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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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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.
President, CSCA

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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,

Kristina Scharp

Kristina M. Scharp, CSCA First Vice President Associate Professor, Rutgers University

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Dear Central States Communication Association Attendees,

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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,

Melvin Tennant, CAE
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Meet Minneapolis

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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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FRIDAY, APRIL 17
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Secretary: Alima Abdul-Karimu, Texas A&M University

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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
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Instructional Resources Interest Group
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Vice-Chair: Kristin Fitzsimmons, University of Minnesota Twin Cities
Secretary: Lauren J. Johnsen, University of Wisconsin–Stout

Intercultural Communication Interest Group
Chair: Jennifer Willis-Rivera, University of Wisconsin-River Falls
Vice-Chair: Diana Trebing, Saginaw Valley State University
Secretary: Irene Martha Lutterodt, Southern Illinois University Carbondale

Interpersonal and Family Communication Interest Group
Chair: Natalie Pennington, Colorado State University
Vice-Chair: Brooke Wolfe, Michigan State University
Secretary: Haley Nolan-Cody, Rutgers University

Media Studies Interest Group
Chair: Tasha Riggins, Baker University
Vice-Chair: Holly W. Holladay, Missouri State University
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

Performance Studies & Autoethnography Interest Group
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
Chair: Xavier Lee Scruggs, Wake Forest University
Vice-Chair: Ant Woodall, Northeastern University
Secretary: Joshua P. Bolton, Salisbury University

Popular Culture Interest Group
Chair: Tyler Donavon Curran, Missouri State University
Vice-Chair: Adam W. Tyma, University of Nebraska Omaha
Secretary: John R. Baldwin, Illinois State University

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Chair: Alexandra Parr Balaram, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Vice-Chair: Dustin Greenwalt, Southern Illinois University Carbondale
Secretary: A.G. Hughes, Emporia State University

Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Caucus
Chair: Danielle M. Stern, Christopher Newport University
Vice-Chair: Vianna Isbister, East Tennessee State University
Secretary: Elliot Powell, University of South Florida

Sports Communication Interest Group
Chair: Emily Sauter, University of Nebraska at Omaha
Vice-Chair: Scott Jensen, Webster University
Secretary: Jake Manning, Marshall University

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Chair: Gayle M. Pohl, University of Northern Iowa
Vice-Chair: Kimberly M. Weismann, Bismarck State College
Secretary: Jeffrey Dean Brand, University of Northern Iowa

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

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Chair: Xinyue Liu, North Dakota State University
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
Co Vice-Chairs: Anna Jean DeGalan, Bowling Green State University and
Lauren L. Buisker, Colorado State University
Secretary: Joy L. Daggs, Northwest Missouri State University

BREAKFAST BREAK SPONSORS

Special thanks to the
National Communication Association
and **Routledge Taylor & Francis**
for sponsoring this year's breakfast breaks!

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

NAVIGATE
FINDING INSPIRATION IN
UNCHARTERED TERRAIN
CSCA 2027

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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UPCOMING CSCA HOST CITIES

2027-2030

2027 **MADISON, WISCONSIN**

2028 **GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN**

2029 **LINCOLN, NEBRASKA**

2030 **MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA**

THROUGHOUT THE YEARS:

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
1937-39 Loren D. Reid
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

UNIVERSITY *of* MONTEVALLO

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.	*Louisiana State University*
Sally Bennett Hardig, Ph.D.	*The University of Memphis*
Raymond R. Ozley, Ph.D.	*The University of Kansas*
Jefferson Walker, Ph.D.	*The University of Alabama*
Tiffany R. Wang, Ph.D.	*University of Nebraska–Lincoln*

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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marquette.edu/grad/communication.

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FACULTY EXPERTISE

- Interpersonal & Family Communication
- Intercultural Communication
- Identity
- Mass Media
- Health Communication
- Social Media
- Advocacy and Organizing
- Gender, Race, and Class
- Strategic Communication

LEARN MORE HERE!

Visit our Linktree to find easy links to program information, course offerings, assistantship applications, and to request more information!

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WANT MORE INFO?

DR. JUSTIN RUDNICK

Graduate Studies Coordinator

justin.rudnick@mnsu.edu

507-389-5534

MINNESOTA STATE

Minnesota State University, Mankato, A member of Minnesota State

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 csca.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)

March 30-April 3, 2022
Madison, WI

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

April 3-6, 2024
Grand Rapids, MI

April 1-6, 2025
Cincinnati, OH

April 14-19, 2026
Minneapolis, MN

April 7-11, 2027
Madison, WI

April 5-8, 2028
Grand Rapids, MI

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.

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.

THU

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

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.

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.

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: Dorthy 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 Dorthy 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.

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.

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 Traylor, 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.

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
"Translating Risk During a Rural Water Crisis: An IDEA Model Analysis" 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.

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 Isbister, 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 Wolven, 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

THU

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 (Dakota)

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 csca.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

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

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!

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.

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.

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
MILWAUKEE

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.

1401 Thursday 12:30 PM to 1:45 PM CDT Greenway F

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!

1402 Thursday 12:30 PM to 1:45 PM CDT Greenway E

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.

BGSU School of Media and Communication
BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY

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.

NDSU NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

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!

UCF

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!

UCF | Nicholson School of Communication and Media
UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

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!

1404 Thursday 12:30 PM to 1:45 PM CDT Skyway AB

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 Kampbell, 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!

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

1406 Thursday 12:30 PM to 1:45 PM CDT Greenway I

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.

BGSU School of Media and Communication BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY

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; Braidyn 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.

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 Domena - 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).

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

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.

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN MILWAUKEE

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

"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.

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 Traylor, 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:
Jonathen 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.

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.

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.

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
COMMUNICATION
KOKOMO

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!

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
MILWAUKEE

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

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.

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.

BGSU School of Media and Communication
BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY

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 Domena - 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.

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.

1607 Thursday 3:30 PM to 4:45 PM CDT Greenway I

Humans and Their Environs: 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.

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 Schrodt, 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.

TCU BOB SCHIEFFER COLLEGE of COMMUNICATION Communication Studies

The Department of Communication Studies at Texas Christian University congratulates Paul Schrodt 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!

THU

1609 Thursday 3:30 PM to 4:45 PM CDT Greenway G

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 Kukuwaa 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!

University of Maryland 1856 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!

THU

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. Riforgiate, 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.

1612 Thursday 3:30 PM to 4:45 PM CDT Greenway F

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:
Jonathen 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.

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN MILWAUKEE

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.

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.

BGSU School of Media and Communication
BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY

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!

PennState Behrend

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!

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.

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.

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.

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN MILWAUKEE

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?

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA
SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION

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	Prairie Kitchen & Bar

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.

Thursday 7:00 PM CDT

1800	Thursday 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM CDT	Offsite (Dakota)

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 csca.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

"Laʻikū Kūʻē: 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!

FRI

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. Riforgiate, 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
"'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 Wolven, 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.

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.

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-I 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 (Faculty Mentor: Dr. Christina S. Beck)

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.

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.

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: Allison 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 Charllote 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.

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.

UCF | Nicholson School of Communication and Media
UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

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!

UCF

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!

UCF

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!

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.

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

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 Snidarich, 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?

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.

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 Inclusive Scholarship Paper Award from the Intercultural Communication Interest Group!

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN MILWAUKEE

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!

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND 1856 DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION

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.

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.

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

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.

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)satistifaction with *Shadowhunters*" Zoe Coler, University of Minnesota Twin Cities (Faculty Mentor: Dr. Kristin Fitzsimmons)
"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.

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!

The Department of Communication and Media Studies at
Northeastern State University congratulates
Kyle R. Vareberg for receiving the
Pearson and Nelson Outstanding New Teacher Award
from the Central States Communication 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!

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

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.

MINNEAPOLIS COLLEGE®

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.

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.

2511	Friday 3:00 PM to 4:15 PM CDT	Greenway B

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

2512	Friday 3:00 PM to 4:15 PM CDT	Lakeshore A

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.

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
"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.

UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO

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 *I 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.

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN MILWAUKEE

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!

OHIO UNIVERSITY | Scripps College of Communication School of Communication Studies

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

SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION Illinois State University

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!

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

UCF | Nicholson School of Communication and Media
UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

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!

FRI

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.

2610	Friday 4:30 PM to 5:45 PM CDT	Greenway C

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

Sponsor: Basic Course Interest Group
Chair: Caroline Waldbuesser, 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!

2611	Friday 4:30 PM to 5:45 PM CDT	Skyway AB

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 Wolven, 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.

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 (Faculty Mentor: Dr. Rachel Davidson)
"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

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	Prairie Kitchen & Bar

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

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

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 Ibnun 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.

BALL STATE UNIVERSITY
Department of Communication Studies

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.

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
:
"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

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 Isbister, 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

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.

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.

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.

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 Hughlett, 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.

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. Riforgiate, 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. Riforgiate 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 Isbister, 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.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION
THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

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!

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION
THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

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!

OHIO UNIVERSITY | Scripps College of Communication
School of Communication Studies

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!

SAT

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!

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; Linsay 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.

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 Schrodt, 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

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

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 Mikkelson, 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.

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 Balaram, 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 Waldbuesser, 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 Odufuwa, 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.

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: Md. Sumon Ali, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

"*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.

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
Linsay 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.

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.

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.

OHIO UNIVERSITY | 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!

OHIO UNIVERSITY | 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!

TCU 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!

SAT

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.

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.

MARSHALL
COMMUNICATION STUDIES

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.

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 Traylor, 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

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" Katryst 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!

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.

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.

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 Charllote 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 Isbister, 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.

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; Samentha 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.

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 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!

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.

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 Kampbell, 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.

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 Ogemdi 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 Nentoola, 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.

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.

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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 Prairie Kitchen & Bar

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 Prairie Kitchen & Bar

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

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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

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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

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Lakeshore B
Lakeshore C
Nicollet Ballroom
Nicollet Registration
Prairie Kitchen & Bar

SECOND LEVEL

Greenway A
Greenway B
Greenway C
Greenway D
Greenway E
Greenway F
Greenway G
Greenway H
Hiawatha (Lactation Room)
Mirage
Minnehaha
Northstar Ballroom
Regency
Skyway AB
St. Croix

FOURTH LEVEL

Executive Boardroom

MAIN LEVEL

HYATT EXHIBIT HALL
EXHIBIT HALL PROMENADE
A-3
B-2
C-2
D-3
A-2
NICOLLET BALLROOM
D-2
A-1
B-1
C-1
D-1
GRANT ROOM
ALCOVE A
ALCOVE D
LORING ROOM
PREFUNCTION
RESTROOMS
ELE VAT ORS
LAKESHORE C
LAKESHORE B
LAKESHORE A
FRONT DESK
MARKE T
RESTROOMS
RESTROOMS
PRAIRIE KITCHEN & BAR
LOBBY
NICOLLET PROMENADE
RESTROOMS
RESTROOMS
NICOLLET PROMENADE ENTRANCE
CONFERENCE ELEVATORS (FLOORS 1-6)
MAIN ENTRANCE
PARKING RAMP ENTRANCE
NICOLLET MALL

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

CSCA 2026
TRANSLATE!