mercy Temitope Adekola, Missouri State University; Abigail Addae, Missouri State University

"I'll Leave This for My Neighbor With Cows': Using the IDEA Model to Translate Risk During a Rural Water Crisis." Crystal D. Daugherty, Western Kentucky University; Angela M. Jerome, Western Kentucky University

This paper session examines the evolving landscape of strategic crisis and risk communication, focusing on how organizations and individuals navigate emerging risks and respond to crises.

1205

Thursday 9:30 AM to 10:45 AM CDT

Greenway B

Framing the Globe: Media Power, Identity, and Resistance

Sponsor: Media Studies Interest Group

Chair: Tasha Riggins, Baker University

Respondent: Kai Xu, University of Minnesota Duluth

"A Sentiment Analysis of 'Immigration' in U.S., Australian, and New Zealand News Channels"

Stephen Croucher, Clemson University; Asif Munir, Massey University

"A Thematic Analysis of Zimbabwean Online News Articles: Translating Covid-19 Reporting into Lessons Learned and Advice for Future Journalistic Practice" Rick Malleus, Seattle University

"Domestic vs. International News Media: A Comparative Quantitative Content Analysis Nigerian Gay Marriage Framing" Dennis Ekwemnachukwu Okeke, University of Colorado Boulder; Mike Allen, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; Ousman Mbaye, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; Anthony Okeke, Nnamdi Azikiwe University; Christiana Oluwakemi Ibiwoye, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

"Narrative Resistance in Nollywood: A Textual Analysis of War: Wrath and Revenge" Esther Ehino Akheituame, University of Missouri

This panel examines how media institutions around the world shape public consciousness through framing, sentiment, and narrative resistance. These papers reveal how global media simultaneously reflect local realities and resist dominant ideologies, offering insights into inclusive communication and representation across borders.

1206

Thursday 9:30 AM to 10:45 AM CDT

Regency

Intersectionality and Health Communication: Transformation through Translational Teaching

Sponsor: Short Courses

Presenter:

Jenn Anderson, South Dakota State University

This short course will overview contemporary health communication theories and research that are based on nuanced approaches to intersectionality. Then, we will use those theoretical approaches as lenses through which to reflect on our teaching, with particular attention to the implications of our own intersectional positionalities and how they can enable and constrain opportunities for translational teaching. Finally, we will develop specific learning outcomes for teaching a deliberately intersectional health communication course that focuses on translating that complex approach into concrete terms and then developing students' skills for translating that learning into their professional lives-often within (allied) health fields.

THU

1207

Thursday 9:30 AM to 10:45 AM CDT

St. Croix

"It's Complicated..." Non-Monogamy, Identity, & Intersectionality

Sponsor: Activism, Communication Ethics, and Social Justice Interest Group

Chair: Vianna Ibsister, East Tennessee State University

"Opening the (Kitchen) Curtains: A Scope of the Field on Polyamorous Relationships and Disclosure" Taylor Newswander, Independent Scholar

"Polyamory Representation in Popular Cinema" John Heimbuch, Independent Scholar

"We Didn't Start the Fire: Tales of Polyamory Disclosure" Travis James Woven, East Tennessee State University

"What's Love Got to Do With It? Self-Love and Partner-Love in Polyamory During a Time of Misadventure" Elliot Powell, University of South Florida

This panel highlights non-monogamy as a site of critical inquiry, attending to the ways intersecting identity categories-such as gender, sexuality, race, class, and culture-complicate and reshape its meanings. Bringing together theoretical explorations with various modes of presentation, panelists examine how non-monogamy functions as both a discursive and lived space, focusing on "translating" non-monogamy.

1208

Thursday 9:30 AM to 10:45 AM CDT

Greenway C

Past Officers Debut Paper Award Panel

Sponsor: CSCA Executive Director

Chair: David L. Bodary, Sinclair Community College

Respondent: Donna R. Pawlowski, Bemidji State University

"Understanding How Adult Survivors of Childhood Cancer Narrate Their Lived Experience: Memorable Messages of Childhood Cancer Survivors (Past Officers Debut Paper Award)" Bailey Hughlett, University of Connecticut

"Speaking Without Permission: Metaphor, Media, and the Framing of Black Women's Vice-Presidential Leadership in Ghana and the United States" Felicity Donkor, University of Georgia

"Investigating Gendered and Racial Exclusion in Interactive Threads of U.S. Election Discourse: Reconsidering the Discourse Quality Index" Xiaodong Yan, University of Colorado Boulder

"A Scoping Review of Sibling Caregiving in Communication Research and Future Directions" Karen Shalev, University of Connecticut

This paper panel features the top debut papers.

1209

Thursday 9:30 AM to 10:45 AM CDT

Skyway AB

States Advisory Council Business Meeting

Sponsor: States Advisory Council

Chair: Gayle M. Pohl, University of Northern Iowa

Presenters:

Kimberly M. Weismann, Bismarck State College

Jeffrey Dean Brand, University of Northern Iowa

1210

Thursday 9:30 AM to 10:45 AM CDT

Lakeshore A

The Language of Family: Translating the Complexities of Familial Communication

Sponsor: Interpersonal and Family Communication Interest Group

Chair: Kaitlin Elizabeth Phillips, Baylor University

"I Just Want My Parents to Be My Parents and Let Me Be the Child": Using Communicated Narrative Sense-Making to Describe the Process of Parentification (Top Inclusive Scholarship Paper)" Cimmiaron Alvarez, Kean University; Leah Elizabeth Bryant, DePaul University; Heather L. Davenport, Rutgers University; Haley Nolan-Cody, Rutgers University

"No Thanks, I Have My Own Snack": A Mother-Daughter Duoethnography of Food Allergy Communication and Identity Over Time" Candice Ruh, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; Sydney Ertl, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

"Motherhood as a Relational Identity: Communication, Language, and Cultural Expectations in Family and Interpersonal Contexts" Ifeoluwatobi Abiodun Odunsi, University of Tampa

"The Mediating Effect of Everyday Talk on Adult Sibling Type and Communication Satisfaction" Scott A. Myers, West Virginia University

The papers in this session explore communication within and between family members, including parent-children and sibling interactions, and how it influences those relationships and in some cases, identity.



RUTGERS-NEW BRUNSWICK
School of Communication
and Information

The Department of Communication at Rutgers University congratulates Heather L. Davenport for receiving the Top Inclusive Scholarship Paper Award from the Interpersonal and Family Communication Interest Group!



RUTGERS-NEW BRUNSWICK
School of Communication
and Information

The Department of Communication at Rutgers University congratulates Haley Nolan-Cody for receiving the Top Inclusive Scholarship Paper Award from the Interpersonal and Family Communication Interest Group!

1211

Thursday 9:30 AM to 10:45 AM CDT

Greenway G

Translating Neurodivergence in the Graduate School Experience

Sponsor: Graduate Student Caucus

Chair: Harvey Chinchilla, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Presenters:

Samantha Schubert, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Katy Gabryelczyk, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Emily Sanders-Whiteley, Ball State University

Parker Finn Davidson, Ball State University

This panel aims to translate the experiences of neurodivergent graduate students adapting to and overcoming the challenges of graduate school, as well as the unique affordances that come from a non-normative, neurodiverse perspective.

Thursday 11:00 AM CDT

1300

Thursday 11:00 AM to 12:15 PM CDT

Lakeshore C

Communication Education Interest Group Business Meeting

Sponsor: Communication Education Interest Group

Chair: Kyle Vareberg, Northeastern State University

Presenters:

Caroline Waldbuesser, University of Missouri

Robert Sidelinger, Oakland University

1301

Thursday 11:00 AM to 12:15 PM CDT

Offsite

CSCA Annual Past Officers Lunch

Sponsor: CSCA Executive Director

Chair: Tiffany R. Wang, University of Montevallo

Presenter:

Kristina Scharp, Rutgers University

This is a lunch honoring the service of CSCA Past Officers who have served on the Executive Committee. A previous RSVP for this event is required. The lunch will take place at Dakota which is a 5 minute (.2 mile) walk from the convention hotel. Please e-mail csc.a.ed@gmail.com if you would like to request transportation accommodations to the event.

1302

Thursday 11:00 AM to 12:15 PM CDT

Greenway G

Cultural Translation and Ethical Framing in Global Health Communication

Sponsor: Graduate Student Caucus

Chair: Abigail Adediran, University of Missouri

Respondent: Abigail Adediran, University of Missouri

"Flying Through Alcoholism, Depression and Loneliness: An Autoethnography of A Young Flight Attendant's Experience of Struggling With Mental Illness and Addiction" Carly Tynes Irwin, University of North Dakota

"Framing of Health Messages and an Interplay of Cultural Perspectives Among International Graduate Students at a Midwestern University in the United States" Beatrice Amissah, Illinois State University

"The Trade-Off Between the Fear of Judgment (Stigma) and the Intention to Engage with AI-Driven HIV/AIDS Information: Evidence from Bangladesh and Nigeria" Abdullah Mohaimen, Western Michigan University

"Translating Ethics into Practice: Analyzing India's Maternal Health Campaigns (JSY and JSSK)" Shatakshi Semwal, Ohio University

These papers examine how health messages, institutional, personal, or technological, are shaped by cultural contexts and ethical considerations.

1303

Thursday 11:00 AM to 12:15 PM CDT

Greenway I

Ethnicity, Race, International, and Class Concerns (ERICC) Caucus Business Meeting

Sponsor: Ethnicity, Race, International, and Class Concerns Caucus

Chair: Anjana Mudambi, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Presenters:

Sofia Elena Salazar Carballo, Nemours Hospital

Amy Aldridge, Middle Tennessee State University

Jennifer Willis-Rivera, University of Wisconsin - River Falls

Jennifer Morey Hawkins, St. Cloud State University

Alima Abdul-Karimu, Texas A&M University

Hsin-I Sydney Yueh, University of Missouri

THU

1304

Thursday 11:00 AM to 12:15 PM CDT

Mirage

G.I.F.T. Session #1 - AI Focus

Sponsor: G.I.F.T. Interest Group

Chair: Tracie Devault, Missouri University of Science and Technology

"An Approach to Ethical Brainstorming with Generative Artificial Intelligence Programs" Nick Romerhausen, Eastern Michigan University

"Bad to Better: Translating Delivery Errors into Speaking Insight" Jake Manning, Marshall University

"Content Remix: Translating Text to Talk with NoteGPT" Lori M. Costello, University of South Dakota

"Davebot: An AI Simulation Exploring Public Speaking Ethics" Lisa Marie Pavia-Higel, Missouri University of Science and Technology

"Hook, Line, and Feedback: Practicing and Critiquing Attention Getters with Artificial Intelligence" Justin S. Motto, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

"Infographics as Practical Application of AI in Practice" Lara Stache, Governors State University; Jillian Marie Klean Zwilling, Governors State University

"The Great Advertising Stock Photo Challenge" Connor Wilcox, Concordia College

"Translating Theory to AI Video Practice" Colleen Palmer, Carthage College; Kalah Kemp, College of the Ozarks

"Using Generative AI to Help Students Strategically Plan the Writing Process" Karen Shalev, University of Connecticut; Shannon Pappas, University of Connecticut

This G.I.F.T. Session focuses on activities using AI.

1305

Thursday 11:00 AM to 12:15 PM CDT

Skyway AB

Identity and Adapting Relational Communication Activities in the Classroom

Sponsor: States Advisory Council

Chair: Jenn Supple, University of Dubuque

Presenters:

Jenn Supple, University of Dubuque

Michelle Grace, University of Dubuque

Sue Anne Marino, University of Dubuque

Courses that explore relational communication necessitate unpacking issues related to identity. For many students, this is the first time they are asked to name and think critically about aspects of their own identities and those they encounter. In this roundtable breakout, we will explore the ways we do so via activities in our classes. Participants will leave with access to materials they can use and will be encouraged to share how they transcend current barriers on identity exploration in higher education.

1306

Thursday 11:00 AM to 12:15 PM CDT

Greenway C

It's How You Frame It!

Sponsor: Political Communication Interest Group

Chair: Joel Lansing Reed, University of Arkansas

Respondent: Joshua P. Bolton, Salisbury University

"Clash of the Global Economic Titans: The Patriotic Media and News Framing of the US-China Trade War" Michael Ofori, University of Minnesota Twin Cities; Fredrick Daoyenikye, University of Alabama; Sandra Freda Wood, Arizona State University

"US News Framing of Haiti Under the Trump & Biden Administrations" Brett R. Labbe, Indiana University South Bend

These papers explore how various institutions shape public understanding of international power relations. This panel highlights how media and institutions frame global events in ways that reflect and reinforce national and cultural priorities.

1307

Thursday 11:00 AM to 12:15 PM CDT

Regency

THU

Leading, Not Just Lasting, in Academic Middle Management

Sponsor: Short Courses

Presenter:

W. Benjamin Myers, The University of Toledo

This short course explores the paradox of department chair leadership: chairs are increasingly expected to deliver managerial results without the formal authority of traditional managers. They must navigate faculty expectations, institutional demands, and their own academic identities while advocating for their departments from a vulnerable and often ambiguous position-straddling the boundary between faculty and administration. This workshop, based on the book *The New Department Chair: 100 Daily Reflections to Mindfully Design Your Term*, explores the unique communication demands of academic middle-management. Participants will engage in interactive discussion and real-life case studies focused on the challenges of leading from the middle in higher education.

***Sister Outsider* Intercaucus Book Club:
Engaging Audre Lorde and Intersectionality in the Communication Discipline**

Sponsors: Ethnicity, Race, International, and Class Concerns Caucus; Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Caucus; Women's Caucus

Chair: Danielle M. Stern, Christopher Newport University

Presenters:

Kathy Denker, Ball State University

NiCole Lea Dennler, Upper Iowa University

Jimmie Manning, University of Nevada, Reno

Justin Rudnick, Minnesota State University, Mankato

Morgan Smalls, James Madison University

The CSCA Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Caucus, Ethnicity, Race, International, and Class Concerns Caucus, and the Women's Caucus invite participants to a thought provoking discussion of Audre Lorde's *Sister Outsider*. Although Lorde's collection of essays and speeches was published more than 40 years ago, it foregrounds the continued need for solidarity and embracing social differences to achieve equity. This session will explore Lorde's classic text that focuses on amplifying marginalized voices in institutional systems of sexism, racism, homophobia, and classism. Attendees will engage with Lorde's arguments, reflect on their implications for communication studies, and consider how intersectionality continues to shape our scholarship, pedagogy, and activism. Join us for an astute conversation, even if you have not read the entire book!

THU

The Politics of the Pitch: Nationalism, Race, and the Rhetoric of the 2026 FIFA World Cup

Sponsor: Sports Communication Interest Group

Chair: Scott Jensen, Webster University

Presenters:

Anne Kerber, Minnesota State University, Mankato

Kevin Sauter, University of St. Thomas

Austin Ulmer, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Adam W. Tyma, University of Nebraska Omaha

Emily Sauter, University of Nebraska Omaha

In June of 2018 the United States, along with Canada and Mexico, was chosen to co-host the 2026 FIFA World Cup. These games will feature 48 teams and will involve 104 matches across 16 host cities, eleven of which will be in the US, with the final match to be played in New York/New Jersey. In-person attendance for this event is expected to have 6.5 million fans across all the tournament matches, making it the largest World Cup in History. Yet in the United States anti-immigration rhetoric has reached a fevered pitch, and as of early October 2025, the *Washington Post* reported that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has deported over 300,000 people.

Additionally, Department of Homeland Security (DHS) officials claim that millions more have voluntarily departed the country. Though usually exempt from narratives of immigration, international athletes have already been denied visas to the United States, such as the Venezuelan Little League team, the Senegalese women's basketball team, and the Cuban women's volleyball team, raising concerns about future athlete's ability to participate in international sporting events hosted in the US. Likewise, the State Department has begun limiting visas to foreign travelers, particularly those from countries in Asia, Africa, and South America. In this discussion, panelists from across Universities will provide insight into the political, cultural, and rhetorical aspects of the lead up to the 2026 FIFA World Cup, utilizing their backgrounds in rhetorical criticism, critical cultural studies, media theory, and sports communication. This panel will interrogate intersecting themes of nationalism, race, gender, resistance, politics, and immigration, situating the 2026 World Cup within broader scholarly discussions on the sociocultural, political, and rhetorical implications of global mega-sporting events.

THU

1310

Thursday 11:00 AM to 12:15 PM CDT

Greenway F

"'Til Death Do Us Part" - Performance Panel (Top Student Paper, Top Debut Paper)

Sponsor: Performance Studies and Autoethnography Interest Group

Author:

Sean Maulding, Southern Illinois University Carbondale

'Til Death Do us Part ('Til Death) is a sixty-minute solo performance of healing and humor about Phillip, a widower with a failing wedding business who is finally forced to confront his feelings about death after reluctantly accepting a job officiating a funeral. Although, there are no final resolutions for Phillip, we do see an hour of his reality as he struggles to separate crafting a eulogy for the deceased and having to face the passing of his wife whom he has never been able to mourn. Although, solo performers in performance studies have used their platform to explore issues of grief or trauma, deliberately modifying drama therapy for solo performers appears to be an understudied methodology in our discipline. 'Til Death Do Us Part was created through exploring that process of modification and adapting.

1311

Thursday 11:00 AM to 12:15 PM CDT

Lakeshore B

**Translating in Our Communities:
The Latest in Menstrual Health Engagement, Teaching, and Research**

Sponsor: Health Communication Interest Group

Chair: Stephanie Batson, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

Presenters:

Alicia Lynn Alexander, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
Sarah Symonds LeBlanc, Purdue University Fort Wayne
Lyzbeth Safoah King, Ohio University
Veda Kommineni, Johns Hopkins University
Rikki A. Roscoe, University of Kansas

Comprised of menstrual-health researchers and activists, this panel brings to light the importance of translating our research and teaching to the greater community. The panelists will share the latest from their research taking place at home and abroad, and will discuss how they communicate what they know to those outside of our academy walls.

Translating Mentorship Across Teaching and Advising (Top Panel)

Sponsor: Instructional Resources Interest Group

Chair: Cassandra D. Hightower, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Presenters:

Taylor Brehm, Keypath Education

Ann Hodal, Aurora University

Starr Lee, Lakeshore College

Gertrude Misornu Nartey, Wheaton College

Candice Ruh, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Cassandra Wingert, College of DuPage

Haggard et al. (2011) describe mentoring as "a type of developmental relationship that shares some characteristics with other interpersonal relationships" and argue that core attributes of mentorship include reciprocity, developmental benefits, and regular or consistent interaction between the mentor and mentee over some period of time (p. 292). Mentoring as a practice has much variability, therefore it is important to understand it in its multiple forms. Thus, this discussion panel prompts further insight into how different professionals--whether educators, advisors, or industry workers within academia--define their roles as mentors and engage in mentorship practices.



The Department of Communication at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee congratulates Cassandra D. Hightower and Candice Ruh for receiving the Top Panel Award from the Instructional Resources Interest Group!

THU

1313

Thursday 11:00 AM to 12:15 PM CDT

Lakeshore A

Translating Research: Navigating the Publication Process Across the Discipline

Sponsor: Interpersonal and Family Communication Interest Group

Chair: Natalie Pennington, Colorado State University

Presenters:

R. Amanda Cooper, University of Connecticut

Jess Dominguez, University of Kentucky

Yoo Jung (Erika) Oh, Michigan State University

Kelly L. Winfrey, Iowa State University

Jeffrey T. Child, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Kory Floyd, Washington State University

Allison R. Thorson, University of San Francisco

Scholars in interpersonal and family communication often see their work intersect with areas like technology, health, organizational, or political communication-or across disciplinary boundaries entirely. Publishing such research brings both opportunities and challenges, as journals vary in theoretical, methodological, and disciplinary priorities. This panel explores strategies for positioning interdisciplinary research, translating arguments for diverse audiences, and navigating reviewer and editor expectations. Panelists will share experiences with publishing across areas-their successes, challenges, and lessons learned-and discuss broader implications for how cross-area scholarship shapes the framing, dissemination, and value of communication research within and beyond the discipline.

Thursday 12:30 PM CDT

1400

Thursday 12:30 PM to 1:45 PM CDT

Greenway H

AI Identity & Human Judgment: Detection, Patterns, and Communication Signals

Sponsor: Communication & Technology Interest Group

Chair: Habeeb Abdulrauf, Western Michigan University

"Does Guessing Work Translate to Less Loneliness on Dating Apps? A Digital Work Perspective"

Junwen Hu, Michigan State University

"Enterprise Social Media and Employee Engagement: A Qualitative Study on Content, Perception, and Sense of Belonging in Internal Public Relations" Daniel Sherrick Apambila, Illinois State University

"Investigating Knowledge-Prompt Dynamics in AI-assisted Persuasive Writing" Mahmuda Rahman, North Dakota State University

"Predictable Panics, But with Purpose: Understanding Our Perceptions of Generative AI" David Westerman, North Dakota State University; Nick Bowman, Syracuse University

This session examines how people judge and interpret AI-generated messages, focusing on authorship detection, stakeholder responses to AI-assisted communication, prompting effects on message quality, and the linguistic patterns that characterize generative models.

Autoethnography and Academic Freedom in Authoritarian Times (Top Panel)

Sponsor: Performance Studies and Autoethnography Interest Group

Chair: Andrew Herrmann, Independent Scholar

Presenters:

Danielle M. Stern, Christopher Newport University

Dana Schowalter, Western Oregon University

Tony Adams, Bradley University

Stephanie Young, University of Southern Indiana

Academic freedom in colleges and universities around the United States are under threat from the authoritarianism of the Trump administration and its allies. This pressure is of particular import for autoethnographers who as part of their research write from the first person and put themselves and their beliefs on the page. This discussion panel, consisting of autoethnographers and narrative authors, will discuss these and related dilemmas they face in their writing.



Western Oregon
UNIVERSITY

The Department of Communication Studies at Western Oregon University congratulates Dana Schowalter for receiving the Top Panel Award from the Performance Studies and Autoethnography Interest Group!

THU

**Black Representation on the Silver Screen: Translating Race and Identity in Popular Film
(Top Paper Panel)**

Sponsor: Popular Culture Interest Group

Chair: Shanika Patrice Carter, Grand Valley State University

Respondent: Atilla Hallsby, University of Minnesota Twin Cities

"From Screen to Classroom: Translating *Lean On Me* (1989) for Today's Teaching" Lee Tate, National Louis University

"Same, Similar, Different: Rhetorical Recurrence and Depictions of Excessive Force in *Two Distant Strangers*" Richard Besel, Grand Valley State University

"*Sinners*: Exploring the Horror Movie Genre & Black Representation in Ryan Coogler's 2025 Film" Shanika Patrice Carter, Grand Valley State University

"The Warrior's Voice: Identity and Resilience through Nanisca's Communication in *The Woman King*" Donnie Glover, Bowling Green State University

This paper panel consists of academic researchers and professors from various specializations and backgrounds, bringing our ideas and research together as told via film and sharing them to show how culture, particularly race and identity in relation to pop culture, can be translated across the board. Each paper will highlight cultural experiences through the lens of the silver screen, describing the connections made between the selected films being analyzed and how culture(s) are represented, with meanings interpreted and translated for the reader/audience.



The School of Media and Communication at Bowling Green State University congratulates Donnie Glover for receiving the Top Paper Panel Award from the Popular Culture Interest Group!

Communication Education Interest Group: Top Papers

Sponsor: Communication Education Interest Group

Chair: Robert Sidelinger, Oakland University

Respondent: Kathy Denker, Ball State University

"Future of Communication Education in Africa: Theoretical Orientations and Institutional Logics in African and Global North Contexts (Gustav Friedrich Award for Top Student Paper)" Emmanuel Mylo Dadzie, North Dakota State University; Carrie Anne Platt, North Dakota State University

"Climate Change Denial Messages as Post-Truth" David H. Kahl, Jr., Penn State Behrend; Ahmet Atay, The University of Alabama at Birmingham

"Human-AI Collaboration in Education: Examining Sex Differences in Student Perceptions of AI-Based Education (Top Paper)" Jihyun Kim, University of Central Florida; Patric R. Spence, University of Central Florida; Stephanie Kelly, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University

This panel presents the top-scoring papers in Communication Education. Presenters showcase innovative research that brings new insights to teaching, learning, and the evolving practice of communication education.



The Department of Communication at North Dakota State University congratulates Emmanuel Mylo Dadzie for receiving the Gustav Friedrich Award from the Communication Education Interest Group, the Top Panel Award from the Graduate Student Caucus, and a Top Five Paper Award from the Political Communication Interest Group!



PennState
Behrend

The Media and Communication Program at Penn State Behrend congratulates David H. Kahl, Jr. for receiving a Top Three Paper Award from the Communication Education Interest Group!



The Nicholson School of Communication and Media at the University of Central Florida congratulates Jihyun Kim for receiving the Top Paper Award from the Communication Education Interest Group!



The Nicholson School of Communication and Media at the University of Central Florida congratulates Patric Spence for receiving the Top Paper Award from the Communication Education Interest Group!

Creating a Professional Development Opportunity With the Inaugural ICA Book Club

Sponsor: States Advisory Council

Chair: Joy L. Daggs, Northwest Missouri State University

Presenters:

Chase Aunspach, University of Nebraska

Bryan Campbell, Buena Vista University

Aimee Langager, Des Moines Area Community College

Allyn Lueders, Wayne State College

NiCole Lea Dennler, Upper Iowa University

Membership in state associations has dwindled for many reasons over the past several years. ICA has been no exception. We have brainstormed ways to support our members' professional development. We formed the ICA Book Club in February 2025 to do just that. Panelists will discuss the book club and how it helped them to connect with ICA members, aided their professional development, and pursue conversations and opportunities that were not available on their respective campuses. We encourage panel attendees to join us for upcoming book clubs!

THU

CSCA 2027 Program Planners Meeting

Sponsor: CSCA Executive Director

Chair: Stevie Munz, Utah Valley University

Presenters:

Samentha Sepúlveda, Northeastern Illinois University

Stacey Mirviss-Jossart, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Ryan Scott Rigda, Saginaw Valley State University

Evan Kirksey, University of Missouri

America Edwards, University of Kentucky

Caroline Waldbuesser, University of Missouri

Austin T. Frederick, Wayne State University

Myron Covington, Washtenaw Community College

Sofia Elena Salazar Carballo, Nemours Hospital

Md Sazzad Mahmud Shuvo, Florida State University

Angela Glunz, The University of Tennessee at Martin

Michelle M. Matter, Crown College

Kristin Fitzsimmons, University of Minnesota Twin Cities

Diana Trebing, Saginaw Valley State University

Brooke Wolfe, Michigan State University

Holly Holladay, Missouri State University

Hayden Barber, South Dakota State University

Shelby Swafford, Southern Illinois University Carbondale

Ant Woodall, Northeastern University

Adam W. Tyma, University of Nebraska Omaha

Dustin A. Greenwalt, Southern Illinois University Carbondale

Vianna Isbister, East Tennessee State University

Scott Jensen, Webster University

Gayle M. Pohl, University of Northern Iowa

Rodrigo Soares, University of Vermont

Aimee Lau, Wisconsin Lutheran College

Anna Jean DeGalan, University of South Carolina

Lauren L. Busker, Colorado State University

Tiffany R. Wang, University of Montevallo

THU

Ethnicity, Race, International, and Class Concerns Caucus: Top Papers

Sponsor: Ethnicity, Race, International, and Class Concerns Caucus

Chair: Alberto Gonzalez, Bowling Green State University

Respondent: Hsin-I Sydney Yueh, University of Missouri

"Redefining the Collegiate Insider (Top Paper, Top Student Paper)" Diana Amoako Boakyewaa, Bowling Green State University; Madison Marshall, Southern Illinois University Carbondale

"Race, Violence in the United States, and Digital (News) Discourse: A Corpus-Based Critical Discourse Analysis of Jordan Neely's Racialization (Top Inclusive Scholarship Paper)" Dennis Ekwemnachukwu Okeke, University of Colorado Boulder

"Investigating Gendered and Racial Exclusion in Interactive Threads of U.S. Election Discourse: Reconsidering the Discourse Quality Index (Top Debut Paper)" Xiaodong Yan, University of Colorado Boulder

This panel celebrates the top competitive paper submissions for the ERICC Caucus.



The School of Media and Communication at Bowling Green State University congratulates Diana Amoako Boakyewaa for receiving the Top Paper and Top Student Paper Awards from the Ethnicity, Race, International, and Class Concerns Caucus!



University of Colorado
Boulder

The Department of Communication at the University of Colorado Boulder congratulates Xiaodong Yan for receiving the Top Debut Paper Award from the Ethnicity, Race, International, and Class Concerns Caucus!

**Framing the Field:
Translating Power, Image, and Responsibility in Sport Communication**

Sponsor: Sports Communication Interest Group

Chair: Mac Williams, University of Mississippi

Respondent: Emily Sauter, University of Nebraska Omaha

"Power Play in MOBA: Social Power Motives, Aggression, and Gendered Identity Traits in Honor of Kings" Wenrong Cui, University of Kansas

"The Name, Image, and Likeness Phenomenon and its Challenges and Impacts on Seven Large Midwestern Universities" Adam Beck, Missouri State University

"He's Been Real Professional About It...And That's What We Expect': Media Framing of the Tyrod Taylor Punctured Lung Adverse Event (Top Paper)" Heather J. Carmack, Mayo Clinic; Bрайн Lazenby, Florida State University

"Not There to Parade Around Our Sick Kids': Nonprofits' Perspectives on Corporate Social Responsibility in Professional Sport" Dunja Antunovic, University of Minnesota Twin Cities; Kimberly Soltis, University of Minnesota Twin Cities; Mitch McSweeney, University of Minnesota Twin Cities

This panel examines how power and identity are translated across sporting contexts, from digital arenas to institutional and media frameworks. Papers explore how gendered identity and aggression circulate in esports, how universities navigate image and influence through NIL policies, how media frame professionalism in athlete injury coverage, and how nonprofits interpret corporate responsibility in sport partnerships. Together, these studies reveal how sport communication serves as a site of translation-where identity, image, and ethics are negotiated, reframed, and contested through discourse, performance, and institutional practice.

THU

**Leading Culture in the Click of a Button:
Translating Digital Leadership into Organizational Life**

Sponsor: Intercultural Communication Interest Group

Chair: Cheng Zeng, North Dakota State University

Presenters:

Bukola Oloba, North Dakota State University

Omolola Lasisi, University of Kansas

Lois Domene - Attafuah, North Dakota State University

Shalewa Babatayo, University of Central Florida

Stanley Uzoma, Kansas State University

Opeyemi Alawode, Western Illinois University

Egbe Okpaireh, University of Oklahoma

Research shows that organizational culture and leadership are shaped not only by local norms but also by intercultural differences amplified through digital platforms. As workplaces become increasingly global, leaders must navigate expectations about hierarchy, collaboration, and communication across diverse cultural settings. This panel will explore how intercultural communication research can be translated into organizational practice, offering strategies for digital leadership, boundary negotiation, and employee engagement in culturally diverse, technology-mediated workplaces (House et al., 2004; Szkudlarek et al., 2021).

THU

**Mentoring Through Methods:
Translating Questions and Processes into Knowledge and Practices (Top Panel)**

Sponsor: Organizational and Professional Communication Interest Group

Chair: Rosemond Asmah, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Presenters:

Patrice Marie Buzzanell, University of South Florida

Jess Dominguez, University of Kentucky

Christiana Oluwakemi Ibiwoye, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Anne Kerber, Minnesota State University, Mankato

Gertrude Misornu Nartey, Wheaton College

Natalie Pennington, Colorado State University

Sarah E. Riforgiate, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Candice Ruh, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Lucas Youngvorst, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

THU

Methods are at the core of research, translating questions into knowledge. Further, methods foster critical thinking, understanding data and research, and seeking answers. However, methods can also seem like a mysterious black box for students, where information goes in and is magically converted to results. Panelists will share practices that de-mystify methods and guide students' translation of data into meaning. Further, they will discuss how mentoring through methods transforms students' understanding of lived communication experiences.



The Department of Communication at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee congratulates Rosemond Asmah, Christiana Oluwakemi Ibiwoye, Gertrude Misornu Nartey, Sarah E. Riforgiate, Candice Ruh, and Lucas Youngvorst for receiving the Top Panel Award from the Organizational & Professional Communication Interest Group!



COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

The Department of Communication Studies at Colorado State University congratulates Natalie Pennington for receiving the Top Panel Award from the Organizational & Professional Communication Interest Group!

1410

Thursday 12:30 PM to 1:45 PM CDT

Greenway C

Planning, Supporting, and Promoting Translational Scholars and Scholarship

Sponsor: CSCA First Vice President

Chair: Amy Aldridge, Middle Tennessee State University

Presenters:

Kory Floyd, Washington State University

Charles Bantz, Indiana University Indianapolis

Elaine Hsieh, University of Minnesota Twin Cities

Dawn O. Braithwaite, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Allison R. Thorson, University of San Francisco

Timothy L. Sellnow, Clemson University

Betsy Wackernagel Bach, University of Montana

The conference theme of "Translate" encourages reflection on the knowledge, skills, and support scholars need to successfully plan and carry out engaged scholarship. In addition to skills and resources needed to carry out this work, scholars need to consider career stage, goals, and expectations, along with institutional culture and support. Many campuses are encouraging community engagement and may include this as part of annual and career advancement yet may not have the infrastructure to support and evaluate this work. Panelists will address these issues from their experience in departmental, college, and campus leadership. Those considering or undertaking translational work and those who desire to better address roadblocks and positive actions are encouraged to attend and participate.

1411

Thursday 12:30 PM to 1:45 PM CDT

Greenway B

Posting, Protecting, Persuading: Strategies for the Digital Age

Sponsor: Media Studies Interest Group

Chair: Corey B. Davis, University of Wisconsin-Whitewater

Respondent: Jerralyn Moudry, Wisconsin Lutheran College

"Advancing Strategic Social Media Science Communication: A Reflexive Thematic Analysis of Instagram Posts by the 2026 Virgin Galactic Astronaut Team" Karen Shalev, University of Connecticut; Shannon Pappas, University of Connecticut; Jocelyn Steinke, University of Connecticut

"Translating Spaces in New Media Channels: Technological Affordance, Territoriality, Privacy, and Consent in Nude Sharing" Seokhoon Ahn, Independent Scholar; Yoonmo Sang, Yonsei University; Jee Young Lee, University of Canberra

"Types of Negative Media Literacy" Christopher J. Carpenter, Western Illinois University; HyunYi Cho, The Ohio State University; Wenbo Li, Stony Brook University; Olivia Brashear, Western Illinois University

This panel explores how individuals and institutions strategically navigate and frame communication in digital spaces. Together, these studies illuminate how strategy, space, and literacy shape the ethics, risks, and possibilities of human connection in digital environments.

1412

Thursday 12:30 PM to 1:45 PM CDT

Greenway D

Shifting Feminisms: Framing Women in Political Leadership, Academia, and Beyond

Sponsor: Women's Caucus

Chair: Lauren J. Johnsen, University of Wisconsin-Stout

"Speaking Without Permission: Metaphor, Media, and the Framing of Black Women's Vice-Presidential Leadership in Ghana and the United States (Top Debut Paper)" Felicity Donkor, University of Georgia

"Strategic Selves: Identity Work in Academic Women's Accounts of Gender Microaggressions" Laura O'Hara, Ball State University; Beth A. Messner, Ball State University; Carolyn Shue, Ball State University; Glen Stamp, Ball State University

"Transgender Issues in Contemporary Feminism: An Examination of TERFism, Transphobia, and Harmful Representations of Trans Women in Film and Television" Evan Wilson, Indiana State University

"Translating into a 5th-Wave Feminism?" Margaret H. Kunde, Augustana College

The papers in this session broadly examine how women navigate traditionally male-dominated spaces in political leadership, academia, and more generally investigate the role of feminism(s) in the contemporary cultural moment.

1413

Thursday 12:30 PM to 1:45 PM CDT

Lakeshore B

Translating Care: Emotion, Family, and Well-Being Across Illness and Distance

Sponsor: Health Communication Interest Group

Chair: Leah Elizabeth Bryant, DePaul University

"Contradictions of Optimism and Realism in Family Communication During Long-Term Illness" Aklima Begum, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

"End-of-Life Communication Between Eastern Asian Migrant Elderly Patients and Adult Child" Xiaolu Ma, University of Minnesota Twin Cities

"Navigating Emotional Uncertainty: A Study on Anxiety and Mental Health Challenges of International Married Students Living Apart from Their Spouses" Vera Bonku Turkson, Illinois State University

"This is How I Met My ADHD: Exploring Cyberchondria and eHealth Literacy in Online ADHD Discourse" Fangqi Zhao, Marquette University

This panel explores how individuals and families translate care and emotion across cultural, physical, and psychological boundaries. Papers address end-of-life communication between Eastern Asian migrant elders and their adult children, the tension between optimism and realism in families coping with long-term illness, the mental health challenges of geographically separated international couples, and online narratives of ADHD and cyberchondria. Together, these studies illuminate how communication translates care amid uncertainty and change.

THU

1414

Thursday 12:30 PM to 1:45 PM CDT

St. Croix

Translating Learning into Action: Student Reflections on Community-Engaged Projects

Sponsor: Instructional Resources Interest Group

Chair: Natasha Rascon, Indiana State University

Presenters:

Brookelyn Corona, Indiana State University

Shelby McKinney, Hanover College

Joshua Roberts, Indiana State University

Sarah Smith, Indiana State University

Lexi Taylor, Ball State University

Piper Watkins, Indiana State University

Abby Wheaton, Indiana State University

Rachel D. Davidson, Hanover College

Undergraduate and graduate students will reflect on their service learning and community engagement experiences across communication courses. Panelists will share how they translated classroom knowledge into meaningful public impact through projects addressing issues such as park revitalization, nonprofit storytelling, civic advocacy, and inclusive design. The discussion will highlight how instructional resources-including High Impact Practices, such as project-based learning, digital media tools, and community partnerships-enabled students to connect theory to practice.

1415

Thursday 12:30 PM to 1:45 PM CDT

Greenway A

**Translating Rigor:
Maintaining Academic Standards in 8-Week Accelerated Courses (Top Panel)**

Sponsor: Community College Interest Group

Chair: Kelly Soczka Steidinger, Mid-State Technical College

Presenters:

Abby Ferrell, Mid-State Technical College

Cassandra Wingert, College of DuPage

Brian Kline, University of North Georgia

Brooke Morenz, Ball State University

Increasingly, community colleges are adopting a compressed 8/7-week course model to increase completion. This shift, however, presents challenges for faculty who must condense a semester's worth of content without sacrificing academic rigor. While accelerated courses can boost completion rates for some, they can create an all-or-nothing scenario for others. Panelists will focus on presenting flipped strategies, streamlining assessments, and high-impact practices to maintain rigor, while garnering participation from the audience about their strategies, experiences, and challenges.

Thursday 2:00 PM CDT

1500

Thursday 2:00 PM to 3:15 PM CDT

Greenway F

Argumentation and Forensics Interest Group Business Meeting

Sponsor: Argumentation and Forensics Interest Group

Chair: Ryan Scott Rigda, Saginaw Valley State University

Presenters:

 Jonathon Hart, Ferris State University

 Aimee Miller, Ferris State University

1501

Thursday 2:00 PM to 3:15 PM CDT

Skyway AB

**Building Confidence-Overcoming Your Fear -
Neurodivergent Teaching Skills and Strategies**

Sponsor: States Advisory Council

Chair: Dana S. Trunnell, Prairie State College

Presenters:

 Susan Bookless, Galena High School

 Mia Poston, College of DuPage

 Cassandra Wingert, College of DuPage

 Dana S. Trunnell, Prairie State College

This session explores the lessons learned from educators teaching neurodiverse specific courses. We will discuss ways neurodiverse students think, act, and learn-and how those insights have reshaped our teaching, grading, and classroom design. Presenters will highlight practical strategies that build structure without rigidity, foster confidence through flexibility, and make learning more accessible for every student. Attendees will leave with concrete, classroom-tested approaches they can implement immediately to better support all learners.

THU

1502

Thursday 2:00 PM to 3:15 PM CDT

Mirage

Career Mentorship for Teaching, Promotion, and Job Application Materials

Sponsor: CSCA Next Leaders Network

Chairs: Sarah Symonds LeBlanc, Purdue University Fort Wayne; Matthew Meier, DePauw University

Presenters:

Alexandru Stana, Winona State University

John R. Baldwin, Illinois State University

Deanna Sellnow, Clemson University

Ahmet Aksoy, Winona State University

Dana Schowalter, Western Oregon University

Stephen Spates, Michigan State University

Kristina Scharp, Rutgers University

Matthew Meier, DePauw University

Kathy Denker, Ball State University

Please join us for a round table session featuring mentors ready to share ideas and feedback on teaching, hiring, and promotion materials. From questions about employing un-grading in your course design or refining your course schedule, to organizing your CV and how to write a cover letters, or formatting promotion materials, these mentors are ready to help you think through your career in progress. Please bring your documents, notes, ideas, or any questions with you to this session.

1503

Thursday 2:00 PM to 3:15 PM CDT

Greenway B

Communication Theory Interest Group Business Meeting

Sponsor: Communication Theory Interest Group

Chair: Austin Beattie, Hope College

Presenters:

Austin T. Frederick, Wayne State University

Abbie VanMeter, CMM Institute for Personal and Social Evolution

1504

Thursday 2:00 PM to 3:15 PM CDT

Greenway E

Critical Autoethnographies of Popular Culture: Part 1-Remembering and Recognizing

Sponsor: Popular Culture Interest Group

Chair: Tasha R. Dunn, The University of Toledo

Respondent: Holly Holladay, Missouri State University

"How Television Raised Me to Be a Childless Cat Lady" Jennifer C. Dunn, Dominican University

"I Am Not, Or Am I?: Working With, In, and Around Popular Culture" Art Herbig, Purdue University Fort Wayne

"Queer Media as 'Equipment for Living': Proclivities, Pleasures, and the Passing of Time" Tony Adams, Bradley University

"Toward a Theory of Symbolic Placement: Building a Family Soundtrack Through Popular Music" Jimmie Manning, University of Nevada, Reno

"Will You Spell My Name With Me? B·L·I·P·P·I: Dispatches from the Algorithmic Taste _____ Wars of Parenthood" W. Benjamin Myers, The University of Toledo

This 2-part panel, based on a forthcoming edited collection, features a diverse group of scholars who draw on personal experience to offer critical, vivid accounts of how the popular culture we consume shapes who we are, what we believe, and how we engage the world and those around us. Collectively, this work speaks about and speaks back to the everyday objects that inform and influence our subjectivity.

1505

Thursday 2:00 PM to 3:15 PM CDT

Greenway J

Holding Space, Affirming Voice: Faculty Learning Community Research Presentations

Sponsor: Faculty Learning Community

Chairs: Grace Oforiwa Sikapokoo, Northern Illinois University; Morgan Smalls, James Madison University

Presenters:

Abigail Adediran, University of Missouri

Kelly Merrill Jr., University of Cincinnati

Abdulnasir James, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Sabiha Mahbuba, Ohio University

The purpose of this panel is to amplify, celebrate, and support Black, Indigenous, and POC (BIPOC) scholars' research. Each FLC participant will present their current research to help create a community of belonging and support for communication scholars of color at Central States.

THU

1506

Thursday 2:00 PM to 3:15 PM CDT

Lakeshore C

Hooked on a Feeling: Translating a Sense of Belonging(ness) to Student Success (Top Panel)

Sponsor: Communication Education Interest Group

Chair: Liz Sills, Indiana University Kokomo

Presenters:

Leah Elizabeth Bryant, DePaul University

DeAnne Priddis, Middle Tennessee State University

Sarah E. Riforgiate, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Tiffany R. Wang, University of Montevallo

This interactive panel translates belonging research into effective classroom activities that foster supportive and inclusive learning environments. Panelists will first highlight key findings from extant research on belonging. Second, each presenter will share specific successful classroom activities that have been used to promote dialogue and learning, as well as a sense of belonging. There will also be an opportunity for the audience to ask questions and share their successful experiences in developing a sense of belonging with their students. We will conclude by inviting everyone to reflect on how their work can be translated from inside and outside the classroom.



The School of Humanities and Social Sciences
at Indiana University Kokomo
congratulates Liz Sills for receiving the
Top Panel Award from the
Communication Education Interest Group!



The Department of Communication at the
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee congratulates
Sarah E. Riforgiate for receiving the Top Panel Award
from the Communication Education Interest Group!

1507

Thursday 2:00 PM to 3:15 PM CDT

Lakeshore A

Interpersonal and Family Communication Interest Group Business Meeting

Sponsor: Interpersonal and Family Communication Interest Group

Chair: Natalie Pennington, Colorado State University

Presenters:

Brooke Wolfe, Michigan State University

Haley Nolan-Cody, Rutgers University

1508

Thursday 2:00 PM to 3:15 PM CDT

Greenway H

Listening for Wellbeing: Ethical Organizational Engagement with Healthcare Staff

Sponsor: Organizational and Professional Communication Interest Group

Chair: Getrude Kafui Senu, Illinois State University

Presenters:

Mark Ofosu Asirifi, University of Georgia

Janet Laadi Anani, University of Minnesota Twin Cities

Nana Yaa Asare, University of Kentucky

Dora Nentoola, University of New Mexico

Florence Addai, Missouri State University

Beatrice Amissah, Illinois State University

This panel addresses the need for healthcare organizations to listen to and engage with their own workforce. Doctors, nurses, and emergency responders face persistent burnout, stress, and mental health challenges which demand more than surface-level feedback systems. Panelists will discuss practical strategies for soliciting, analyzing, and integrating staff perspectives into organizational policy, highlighting innovative approaches such as structured listening policies and strategies, interprofessional feedback loops, and transparent decision-making processes.

1509

Thursday 2:00 PM to 3:15 PM CDT

Greenway D

Strategic and Applied Communication Interest Group Business Meeting

Sponsor: Strategic and Applied Communication Interest Group

Chair: Khairul Islam, Florida Atlantic University

Presenters:

Rodrigo Soares, University of Vermont

Alicia Mason, Pittsburg State University

THU

1510

Thursday 2:00 PM to 3:15 PM CDT

Greenway C

Translate Beyond the Classroom: Helping Communication Cross Boundaries

Sponsors: Communication Education Interest Group; Instructional Resources Interest Group

Chair: Kyle Vareberg, Northeastern State University

Presenters:

Caroline Waldbuesser, University of Missouri

Robert Sidelinger, Oakland University

Elaina Ross, Northeastern State University

Ian Berry, North Dakota State University

Kathryn B. Golsan, University of Northern Iowa

Kyle Vareberg, Northeastern State University

Communication requires ongoing translation. This panel explores how we translate the value proposition-what communication uniquely contributes to personal, professional, and civic life to various stakeholders (i.e., students, administrators, campus communities, workplace partners, and local organizations). Through strategies, real-world examples, and interactive discussions, panelists will share how effective translation fosters stronger connections, supports student learning, and equips graduates to apply communication skills beyond the classroom-while inviting attendees to share their own insights and approaches.

1511

Thursday 2:00 PM to 3:15 PM CDT

Greenway G

Translating Accessible Design into Conference Practices

Sponsor: Graduate Student Caucus

Chair: Julie Hartung, Colorado State University

Presenters:

Reese Klotz, Colorado State University

Lindsay Gagnon, Colorado State University

Evan Kirksey, University of Missouri

Elliot Powell, University of South Florida

Isabelle Stahr, University of South Florida

Alicia Utecht, DePauw University

While we were Widening the Scope of Communication Studies last year, many attendees found that scope still too narrow to meet their accessibility needs. The first step to ensuring all participants benefit from conference attendance is to listen to the voices of those who are currently underserved. As such, this panel Translates the experiences of disabled graduate students and the impacts that (in)accessible conference practices have on their ability to engage in the academic community.

1512

Thursday 2:00 PM to 3:15 PM CDT

Greenway I

Translating and Transforming Rhetorical Theory

Sponsor: Rhetorical Theory and Criticism Interest Group

Chair: Matthew Edor, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Respondent: Chad Nelson, Florida Gulf Coast University

"Revisiting Asante: An Expansion of the African Rhetorical Concept" Gift Akintoye, Missouri State University

"Reframing the Rhetorical Theory of Style: From Ornament to Ideological Force in a Digital Age" Rawan Hesham Hamouda Hegazy, Missouri State University

"Obama Era Food Blogs' Stylizations of White Consumerist Femininity" Dustin A. Greenwalt, Southern Illinois University Carbondale

"Confucianism and Rhetorical Theory: Revisiting Ethos, Language, and Persuasion" Kexi Chen, Missouri State University

This panel reexamines and expands rhetorical theory. Drawing on diverse perspectives from Asante to Confucius, the papers explore how foundational concepts such as style and ethos can be revised, translated, and adapted.

1513

Thursday 2:00 PM to 3:15 PM CDT

St. Croix

Translating Resistance: Mobilizing Expertise for Policy and Community Change (Top Panel)

Sponsor: Activism, Communication Ethics, and Social Justice Interest Group

Chair: Bailey Hughlett, University of Connecticut

Presenters:

Marcia Howard, Minneapolis Federation of Educators, Local 59

Catina Taylor, Minneapolis Federation of Educators, Local 59

Sydney O'Shay, Utah State University

Rebecca Imes, Carroll University

This panel features scholars and community organizers engaged in resistance across academic, labor, and political spheres to explore how knowledge is translated into public action.

Contributions include: Minneapolis-based organizers' post-George Floyd anti-police brutality work and pursuit of education justice and labor equity; a Utah scholar-union leader's coalition-building and student-centered activism resisting legislative overreach; and a department chair's navigation of sexist institutional structures. Panelists will discuss mobilizing colleagues and communities to sustain advocacy amid institutional and political challenges.



Utah State
University

The Department of Communication Studies & Philosophy at Utah State University congratulates Sydney O'Shay for receiving Top Panel Awards from the Activism, Communication Ethics & Social Justice and Interpersonal and Family Communication Interest Groups!

1514

Thursday 2:00 PM to 3:15 PM CDT

Minnehaha

**Translating the Self to Lead:
Non-Western Leadership in Western Academic Spaces (Top Panel)**

Sponsor: Intercultural Communication Interest Group

Chair: Alberto Gonzalez, Bowling Green State University

Presenters:

EunYoung Lee, Central Washington University

Emi Kanemoto, Bryant University

Hsin-I Sydney Yueh, University of Missouri

Ahmet Atay, The University of Alabama at Birmingham

Sasha Allgayer, Southern Illinois University Carbondale

This panel explores how non-U.S. academics navigate leadership roles within U.S. academia, where racial and gender disparities remain entrenched. Centering lived experiences often excluded from Communication scholarship, panelists examine the structural and cultural tensions of leading from the margins. Through the lens of concepts like the "glass ceiling" and "bamboo ceiling," this session reimagines leadership beyond hegemonic norms, offering critical reflection and practical insight into sustaining authentic leadership across difference.



The School of Media and Communication at Bowling Green State University congratulates Alberto Gonzalez for receiving the Top Panel Award from the Intercultural Communication Interest Group!

1515

Thursday 2:00 PM to 3:15 PM CDT

Lakeshore B

Whose Womb, Whose Voice? Navigating Autonomy, Shame, and Bioethics in the Digital Discourse on Surrogacy in Africa.

Sponsor: Health Communication Interest Group

Chair: Salome N. Mbah, North Dakota State University

Presenters:

Ngozi Oguejiofor, University of Nevada, Reno

Lois Domene - Attafuah, North Dakota State University

Bukola Oloba, North Dakota State University

Irene Martha Lutterodt, Southern Illinois University Carbondale

Clementina Edema, University of Missouri

Uchenna Eze, University of Iowa

Rosemary Charway, Ohio University

This panel explores how digital platforms shape the discourse on surrogacy across Africa, using the Nigerian debate sparked by Ife of Dang's viral video as a case study. Through qualitative content analysis, we investigate how influencers, cultural taboos, and religious morality influence public narratives on reproductive autonomy and bioethics. Panelists from across Africa will offer perspectives on women's agency, health communication, and stigma, revealing shared and divergent socio-cultural values surrounding reproductive technologies.

Thursday 3:30 PM CDT

1600

Thursday 3:30 PM to 4:45 PM CDT

Regency

A Simplified Approach to Teaching the Basic Course – Introduction to Public Speaking Using the 5 Notecard Method

Sponsor: Short Courses

Presenter:

Jaclyn Marsh, Bowling Green State University

For this course, I would like to share part of my new book, *Public Speaking Simplified: Removing Speech Anxiety* publishing as a national title with Kendall Hunt – ready for course adoptions for Fall 2026. In my book, five chapters are dedicated to teaching the five notecard method where each notecard represents a major section of their speech: introduction, main point #1, main point #2, main point #3, and their conclusion. I teach students how to write an outline one step at a time and transpose that information to their notecards.

1601

Thursday 3:30 PM to 4:45 PM CDT

St. Croix

Activism, Communication Ethics and Social Justice Interest Group Business Meeting

Sponsor: Activism, Communication Ethics, and Social Justice Interest Group

Chair: Heather Walters, Missouri State University

Presenters:

Samentha Sepúlveda, Northeastern Illinois University

Kristi Scholten, Ferris State University

1602

Thursday 3:30 PM to 4:45 PM CDT

Greenway H

Are You Ready to Be Deported?": Examining the Emotional and Communicative Dimensions of Visa Revocation Anxiety Among International Students in the United States

Sponsor: Ethnicity, Race, International, and Class Concerns Caucus

Chair: Alfred Kwabena Obiri, Illinois State University

Presenters:

Beatrice Amissah, Illinois State University

Mark Ofosu Asirifi, University of Georgia

Saumya Malhotra, University of Minnesota Twin Cities

Subulola Jiboye, Purdue University

Jibran Zeb, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

This round table is made up of six international students from different universities across the country. The discussion will be facilitated by the chair who will ask relevant questions pertinent to the topic. Audience members will also have the opportunity to ask questions and make insightful contributions.

THU

1603

Thursday 3:30 PM to 4:45 PM CDT

Greenway E

Critical Autoethnographies of Popular Culture: Part 2-Resisting and Reclaiming

Sponsor: Popular Culture Interest Group

Chair: Holly Holladay, Missouri State University

Respondent: Tasha R. Dunn, The University of Toledo

"(Re)imagining 'Queer Joy' Through Heartstopper" Keith Berry, University of South Florida

"Finding Freedom at the End of the Rainbow: The Corporatization of Pride and a Plea for Queer Organizational Worldmaking" David Dooling, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

"Healing on the Hellmouth: Pop Culture Tourism and Transformation" Andrew Herrmann, Independent Scholar

"No More 'Good Vibes Only': Bursting the White Bubble of Pop Culture Yoga" Danielle M. Stern, Christopher Newport University

"Rewinding 'American Idiot,' Fast-Forward to Idiot America: Green Day's Album that Historically Captured and Predicted Modern Gen-X Life" Michaela D.E. Meyer, Christopher Newport University

This 2-part panel, based on a forthcoming edited collection, features a diverse group of scholars who draw on personal experience to offer critical, vivid accounts of how the popular culture we consume shapes who we are, what we believe, and how we engage the world and those around us. Collectively, this work speaks about and speaks back to the everyday objects that inform and influence our subjectivity.

1604

Thursday 3:30 PM to 4:45 PM CDT

Skyway AB

Everything But Teaching: Increasing Student Success Beyond the Classroom

Sponsor: States Advisory Council

Chair: Kyle Vareberg, Northeastern State University

Presenters:

Kyle Vareberg, Northeastern State University

Elaina Ross, Northeastern State University

Garret L. Castleberry, Mid-America Christian University

Sarah Hollingsworth, Oklahoma State University

Tip Crowley, Rogers State University

Student success is multi-faceted. From retention, to persistence, to classroom strategies, colleges and universities have focused on how to improve student success. In this panel discussion, faculty discuss strategies utilized at their institutions to impact student success and the role the communication discipline can play in those initiatives.

1605

Thursday 3:30 PM to 4:45 PM CDT

Mirage

G.I.F.T. Session #2 - Online Activities

Sponsor: G.I.F.T. Interest Group

Chair: Amanda L. Medlock-Klyukovski, Truman State University

"Adapt and Engage: Master an Audience-Centered Communication" Rawan Hesham Hamouda Hegazy, Missouri State University

"Building Community and Connection in Public Speaking: The Meme Awards" Ryan McGeough, University of Northern Iowa; Danielle McGeough, University of Northern Iowa; Emma Newton, University of Maryland

"Decoding the Missing Emoji: Teaching Nonverbal Ambiguity in Interpersonal Communication." Habeeb Abdulrauf, Western Michigan University

"Great Ideas for Teaching: Date Me Doc" Kaitlin Elizabeth Phillips, Baylor University; Jennifer Kienzle, City College of San Francisco

"Just Press "Play": Collective Meaning-Making in the Virtual Classroom" Kim Smith, Bellin College

"Media Representation of Social Groups" Nagwan R. Zahry, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga

"The Gender Archetype Tracker: A Media Literacy Toolkit" Allyson Ritchey, Bowling Green State University

"Translating Policy into Practice: Developing Accessible Web-Based Surveys" Alicia Mason, Pittsburg State University; Elizabeth A. Spencer, University of Kentucky; Pan Liu, Marian University; Sakshi Bhati, Southern Illinois University Carbondale; Kristen Livingston, Pittsburg State University

This G.I.F.T. session features activities that can be done in an online environment.

1606

Thursday 3:30 PM to 4:45 PM CDT

Greenway J

Holding Space, Affirming Voice: Faculty Learning Community Teaching Presentations

Sponsor: Faculty Learning Community

Chairs: Grace Oforiwa Sikapokoo, Northern Illinois University; Morgan Smalls, James Madison University

Presenters:

Abigail Adediran, University of Missouri

Kelly Merrill Jr., University of Cincinnati

Abdulnasir James, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Sabiha Mahbuba, Ohio University

The purpose of this panel is to amplify, celebrate, and support Black, Indigenous, and POC (BIPOC) scholars' teaching. Each FLC participant will present their current teaching to help create a community of belonging and support for communication scholars of color at Central States.

THU

Humans and Their Environ: Navigating Our Relationship with the Natural World

Sponsor: Rhetorical Theory and Criticism Interest Group

Chair: Nicholas Morrissey, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Respondent: Dustin A. Greenwalt, Southern Illinois University Carbondale

"The Anthropocene: Beginning in The End" Athena Maria Lee, The Pennsylvania State University

"Translating the 'Orca Uprising'" Katherine Lind, Winona State University

"Iowa in Apposition: The Pedagogy of Definition and Redefinition in *The Swine Republic*" Tom Duncanson, Green Citizen Diplomacy Project; Jeffrey Dean Brand, University of Northern Iowa

"Public Parks: A Media Ecology Perspective" Jessica C. Jansen, Missouri State University

This panel explores how humans engage with and make sense of the natural world. From regional environmental practices and anthropomorphized animal behavior to public parks and global climate change, these papers examine the ongoing tensions that shape how we understand and navigate our relationship with the environment.

THU

Interpersonal and Family Communication Interest Group: Top Papers

Sponsor: Interpersonal and Family Communication Interest Group
Chair: Natalie Pennington, Colorado State University

"A Meta-Analysis of Children Feeling Caught Between Parents and Parent-Child Relationship Quality (Top Paper)" Paul Schrot, Texas Christian University

"A Scoping Review of Sibling Caregiving in Communication Research and Future Directions (Nancy Burrell Award for Top Student Paper, Top Debut Paper)" Karen Shalev, University of Connecticut

"Bodies, Bottles, and Emotions: Exploring the Lived Experiences of Exclusive Pumping Mothers Through Photos (Dawn O. Braithwaite Award for Qualitative Research)" Jessica Rick, Illinois State University

"How Desired and Received Parental Support Relate to Hurt Feelings: Support Gaps in Emerging Adults-Parent Relationships" Yue Zhang, Michigan State University; Elizabeth Dorrance Hall, Michigan State University

"Parental Support Content and Quality: Supporting Girls' and Women's Interest and Persistence in STEM" Elizabeth Dorrance Hall, Michigan State University; Olivia Watson, Michigan State University; Yue Zhang, Michigan State University; Brooke Wolfe, Michigan State University; Xiaoran Cui, Michigan State University; America Edwards, University of Kentucky; Ran Liu, Michigan State University; Debra Lawlor, Michigan State University

This session hosts the top papers in Interpersonal and Family Communication. This includes the overall top paper, top qualitative paper and winner of the Dawn O. Braithwaite Award for Qualitative Research, and the top student paper and winner of the Nancy Burrell Award.



BOB SCHIEFFER
COLLEGE of COMMUNICATION
Communication Studies

The Department of Communication Studies at Texas Christian University congratulates Paul Schrot for receiving the Top Paper Award from the Interpersonal and Family Communication Interest Group!



**SCHOOL OF
COMMUNICATION**
Illinois State University

The School of Communication at Illinois State University congratulates Jessica Rick for receiving the Dawn O. Braithwaite Award from the Interpersonal and Family Communication Interest Group!

**Navigating the Twist and Turns of Graduate Education in the
Era of Restrictive Legalities and Global Uncertainties:
Exploring Coping Experiences of International Students in the Mid-West (Top Panel)**

Sponsor: Graduate Student Caucus

Chair: Michael Ofori, University of Minnesota Twin Cities

Presenters:

Ruth Yeboah, Bowling Green State University

Gladys Mawuena Momade, Purdue University

Adraina Kukwaa Adu, University of Minnesota Twin Cities

Rhodalene Naa Ayekai Odai, Bowling Green State University

Isaac Asare Kwakye, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Andrew Donkor, University of Maryland

Matthew Edor, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Jessica Afful Tuleassi, University of Minnesota Twin Cities

Emmanuel Mylo Dadzie, North Dakota State University

Francis Nyameke, University of Minnesota Twin Cities

Melissa Aprekuwaa Coleman, University of Minnesota Twin Cities

Halima Lul Ali, Bowling Green State University

Rosemond Asmah, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

The goal of this panel is to foster an open dialogue about the academic, emotional, and social realities of graduate student life in an era of rising protectionism and global uncertainty about immigration and its impact on graduate studies. This panel brings together international graduate students from various disciplines, including sociology, mass communication, public health, and philosophy, at several universities in the Midwest to reflect on their shared experiences. This panel is significant for students as much as graduate directors/coordinators who manage international students in their workplaces.



BGSU | School of
Media and
Communication
BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY

The School of Media and Communication at Bowling Green State University congratulates Ruth Yeboah for receiving the Top Panel Award from the Graduate Student Caucus!



BGSU | School of
Media and
Communication
BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY

The School of Media and Communication at Bowling Green State University congratulates Rhodalene Naa Ayekai Odai for receiving the Top Panel Award from the Graduate Student Caucus!



DEPARTMENT OF
COMMUNICATION

The Department of Communication at the University of Maryland congratulates Andrew Donkor for receiving the Top Panel Award from the Graduate Student Caucus!



The School of Media and Communication at Bowling Green State University congratulates Halima Lul Ali for receiving the Top Panel Award from the Graduate Student Caucus!



The Department of Communication at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee congratulates Rosemond Asmah for receiving the Top Panel Award from the Graduate Student Caucus!

1610

Thursday 3:30 PM to 4:45 PM CDT

Greenway C

Political Communication Interest Group Business Meeting

Sponsor: Political Communication Interest Group

Chair: Xavier Lee Scruggs, Wake Forest University

Presenters:

Ant Woodall, Northeastern University

Joshua P. Bolton, Salisbury University

1611

Thursday 3:30 PM to 4:45 PM CDT

Greenway D

The Rising Tide Lifts All Boats: Translating Mentorship Across Roles, Ranks, and Relationships

Sponsor: Women's Caucus

Chair: Candice Ruh, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Presenters:

DeAnne Priddis, Middle Tennessee State University

Tiffany R. Wang, University of Montevallo

Sarah E. Rforgiate, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Amy Aldridge, Middle Tennessee State University

Cimmiaron Alvarez, Kean University

Stacey Mirviss-Jossart, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Leah Elizabeth Bryant, DePaul University

Mentorship is a powerful yet complex dynamic in academic life, especially for women navigating teaching, research, service, and leadership. This panel examines how academic women mentor in all directions – upward, downward, and laterally. Mentoring can occur in various forms, such as situational, lifelong, or even accidental, leading to reciprocal mentoring relationships throughout various career stages. Join our discussion with participants from multiple roles, including administrators, professors of various levels, recent graduates, and graduate students.

THU

Translating Argumentation and Debate in a Post "Prove Me Wrong" Era: Perception, Practice, and Pedagogy of Argumentation and Debate Scholarship (Top Panel)

Sponsor: Argumentation and Forensics Interest Group

Chair: Aimee Miller, Ferris State University

Presenters:

Jonathon Hart, Ferris State University

Cassandra D. Hightower, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Richard Besel, Grand Valley State University

Jennifer Keohane, University of Baltimore

Aimee Miller, Ferris State University

The average American finds political debates to be unpleasant, challenging, and anxiety-inducing experiences. Consequently, many tend to avoid debate entirely, or turn to social media to voice their grievances in an algorithm-controlled echo chamber. Thus, it should be no surprise that environment has given rise to influencers such as Charlie Kirk who prey on the political divide by rhetorically framing "debate" as "gotcha" moments. In fact, a report from the *New York Times* (Bensinger & Smart, 2025) details the rhetorical strategies utilized by Kirk, revealing how his debate strategy was "used to deliver a consistent hard-line message while orchestrating highly sharable moments" (para. 6). Following the death of Charlie Kirk, many fans and followers expressed their support of his "calm demeanor" and "willingness to engage" with a variety of issues. In essence, Kirk's legacy became synonymous with free speech while also silencing those who disagree with him politically. This raises questions about "acceptable" forms of public debate and the role of civility in political discourse. Therefore, this panel discussion seeks to engage with perception, practice, and pedagogy of argumentation and debate in a post "prove me wrong" era.



The Department of Communication at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee congratulates Cassandra D. Hightower for receiving the Top Panel Award from the Argumentation and Forensics Interest Group!

1613

Thursday 3:30 PM to 4:45 PM CDT

Greenway B

Translating Information Literacy to Students in Basic Communication Courses

Sponsor: Basic Course Interest Group

Chair: Donna R. Pawlowski, Bemidji State University

Presenters:

Jenny Turner, Minnesota State University, Mankato

Anne Kerber, Minnesota State University, Mankato

Tim McKenna-Buchanan, Manchester University

Stevie Munz, Utah Valley University

Adam W. Tyma, University of Nebraska Omaha

The increased usage of generative AI technologies and prevalence of (mis)information online have created an urgent need for integrating critical information literacy into basic communication courses. Panelists will draw from their classroom and professional experiences to consider how information literacy intersects with the communication discipline, how to effectively teach these skills in the basic course and help students apply them across contexts, and what opportunities and challenges arise when implementing information literacy in interdisciplinary collaborations.

1614

Thursday 3:30 PM to 4:45 PM CDT

Minnehaha

Translating the Midwest: Transmitting Our Culture Within and Without the Region

Sponsor: Intercultural Communication Interest Group

Chair: Liz Sills, Indiana University Kokomo

Presenters:

Nkem Chibuko, The Ohio State University

Benjamin Harley, St. Catherine University

Joel Iverson, University of Montana

Lynn Klundt, Northern State University

Although the often-cartoonish or bland portrayals of the American Midwest in popular culture have some roots in fact, the Midwest is an enormously diverse region. In the spirit of responsibly transmitting the true variety of the Midwest from an insider's perspective, this panel will feature five participants who will discuss their experiences relating Midwest culture to the world beyond its borders. The audience will also be invited to discuss fruitful paths toward responsible cultural transmission.

THU

Thursday 5:00 PM CDT

1700

Thursday 5:00 PM to 6:15 PM CDT

St. Croix

Activism, Communication Ethics, and Social Justice Interest Group: Top Papers

Sponsor: Activism, Communication Ethics, and Social Justice Interest Group
Chair: Heather Walters, Missouri State University

"Curb-Cutting Digital Data Collection: Assistive Pretext and Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG)" Kelsey Stanfield, Bowling Green State University

"Moving Beyond Linguistic Colonization in Research: Experimentations in Method-Making as Relation" Lauren Mark, State University of New York at New Paltz; Marina Basu, Arizona State University

"Unraveling the Minnesota Paradox: Mapping Racial Harm and Repair Through Tax-Base Sharing in South Minneapolis (Top Student Paper, Top Debut Paper)" Stephanie Kaczynski, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

"The Hegemony of White Christian Nationalism: Critical Communication Pedagogy's Role in Resistance (Top Paper, Top Inclusive Scholarship Paper)" David H. Kahl, Jr., Penn State Behrend

These papers are the top papers in the Activism, Communication Ethics, and Social Justice Interest Group.



The School of Media and Communication at Bowling Green State University congratulates Kelsey Stanfield for receiving a Top Four Paper Award from the Activism, Communication Ethics, and Social Justice Interest Group!



The Media and Communication Program at Penn State Behrend congratulates David H. Kahl, Jr. for receiving the Top Paper and Top Inclusive Scholarship Paper Awards from the Activism, Communication Ethics, and Social Justice Interest Group!

1701

Thursday 5:00 PM to 6:15 PM CDT

Lakeshore A

Collaborating Across Family Science and Communication: Translating Scholarship for Policy, Practice, and People (Top Panel)

Sponsor: Interpersonal and Family Communication Interest Group

Chair: Tara G. McManus, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Presenters:

Dawn O. Braithwaite, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Lekie Dwanyen, Michigan State University

Kory Floyd, Washington State University

Sydney O'Shay, Utah State University

Brooke Wolfe, Michigan State University

This panel highlights the value of cross-disciplinary collaboration in advancing translational scholarship. Panelists (members of CSCA and the National Council on Family Relations (NCFR)) will join this moderated discussion to explore intersections between Communication and Family Studies, emphasizing how cross-association engagement can enhance public impact and improve translational scholarship. The session will invite audience engagement to consider how CSCA and NCFR members might collaborate to further translate our research into practice, policy, and community engagement, expanding our reach outside of traditional academic audiences. We will end the session with dedicated time for professional networking.



The Department of Communication Studies at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln congratulates Dawn O. Braithwaite for receiving the Top Panel Award from the Interpersonal and Family Communication Interest Group!

THU

1702

Thursday 5:00 PM to 6:15 PM CDT

Greenway F

Dictating Creativity: Case Studies in Algorithmic Effects on Creative Performance

Sponsor: Performance Studies and Autoethnography Interest Group

Chair: Elaina Ross, Northeastern State University

Presenters:

Tip Crowley, Rogers State University

Shawna Blake, Tulsa Community College

Kendrea James, Northwest Arkansas Community College

This panel looks to discuss the impact of social media algorithms on entertainment content. Focusing on creative performance, the panel will explore case studies in music and comedy in which creators translate their content to be successful through the lens of social media.

1703

Thursday 5:00 PM to 6:15 PM CDT

Greenway G

Digital Belonging, Media Agency, and Media Framing Across Diverse Communities

Sponsor: Graduate Student Caucus

Chair: Abigail Adediran, University of Missouri

Respondent: Md Sazzad Mahmud Shuvo, Florida State University

"Analyzing the Role of Social, Non-Social, and Activity-Based Motivations in Shaping Social Media Use and Gratifications Amongst International Students" Andrew Donkor, University of Maryland

"Beyond the Headline: A Comparative Deconstruction of Framing and Editorial Autonomy in Gen Z Revolution of Bangladesh" Md Abdur Razzak Sarker, Minnesota State University, Mankato; Jawad Chowdhury, Minnesota State University, Mankato; Mahbub Bin Sarwar Pulok Pulok, Feni University

"Cross-Disciplinary Solidarity: An Exploratory Study Among Graduate Students in Digital Academic Communities" Lois Domena - Attafuah, North Dakota State University

"Remediating Social Movement Narratives: Traditional Media's Framing of Social Media Content During the July 2024 Uprising" Motasim Billah, North Dakota State University; Nadia (Nahrin) Rahman, Bangladesh University of Professionals; Monira Begum, The University of Southern Mississippi; Israt Jahan Oishe, Bangladesh University of Professionals

These studies examine diverse populations' motivation for media use, highlighting the interplay between media use, media framing, social support, and cultural agency in shaping student experiences across borders.

1704

Thursday 5:00 PM to 6:15 PM CDT

Minnehaha

Food as a Cultural Practice: Discovering New Restaurants

Sponsor: Intercultural Communication Interest Group

Chair: Ahmet Atay, The University of Alabama at Birmingham

Presenters:

Ahmet Atay, The University of Alabama at Birmingham

Alberto Gonzalez, Bowling Green State University

Emi Kanemoto, Bryant University

Sasha Allgayer, Southern Illinois University Carbondale

Although food is an integral aspect of culture and everyday life, intercultural communication scholars have not widely studied food and food cultures around us. In this panel, instead of food as a culture, we examine restaurants as a culture, cultural space, and cultural practices. Through personal narratives and autoethnographic accounts, each panelist discusses the role that food and restaurants play in their everyday lives. By doing so, they will examine restaurants as a cultural space to create communities, share memories, and also feel connected to home cultures.

1705

Thursday 5:00 PM to 6:15 PM CDT

Greenway C

Political Communication Interest Group: Top Papers

Sponsor: Political Communication Interest Group

Chair: Benjamin R. Warner, University of Missouri

Respondent: Mitchell S. McKinney, The University of Toledo

"Expression Effects in the 2020 & 2024 Election: How Social Media Usage Impacts Polarization and Belief in Misinformation" Brandon Tyler Boyce, University of Kansas; Eduardo Munoz Suarez, University of Kansas

"Reframing Climate Politics: Political Contestations in IPCC and African Union Climate Framings" Emmanuel Mylo Dadzie, North Dakota State University; Zoltan P. Majdik, North Dakota State University

"Rhetorical Activation of Authoritarian Personality Structure: The Case of Joe Rogan (J. Jeffery Auer Award for Top Student Paper)" Michael Swidecki, University of Kansas

"Submerged Ideology: The Doctrine of the Lesser Magistrate and Christian Nationalism." Calvin Coker, University of Louisville

"The Rhetoric of Congressional Legitimacy and Institutional Restoration: The Urgent Legacy of the January 6th Hearings (Top Paper)" Mark Schmutzler, University of Minnesota Twin Cities

This panel features the top papers in the Political Communication Interest Group.

1706

Thursday 5:00 PM to 6:15 PM CDT

Lakeshore B

Spotlight Panel: Translating Across Boundaries: Intersectional Approaches in Health Communication

Sponsor: Health Communication Interest Group

Chair: Michelle M. Matter, Crown College

Presenters:

Najma Akhther, Nazareth University

Elaine Hsieh, University of Minnesota Twin Cities

Jessica Rick, Illinois State University

Leah Seurer, University of South Dakota

Karen Shalev, University of Connecticut

This conversational panel features individuals who work in both health communication and other fields. Panelists will discuss intersectional areas (organizational, strategic, interpersonal, family, social media, narratives, and others) and the ways they translate information and findings within/across disciplines. Panelists will share struggles, unique opportunities, and intentional decisions they make when working, presenting, and publishing intersectionally. This panel includes reflections about the communication discipline broadly in addition to specific experiences, tips, and recommendations for interdisciplinary scholars.

THU

1707

Thursday 5:00 PM to 6:15 PM CDT

Greenway B

To Inform, or Disinform: The Hidden Agenda of Your Local Media's "Watchdog" and How to Not Fall into the Depths of Disinformation.

Sponsor: Media Studies Interest Group

Chair: K. Megan Hopper, Illinois State University

Using thematic analysis, following the society of professional journalist code of ethics, several themes arise in the Local Government Information Services publications about the 2024 local elections in the state of Illinois such as lack of authorship, ethical justification, and much more. These findings show stories published by the LGIS are not watchdog journalism, and a new skill set is developed to identify disinformation in the media and how to not be easily swayed.

1708

Thursday 5:00 PM to 6:15 PM CDT

Greenway A

Translating AI's Potential in Higher Ed

Sponsor: Instructional Resources Interest Group

Chair: Becky L. DeGreeff, University of Wisconsin-Stout

Presenters:

Shannon C. VanHorn, Valley City State University

Jonna Reule, Valley City State University

Stephanie Batson, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

Kimberly M. Weismann, Bismarck State College

Artificial Intelligence in education is not going away. Yet many in education focus on how to keep students from using it in their work rather than HOW faculty can use it effectively. These panelists will discuss how AI has liberated them from menial classroom work and opened up time for instructors to focus on personalized learning, deeper conversations, and creative activities that engage both students and faculty alike. The audience will also participate in discussion.

1709

Thursday 5:00 PM to 6:15 PM CDT

Lakeshore C

Translating Communication Education: From Theory to Practical Interpersonal Skills

Sponsor: Communication Education Interest Group

Chair: Terri Fahnestock, Allen Community College

Presenters:

Christa Ziegler, Allen County Community College

Chancee Craig, Johnson County Community College

Lindsey Welsch, Johnson County Community College

Traci Dillavou, Kansas City Kansas Community College

This panel examines how shifting degree requirements are transforming the communication classroom and how instructors can translate disciplinary knowledge into accessible, real-world skills. Historically, public speaking has dominated the general education communication requirement. Recent initiatives, however, have recognized interpersonal communication as an equivalent option by prompting a pedagogical shift from presentation-based instruction to the cultivation of soft skills such as empathy, reflection, conflict resolution, and relationship management. Panelists will explore strategies for "translating" communication theory into practice by designing assignments rooted in students' lived experiences, curriculum that engages both majors and non-majors, and teaching approaches that address evolving workforce and societal needs for relational competence. The session highlights practical, inclusive methods for making communication courses more relevant, impactful, and meaningful beyond the academy.

1710

Thursday 5:00 PM to 6:15 PM CDT

Mirage

Translating Research into Publications: Advice from Journal Editors on Article Publication

Sponsor: CSCA Next Leaders Network

Chairs: Matthew Meier, DePauw University; Sarah Symonds LeBlanc, Purdue University Fort Wayne

Presenters:

Meggie Mapes, University of Kansas

Sandra L. Faulkner, Bowling Green State University

Rahul Mitra, Wayne State University

Stephen Croucher, Clemson University

Deanna Sellnow, Clemson University

C. Kyle Rudick, University of Northern Iowa

Please join us for a round table discussion featuring former and current journal editors in the field to get advice on moving your research projects from your desktop to a journal. Anything from questions about research design or finding the best fit for your manuscript to addressing reviewers' concerns and formatting responses to the editor, these mentors can share their collective wisdom about the publication process. Please bring your notes, research rationale, or any questions with you to this session.

THU

1711

Thursday 5:00 PM to 6:15 PM CDT

Greenway I

Translating Strategies of Conservative Rhetoric

Sponsor: Rhetorical Theory and Criticism Interest Group

Chair: Ned Gidley, University of Kansas

Respondent: Thomas A. Salek, Elmhurst University

"Florida is Where Woke Goes to Die': White Deflection and Co-Optation in Ron DeSantis' 2022 Governor's Re-Election Speech (Top Debut Paper)" Cole Thomas Vetter, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

"Judicial Rulings and Justified Shock: A Deconstruction of Women's Agency in Dobbs v. Jackson (2022)" Lexi Traylor, Ball State University

"Shameless and Shameful: Trump's Rhetorical Rejection and Embrace of Shame" Kirsten Theye, Concordia College; Oliver Mark Fluegel-Murray, Concordia College

"Affective Narration: The Digital Rhetoric of the LGB Alliance" Rocky Roque, University of Illinois Chicago

This panel identifies the rhetorical strategies and tactics of conservative discourse from political speeches to judicial rulings and digital narratives, and explores how these strategies shape persuasion, identity, and public engagement.



The Department of Communication at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee congratulates Cole Thomas Vetter for receiving the Top Debut Paper Award from the Rhetorical Theory and Criticism Interest Group!

1712

Thursday 5:00 PM to 6:15 PM CDT

Greenway D

Women's Caucus Business Meeting

Sponsor: Women's Caucus

Chair: Kristin Fitzsimmons, University of Minnesota Twin Cities

Presenters:

Lauren L. Buisker, Colorado State University

Joy L. Daggs, Northwest Missouri State University

Anna Jean DeGalan, University of South Carolina

1713

Thursday 5:00 PM to 6:15 PM CDT

Greenway E

Women's Empowerment in Corporate Social Media: Translating Brand Strategies to Implications (Top Panel)

Sponsor: Strategic and Applied Communication Interest Group

Chair: Justin Rudnick, Minnesota State University, Mankato

Presenters:

Nazifa Khatun, Minnesota State University, Mankato

Kakali Bhattacharya Chakrabarti, Austin Peay State University

Jennifer Murdaugh, Lewis University

Emily Sauter, University of Nebraska Omaha

Jessica Samens, Bethel University

Emmanuel Karikari, Minnesota State University, Mankato

Tasnimul Zannah, Minnesota State University, Mankato

This discussion explores big business corporations' use of women's rights issues and movement campaigns as material in their public relations and marketing strategies. Particularly, the discussion investigates how hashtags and other engagement strategies are used in social media platforms by corporate businesses to gain public attention as marketing strategy of their products. The discussion addresses one broad question: what are the implications of big business corporations using women's status and empowerment issues in the construction of their PR messages and their branding strategy?



The School of Communication at the University of Nebraska at Omaha congratulates Emily Sauter for receiving the Top Panel Award from the Strategic & Applied Communication Interest Group!

Thursday 6:30 PM CDT

1714

Thursday 6:30 PM to 7:45 PM CDT

Offsite

CSCA Faculty Learning Community Reunion Dinner

Sponsor: Faculty Learning Community

Chairs: Grace Oforiwa Sikapokoo, Northern Illinois University; Morgan Smalls, James Madison University

Presenters:

Abigail Adediran, University of Missouri

Kelly Merrill Jr., University of Cincinnati

Abdulnasir James, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Sabiha Mahbuba, Ohio University

The purpose of this dinner is to celebrate current and alumni CSCA Faculty Learning Community members. A previous RSVP is required.

THU

THU

FRI

Thursday 7:00 PM CDT

1800

Thursday 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM CDT

Offsite

CSCA 2026 President's Party: Celebrating the Service of Jeffrey T. Child

Sponsor: CSCA Executive Director

Chair: Kristina Scharp, Rutgers University

Join us to celebrate the first day of the convention and the service of Jeffery T. Child, our current President. During his time in the CSCA Presidential rotation that included planning the 2025 convention in Cincinnati, Jeff has worked diligently to advance a number of important initiatives for the association. In addition to catching up with all your CSCA friends and family, you can make new friends as the music plays, delicious food is served, and bartenders at cash bars serve beverages.

The president's party will take place at Dakota which is a 5 minute (.2 mile) walk from the convention hotel. Please e-mail cscas.ed@gmail.com if you would like to request transportation accommodations to the event.

FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2026

Friday 7:30 AM CDT

2000

Friday 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM CDT

Nicollet Registration

CSCA Registration - Friday

Sponsor: CSCA Executive Director

Chair: Kathleen Cesa, KOC Member Services

Check in and pick up your convention materials.

Friday 8:00 AM CDT

2100

Friday 8:00 AM to 9:15 AM CDT

Greenway I

**Colonial Legacies, Contemporary Struggles:
Indigenous Communication, Identity, and Resistance in Bangladesh**

Sponsor: Ethnicity, Race, International, and Class Concerns Caucus

Chair: Kristi Treinen, Minnesota State University, Mankato

Presenters:

Deepa Oommen, Minnesota State University, Mankato

Adeeb Kasem, Minnesota State University, Mankato

Janifar Kamal Nova, Southern Illinois University Carbondale

Md Ragib Rahman, Missouri State University

Tahura Tabassum Tari, Minnesota State University, Mankato

Sadia Ashrafi Thizbee, International Islamic University Malaysia

This panel examines how Indigenous communities in Bangladesh navigate systemic marginalization and assert agency through politics, media, leadership, language, and digital activism. From the legacies of colonial violence and Bengali ethno-nationalism to contemporary struggles for representation in film, cultural preservation, and online resistance, the panel translates indigenous communication as both a tool of oppression and a means of empowerment. Together, we foreground Indigenous voices and explore pathways toward justice, visibility, and decolonial futures.

2101

Friday 8:00 AM to 9:15 AM CDT

Minnehaha

**Conflict and Engagement in Intercultural Settings:
Competitive Papers in the Intercultural Communication Interest Group**

Sponsor: Intercultural Communication Interest Group

Chair: Carolyn Calloway-Thomas, Indiana University

Respondent: John R. Baldwin, Illinois State University

"La'ikū Kū'ē: Understanding Indigeneity, Sense of Place, and Peaceful Protest (Top Student Paper, Top Debut Paper)" Vance Medeiros, Colorado State University

"Sources of Conflict and Conflict Management Strategies in Intercultural Marriages" Aisha Tahir, Bowling Green State University

"Translating Tradition: Cultural Hybridity and Intercultural Communication in Ghana's Most Beautiful" Jemima Nontaa Dery, Purdue University Northwest

This panel explores how intercultural spaces become sites of both tension and transformation. These papers examine how identity, tradition, and modernity intersect. Each highlights strategies of engagement—whether through activism, relational dynamics, or media translation—that challenge dominant narratives and foster dialogue across cultural boundaries.



COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

The Department of Communication Studies at Colorado State University congratulates Vance Medeiros for receiving the Top Student Paper and Top Debut Paper Awards from the Intercultural Communication Interest Group!

2102

Friday 8:00 AM to 9:15 AM CDT

Greenway H

Extended Abstract Panel: Digital Boundaries, Algorithmic Systems, and Online Influence

Sponsor: Communication & Technology Interest Group

Chair: Xialing Lin, University of Central Florida

"Social Media Addiction and Sleep Quality: The Mediating Role of Bedtime Procrastination Among University Students in Bangladesh" Chuton Deb Nath, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; Erin Ruppel, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; Md Mikhail Hossen, Khulna University

"Students' Awareness, Satisfaction, and Trust in Campus Safety Communications: A Quantitative Analysis" Dennis Ekwemnachukwu Okeke, University of Colorado Boulder

"The Reality of Influence: From Human to Artificial" Christopher J. Carpenter, Western Illinois University; David Westerman, North Dakota State University

"Understanding Doctoral Students' Technology Use to Manage Family and School" Md. Sumon Ali, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; Aklima Begum, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; Sarah E. Rforgiate, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

This panel explores how digital technologies shape work, learning, and social influence. Topics include algorithmic monitoring, technology boundary management, workplace and academic digital practices, and persuasive communication online. These extended abstracts collectively examine how individuals navigate digital systems while negotiating autonomy, identity, and everyday decision-making.

2103

Friday 8:00 AM to 9:15 AM CDT

Greenway E

Power Plays: Rhetorical Constructions of Identity and Influence in Sport

Sponsor: Sports Communication Interest Group

Chair: Kevin Sauter, University of St. Thomas

"A Football Senator: Tommy Tuberville's Rhetorical Maintenance of Dominant Positionalities Through Sport" Mac Williams, University of Mississippi

"Framing the Female Athlete: Rhetorics of Value and Exclusion in NIL and Women's Sports" Emily Sauter, University of Nebraska Omaha

"Just Play for the World: The Rhetorical Intersections of Nike and Public Health Advertising (Top Student Paper)" Kathleen Barry Murphy, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign; Margaret Murphy, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

"Social Identity and the Athlete: College and Professional Perspectives" Samantha Campbell, Hope College; Kendall Kaplan, Hope College

This panel explores how sport functions as a rhetorical arena where power, identity, and value are contested and performed. Papers analyze a senator's use of athletic ethos to maintain dominant positionalities, media framings that shape the perceived worth of female athletes, corporate campaigns that merge public health and profit motives, and athletes' negotiations of social identity across levels of play. Together, these projects reveal how sport operates as a persuasive field through which cultural meaning, political authority, and social influence are strategically enacted and communicated.

2104

Friday 8:00 AM to 9:15 AM CDT

Lakeshore A

Qualitative and Critical Investigations into Interpersonal and Family Communication

Sponsor: Interpersonal and Family Communication Interest Group

Chair: Jessica J. Eckstein, Western Connecticut State University

"College Student Dialogues About Race in Close Relationships" Madison A. Pollino, University of South Florida; Sandra L. Faulkner, Bowling Green State University

"Girl Dads: Constructing a Critical Standpoint" Madison Marshall, Southern Illinois University Carbondale

"Translating Marital Strain: A Feminist Critical Discourse Analysis of the Suffocation Model of Marriage" Seokhoon Ahn, Independent Scholar

"It Was Never About Us': Emotional Betrayal, Trust, and Relational Negotiation in Performative Allyship" Stephen Obiri Agyei, Ohio University; Peace Chinenye Nwachukwu, Ohio University; China Billotte Verhoff, Ohio University

The papers in this session draw on qualitative and critical approaches to the study of interpersonal and family communication to address a broad range of relationships.

2105

Friday 8:00 AM to 9:15 AM CDT

Greenway F

"Tell Me Why!?" Successes & Failures in Code-Switching & Code-Mixing in Moments of Professional Challenge

Sponsor: Performance Studies and Autoethnography Interest Group

Chair: Travis James Wolvek, East Tennessee State University

Presenters:

Vianna Isbister, East Tennessee State University

Emily Katt, East Tennessee State University

Hummuh Abubakar, East Tennessee State University

Stephanie Young, University of Southern Indiana

Andrew Herrmann, Independent Scholar

Jordan Bennett, East Tennessee State University

This panel focuses on the negotiation of switching and/or mixing codes during moments of controversy, challenge, and/or difficulty. We will be sharing stories, analysis, and insights regarding outcomes and consequences from the discussed moments. Combining theoretical explanations and lived experiences, this panel seeks to understand strategies in shifting codes among the intersections of identity, intentionality, and how meaning is communicated.

FRI

2106

Friday 8:00 AM to 9:15 AM CDT

Greenway J

Toward Improved Understandings: Translating Our Work for One Another

Sponsor: Organizational and Professional Communication Interest Group

Chair: Molly Wiant Cummins, The University of Texas at Arlington

Presenters:

Jessica Rick, Illinois State University

Caleb R. McKinley-Portee, Southern Illinois University Carbondale

Allison D. Brenneise, Independent Scholar

Molly Wiant Cummins, The University of Texas at Arlington

Hsun-Yu Sharon Chuang, Central Ohio Technical College

Despite myriad collaborations between subdisciplines in communication, scholars still misunderstand one another's work. This panel brings together scholars from various subdisciplines within communication to discuss our work and help translate important concepts of the field to and with one another to bridge gaps and create potential future collaborations. At a minimum, panelists and audience members should leave with a better understanding of subdisciplines not their own.

2107

Friday 8:00 AM to 9:15 AM CDT

Regency

Translate AI! Building the Communication Course of the Future

Sponsor: Short Courses

Presenter:

Heather Walters, Missouri State University

This short course is designed to prepare educators to teach an undergraduate course in AI and Communication. The course is designed to address the critical need for AI literacy within the communication major and will provide the theoretical foundation and practical resources necessary to launch this essential course. The ability to utilize generative AI tools and understand the risks and limitations involved is increasingly necessary for graduates of our programs. Participants will receive example syllabi and a collection of ready-to-use assignments designed to foster both critical thinking and practical skills.

2108

Friday 8:00 AM to 9:15 AM CDT

Greenway B

Translating Artificial Intelligence Technologies to Media Studies in the Global South: Potentials, Transformation, and Destructions

Sponsor: Media Studies Interest Group

Chair: Michael Ofori, University of Minnesota Twin Cities

Presenters:

Halima Lul Ali, Bowling Green State University

Emmanuel Mylo Dadzie, North Dakota State University

Isaac Asare Kwakye, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Matthew Edor, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Rosemond Asmah, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Janet Laadi Anani, University of Minnesota Twin Cities

Andrew Donkor, University of Maryland

In recent years, academic and policy conversations on artificial intelligence (AI) have expanded significantly, reflecting both the promise and the perils of this rapidly evolving technology.

Dominant narratives, mostly within Western contexts, often frame AI as a dual force: on one hand, a driver of efficiency and innovation; on the other, a source of disruption through job displacement, social disengagement, academic dishonesty, and laziness among students and others. While these debates are central to understanding AI's technological and social transformation in the Global North, parallel conversations in Africa and other parts of the Global South remain largely marginalized or absent from mainstream scholarship and debate about AI and media studies. Thus, this panel brings together seasoned scholars, researchers, and teaching instructors based in U.S. institutions who draw on lived experiences and research in Africa and Asia to address significant questions about AI's potentials, transformations, and destructions, specifically to media studies in the Global South.

FRI

2109

Friday 8:00 AM to 9:15 AM CDT

Greenway C

Translating Resistance

Sponsor: Political Communication Interest Group

Chair: Calvin Coker, University of Louisville

Respondent: Alan D. Heisel, University of Missouri-St. Louis

"Translating Resistance: Rap Music as Political Communication in Bangladesh's 2024 Quota Reform Uprising" Mamunor Rashid, University of Colorado Boulder

"Translating Sajiao: Theorizing Cuteness as a Tactic of Political Participation in Taiwan" Hsin-Li Sydney Yueh, University of Missouri

"Voices of Resistance: Typology of Environmental Activists in Postcolonial and Neoliberal India" Vamsi Chaitanya Pedasanaganti, Kean University

These papers investigate how creative communication translates resistance into political participation across Bangladesh, Taiwan, and India

2110

Friday 8:00 AM to 9:15 AM CDT

Lakeshore C

**Translation as Relational Process:
Re-imagining Communication Education in the Current Moment**

Sponsor: Communication Education Interest Group

Chair: Stephanie Kaczynski, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Presenters:

Joshua A. Youakim, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Stephanie Kaczynski, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Emily Abellon, University of Portland

Sarah Havlicek, Arizona State University

Chad Nelson, Florida Gulf Coast University

This panel explores translation as a sustained relational process, not only learning from and with communities but also creating new spaces altogether for communicative practice that bridge the gap between academia and community. Panelists bring experiences creating reimagined spaces for communication education, including podcasting, public research, service-learning, accreditation, and teaching in non-traditional classrooms. This panel engages the process of creating these spaces, inviting the audience into an honest discussion of how we can continue this work in the current moment. Audience members will come away with actionable ideas for improving access, inclusion, and equity in their own learning environments.

2111

Friday 8:00 AM to 9:15 AM CDT

Greenway D

**Why Will She Lead the Team? The Power of Strategic Organizational Communication in
Elevating Women into Leadership Roles**

Sponsor: Women's Caucus

Chair: Bukola Oloba, North Dakota State University

Presenters:

Omolola Lasisi, University of Kansas

Shalewa Babatayo, University of Central Florida

Clementina Edema, University of Missouri

Uchenna Eze, University of Iowa

Ngozi Oguejiofor, University of Nevada, Reno

Irene Martha Lutterodt, Southern Illinois University Carbondale

Elizebeth Danso, North Dakota State University

Despite progress in workplace equity, women continue to face barriers in leadership advancement due to implicit biases and systemic obstacles (Eagly & Carli, 2007; Heilman, 2012). This panel explores how strategic organizational communication can dismantle these barriers by reshaping narratives around women in leadership. Panelists will discuss communication strategies that promote inclusive leadership, challenge biases, and cultivate environments where women can thrive. Attendees will gain insights into leveraging communication as a tool for equitable leadership development, irrespective of their gender.

2112

Friday 8:00 AM to 9:15 AM CDT

Greenway A

Undergraduate Honors Research Conference Session 1

Sponsor: Undergraduate Honors Research Conference

Chair: Ifesinachi Ayogu, University of Oklahoma

Respondent: Bayo Joachim, Northwest Missouri State University

"The Function of Energy Generating Behaviors (EGBs) in Fandom Interaction and Building Relationships at Marquette Sporting Events" Marin Rooney, Marquette University (Faculty Mentors: Prof. Oluwaferanmi Dahunsi and Dr. Emily Cramer)

"Beyond a Conversation: Why Communication is a Necessary Study" Abigail Jean Eltrich, University of Dubuque

"Work From Home; An Organizational Issue." Alex Edward Garlock, Metropolitan State University (Faculty Mentor: Dr. Melissa Maier)

"Building Zohmentum: A Rhetorical Analysis of Availability and Ethos in Progressive Political Communication in the 2025 New York City Mayoral Race" Andrew Felix Hanson, Denison University (Dr. Alina Haliliuc)

"Politics and Music" Hanna Moore, Ohio University

Join us for outstanding papers in the Undergraduate Honors Research Conference!

Friday 9:00 AM CDT

2113

Friday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM CDT

Nicollet Promenade

Exhibit Hall Featuring Publishers and Technology - Friday

Sponsor: CSCA Executive Director

Chair: Joy L. Daggs, Northwest Missouri State University

Come see the latest in offerings from publishers and technology companies.

FRI

Friday 9:30 AM CDT

2200

Friday 9:30 AM to 10:45 AM CDT

Executive Boardroom

CSCA Committee Vice Chair Award Meeting

Sponsor: CSCA Executive Director

Chair: Tiffany R. Wang, University of Montevallo

Presenters:

Brooke Wolfe, Michigan State University

Madison A. Pollino, University of South Florida

Mary Kiura, Purdue University Fort Wayne

Jenn Anderson, South Dakota State University

Kathryn B. Golsan, University of Northern Iowa

Natalie Pennington, Colorado State University

Christina S. Beck, Ohio University

Hsin-I Sydney Yueh, University of Missouri

Stephen Spates, Michigan State University

2201

Friday 9:30 AM to 10:45 AM CDT

Greenway G

Disability and Neurodiversity Caucus Interest Meeting

Sponsor: CSCA First Vice President

Chair: Michaela D.E. Meyer, Christopher Newport University

Presenter:

Jimmie Manning, University of Nevada, Reno

2202

Friday 9:30 AM to 10:45 AM CDT

Skyway AB

Don't Get Burned - Limits and Boundaries for Yourself

Sponsor: States Advisory Council

Chair: Jonna Reule, Valley City State University

Presenters:

Kelsey Menge, Bismarck State College

Kimberly M. Weismann, Bismarck State College

Burnout is more and more common in today's educational setting, especially at smaller institutions where individuals wear multiple hats. Panelists will present strategies from a professorial perspective and an administrative perspective about how to protect yourself from burnout.

FRI

2203

Friday 9:30 AM to 10:45 AM CDT

Greenway B

Filling the Gap: Developing Cross-Theoretical Case Studies to Translate Communication Theory to Lived Experiences

Sponsor: Communication Theory Interest Group

Chair: Tim McKenna-Buchanan, Manchester University

Presenters:

Tim McKenna-Buchanan, Manchester University

Anna Wright, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Stevie Munz, Utah Valley University

Justin Rudnick, Minnesota State University, Mankato

Teaching communication theory is often challenging for students, in part because they struggle to recognize practical application, and few resources help translate abstract theory into real-world practice. This panel explores how cross-theoretical case studies can generate deeper classroom engagement and help students connect theory to lived experience. Cross-theoretical case studies examine the same case through different theoretical lenses. Attendees will develop practical strategies for how to create cross-theoretical case studies that bridge theory and practice.

2204

Friday 9:30 AM to 10:45 AM CDT

St. Croix

From Boomers to Zoomers: Translating Communication and Connection Through Intergenerational Dialogue in Undergraduate Education (Top Panel)

Sponsor: Undergraduate Education and Administration Section

Chair: David L. Bodary, Sinclair Community College

Presenters:

Aimee Lau, Wisconsin Lutheran College

Donna R. Pawlowski, Bemidji State University

Linda Dickmeyer, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse

Matthew W. Merkling, Illinois State University

Claire Conorman, Wisconsin Lutheran College

Amanda Keil, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse

This panel explores how translation functions as a communicative bridge between generations in undergraduate education. Faculty and students will engage in dialogue about teaching, learning, and advising strategies that translate effectively-and those that do not. Drawing from communication and pedagogical theory, our discussion will examine how translation fosters mutual understanding, empathy, and adaptability in classroom and advising contexts. Overall, the goal of this session is to offer practical insights for improving intergenerational communication in our undergraduate classrooms.



**SCHOOL OF
COMMUNICATION**
Illinois State University

The School of Communication at Illinois State University congratulates Matthew W. Merkling for receiving the Top Panel Award from the Undergraduate Education & Administration Section!

2205

Friday 9:30 AM to 10:45 AM CDT

Mirage

G.I.F.T. Session #3

Sponsor: G.I.F.T. Interest Group

Chair: Angela Glunz, The University of Tennessee at Martin

"Audience Analysis & Topic Research Activity" Shawn C. Starcher, Muskingum University

"Building Bugs to Demonstrate CAT" Lauren J. Johnsen, University of Wisconsin-Stout

"Research and Finding Credible Sources Scavenger Hunt" Joshua Fitzgerald, Linn-Benton Community College

"Scrolling Through Resistance: TikTok as a Tool for Feminist Pedagogy" Janifar Kamal Nova, Southern Illinois University Carbondale

"SpeakSmart: Public Speaking with Real-Time Feedback" Christian Otchere, University of Connecticut

"Translating Connection: Unlocking the Power of Story Through *The Boys in the Boat*" Mary Olivia Roberts, Ohio University; Samantha Roberts, Ohio University

"Translating Thoughts into Theory: An Exercise in Communicative Theorizing" Ant Woodall, Northeastern University; Amy Lu, Northeastern University

"Two Truths and a Lie: Presenting Yourself as a Speaker and Building Credibility Through Delivery." Blessing Nlemedim, Missouri State University

"Welcome to Deckville: An Experiential Simulation Exploring Globalization, Culture, and Communication" Kyle Vareberg, Northeastern State University; Brooklyn Larrison, Northeastern State University

G.I.F.T. Sessions offer teaching ideas for the communication classroom.

2206

Friday 9:30 AM to 10:45 AM CDT

Minnehaha

Intercultural Communication Interest Group Business Meeting

Sponsor: Intercultural Communication Interest Group

Chair: Jennifer Willis-Rivera, University of Wisconsin-River Falls

Presenters:

Diana Trebing, Saginaw Valley State University

Irene Martha Lutterodt, Southern Illinois University Carbondale

2207

Friday 9:30 AM to 10:45 AM CDT

Greenway J

**Resilience in Translation:
Communication Approaches to Social Justice and Institutional Change**

Sponsor: Organizational and Professional Communication Interest Group

Chair: Alison Brown, Drury University

Respondent: Rebecca Greer, University of Kentucky

"Awakening Emerging Adulthood and Social Justice: U.S. Students' Communicative Resilience Enactment During the COVID-19 Pandemic" Patrice Marie Buzzanell, University of South Florida; Timothy Betts, Texas Christian University

"Beyond the Unifying Anchor: A Research Agenda for Studying Communicative Resilience Across Difference" Jacob Daniel Sanders, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

"Institutional Affective Resilience Logics for Adaptive-Transformative Higher Education" Patrice Marie Buzzanell, University of South Florida; Linda Hughes-Kirchubel, University of South Florida

"Neoliberal Corporations and Reconciliation: Responding to Inadequate Apologies" David H. Kahl, Jr., Penn State Behrend

This panel explores how communicative resilience is enacted across diverse contexts-from students navigating pandemic disruptions to organizational reconciliation efforts. Presentations examine how resilience frameworks translate into practice within higher education and across identity differences, illuminating possibilities and tensions in adaptive transformation and social justice work.

2208

Friday 9:30 AM to 10:45 AM CDT

Lakeshore B

Rewriting Stigma: Translating Health Narratives Across Families, Media, and Culture

Sponsor: Health Communication Interest Group

Chair: Linda Charllotte Kabaalu, Illinois State University

"Emotional Reactions to Media Messages About Drug Use Disorder, Behavioral Intentions, Stigma, and Policy Opinions" Xiaoxia Cao, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

"My Scars! My Stars!: Mothers Translating Birth Narratives to Address C-section Stigma on Social Media." Jemima Nontaa Dery, Purdue University Northwest; Vera Bonku Turkson, Illinois State University

"Translating Communication Rituals for Health: Rethinking Obesity" Nour Mheidly, University of Illinois Chicago; Rocky Roque, University of Illinois Chicago

"We Don't Recognize Mental Health as Part of This Journey': Familial Memorable Messages About Mental Health Amongst First Generation African Immigrants" Abigail Adediran, University of Missouri; Ayotunde Afolabi, University of Missouri; Wendy Adjei, University of Missouri; Cindy Afoakwa-Acheampong, Purdue University

Health narratives can both reinforce and resist stigma. This panel explores how communication translates stigmatized experiences into new understandings of health, identity, and belonging. Presentations analyze C-section storytelling on social media, audience emotions toward drug-use disorder messages, cultural rituals surrounding obesity, and memorable messages about mental health in immigrant families. Collectively, panelists illustrate how narrative translation transforms silence into dialogue and stigma into shared meaning.

FRI

2209

Friday 9:30 AM to 10:45 AM CDT

Greenway F

**Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Caucus
Business Meeting and Annual Awards Ceremony**

Sponsor: Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Caucus

Chair: Danielle M. Stern, Christopher Newport University

Presenters:

Vianna Isbister, East Tennessee State University

Elliot Powell, University of South Florida

2210

Friday 9:30 AM to 10:45 AM CDT

Regency

Strategic Communication in the AI Era

Sponsor: Short Courses

Presenter:

Nagwan R. Zahry, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga

The short course aims to explore how communication faculty can bridge the gap between traditional communication expertise and emerging AI technologies. By using AI as a focal example, the discussion will highlight ways to thoughtfully integrate AI tools into communication courses. Key discussion questions include: What are the main learning goals this course should focus on? Which foundational communication theories or frameworks can support students in critically examining AI as a communicative agent or tool? What concepts are most useful in helping students analyze and question AI-generated content across journalism, PR, and social media platforms?

2211

Friday 9:30 AM to 10:45 AM CDT

Greenway C

Translating Congressional Rhetoric

Sponsor: Political Communication Interest Group

Chair: Adam Gaffey, Winona State University

"Congressional Rhetoric and its Discontents: Lost in Translation?" Zornitsa Keremidchieva, University of Minnesota Twin Cities

"Reproductive Justice and the 2024 Senate Hearings on Abortion" Calvin Coker, University of Louisville

"Translating Knowledge Into Governance: The Radical Intentions and Failures of the 1946 Legislative Reorganization Act" Mark Schmutzler, University of Minnesota Twin Cities

"Translating the People's Pain into the Public's Pain: Senator Booker's Filibuster Against Tyranny For the 'Least of These'" Evan Layne Johnson, Florida SouthWestern State College

This panel considers how the evolving norms and conditions of congressional discourse translate into political change and what such developments can tell us about the current status and trajectory of US democracy. The panel offers both case studies of recent congressional debates on significant issues such as reproductive rights and social welfare protection, and theoretical perspectives on the historical development of congressional deliberation as a distinct form and context of political speech.

Translating Human-Technology Dynamics into Communication Practice - Communication & Technology Interest Group: Top Papers

Sponsor: Communication & Technology Interest Group

Chair: Xialing Lin, University of Central Florida

"Algorithmic Monitoring and Job-Related Perceptions: A Job Demands-Resources Perspective on Job Autonomy, Competence and Satisfaction" Wenrong Cui, University of Kansas; Cameron Piercy, University of Kansas

"The Overriding Effect of AI Disclosure on Trust in Environmental Messages: Evidence Against Gain-Loss Framing Dominance (Top Student Paper)" Md Sazzad Mahmud Shuvo, Florida State University

"WHEN YOU WRITE LIKE THIS: The Effects of Capitalization and Typos on Perceptions in Online Learning (ComBotLabs Award for Top Paper)" Patric R. Spence, University of Central Florida; Jihyun Kim, University of Central Florida; David Westerman, North Dakota State University; Walter Washika, University of Central Florida

"Chat, is this Real?: Comparing Donation Intentions to AI or Human Live Streamers Mediated by Parasocial Interaction and Social Presence" Harvey Chinchilla, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; Jihyun Kim, University of Central Florida

This session features the top papers selected by the Communication & Technology Interest Group. Each study advances our understanding of human-technology dynamics, translating algorithmic processes, AI-mediated communication, and workplace technologies into clearer insights for practice. Together, these papers demonstrate how communication scholarship can bridge theory and application across digitally mediated settings.



The Nicholson School of Communication and Media at the University of Central Florida congratulates Patric Spence for receiving the ComBotLabs Award from the Communication and Technology Interest Group!



The Nicholson School of Communication and Media at the University of Central Florida congratulates Jihyun Kim for receiving the ComBotLabs Award from the Communication and Technology Interest Group!



The Nicholson School of Communication and Media at the University of Central Florida congratulates Walter Washika for receiving the ComBotLabs Award from the Communication and Technology Interest Group!

FRI



The Department of Communication at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee congratulates Harvey Chinchilla for receiving a Top Four Paper Award from the Communication & Technology Interest Group!



The Nicholson School of Communication and Media at the University of Central Florida congratulates Jihyun Kim for receiving a Top Four Paper Award from the Communication and Technology Interest Group!

2213

Friday 9:30 AM to 10:45 AM CDT

Lakeshore C

**Translating the Tricky:
Using Pop Culture to Navigate Difficult Conversations in the Communication Classroom**

Sponsors: Communication Education Interest Group; Popular Culture Interest Group

Chair: Jennifer Hough, University of South Dakota

Presenters:

Aimee Langager, Des Moines Area Community College

Amy McCoy, Drake University

Lori M. Costello, University of South Dakota

Pop culture offers a mirror for our most complex social conversations about race, gender, power, ethics, and identity, but translating those moments into the classroom requires care, creativity, and courage. Panelists discuss strategies for translating challenging public moments such as celebrity scandals, viral controversies, protest movements, and digital call-outs into productive, reflective dialogue.

FRI

2214

Friday 9:30 AM to 10:45 AM CDT

Greenway A

Undergraduate Honors Research Conference Session 2

Sponsor: Undergraduate Honors Research Conference

Chair: Candice Ruh, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Respondent: Edward A. Hinck, Central Michigan University

"Catch the World Aflame: Personae, Agency, and Hope in *The Hunger Games*" Kate Blue, Denison University (Faculty Mentor: Dr. Alina Haliliuc)

"How Female College Students Respond to Friends Who Share Personal Struggles on Social Media" Miranda Smith, University of Northern Iowa; Kenidi Haller, University of Northern Iowa; Anna Richmond, University of Northern Iowa; Katie Stahl, University of Northern Iowa (Faculty Mentor: Dr. C. Kyle Rudick)

"Inspiring Collective Change: Analysis of How Gloria Steinem Redefines the Women's Liberation Movement Through Rhetoric in 'Living the Revolution'" Zailey Mae Archbold, Central Michigan University (Faculty Mentor: Dr. Edward A. Hinck)

"Network Connectivity Problems: *Parks and Recreation's* Rhetoric of Government Inefficiencies" Gwenyth Marie Galloway, South Dakota State University (Faculty Mentor: Dr. Rebecca A. Kuehl)

"Exploring the Association Between Influencer and Consumer Parasocial Relationships and Persuasion Outcomes" Celia Katner, The College of Wooster

Join us for outstanding papers in the Undergraduate Honors Research Conference!

2215

Friday 9:30 AM to 10:45 AM CDT

Greenway D

FRI

We Do Not Care Club - Central States Meeting

Sponsor: Women's Caucus

Chair: Kate LaPierre, University of Nevada, Reno/Ivy Tech Community College

Presenters:

Beth Ribarsky, University of Illinois Springfield

Dana Schowalter, Western Oregon University

Jennifer C. Dunn, Dominican University

Stephanie Young, University of Southern Indiana

Tasha R. Dunn, The University of Toledo

Kathy Denker, Ball State University

Brigit Talkington, Metro Community College

Kathleen Turner Ledgerwood, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

The We Do Not Care Club is a virtual perimenopause and menopause-club-turned-movement sparked by Melani Sanders, who's sharing a simple but powerful message from peri- and postmenopausal women everywhere: When it comes to playing nice or following the "rules," we no longer give a damn. Join us for the first WDNC Club meeting at CSCA as we discuss what nerves this movement has struck and how that manifests in our lives in the academy.

Friday 11:00 AM CDT

2300

Friday 11:00 AM to 12:15 PM CDT

Greenway C

Are We Still Knocking on Doors or No?: Examining Social Media and Politics

Sponsor: Political Communication Interest Group

Chair: Ant Woodall, Northeastern University

Respondent: Joshua Atkinson, Bowling Green State University

"You Did It, So We Could Too – and More: An Experimental Investigation of Whataboutism's Effects on Support for Democratic Norm Violations" Kai Vance, University of Minnesota Duluth; Alyssa Snidarch, University of Minnesota Duluth; Hailey Nelson, University of Minnesota Duluth

"Digital Influence: Political Exposure and Engagement Among Young Adults in Ohio" Dolapo Michael Oyedokun, Ohio University

"Is Kamala Brat? Counteracting Persuasion Resistance With Authenticity on TikTok" Shannon Pappas, University of Connecticut; Anne Oeldorf-Hirsch, University of Connecticut; Bailey Quigley, University of Connecticut

"Social Media Influencers and Cascading Network Activation" Mackenzie Marquess, University of Kansas

This panel highlights how digital spaces are redefining how citizens connect with politics and with each other.

2301

Friday 11:00 AM to 12:15 PM CDT

Lakeshore C

Connecting Classroom to Careers: Skills, Thrills, and Real World Networking

Sponsors: Communication Education Interest Group; Instructional Resources Interest Group

Chair: Kristen Chamberlain, Augsburg University

Presenters:

Robert Groven, Augsburg University

Jenna McNallie, Augsburg University

Jessica Robbinson, Utah Valley University

Anna Kudak, St. Thomas University

Marceleen M. Mosher, University of Minnesota Twin Cities

Yuming Fang, Augsburg University

Panelists will discuss strategies and resources on their campus for connecting the classroom to careers. The audience will have the opportunity to ask questions and share their own strategies, resources, and experiences. Discussion questions include: What kinds of career-related activities are beneficial for students? How can faculty integrate career discernment into their courses? How can faculty balance competing needs, ensuring that career and content knowledge are intentionally present, without sacrificing course learning outcomes?

FRI

2302

Friday 11:00 AM to 12:15 PM CDT

Nicollet Ballroom

CSCA Award Rehearsal

Sponsor: CSCA Executive Director

Chair: Jeffrey T. Child, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Presenters:

Kristina Scharp, Rutgers University

Stevie Munz, Utah Valley University

Kathy Denker, Ball State University

Tiffany R. Wang, University of Montevallo

Sandra L. Faulkner, Bowling Green State University

Meggie Mapes, University of Kansas

Patric R. Spence, University of Central Florida

Gayle M. Pohl, University of Northern Iowa

Brooke Wolfe, Michigan State University

Leah Elizabeth Bryant, DePaul University

Elizabeth M. Lozano, Loyola University Chicago

Kaitlin Elizabeth Phillips, Baylor University

Kyle Vareberg, Northeastern State University

Amy Aldridge, Middle Tennessee State University

Scott A. Myers, West Virginia University

Nichole Egbert, Kent State University

Sarah E. Riforgiate, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

2303

Friday 11:00 AM to 12:15 PM CDT

Greenway D

Freedom at Stake: Living Under the "900-Page Blueprint for a Second Trump Presidency"

Sponsor: Women's Caucus

Chair: Anna Jean DeGalan, University of South Carolina

Respondent: Anna Jean DeGalan, University of South Carolina

"Compelled Complicity: Educators and the Biopolitics of Title IX" Kelsey Stanfield, Bowling Green State University

"Mary in America: Republican Public Figures and Public Identity Evoking Archetypes of Motherhood" Caroline King, Bowling Green State University

"Navigating Policy Uncertainty: How College Students Learn About Proposed Higher Education Reforms" Kelsey Lynn Zook, Bowling Green State University

"Self-Reflexivity and Negotiation: Addressing the Assault on Academic Freedom" Anna Jean DeGalan, University of South Carolina; Marianne Vanderbeke, Bowling Green State University

"Understanding Minoritized Students' Experiences in Online Public Speaking Courses at a Community College" Larry Willis II, Bowling Green State University

This paper panel provides discourse on how teaching foundational concepts (e.g., myth of neutrality in curriculum, academic freedom, etc.) becomes transgressive when objectivity itself is criminalized and how the burden of navigating these restrictions falls disproportionately on marginalized educators. These policies are targeted cyclical efforts to maintain educational institutions as sites of domination rather than liberation, demonstrating how Project 2025 coordinates what previous backlashes could not: legislative force behind a push for ideological control.

Intercultural Communication Interest Group: Top Papers

Sponsor: Intercultural Communication Interest Group

Chair: Jennifer Willis-Rivera, University of Wisconsin-River Falls

Respondent: Alberto Gonzalez, Bowling Green State University

"Cross-Cultural Learning is a Two-Way Street": The Facilitative and Hindering Role of Parent-Child Communication During Study Abroad Reentry (Top Paper)" Alice Fanari, University of Oklahoma; Margaret Pitts, University of Arizona

"Africanism and the Hybrid Tongue: Language and Identity Practices of African Students in the US. (Top Inclusive Scholarship Paper)" Ruth Yeboah, Bowling Green State University

"Navigating Classroom Cultures: A Collaborative Autoethnographic Analysis of Educational Experiences in Ghana, Bangladesh, and the United States" Md. Sumon Ali, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; Blessing Awuyeh, Ball State University; Kwame Nkrumah, Ball State University

"Translating Empowerment Through Communication: Konadu Agyemang Rawlings and the 31st December Women's Movement in Ghana" Felicity Sena Dogbatsey, University of Maryland; Matthew Edor, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

"Translating Identity and Knowledge: Acculturation, Cultural Identity, and Coping Strategies Among African International Students in U.S. Higher Education." Mark Ofosu Asirifi, University of Georgia

This panel features the top papers in the Intercultural Communication Interest Group.



The School of Media and Communication at Bowling Green State University congratulates Ruth Yeboah for receiving the Top Inclusive Scholarship Paper Award from the Intercultural Communication Interest Group!



The Department of Communication at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee congratulates Md. Sumon Ali for receiving a Top Five Paper Award from the Intercultural Communication Interest Group!



The Department of Communication at the University of Maryland congratulates Felicity Sena Dogbatsey for receiving a Top Five Paper Award from the Intercultural Communication Interest Group!

2305

Friday 11:00 AM to 12:15 PM CDT

St. Croix

Neurodivergence in the Higher Education Classroom

Sponsor: Community College Interest Group

Chair: Myron Covington, Washtenaw Community College

Presenters:

Jeremy Basso, City Colleges of Chicago

Kendall Johnstone, Washtenaw Community College

Becky Roberts, Jackson College

David L. Bodary, Sinclair Community College

Kate LaPierre, University of Nevada, Reno/Ivy Tech Community College

Shweta Arpit Srivastava, Monmouth College

In this panel, we'll talk about what neurodivergence looks like in practice and in our classrooms. How do neurodivergent learners navigate rigid academic norms? How do instructors transmit and translate course content in ways that actually reach everyone in the room? Drawing on theory, stories, and strategies, our panelists will share ways to make higher education more accessible and inclusive rather than seeing neurodivergence as a barrier.

2306

Friday 11:00 AM to 12:15 PM CDT

Greenway E

Nostalgia, Politics, and Race: Translating Discursive Power in TV, Tabletop Gaming, Music, Sitcoms, and Horror

Sponsor: Popular Culture Interest Group

Chair: Tyler Donavon Curran, Missouri State University

Respondent: Christopher (Kit) Medjesky, University of Findlay

"The Bad Guy is Capitalism": Tabletop Roleplaying Actual Play and Discourses of Resistance"

Sean Bloemetjie, University of Arkansas

"Faith, Freedom, and Fists in the Air: Popular Music as Discursive Power at the 2024 Republican National Convention" Austin Ulmer, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

"Maintaining and Challenging Colorblind Ideology Through Memories of King in Sitcoms" Jessica L. Gehrke, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

"Voudou and Vengeance: Marie Laveau's Popular Adaptation in American Horror Story: Coven" Kathleen Turner Ledgerwood, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

"A 90's Country Fan Like I Am": Rhetorics of Nostalgia in Contemporary Country Music" Cory Geraths, Eureka College

Presenters in this panel analyze the political capacity of music and nostalgia, as well as tabletop gaming narratives, and television. Authors explore and negotiate the potential transgressive nature of popular texts and discuss the recursive utilizations of history and nostalgia.

FRI

2307

Friday 11:00 AM to 12:15 PM CDT

Greenway B

**Preserving Culture Through Digital Media:
Narrative Podcasting Translate to Historical Voices For Modern Audiences**

Sponsor: Media Studies Interest Group

Chair: Shawna Blake, Tulsa Community College

Presenters:

Tip Crowley, Rogers State University

Skylar Scott, Rogers State University

This original media panel will discuss the use of narrative podcasting to preserve cultures and their artifacts at risk of culture loss. Two original podcasts explore case studies in recording cultural history in a way that is appealing and accessible to a variety of modern audiences.

2308

Friday 11:00 AM to 12:15 PM CDT

Regency

Putting Communication to Work: Translating Theory, Methods, and Skills for Industry

Sponsor: Short Courses

Presenter:

Heather J. Carmack, Mayo Clinic

This short course focuses on how to translate communication theory, methods, and skills from academic settings to industry practice. The short course will talk about what translation looks like in industry and non-higher education work spaces, including: • how to transform research questions and project framing, • how to use theory as an applied vocabulary, • how to leverage research methods to address problems, and • how to use communication skills to improve communication competence. This short course is perfect for graduate students, professors, and professionals looking to amplify their transferable skills and show the power of communication to industry partners.

FRI

Research in Progress in Organizational and Professional Communication

Sponsor: Organizational and Professional Communication Interest Group

Chair: Abigail N. Kingsford, Drury University

Respondents: Erika Kirby, Creighton University; Jessica Rick, Illinois State University; Anne Kerber, Minnesota State University, Mankato

"After-Hours Communication Technology Use Among Hybrid Workers with Care Responsibilities: The Moderating Role of Organizational Communication Norms and Perceived Organizational Support" Funmilayo Adebimpe Odufuwa, North Dakota State University; Salome N. Mbah, North Dakota State University

"Exploring Professional Identity: Is LinkedIn a Space for Rational Discourse or an Echo Chamber?" Bolatito Ifeoluwa Abolade, Iowa State University

"From Theory to Practice: Supportive Communication, Effective Leadership, and its Benefits to the Organizational World" Daniela Carvalho Baldissera Corrent, Western Illinois University

"Assessing the Efficacy of LinkedIn Learning Modules for University Civil Service Employees and Graduate Assistants" Rebecca Lee, Southern Illinois University Carbondale; Craig L. Engstrom, Southern Illinois University Carbondale

"Translating Boundaries: Lived Experiences of Remote and Hybrid Professionals in a Digitally Connected World" Bukola Oloba, North Dakota State University

"Translating Expert Knowledge for Public Understanding: An Analysis of Korea's Ministry of the Interior and Safety Emergency Alert Messages" Jieun None Woo, Korea Advanced Institute of Science Technology

In this session, seasoned researchers will share valuable insights and practical strategies to help fellow academics advance their projects. Panelists will learn from other researchers, discuss challenges, and gain practical advice to propel their research forward.

Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Caucus: Top Papers

Sponsor: Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Caucus
Chair: Danielle M. Stern, Christopher Newport University

"Curating a Dallas Queer History: Belonging, the 'Outrageous Oral' Digital Archive, and the (Imagined) Queer Dallasite" Cameron Avery Burnap, Colorado State University

"For All My Dead Friends / How (Un)Becoming of Us (Jimmie Manning Award for Top Paper, Top Student Paper)" Damon Mitchell Gage Darling, University of Utah

"Memorable Messages About Christianity in Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Coming Out Narratives" Jimmie Manning, University of Nevada, Reno

"Towards a Rhetoric of Impurities: A Critical Qualitative Approach to Understanding the Excavating and Encountering of ExVangelical Sexuality" Karly Poyner-Smith, Columbia College

"The Rainbow Culture War: The Contestation of the Rainbow Flag and Public/Private Space" Cameron Avery Burnap, Colorado State University

This panel features the top rated papers submitted to the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Caucus for the 2026 convention.

FRI

**COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY**

The Department of Communication Studies at Colorado State University congratulates Cameron Avery Burnap for receiving a Top Five Paper Award from the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Caucus!

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION**
THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

The Department of Communication at the University of Utah congratulates Damon Mitchell Gage Darling for receiving the Jimmie Manning and Top Student Paper Awards from the Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity Caucus!

**Columbia College**
established 1851

The Department of Humanities at Columbia College congratulates Karly Poyner-Smith for receiving a Top Five Paper Award from the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Caucus!

2311

Friday 11:00 AM to 12:15 PM CDT

Skyway AB

Speaking Your Mind: Navigating the Political Landscape in Class

Sponsor: States Advisory Council

Chair: Sarah Benevento, Parkland College

Presenters:

Sarah Benevento, Parkland College

Jody Littleton, Parkland College

Julie Weishar, Parkland College

This session provides educators with actionable methods for navigating political discussions, setting classroom norms, and empowering students to analyze complex issues responsibly.

2312

Friday 11:00 AM to 12:15 PM CDT

Lakeshore B

Translating Health Encounters: Relational, Cultural, and Narrative Dimensions of Care

Sponsor: Health Communication Interest Group

Chair: Abigail Adediran, University of Missouri

"African Immigrant Women's Lived Experiences of Prenatal Care and Childbirth in the U.S.: A Qualitative Study of Treatment, Access, and Expectations" Chuton Deb Nath, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; Erin Sahlstein Parcell, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; Comfort Tosin Adebayo, Towson University

"Insights into COVID-19 Health Beliefs: A Study of College Students' Preventative Behaviors Across Racial Identities" Ifeoluwatobi Abiodun Odunsi, University of Tampa; Kristen Farris, Texas State University

"Narrative Communication in Patient-Physician Relationships: Analyzing Patient Responses Based on Relational Dynamics" Beatrice Amissah, Illinois State University; Alfred Kwabena Obiri, Illinois State University

"White Coats and Scrubs: Communication Accommodation Between Physicians and Nurses" Tristan Stauffacher, Independent Scholar; Jenn Anderson, South Dakota State University

Health communication occurs through layers of translation - between professional roles, cultural meanings, and individual experiences of care. This panel highlights how relational and identity differences shape those translations, from physician-nurse coordination and patient-physician storytelling to African immigrant women's prenatal-care experiences and racial differences in COVID-19 beliefs. Together, these studies illuminate how communication scholars can better understand and bridge the discursive, cultural, and ethical divides that define modern healthcare.

FRI

2313

Friday 11:00 AM to 12:15 PM CDT

Greenway A

Undergraduate Honors Research Conference Session 3

Sponsor: Undergraduate Honors Research Conference

Chair: Sophia Belle Peterson, Ball State University

Respondent: Dunja Antunovic, University of Minnesota Twin Cities

"Wouldn't Want to Be Depicted at a Weird Angle": Sportswomen's Perceptions of Athletic Images" Jenna Elbers, University of Minnesota Twin Cities (Faculty Mentor: Dr. Dunja Antunovic)

"So Many People Feel So Betrayed:" How Fans Express Their (Dis)satisfaction with *Shadowhunters*" Zoe Coler, University of Minnesota Twin Cities (Faculty Mentor: Dr. Kristin Fitzsimmons)

"A Fight Worth More Than a Handicapped Space: Judith Heumann and her Involvement in the Disability Rights Movement" Naja Feimster, Central Michigan University (Faculty Mentor: Dr. Edward A. Hinck)

"The Lived Experiences of People With Communication Disorders" Claire Beckman, South Dakota State University (Faculty Mentor: Dr. Jenn Anderson)

"Polish Roman Catholic Church, Urban and Rural Divide" Natalia Szybinska, Northern State University

Join us for outstanding papers in the Undergraduate Honors Research Conference!

Friday 12:30 PM CDT

2400

Friday 12:30 PM to 2:45 PM CDT

Nicollet Ballroom

CSCA Hall of Fame Awards Luncheon and Business Meeting

Sponsor: CSCA Executive Director

Chair: Jeffrey T. Child, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Celebrate outstanding member achievements and learn about the current state of the association.


OHIO
UNIVERSITY

 Scripps College of Communication
 School of Communication Studies

The School of Communication Studies at Ohio University congratulates Jeremy Murphy for receiving the Cooper Award (Ph.D.) from the Central States Communication Association!



We are excited to welcome Dr. Nancy J. Brule (Bethel University) to the Central States Communication Association Hall of Fame!



We are excited to welcome Dr. Leah E. Bryant (DePaul University) to the Central States Communication Association Hall of Fame!

Friday 3:00 PM CDT

2500

Friday 3:00 PM to 4:15 PM CDT

Greenway H

2025 Federation Prize Recipient Presentation: Empowering Individuals Through AI Literacy: Combating AI-Generated Deepfakes With a Chatbot-Based Intervention

Sponsor: Federation Prize Presentation

Chair: Kaitlin Elizabeth Phillips, Baylor University

Presenters:

Muhammad Rasul, University of California, Davis

Hee Jung Cho, Michigan State University

Moonsun Jeon, Michigan State University

Christopher (CJ) Calabrese, Clemson University

In this Federation Prize project, Rasul et al. aimed to provide a methodological framework to address the challenges of our increasingly AI-generated online environment, empowering individuals with the tools and skills to discern AI misinformation and detect digital threats. This presentation will preview the early outcomes of Rasul et al.'s Federation Prize project and highlight the significance for communication researchers.

2501

Friday 3:00 PM to 4:15 PM CDT

Greenway C

Basic Course Interest Group Business Meeting

Sponsor: Basic Course Interest Group

Chair: Kathryn B. Golsan, University of Northern Iowa

Presenters:

Evan Kirksey, University of Missouri

Jennifer Hough, University of South Dakota

FRI

2502

Friday 3:00 PM to 4:15 PM CDT

Greenway I

Change in Translation: Advocacy and Entertainment Media

Sponsor: Rhetorical Theory and Criticism Interest Group

Chair: Samantha Schubert, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Respondent: A.G. Hughes, Emporia State University

"A Matter of Timing: *Rudy* and the Resonance of the Individual American Dream" Ned Gidley, University of Kansas

"What Does Freedom Actually Look Like?: A Rhetorical Analysis of the Message of Freedom in Nina Simone's Songs" Omolola Lasisi, University of Kansas

"I Get the Job Done!": Queer Rhetorics of Orientation, Critical Ambivalence, and Billboard Camp in Chappell Roan's 'The Giver' Promotional Campaign" Kyra Bowar, University of Minnesota Twin Cities

"Who Do I Think I am and Where Do I Get Off Becoming a Radio Commentator?": Exploring the Rhetoric of Orson Welles as a Multimedia Political Commentator" Thomas A. Salek, Elmhurst University; Andrew William Cole, Lakeland University

Through examinations of film, song, billboards, and multimedia political commentary, this panel explores the relationships between entertainment media, advocacy, and changing contexts.

2503

Friday 3:00 PM to 4:15 PM CDT

Executive Boardroom

CSCA Equity & Inclusion Committee Meeting

Sponsor: CSCA Equity & Inclusion Committee, CSCA Executive Director

Chair: Elizabeth M. Lozano, Loyola University Chicago

Presenters:

Stephanie Rollie Rodriguez, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

Blessing Ekene Okafor, University of Missouri

Danielle M. Stern, Christopher Newport University

Mary Kiura, Purdue University Fort Wayne

Kendal Catherine Lyssy, University of Missouri

This is a closed meeting for members of the CSCA Equity & Inclusion Committee listed here.

Feminist and Queer Subtexts in Popular Culture: Translating Mixed Messages

Sponsor: Popular Culture Interest Group

Chair: Katherine Johnson Tartaglia, Purdue University

Respondent: Holly Holladay, Missouri State University

"Can You Guess What Every Girl's Nightmare Is?: Killing Women in Emerald Fennell's Promising Young Woman" Katherine Johnson Tartaglia, Purdue University

"This is the Second Wave All Over Again!": Postmodernism, Feminism, and Queer Theory in *Bottoms* (2023)" Mackenzie Reimers, Illinois State University; Ellanore Foltz, Illinois State University

"Damned if She Does(n't): Taylor Swift and the Postfeminist Double Bind" Holly Holladay, Missouri State University

"Free Range Parenting and Waiting for the Stink: Kristin Bell's Imperfect Motherhood on Armchair Expert" Sarah Neff, University of Louisville; Calvin Coker, University of Louisville

"Well Done, Sister Suffragette? Female Agency, Class, and Mrs. Banks" Morgan Keller, Ball State University

Authors on this panel investigate how femininity and queerness are constructed in popular texts, as well as how they are navigated and understood by audiences. Overall, this panel seeks to further the discussion on how cultural movements surrounding sex and gender become manifest in popular media.

2505

Friday 3:00 PM to 4:15 PM CDT

Mirage

G.I.F.T. Session #4

Sponsor: G.I.F.T. Interest Group

Chair: Angela Glunz, The University of Tennessee at Martin

"Beyond the Bibliography: Learning Annotation Skills with Ted Talks" Shannon Pappas, University of Connecticut; Karen Shalev, University of Connecticut

"Calling "BS!" Using a Card Game to Teach Interpersonal Deception Theory" Katelyn Beth Case, Ball State University

"Guess Who?" Kendall Johnstone, Washtenaw Community College

"Leadership Communication: Using Standpoint Theory to Problem Solve Communication Issues in the Workplace" Ethan Massey, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville; Scott Sellnow-Richmond, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

"Playing Games in Class!" Lauren J. Johnsen, University of Wisconsin-Stout

"Ready, Set, Reflect!" Melinda Bellatti, Tulsa Community College

"Rhythm, Stylin' and Signifyin': Understanding African American Rhetorical Techniques (Top Overall Activity)" Deborah Wertanen, Minneapolis College

"Partner Therapy: Applying the Theory of Resilience and Relational Load (TRRL) To Strengthen Interpersonal Collaboration" Natalie Rogers, Bowling Green State University

G.I.F.T. Sessions feature teaching ideas for the communication classroom.



The School of Liberal Arts and Cultures at Minneapolis College congratulates Deborah Wertanen for receiving the Top Overall Activity Award from the Great Ideas for Teaching Interest Group!

2506

Friday 3:00 PM to 4:15 PM CDT

Greenway G

Graduate Student Caucus Business Meeting

Sponsor: Graduate Student Caucus

Chair: Abigail Adediran, University of Missouri

Presenters:

Md Sazzad Mahmud Shuvo, Florida State University

Aklima Begum, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

2507

Friday 3:00 PM to 4:15 PM CDT

Nicollet Promenade

Meet the Robots: A Pop-Up Social Robot Showcase

Chair: Chad Edwards, Western Michigan University

Presenters:

America Edwards, University of Kentucky

Matthew Craig, Central Michigan University

Feel free to stop by this pop-up table in the Exhibit Hall to meet the social robots from Western Michigan University's Communication and Social Robotics Labs. Attendees can try a brief, hands-on interaction and see what social robots are like up close. We also welcome informal conversations about human-robot communication and how people make sense of embodied AI in everyday encounters.

2508

Friday 3:00 PM to 4:15 PM CDT

Greenway F

Multiple Identities in a Multitude of Ways: A Collection of Autoethnographies

Sponsor: Performance Studies and Autoethnography Interest Group

Chair: Andrew Herrmann, Independent Scholar

Respondent: Jordan Bennett, East Tennessee State University

"A Body in Fukushima's Vegetal Intimacies, or Becoming Toxic as Praxis" Em Hathaway, University of Minnesota Twin Cities

"Closer to Friends than Lovers: An Autoethnography of a Polyamorous Divorce" Jay Girardot, Purdue University Fort Wayne

"Converging Narratives: Exploring the African Diaspora Experience Through International Program Management" Ashley Watson, State University of New York Geneseo; Washington Galvao, University of Minnesota Twin Cities; Monyque Assis Suzano, University of Minnesota Twin Cities; Sunga Kufeyani, University of Minnesota Twin Cities

"Haunted: Lucidly Translating My lived Experience of Insanity" Elliot Powell, University of South Florida

"How I Met My Ancestors in New Orleans: An Autoethnographic Performance." Caleb R. McKinley-Portee, Southern Illinois University Carbondale

This panel intentionally seeks to connect a wide range of autoethnographies to investigate the universals within the crafting performances, papers, and experiences.

FRI

2509

Friday 3:00 PM to 4:15 PM CDT

St. Croix

Public Service Action – Translating Our Knowledge for Broader Audiences

Sponsor: Activism, Communication Ethics, and Social Justice Interest Group

Chair: Adam W. Tyma, University of Nebraska Omaha

Presenters:

Beth Ribarsky, University of Illinois Springfield

Gabriel Arnoldo Cruz, North Carolina Central University

Meggie Mapes, University of Kansas

Molly Wiant Cummins, The University of Texas at Arlington

Andrea Jenkins, The University of Texas at Arlington

Art Herbig, Purdue University Fort Wayne

Alix Watson, Purdue University Fort Wayne

With the rise of anti-intellectualism reaching a fever pitch within seats of power at the national, state, and university level, there is a professional and ethical obligation for those who have studied communication to bring our knowledge to the various publics that exist outside the classroom and research space. Sharing our expert knowledge in all areas of communication can empower the public – the trick is "how" and at what risk/cost? This panel offers the experiences and expertise from members who have made that move: podcasts, TikTok channels, community outreach and programming, online magazines and news sources, and other experiences will be discussed along with strategies to develop your own outlet.

2510

Friday 3:00 PM to 4:15 PM CDT

Greenway D

Scholarship on Advocacy, Visibility, and Identity

Sponsor: Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Caucus

Chair: Stephanie Young, University of Southern Indiana

Respondent: Jimmie Manning, University of Nevada, Reno

"Bisexual Liminal Identity Experiences and Well-Being: Exploring the Roles of Micro-Aggressions and -Affirmations" Katie Kassler, Weber State University

"We're Being Seen": Jaylene Tyme and the Complexities of Intersectional Visibility on *Canada's Drag Race*" Franklin Kimmell, Southern Illinois University Carbondale

"LGBTQ+ Folks, Mental Health, and Communication: Pathways for Translation" Robert Sidelinger, Oakland University

"The Lesbian Avengers and the Call for a Visible Lesbian Identity" Shelby Limbach, University of Minnesota Twin Cities

"Co-Designing Critical AI Literacy: Empowering LGBT+ Youth in Utah to Identify AI-Generated Contraceptive Misinformation" Sydney O'Shay, Utah State University

This paper session features research on advocacy, visibility, and identity perspectives.

Strategic Public Relations at the Crossroad

Sponsor: Strategic and Applied Communication Interest Group

Chair: Xiaodong Kuang, Edgewood University

Respondent: Deborah Sellnow-Richmond, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

"Assessing the Readiness of Public Relations and Communication Students to Navigate AI-Driven Real-Time Crisis Communication" Ransford Asante, Missouri State University

"Bridging the Gap: A Design for Translating Internal Communication Practices to Enhance Employee Communication in Higher Education" Getrude Kafui Senu, Illinois State University

"Minding the Gap: Regulatory Imperatives, Government Public Information, and the U.S. Aging Population (Top Paper)" Alicia Mason, Pittsburg State University; Sakshi Bhati, Southern Illinois University Carbondale; Isaac Lewis, Pittsburg State University

"Navigating Leadership Transitions: The Role of Internal Public Relations in Microsoft's 2014 CEO Change." Nana Yaa Asare, University of Kentucky

"Why Viewers Turn Away from Sponsored Influencers: An Expectation Disconfirmation Perspective (Dan Millar Award for Top Student Paper)" Xiyue Wang, University of Kansas

This session examines the dynamic intersection of public relations and strategic communication as they relate to both internal and external organizational relationships.



The Department of Communication at Pittsburg State University congratulates Alicia Mason and Isaac Lewis for receiving the Top Paper Award from the Strategic & Applied Communication Interest Group!

FRI

Translating Parenting: A Trifocal Look at How Primary Caregiver Communication Shapes Children's Mental Health

Sponsor: Interpersonal and Family Communication Interest Group

Chair: Wendy Adjei, University of Missouri

Presenters:

Esther Apreku, University of Missouri

Vera Bonku Turkson, Illinois State University

Lois Domena - Attafuah, North Dakota State University

This panel offers a trifocal translation of parenting through the lenses of Family Communication Patterns Theory (Koerner & Fitzpatrick, 2002), Family Systems Theory (Bowen, 1978), and Attachment Theory (Bowlby, 1969). Collectively, these frameworks illustrate how caregiver communication shapes children's emotional worlds and long-term mental health. We examine how everyday talk, tone, and disciplinary practices reflect deeper relational systems and attachment dynamics. We project parenting as a communicative process and show how family talk translates into children's emotional patterns, which aligns with the convention theme "Translate!" This offers fresh insights for scholars, educators, and practitioners committed to strengthening family well-being.

2513

Friday 3:00 PM to 4:15 PM CDT

Offsite

Translating Women's Sports Fandom into Inclusive Spaces: The Organizational and Professional Interest Group and Sports Communication Interest Group Tour of A Bar of Their Own - PART ONE

Sponsors: Organizational and Professional Communication Interest Group; Sports Communication Interest Group

Chair: Anne Kerber, Minnesota State University, Mankato

Presenters:

 Jessica Rick, Illinois State University

 Sarah E. Riforgiate, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

 Abigail N. Kingsford, Drury University

 Emily Sauter, University of Nebraska Omaha

Updating the copy for the OPC & Sports Comm IG tour sessions with the following content: You are invited to join us for the Organizational and Professional Communication Interest Group's Annual Tour, co-sponsored this year with the Sports Communication Interest Group. We will visit A Bar of Their Own (ABOTO), which opened in March 2024 as the first sports bar in the Midwest (and the second in the nation) dedicated exclusively to women's sports. The number of women's sports bars has rapidly increased since ABOTO opened, driven by the rising popularity of and desire for inclusive communities supporting local, national, and international women's sports. Jillian Hiscock, ABOTO's founder, will meet with us to discuss how she created ABOTO, the growth of spaces like it, and their community engagement and outreach. There is no cost to attend. For more information on ABOTO, visit <https://www.abaroftheirown.com/> Field Trip Details: Our group will meet at in the Hyatt Regency Minneapolis Lobby at 3 pm on Friday, April 17 to carpool to ABOTO (10 minute drive – 2207 Franklin Avenue E, Minneapolis, MN; <https://www.abaroftheirown.com/>). After our tour and meeting, we will stay at ABOTO for an optional no-host social. To secure travel arrangements, participants are encouraged to register in advance by Sunday, April 12, 2026 at https://illinoisstate.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cAX1eKuKSgkm5ee or by emailing Anne Kerber (anne.kerber@mnsu.edu) or Jessica Rick (jmrick@ilstu.edu).

2514

Friday 3:00 PM to 4:15 PM CDT

Skyway AB

Undergraduate Education and Administration Section Business Meeting

Sponsor: Undergraduate Education and Administration Section

Chair: Xinyue Liu, North Dakota State University

Presenters:

 Aimee Lau, Wisconsin Lutheran College

 Joshua Young, Divine Word College

2515

Friday 3:00 PM to 4:15 PM CDT

Grteenway A

Undergraduate Honors Research Conference Session 4: Top Papers

Sponsor: Undergraduate Honors Research Conference
Chair: Jeffrey T. Child, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Respondent: Lindsey Thomas, Illinois State University

"Staged 'Intimacy': Negotiating Representations of Mother-Daughter Relationships on Reality Television (Top Paper)" Taylor Michelle Kiffel, The University of Toledo (Faculty Mentor: Dr. Tasha R. Dunn)

"WALL-E's Minor Characters: Capitalist Control and Hegemonic Resistance Through an Eco-Futuristic Lens (Top Lambda Pi Eta Paper)" Andrew David Bell, The College of Wooster (Faculty Mentor: Dr. Denise Bostdorff)

"Roots and Wings: A Study of Parenting Style and Academic Success" Daniel Stark, Bethel University; Bengt Mulberry, Bethel University (Faculty Mentor: Dr. Nancy J. Brule)

"The Intimacy Blueprint: How Sex and Attachment Shape Self Disclosure and Conflict Resolution in Relationships" Danielle Buckenmeyer, Bethel University; Jackson Taylor, Bethel University; Kristin O'Brien, Bethel University (Faculty Mentor: Dr. Nancy J. Brule)

"Between Homes: A Qualitative Study of Chinese Adoptees and Their Self-Disclosure with Friends and Family" Amanda Keil, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse (Faculty Mentor: Dr. Linda Dickmeyer)

Come join us to hear the top papers at the Undergraduate Honors Research Conference!

Friday 4:30 PM CDT

2600

Friday 4:30 PM to 5:45 PM CDT

Lakeshore A

A Roast of Dr. Mike Allen: Honoring the Legacy and Legend of an Academic Juggernaut

Sponsor: Interpersonal and Family Communication Interest Group
Chair: Luke LeFebvre, University of Kentucky

Presenters:

Mike Allen, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Patrice Marie Buzzanell, University of South Florida
Emily Cramer, Marquette University
William F. Donohue, Michigan State University
Shana Kopaczewski, Indiana State University
Leah Elina LeFebvre, University of Alabama
Amy May, University of Alaska Fairbanks
Erin Sahlstein Parcell, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Michael Tollefson, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse

This panel will roast Dr. Mike Allen, humorously celebrating his career as a scholar and teacher. Colleagues, administrators, and former students will share affectionate and witty reflections on how he shaped their professional paths. In this lighthearted, celebrity-style roast, panelists will praise and playfully mock Dr. Allen before he responds in kind. The session will conclude with audience members sharing personal stories of Dr. Allen's influence on their academic and professional journeys.

FRI

**Communication Education as Translation:
Identifying Disciplinary Content That Makes a Difference**

Sponsor: Communication Education Interest Group

Chair: Aimee Lau, Wisconsin Lutheran College

"From Classroom to Public Sphere: Blogging as a Mode of Translation" Shannon C. VanHorn, Valley City State University

"From First-Years to New Chairs: Using Communication Research and Practice to Lead and Mentor" Linda Dickmeyer, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse

"Putting the Translating in Learning: Teaching the Advanced Organizational Communication Course as an Applied Workplace Communication Skills Course" Scott A. Myers, West Virginia University

"The Communication Classroom Called Church" Roberta Davilla Robbins, United Methodist Church

"Translating Communication Knowledge into Community Change: A Communication Capstone Model" Donna R. Pawlowski, Bemidji State University

Over the past two decades, communication education researchers have focused their efforts on identifying the importance, significance, and relevance of communication research, and how this body of research underscores the importance of communication education (Morreale et al., 2023; Morreale & Pearson, 2008). The purpose of this panel is to explore how communication-based research-when integrated into teaching and service duties-can make a meaningful difference when extended across the breadth and depth of communication courses, training, or instruction. Embracing the theme of this year's convention, each panelist will offer insight into how they purposefully and uniquely translate communication research content into their teaching and service duties in order to make a communication difference in the lives of their students, their institutions, and the communities in which they live.

2602

Friday 4:30 PM to 5:45 PM CDT

Greenway D

Disrupting Narratives: Inquiries into Grief, Gendered Violence, and Queer Worldmaking

Sponsor: Women's Caucus

Chair: Marceleen M. Mosher, University of Minnesota Twin Cities

"I Didn't Want to Untie the Scar": Gendered Violence Survivors' Willingness to Self-Express and Self-Censor in the Context of #MeToo (Top Student Paper)" Shannon Pappas, University of Connecticut; Lili Romann, University of Connecticut

"Beyond 'Good' Grief: Collaging the Experience of Pregnancy Loss" Molly Wiant Cummins, The University of Texas at Arlington; Hsun-Yu Sharon Chuang, Central Ohio Technical College

"How Gendered Ego Boundaries Translate Experiences of Image-Based Sexual Abuse (IBSA): Shame, Support-Seeking, and the Nuance of Digital Consent" Seokhoon Ahn, Independent Scholar; Yoonmo Sang, Yonsei University; Jee Young Lee, University of Canberra

"Intergenerational Queer Love and Asian Feminism in *Everything Everywhere All At Once* (Top Paper)" Kim Hong Nguyen, University of Waterloo; Danielle M. Stern, Christopher Newport University

The papers presented in this session disrupt dominant narratives and investigate experiences of grief, gendered violence and harassment, and queer worldmaking through a variety of methods including focus groups, surveys, personal narrative, and autoethnography.



The Communication Arts Department at the University of Waterloo congratulates Kim Hong Nguyen for receiving the Top Paper Award from the Women's Caucus!

FRI

2603

Friday 4:30 PM to 5:45 PM CDT

Greenway H

Emerging Tech Tools Showcase: STUDENT Teaching Smarter, Researching Faster

Sponsor: Communication & Technology Interest Group

Chair: Habeeb Abdulrauf, Western Michigan University

Presenters:

Shalewa Babatayo, University of Central Florida

Abdulmalik Adetola Adetola Lawal, University of Nevada, Reno

This session will demonstrate four AI-powered tools that we have found valuable for teaching, research, and experimental design. NotebookLM (<https://notebooklm.google>) enables instructors and students to upload syllabi or readings, generating summaries, study prompts, and comprehension questions. This tool has been a valuable resource in our classrooms, fostering inclusive learning and preparation time. Additionally, ResearchRabbit (<https://www.researchrabbit.ai>) is a platform that visualizes scholarly networks and helps trace citation patterns across fields. For experimental studies, Peerbots (<https://app.peerbots.org>) provides a simple way to run Wizard-of-Oz style simulations by creating conversational agents without coding. Finally, Elicit (<https://elicit.com>) offers an efficient way to support literature and systematic reviews by extracting evidence and study details from research articles. Each tool will be demonstrated live, and the discussion will center on how these resources can be adapted for communication scholarship.

From Data to Dialogue: Translating Research into Women's Health Policy and Practice

Sponsor: Health Communication Interest Group

Chair: Beatrice Amissah, Illinois State University

"Normative Influence in Context: Discussion Network Heterogeneity's Impact on Family vs. Social Media Pathways to Gynecological Care" Xinyu Zhang, Michigan State University; Nichole Egbert, Kent State University

"Testing Multiple Online Qualitative Survey Data Recruitment Approaches for Sample Composition and Data Quality" Tara G. McManus, University of Nevada, Las Vegas; Brooke Wolfe, Michigan State University; Natalie Pennington, Colorado State University; Elizabeth Ann Hintz, University of Connecticut

"The Role of Communication in Women's Health Issues: Translating Factors Influencing Female International Students' Health-Seeking Behavior and Decisions for Effective Health Outcomes" Getrude Kafui Senu, Illinois State University

"Transforming Cervical Cancer Screening Facilitators into Policy: Lessons from African and African American Communities" Olamide Ogundare, University of Oklahoma; Grace Adeyemo, Illinois State University

Translating communication research into equitable health outcomes requires bridging data, dialogue, and lived experience. This panel brings together studies testing online qualitative recruitment strategies, analyzing family and social media influences on gynecological care, translating cervical cancer facilitators into policy, and examining cultural factors shaping international students' health-seeking decisions. Panelists highlight how communication research transforms evidence into action to advance women's health access and advocacy across contexts.

Graduate Student Caucus: Top Papers

Sponsor: Graduate Student Caucus

Chair: Aklima Begum, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Respondent: Abigail Adediran, University of Missouri

"This isn't the Midnight Realm...It's the suburbs': Exploring Suburban Queer Geographies in / *Saw the TV Glow* (Top Debut Paper)" Nicholas Morrissey, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

"Behind the Spotlight: Translating Ghanaian Celebrities' Mental Illness Disclosure Patterns into Public Understanding" Lyzbeth Safoah King, Ohio University

"Closing Gaps and Opening Doors: Exploring Neuroqueer Identity Processes through the Communication Theory of Identity (Paul D. Skalski Award for Top Paper, Top Inclusive Scholarship Paper)" Evan Kirksey, University of Missouri; Sofia Deatherage, University of Missouri; Breck Holtz, Illinois State University

This panel includes the highest-ranked competitive papers submitted to the Graduate Student Caucus. It recognizes the Paul D. Skalski Award for Top Paper and Top Debut Paper.



The Department of Communication at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee congratulates Nicholas Morrissey for receiving the Top Debut Paper Award from the Graduate Student Caucus!



The School of Communication Studies at Ohio University congratulates Lyzbeth Safoah King for receiving a Top Three Paper Award from the Graduate Student Caucus!



The School of Communication at Illinois State University congratulates Breck Holtz for receiving the Paul D. Skalski and Top Inclusive Scholarship Paper Awards from the Graduate Student Caucus!

FRI

2606

Friday 4:30 PM to 5:45 PM CDT

Greenway J

Media, Technology, AI, and Digital Cultures

Sponsor: Communication Theory Interest Group

Chair: Austin Beattie, Hope College

Respondent: America Edwards, University of Kentucky

"Combining Consumer Decision Making with Message Evaluation in the Information Processing Theory" Mohnish Kananathan, University of Connecticut; Kenneth Lachlan, University of Connecticut; Mark Hamilton, University of Connecticut

"Explicating AI Literacy: A Communication Theory Lens" Mahmuda Rahman, North Dakota State University

"The Strength of Distant Eyes: Mediated Extraversion and African Digital Activism" Emmanuel Mylo Dadzie, North Dakota State University; Vivian Adjeikaa Doe, Shanghai Jiaotong University

"Translating Historical Materialism to Communication Theory: Social Media, Cybernetic Fascism, and the Superstructure of Capitalism" Adeeb Kasem, Minnesota State University, Mankato

"When Protection Becomes Persuasion: Replication, Theory Testing, and Methodological Refinement (Em Griffin Award for Top Paper)" Patric R. Spence, University of Central Florida; Kenneth Lachlan, University of Connecticut; Sungbin Youk, Ewha Womans University; Bumju Jung, University of Southern California



The Nicholson School of Communication and Media at the University of Central Florida congratulates Patric Spence for receiving the Em Griffin Award from the Communication Theory Interest Group!

2607

Friday 4:30 PM to 5:45 PM CDT

Offsite

Pop Culture Trivia Challenge!

Sponsor: Popular Culture Interest Group

Chair: Tyler Donavon Curran, Missouri State University

Presenters:

Adam W. Tyma, University of Nebraska Omaha

John R. Baldwin, Illinois State University

Gather your teams and get ready - you are invited to join us for the Third Annual Pop Culture Trivia Challenge! There is no cost to attend. Field Trip Details: This year's Pop Culture Trivia Challenge! will be held at Brit's Pub (110 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN 55403), approx. 5 minute walk from the hotel. Our group will meet in the lobby of the Hyatt Regency Minneapolis fifteen minutes prior to walk over together.

2608

Friday 4:30 PM to 5:45 PM CDT

Greenway B

**Through the Mediated Glass:
A Sociocultural Inquiry into Digital Activism, Politics, and Democracy**

Sponsor: Media Studies Interest Group

Chair: Rocky Roque, University of Illinois Chicago

Presenters:

Priyanka Kundu, University of Illinois Chicago

Muhammed Rashedul Hasan, University of Illinois Chicago

Divine Narkotey Aboagye, Villanova University

Nick Stulga, Illinois State University

Lauren Bratslavsky, Illinois State University

Contemporary mediated technologies have afforded people access to resources that have shaped the peculiar ways in which information is disseminated across digital spaces for political and collective discourse. From mobilizing geopolitical TikTok memes among Bangladeshi citizens, to AI-generated posts for political campaigns during the 2024 election, to hashtags such as #UmbrellaMovement for connective action, social media platforms have given individual users and communities agency to collectively construct, negotiate, and make sense of global events. This panel aims to reinterrogate the current state, literature, and sociocultural implications of digital activism, politics, and democracy. Panelists will translate a wide range of research encompassing political campaigns, hashtag movements, and the music industry to demonstrate how mediated technologies are used to initiate political and collective engagement, while offering strategies for future scholarship and resources for online civic participation.

2609

Friday 4:30 PM to 5:45 PM CDT

St. Croix

Translate our Voices: Journey of Errors in Transnational Scope

Sponsor: Ethnicity, Race, International, and Class Concerns Caucus

Chair: Sasha Allgayer, Southern Illinois University

Respondent: Ahmet Atay, The University of Alabama at Birmingham

Presenters:

Hsin-I Sydney Yueh, University of Missouri

Diana Trebing, Saginaw Valley State University

Eddah Mutua, St. Cloud State University

Anjana Mudambi, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Emi Kanemoto, Bryant University

Radhika Gajjala, Bowling Green State University

Amy Aldridge, Middle Tennessee State University

This panel continues a multi-year collaboration among transnational scholars and their IDEA partners at CSCA. In line with this year's theme, "Translate," it invites both transnational and non-transnational scholars into a shared space to explore the question: "How do we translate our thoughts and academic knowledge into action to challenge hegemonic norms and U.S.-centric academic spaces?" Panelists will read *Journey of Errors: Finding Home in Academia* by Ahmet Atay (2018) and reflect on their own experiences. This shared text anchors a conversation about the emotional, intellectual, and institutional challenges of transnational scholarship, highlighting both barriers to and strategies for inclusion and connections. Dr. Ahmet Atay will serve as the respondent for this session.

**Translating Authenticity:
Reimagining Graduate Admissions in the Age of AI (Melissa Beall Award for Top Panel)**

Sponsor: Basic Course Interest Group

Chair: Caroline Waldbesser, University of Missouri

Presenters:

Kristina M. Lee, University of South Dakota

Jennifer Hough, University of South Dakota

Justin Rudnick, Minnesota State University, Mankato

Kathy Denker, Ball State University

April DuPree Taylor, University of South Alabama

John Hooker, Illinois State University

As generative AI reshapes how applicants compose graduate materials, communication educators and foundational course directors face new questions about translating authenticity, integrity, and merit through technology. This roundtable examines how AI-assisted writing challenges traditional admissions and assistantship evaluations. Panelists will explore how programs can translate core values of fairness, transparency, and academic integrity into equitable, ethical, and human-centered evaluative practices, reimagining statements of purpose and other application materials for an AI-mediated world.



**SCHOOL OF
COMMUNICATION**
Illinois State University

The School of Communication at Illinois State University congratulates John Hooker for receiving the Melissa Beall Award from the Basic Course Interest Group!

Translating Chaos to Calm: Leading with Purpose

Sponsor: Undergraduate Education and Administration Section

Chair: Becky L. DeGreeff, University of Wisconsin-Stout

Presenters:

Beth Ribarsky, University of Illinois Springfield

Allison R. Thorson, University of San Francisco

Stacy Tye-Williams, Iowa State University

Kimberly M. Weismann, Bismarck State College

Colleen Palmer, Carthage College

W. Benjamin Myers, The University of Toledo

In an era marked by rapid change, uncertainty, and increasing budgetary constraints in higher education, academic leaders are challenged to translate chaos into clarity and calm. Panelists and attendees will engage in a dynamic discussion on cultivating resilience, fostering trust, and modeling steadiness for their teams—even when the path forward is unclear or even filled with despair.

2612

Friday 4:30 PM to 5:45 PM CDT

Greenway F

Translating Historical Connections Through Performance

Sponsor: Performance Studies and Autoethnography Interest Group

Chair: Vianna Isbister, East Tennessee State University

Respondent: Travis James Wolve, East Tennessee State University

"Saints, Witches, and Madwomen" Christina Ivey, Southern Illinois University Carbondale

"For Sweet Molly Malone: An Autoethnographic Poetry Performance" Jessica Nicole Paxton, Southern Illinois University Carbondale

Two performance experiences with intersections and pathways regarding connections with historical figures and identity representations. Each intentionally engages with contemporary perceptions of memorialization and transgression.

2613

Friday 4:30 PM to 5:45 PM CDT

Greenway I

Translating the Past: Tensions in Memory and Identity

Sponsor: Rhetorical Theory and Criticism Interest Group

Chair: Cassandra D. Hightower, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Respondent: Linsay M. Cramer, Coastal Carolina University

"(Re)collaging as a Commemorative Technique: Adopting, Obscuring, and Cropping Queer Memory and Futures in the Queer Justice Traveling Exhibit" Cameron Avery Burnap, Colorado State University

"Unprecedented": The Rhetoric of the 1898 Massacre and Coup and the January 6th Insurrection" Joshua A Youakim, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

"Constituting the Confederacy: A Constitutive Rhetorical Analysis of the Confederate Identity" Madison Marshall, Southern Illinois University Carbondale

"Embracing Another: Reckoning with White Guilt and Dismantling a Dominant Narrative" Morgan Keller, Ball State University

Through speeches, statues, legislation, and traveling exhibits, this panel examines the rhetorical memory work that shapes public identity and civic engagement today and asks how we might engage with these discourses to shape the future.

FRI

Translating Women's Sports Fandom into Inclusive Spaces: The Organizational and Professional Interest Group and Sports Communication Interest Group Tour of A Bar of Their Own - PART TWO

Sponsors: Organizational and Professional Communication Interest Group; Sports Communication Interest Group

Chair: Anne Kerber, Minnesota State University, Mankato

Presenters:

 Jessica Rick, Illinois State University

 Sarah E. Riforgiate, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

 Abigail N. Kingsford, Drury University

 Emily Sauter, University of Nebraska Omaha

You are invited to join us for the Organizational and Professional Communication Interest Group's Annual Tour, co-sponsored this year with the Sports Communication Interest Group. We will visit A Bar of Their Own (ABOTO), which opened in March 2024 as the first sports bar in the Midwest (and the second in the nation) dedicated exclusively to women's sports. The number of women's sports bars has rapidly increased since ABOTO opened, driven by the rising popularity of and desire for inclusive communities supporting local, national, and international women's sports.

Jillian Hiscock, ABOTO's founder, will meet with us to discuss how she created ABOTO, the growth of spaces like it, and their community engagement and outreach. There is no cost to attend. For more information on ABOTO, visit <https://www.abaroftheirown.com/> Field Trip Details: Our group will meet at in the Hyatt Regency Minneapolis Lobby at 3 pm on Friday, April 17 to carpool to ABOTO (10 minute drive – 2207 Franklin Avenue E, Minneapolis, MN;

<https://www.abaroftheirown.com/>). After our tour and meeting, we will stay at ABOTO for an optional no-host social. To secure travel arrangements, participants are encouraged to register in advance by Sunday, April 12, 2026 at

https://illinoisstate.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cAX1eKuKSgkm5ee or by emailing Anne Kerber (anne.kerber@mnsu.edu) or Jessica Rick (jmrick@ilstu.edu).

2615

Friday 4:30 PM to 5:45 PM CDT

Greenway A

Undergraduate Honors Research Conference Session 5

Sponsor: Undergraduate Honors Research Conference

Chair: Chuton Deb Nath, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Respondent: Matthew Craig, Central Michigan University

"Persuasive Characteristics of Zhou Enlai's Message at the 1955 Bandung Conference" Yanrui Wu, The College of Wooster

"The Relationship Between the Culture Wars, Polarization, and the Role of Media and Interpersonal Communication" John Patrick Alwan, Illinois State University

"Translating Trauma Through Poetry" Colin Hamilton Nix, Hanover College

"A Rhetorical Analysis of Temporary 988 Statues in South Dakota" Abi Slater, South Dakota State University (Faculty Mentor: Dr. Rebecca A. Kuehl)

"Energy Generating Behaviors at Marquette University. Do EGBs affect the relationship between Players and Fans?" Alex Mite, Marquette University (Faculty Mentors: Prof. Oluwaferanmi Dahunsi and Dr. Emily Cramer)

Join us for outstanding papers in the Undergraduate Honors Research Conference!

Friday 6:00 PM CDT

2700

Friday 6:00 PM to 6:45 PM CDT

Northstar Ballroom

FRI

A Winding Road, A Worthy Journey

(Carolyn Calloway-Thomas Inclusivity Speaker Series Keynote: Dr. Fernando Delgado)

Sponsors: CSCA First Vice President; Ethnicity, Race, International, and Class Concerns Caucus

Chair: Jennifer Willis-Rivera, University of Wisconsin-River Falls

Presenter:

Fernando Delgado, Lehman College

This presentation reflects on three decades of Dr. Fernando Delgado's work within the field of communication and, more broadly, higher education institutions, to create ever more space for diverse voices and diverse bodies. The path toward diversity and inclusion is fraught with challenges and frustrations, but the goal remains as the field broadens its intellectual and cultural horizons. The lasting lessons include how to navigate institutional barriers and community obstacles established by those fearful of change and wary of losing institutional power and status. The response, therefore, must be concerted, and the march forward must always be intentional - even if incremental.

Dr. Delgado's keynote address is sponsored by the Carolyn Calloway-Thomas Inclusivity Speaker Series Endowment Fund and CSCA's Ethnicity, Race, International, and Class Concerns Caucus.

Friday 7:00 PM CDT

2800

Friday 7:00 PM to 8:45 PM CDT

Offsite

CSCA Annual Past Presidents Dinner

Sponsor: CSCA Executive Director

Chair: Kathy Denker, Ball State University

This is a dinner honoring the service of CSCA Past Presidents. A previous RSVP for this event is required.

SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2026**Saturday 7:30 AM CDT**

3000

Saturday 7:30 AM to 2:00 PM CDT

Nicollet Registration

CSCA Registration - Saturday

Sponsor: CSCA Executive Director

Chair: Kathleen Cesa, KOC Member Services

Check in and pick up your convention materials.

Saturday 8:00 AM CDT

3100

Saturday 8:00 AM to 9:15 AM CDT

Greenway J

**AI and the New Organizational Order:
Rethinking Communication, Ethics, and Power in Kenya, Ghana, and the United States**

Sponsor: Organizational and Professional Communication Interest Group

Chair: Halima Lul Ali, Bowling Green State University

"AI and the New Organizational Order: Rethinking Communication, Ethics, and Power in Kenya, Ghana, and the United States" Michael Ofori, University of Minnesota Twin Cities; Robert Maina, Indiana University; Adraina Kukuwaa Adu, University of Minnesota Twin Cities; Kelsey Lynn Zook, Bowling Green State University; Halima Lul Ali, Bowling Green State University

This panel explores how Artificial Intelligence (AI) is transforming communication, ethics, and organizational power across Kenya, Ghana, and the United States. Panelists examine how automation and algorithmic decision-making are redefining workplace communication, leadership, and trust in diverse cultural contexts. By comparing African and American experiences, the discussion reveals both the opportunities and inequalities embedded in global AI adoption. The session invites dialogue on ethical governance, digital labor, and the reconfiguration of communicative agency in the emerging AI-driven organizational order.

3101

Saturday 8:00 AM to 9:15 AM CDT

Greenway C

Do You Know What I Mean?: Translating Language & Culture

Sponsor: Political Communication Interest Group
Chair: Sean Bloemetjie, University of Arkansas
Respondent: Joel Lansing Reed, University of Arkansas

"Beyond Surface Judgments: How Accent and Processing Fluency Shape Voters' Inferences About Political Candidates' Communicative Intentions" Eduardo Munoz Suarez, University of Kansas

"Incivility as Political Identity: Assessing the Relationship Between Partisanship and Uncivil Political Engagement During Nigeria's 2023 General Elections" Solomon Sunday S. Tommy, University of Oklahoma

"Language Proficiency and Political Perception: How Spanish-Language Appeals Shape White Monolingual Voters' Candidate Evaluations" Eduardo Munoz Suarez, University of Kansas

"Seeing Through the Lies: Semiotic and Rhetorical Analyses of Visual Disinformation in Nigeria's 2023 Presidential Election" Grace Adeyemo, Illinois State University

"'Immovable' Voters? News, Partisanship, and Evaluation of Government Performance Among U.S. College Students" Eduardo Munoz Suarez, University of Kansas; Lindsey Meeks, Texas Christian University

These papers examine how political communication translates across linguistic, cultural, and digital contexts.

3102

Saturday 8:00 AM to 9:15 AM CDT

Skyway AB

Effective Communication Instruction for the Future

Sponsor: States Advisory Council
Chair: Dale Cyphert, University of Northern Iowa
Presenters:
Dale Cyphert, University of Northern Iowa
Eric Upmeyer, Vinton-Shellsburg High School
Danielle McGeough, University of Northern Iowa
Gayle M. Pohl, University of Northern Iowa
Gabriela Olivares, University of Northern Iowa

This is a discussion and an interactive panel. We will start the discussion of learning goals; what needs to be taught? We are probably already utilizing new technologies or observing new norms in action, but what guidance does a student need to become a competent and/or strategic communicator? 1) Social relationships that define ethos are more inclusive and diverse. 2) Epistemological norms that define logos have shifted from literate Western Analytics toward feminine, cross-cultural, and post-literate "electracy." 3) Performative norms that define decorum in the public sphere now address technological competence, electronic mediation, and digital dissemination.

SAT

3103

Saturday 8:00 AM to 9:15 AM CDT

Lakeshore C

Experiential Learning with Generative AI in Strategic Communication

Sponsors: Communication Education Interest Group; Strategic and Applied Communication Interest Group

Chair: Amber Mitchell, University of Wisconsin-River Falls

Presenters:

Jacob Nickell, University of Wisconsin-River Falls

Geraldine Bengsch, The University of the West Indies

Heather Walters, Missouri State University

As generative AI disrupts the marketing and communications industries, instructors are faced with the challenge of learning the technology while equipping students with the skills needed to be successful in their future careers. This panel aims to explore experiential learning-based assignments and projects that provide students with hands-on experience with generative AI tools.

3104

Saturday 8:00 AM to 9:15 AM CDT

Greenway H

**Extended Abstract Panel:
Digital Message Design, Visual Expression, and Audience Engagement**

Sponsor: Communication & Technology Interest Group

Chair: Md. Sumon Ali, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

"A Content Analysis of Gen Z and Millennial Freelancers' Communication Practices on Reddit in the Gig Economy" Harriet Hyde, Texas Tech University

"Learning Through Play: How Technological Affordances and Psychological Experiences in Educational Games Enhance the Learning Process" Di Mu, Texas A&M International University; Jonathan Villarreal, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi; Xinyue Liu, North Dakota State University

"Tongue in Cheek or Baring Teeth: Metacommunication and Robophobic Slurs on TikTok" Collin St. John, Bowling Green State University; Caroline King, Bowling Green State University

This panel features research on digital message design and audience experience. The studies address how interactive learning environments, visual and expressive cues, and content features shape user engagement and interpretation. Together, they illustrate how media form and presentation influence meaning-making in contemporary digital contexts.

3105

Saturday 8:00 AM to 9:15 AM CDT

Minnehaha

Facts or Fallacies: Translating the Trust in Creator Voices that Shape International Students' Enrollment in U.S. Higher Education

Sponsor: Intercultural Communication Interest Group

Chair: Sandra L. Pensoneau-Conway, Southern Illinois University Carbondale

Presenters:

Irene Martha Lutterodt, Southern Illinois University Carbondale

Bukola Oloba, North Dakota State University

Clementina Edema, University of Missouri

Ngozi Oguejiofor, University of Nevada, Reno

Uchenna Eze, University of Iowa

Rosemary Charway, Ohio University

Lois Domena - Attafuah, North Dakota State University

This panel examines ethical practices as globalization and digital media shift international student recruitment from admissions offices to content creators (McNicholas et al., 2024; Amarasekara & Pinidiya, 2025). From our experiences as graduate researchers, GTAs, and creators, panelists explore how creator content shapes expectations about visas, funding, housing, and work. Identifying where creator messages help or harm potential students and offering practical ways institutions and creators can align partnerships with care, accuracy, and student protection.

3106

Saturday 8:00 AM to 9:15 AM CDT

St. Croix

Game On: Translating Communication Skills from Abstract to Active

Sponsor: Community College Interest Group

Chair: Melinda Jean Matter, North Central Missouri College

Presenters:

Tammie Wiebers, North Central Missouri College

Stephen Yungbluth, Northern Kentucky University

Aimee Langager, Des Moines Area Community College

Joshua Fitzgerald, Linn-Benton Community College

This panel explores how games translate interpersonal communication concepts into active learning. Panelists will share specific games they use to teach skills like active listening, nonverbal communication, and small talk, along with implementation strategies and student outcomes. Games create low-stakes environments where students experiment with communication skills, reducing anxiety while increasing engagement. We'll discuss what works, what doesn't, and classroom logistics challenges. This is a practical conversation among practitioners using play as pedagogy. A Q&A follows.

SAT

3107

Saturday 8:00 AM to 9:15 AM CDT

Greenway F

Lost in Translation: Autoethnographies of First-Generation Faculty

Sponsor: Performance Studies and Autoethnography Interest Group

Chair: David Dooling, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Respondent: Danielle M. Stern, Christopher Newport University

Presenters:

Tasha R. Dunn, The University of Toledo

David Dooling, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Jimmie Manning, University of Nevada, Reno

Keith Berry, University of South Florida

Jonathan Baker, Ohio University

Tony Adams, Bradley University

This paper panel narrates the experiences of first-generation faculty (FGF)-former first-generation college students who have gone on to become faculty members. While much research has interrogated first-generation student experiences, we employ autoethnography to provide first-person, reflexive accounts of FGF navigating the academy, including the affective and embodied tensions that comprise this precarious position. By exposing the implications of being lost in translation, this panel deconstructs success in academia and forges an equitable path forward.

3108

Saturday 8:00 AM to 9:15 AM CDT

Lakeshore B

Superstitions, Taboos, and Digital Risk: Women's Health in Bangladesh

Sponsor: Health Communication Interest Group

Chair: Sakshi Bhati, Southern Illinois University Carbondale

Respondent: Sakshi Bhati, Southern Illinois University Carbondale

"Digital Harassment and Mental Health Among Women Entrepreneurs in Bangladesh" Janifar Kamal Nova, Southern Illinois University Carbondale

"Learning Periods Twice: Intergenerational vs. Digital/Institutional Menstrual Knowledge Among Indigenous Girls and Women in Bangladesh" Tahura Tabassum Tari, Minnesota State University, Mankato

"Religious and Social Taboos Around Menstruation in Bangladeshi Film and Advertising" Md Ragib Rahman, Missouri State University

"Superstitions, Traditional Beliefs, and Their Impact on Public Health in Bangladesh" Sadia Ashrafi Thizbee, International Islamic University Malaysia

This panel examines how superstitions, taboos, and digital risk shape women's health in Bangladesh. We will analyze how folk healing and postpartum rules shape care seeking; how menstrual knowledge moves across Indigenous traditions, classrooms, and clinics; how films and commercials frame menstruation; and how digital platforms amplify harassment, pseudoscientific cures, and reputational harm for women entrepreneurs. We ground these insights in health communication to advance equity, access, trust, and safer care.

3109

Saturday 8:00 AM to 9:15 AM CDT

Lakeshore A

Translating Death and Dying: Communication Supporting Students, Colleagues and Self

Sponsor: Interpersonal and Family Communication Interest Group

Chair: Becky L. DeGreeff, University of Wisconsin-Stout

Presenters:

Shannon C. VanHorn, Valley City State University

Kimberly M. Weismann, Bismarck State College

Jenni Lou Russi, Valley City State University

The subject of death and dying is difficult for both students and faculty to navigate. What is appropriate to say/do to our students who are going through the loss of a loved one? What do we say to our colleagues? How do we teach this type of communication to our students--both those grieving and those who are not? This panel explores the questions above and more as we explore talking about death as faculty and students.

3110

Saturday 8:00 AM to 9:15 AM CDT

Greenway D

Translating Face Theory to New (and Old) Contexts

Sponsor: Communication Theory Interest Group

Chair: John R. Baldwin, Illinois State University

Presenters:

Cimmiaron Alvarez, Kean University

John R. Baldwin, Illinois State University

Abigail N. Kingsford, Drury University

DeAnne Priddis, Middle Tennessee State University

Tsai-Shan Sam Shen, Eastern Michigan University

Scholars from different areas discuss how face and politeness theories have relevance in the study of impression management, intergroup communication, mentoring relationships, family communication, and communication competence.

SAT

3111

Saturday 8:00 AM to 9:15 AM CDT

Greenway B

Translating Media Literacy in the Age of AI: Building Trust, Navigating Noise, and Understanding Digital Power

Sponsor: Media Studies Interest Group

Chair: Barbara Ruth Burke, University of Minnesota Morris

Presenters:

Nana Akua Amoa Owusu-Kumah, Minnesota State University, Mankato

Emma L. Andries, Minnesota State University

A.G. Hughes, Emporia State University

Gladys Momade, Purdue University

Vamsi Chaitanya Pedasanaganti, Kean University

Karen Shalev, University of Connecticut

Chidalu Nnorukah, Western Michigan University

This panel examines how media literacy must evolve in an era where artificial intelligence, digital platforms, and endless information streams reshape how we understand credibility, advocacy, and communication. By combining perspectives from PR, advocacy, and media studies, this panel highlights translation as central to the practice of media literacy in the 21st century. Contributions address how audiences decode AI-shaped media environments, how media literacy can equip citizens to critically engage with messages, and how digital advocacy and storytelling must adapt.

3112

Saturday 8:00 AM to 9:15 AM CDT

Greenway I

Translating Violence Back into Normalcy: Promotions of Mediated Violence in 2025

Sponsor: Rhetorical Theory and Criticism Interest Group

Chair: EunYoung Lee, Central Washington University

Respondent: Madison A. Pollino, University of South Florida

"Podcasting Liberal Rhetorics of Reaction" Chad Nelson, Florida Gulf Coast University

"Three Fights, Nine Seconds: Hockey, Politics, and a Culture of Violence" Matthew Meier, DePauw University

"Translating Spectacle into Support: The Trump Administration's Mediated Spectacles of Violence" Christopher (Kit) Medjesky, University of Findlay; Mac Williams, University of Mississippi

2025 has been all about re-normalizing violence in the media, and with a White House-hosted Ultimate Fight Championship (UFC) event coming in 2026, blood is back in a big way. This session examines three intersections of rhetoric and media: government-driven media spectacles, broadcast sports, and high-profile podcasts. Collectively, the author's use these examples to illustrate the Trump administration's re-normalization of violence in culture, an act that emphasizes white hypermasculinity to spite and silence oppressed voices.

SAT

3113

Saturday 8:00 AM to 9:15 AM CDT

Greenway A

Undergraduate Honors Research Conference Session 6

Sponsor: Undergraduate Honors Research Conference

Chair: Tasnimul Zannah, Minnesota State University, Mankato

Respondent: Joy L. Daggs, Northwest Missouri State University

"Peripheral Nerve Injury Does Not Alter VGluT1 Synaptic Density on Isl1+ Premotor Interneurons"

Pranati Mary Yadlapalli, Georgia Institute of Technology

"Examining the Effectiveness of Culturally Tailored, Gain/Loss Framed Messages: The Moderating Role of Social Norms and Individual Prosociality" Sarah Ann Diamond, University of Minnesota Duluth (Faculty Mentor: Dr. Lingzi Zhong)

"Parental Posting and Children's Privacy Violations" Shelby McKinney, Hanover College

"They Deserved It!: Discourses of Schadenfreude and Empathy on Reddit" Ben Durante, Eastern Michigan University (Faculty Mentor: Dr. Nick Romerhausen)

"From Private Suffering to Public Urgency: A Rhetorical Analysis of Oliver Anthony's Rich Men North of Richmond" Carly Crowe, Denison University (Faculty Mentor: Dr. Alina Haliliuc)

Join us for outstanding papers in the Undergraduate Honors Research Conference!

Saturday 9:00 AM CDT

3114

Saturday 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM CDT

Nicollet Promenade

Exhibit Hall Featuring Publishers and Technology - Saturday

Sponsor: CSCA Executive Director

Chair: Joy L. Daggs, Northwest Missouri State University

Come see the latest in offerings from publishers and technology companies.

Saturday 9:30 AM CDT

3200

Saturday 9:30 AM to 10:45 AM CDT

Greenway A

Adjunct/Temporary Faculty Caucus Business Meeting

Sponsor: Adjunct/Temporary Faculty Caucus

Chair: Kate LaPierre, University of Nevada, Reno/Ivy Tech Community College

Presenters:

Stacey Mirviss-Jossart, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Heather Nesemeier, Minnesota State University Moorhead

SAT

Argumentation and Forensics Interest Group and Instructional Resources Interest Group: Top Papers

Sponsors: Argumentation and Forensics Interest Group; Instructional Resources Interest Group

Chair: Aimee Miller, Ferris State University

Respondent: Ryan Scott Rigda, Saginaw Valley State University

"Group Work is a Part of Professional Life: Assessing Teamwork Experience of a Written Assignment for STEM Students (Top Paper for Instructional Resources Interest Group)" Damla Ricks, The University of Texas at Arlington; Molly Wiant Cummins, The University of Texas at Arlington; Karishma Chatterjee, The University of Texas at Arlington

"Students' Perceptions of Teacher-Student Relationships and the Impact of These Relationships on Student Motivation" Deborah Aku Shika Pappoe, Illinois State University

"Translating Topicality in Policy Debate" Ned Gidley, University of Kansas

"Digital Playgrounds, But Real Dangers: Analyzing Legal Argument in Garcia vs. Character Technologies, Inc. (Top Paper for Argumentation and Forensics Interest Group)" Heather Walters, Missouri State University

This panel features Top Papers in the Argumentation and Forensics Interest Group as well as Top Papers in the Instructional Resources Interest Group.



**SCHOOL OF
COMMUNICATION**
Illinois State University

The School of Communication at Illinois State University congratulates Deborah Aku Shika Pappoe for receiving a Top Four Paper Award from the Instructional Resources Interest Group!



Missouri State
DEPARTMENT of
COMMUNICATION, MEDIA,
JOURNALISM AND FILM

The Department of Communication, Media, Journalism and Film at Missouri State University congratulates Heather Walters for receiving the Top Paper Award from the Argumentation and Forensics Interest Group!

3202

Saturday 9:30 AM to 10:45 AM CDT

Lakeshore B

Between Data and Dialogue: Translating Health Communication in the Age of AI

Sponsor: Health Communication Interest Group

Chair: Zaynab B. Yusuf, Wayne State University

"Aging with AI: Exploring Older Adults' Use of Voice Assistants Through the Lens of Self-Determination Theory" Hyesun Choung, Purdue University; Yoo Jung (Erika) Oh, Michigan State University; Brooke Wolfe, Michigan State University; Xiaoran Cui, Michigan State University; Joshua Weinzapfel, Michigan State University; R. Amanda Cooper, University of Connecticut

"Examining the Role and Effectiveness of AI-Driven Personal Health Assistants in Facilitating Communication for Chronic Disease Management and Improving Patient Engagement in Public Hospitals in Nigeria" Salome N. Mbah, North Dakota State University; Bukola Oloba, North Dakota State University; Funmilayo Adebimpe Odufuwa, North Dakota State University

"Exploring the Perceptions of Users on the Use of AI in Healthcare: Focusing on Trust, Ethics, Perceived Risks, and Benefits" James Kwaku Kwarteng, University of Connecticut

"Twenty Million Patients Can't All Be the Same: A Generative-AI Segmentation Model of Medical Tourism Patient Archetypes" Alicia Mason, Pittsburg State University

What happens when health communication is co-created by humans and machines? This panel examines how artificial intelligence technologies—from voice assistants to generative models and personal health aides—reshape communication, trust, and understanding in healthcare. Drawing from studies across global and demographic contexts, panelists explore how meanings of care, ethics, and engagement are translated through AI, offering insights into how communication scholars can interpret and guide these emerging human-machine relationships.

3203

Saturday 9:30 AM to 10:45 AM CDT

St. Croix

Community College Business Meeting

Sponsor: Community College Interest Group

Chair: Tammie Wiebers, North Central Missouri College

Presenters:

Myron Covington, Washtenaw Community College

Jeremy Basso, City Colleges of Chicago

SAT

Extended Abstract Panel: Human-AI Communication and Relational Processes

Sponsor: Communication & Technology Interest Group

Chair: Kyle Vareberg, Northeastern State University

"From Close Relationships to AI: Exploring How Undergraduate Students' Attachment Styles Shape Human and AI-Mediated Communication" Md Ibnu Sarwar Rafi, University of Tennessee; Md Abdur Razzak Sarker, Minnesota State University, Mankato

"Implications of Using Artificial Intelligence (AI) for Producing Relational Messages" Stephen Yungbluth, Northern Kentucky University

"Prompting Precision: A Communication-Centered Study on the Use of AI and Media Literacy Among Graduate Students" Evans Frimpong, University of Kentucky; Vera Siripi, University of Kentucky; Amanda Efua Gyesi, University of Kentucky; Albert Junior Nyarko, University of Kentucky

"(You) Should Have Known the Risks': Gen Z's Perceptions of Image-Based Sexual Abuse Threats and Coping Strategies" Shannon Pappas, University of Connecticut; Lexi McNamara, University of Connecticut; Anne Oeldorf-Hirsch, University of Connecticut; Kenneth Lachlan, University of Connecticut

This panel presents emerging work on human-AI communication, focusing on relational messages, linguistic cues, and user perceptions. The studies examine how people interpret AI-generated communication, negotiate closeness with AI agents, and develop AI literacy through prompting. Together, they highlight evolving interpersonal dynamics in technologically mediated interactions.

3205

Saturday 9:30 AM to 10:45 AM CDT

Mirage

G.I.F.T. Session #5

Sponsor: G.I.F.T. Interest Group

Chair: Amanda L. Medlock-Klyukovski, Truman State University

"Are You a Trivia Buff? Implementing a Game-Based Activity to Improve Digital Literacy Proficiency" Kelly Soczka Steidinger, Mid-State Technical College

"Fiddle With Your Quill: Enabling Team Building and Cohesion Through Poetry" Jeevani Sammeta, Dalton State College

"Finding Commonalities Among Freshmen College Students With the True Color Personality Test" Madilyn Ellingsworth, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville; Ethan Massey, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville; Scott Sellnow-Richmond, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

"Persuasion Scruples" Beth A. Messner, Ball State University; Emily Sanders-Whiteley, Ball State University

"The Effects of Workplace Relationships (Top Student Activity)" Katelyn Beth Case, Ball State University

"Translating Persuasion: From Shark Tank to the Classroom" Mary Olivia Roberts, Ohio University; Samantha Roberts, Ohio University

"Translating Presentation Aids: Learning Best Practices Through Purposeful Violations" Bethany R. Lutovsky, Dakota State University

G.I.F.T. Sessions feature teaching ideas for the communication classroom.



The Department of Communication Studies at Ball State University congratulates Katelyn Beth Case for receiving the Top Student Activity Award from the Great Ideas for Teaching Interest Group!

3206

Saturday 9:30 AM to 10:45 AM CDT

Northstar Ballroom

Graduate School Fair Set Up

Sponsors: CSCA President; Graduate Student Caucus; Undergraduate Honors Research Conference

This slot is set aside for Graduate Fair exhibitors to set up their exhibits.

SAT

Higher Education in Transition: Implications for the Undergraduate Institutions

Sponsor: Undergraduate Education and Administration Section

Chair: Kelsey Menge, Bismarck State College

Presenters:

Shannon C. VanHorn, Valley City State University

Kimberly M. Weismann, Bismarck State College

Beth Ribarsky, University of Illinois Springfield

Educational structures are rapidly changing as perception of the value of a post-secondary education is questioned. Undergraduate institutions are exploring alternative pathways for potential students as a way to increase enrollment and the viability of their departments. This panel explores some of these pathways taken to reach both the needs of the students and the needs of the institutions. The participants hope to engage the audience in discussing these transitions. On September 3, 2024, the Higher Learning Commission provided guidelines and an application process for reduced credit bachelor's degrees. Guidelines and an application process are meant to pave the way for colleges and universities accredited by HLC to offer reduced credit bachelor's degree programs. Institutions can offer these degrees with as low as 90 credits. One panelist will discuss the guidelines and explore the possibilities and implications of reduced-credit degrees in our discipline. Another panelist will discuss how her institute is implementing stackable certificates and credentialing. This use of micro-credentials offers especially the non-traditional student both initial training for the workforce, but also a pathway to earn degrees. A third panelist will discuss a new model of a degree plan in her program. This model provides opportunities for both the traditional and non-traditional student as they navigate the ever-changing needs in the workforce and in higher education.

3208

Saturday 9:30 AM to 10:45 AM CDT

Greenway G

Inclusive Scholarship Panel: Top Papers

Sponsor: CSCA Equity & Inclusion Committee, CSCA Executive Director

Chair: Elizabeth M. Lozano, Loyola University Chicago

Respondent: Mary Kiura, Purdue University Fort Wayne

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"Navigating Tensions, Building Resilience: A Communicative Framework for HIV/AIDS Service

Organizing (Inclusive Scholarship Award for Top Inclusive Scholarship Paper)" Jacob Daniel

Sanders, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

"What I Know, and it is Very Obvious, Homosexuality is Coming Here...": On Same-Sex Marriage

Blessings, Religious (Catholic) Journalism, Postcolonial Queer Theory, and 'De-Queering' Africa"

Dennis Ekwemnachukwu Okeke, University of Colorado Boulder

"Closing Gaps and Opening Doors: Exploring Neuroqueer Identity Processes Through the

Communication Theory of Identity" Evan Kirksey, University of Missouri; Sofia Deatherage,

University of Missouri; Breck Holtz, Illinois State University

"Algorithmic Inequalities in Ghanaian Journalism: How AI Tools Perpetuate Social Hierarchies in

News Production" Richard Mensah Adonu, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

This paper panel features the top inclusive scholarship papers. Following the paper presentations and response, a discussion about the nature of equity and inclusion scholarship invites audience involvement. The opportunities and challenges of this scholarship area will be discussion topics.

3209

Saturday 9:30 AM to 10:45 AM CDT

Greenway B

Media Studies Interest Group Business Meeting

Sponsor: Media Studies Interest Group

Chair: Tasha Riggins, Baker University

Presenters:

Holly Holladay, Missouri State University

Stephen E. Rahko, Illinois State University

SAT

3210

Saturday 9:30 AM to 10:45 AM CDT

Lakeshore C

Navigating Viewpoint Diversity in the Classroom After The Death of Charlie Kirk

Sponsors: Activism, Communication Ethics, and Social Justice Interest Group; Communication Education Interest Group

Chair: Jenna McNallie, Augsburg University

Presenters:

Robert Groven, Augsburg University

Jessica Robinson, Utah Valley University

Yuming Fang, Augsburg University

Marceleen M. Mosher, University of Minnesota Twin Cities

Kristen Chamberlain, Augsburg University

Current events, like the death of Charlie Kirk, have made applying communication concepts to real-world situations feel tumultuous, leading to questions like: How do instructors decide what topics to cover within the classroom? How do instructors manage holding space for diverse viewpoints in their classrooms? Panelists will briefly share their experiences navigating these situations across a variety of classroom contexts (e.g., public discourse, strategic communication) before the audience is invited to share questions and examples.

3211

Saturday 9:30 AM to 10:45 AM CDT

Greenway J

Organizational and Professional Communication Interest Group Business Meeting

Sponsor: Organizational and Professional Communication Interest Group

Chair: Abigail N. Kingsford, Drury University

Presenters:

Hayden Barber, South Dakota State University

Breanna Prater, University of Missouri

3212

Saturday 9:30 AM to 10:45 AM CDT

Greenway F

Performance Studies and Autoethnography Interest Group Business Meeting

Sponsor: Performance Studies and Autoethnography Interest Group

Chair: Vianna Ibsister, East Tennessee State University

Presenters:

Shelby Swafford, Southern Illinois University Carbondale

Christina Ivey, Southern Illinois University Carbondale

3213

Saturday 9:30 AM to 10:45 AM CDT

Northstar Ballroom

President's Undergraduate Honors Research Conference Breakfast

Sponsor: Undergraduate Honors Research Conference

Chairs: Jeffrey T. Child, University of Nevada, Las Vegas; Tiffany R. Wang, University of Montevallo

The President's Undergraduate Honors Research Conference Breakfast requires an RSVP and is for President's Undergraduate Honors Research Conference authors and their supporters. The agenda includes a keynote speaker, breakfast, top paper awards, and graduate school exhibits. Food will be available promptly at 9:30 AM; guests are encouraged to arrive between 9:20 and 9:25 AM. After the meal and award presentations, students will have the opportunity to interact with graduate school directors and learn more about opportunities associated with attaining an advanced degree.

"Your (Beautiful) Communication Contagiousness" Carol J. Bruess, College of St. Benedict/St. John's University

In this dynamic session, Relationship Social Scientist Dr. Carol Bruess will share her own journey as a communication scholar, author, professor, and speaker while engaging your minds and hearts in the evidence of your greatest human superpower: social connection. Micro-moment by micro-moment we each, even in fleeting interactions, have a profound impact on each other's physical health, longevity, happiness, and wellbeing. Did you know that just by being in another's presence – even a stranger's – you can unleash a cascade of contagious positivity resonance? And in doing so, you begin a centrifugal force of joy, happiness, love, connection, and better relationships in your life and theirs? Most of us underestimate how small, zero-cost shifts in our daily communication choices can change our lives and those of everyone we encounter.

3214

Saturday 9:30 AM to 10:45 AM CDT

Greenway E

Sports Communication Interest Group Business Meeting

Sponsor: Sports Communication Interest Group

Chair: Emily Sauter, University of Nebraska Omaha

Presenters:

Scott Jensen, Webster University

Mac Williams, University of Mississippi

Jake Manning, Marshall University

SAT

3215

Saturday 9:30 AM to 10:45 AM CDT

Greenway C

Translating Gender in Politics: Examining Voters and Politicians Across Communication Channels

Sponsor: Political Communication Interest Group
Chair: Benjamin R. Warner, University of Missouri

"Activating Group Identity: The Role of Reproductive Rights in Political Engagement After Dobbs"
Kelly L. Winfrey, Iowa State University

"Gender and Political Advertising: An Analysis of Two 2025 Gubernatorial Campaigns" Dianne G. Bystrom, Iowa State University; Mary Banwart, University of Kansas

"Gender and Political Debates: Influences on Attitudes and Evaluations" Breck Gillespie, University of Missouri

"Translating Masculinity in Brazil and the United States" Julia Peixoto, Iowa State University

This panel features four papers that examine how gender is translated by voters and politicians across different communication channels—including debates, social media, television advertising, and speeches. Presentations discuss how gender shapes voter evaluations of candidates and how they engage in discussions of reproductive rights as well as how politicians communicate their issue positions and perform masculinity. Panelists will engage the audience in a discussion of the evolving role of gender in political communication research.

3216

Saturday 9:30 AM to 10:45 AM CDT

Greenway D

Translating Research to Real-World Impact: Applied Communication in Action

Sponsor: Strategic and Applied Communication Interest Group
Chair: Bailey Hughlett, University of Connecticut

Presenters:

Sydney O'Shay, Utah State University

Matt Brigham, James Madison University

Anitha Dushimirimana, James Madison University

Emily Nicholson, James Madison University

Megan Rodak, James Madison University

Valerie Gruest, Northwestern University

Joshua P. Bolton, Salisbury University

In this panel, applied communication scholars will discuss how they translate academic research into real-world advocacy across the following contexts: athlete-centered media literacy, resisting anti-DEI policies in higher education, innovative approaches to social and environmental advocacy, and strategic campaigns for community organizations. Their work leverages applied communication to foster translational capacity. Audience engagement is encouraged, and attendees will learn practical strategies for enhancing the public impact of their work.

Saturday 11:00 AM CDT

3300

Saturday 11:00 AM to 12:15 PM CDT

Greenway G

Basic Course Interest Group: Top Papers

Sponsor: Basic Course Interest Group

Chair: Kathryn B. Golsan, University of Northern Iowa

Respondent: Evan Kirksey, University of Missouri

"Brave Spaces, Digital Places: Translating Critical Communication Pedagogy for the Online Basic Course (Top Paper)" Margaret Baker, University of Notre Dame

"Basic Communication Course Instructor Perceptions of College Student Retention and Belongingness: A Qualitative Investigation" David Schneider, Saginaw Valley State University; Jennifer McCullough, Saginaw Valley State University

"Discovering the Capabilities of Generative Artificial Intelligence in the Context of Introductory Public Speaking Courses" Nick Romerhausen, Eastern Michigan University

"The Campus Specific Persuasive Speech Assignment: Arguing for Specific Changes More Locally (Top Student Paper)" Ned Gidley, University of Kansas

"Confronting Contemporary Challenges in the Basic Public Speaking Course with Reflexive Pedagogical Strategies" Amanda L. Medlock-Klyukovski, Truman State University; Andrei A. Klyukovski, Truman State University

This panel explores how Basic Course instructors and scholars actively translate foundational pedagogical commitments into practices that meet the demands of contemporary higher education. These top papers examine the translation of critical communication pedagogy into online "brave" learning spaces; instructors' understandings of student retention and belonging; the redesign of persuasive speaking assignments to emphasize campus-specific, locally relevant advocacy; the emerging role of generative artificial intelligence in introductory public speaking; and reflexive strategies for addressing the social, technological, and institutional challenges shaping today's Basic Course. Together, these papers highlight "translation" as a necessary and creative process-bridging modalities, student needs, civic engagement, and technological change. By showcasing innovative approaches that preserve the integrity and purpose of the Basic Course, this panel invites the audience to consider how translation functions as an ongoing act of adaptation, critical reflection, and pedagogical transformation.

SAT

3301

Saturday 11:00 AM to 12:15 PM CDT

Greenway C

Democracy on the Line: An Assessment Since the 2024 Presidential Election

Sponsor: Political Communication Interest Group

Chair: Dianne G. Bystrom, Iowa State University

Presenters:

Mary Banwart, University of Kansas

Mitchell S. McKinney, The University of Toledo

Joel Lansing Reed, University of Arkansas

Robert C. Rowland, University of Kansas

Benjamin R. Warner, University of Missouri

Kelly L. Winfrey, Iowa State University

Join contributors to the book, *Democracy on the Line: The Turbulent 2024 Presidential Election*, who will provide assessments of the current state of the U.S. democracy. Topics to be discussed include threats to institutions of higher learning; voluntary compliance, political courage, and political risks; challenges for/with/to women; religion and politics including Christian nationalism; and how Trump's narrative worldview pushes toward extreme descriptions of the nation as justification for extreme actions. Audience participation will be invited.

3302

Saturday 11:00 AM to 12:15 PM CDT

Northstar Ballroom

Graduate School Fair

Sponsors: CSCA President; Graduate Student Caucus; Undergraduate Honors Research Conference

Chairs: Jeffrey T. Child, University of Nevada, Las Vegas; Tiffany R. Wang, University of Montevallo

The Graduate Fair graduate school exhibits are open to all undergraduate and graduate students. Students will have the opportunity to interact with graduate school directors and learn more about opportunities associated with attaining an advanced degree.

SAT

3303

Saturday 11:00 AM to 12:15 PM CDT

Lakeshore B

Health Communication Interest Group: Top Papers

Sponsor: Health Communication Interest Group

Chair: Jessica Rick, Illinois State University

"From Focus Groups to Short Film: A Culture-Centered Approach to Type 2 Diabetes Communication in a Latino Community (Top Paper, Top Inclusive Scholarship Paper)" Ariadne Gonzalez, Texas A&M International University; Di Mu, Texas A&M International University; Arthur Soto-Vasquez, University of Nevada, Las Vegas; Angela Moran, Texas A&M International University; Cindy Salazar-Collier, Texas A&M International University

"Understanding How Adult Survivors of Childhood Cancer Narrate Their Lived Experience: Memorable Messages of Childhood Cancer Survivors (Top Student Paper, Top Debut Paper)" Bailey Houghlett, University of Connecticut

"Translating Narratives and Centering Voices: Toward a Communication-Centered Storytelling Framework for Perinatal Mental Health" Najma Akhther, Nazareth University

"I Felt Like They Were Doing Things to Me, Not With Me": Communication Disenfranchisement and the Quiet Violence of Exclusion in U.S. Maternity Care." Wendy Adjei, University of Missouri; Esther Apreku, University of Missouri; Patrick Owusu Ansah, University of Alaska Fairbanks

3304

Saturday 11:00 AM to 12:15 PM CDT

Minnehaha

Instructional Resources Interest Group Business Meeting

Sponsor: Instructional Resources Interest Group

Chair: Stephen A. Klien, University of Missouri

Presenters:

Kristin Fitzsimmons, University of Minnesota Twin Cities

Lauren J. Johnsen, University of Wisconsin-Stout

3305

Saturday 11:00 AM to 12:15 PM CDT

Greenway A

Leader Perspectives on Supporting Incoming Adjunct Faculty (Top Panel)

Sponsor: Adjunct/Temporary Faculty Caucus

Chair: Amanda L. Brown, University of Wisconsin-Stout

Presenters:

Kimberly M. Weismann, Bismarck State College

Stephanie Young, University of Southern Indiana

Kim Zagorski, University of Wisconsin-Stout

Julie Watts, University of Wisconsin-Stout

This panel explores university leader perspectives in preparing adjunct faculty to be successful. Universities are increasingly reliant on adjunct faculty who require varying levels of support. Adjunct faculty include experienced educators, working professionals, and those with no teaching experience. Further, the increased emphasis on career readiness may result in more working professionals being offered adjunct teaching positions. Ensuring that adjunct faculty are prepared requires a variety of strategies from administrators, faculty, and other adjunct faculty.

SAT

Organizational and Professional Communication Interest Group: Top Papers

Sponsor: Organizational and Professional Communication Interest Group

Chair: Abigail N. Kingsford, Drury University

Respondent: Hayden Barber, South Dakota State University

"Leadership Surveillance: A Catalyst for Tense and Dysfunctional Work Culture (Top Student Paper, Top Debut Paper)" Sophia Belle Peterson, Ball State University

"Navigating Tensions, Building Resilience: A Communicative Framework for HIV/AIDS Service Organizing (Top Inclusive Scholarship Paper)" Jacob Daniel Sanders, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

"Technology Use and Burnout Among Remote Workers: A Comparison Study of Crisis and Routine Remote Work (Diamond Anniversary Award for Top Paper)" Michael Cody Coker, Boise State University; Inyoung Shin, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; Sarah E. Rifforgiate, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; Emily A. Godager, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

This panel highlights the top-ranked competitive papers submitted to the Organizational and Professional Communication Interest Group this year. These scholars highlight issues including the intersection of technology and organizational culture, resilience for service organizing, and tensions in remote work experiences.



**BALL STATE
UNIVERSITY**
Department of
Communication Studies

The Department of Communication Studies at Ball State University congratulates Sophia Belle Peterson for receiving the Top Student Paper and Top Debut Paper Awards from the Organizational & Professional Communication Interest Group!



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
MILWAUKEE

The Department of Communication at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee congratulates Sarah E. Rifforgiate for receiving the Diamond Anniversary Award from the Organizational & Professional Communication Interest Group!

Performance Studies and Autoethnography Interest Group: Top Papers

Sponsor: Performance Studies and Autoethnography Interest Group

Chair: Vianna Ibsister, East Tennessee State University

Respondent: Shelby Swafford, Southern Illinois University Carbondale

"My Body, Whose Choice? Or How I Learned about Righteous Mom Rage (Top Paper, Top Inclusive Scholarship Paper)" Kathleen Turner Ledgerwood, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

"Braiding With a Weave of AI: A Collaborative Autoethnographic Exploration of the Promises and Perils of Deepfake Technologies" Stevie Munz, Utah Valley University; Leandra Hernandez, University of Utah

"Speaking into the Silence: An Autoethnography on Immigration and the Presence or Absence of Family History for the Next Generation" Jennifer Wingate, Independent Scholar

"The Stories We Keep" Damon Mitchell Gage Darling, University of Utah

"Tracing My Homes: A Journey of Spirit, Memory, and Belonging" Dolapo Michael Oyedokun, Ohio University

This panel features the top papers for the interest group.



The Department of Communication at the University of Utah congratulates Leandra Hernandez for receiving a Top Five Paper Award from the Performance Studies and Autoethnography Interest Group!



The Department of Communication at the University of Utah congratulates Damon Mitchell Gage Darling for receiving a Top Five Paper Award from the Performance Studies and Autoethnography Interest Group!



The School of Communication Studies at Ohio University congratulates Dolapo Michael Oyedokun for receiving a Top Five Paper Award from the Performance Studies and Autoethnography Interest Group!

SAT

Popular Culture Interest Group: Top Papers

Sponsor: Popular Culture Interest Group

Chair: Tyler Donavon Curran, Missouri State University

Respondent: Matthew Meier, DePauw University

"From Lover to Idol: Fan Labor, Cruel Optimism, and Identity in Chinese Otome Games (Top Debut Paper, Top Inclusive Scholarship Paper)" Lilin Deng, Hohai University

"Hiding in Plain Sight: 'Gaylor' and the Agentic Fourth Persona in Parasocial Savior Conspiracy Theories (Founders Award for Top Student Paper)" Amy Whiteside, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

"The Collision of Politics and Pop Culture: Stan Culture and the Transformation of Public Discourse (Top Paper)" Emily Sauter, University of Nebraska Omaha

This panel features the top competitive paper submissions to the Popular Culture Interest Group, including the top paper and top student paper. The collected papers explore the intersections of participatory fandom and politics.



The Department of Communication Studies at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln congratulates Amy Whiteside for receiving the Founders Award from the Popular Culture Interest Group!



The School of Communication at the University of Nebraska at Omaha congratulates Emily Sauter for receiving the Top Paper Award from the Popular Culture Interest Group!

**Power Plays and Public Frames: Negotiation, Ideology, and Identity in Global Media -
Media Studies Interest Group: Top Papers**

Sponsor: Media Studies Interest Group

Chair: Holly Holladay, Missouri State University

Respondent: Byron B. Craig, Illinois State University

"What a Country!": A Thematic Analysis of X (Twitter) Framing of the Owo Massacre in Nigeria (Top Paper)" Grace Adeyemo, Illinois State University; John R. Baldwin, Illinois State University

"A Hard Bargain: Gendered Portrayals of Negotiation in HBO's *Succession*" Robert Swetlic, Wayne State University

"Oil, Media, and Power: *Landman*, Season 1 (2024) as a Cultural Apparatus for Fossil Fuel Legitimization (Samuel L. Becker Award for Top Student Paper)" Naqibun Nabi, Colorado State University; Md Sazzad Mahmud Shuvo, Florida State University

"When Cinema Becomes Propaganda: Portrayal of the Bangladesh Liberation War in 'Khel Khel Mein'" Md Ragib Rahman, Missouri State University; Amina Khatun, University of Sussex

This panel explores how global media constructs and reinforces power through representation. From gendered negotiations in *Succession* to ideological framing in *Landman*, propagandistic storytelling in Pakistan's Khel Khel Mein, and the discourse of Nigerian Twitter users during crisis, each paper examines how communication shapes perception and authority. Together, these papers reveal how film, television, and digital platforms mediate the politics of identity and ideology in an increasingly interconnected media landscape.



**SCHOOL OF
COMMUNICATION**
Illinois State University

The School of Communication at Illinois State University congratulates Grace Adeyemo for receiving the Top Paper Award from the Media Studies Interest Group!



**SCHOOL OF
COMMUNICATION**
Illinois State University

The School of Communication at Illinois State University congratulates John R. Baldwin for receiving the Top Paper Award from the Media Studies Interest Group!



COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

The Department of Communication Studies at Colorado State University congratulates Naqibun Nabi for receiving the Samuel L. Becker Award from the Media Studies Interest Group!



**Missouri
State**
DEPARTMENT OF
COMMUNICATION, MEDIA,
JOURNALISM AND FILM

The Department of Communication, Media, Journalism and Film at Missouri State University congratulates Md Ragib Rahman for receiving a Top Five Paper Award from the Media Studies Interest Group!

SAT

3310

Saturday 11:00 AM to 12:15 PM CDT

Skyway AB

Teaching Social Justice in Basic Communication Course

Sponsor: States Advisory Council

Chair: Jessica Samens, Bethel University

Presenters:

Julie L.G. Walker, Southwest Minnesota State University

Jessica Samens, Bethel University

Yuanyi Chen, Southwest Minnesota State University

David Brennan, Minnesota State University, Mankato

Anne Kerber, Minnesota State University, Mankato

Integrating social justice into a public speaking class empowers students to use their voices to advocate for understanding and inclusivity. This panel examines course design and lessons learned to incorporate social justice topics into the course. By creating a classroom culture that values diverse experiences, we can turn public speaking into a powerful tool for social transformation.

3311

Saturday 11:00 AM to 12:15 PM CDT

Greenway D

**Translating Experiences of Race and Ethnicity:
Negotiation and Marginalization of Embodied Identities**

Sponsor: Ethnicity, Race, International, and Class Concerns Caucus

Chair: Bukola Oloba, North Dakota State University

Respondent: Jimmie Manning, University of Nevada, Reno

"Discursive-Materiality of Otherness: Stigma Marks and Intersectional Communicology of Stigma Among U.S. Latino/as" Umar Olansile Ajetunmobi, University of Kansas; Rikki A. Roscoe, University of Kansas; Alcides Velasquez, University of Kansas

"Racialized Accents and Equity in Academia: Reclaiming Cultural Wealth in the Shadow of Deficit Views" Emi Kanemoto, Bryant University

"Translating Ethnicity, or Everything I Know about Mexicanidad, I Learned from Death" Alberto Gonzalez, Bowling Green State University

"I'm Like Yeah I'm White, But I'm Also Turkish": Exploring Second-Generation Turkish Americans' Negotiations of Racial Identity and Whiteness" Ahmet Aksoy, Winona State University; Lindsay M. Cramer, Coastal Carolina University

The papers in this panel explore experiences of identity and identity negotiation across a variety of marginalized racial and ethnic identities within the United States.

3312

Saturday 11:00 AM to 12:15 PM CDT

St. Croix

Translating Student Experience into Learning: Why Stories Matter in the Communication Classroom

Sponsor: Community College Interest Group

Chair: Melinda Jean Matter, North Central Missouri College

Presenters:

Kim Marie Omachinski, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Emily Katt, East Tennessee State University

Beth Ribarsky, University of Illinois Springfield

This panel explores how we use personal narrative in basic communication courses, specifically when students tell stories about their own lives. Panelists will share their experiences with this approach while navigating practical challenges: student reluctance to share, boundary management, and the assessment dilemma of evaluating vulnerable content. This isn't about best practices but candid dialogue on ongoing questions: What scaffolding helps reluctant students? How do we protect ourselves from trauma dumping? How do we assess personal stories? A Q&A follows.

3313

Saturday 11:00 AM to 12:15 PM CDT

Lakeshore C

Translating the Three A's: Assessment, Accessibility, and Atmosphere

Sponsor: Communication Education Interest Group

Chair: Joshua Young, Divine Word College

Respondent: Kyle Vareberg, Northeastern State University

"Accessibility, Not Fragility: A Call to Instructors for a Modified Approach to Content Forecasts"

Morgan Keller, Ball State University

"Student Perceptions of Quality Classroom Culture: Expectations of Their Peers and Instructors"

Stacy Schilling, Winona State University; McKenna Hennager, Winona State University; Tammy

Swenson-Lepper, Winona State University

"Translating Media Literacy Assessment: The Olympic Model as an Inclusive Framework" Nour

Mheidly, University of Illinois Chicago

This panel examines how communication educators bridge theory and practice through the "Three A's" - Assessment, Accessibility, and Atmosphere. Presenters showcase innovative approaches that shape dynamic, student-centered learning experiences.

SAT

3314

Saturday 11:00 AM to 12:15 PM CDT

Lakeshore A

**Translation for the Non-Major in the
Interpersonal and Family Communication Classroom**

Sponsor: Interpersonal and Family Communication Interest Group

Chair: Natalie Pennington, Colorado State University

Presenters:

R. Amanda Cooper, University of Connecticut

Cassidy Taladay-Carter, Boise State University

Brooke Wolfe, Michigan State University

Kristina Scharp, Rutgers University

Terri Easley-Giraldo, Johnson County Community College

Paul Schrodт, Texas Christian University

Dawn O. Braithwaite, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Many universities offer interpersonal and family communication courses as general education options, attracting students from a range of majors. This panel explores strategies and challenges in teaching these courses to diverse audiences and translating theory into practical, engaging applications. Panelists will share examples of activities, assignments, and classroom practices that make communication concepts meaningful and accessible to students outside the major. Panelists will also provide practical advice for fostering student engagement and helping students transfer communication skills to real-world contexts. The panel will conclude with reflections on future directions for teaching interpersonal and family communication across the university.

Saturday 12:30 PM CDT

3400

Saturday 12:30 PM to 1:45 PM CDT

St. Croix

**Beyond the Classroom:
Authentic Assessment as a Pathway Past AI Toward Public Engagement**

Sponsor: Community College Interest Group

Chair: Edward A. Schwarz, Prairie State College

Presenters:

Natasha Casey, Lincoln Land Community College

David L. Bodary, Sinclair Community College

Kelly Soczka Steidinger, Mid-State Technical College

Allison Beltramini, Allianz Life

Myron Covington, Washtenaw Community College

Authentic assessment offers an AI-proof approach to document student learning through real-world application, reflection, and connection to audiences beyond the traditional classroom. In the spirit of Translate!, this session explores how authentic assessment can serve as powerful tool to push past traditional "paper-based" assessment toward more engaged meaningful communication. Presenters will share approaches that connect theory to practice-such as community-based projects, interview practice and analysis, digital storytelling, end of course interviews, or civic engagement assignments-that encourage students to apply course concepts in ways that address future employment and community needs.

3401

Saturday 12:30 PM to 1:45 PM CDT

Minnehaha

Bridging the Divide: High Impact Practices for Translating Communication Knowledge To/From Community Organizations

Sponsor: Instructional Resources Interest Group

Chair: Heather L. Davenport, Rutgers University

Presenters:

DeAnne Priddis, Middle Tennessee State University

Tiffany R. Wang, University of Montevallo

Leah Elizabeth Bryant, DePaul University

Kaitlin Elizabeth Phillips, Baylor University

Rachel D. Davidson, Hanover College

Anne Kerber, Minnesota State University, Mankato

This discussion panel explores innovative teaching strategies for building bridges between classrooms, organizations, and the community. Panelists will discuss a variety of approaches, from direct partnerships to public scholarship and virtual engagement, that help students translate the value of communication scholarship beyond academia. Together, we address how connecting disciplinary knowledge to applied contexts deepens students' understanding of theoretical material. Moreover, we underscore the importance of public relevance for fostering civic engagement and professional development.

3402

Saturday 12:30 PM to 1:45 PM CDT

Greenway C

Communication Theory and Identity

Sponsor: Communication Theory Interest Group

Chair: Austin Beattie, Hope College

Respondent: Austin T. Frederick, Wayne State University

"Group Communication: How Previous Research Can Build and Develop Based on Social Categories and Identity." Brion White, Kentucky State University

"Is IDEO's Design Thinking Generalizable? Understanding Their Creativity as Goffmanian

Dramaturgical Performance" Elyse Johnson, Hope College; Paul Hangsan Ahn, Hope College

"Pleasurable Confessions: The Relationship Between Foucauldian Confession and Black Feminist Pleasure Politics" Madison Rose McBride, Colorado State University

"Seeing Gender, Shaping Identity: Faculty Perceptions in the Classroom Using Communication Theory of Identity" Grace Gross, Illinois State University

"Social Identity Theory and Spiritual Growth in Christian College Religious Groups" Bridget Anne Crombie, Hope College

"Translating Communication Apprehension as a Rational Response to Ableist Standardization" Allison D. Brenneise, Independent Scholar; Joshua Young, Divine Word College

SAT

3403

Saturday 12:30 PM to 1:45 PM CDT

Greenway F

**CSCA First Vice President Spotlight Panel:
Translating Research to Communities and Publics**

Sponsor: CSCA First Vice President

Chair: Kristina Scharp, Rutgers University

Presenters:

Amy Aldridge, Middle Tennessee State University

Debbie S. Dougherty, University of Missouri

Sandra L. Faulkner, Bowling Green State University

Timothy L. Sellnow, Clemson University

This panel recognizes and celebrates some of the discipline's award-winning applied communication scholars. Panelists will discuss different approaches they have taken to Translate! their research to communities and publics.

3404

Saturday 12:30 PM to 1:45 PM CDT

Regency

Developing an OER Text for a College Course in Argumentation and Debate

Sponsor: Short Courses

Presenter:

Elvinet Piard, Imperial Valley College

Today, more than ever, there is a growing urgency to adopt teaching practices that are both inclusive and equitable. This short course presentation will examine the outcomes of one professor's efforts to foster diverse pedagogical and curricular approaches to enhance student learning, encourage critical thinking, and ultimately promote equity and inclusion. More specifically, the presenter will address the challenges and opportunities arising from developing an open text for a course in Argumentation and Debate at a community college, offer strategies to include English-language learners in the classroom, and share a newly developed OER aimed at making college debate accessible to diverse learners.

3405

Saturday 12:30 PM to 1:45 PM CDT

Mirage

G.I.F.T. Session #6

Sponsor: G.I.F.T. Interest Group

Chair: Tracie Devault, Missouri University of Science and Technology

"Audience Analysis Through Advertising" Melinda Bellatti, Tulsa Community College

"Everything I Learned About Teacher Noticing I Learned from Yoga Teacher Training" Grace Giorgio, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

"Group Discussion of Conspiracy: An Exploration of Ethics and Power in Groups" Andrei A. Klyukovski, Truman State University; Amanda L. Medlock-Klyukovski, Truman State University

"Outlining: Translating Chaos into Order" Angela Glunz, The University of Tennessee at Martin

"Student Information Retention from Practical Demonstrations" Colleen Ezzeddine, Wayne State University

"The Local Activist Panel: Translating Learning into Community Action" Kirsten Theye, Concordia College

"The Public Speaking Survival Kit: A Personalized and Holistic Approach to Managing Speech Anxiety" Sydney Noelle Kamm, Eastern Michigan University

G.I.F.T. Sessions feature teaching ideas for the communication classroom.

3406

Saturday 12:30 PM to 1:45 PM CDT

Lakeshore B

Health Communication Interest Group Business Meeting - All Are Welcome!

Sponsor: Health Communication Interest Group

Chair: Jessica Rick, Illinois State University

Presenters:

Michelle M. Matter, Crown College

R. Amanda Cooper, University of Connecticut

Najma Akhther, Nazareth University

Teresa Nabangala, Purdue University Fort Wayne

Ngozi Oguejiofor, University of Nevada, Reno

Ariadne Gonzalez, Texas A&M International University

Bailey Hughlett, University of Connecticut

Wendy Adjei, University of Missouri

SAT

3407

Saturday 12:30 PM to 1:45 PM CDT

Lakeshore A

Interpersonal Communication Pathways to Health and Understanding

Sponsor: Interpersonal and Family Communication Interest Group

Chair: Jana Kent, University of Missouri

"Exploring Affection Exchange: Married Graduate Student Perspectives" Aklima Begum, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; Erin Sahlstein Parcell, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

"Personality Traits of the Affection-Deprived Communicator" Kory Floyd, Washington State University; Colin Hesse, Oregon State University; Alan Mikkelsen, Whitworth University

"Quantifying Narrative Characteristics and their Association with Individual and Relational Health: A Test of Communicated Narrative Sensemaking Theory" Miranda Victoria Brunn, University of Missouri

"Therapeutic Possibilities for Interpersonal Communication Studies: Integrating Theory and Practice" Jimmie Manning, University of Nevada, Reno; Kylie Baer, University of Nevada, Reno

The papers in this session represent a broad array of topics within interpersonal and family communication that together address different facets of health, well-being, and understanding within and about relationships.

3408

Saturday 12:30 PM to 1:45 PM CDT

Greenway G

**Navigating Difficult Conversations in the Basic Course:
Translating Our Strategies, Ethics, and Pedagogical Approaches for the 2025 Classroom**

Sponsor: Basic Course Interest Group

Chair: Madison A. Pollino, University of South Florida

Presenters:

Mac Williams, University of Mississippi

Christopher (Kit) Medjesky, University of Findlay

Madison A. Pollino, University of South Florida

This panel explores the complexities and challenges of teaching public speaking in 2025. Educational spaces may be situated in politically polarized regions and/or communities as well as in online spaces prone to misinformation. The panel also considers issues of institutional support and policy changes that affect the basic course and how departments can support both faculty and students. Finally, we will offer best practices for how instructors can prepare students to not only speak effectively but also navigate environments where their voices may be unwelcome, opposed, or actively silenced.

3409

Saturday 12:30 PM to 1:45 PM CDT

Greenway E

Popular Culture Interest Group Business Meeting

Sponsor: Popular Culture Interest Group

Chair: Tyler Donavon Curran, Missouri State University

Presenters:

Adam W. Tyma, University of Nebraska Omaha

John R. Baldwin, Illinois State University

3410

Saturday 12:30 PM to 1:45 PM CDT

Greenway D

Practicing What You Preach: Collaborative Intersectionality Across Identity-Based Caucuses

Sponsors: Ethnicity, Race, International, and Class Concerns Caucus; Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Caucus; Women's Caucus

Chair: Anjana Mudambi, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Presenters:

Kristin Fitzsimmons, University of Minnesota Twin Cities

Anna Jean DeGalan, University of South Carolina

Lauren L. Buisker, Colorado State University

Sofia Elena Salazar Carballo, Nemours Hospital

Vianna Isbister, East Tennessee State University

Danielle M. Stern, Christopher Newport University

This panel is intended for the leaders of the three social identity-based caucuses of CSCA (ERICC, SOGI, and Women's Caucus) to discuss possibilities for future collaborative work across the caucuses.

SAT

3411

Saturday 12:30 PM to 1:45 PM CDT

Greenway I

Rhetorical Theory and Criticism Interest Group: Top Papers

Sponsor: Rhetorical Theory and Criticism Interest Group

Chair: Alexandra Parr Balarlam, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Respondent: Edward A. Hinck, Central Michigan University

"We Live in Public: Privacy and Secrecy from Dobbs to Doc-a-Lago (Top Paper, Top Inclusive Scholarship Paper)" Atilla Hallsby, University of Minnesota Twin Cities

"Helping to Provide a Meaningful Funeral: The Commodification of the Christonormative Traditional' Funeral (Top Student Paper)" Lindsay Gagnon, Colorado State University

"Translating Baltic-American Holidays for the US Public: The Rhetorical Invention of Cold War Commemorations" Kristen Einertson, University of St. Thomas

"#MeToo, Carceral Feminism, and Retributive Rhetoric" Meggie Mapes, University of Kansas; Daniel M. Chick, Western Kentucky University

This panel features the top papers in the Rhetorical Theory and Criticism Interest Group.



COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

The Department of Communication Studies at Colorado State University congratulates Lindsay Gagnon for receiving the Top Student Paper Award from the Rhetorical Theory and Criticism Interest Group!

3412

Saturday 12:30 PM to 1:45 PM CDT

Greenway B

Seeing Through the Frame: Gender, Power, and the Politics of Representation

Sponsor: Media Studies Interest Group

Chair: Joe Watson, Baker University

Respondent: Stephen E. Rahko, Illinois State University

"Animals with/as Cameras: Translating the Nonhuman Animal Look" Em Hathaway, University of Minnesota Twin Cities

"Beyond the Friendship: Paratextual Framing and the Politics of Trans Visibility in Netflix's *Will & Harper*" Jonathan Andrew Vargas, University of South Florida

"My Psychic Southern Mother: Death, Motherhood, and Threatening Masculinity in *The Gift* (2000)" Emily Scroggins, University of Minnesota Twin Cities

"Women's Representation in Cinema in the Patriarchal Society of Iran" Nika Khosravi, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; Mike Allen, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Focusing on Iranian feminist filmmakers, trans-centered documentaries, wildlife cinematography, and the gendered horror of motherhood, the panel explores how visual media negotiate and reproduce hierarchies of gender and power. Through content and textual analysis, each paper exposes the ways commercial, cultural, and patriarchal structures shape what-and who-is made visible on screen.

3413

Saturday 12:30 PM to 1:45 PM CDT

Lakeshore C

Teaching, Technology, and Transformation: Reimagining Learning in the Digital Age

Sponsor: Communication Education Interest Group

Chair: Caroline Waldbesser, University of Missouri

Respondent: C. Kyle Rudick, University of Northern Iowa

"From Gorgias to Google: How Nontraditional Teaching of Rhetoric Achieves Classical Goals" Marianne Vanderbeke, Bowling Green State University

"Teaching Without Words: Translating Implicit Communication into Inclusive Practice" Grace Adeyemo, Illinois State University

"Uses of AI Tools Among College Students" Inna Van Emburg, Missouri State University; Prince Akoenyenu, Missouri State University; Sharbani Datta, Baylor University

This panel presents diverse perspectives on integrating technology into the classroom. The presentations explore the evolving relationship between communication, pedagogy, and digital tools - from classical rhetoric to contemporary artificial intelligence.

3414

Saturday 12:30 PM to 1:45 PM CDT

Greenway J

Translating Organizational Change: Internal Communication in Evolving Workplaces

Sponsor: Organizational and Professional Communication Interest Group

Chair: Mohammed Bekkaoui, Drury University/Mohammed 1st University

Respondent: Michael Cody Coker, Boise State University

"Bloat and Clarity: Rhetorical Arrangement and its Influence on Analyst Q&A" Craig L. Engstrom, Southern Illinois University Carbondale; Ahad Koushan, Southern Illinois University Carbondale

"Exploring the Role of Internal Communication in Facilitating Employee Ethical and Unethical Endorsements in an Organizational Crisis" Cheng Zeng, North Dakota State University; Funmilayo Adebimpe Oduduwa, North Dakota State University

"Leadership Communication on Internal Social Media: Strategies for Employee Engagement and Organizational Success in Hybrid Workplaces" Daniel Sherrick Apambila, Illinois State University; Lance R. Lippert, Illinois State University

"The Impact of Remote Work on Change Management Communication" Edikan Nkanta, Illinois State University

This panel investigates how organizational messages translate across changing workplace environments and communication channels. Presentations examine remote work transitions, leadership strategies through internal social media, ethical decision-making during crises, and rhetorical clarity in corporate communication, exploring mechanisms that facilitate or complicate organizational transformation and employee engagement.

SAT

3415

Saturday 12:30 PM to 1:45 PM CDT

Greenway A

Undergraduate Honors Research Conference Session 7

Sponsor: Undergraduate Honors Research Conference

Chair: Md. Sumon Ali, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Respondent: Seokhoon Ahn, Independent Scholar

"*The Road* (2009): Cultural Anxiety and Moral Survival" Lillian Grace Mann, Hanover College

"Critical Analysis of 'A Video Message to the Russian People'" Abigail Chaudoir, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

"Nearer My God to Thee: *Women Talking* (2022) as a Vehicle for Female Agency-Gaining" Vivian Jacobs, Hanover College

"Can Quantum Computing Accelerate Artificial Intelligence?" Palak Shah, Durham University

"Issue Analysis: Company Culture Shift" Hailey Stoeckl, Metropolitan State University

Join us for outstanding papers in the Undergraduate Honors Research Conference!

Saturday 2:00 PM EDT

3500

Saturday 2:00 PM to 3:15 PM EDT

Greenway G

Best Practices for Effective Communication to Enhance Classroom Engagement and Participation for Graduate Teaching Assistants

Sponsor: Graduate Student Caucus

Chair: Bukola Oloba, North Dakota State University

Presenters:

Omolola Lasisi, University of Kansas

Egbe Okpaireh, University of Oklahoma

Shalewa Babatayo, University of Central Florida

Stanley Uzoma, Kansas State University

Opeyemi Alawode, Western Illinois University

Lois Domena - Attafuah, North Dakota State University

Samuel Okaah, North Dakota State University

Research shows that effective communication practices demonstrated through verbal and nonverbal communication, two-way feedback, and empathetic and adaptive communication can be translated into teaching practices that enhance classroom engagement and participation (Tiu et al., 2023). Our panel will discuss the ways that these practices can be translated into best practices for graduate teaching assistants to help foster student interaction, engagement, and class participation.

3501

Saturday 2:00 PM to 3:15 PM CDT

Greenway H

Communication & Technology Interest Group Business Meeting

Sponsor: Communication & Technology Interest Group

Chair: Xialing Lin, University of Central Florida

Presenters:

America Edwards, University of Kentucky

Kyle Vareberg, Northeastern State University

The Communication & Technology Interest Group will discuss updates on unit initiatives, review programming outcomes for the 2026 convention, and plan priorities for the coming year. All members and interested attendees are welcome.

3502

Saturday 2:00 PM to 3:15 PM CDT

Greenway D

Competitive Papers on Religious and Pop Cultural Translations of Queerness

Sponsor: Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Caucus

Chair: Karly Poyner-Smith, Columbia College

"Performing Catholic and Queer, Or Not; Discovering Stages of Deconstruction from Catholicism in Queer People Raised Catholic" Taylor Newswander, Independent Scholar

"The Complexities of Consent: Analyzing Discourses Surrounding Sexual Consent in BDSM Online Spaces" Sierra Kane, Roosevelt University

"Come Out, Come Out, Wherever You Are: Analyzing the YouTube Comment Sections on Sexuality and Trans Identity Coming Out Videos as Potential Sites of Social Support." Sunny Kim, The University of Texas at Austin; Jacinta Tran, The University of Texas at Austin

"What I Know, and it is Very Obvious, Homosexuality is Coming Here...": On Same-Sex Marriage Blessings, Religious (Catholic) Journalism, Postcolonial Queer Theory, and 'De-Queering' Africa (Top Inclusive Scholarship Paper)" Dennis Ekwemnachukwu Okeke, University of Colorado Boulder

"Biphobia and Bi-erasure in *Orange is the New Black* (Top Debut Paper)" Evan Wilson, Indiana State University

This paper session features scholarship about religious and pop cultural perspectives of queerness.

SAT

3503

Saturday 2:00 PM to 3:15 PM CDT

Mirage

CSCA Next Leaders Network Mentoring and Networking Reception

Sponsor: CSCA Next Leaders Network

Chairs: Matthew Meier, DePauw University; Sarah Symonds LeBlanc, Purdue University Fort Wayne

Presenters:

Jeffrey T. Child, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Kathy Denker, Ball State University

Tiffany R. Wang, University of Montevallo

Sarah Symonds LeBlanc, Purdue University Fort Wayne

Christopher (Kit) Medjesky, University of Findlay

Lindsay M. Cramer, Coastal Carolina University

EunYoung Lee, Central Washington University

Ahmet Atay, The University of Alabama at Birmingham

Amy Aldridge, Middle Tennessee State University

Leah Elizabeth Bryant, DePaul University

Alberto Gonzalez, Bowling Green State University

Sandra L. Pensoneau-Conway, Southern Illinois University Carbondale

Adam W. Tyma, University of Nebraska Omaha

Carolyn Calloway-Thomas, Indiana University

Hsin-I Sydney Yueh, University of Missouri

The Next Leaders Network's goal is to build the future of the field and our organization by supporting up and coming scholars. This event provides an opportunity for members to learn about CSCA, interact with CSCA members, and help shape the future direction of the association. Attendees will gain an overview of CSCA, the conference, and opportunities for participation.

Additionally, we will have dedicated tables where senior scholars will be available to provide advice on topics ranging from CVs, balancing job demands, teaching tips, to submitting to journals. Bring the questions you have not been able to ask in your department; we are here to help! All members are strongly encouraged to attend, but especially early career scholars, students, and first-time CSCA attendees.

3504

Saturday 2:00 PM to 3:15 PM CDT

Skyway AB

G.I.F.T. Interest Group Business Meeting

Sponsor: G.I.F.T. Interest Group

Chair: Tracie Devault, Missouri University of Science and Technology

Presenters:

Angela Glunz, The University of Tennessee at Martin

Amanda L. Medlock-Klyukovski, Truman State University

3505

Saturday 2:00 PM to 3:15 PM CDT

Lakeshore C

Mentorship as Translation: Navigating Academic Language, Expectations, and Culture

Sponsors: Communication Education Interest Group; Undergraduate Education and Administration Section

Chair: Rachel D. Davidson, Hanover College

Presenters:

Vivian Jacobs, Hanover College

Michaela Grimes, Indiana State University

Lara Stache, Governors State University

Natasha Rascon, Indiana State University

Katie Marion, Indiana State University

Emily Sanders-Whiteley, Ball State University

This panel will explore how mentorship functions as a form of translation that helps students decode academic norms, disciplinary language, and scholarly writing. Participants will explore how mentorship relationships help students "translate" their own work for academic and professional settings.

3506

Saturday 2:00 PM to 3:15 PM CDT

Greenway F

Photo-Voice: Students Translating Course Concepts in Their Everyday Life

Sponsor: Performance Studies and Autoethnography Interest Group

Chair: Stephanie Young, University of Southern Indiana

Presenters:

Jennifer Morey Hawkins, St. Cloud State University

Christina Ivey, Southern Illinois University Carbondale

Ashlee Pfau, St. Cloud State University

In this panel we demonstrate how photovoice provides a creative outlet for students to share personal narratives while integrating classroom concepts. We flip the idea of academics translating knowledge, to providing agency to the student providing and connecting knowledge learned within the course to the world around them. Assignment instructions and final projects will be presented.

SAT

3507

Saturday 2:00 PM to 3:15 PM CDT

Greenway J

Professional Knowledge in Translation: Mentoring, Socialization, and Development

Sponsor: Organizational and Professional Communication Interest Group

Chair: Jacob Daniel Sanders, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Respondent: Sarah E. Riforgiate, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

"Communication Practices for Building Women's Leadership Capacity in Nonprofit

Organizations: A Feminist Mentoring Approach" Gertrude Misornu Nartey, Wheaton College

"Internships as a Source of Vocational Anticipatory Socialization Information: Examining the Differences Between Part-time Jobs and Professional Internships" Kenneth Levine, University at Albany, State University of New York; Melinda Aley, Montana State University Billings

"Interviews on Student Perspectives of Mentoring and Agricultural Feminism" Ash Diane Denchfield, University of Kansas

"The Moderating Role of Creative Tasks on Feedback Source and Delivery Modalities in Task-Learning Processes" Funmilayo Adebimpe Odufuwa, North Dakota State University; Cheng Zeng, North Dakota State University; Catherine Kingsley Westerman, North Dakota State University

""Keeping People in Uncertainty is a Power Move, and it's Working": A Communicative Case Study on Graduate Student Precarity in the Midwestern United States." Koyena Biswas, University of Missouri; Breanna Prater, University of Missouri; Evan Kirksey, University of Missouri

This panel examines how professional knowledge and identity translate through mentoring relationships, socialization experiences, and learning processes. Presentations explore feminist mentoring in nonprofit leadership, agricultural education, vocational socialization through internships, graduate student precarity, and feedback mechanisms, revealing how expertise translates across generational, educational, and workplace boundaries.

3508

Saturday 2:00 PM to 3:15 PM CDT

Greenway I

Rhetorical Theory and Criticism Interest Group Business Meeting

Sponsor: Rhetorical Theory and Criticism Interest Group

Chair: Alexandra Parr Balaram, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Presenters:

Dustin A. Greenwalt, Southern Illinois University Carbondale

A.G. Hughes, Emporia State University

Alexandra Parr Balaram, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

The purpose of the Rhetorical Theory and Criticism Interest Group Business Meeting is to discuss the state of the interest group, present the top paper awards to recipients, discuss ideas for the 2027 convention, and elect new leadership.

3509

Saturday 2:00 PM to 3:15 PM CDT

St. Croix

Translating and Contesting Power Through Discourse

Sponsor: Activism, Communication Ethics, and Social Justice Interest Group

Chair: Samentha Sepúlveda, Northeastern Illinois University

"AI Wives: Digital Misogyny in Translation" Sydney Kamps, Grand Valley State University

"Commercial Media Framing of Israeli War on Palestine" Lee Artz, Purdue University Northwest

"Dominant Evangelical Discourses: Formation and Constraint on Anti-Punitive, Politically Progressive Prison Ministry" Elinor Hiller, Wheaton College

These papers examine how power structures are supported by dominant cultural, religious, and technological discourses. The topics highlight how the act of translation - events into headlines, belief into policy, and bias into code - fundamentally shapes our perception of global conflicts, social justice, and the future of human relationships.

3510

Saturday 2:00 PM to 3:15 PM CDT

Greenway B

Translating Crisis as Mediated Events: Toward Theory and Practice

Sponsor: Strategic and Applied Communication Interest Group

Chair: Matthew W. Seeger, Wayne State University

Presenters:

Khairul Islam, Florida Atlantic University

Deborah Sellnow-Richmond, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

Xianlin Jin, The University of Toledo

Najma Akhther, Nazareth University

Rodrigo Soares, University of Vermont

Mohammad Ali, University of North Dakota

This panel brings together experts who will share research insights and experiences that examine crises as mediated events and their implications for crisis communication theory and practice.

More specifically, Dr. Xianlin Jin will present research comparing media framing of the 2023 Hawaii and 2022 Chongqing mountain fires, exploring how coverage shaped public responses, influenced perceptions of crisis management, and informed policymaking. Dr. Khairul Islam will discuss the 3M PFAS crisis, highlighting how prolonged neglect of risk evolved into a full-scale corporate crisis.

Adding a broader lens, Dr. Deborah D. Sellnow-Richmond will examine media's role in perpetuating, exacerbating, and even creating mega-crises, with special attention to peace journalism and radical media ethics. Perspectives from the Global South will also be featured. Dr. Mohammad Ali will share insights from a project that analyzes the 2016 Bangladesh Bank cyber heist, one of the world's largest financial scams, as a mediated event, focusing on how news coverage framed the crisis and shaped public perceptions. Dr. Najma Akhther will discuss media's role in government crisis communication, further emphasizing the global scope of crisis mediation. Together, these projects illustrate how crises become mediated events and deepen our understanding of their influence on public discourse, crisis management, and organizational responses.

SAT

Translating Health as Liberation: Healthy Citizens and State Power (Top Panel)

Sponsor: Health Communication Interest Group

Chair: Nolan Bowers, Ohio University

Presenters:

Jonathan Baker, Ohio University

Cimmiaron Alvarez, Kean University

Nolan Bowers, Ohio University

Josephine K. Boumis, Texas Christian University

R. Amanda Cooper, University of Connecticut

David Dooling, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Amid broader crackdowns on marginalized communities, this panel examines how the state struggles to meet their health needs. We center translation as a communicative process across legal, interpersonal, cultural, and organizational contexts, foregrounding how meaning travels across settings. In doing so, we trace how rights to health and wellbeing are constituted and materialized through everyday communicative practices. Our perspectives illuminate the intersections and processes through which discourses about rights to health and wellbeing are actualized and made materially consequential.



Scripps College of Communication
School of Communication Studies

The School of Communication Studies at Ohio University congratulates Nolan Bowers for receiving the Top Panel Award from the Health Communication Interest Group!



Scripps College of Communication
School of Communication Studies

The School of Communication Studies at Ohio University congratulates Jonathan Baker for receiving the Top Panel Award from the Health Communication Interest Group!



BOB SCHIEFFER
COLLEGE of COMMUNICATION
Communication Studies

The Department of Communication Studies at Texas Christian University congratulates Josephine K. Boumis for receiving the Top Panel Award from the Health Communication Interest Group!

3512

Saturday 2:00 PM to 3:15 PM CDT

Lakeshore A

**Translating Needs and Expectations:
Navigating Trust, Coping, and Support Across Relationships**

Sponsor: Interpersonal and Family Communication Interest Group

Chair: Brooke Wolfe, Michigan State University

"Adapting Across Borders: How International Graduate Teaching Assistants Communicate Challenges and Navigate Coping Strategies" Deborah Aku Shika Pappoe, Illinois State University; Vera Bonku Turkson, Illinois State University

"Coping Strategies of Ghanaian Dual-Career Couples: A Dyadic and Culturally Situated Perspective" Beatrice Amissah, Illinois State University; Jessica Rick, Illinois State University

"Translating Digital Trust: Autonomy, Security, and Relational Boundaries on Social Media" Moira Alejandra Lizarraga, Missouri State University; Gift Akintoye, Missouri State University

"What is Network Support? Computational Insights Translated from Communicated Tensions Between Friends and Romantic Partners" Junwen Hu, Michigan State University; Xinyu Zhang, Michigan State University

The papers in this session focus on communication within interpersonal and familial relationships and the needs and expectations we have through the lens of trust, coping, and support processes.

SAT

3513

Saturday 2:00 PM to 3:15 PM CDT

Greenway E

**Translating Our Meanings of Sport:
Perspectives on Place and Shaping Connections to Sport (Top Panel)**

Sponsor: Sports Communication Interest Group

Chair: Aimee Lau, Wisconsin Lutheran College

Respondent: Jeffrey Dean Brand, University of Northern Iowa

"Embodied Habits and Relationships Around the Paddle Ladder" Elena Gabor, Bradley University

"Fore Better or Worse: How the Golf Course Translates Sport to Relationship Development and Maintenance" Jake Manning, Marshall University

"Translations from Childhood: Reflections on Foundational Memory Places and the Shaping of Sports Fandom" Scott Jensen, Webster University

"We're Not 'Wrigley Field North': The Milwaukee Brewers Team and Fan Efforts to 'Translate' Their Identity During the 2025 NLDS" Jerralyn Moudry, Wisconsin Lutheran College

This panel looks at the role of place as a lens for better understanding engagement with sports. Three different sports, along with the roots of fandom are areas of study as authors explore the role of place in translating how, why, and the degree to which we connect with sports. From leisure to marketing, and generational relationships to the physical playing field, papers reveal how place translates sport for both players and fans.



The Department of Communication Studies at Marshall University congratulates Jake Manning for receiving the Top Panel Award from the Sports Communication Interest Group!

3514

Saturday 2:00 PM to 3:15 PM CDT

Regency

Translating your Passion into a Podcast Launch

Sponsor: Short Courses

Presenters:

C. Kyle Rudick, University of Northern Iowa

Danielle McGeough, University of Northern Iowa

In this short course, we offer an introduction to podcasts for academics and hobbyists. Based on the experiences of Danielle (Podcast: Plan, Goal, Plan, a top 1% podcast) and Kyle (Podcast: Publishing Academic Research, a top 5% podcast), we talk about how to generate your purpose, identify your niche, and develop the materials. We'll also discuss some of the common barriers and perks as well as ways of monetizing your work.

SAT

3515

Saturday 2:00 PM to 3:15 PM CDT

Greenway A

Undergraduate Honors Research Conference Session 8

Sponsor: Undergraduate Honors Research Conference

Chair: Lexi Taylor, Ball State University

Respondent: Bayo Joachim, Northwest Missouri State University

"The Thing in the Mirror: An Autoethnography of Dissociation and Gender Dysphoria" Rose Kennett, Dominican University

"Either Your Best Friend or Your Worst Nightmare: A Study of the Impacts of Siblings on College Students' Identity Development" Karissa Howard, University of Northern Iowa; Lola Jessen, University of Northern Iowa; Gannon Haile, University of Northern Iowa (Faculty Mentor: Dr. C. Kyle Rudick)

"Managing Meaning Amidst Meme Culture: An Ideological Criticism of P&G's Rhetorical Response to the Tide Pod Challenge" Joshua Chacko, Creighton University

"Living Death or Lived Experience? Countering the Dominant Dementia Discourse in The Father" Audrey Kathryn Wells, Hope College

"Crisis Across Borders: A Literature Review of Humanitarian Media Narratives" Seyran Adzo Essey, The College of Wooster

Join us for outstanding papers in the Undergraduate Honors Research Conference!

3516

Saturday 2:00 PM to 3:15 PM CDT

Greenway C

Undergraduate Honors Research Conference Session 9

Sponsor: Undergraduate Honors Research Conference

Chair: Morgan Keller, Ball State University

Respondent: Ahmet Aksoy, Winona State University

"Olukemi Olufunto Adegoke Badenoch: Sans Ethos" Katrst Chari, Wayne State College (Faculty Mentor: Dr. Teresa Morales)

"Are We Missing People with Diabetes? Diagnostic Accuracy of HbA1c vs. the Oral Glucose Tolerance Test in Africa." Jack James Nims, University of Washington Tacoma; Immashiya Tanko, University of Washington Tacoma (Faculty Mentor: Dr. Tawanda Chivese)

"Children's Internet Safety: Parental Perceptions, Rating Systems, and Digital Literacy" Skylar Noel Scott, Rogers State University (Faculty Mentor: Dr. Tip Crowley)

"The Chameleon Experience: Queer Identity, Mental Health, and Transformation" Cameron Penny, Winona State University (Faculty Mentor: Dr. Ahmet Aksoy)

"Written by a Man: The Rejection of the Male Gaze in *The Virgin Suicides* (1999)" Claire Elizabeth Walsh, Hanover College

Join us for outstanding papers in the Undergraduate Honors Research Conference!

SAT

Saturday 3:30 PM CDT

3600

Saturday 3:30 PM to 4:45 PM CDT

Greenway H

AI in Journalism: Production, Framing, and Algorithmic Bias

Sponsor: Communication & Technology Interest Group

Chair: America Edwards, University of Kentucky

"AI Tools in the Newsroom: Perceptions, Barriers, and Ethical Challenges Among Bangladeshi Journalists" Md Hamza Kamal Mostafa, University of Kansas; Chad Edwards, Western Michigan University

"Algorithmic Inequalities in Ghanaian Journalism: How AI Tools Perpetuate Social Hierarchies in News Production (Top Inclusive Scholarship Paper)" Richard Mensah Adonu, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

"Is Artificial Intelligence Credible When Writing About Themselves? How Machine Author's Inclusion May Shake Up Journalism" Brandon Tyler Boyce, University of Kansas

"Translating AI Innovation from Newsrooms to Classrooms: U.S. Journalism Faculty Perspectives on Preparing Future Reporters for GenAI Integration." Richard Mensah Adonu, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

This panel brings together four studies that examine how artificial intelligence is reshaping contemporary news production, newsroom decision-making, and representational patterns across both local and global contexts. Collectively, these papers investigate how journalists adopt AI writing tools, how generative models shape news framing and issue salience, and how algorithmically produced content introduces new forms of bias, particularly in relation to political, cultural, and regional representation. Drawing from surveys, content analyses, and industry-facing perspectives, the panel highlights the growing interdependence between journalistic practice and AI-driven systems, emphasizing both opportunities for efficiency and emerging threats to editorial autonomy, accuracy, and accountability. A Global South case study further demonstrates how algorithmic inequality manifests in data-poor environments, revealing the uneven consequences of AI technology across sociopolitical contexts. Together, these papers offer timely insight into the challenges and possibilities of integrating AI into news work, raising broader questions about transparency, fairness, and public trust in an era of computationally mediated journalism.

SAT

3601

Saturday 3:30 PM to 6:15 PM CDT

Executive Boardroom

CSCA Executive Committee Meeting #2

Sponsor: CSCA Executive Director

Chair: Kristina Scharp, Rutgers University

Presenters:

Stevie Munz, Utah Valley University

Tiffany R. Wang, University of Montevallo

Jeffrey T. Child, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Sandra L. Faulkner, Bowling Green State University

Meggie Mapes, University of Kansas

Patric R. Spence, University of Central Florida

Matthew Meier, DePauw University

Stephen Spates, Michigan State University

Gayle M. Pohl, University of Northern Iowa

This is a closed meeting for members of the CSCA Executive Committee listed here.

3602

Saturday 3:30 PM to 4:45 PM CDT

St. Croix

Difficult Conversations in an Even More Difficult Time

Sponsor: Activism, Communication Ethics, and Social Justice Interest Group

Chair: Becky L. DeGreeff, University of Wisconsin-Stout

Presenters:

Rickie-Ann Legleitner, University of Wisconsin-Stout

Amanda L. Brown, University of Wisconsin-Stout

Amy Aldridge, Middle Tennessee State University

Joy L. Daggs, Northwest Missouri State University

Discussing discrimination and politics in educational contexts is increasingly difficult and the potential for pushback is high. Due to the charged nature of these topics, students are reluctant to engage in discussions. Outside the classroom, higher education institutions are struggling to communicate the value of the degree and increasingly must deal with accusations of "indoctrination." Humanities and Social Science courses are struggling to convey their value to internal and external stakeholders.

SAT

3603

Saturday 3:30 PM to 4:45 PM CDT

Greenway G

Identity, Expectations, and Belonging in Transcultural Academic and Social Spaces

Sponsor: Graduate Student Caucus

Chair: Md Sazzad Mahmud Shuvo, Florida State University

Respondent: Md Sazzad Mahmud Shuvo, Florida State University

"First-Gen Graduate Students' Communication Strategies in Balancing Academic and Family Expectations" Aklima Begum, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

"Informal Networks and Holistic Wellness Among African International Students In U.S Higher Education: A Qualitative Scoping Review Protocol" Linda Charlote Kabaalu, Illinois State University; Harriet Ayiku, Indiana University

"Translating Pedagogical Expectations across Contexts: An Autoethnographic Account of Pedagogy of the in- between" Irene Martha Lutterodt, Southern Illinois University Carbondale

"Working in a Patriarchal Society: How Women Maintain the Border Between Workplace and Family" Md. Sumon Ali, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Adopting a diverse methodological perspective, this panel explores how individuals from diverse cultural and social backgrounds negotiate identity, expectations, and belonging within higher education and professional contexts

3604

Saturday 3:30 PM to 4:45 PM CDT

Minnehaha

Intercultural and Intergroup Communication Challenges: Translating Theory to Practice

Sponsor: Intercultural Communication Interest Group

Chair: John R. Baldwin, Illinois State University

Presenters:

Ahmet Aksoy, Winona State University

Sasha Allgayer, Southern Illinois University

John R. Baldwin, Illinois State University

Nurhayat Bilge, State University of New York-Fashion Institute of Technology

Grace Leinbach Coggio, University of Wisconsin-River Falls

Alberto Gonzalez, Bowling Green State University

Emi Kanemoto, Bryant University

Eddah Mutua, St. Cloud State University

In a world challenged by increasing intercultural contact and more overt expressions of prejudice and discrimination towards others perceived to be in different cultures and groups, practice informed by intercultural and intergroup teaching and research are more important than ever. In this panel, several intercultural communication researchers present strategies for translating class and research concepts to our students and to society at large, inviting strategies from the audience as well, as we engage in dialogue.

3605

Saturday 3:30 PM to 4:45 PM CDT

Greenway F

Performance Studies and Autoethnography Interest Group - Open Mic

Sponsor: Performance Studies and Autoethnography Interest Group

Chair: Christina Ivey, Southern Illinois University Carbondale

Respondent: Vianna Ibsister, East Tennessee State University

Share your voice through story, poem, or other kinds of performance! We will draw names to determine order, and each participant will have 5 minutes.

3606

Saturday 3:30 PM to 4:45 PM CDT

Lakeshore C

Play, Learn, Act: Edutainment as Praxis for Communication Curriculum Transformation

Sponsor: Communication Education Interest Group

Chair: Isaac Asare Kwakye, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Presenters:

Amanda Kporwofa, University of Cincinnati

Ransford Asante, Missouri State University

Andrew Donkor, University of Maryland

Deborah Aku Shika Pappoe, Illinois State University

Michael Awuah, University of Cincinnati

Albert Junior Nyarko, University of Kentucky

This panel examines the promise of edutainment, the integration of educational content with entertainment elements, as an essential translational practice for communication educators. Building on critical perspectives from the communication discipline, the panel explores how infusing curricula with interactive, playful, and culturally relevant pedagogies bridges the gap between abstract academic learning and tangible social impact, particularly in contexts that demand urgent intervention, such as environmental sustainability and civic engagement.

SAT

3607

Saturday 3:30 PM to 4:45 PM CDT

Greenway C

Political Communication and the 2026 U.S. Midterm Elections

Sponsor: Political Communication Interest Group

Chair: Xavier Lee Scruggs, Wake Forest University

Presenters:

Mary Banwart, University of Kansas

Dianne G. Bystrom, Iowa State University

Carolyn Calloway-Thomas, Indiana University

Mitchell S. McKinney, The University of Toledo

Robert C. Rowland, University of Kansas

Benjamin R. Warner, University of Missouri

David Zarefsky, Northwestern University

Join a roundtable discussion with several political communication scholars who will analyze the approaching 2026 midterm elections. In the context of current state and national political activity, panelists will consider likely outcomes and the impact of the midterm elections on our national policy agenda; and how the 2026 elections may influence the candidates, strategies and campaign messages that might emerge ahead of the 2028 presidential contest. Audience participation will be invited.

3608

Saturday 3:30 PM to 4:45 PM CDT

Skyway AB

**Respecting Voices and Nurturing Self:
Pursuing Balance While Teaching in Challenging Times**

Sponsor: States Advisory Council

Chair: Gina Jensen, Webster University

Presenter:

Scott Jensen, Webster University

Society is plagued with unprecedented divisiveness that is carried by students and teachers into teaching and learning spaces. Increasingly, perspectives are polarized and differences are perceived as threatening. This program highlights the imperatives of honoring voice, remaining objective in the face of critical discussion and debate, and discouraging inappropriate and irrelevant social commentary. It suggests strategies for incorporating debate and disagreement in respectful and pedagogically sound ways. Equally important is the need for teachers to be deliberate in their own self-awareness and strategies for coexisting as teachers and engaged citizens. All of this comes together as a call for educators to nurture self-care and life balance within the challenges of teaching in our challenging times. The program includes case studies and suggestions for course management and self-care.

3609

Saturday 3:30 PM to 4:45 PM CDT

Greenway I

**Translating Immigrant Advocacy in Healthcare Settings:
An Interview with Patient Advocate and Interpreter Patricia Santos**

Sponsor: Ethnicity, Race, International, and Class Concerns Caucus

Chair: Jennifer Morey Hawkins, St. Cloud State University

Presenter:

Patricia Santos, Children's Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota

This session will highlight the life and life work of Patricia Santos. Patricia has worked for over 30 years with the Spanish speaking immigrant community here in Minnesota. She holds a wide array of experience, including active advocacy concerning recent issues facing Spanish speaking immigrants, particularly in healthcare settings. An interview comprised of guiding questions will start this session, opening up to organic dialogue, to include facilitating conversation and/or additional questions from the audience.

3610

Saturday 3:30 PM to 4:45 PM CDT

Greenway E

**Translating Internet Slang and Discourse:
Contemporary Perceptions of A.I., Gender, and Animal Rights**

Sponsor: Popular Culture Interest Group

Chair: Xin Sheng, Oregon Institute of Technology

Respondent: Tyler Donavon Curran, Missouri State University

"Eggfluencing: The Neoliberal Influencer Aesthetic in Egg Donor Recruitment Advertisements on TikTok and Instagram" Aubrey Armbruster, University of Massachusetts Amherst; Yelim Lee, University of Massachusetts Amherst

"Embracing the Granny: Online Discourse Around Participating in 'Granny Hobbies'" Katelyn Beth Case, Ball State University

"Saving the Squirrel: Audience Discourse, Superhero Archetypes, and Shifts in Cultural Attitudes Toward Animal Welfare in *Superman* (2025)" Sierra Kane, Roosevelt University; Samenatha Sepúlveda, Northeastern Illinois University

"That's Not a Meal, Bestie: Gendered Consumption and Girl Dinner on TikTok" Claire Tudor, University of Louisville; Calvin Coker, University of Louisville

"Stupid Clanker": Robot Slurs and the Repository of Otherness" Nathan Rothenbaum, Missouri State University; Kexi Chen, Missouri State University; Rawan Hesham Hamouda Hegazy, Missouri State University; Inna Van Emburg, Missouri State University

The scholarship presented here addresses alluring rhetorical trends on internet platforms. The authors discuss how social media discourse, as well as native advertising on the same platforms, generates honest, and sometimes strangely problematic, commentary on shifting tides in technology and culture.

SAT

3611

Saturday 3:30 PM to 4:45 PM CDT

Lakeshore A

Translating Reflexive Methodologies for Applied Interpersonal Inquiry

Sponsor: Interpersonal and Family Communication Interest Group

Chair: Josephine K. Boumis, Texas Christian University

Presenters:

Tony Adams, Bradley University

Jonathan Baker, Ohio University

Josephine K. Boumis, Texas Christian University

David Dooling, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Tasha R. Dunn, The University of Toledo

This panel brings together scholars who have authored and published reflexive interpersonal research (e.g., autoethnography, auto-theory, reflexive thematic analysis, critical ethnography). We foreground reflexivity's central premise that researcher position shapes interpretation and presentation of findings. Panelists will offer meta-commentaries on earlier publications from different career stages and time spans from publication, tracing how their stances, contexts, and communities reframe claims over time. We translate those lessons into concrete, applied practices for interpersonal research design, analysis, ethics, and writing.

3612

Saturday 3:30 PM to 4:45 PM CDT

Lakeshore B

**Translating Vulnerability:
Communicating Masculinity, Sexual Health, and Mental Well-Being**

Sponsor: Health Communication Interest Group

Chair: Habeeb Abdulrauf, Western Michigan University

"Men's Body Image Narratives in Emerging Adulthood" Ellen Jordan, University of Minnesota Twin Cities

"Safe Sex Practices and Social Support Typologies in Digital Spaces: Assessing Nigerian Gay Men's Sexual Health Information Exchange on Social Media" Dennis Ekwemnachukwu Okeke, University of Colorado Boulder; Mike Allen, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; Christiana Oluwakemi Ibiwoye, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; Ousman Mbaye, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; Anthony Okeke, Nnamdi Azikiwe University

"Translating Distress into Dialogue: Predicting Mental Health Help-Seeking Through the Theory of Planned Behavior" Shatakshi Semwal, Ohio University; Athar Memom, Ohio University

"What is Good, Better, or Best? A Literature Review to Assess Outcomes, Challenges, Success, and Way Forward of Sexual Health Campaigns in the Muslim World" Roshni Ashiq, Ohio University

Health communication often requires translating vulnerability into connection. This panel explores how men and communities navigate stigma, identity, and support through communication. Topics include Nigerian gay men's online sexual health exchanges, men's body image narratives, mental health help-seeking behaviors, and cultural messaging in Muslim sexual health campaigns. Collectively, these studies reveal how communication enables translation between silence and expression, stigma and support, across gendered and cultural contexts.

3613

Saturday 3:30 PM to 4:45 PM CDT

Greenway D

Transnational Perspectives on Online Gendered Online Queer Spaces

Sponsor: Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Caucus

Chair: Radhika Gajjala, Bowling Green State University

Respondent: Stephanie Young, University of Southern Indiana

"Digital Empowerment as a Neo-Colonial Practice: How Development Discourses Shape Marginalized Gender Communities' Online Presence and Lived Realities" Srishty Thakur, Bowling Green State University; Radhika Gajjala, Bowling Green State University

"Queer Activism and Everyday Digital Practices" Ahmet Atay, The University of Alabama at Birmingham

"Queerly Undercommons in/of Nigerian Digital Resistance" Ololade Faniyi, Emory University

"Traditional Love..Not Enough: Repackaged Karwachauth and Hitting the Boundaries of Queer Love" Tarishi Verma, Albertus Magnus College

The papers in this panel examine queer and feminist digital activism and advocacy across diverse contexts, revealing tensions between empowerment and structural constraints. They offer critical counterpoints to the celebratory narrative of online gendered and of online queer spaces in order to foreground contradictions of how the seemingly queer digital visibility on the one hand cis women's visibility on the other negotiates contradictions of various spatio-temporal as well as of multiply mediated and placed contexts of queer (un)liveability.

3614

Saturday 3:30 PM to 4:45 PM CDT

Greenway A

Undergraduate Honors Research Conference Session 10

Sponsor: Undergraduate Honors Research Conference

Chair: Parker Finn Davidson, Ball State University

Respondent: Kathy Denker, Ball State University

"Beyond Genocide and the Limits of Language: Rethinking International Definitions in the Face of Tibet's Repression and Cultural Eraser" Riley Cathleen Romer, Saginaw Valley State University (Faculty Mentors: Dr. Julie Keil and Dr. Diana Trebing)

"Exploring Decolonial Methodologies Across Disciplines to Contextualize Food Sovereignty in Urban Native American Households In Minnesota" Anna Hanratty, Saint Catherine University (Faculty Mentor: Dr. Margret McCue Enser)

"The Persuasive Characteristics of Putin's War Declaration Address on 24 February 2022" Veronika Povazhnaia, The College of Wooster

"Voice, Safety, and Accountability: Assessing Free Speech Reforms in Minnesota Foster Care" Izavella Marie Wagner, Quality Parenting Initiative

"You Can't Do Everything on Your Own': Neoliberal Isolation and the Feminist Ethic of Care in A Man Called Otto" Maiya Santiago, Hope College (Faculty Mentor: Dr. Marissa Doshi)

Join us for outstanding papers in the Undergraduate Honors Research Conference!

SAT

Saturday 5:00 PM CDT

3700

Saturday 5:00 PM to 6:15 PM CDT

Greenway H

AI in Social Interaction: Support, Empathy, and Emotional Processing

Sponsor: Communication & Technology Interest Group

Chair: Mahmuda Rahman, North Dakota State University

"Effects of Empathetic Responses, Agent Identity, and Gender Match on Users' Self-Disclosure of Depression in Human–Chatbot Interactions" Xiaoxia Li, University of Kansas; Cameron Piercy, University of Kansas; Wenrong Cui, University of Kansas; Shirley Hazel Olatunji, University of Kansas

"From Novelty to Normal: Do AI-Generated Posts Get Human Treatment? (Top Debut Paper)" Zakia Sabnam, North Dakota State University

"When AI Adds a :) : Exploring the Effects of Textisms in AI-Generated Feedback" Kyle Vareberg, Northeastern State University; Zakia Sabnam, North Dakota State University; Jihyun Kim, University of Central Florida; Stephanie Kelly, North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University; David Westerman, North Dakota State University

"I Want to Gently Push Back": AI Chatbots and Verbal Person-Centered Comforting Messages" Olivia Brashear, Western Illinois University; Nathan Miczo, Western Illinois University

This session examines how AI agents shape relational and emotional communication. Through studies on empathy, message warmth, agent identity, and user responses to AI-generated content, the panel highlights emerging patterns in how people interpret and engage with emotionally framed AI messages.



NDSU NORTH DAKOTA
STATE UNIVERSITY

The Department of Communication at North Dakota State University congratulates Zakia Sabnam for receiving the Top Debut Paper Award from the Communication and Technology Interest Group!

3701

Saturday 5:00 PM to 6:15 PM CDT

Greenway A

Creativity and Curriculum: Collaborative Multimedia Production for Engaged Learning

Sponsor: Instructional Resources Interest Group

Chair: Luis Arias, The University of Texas at El Paso

Presenters:

Adrian E. Meza, The University of Texas at El Paso

Janet Hill, The University of Texas at El Paso

Luis Arias, The University of Texas at El Paso

How can educators make academic content more tangible for students? Our session presents a proven solution from The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP): a long-running collaboration between criminal justice faculty and a campus creative team. We demonstrate how story-driven multimedia, like crime scene reconstructions and audio narratives, bridge the gap between theory and practice and measurably boost student engagement. Attendees gain a framework for turning complex subjects into memorable and effective learning experiences.

3702

Saturday 5:00 PM to 6:15 PM CDT

Offsite

Queermunity Field Trip

Sponsor: Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Caucus

Chair: Danielle M. Stern, Christopher Newport University

Join the SOGI Caucus for a field trip social to Queermunity, a vibrant event venue, gathering space, and café in Minneapolis, dedicated to offering high-quality experiences for LGBTQ+ and BIPOC communities and their allies. Queermunity is located at 3036 Hennepin Avenue, less than a 10-minute Metro ride on the E Line (plus a collective 12-minute walk to/from the stations). If you prefer to rideshare, meet in the lobby of the conference hotel at 4:45 pm to coordinate that process. Queermunity is open to the public daily from 8 am to 8 pm, with free general entry. Their space thrives thanks to café patronage, so let's buy some snacks and beverages as we chat about SOGI community and queer futures! A portion of these sales is reinvested into queer-affirming resources and free community offerings.

3703

Saturday 5:00 PM to 6:15 PM CDT

Greenway I

Racial and Ethnic Othering and Healing in Media, Politics, and Education

Sponsor: Ethnicity, Race, International, and Class Concerns Caucus

Chair: Diana Trebing, Saginaw Valley State University

Respondent: Ahmet Aksoy, Winona State University

"Amazing Grace: History, Genre, and Former President Barack Obama's Rhetorical Use in Charleston Eulogy in 2015" Saiemeh Wahidi, University of Kansas

"Fictionalizing Reality: A Critical Analysis of the Rwandan Genocide Through the Lens of 'Sometimes in April'" Alima Abdul-Karimu, Texas A&M University

"Meta-Analysis of Culturally Based Education Effectiveness: The Hawaiian Experience" Mike Allen, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; Luke LeFebvre, University of Kentucky; Kristina Logunova, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; Chuton Nath, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; Dennis Ekwemnachukwu Okeke, University of Colorado Boulder; Richard Draeger, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

The papers in this session use a variety of research methods to explore various forms of engagement with racial and ethnic identities by dominant institutions across different contexts.

SAT

3704

Saturday 5:00 PM to 6:15 PM CDT

St. Croix

Rhetoric and Resistance: Translating Activist Movements Across Contexts

Sponsor: Activism, Communication Ethics, and Social Justice Interest Group

Chair: Kristi Scholten, Ferris State University

Respondent: Samentha Sepúlveda, Northeastern Illinois University

"Chevron's 'Chernobyl' in the Amazon: Activist Rhetoric and Transnational Resistance" Tiffany Ann Dykstra-DeVette, San Diego State University

"The AlcaZAD: A Rhetorical Analysis of Two Occupy Movements" Casey K. Weaver, Southern Illinois University Carbondale

"A Glimpse that a Different University is Possible': Meaning of Responsibility in Faculty Letters of Support for Student Protestors" Ellanore Foltz, Illinois State University

This panel explores the rhetorical strategies that underpin contemporary activist movements, demonstrating how resistance is translated and mobilized across diverse landscapes.

3705

Saturday 5:00 PM to 6:15 PM CDT

Greenway C

Speaking Power in Democracy

Sponsor: Political Communication Interest Group

Chair: Breck Gillespie, University of Missouri

Respondent: Benjamin R. Warner, University of Missouri

"Everyday Resistance and Counterpublics: Female Leadership and Political Rhetoric in Post-Revolutionary Tunisia" Isaac Asare Kwakye, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

"From the Stage to the Real World: Interrogating Presidential Rhetoric's Transformation Process from Debate Stage Moment to Viral Soundbite" Parker Finn Davidson, Ball State University

"Political Communication in a Developing Democracy: A Comparative Framing Analysis of President Mahama's 2013 and 2025 Inaugural Addresses" Sekina Saah, Texas Tech University

"Translating Biden's National Security Rhetoric and Cyber Statecraft Protocol in the 2021 DarkSide Ransomware Group's Hack of the Colonial Pipeline" Divine Narkotey Aboagye, Villanova University

"Translating Property into Public Voice: Rhetoric, Land, and Democratic Discourse" Bryan Campbell, Buena Vista University

This panel investigates how political rhetoric translates power, leadership, and legitimacy across global contexts.

3706

Saturday 5:00 PM to 6:15 PM CDT

Skyway AB

Strategies for Student Engagement: Online and In-Person Classrooms

Sponsor: States Advisory Council

Chair: Donna R. Pawlowski, Bemidji State University

Presenters:

Donna R. Pawlowski, Bemidji State University

Darren J. Valenta, Concordia College

Mark Allan Fokken, Southwest Minnesota State University

Tim Baird, Bemidji State University

Tracy Murphy, South Central College

Our classrooms are becoming a mix of traditional-aged and adult learners. We also have more online courses and have been asked to teach courses with higher course caps. Additionally, we are working in the realm of AI and its implications for how we teach. With these new horizons, it is important to create strategies for student engagement that are as inclusive as possible for all types of student learners and classroom modalities. This panel of instructors will discuss how they keep the passion and create engagement with their students in online and in-person classes. Some strategies include culturally responsive pedagogy, instructor immediacy, using AI, inclusive classroom activities, student self-designed assignments, distributed learning, use of board games, and more. Come and join us for an engaged discussion!

3707

Saturday 5:00 PM to 6:15 PM CDT

Lakeshore C

Teaching Empathy Isn't Woke

Sponsor: Communication Education Interest Group

Chair: Becky Roberts, Jackson College

Presenters:

Tracie Devault, Missouri University of Science & Technology

Lisa Marie Pavia-Higel, Missouri University of Science & Technology

Kendrea James, Northwest Arkansas Community College

Melinda Bellatti, Tulsa Community College

This panel explores strategies for teaching other-based communication skills, such as empathy, perspective-taking, and recognizing biased language, in politically hostile climates where such content is often dismissed as "woke." Panelists teaching in conservative regions will share approaches for reframing these skills as professional competencies rather than political stances, designing activities that reduce defensiveness, and fostering respectful dialogue across ideological divides. Discussion will also address managing institutional scrutiny, protecting academic freedom, and sustaining instructor well-being. Attendees will gain adaptable classroom practices and language-framing strategies for cultivating ethical communication competencies in environments resistant to empathy-focused instruction.

SAT

3708

Saturday 5:00 PM to 6:15 PM CDT

Greenway D

**Translating Gender-Inclusive Pedagogy Across Educational Contexts:
From Theory to Classrooms**

Sponsor: Women's Caucus

Chair: Souzeina Mushtaq, University of Wisconsin-River Falls

Presenters:

Karly Poyner-Smith, Columbia College

Rhodalene Naa Ayekai Odai, Bowling Green State University

Nagwan R. Zahry, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga

Dani R. Soibelman, University of Colorado Boulder

Kakali Bhattacharya Chakrabarti, Austin Peay State University

This panel examines how gender-inclusive teaching methods are applied throughout communication courses to create more equitable and socially aware learning environments. Using insights from feminist media theory, intersectional pedagogy, and critical communication, we explore practical ways educators can bring gender conscious perspectives into various activities. We consider how these approaches can shape learning outcomes by pushing back against dominant narratives, elevating underrepresented voices, and helping students navigate real-world communication with a more ethical and inclusive mindset.

3709

Saturday 5:00 PM to 6:15 PM CDT

Minnehaha

**Translating Intercultural Communication Theory into Practice
in Leadership and the Classroom**

Sponsor: Intercultural Communication Interest Group

Chair: Scott Mitchell, University of Wisconsin-River Falls

Respondent: Fernando Delgado, Lehman College

"Acculturation and Transnational Communication: Understanding International Students' Adaptation Strategies in the U.S." Rawan Hesham Hamouda Hegazy, Missouri State University; Mst Rokshana Pervin, University of Georgia; Kexi Chen, Missouri State University

"Expanding the Circle into the Classroom: A Thematic Analysis of Parental & Non-Parental Roles in Ethnic-Racial Socialization" Dorcas Ogemedi Ekeanyanwu, Minnesota State University, Mankato

"Translating Theory for Enhancing Praxis: Connecting Intercultural Communication and Leadership Scholarship" Nilanjana Roy Bardhan, Southern Illinois University Carbondale

This panel examines how intercultural communication theory can inform practical strategies for adaptation, inclusion, and leadership. Together, these studies demonstrate how translating theory into practice fosters ethical engagement and empowers diverse communities.

3710

Saturday 5:00 PM to 6:15 PM CDT

Greenway B

Translating Privacy and Ethics in Journalism Education for the Digital Age

Sponsor: Media Studies Interest Group

Chair: Getrude Kafui Senu, Illinois State University

Presenters:

Andrew Donkor, University of Maryland

Ransford Asante, Missouri State University

Elvis Otoo, Illinois State University

Eleazar Yisrael, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Jibran Zeb, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Nana Yaa Asare, University of Kentucky

Emmanuella Ama Gyamfi, Illinois State University

The rise of mobile technologies and participatory media practices has altered journalism and public life. Everyday encounters such as walking down a street, sitting in a café, or waiting at a crosswalk can now be instantly turned into content, livestreamed, or circulated virally without the subject's awareness or permission. From prank videos designed to shock or entertain, to so-called "street interviews" with passersby, to citizen journalists documenting social events, the boundaries of public versus private expression are increasingly unsettled. New media encourages translation of ordinary life into digital spectacle, raising urgent questions for journalism and communication educators: How do we translate long-held norms of privacy and consent into a world where public visibility is increasingly coerced?

3711

Saturday 5:00 PM to 6:15 PM CDT

Lakeshore B

Translating Trust: Media, Meaning, and Power in Health Communication

Sponsor: Health Communication Interest Group

Chair: Shalewa Babatayo, University of Central Florida

"From Access to Adoption: Institutional Trust and the Theory of Planned Behavior in Understanding Telemedicine Readiness in Nigeria." Emmanuel O. Odunfa, University of Oklahoma; Ifesinachi Ayogu, University of Oklahoma; Solomon Sunday S. Tommy, University of Oklahoma; Jennifer I. Ijei, Covenant University, Sango Ota, Ogun State, Nigeria

"Leveraging Infographics for Effective Health Communication: Strategies for Delivering Health Messages on Social Media" Md. Sumon Ali, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

"Racialized Representations and Global Health Power in Netflix's Pandemic: A Critical Discourse Analysis" Dora Nentola, University of New Mexico

"Translating Trust: How to Counter Infodemics by Rebuilding Narrative Infrastructure in Polarized Media Landscapes" Mamunor Rashid, University of Colorado Boulder

This panel examines how health communication translates trust, authority, and meaning across digital, institutional, and global contexts. Papers explore telemedicine readiness in Nigeria, the persuasive power of health infographics on social media, strategies for rebuilding narrative infrastructure amid infodemics, and racialized portrayals of global health power in *Pandemic* on Netflix. Together, panelists interrogate how translation-of trust, visuals, and narratives-shapes public understanding and engagement in contemporary health discourse.

SAT

3711

Saturday 5:00 PM to 6:15 PM CDT

Greenway E

Undergraduate Honors Research Conference Session 11

Sponsor: Undergraduate Honors Research Conference

Chair: Jessica L. Gehrke, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Respondent: Teresa Morales, Wayne State College

"Attallah Shabazz's Remarks at Coretta Scott King's Funeral Through the Lens of Ideological Criticism" Korynne Moga, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

"Beneath the Tiara: Gender, Beauty, and Cultural Propaganda in Disney's Franchise" Nathaly Aguilar Argueta, Wayne State College (Faculty Mentor: Dr. Teresa Morales)

"Stressed, Depressed, But Still Well Dressed: A Slightly Chaotic Investigation into Why Stress Owns Us All" Elliot Dickson, Bethel University; James Oslin, Bethel University; Lydia Montalvo, Bethel University (Faculty Mentor: Dr. Nancy J. Brule)

"Voices Silenced or Freed?" Corbin Kinney, Wayne State College (Faculty Mentor: Dr. Teresa Morales)

"Understanding Credibility and Truth Through Google's AI-Generated Search Summaries" Grace Eng, University of Minnesota Twin Cities (Faculty Mentor: Dr. Wendy K. Z. Anderson)

Join us for outstanding papers in the Undergraduate Honors Research Conference!

Saturday 7:00 PM CDT

3800

Saturday 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM CDT

Northstar Ballroom

CSCA 2026 Closing Celebration

Sponsor: CSCA Executive Director

Chair: Tiffany R. Wang, University of Montevallo

Join us to celebrate the final day of the convention. In addition to catching up with all your CSCA friends and family, you can make new friends as the music plays, delicious food is served, and bartenders at cash bars serve beverages.

SAT

INDEX OF PARTICIPANTS

Abdul-Karimu, Alima 1303, 3703
Abdulrauf, Habeeb 1400, 1605, 2603, 3612
Abellon, Emily 2110
Aboagye, Divine 2608, 3705
Aboba, Mathias 1105
Abolade, Bolatito 2309
Abubakar, Hummuh 2105
Adams, Tony 1401, 1504, 3107, 3611
Addae, Abigail 1204
Addai, Florence 1508
Adebayo, Comfort Tosin 2312
Adediran, Abigail 1302, 1505, 1606, 1703, 1714, 2208, 2312, 2506, 2605
Adekola, Mercy 1204
Adeyemo, Grace 2604, 3101, 3309, 3413
Adjei, Wendy 2208, 2512, 3303, 3406
Adjeikaa Doe, Vivian 2606
Adonu, Richard Mensah 3208, 3600
Adu, Adraina 1204, 1609, 3100
Afful Tuleassi, Jessica 1609
Afoakwa-Acheampong, Cindy 2208
Afolabi, Ayotunde 2208
Aguilar Argueta, Nathaly 3711
Agyei, Stephen 2104
Ahn, Paul 3402
Ahn, Seokhoon 1411, 2104, 2602, 3415
Ajetunmobi, Umar 3311
Akheituame, Esther 1205
Akhther, Najma 1706, 3303, 3406, 3510
Akintoye, Gift 1512, 3512
Akoenyenu, Prince 3413
Aksoy, Ahmet 1101, 1502, 3311, 3516, 3604, 3703
Alawode, Opeyemi 1408, 3500
Aldridge, Amy 1303, 1410, 1611, 2302, 2609, 3403, 3503, 3602
Alexander, Alicia 1311
Aley, Melinda 3507
Ali, Halima 1609, 2108, 3100
Ali, Md. Sumon 2102, 2304, 3104, 3415, 3603, 3711
Ali, Mohammad 3510
Allen, Mike 1205, 2600, 3412, 3612, 3703
Allgayer, Sasha 1514, 1704, 2609, 3604
Alvarez, Cimmiaron 1210, 1611, 3110, 3511
Alwan, John 2615
Amissah, Beatrice 1302, 1508, 1602, 2312, 2604, 3512
Ampem, Ellen 1105
Anani, Janet Laadi 1508, 2108
Anderson, Jenn 1105, 1206, 2200, 2312
Andries, Emma 3111
Antunovic, Dunja 1407, 2313
Apambila, Daniel Sherrick 1400, 3414
Apreku, Esther 2512, 3303
Aprekuwaa Coleman, Melissa 1609
Archbold, Zailey 2214
Arias, Luis 3701
Armbruster, Aubrey 3610
Artz, Lee 3509
Asante, Ransford 2511, 3606, 3710
Asare, Nana Yaa 1508, 2511, 3710
Asare Kwakye, Isaac 1609, 2108, 3606, 3705
Ashiq, Roshni 3612
Asirifi, Mark 1508, 1602, 2304
Asmah, Rosemond 1409, 1609, 2108
Assis Suzano, Monyque 2508
Atay, Ahmet 1203, 1403, 1514, 1704, 2609, 3503, 3613
Atkinson, Joshua 2300
Attia, Hagar 1100
Aunspach, Chase 1404
Awuah, Michael 3606
Awuyeh, Blessing 2304
Ayiku, Harriet 3603
Ayogu, Ifesinachi 2112, 3711
Babatayo, Shalewa 1408, 2111, 2603, 3500, 3711
Bach, Betsy 1410
Baer, Kylie 3407
Baird, Tim 3706
Baker, Jonathan 3107, 3511, 3611
Baker, Margaret 3300
Baker Bailey, Sara 0300
Balararam, Alexandra 3411, 3508
Baldwin, John 1101, 1502, 2101, 2607, 3110, 3309, 3409, 3604
Bantz, Charles 1410
Banwart, Mary 3215, 3301, 3607
Barber, Hayden 1405, 3211, 3306

Bardhan, Nilanjana 3709
Basso, Jeremy 2305, 3203
Basu, Marina 1700
Batson, Stephanie 1311, 1708
Beattie, Austin 1503, 2606, 3402
Beck, Adam 1407
Beck, Christina 2200
Beckman, Claire 2313
Begum, Aklima 1102, 1413, 2102, 2506, 2605, 3407, 3603
Begum, Monira 1703
Bekkaoui, Mohammed 3414
Bell, Andrew 2515
Bellatti, Melinda 2505, 3405, 3707
Beltramini, Allison 3400
Benevento, Sarah 2311
Bengsch, Geraldine 3103
Bennett, Jordan 2105, 2508
Berry, Ian 1510
Berry, Keith 1603, 3107
Besel, Richard 1402, 1612
Betts, Timothy 2207
Bhati, Sakshi 1605, 2511, 3108
Bhattacharya Chakrabarti, Kakali 1101, 1713, 3708
Bilge, Nurhayat 3604
Billah, Motasim 1703
Billotte Verhoff, China 2104
Biswas, Koyena 3507
Blake, Shawna 1702, 2307
Bloemetjie, Sean 2306, 3101
Blue, Kate 2214
Boakyewaa, Diana 1406
Bodary, David 1208, 2204, 2305, 3400
Bolton, Joshua 1306, 1610, 3216
Bookless, Susan 1501
Boumis, Josephine 3511, 3611
Bowar, Kyra 2502
Bowers, Nolan 3511
Bowman, Nick 1400
Boyce, Brandon 1705, 3600
Braithwaite, Dawn 1410, 1701, 3314
Brand, Jeffrey 1209, 1607, 3513
Brashear, Olivia 1411, 3700
Bratslavsky, Lauren 2608
Brehm, Taylor 1312
Brennan, David 3310
Brenneise, Allison 2106, 3402
Brigham, Matt 3216
Brockmann, Breena 1100
Brown, Allison 2207
Brown, Amanda 1107, 3305, 3602
Bruess, Carol 3213
Brunn, Miranda 3407
Bryant, Leah 1210, 1413, 1506, 1611, 2302, 3401, 3503
Buckenmeyer, Danielle 2515
Buisker, Lauren 1405, 1712, 3410
Burke, Barbara Ruth 3111
Burnap, Cameron 2310, 2613
Buzzanell, Patrice 1409, 2207, 2600
Bystrom, Dianne 3215, 3301, 3607
Calabrese, Christopher (CJ) 2500
Calloway-Thomas, Carolyn 2101, 3503, 3607
Campbell, Samantha 2103
Cao, Xiaoxia 2208
Carmack, Heather 1407, 2308
Carpenter, Christopher 1411, 2102
Carter, Shanika 1402
Case, Katelyn 2505, 3205, 3610
Casey, Natasha 3400
Casper, MF 1107
Castleberry, Garret 1604
Cesa, Kathleen 0000, 0300, 1000, 2000, 3000
Chacko, Joshua 3515
Chamberlain, Kristen 2301, 3210
Chari, Katryst 3516
Charway, Rosemary 1106, 1515, 3105
Chatterjee, Karishma 3201
Chaudoir, Abigail 3415
Chen, Kexi 1512, 3610, 3709
Chen, Yuanyi 3310
Chibuko, Nkem 1614
Chick, Daniel 3411
Chidester, Phil 1101
Child, Jeffrey 0200, 1203, 1313, 2302, 2400, 2515, 3213, 3302, 3503, 3601
Chinchilla, Harvey 1211, 2212
Cho, Hee Jung 2500
Cho, HyunYi 1411
Choung, Hyesun 3202
Chowdhury, Jawad 1102, 1703
Chuang, Hsun-Yu 2106, 2602
Coggio, Grace 3604
Coker, Calvin 1705, 2109, 2211, 2504, 3610
Coker, Michael 3306, 3414
Cole, Andrew 2502
Coler, Zoe 2313
Conorman, Claire 2204
Cooper, R. Amanda 1313, 3202, 3314, 3406, 3511
Corona, Brookelyn 1414
Corrent, Daniela 2309

Costello, Lori 1304, 2213
Covington, Myron 1405, 2305, 3203, 3400
Craig, Byron 3309
Craig, Chancée 1709
Craig, Matthew 2507, 2615
Cramer, Emily 2600
Cramer, Lindsay 2613, 3311, 3503
Crombie, Bridget 3402
Croucher, Stephen 1205, 1710
Crowe, Carly 3113
Crowley, Tip 1604, 1702, 2307
Cruz, Gabriel 2509
Cui, Wenrong 1407, 2212, 3700
Cui, Xiaoran 1608, 3202
Curran, Tyler 2306, 2607, 3308, 3409, 3610
Cyphert, Dale 3102
Dadzie, Emmanuel 1403, 1609, 1705, 2108, 2606
Daggs, Joy 0300, 1107, 1114, 1404, 1712, 2113, 3113, 3114, 3602
Dai, Zehui 1104
Danso, Elizabeth 2111
Daoyenikye, Fredrick 1306
Darling, Damon 2310, 3307
Datta, Sharbani 3413
Daugherty, Crystal 1204
Davenport, Heather 1210, 3401
Davidson, Parker 1211, 3614, 3705
Davidson, Rachel 1414, 3401, 3505
Davis, Corey 1411
Deatherage, Sofia 2605, 3208
Deb Nath, Chuton 2102, 2312, 2615
DeGalan, Anna 1405, 1712, 2303, 3410
DeGreeff, Becky 1107, 1708, 2611, 3109, 3602
Delgado, Fernando 2700, 3709
Denchfield, Ash 1110, 3507
Deng, Lilin 3308
Denker, Kathy 0200, 1203, 1308, 1403, 1502, 2215, 2302, 2610, 2800, 3503, 3614
Dennler, NiCole 1308, 1404
Dery, Jemima 2101, 2208
Devault, Tracie 1304, 3405, 3504, 3707
Diamond, Sarah 3113
Dickmeyer, Linda 2204, 2601
Dickson, Elliot 3711
Dillavou, Traci 1709
Dogbatsey, Felicity Sena 2304
Domena - Attafuah, Lois 1106, 1408, 1515, 1703, 2512, 3105, 3500
Dominguez, Jess 1313, 1409
Donkor, Andrew 1609, 1703, 2108, 3606, 3710
Donkor, Felicity 1208, 1412
Donohue, William 2600
Dooling, David 1603, 3107, 3511, 3611
Dorrance Hall, Elizabeth 1608
Dougherty, Debbie 3403
Draeger, Richard 3703
Duncanson, Tom 1607
Dunn, Jennifer 1111, 1504, 2215
Dunn, Tasha 1111, 1202, 1504, 1603, 2215, 3107, 3611
DuPree Taylor, April 2610
Durante, Ben 3113
Dushimirimana, Anitha 3216
Dwanyen, Lekie 1701
Dykstra-DeVette, Tiffany 3704
Easley-Giraldo, Terri 3314
Eckstein, Jessica 2104
Edema, Clementina 1106, 1515, 2111, 3105
Edor, Matthew 1512, 1609, 2108, 2304
Edwards, America 1405, 1608, 2507, 2606, 3501, 3600
Edwards, Chad 2507, 3600
Egbert, Nichole 1105, 2302, 2604
Einertson, Kristen 3411
Ekeanyanwu, Dorcas 3709
Elbers, Jenna 2313
Ellingsworth, Madilyn 3205
Eltrich, Abigail 2112
Eng, Grace 3711
English-Schneider, Patricia 1100
Engstrom, Craig 2309, 3414
Ertl, Sydney 1210
Essey, Seyran 3515
Eze, Uchenna 1106, 1515, 2111, 3105
Ezzeddine, Colleen 3405
Fahnestock, Terri 1709
Falilatu, Saaka 1104
Fanari, Alice 1101, 2304
Fang, Yuming 2301, 3210
Faniyi, Ololade 3613
Farris, Kristen 2312
Faulkner, Sandra 0200, 1710, 2104, 2302, 3403, 3601
Feimster, Naja 2313
Ferrell, Abby 1415
Fitzgerald, Joshua 2205, 3106
Fitzsimmons, Kristin 1405, 1712, 3304, 3410
Floyd, Kory 1313, 1410, 1701, 3407
Fluegel-Murray, Oliver 1711
Fokken, Mark 3706
Foltz, Ellanore 2504, 3704
Freda Wood, Sandra 1306

Frederick, Austin 1405, 1503, 3402
Frimpong, Evans 1105, 3204
Gabor, Elena 3513
Gabryelczyk, Katy 1211
Gaffey, Adam 2211
Gagnon, Lindsay 1511, 3411
Gajjala, Radhika 1104, 2609, 3613
Galloway, Gwenyth 2214
Galvao, Washington 2508
Garlock, Alex 2112
Gehrke, Jessica 2306, 3711
Geraths, Cory 2306
Gidley, Ned 1711, 2502, 3201, 3300
Gillespie, Breck 3215, 3705
Giorgio, Grace 3405
Girardot, Jay 2508
Glover, Donnie 1402
Glunz, Angela 1405, 2205, 2505, 3405, 3504
Godager, Emily 3306
Golsan, Kathryn 1510, 2200, 2501, 3300
Gonzalez, Alberto 1406, 1514, 1704, 2304, 3311, 3503, 3604
Gonzalez, Ariadne 3303, 3406
Grace, Michelle 1305
Greenwalt, Dustin 1405, 1512, 1607, 3508
Greer, Rebecca 2207
Grimes, Michaela 3505
Gross, Grace 3402
Groven, Robert 2301, 3210
Gruest, Valerie 3216
Gyamfi, Emmanuella 3710
Gyesi, Amanda 3204
Haile, Gannon 3515
Haller, Kenidi 2214
Hallsby, Atilla 1402, 3411
Hamdam, Parwana 1105
Hamilton, Mark 2606
Hanratty, Anna 3614
Hanson, Andrew 2112
Harley, Benjamin 1614
Hart, Jonathon 1500, 1612
Hartung, Julie 1511
Hasan, Muhammed Rashedul 2608
Hathaway, Em 2508, 3412
Havlicek, Sarah 2110
Hawkins, Jennifer 1202, 1303, 3506, 3609
Hegazy, Rawan 1512, 1605, 3610, 3709
Heimbuch, John 1207
Heisel, Alan 2109
Hennager, McKenna 3313
Herbig, Art 1202, 1504, 2509
Hernandez, Leandra 3307
Herrmann, Andrew 1108, 1401, 1603, 2105, 2508
Hesse, Colin 3407
Hightower, Cassandra 1312, 1612, 2613
Hill, Janet 3701
Hiller, Elinor 3509
Hinck, Edward 1110, 2214, 3411
Hintz, Elizabeth 2604
Hodal, Ann 1312
Holladay, Holly 1405, 1504, 1603, 2504, 3209, 3309
Hollingsworth, Sarah 1604
Holtz, Breck 2605, 3208
Hooker, John 2610
Hopper, K. Megan 1707
Hossen, Md Mikhail 2102
Hough, Jennifer 2213, 2501, 2610
Howard, Karissa 3515
Howard, Marcia 1513
Hsieh, Elaine 1410, 1706
Hu, Junwen 1400, 3512
Hughes, A.G. 2502, 3111, 3508
Hughes-Kirchubel, Linda 2207
Hughlett, Bailey 1208, 1513, 3216, 3303, 3406
Humble, Diana 1200
Hunkins, Nick 1200
Hunt, Stephen 0100
Hyde, Harriet 3104
Ibiwoye, Christiana 1205, 1409, 3612
Ijei, Jennifer I. 3711
Imes, Rebecca 1513
Irwin, Carly 1302
Isbister, Vianna 1207, 1405, 2105, 2209, 2612, 3212, 3307, 3410, 3605
Islam, Ataharul 1102
Islam, Khairul 1509, 3510
Iverson, Joel 1614
Ivey, Christina 2612, 3212, 3506, 3605
Jacobs, Vivian 3415, 3505
Jahan, Sultana 1105
James, Abdulnasir 1505, 1606, 1714
James, Kendrea 1702, 3707
Jansen, Jessica 1607
Jenkins, Andrea 2509
Jensen, Gina 3608
Jensen, Scott 1309, 1405, 3214, 3513, 3608
Jeon, Moonsun 2500
Jerome, Angela 1204
Jessen, Lola 3515
Jiboye, Subulola 1602
Jin, Xianlin 1204, 3510

Joachim, Bayo 2112, 3515
Johnsen, Lauren 1412, 2205, 2505, 3304
Johnson, Elyse 3402
Johnson, Evan Layne 2211
Johnson Tartaglia, Katherine 2504
Johnstone, Kendall 2305, 2505
Jordan, Ellen 3612
Jung, Bumju 2606
Kabaalu, Linda 2208, 3603
Kaczynski, Stephanie 1700, 2110
Kahl, Jr., David 1403, 1700, 2207
Kamm, Sydney 3405
Kampbell, Bryan 1404, 3705
Kamps, Sydney 3509
Kananathan, Mohnish 2606
Kane, Sierra 1111, 3502, 3610
Kanemoto, Emi 1514, 1704, 2609, 3311, 3604
Kaplan, Kendall 2103
Karikari, Emmanuel 1713
Karim, Rezaul 1105
Kasem, Adeeb 1103, 2100, 2606
Kassler, Katie 2510
Katner, Celia 2214
Katt, Emily 2105, 3312
Keil, Amanda 2204, 2515
Keller, Morgan 2504, 2613, 3313, 3516
Kelly, Stephanie 1403, 3700
Kemp, Kalah 1304
Kennett, Rose 3515
Kent, Jana 3407
Keohane, Jennifer 1612
Kerber, Anne 0300, 1309, 1409, 1613, 2309, 2513, 2614, 3310, 3401
Keremidchieva, Zornitsa 2211
Khatun, Amina 3309
Khatun, Nazifa 1713
Khosravi, Nika 3412
Kienzle, Jennifer 1605
Kiffel, Taylor 2515
Kim, Jihyun 1403, 2212, 3700
Kim, Sunny 3502
Kimmell, Franklin 2510
King, Caroline 1102, 2303, 3104
King, Lyzbeth 1311, 2605
Kingsford, Abigail 2309, 2513, 2614, 3110, 3211, 3306
Kingsley Westerman, Catherine 3507
Kinney, Corbin 3711
Kirby, Erika 2309
Kirksey, Evan 1112, 1405, 1511, 2501, 2605, 3208, 3300, 3507
Kiura, Mary 2200, 2503, 3208
Klean Zwilling, Jillian 1304
Klien, Stephen 3304
Kline, Brian 1415
Klotz, Reese 1511
Klundt, Lynn 1614
Klyukovski, Andrei 3300, 3405
Kommineni, Veda 1311
Kopaczewski, Shana 2600
Koushan, Ahad 3414
Kporwofa, Amanda 3606
Kuang, Xiaodong 2511
Kudak, Anna 2301
Kufeyani, Sunga 2508
Kunde, Margaret 1412
Kundu, Priyanka 2608
Kuznekoff, Jeff 0100
Kwarteng, James 3202
Labbe, Brett 1306
Lachlan, Kenneth 2606, 3204
Langager, Aimee 1404, 2213, 3106
LaPierre, Kate 1202, 2215, 2305, 3200
Larrison, Brooklyn 2205
Lasisi, Omolola 1109, 1408, 2111, 2502, 3500
Lau, Aimee 1405, 2204, 2514, 2601, 3513
Lawal, Abdulmalik Adetola 2603
Lawlor, Debra 1608
Lazenby, Braidyn 1407
LeBlanc, Sarah 0200, 1311, 1502, 1710, 3503
Lee, Athena 1102, 1607
Lee, EunYoung 1514, 3112, 3503
Lee, Jee Young 1411, 2602
Lee, Kristina 2610
Lee, Rebecca 2309
Lee, Starr 1312
Lee, Yelim 3610
LeFebvre, Leah 2600
LeFebvre, Luke 2600, 3703
Legleitner, Rickie-Ann 3602
Levine, Kenneth 3507
Lewis, Isaac 2511
Li, Wenbo 1411
Li, Xiaoxia 3700
Limbach, Shelby 2510
Lin, Xialing 2102, 2212, 3501
Lind, Katherine 1607
Lippert, Lance R. 3414
Littleton, Jody 2311
Liu, Pan 1605
Liu, Ran 1608
Liu, Xinyue 2514, 3104

Livingston, Kristen 1605
Lizarraga, Moira 3512
Loebs, Pat 1200
Logunova, Kristina 3703
Lozano, Elizabeth 1201, 2302, 2503, 3208
Lu, Amy 2205
Luebbert, Trent 1200
Lueders, Allyn 1404
Lutovsky, Bethany 3205
Lutterodt, Irene 1106, 1515, 2111, 2206, 3105, 3603
Lyssy, Kendal 1201, 2503
Ma, Xiaolu 1413
MacDonald, Shana 1104
Maciel, Amy 1204
Mahbuba, Sabiha 1505, 1606, 1714
Maina, Robert 3100
Majdik, Zoltan 1705
Malhotra, Saumya 1602
Malleus, Rick 1101, 1205
Mann, Lillian 3415
Manning, Jake 1304, 3214, 3513
Manning, Jimmie 1111, 1201, 1308, 1504, 2201, 2310, 2510, 3107, 3311, 3407
Mapes, Meggie 0200, 1710, 2302, 2509, 3411, 3601
Marino, Sue Ann 1305
Marion, Katie 3505
Mark, Lauren 1700
Marquess, Mackenzie 2300
Marsh, Jaclyn 1600
Marshall, Madison 1406, 2104, 2613
Mason, Alicia 1509, 1605, 2511, 3202
Massey, Ethan 2505, 3205
Matter, Melinda 3106, 3312
Matter, Michelle 1405, 1706, 3406
Maulding, Sean 1310
Mawuena Momade, Gladys 1609
May, Amy 2600
Mbah, Salome 1515, 2309, 3202
Mbaye, Ousman 1205, 3612
McBride, Madison 3402
McCormick, Melissa 1113
McCoy, Amy 2213
McCullough, Jennifer 3300
McGeough, Danielle 1605, 3102, 3514
McGeough, Ryan 1605
McKenna-Buchanan, Tim 0100, 1613, 2203
McKinley-Portee, Caleb 2106, 2508
McKinney, Mitchell 1705, 3301, 3607
McKinney, Shelby 1414, 3113
McManus, Tara 1701, 2604
McNallie, Jenna 2301, 3210
McNamara, Lexi 3204
McSweeney, Mitch 1407
Medeiros, Vance 2101
Medjesky, Christopher (Kit) 2306, 3112, 3408, 3503
Medlock-Klyukovski, Amanda 1605, 3205, 3300, 3405, 3504
Meeks, Lindsey 3101
Meier, Matthew 0200, 1502, 1710, 3112, 3308, 3503, 3601
Memom, Athar 3612
Menge, Kelsey 2202, 3207
Merkling, Matthew 2204
Merrill Jr., Kelly 1505, 1606, 1714
Messner, Beth 1412, 3205
Meyara, Sidi Becar 0100
Meyer, Kevin 0100
Meyer, Michaela 1201, 1405, 1603, 2201
Meza, Adrian 1100, 3701
Mheidly, Nour 2208, 3313
Miczo, Nathan 3700
Mikkelson, Alan 3407
Miller, Aimee 1500, 1612, 3201
Mirviss-Jossart, Stacey 1405, 1611, 3200
Mitchell, Amber 3103
Mitchell, Scott 3709
Mite, Alex 2615
Mitra, Rahul 1710
Moga, Korynne 3711
Mohaimen, Abdullah 1302
Momade, Gladys 3111
Montalvo, Lydia 3711
Moore, Hanna 2112
Morales, Teresa 3711
Moran, Angela 3303
Morenz, Brooke 1415
Morrissey, Nicholas 1607, 2605
Mosher, Marceleen 2301, 2602, 3210
Mostafa, Md Hamza Kamal 3600
Motto, Justin 1304
Moudry, Jerralyn 1202, 1411, 3513
Mu, Di 3104, 3303
Mudambi, Anjana 1303, 2609, 3410
Mulberry, Bengt 2515
Munir, Asif 1205
Munoz Suarez, Eduardo 1705, 3101
Munz, Stevie 0100, 0200, 1405, 1613, 2203, 2302, 3307, 3601
Murdaugh, Jennifer 1713

Murphy, Kathleen 2103
Murphy, Margaret 2103
Murphy, Tracy 3706
Mushtaq, Souzeina 3708
Mutua, Eddah 2609, 3604
Myers, Scott 1210, 2302, 2601
Myers, W. Benjamin 1203, 1307, 1504, 2611
Naa Ayekai Odai, Rhodalene 1609, 3708
Nabangala, Teresa 3406
Nabi, Naqibun 3309
Nartey, Gertrude Misornu 1312, 1409, 3507
Nath, Chuton 3703
Neff, Sarah 2504
Nelson, Chad 1512, 2110, 3112
Nelson, Hailey 2300
Nentoola, Dora 1508, 3711
Nesemeier, Heather 1107, 3200
Newswander, Taylor 1207, 3502
Newton, Emma 1605
Nguyen, Kim Hong 2602
Nicholson, Emily 3216
Nickell, Jacob 3103
Nims, Jack 3516
Nix, Colin 2615
Nkanta, Edikan 3414
Nkrumah, Kwame 2304
Nlemedim, Blessing 2205
Nnorukah, Chidalu 3111
Nolan-Cody, Haley 1210, 1507
Nova, Janifar Kamal 1103, 2100, 2205, 3108
Nwachukwu, Peace 2104
Nyameke, Francis 1609
Nyarko, Albert Junior 1105, 3204, 3606
O'Brien, Kristin 2515
O'Hara, Laura 1412
O'Shay, Sydney 1513, 1701, 2510, 3216
Obiri, Alfred 1204, 1602, 2312
Odufuwa, Funmilayo 2309, 3202, 3414, 3507
Odunfa, Emmanuel 3711
Odunsi, Ifeoluwatobi 1210, 2312
Oeldorf-Hirsch, Anne 2300, 3204
Ofori, Michael 1306, 1609, 2108, 3100
Ofori Boateng, Pamela 1110
Oguejiofor, Ngozi 1106, 1515, 2111, 3105, 3406
Ogundare, Olamide 2604
Oh, Yoo Jung (Erika) 1313, 3202
Oishe, Israt Jahan 1703
Okaah, Samuel 3500
Okafor, Blessing 2503
Okeke, Anthony 1205, 3612
Okeke, Dennis 1205, 1406, 2102, 3208, 3502, 3612, 3703
Okpaireh, Egbe 1408, 3500
Olatunji, Shirley Hazel 3700
Olivares, Gabriela 3102
Oloba, Bukola 1106, 1408, 1515, 2111, 2309, 3105, 3202, 3311, 3500
Omachinski, Kim 3312
Oommen, Deepa 2100
Oslin, James 3711
Otchere, Christian 2205
Otoo, Elvis 3710
Owusu Ansah, Patrick 3303
Owusu-Kumah, Nana Akua Amoa 3111
Oyedokun, Dolapo 2300, 3307
Palmer, Colleen 1304, 2611
Pappas, Shannon 1304, 1411, 2300, 2505, 2602, 3204
Pappoe, Deborah 3201, 3512, 3606
Parcell, Erin Sahlstein 2312
Pavia-Higel, Lisa 1304, 3707
Pawlowski, Donna 1208, 1613, 2204, 2601, 3706
Paxton, Jessica 2612
Pedasanaganti, Vamsi Chaitanya 2109, 3111
Peixoto, Julia 3215
Pennington, Dorothy 1109
Pennington, Natalie 1313, 1409, 1507, 1608, 2200, 2604, 3314
Penny, Cameron 3516
Pensoneau-Conway, Sandra 3105, 3503
Pervin, Mst Rokshana 3709
Peterson, Sophia 2313, 3306
Pfau, Ashlee 3506
Phillips, Kaitlin 1210, 1605, 2302, 2500, 3401
Piard, Elvinet 3404
Piercy, Cameron 2212, 3700
Pitts, Margaret 2304
Platt, Carrie Anne 1403
Pohl, Gayle 0200, 1209, 1405, 2302, 3102, 3601
Pollino, Madison 1113, 2104, 2200, 3112, 3408
Pope, Megan 1112
Poston, Mia 1501
Povazhnaia, Veronika 3614
Powell, Elliot 1207, 1511, 2209, 2508
Poyner-Smith, Karly 1200, 2310, 3502, 3708
Prater, Breanna 3211, 3507
Priddis, DeAnne 1506, 1611, 3110, 3401
Pulok, Mahbub Bin Sarwar Pulok 1102, 1703
Quigley, Bailey 2300
Rafi, Md Ibnun Sarwar 3204

Rahko, Stephen 3209, 3412
Rahman, Mahmuda 1400, 2606, 3700
Rahman, Md Ragib 1103, 2100, 3108, 3309
Rahman, Nadia (Nahrin) 1703
Rascon, Natasha 1414, 3505
Rashid, Mamunor 1105, 2109, 3711
Rasul, Muhammad 2500
Razib, Mehedy Hassan 1102
Reed, Joel 1306, 3101, 3301
Reimers, Mackenzie 2504
Reule, Jonna 1708, 2202
Ribarsky, Beth 2215, 2509, 2611, 3207, 3312
Richmond, Anna 2214
Rick, Jessica 1201, 1608, 1706, 2106, 2309, 2513, 2614, 3303, 3406, 3512
Ricks, Damla 3201
Riforgiate, Sarah 1409, 1506, 1611, 2102, 2302, 2513, 2614, 3306, 3507
Rigda, Ryan 1405, 1500, 3201
Riggins, Tasha 1205, 3209
Ritchey, Allyson 1104, 1605
Robbins, Roberta 2601
Robbinson, Jessica 2301
Roberts, Becky 2305, 3707
Roberts, Joshua 1414
Roberts, Mary 2205, 3205
Roberts, Samantha 2205, 3205
Robinson, Jessica 3210
Rodak, Megan 3216
Rodriguez, Stephanie 2503
Rogers, Natalie 2505
Romann, Lili 2602
Romer, Riley Cathleen 3614
Romerhausen, Nick 1304, 3300
Rooney, Marin 2112
Roque, Rocky 1711, 2208, 2608
Roscoe, Rikki 1311, 3311
Ross, Elaina 1510, 1604, 1702
Rothenbaum, Nathan 3610
Rowland, Robert 3301, 3607
Rudick, C. Kyle 1710, 3413, 3514
Rudnick, Justin 0100, 0300, 1103, 1203, 1308, 1713, 2203, 2610
Ruh, Candice 1210, 1312, 1409, 1611, 2214
Ruppel, Erin 2102
Russi, Jenni Lou 3109
Saah, Sekina 1105, 3705
Sabnam, Zakia 3700
Sahlstein Parcell, Erin 2600, 3407
Salazar Carballo, Sofia 1303, 1405, 3410
Salazar-Collier, Cindy 3303
Salek, Thomas 1711, 2502
Samens, Jessica 1713, 3310
Sammeta, Jeevani 3205
Sanders, Jacob 2207, 3208, 3306, 3507
Sanders-Whiteley, Emily 1211, 3205, 3505
Sang, Yoonmo 1411, 2602
Santiago, Maiya 3614
Santos, Patricia 3609
Sarker, Md Abdur Razzak 1703, 3204
Sauter, Emily 1309, 1407, 1713, 2103, 2513, 2614, 3214, 3308
Sauter, Kevin 1309, 2103
Scharp, Kristina 0200, 0300, 1301, 1502, 1800, 2302, 3314, 3403, 3601
Schilling, Stacy 3313
Schmutzler, Mark 1705, 2211
Schneider, David 3300
Scholten, Kristi 1601, 3704
Schowalter, Dana 1111, 1202, 1401, 1502, 2215
Schrodt, Paul 1608, 3314
Schubert, Samantha 1211, 2502
Schwarz, Edward 3400
Scott, Skylar 2307, 3516
Scroggins, Emily 3412
Scruggs, Xavier 1610, 3607
Seeger, Matthew 3510
Sellnow, Deanna 1204, 1502, 1710
Sellnow, Timothy 1204, 1410, 3403
Sellnow-Richmond, Deborah 2511, 3510
Sellnow-Richmond, Scott 2505, 3205
Semwal, Shatakshi 1302, 3612
Senu, Getrude 1508, 2511, 2604, 3710
Sepúlveda, Samentha 1405, 1601, 3509, 3610, 3704
Seurer, Leah 1706
Shah, Palak 3415
Shahnaz Dyuti, Shahla 1104
Shalev, Karen 1208, 1304, 1411, 1608, 1706, 2505, 3111
Shen, Tsai-Shan 3110
Sheng, Xin 3610
Shin, Inyoung 3306
Shue, Carolyn 1412
Shuvo, Md Sazzad Mahmud 1405, 1703, 2212, 2506, 3309, 3603
Sidelinger, Robert 1300, 1403, 1510, 2510
Sikapokoo, Grace 1505, 1606, 1714
Sills, Liz 1506, 1614
Siripi, Vera 3204
Slater, Abi 2615
Smalls, Morgan 1308, 1505, 1606, 1714

Smith, Kim 1605
Smith, Miranda 2214
Smith, Sarah 1414
Snidarich, Alyssa 2300
Soares, Rodrigo 1204, 1405, 1509, 3510
Soczka Steidinger, Kelly 1415, 3205, 3400
Soibelman, Dani 3708
Soltis, Kimberly 1407
Soto-Vasquez, Arthur 3303
Spates, Stephen 1502, 2200, 3601
Spence, Patric 0200, 0300, 1203, 1403, 2212, 2302, 2606, 3601
Spencer, Elizabeth 1605
Srivastava, Shweta Arpit 2305
St. John, Collin 3104
Stache, Lara 1304, 3505
Stahl, Katie 2214
Stahr, Isabelle 1110, 1511
Stamp, Glen 1412
Stana, Alexandru 1502
Stanfield, Kelsey 1104, 1700, 2303
Stanfield, Susan 1100
Starcher, Shawn 2205
Stark, Daniel 2515
Stauffacher, Tristan 2312
Steinke, Jocelyn 1411
Stern, Danielle 1308, 1401, 1603, 2209, 2310, 2503, 2602, 3107, 3410, 3702
Stevens, Luca 1200
Stoeckl, Hailey 3415
Studebaker, Aubrey 1110
Stulga, Nick 2608
Supple, Jenn 1305
Swafford, Shelby 1405, 3212, 3307
Swenson-Lepper, Tammy 3313
Swetlic, Robert 3309
Swidecki, Michael 1705
Szybinska, Natalia 2313
Tahir, Aisha 2101
Taladay-Carter, Cassidy 3314
Talkington, Brigit 1202, 2215
Tanko, Immashiya 3516
Tari, Tahura 1103, 2100, 3108
Tasnim, Farzana 1102
Tate, Lee 1402
Taylor, Catina 1513
Taylor, Jackson 2515
Thakur, Srishty 3613
Theye, Kirsten 1711, 3405
Thizbee, Sadia Ashrafi 1103, 2100, 3108
Thomas, Lindsey 0300, 2515
Thorson, Allison 1313, 1410, 2611
Tollefson, Michael 2600
Tommy, Solomon Sunday 3101, 3711
Tran, Jacinta 3502
Traylor, Lexi 1200, 1414, 1711, 3515
Trebing, Diana 1405, 2206, 2609, 3703
Treinen, Kristi 2100
Trunnell, Dana 1501
Tudor, Claire 3610
Turkson, Vera 1413, 2208, 2512, 3512
Turner, Jenny 1613
Turner Ledgerwood, Kathleen 2215, 2306, 3307
Tye-Williams, Stacy 2611
Tyma, Adam 1108, 1309, 1405, 1613, 2509, 2607, 3409, 3503
Ulmer, Austin 1108, 1309, 2306
Upmeyer, Eric 3102
Utecht, Alicia 1511
Uzoma, Stanley 1408, 3500
Valenta, Darren 3706
Van Emburg, Inna 3413, 3610
Vance, Kai 2300
Vanderbeke, Marianne 2303, 3413
VanHorn, Shannon 1708, 2601, 3109, 3207
VanMeter, Abbie 1503
Vareberg, Kyle 1112, 1203, 1300, 1510, 1604, 2205, 2302, 3204, 3313, 3501, 3700
Vargas, Jonathan 3412
Velasquez, Alcides 3311
Verma, Tarishi 3613
Vetter, Cole 1711
Villarreal, Jonathan 3104
Voight, Phillip A. 1100
Wagner, Izavella 3614
Wahidi, Saeimeh 1109, 3703
Walcott, Rianna 1104
Waldbuesser, Caroline 1112, 1300, 1405, 1510, 2610, 3413
Walker, Julie 3310
Walsh, Claire 3516
Walters, Heather 1601, 1700, 2107, 3103, 3201
Wang, Tiffany 0200, 0300, 1203, 1301, 1405, 1506, 1611, 2200, 2302, 3213, 3302, 3401, 3503, 3601, 3800
Wang, Xiyue 2511
Warner, Benjamin 1705, 3215, 3301, 3607, 3705
Washika, Walter 2212
Watkins, Piper 1414
Watson, Alix 2509
Watson, Ashley 2508
Watson, Joe 1111, 3412

Watson, Olivia 1608
Watts, Julie 3305
Weaver, Casey 3704
Weinzapfel, Joshua 3202
Weishar, Julie 2311
Weismann, Kimberly 1209, 1708, 2202, 2611, 3109, 3207, 3305
Wells, Audrey 3515
Welsch, Lindsey 1709
Wertanen, Deborah 2505
West, Isaac 1100
Westerman, David 1400, 2102, 2212, 3700
Wheaton, Abby 1414
White, Brion 3402
Whiteside, Amy 3308
Wiant Cummins, Molly 2106, 2509, 2602, 3201
Wiebers, Tammie 3106, 3203
Wilcox, Connor 1200, 1304
Williams, Mac 1407, 2103, 3112, 3214, 3408
Willis II, Larry 2303
Willis-Rivera, Jennifer 1303, 2206, 2304, 2700
Wilson, Evan 1412, 3502
Winfrey, Kelly 1313, 3215, 3301
Wingate, Jennifer 3307
Wingert, Cassandra 1312, 1415, 1501
Wolfe, Brooke 1405, 1507, 1608, 1701, 2200, 2302, 2604, 3202, 3314, 3512
Wolven, Travis 1207, 2105, 2612
Woo, Jieun 2309
Wood, Megan 1108
Woodall, Ant 1405, 1610, 2205, 2300
Wright, Anna 0100, 2203
Wu, Yanrui 2615
Xu, Kai 1205
Yadlapalli, Pranati 3113
Yan, Xiaodong 1208, 1406
Yeboah, Ruth 1609, 2304
Yisrael, Eleazar 3710
Youakim, Joshua 2110, 2613
Youk, Sungbin 2606
Young, Joshua 2514, 3313, 3402
Young, Stephanie 1202, 1401, 2105, 2215, 2510, 3305, 3506, 3613
Youngvorst, Lucas 1409
Yueh, Hsin-I 1110, 1303, 1406, 1514, 2109, 2200, 2609, 3503
Yungbluth, Stephen 3106, 3204
Yusuf, Zaynab 3202
Zagorski, Kim 3305
Zahry, Nagwan 1605, 2210, 3708
Zannah, Tasnimul 1713, 3113
Zarefsky, David 3607
Zeb, Jibran 1602, 3710
Zeng, Cheng 1408, 3414, 3507
Zhang, Xinyu 2604, 3512
Zhang, Yue 1608
Zhao, Fangqi 1413
Ziegler, Christa 1709
Zook, Kelsey 2303, 3100

INDEX OF BUSINESS MEETINGS & GENERAL SESSIONS

Activism, Communication Ethics, and Social Justice Interest Group Business Meeting

1601 Thursday, April 16 3:30 PM - 4:45 PM St. Croix

Adjunct/Temporary Faculty Caucus Business Meeting

3200 Saturday, April 18 9:30 AM - 10:45 AM Greenway A

Argumentation and Forensics Interest Group Business Meeting

1500 Thursday, April 16 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM Greenway F

Basic Course Interest Group Business Meeting

2501 Friday, April 17 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM Greenway C

Carolyn Calloway-Thomas Speakers Series Keynote: Dr. Fernando Delgado

2700 Friday, April 17 6:00 PM - 6:45 PM Northstar Ballroom

Communication & Technology Interest Group Business Meeting

3501 Saturday, April 18 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM Greenway H

Communication Education Interest Group Business Meeting

1300 Thursday, April 16 11:00 AM - 12:15 PM Lakeshore C

Communication Theory Interest Group Business Meeting

1503 Thursday, April 16 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM Greenway B

Community College Interest Group Business Meeting

3203 Saturday, April 18 9:30 AM - 10:45 AM St. Croix

CSCA 2026 President's Party: Celebrating the Service of Jeffrey T. Child

1800 Thursday, April 16 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Offsite (Dakota)

CSCA 2027 Program Planners Meeting

1405 Thursday, April 16 12:30 PM - 1:45 PM Regency

CSCA Annual Closing Celebration

3800 Saturday, April 18 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Northstar Ballroom

CSCA Annual Past Officers Lunch

1301 Thursday, April 16 11:00 AM - 12:15 PM Offsite (Dakota)

CSCA Annual Past Presidents Dinner

2800 Friday, April 17 7:00 PM - 8:45 PM Offsite

CSCA Award Rehearsal

2302 Friday, April 17 11:00 AM - 12:15 PM Nicollet Ballroom

CSCA Committee Vice Chair Award Meeting

2200 Friday, April 17 9:30 AM - 10:45 AM Executive Boardroom

CSCA Equity & Inclusion Committee Meeting

2503 Friday, April 17 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM Executive Boardroom

CSCA Executive Committee Meetings

0200 Wednesday, April 15 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM Executive Boardroom

3601 Saturday, April 18 3:30 PM - 6:15 PM Executive Boardroom

CSCA Faculty Learning Community Reunion Dinner

1714 Thursday, April 16 6:30 PM - 7:45 PM Offsite

CSCA Finance Committee Meeting

1203 Thursday, April 16 9:30 AM - 10:45 AM Executive Boardroom

CSCA Hall of Fame Awards Luncheon and Business Meeting

2400 Friday, April 17 12:30 PM - 2:45 PM Nicollet Ballroom

CSCA Registration

0000 Wednesday, April 15 12:00 PM - 6:00 PM Nicollet Registration

1000 Thursday, April 16 7:30 AM - 5:00 PM Nicollet Registration

2000 Friday, April 17 7:30 AM - 5:00 PM Nicollet Registration

3000 Saturday, April 18 7:30 AM - 2:00 PM Nicollet Registration

CSCA Staff Dinner

0300 Wednesday, April 15 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM Offsite

Disability and Neurodiversity Caucus Interest Meeting

2201 Friday, April 17 9:30 AM - 10:45 AM Greenway G

Ethnicity, Race, International, and Class Concerns Caucus Business Meeting

1303 Thursday, April 16 11:00 AM - 12:15 PM Greenway I

Exhibit Hall Featuring Publishers and Technology

1111 Thursday, April 16 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Nicollet Promenade

2113 Friday, April 17 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Nicollet Promenade

3114 Saturday, April 18 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM Nicollet Promenade

Graduate School Fair

3302 Saturday, April 18 11:00 AM - 12:15 PM Northstar Ballroom

Graduate School Fair Set Up

3206 Saturday, April 18 9:30 AM - 10:45 AM Northstar Ballroom

Graduate Student Caucus Business Meeting

2506 Friday, April 17 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM Greenway G

Great Ideas for Teaching Interest Group Business Meeting

3504 Saturday, April 18 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM Skyway AB

Health Communication Interest Group Business Meeting

3406 Saturday, April 18 12:30 PM - 1:45 PM Lakeshore B

Instructional Resources Interest Group Business Meeting

3304 Saturday, April 18 11:00 AM - 12:15 PM Minnehaha

Intercultural Communication Interest Group Business Meeting

2206 Friday, April 17 9:30 AM - 10:45 AM Minnehaha

Interpersonal and Family Communication Interest Group Business Meeting

1507 Thursday, April 16 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM Lakeshore A

Media Studies Interest Group Business Meeting

3209 Saturday, April 18 9:30 AM - 10:45 AM Greenway B

Organizational and Professional Communication Interest Group Business Meeting

3211 Saturday, April 18 9:30 AM - 10:45 AM Greenway J

Performance Studies and Autoethnography Interest Group Business Meeting

3212 Saturday, April 18 9:30 AM - 10:45 AM Greenway F

Political Communication Interest Group Business Meeting

1610 Thursday, April 16 3:30 PM - 4:45 PM Greenway C

Popular Culture Interest Group Business Meeting

3409 Saturday, April 18 12:30 PM - 1:45 PM Greenway E

President's Undergraduate Honors Research Conference Breakfast

3213 Saturday, April 18 9:30 AM - 10:45 AM Northstar Ballroom

Rhetorical Theory and Criticism Interest Group Business Meeting

3408 Saturday, April 18 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM Greenway I

Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Caucus Business Meeting

2209 Friday, April 17 9:30 AM - 10:45 AM Greenway F

Sports Communication Interest Group Business Meeting

3214 Saturday, April 18 9:30 AM - 10:45 AM Greenway E

States Advisory Council Business Meeting

1209 Thursday, April 16 9:30 AM - 10:45 AM Skyway AB

Strategic and Applied Communication Interest Group Business Meeting

1509 Thursday, April 16 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM Greenway D

Undergraduate Education and Administration Section Business Meeting

2513 Friday, April 17 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM Skyway AB

Women's Caucus Business Meeting

1712 Thursday, April 16 5:00 PM - 6:15 PM Greenway D

INDEX OF SPONSORS

Activism, Communication Ethics, and Social Justice Interest Group 1207, 1513, 1601, 1700, 2508, 3210, 3509, 3602, 3704

Adjunct/Temporary Faculty Caucus 3200, 3305

Argumentation and Forensics Interest Group 1500, 1612, 3201

Basic Course Interest Group 1613, 2501, 2610, 3300, 3408

Communication & Technology Interest Group 1104, 1400, 2102, 2212, 2603, 3104, 3204, 3501, 3600, 3700

Communication Education Interest Group 1112, 1300, 1403, 1506, 1510, 1709, 2110, 2213, 2301, 2601, 3103, 3210, 3313, 3413, 3505, 3606, 3707

Communication Theory Interest Group 1503, 2203, 2606, 3110, 3402

Community College Interest Group 1415, 2305, 3106, 3203, 3312, 3400

CSCA Equity & Inclusion Committee 1201, 2503, 3208

CSCA Executive Director 0000, 0200, 0300, 1000, 1114, 1203, 1208, 1301, 1405, 1800, 2000, 2113, 2200, 2302, 2400, 2503, 2800, 3000, 3113, 3208, 3601, 3800

CSCA First Vice President 1410, 2201, 2700, 3403

CSCA Next Leaders Network 1502, 1710, 3503

CSCA President 3206, 3302

CSCA Second Vice President 0100

Ethnicity, Race, International, and Class Concerns Caucus 1303, 1308, 1406, 1602, 2100, 2609, 2700, 3311, 3410, 3609, 3703

Faculty Learning Community 1505, 1606, 1714

Federation Prize Presentation 2500

Graduate Student Caucus 1102, 1211, 1302, 1511, 1609, 1703, 2506, 2605, 3206, 3302, 3500, 3603

Great Ideas for Teaching Interest Group 1304, 1605, 2205, 2505, 3205, 3405, 3504

Health Communication Interest Group 1105, 1201, 1311, 1413, 1515, 1706, 2208, 2312, 2604, 3108, 3202, 3303, 3406, 3511, 3612, 3711

Instructional Resources Interest Group 1100, 1312, 1414, 1510, 1708, 2301, 3201, 3304, 3401, 3701

Intercultural Communication Interest Group 1101, 1408, 1514, 1614, 1704, 2101, 2206, 2304, 3105, 3604, 3709

Interpersonal and Family Communication Interest Group 1210, 1313, 1507, 1608, 1701, 2104, 2511, 2600, 3109, 3314, 3407, 3512, 3611

Media Studies Interest Group 1111, 1205, 1411, 1707, 2108, 2307, 2608, 3111, 3209, 3309, 3412, 3710

Organizational and Professional Communication Interest Group 1106, 1409, 1508, 2106, 2207, 2309, 2512, 2614, 3100, 3211, 3306, 3414, 3507

Performance Studies and Autoethnography Interest Group 1201, 1310, 1401, 1702, 2105, 2507, 2612, 3107, 3212, 3307, 3506, 3605

Political Communication Interest Group 1110, 1306, 1610, 1705, 2109, 2211, 2300, 3101, 3215, 3301, 3607, 3705

Popular Culture Interest Group 1108, 1402, 1504, 1603, 2213, 2306, 2504, 2607, 3308, 3409, 3610

Rhetorical Theory and Criticism Interest Group 1109, 1512, 1607, 1711, 2502, 2613, 3112, 3411, 3508

Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Caucus 1103, 1201, 1308, 2209, 2310, 2509, 3410, 3502, 3613, 3702

Short Courses 1113, 1206, 1307, 1600, 2107, 2210, 2308, 3404, 3514

Sports Communication Interest Group 1200, 1309, 1407, 2103, 2512, 2614, 3214, 3513

States Advisory Council 1209, 1305, 1404, 1501, 1604, 2202, 2311, 3102, 3310, 3608, 3706

Strategic and Applied Communication Interest Group 1204, 1509, 1713, 2510, 3103, 3216, 3510

Undergraduate Education and Administration Section 2204, 2513, 2611, 3207, 3505

Undergraduate Honors Research Conference 2112, 2214, 2313, 2515, 2615, 3113, 3206, 3213, 3302, 3415, 3515, 3516, 3614, 3712

Women's Caucus 1107, 1202, 1308, 1412, 1611, 1712, 2111, 2215, 2303, 2602, 3410, 3708

MAIN LEVEL

Nicollet Ballroom
Nicollet Registration
Lakeshore A
Lakeshore B
Lakeshore C

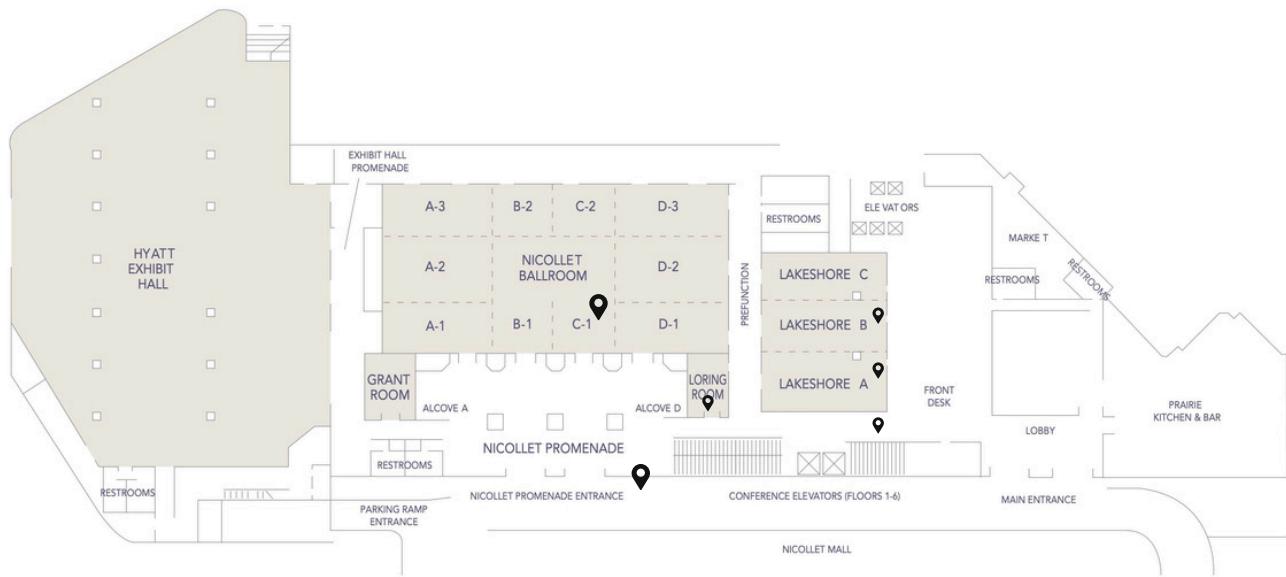
SECOND LEVEL

Greenway A	Hiawatha (Lactation Room)
Greenway B	Northstar Ballroom
Greenway C	Mirage
Greenway D	Minnehaha
Greenway E	Regency
Greenway F	Skyway AB
Greenway G	St. Croix
Greenway H	

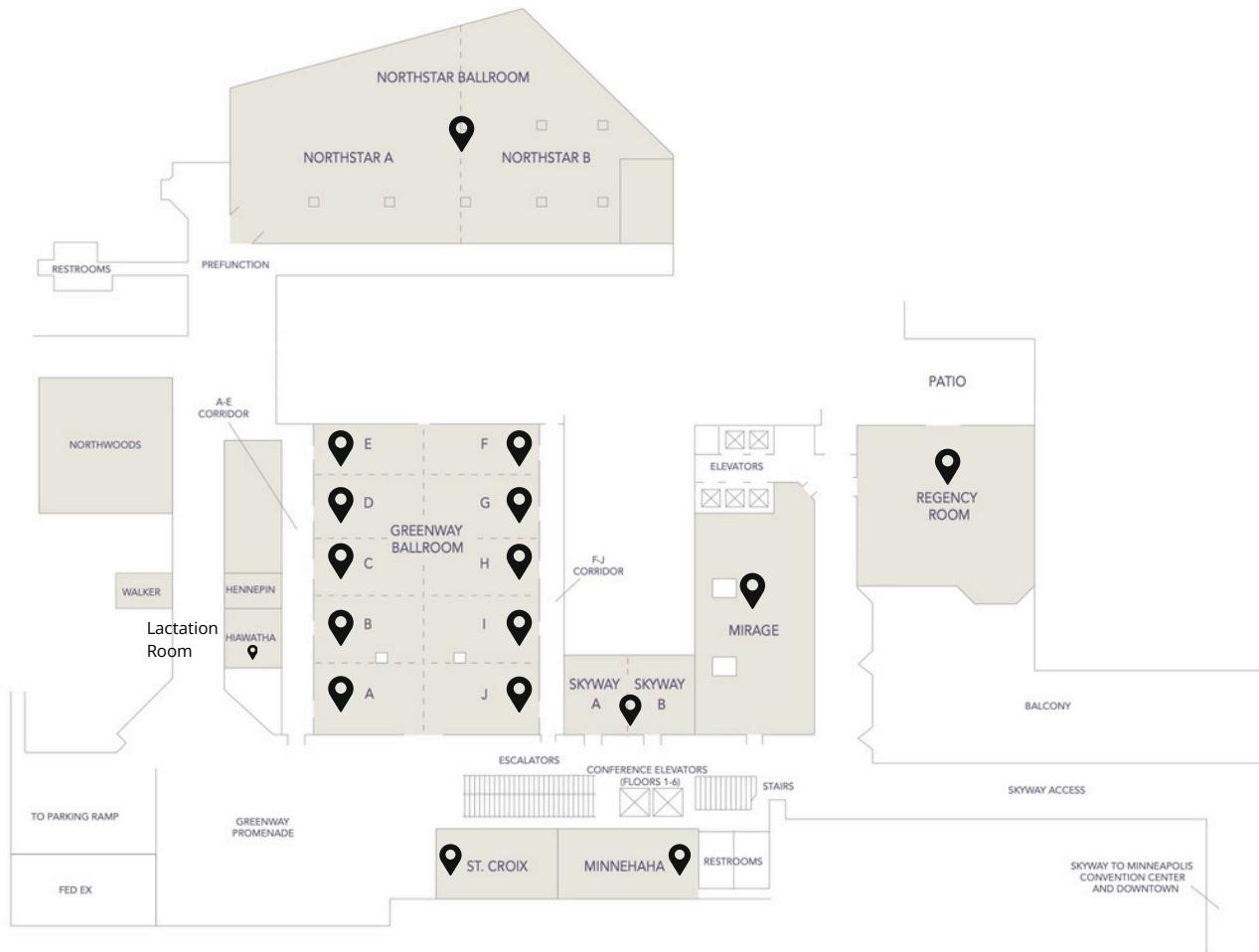
FOURTH LEVEL

Executive Boardroom

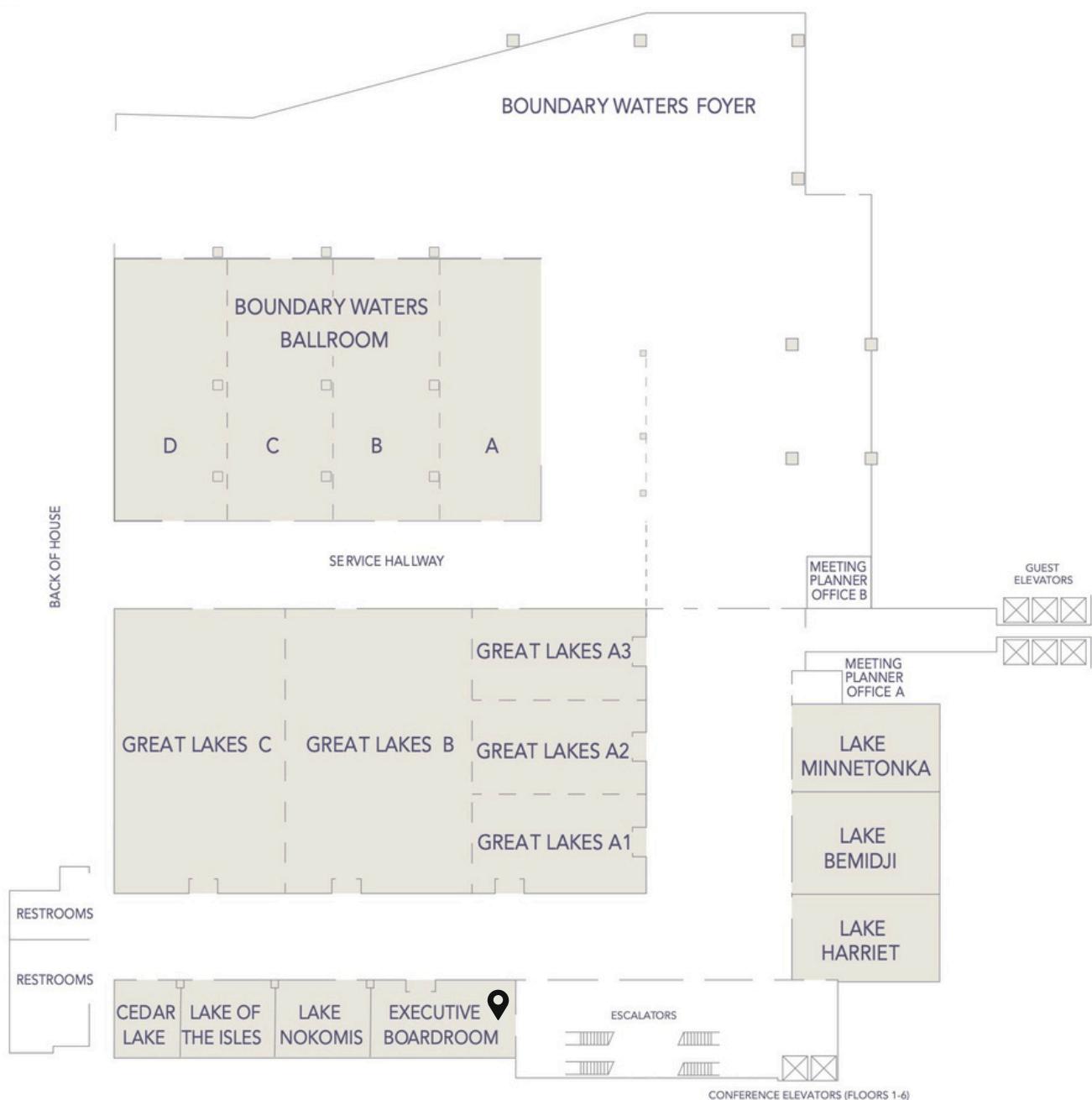
MAIN LEVEL



SECOND LEVEL



FOURTH LEVEL



Congratulations to our 2026 CSCA Award Recipients!



Habeeb
Abdulrauf



Andrew David
Bell



Nancy J.
Brule



Leah E.
Bryant



America L.
Edwards



Ashley
Henley



Bailey
Hughlett



Xianlin
Jin



Hannah E.
Jones



Emi
Kanemoto



Taylor Michelle
Kiffel



Ken
Lachlan



Nicholas B.
Lacy



Sarah S.
LeBlanc



Jeremy
Murphy



Jacob
Sanders



Anne
Seidler



Patric R.
Spence



Kyle R.
Vareberg



Justin
Walden



Benjamin R.
Warner



Kimberly M.
Weismann



