



# K & C

# Newsletter

## CELEBRATING OUR COMMUNITY

In this brand-new year and a fresh semester, there's so much to look forward to! We are always excited to recognize the dedication, resilience, and hard work of our incredible faculty, students, and staff. Whether it's through research, presentations, well-earned personal achievements, or simply showing up and giving it your best, we're here to celebrate it all!

As we settle into the rhythm of another semester, let's embrace the challenges, chase new goals, and make the kind of memories that remind us why we do what we do. Here's to another season of growth, success, and community!



## GAME OF THE YEAR RECAP & 100TH EPISODE CELEBRATION!

Saluki Games celebrated their annual Game of the Year festivities last year with three podcasts, including the "100th Episode Spectacular" of the Saluki GamesCast. Additionally, we published Game of the Year lists from a variety of faculty and graduate students: Alicia Utecht, Jesse Snider, Christina Ivey, Scott Jarmon, O.J. Duncan, Kevin Mercer, Mario Sanders, and Justin Young.

Thank you to everyone who contributed. Want to see the full lists and catch up on the podcasts? Check them out [Here](#)

# Self-care tip of the month

Maintain relationships with friends, family, and colleagues who provide encouragement and understanding. A strong support network can offer perspective and emotional relief.

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## 1. Prospectus Defense

Kudos to **India Hagen-Gates**, who successfully defended her prospectus in December 2024! Your hard work and dedication are inspiring—congratulations on this milestone!



## 2. Dissertation Award

Congratulations to **Dr. Shelby Swafford**, recipient of the **Marie J. Robinson Dissertation Award** from the NCA Performance Studies Division at this past year's conference! Your contributions to the field continue to make an impact!



## 3. CSCA Acceptances

Kudos to our **faculty and graduate** students whose papers and panel presentations have been accepted for the upcoming Central States Communication Association (CSCA) conference in Cincinnati, Ohio! This recognition is a testament to the dedication, scholarship, and impact of our community.



siucmst



SIU school of communication studies



[siu comm studies](http://siucommstudies.com)

Congratulations to Dr. Sandy Pensoneau-Conway for delivering an insightful and timely talk to the Southern Illinois Learning in Retirement group, titled "Navigating Pronouns with Openness and Compassion."



Your commitment to creating spaces of understanding, inclusivity, and open dialogue is truly inspiring! Conversations like these help build a more compassionate and connected community, and we're so grateful for the work you do.

## EXCITING PUBLICATION ALERT!

A huge congratulations to Carli Álvarez and Dr. Sandy Pensoneau-Conway on the publication of their chapter, "Performing Female: Using Communication Accommodation Theory to Critically Interrogate Gender Identity Salience in Classroom Encounters."

Their work is now available in *Critical Interpersonal and Family Communication Pedagogy*, co-edited by CMST alumnus Dr. Mick Brewer. This is an incredible contribution to the field, and we're so proud to celebrate this achievement!

Be sure to check the [link to the book](#)

## THANK YOU SPOTLIGHT



### DR. REBECCA WALKER ANDERSON

We extend our deepest appreciation to our school director, Rebecca Walker Anderson, for her hard work, leadership, and dedication to our school. Your vision, integrity, and unwavering support continue to inspire and uplift our community. Thank you, Rebecca, for all you do!



### AIMEE DASHER

A huge thank you to Amiee Dasher for all her incredible assistance and support! We truly appreciate everything you do for our faculty, staff, and students. Your kindness, efficiency, and willingness to help make such a difference.

We're so grateful for you, Aimee!