



SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF
COMMUNICATION STUDIES

APRIL 2025
VOL.4

K&C Newsletter



APRIL SPOTLIGHT



We are thrilled to congratulate **Jonny Gray** on receiving the **prestigious Lindell W. Sturgis Award!**

This award, established in 1979 by the family of the late Lindell W. Sturgis of Metropolis, Illinois, honors a current SIU Carbondale employee who has made outstanding contributions to the community, area, state, or nation. It stands as one of the university's highest recognitions for service beyond the walls of academia.

Jonny's dedication to community involvement, leadership, and service perfectly embodies the spirit of this award. His work not only strengthens our campus but also impacts the broader community in meaningful and lasting ways.

We are incredibly proud to celebrate Jonny's well-deserved recognition and the lasting difference he continues to make!



Dr. Jonny Gray with SIU Chancellor, Austin Lane

PUBLICATIONS AND FORTHCOMING WORK



Dustin A. Greenwalt published “Gestures towards the Abolition Ecology Horizon: Notes on the (Unfinished) Stop Cop City Movement’s Coalitional and Worldmaking Rhetorics” in *Rhetoric, Politics & Culture* (Vol. 3, No. 1, 2023, pp. 59–80). Although postdated to 2023, the article was officially released in print this month. Congratulations, Dustin!

Christina Ivey’s "Transition in Tooth and Claw: Zoostylistics and Autoethnography" will appear in an upcoming edition of the *Journal of Autoethnography*. We are excited to see this important work published!

SUCCESSFUL DEFENSE!



We are delighted to celebrate **Dr. Janine Armstrong**, who has successfully defended her dissertation titled "**Communicating Ourselves: Erasure and Counter Discourse of Queer Christians of Color.**" Dr. Armstrong's research offers an important and timely contribution to the field of communication studies, exploring how marginalized voices resist, reclaim, and reimagine their identities through counter-discourses. Her work sheds light on the complex intersections of faith, identity, and belonging and gives voice to a community often overlooked in mainstream narratives.

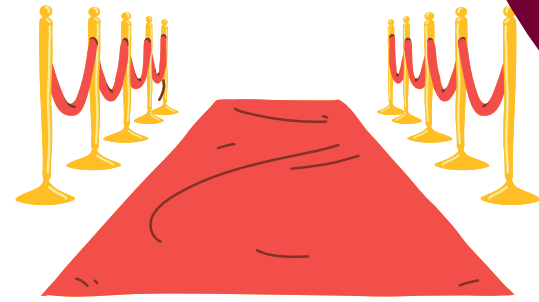
Pictured here with advisor Dr. Sandy Pensoneau-Conway and committee members Dr. Craig Engstrom, Dr. Christina Ivey, and Dr. Al Frankowski.



Congratulations to **Dr. Caleb McKinley-Portee** for successfully defending his dissertation, "**Beyond Slave Ships and the Mothership: Black Performance Aesthetics that have led to Afrofuturism and Beyond**"!!! We are so very proud of him and can't wait to see what he will do next.

Pictured here with advisor Dr. Craig Gingrich-Philbrook, and committee members Dr. Jonny Gray, Dr. Rebecca Anderson, Dr. Joseph Brown, and Dr. Al Frankowski

EVENTS AND PRESENTATIONS



SPEAKERS' FORUM 2025

Dr. Christina Ivey and Frankie Kimmell successfully organized this semester's Speakers Forum event. Congratulations to our student speakers — **Abraham Robledo, Quincy Washington, Mason Lipe, Fern Lyon, and Macey Schuppel** for their outstanding participation.

CAM X AI: INNOVATING CREATIVE SYMPOSIUM FLASH TALKS

Janifar Nova presented at Southern Illinois University Carbondale's symposium on how she incorporates AI into the design of teaching activities in CMST 101.



FILM TALK AT SOUTH PUGET SOUND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

On April 30, **Nilanjana Bardhan** served as a film host and delivered a talk titled "Slumdog Millionaire Meets 'India Shining': The Complexities and Contradictions of Identities in Diaspora" at the invitation of her former doctoral advisee, Dr. Bin Zhang. Congratulations, Dr. Bardhan!

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION



PRISM AWARD

A hearty congratulations to **Sandy Pensoneau-Conway**, who received the **Prism Award** from the Paulette Curkin Pride Resource Center for outstanding advocacy for LGBTQ+ individuals and communities. This well-deserved honor recognizes Sandy's unwavering commitment to equity, inclusion, and justice both on and off campus!



GPSC DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD 2025

Kudos to **Irene Lutterodt**, who received the **GPSC Outstanding Service Award for 2025** in recognition of her exceptional contributions to the graduate student community. Irene's dedication to service, leadership, and fostering a supportive environment has made a lasting impact on campus.



SUCCESSFUL RESEARCH REPORT DEFENSE AND GPSC TEACHING AWARD

We are proud to celebrate **Folakemi Bakare** for successfully defending her research report and receiving the **GPSC Teaching Award 2025**.

Her outstanding scholarship and dedication to excellence in the classroom have made a lasting impact. These achievements reflect her commitment to both academic research and student success. Congratulations, Folakemi, on this well-deserved recognition!



AWARDS AND RECOGNITION



RSO ADVISOR OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to **Sakshi Bhati** for being named **RSO Advisor of the Year**! This recognition honors her outstanding dedication, leadership, and support to student organizations at SIU. We are proud of this achievement!



KHALIL JOHNSON RECEIVES CONNECTOR AWARD

Congratulations to Senior **Khalil Johnson**, who received the **Connector Award from the SIU Alumni Association**! This award recognizes Khalil's incredible ability to bring people together, make others feel heard and valued, and foster a strong sense of community. We are so proud of the positive impact he continues to make on campus.



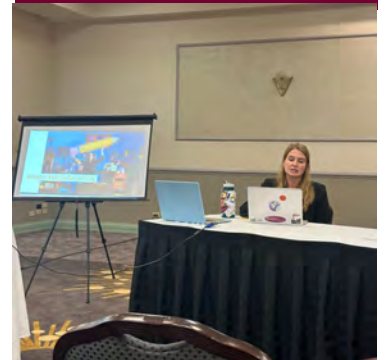
MARGARET KRUPP HONORS SAKSHI BHATI

At the recent University Honors Senior Recognition Banquet, **Margaret Krupp**, senior and president of PRSSA, honored her chosen outstanding faculty member, **Dr. Sakshi Bhati**, in recognition of her mentorship, guidance, and unwavering support.

SIU CMST @ CSCA

Our COMMunity brought the energy to this year's CSCA Conference in Cincinnati! We Can't wait to do it all again next year in Minneapolis!

20
25
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Upcoming Event

Tesserae
Southern Illinois Queer+ Chorus
PRESENTS
**SONGS BENEATH
A RAINBOW'S
LOVELY ARCH**

FEATURING WORKS
EXCLUSIVELY BY QUEER AND ALLY COMPOSERS
INCLUDING
JEAN-BAPTISTE LULLY,
ABBIE BETINIS, COLE PORTER,
& BILLIE EILISH

MAY 4TH, 2025 - 5PM
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF CARBONDALE
FREE ADMISSION

DONATIONS GREATLY APPRECIATED
RAFFLE AND SILENT AUCTION AT 4:15 SPONSORED BY
RAINBOW CAFE LGBTQ CENTER

THIS PROGRAM IS PARTIALLY SUPPORTED BY A GRANT FROM ARTSPACE 304,
THE SOUTHERN ARTS FUND, THE ILLINOIS ARTS COUNCIL AGENCY AND THE WESLEY FOUNDATION

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SCOTT JOHNSON, CONDUCTOR; REBECCA NEWBURN, PIANIST;
TASHA MORWELL, COORDINATOR; LANEY MCCRARY, GRAPHIC DESIGNER

05/04/2025