

March 2026



SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY CARBONDALE

SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION
STUDIES

KUDOS AND CELEBRATIONS

Nailing It!



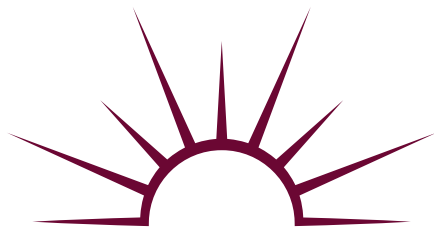
Central States Communication Association Edition: Top Papers

The following individuals received Top Paper recognition for their submissions to CSCA annual convention that will be held in Minneapolis April 14-19. Top papers are recognized for receiving the highest ratings from the peer review process and are an acknowledgment of academic excellence and research skill.

Madi Marshall received Top Student Paper in the Ethnicity, Race, International, and Class Concerns Caucus at CSCA

Sean Maulding received Top Debut Paper in the Performance Studies and Autoethnography Interest Group at CSCA

Dr. Sakshi Bhati received Top Paper in the Strategic and Applied Communication Group at CSCA



On the Horizon

Becoming Unbecoming

April 23-25, 7 p.m.

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.

In the Spotlight

Work/Shoot

Written and Performed by Mario Sanders

Co-Directed with Dr. T Brown

The world of professional wrestling is one that blurs the lines between fiction (the “work”) and reality (the “shoot”). While the work and shoot elements of professional wrestling are often conceived as antithetical to one another, they can be better understood as working in tandem. This performance utilizes both work and shoot elements to discuss masculinity and grief, while simultaneously using autoethnographic reflections on masculinity and grief to illuminate aspects of professional wrestling.

Saints, Witches, and Madwomen

Written and Performed by Dr. Christina L. Ivey

Directed by: Dr. Shelby Swafford

A historiography of women’s behaviors that were societally described as odd, problematic, and dangerous, this performance traces the historical connection between women labeled as “saints,” “witches,” and “madwomen” while exploring the darker areas of family communication. Weaving story, poetry, theory, and history, this autoethnographic performance examines Ivey’s relationship with their mother. Mature Themes



Christina performing poetry over saints/witches/madwomen

Christina conversing with Older Christina (played by Maggie Degen)

Mario has his eyes closed and head turned. Photo credit to Scott Jarmon.



Mario sits with a younger version of himself



Christina lecturing over saints/witches/madwomen



Mario stands in the wrestling ring