



SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY CARBONDALE

SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION  
STUDIES

# KUDOS AND CELEBRATIONS

## Nailing It!

- Dr. Pensoneau-Conway taught an intensive course at the University of Wroclaw in Poland on "Communicating Disability: A Socio-Cultural Approach."
- Dr. Pensoneau-Conway has been promoted to full professor, effective July 1.
- Jessie Paxton had two students participate in the Speaker's Forum—congratulations to Sabrina Jordan and Lillian Messina and to Jessie for being a great teacher.
- Mario Sanders was awarded a Dissertation Research Award for next academic year.
- Reza Shirmarz had his paper "Lines of Resistance: Iranian Political Cartooning, Censorship, and Subversion since 1903," published in the peer-reviewed Journal of Comics and Culture. The paper can be found here: <https://press.pace.edu/the-journal-of-comics-and-culture/>.
- Reza Shirmarz's long term project Palgrave Dictionary of Public Speaking was positively received by Palgrave Macmillan's peer reviewers and is now moving forward in the publication process. The dictionary is more than 600 pages long and draws on more than 220 books on public speaking in writing it so far. Professor Randall Auxier, who is serving as co-editor, will also write an introduction to the volume.
- Reza Shirmarz also had his paper "The Disfigurement of Memory: Censoring Tennessee Williams' The Glass Menagerie in Post-Revolutionary Iran," accepted for presentation at the 2026 Society for Textual Scholarship conference. He will attend and present at the conference in New York City in early June.
- Sulav Shakya gave a talk on semiotics as part of the Graduate Philosophy Union's annual Symposium.

- Dr. T. Brown worked with local actor Julia Stemper on adapting the graphic novel *Becoming/Unbecoming* by Una to the stage.
- Dr. Jonny Gray presented on five panels at Southern States Communication Association, including sharing a portion of “Lovely as a Tree” and a preview of “AI Robot,” which will be part of the 2026-2027 Kleinau Theatre season.
- Dr. Jonny Gray received the Southern States Performance Scholar of the Year award at SCA
- Congratulations to India Hagen-Gates and Sean Maulding for successfully defended their dissertations.

## Spring Awards Ceremony

- Graduate Newcomer(s) Award-Cast of *At a Crossroads* (minus M Kamara as they were not new to the Kleinau stage)
- Undergraduate Newcomer Award-Jaz Jones
- Artistic achievement-Mario Sanders
- Excellence across the season award-Jessie Paxton
- Marion Kleinau Adaptation Award-Dr. T Brown
- Marion Kleinau Achievement Award-Dr. T Brown
- John T. Warren memorial Scholarship-Madison Marshall

## Central States Communication Association

Congratulations to all individuals who presented at this year’s annual CSCA conference. Participants from SIUC include:

### Irene Lutterodt

- o Presentation: Talk the Walk: Translating Organizational Values into Employee Experiences
- o Presentation: “Whose Womb, Whose Voices: Navigating Autonomy, Shame, and Bioethics in Digital Discourse on Surrogacy in Africa”
- o “Why Will She Lead a Team? The Power of Strategic Organizational Communication in Elevating Women into Leadership Roles”
- o Presentation: Facts or Fallacies: Translating the Trust in Creator Voices that Shape International Student Enrollment in U.S. Higher Education

### **Sean Maulding**

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

### **Janifar Kamal Nova**

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

o Colonial Legacies, Contemporary Struggles:

Indigenous Communication, Identity, and Resistance in Bangladesh

oG.I.F.T. Session #3 "Scrolling Through Resistance: TikTok as a Tool for Feminist Pedagogy"

oPresentation: Superstitions, Taboos, and Digital Risk: Women's Health in Bangladesh

### **Madison Marshall**

o Presentation: "Redefining the Collegiate Insider (Top Paper, Top Student Paper)"

o Presentation: "Girl dads: Constructing a critical standpoint"

o Presentation: "Constituting the Confederacy: A constitutive rhetorical analysis of the Confederate identity"

### **Jessica Paxton**

o Presentation: "For Sweet Molly Malone: An Autoethnographic Poetry Performance"

### **Christina Ivey**

o Presentation: Translating Historical Connections Through Performance

o Presentation: Photo-Voice: Students Translating Course Concepts in Their Everyday Life

oPresentation: Translating Pedagogical Expectations Across Context: An Autoethnographic Account of Pedagogies of the In-Between

### **Sandy Pensoneau-Conway**

oPresentation: Facts or Fallacies: Translating the Trust in Creator Voices that Shape International Students' Enrollment in U.S. Higher Education

### **Nilanjan Bardhan**

o Presentation: "Translating Theory for Enhancing Praxis: Connecting Intercultural Communication and Leadership Scholarship" (also Chair)

### **Craig L. Engstrom**

o Presentation: "Bloat and Clarity: Rhetorical Arrangement and its Influence on Analyst Q&A"

### **Dustin Greenwalt**

o Presentation: "Obama Era Food Blogs' Stylizations of White Consumerist Femininity"

## **Sakshi Bhati**

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

o Presentation: Strategic Public Relations at the Crossroad

## **Rebecca Lee and Craig L. Engstrom**

o Presentation: "Assessing the Efficacy of LinkedIn Learning Modules for University Civil Service Employees and Graduate Assistants"

A dark purple rectangular banner with two white spotlights shining from the top corners towards the center. The text "In the Spotlight" is written in a large, bold, black serif font in the center.

# In the Spotlight

April 23-25

## **Becoming Unbecoming**

Written and Illustrated by Una

Performed by Julia Stemper

Adapted and Directed by T Brown

Becoming Unbecoming is an adaptation of a graphic novel about an English woman's experience surviving sexual assault. The novel, written and illustrated by Una, is a gorgeous and grueling depiction of the sexism of the times and how it presented itself in Una's lived experience. The production emphasizes distinctive characteristics of the graphic novel genre, allowing the performer to bring her body and words into dialogue with music and images.

Mature Themes

May 2

## **Performance Course Spotlight**

Undergraduate and graduate students in performance courses present their best work, as selected by instructors.

May 4

## **"Drones, Puppies, and Mecha Pilots: Erotic Styles beyond Cisness."**

Dr. Szpilka from SWPS University in Warsaw, Poland, gave a talk titled "Drones, Puppies, and Mecha Pilots: Erotic Styles beyond Cisness." The talk analyzed a number of contemporary, trans feminine erotic styles that are flourishing online. Drone kink, puppygirls, mechsplotation—all those names denote a specifically trans feminine erotic aesthetics, deeply embedded in the history of alternative pornographic productions, while also speaking to the particularities of trans desire.



# On the Horizon

- Summer Session begins Monday, June 8, 2026.
- Fall Semester begins Aug. 17, 2026.



Photo Caption: Above is a photo collage of pictures of individuals in the Communication Studies Department at various functions including CSCA and the department's award's ceremony.