



SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
**SCHOOL OF  
COMMUNICATION STUDIES**



KUDOS &  
CELEBRATIONS  
**Newsletter**  
New Mail !



# Magical March Moments!

**01** We're so proud to celebrate **Shelby Swafford, PhD**, who received the **Outstanding Book Chapter Award** from the Central States Communication Association. This is such an incredible recognition of her powerful voice and thoughtful scholarship. Congratulations, Shelby!

**02** A big congratulations to PhD Candidate **T. Brown**, who earned the **Top Student Paper Award** from the Performance Studies and Autoethnography Division of the **Central States Communication Association**. This is such a proud moment and a testament to the passion and depth they bring to their work. We're excited to see what's next!

## Editors Welcome Note

March has been such a busy and an exciting time in our community! From paper acceptances and top paper awards to recent publications and conference travels, it's been a joy to see the hard work, creativity, and dedication of our students and faculty recognized and celebrated. Every step counts, whether it is showing up to present, getting published, or simply being in the room where ideas are exchanged, and we are so proud of how our **COMMunity** continues to represent us so well.

Stick and stay as we bring you exciting news happening in our ever-vibrant community!





# PRSSA-SIUC

## Shines at East Central District Conference

Kudos to our **PRSSA students** who represented Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, at the **East Central District PRSSA Conference in Paducah, Kentucky**. Hosted by **Murray State University**, the event gave students the chance to connect with professionals, collaborate with peers, and explore fresh perspectives in the world of public relations. Thank you to faculty advisor **Sakshi Bhati, PhD** and a shout-out to students **Makenzie Gaines, Margaret Krupp, Ava Steffens, Addison Bean, Hailey Eiffert, and Irene Lutterodt** for showing up with excellence and enthusiasm. You continue to make us proud!



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: IRENE LUTTERODT, ADDISON BEAN, AVA STEFFENS, MARGARET KRUPP, HAILEY EIFFERT, MACKENZIE GAINES AND DR. SAKSHI BHATI

## Publication Alert

Congratulations to Faculty, **Dustin Greenwalt** on his recent publication titled "Optimism" in the forthcoming edited volume, *Ecological Feelings: A Rhetorical Compendium*, edited by Joshua Trey Barnett and published by Michigan State University Press (2025). 209–228.

## Conference Presentation

Kudos to **Juniper Blue**, whose performance piece *Echo's Repertoire* has been accepted for presentation at the Science Fiction Research Association Conference this summer. Juniper will be featured on a panel, and we can't wait to see his work shine on this national stage.

## Outstanding Teaching and Research Excellence

Congratulations to **Monalisa Lamptey**, who received the **Cooper Award (MA)** for **outstanding graduate student teaching**. This award, named in honor of former CSCA President Pamela J. Cooper, is given to one master's and one doctoral teaching assistant each year in recognition of excellence in the classroom. Monalisa also **successfully defended** her research report titled "International Students, Cultural Adaptation: African Students Experiences at SIUC." Way to go on your double accomplishment!

## Communication in Action

Kudos to faculty **Josh Houston** for volunteering at the Mock Arena Speed Interview Sessions, an event organized by SIU Career Development. His support helped students gain real-time practice and confidence in their job interviewing skills. Way to go, **Josh** It's always a joy to pour into the next generation of leaders.



**DR. PATRICK SEICK**

## Celebrating Creative Expression

Congratulations to **Folakemi Bakare**, whose poems have been accepted for publication. The poems titled "I Call You Mine and Missing You" will be published in the upcoming issue of the SIU Grassroots Literary & Art Magazine. It's such a joy to see our community's creative voices being uplifted and celebrated.

## Forthcoming Publication

We're proud to share that PhD student **Reza Shirmarz** has a forthcoming piece titled "Censorship and the Disfigurement of Memory" which has been accepted and is currently under peer review with the American Journal of Drama and Theatre (JADT). Congratulations Reza!

## New Dr.'s Alert!

- 01** Kudos to **Dr. Patrick Seick**, who successfully defended his dissertation titled "Disability and Personhood on Screens: An Autoethnographic Analysis of Million Dollar Baby, Gattaca, and Sound of Metal. Wishing you all the best in your endeavors!
- 02** Congratulations to **Dr. A.B. Art**, who also successfully defended her groundbreaking dissertation titled "Slant: Leaning into the Aesthetic Possibilities of Performative Writing. Way to go A.B.



**FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: DR. CRAIG GINGRICH-PHILBROOK, DR. JONNY GRAY, DR. A.B. ART, DR. REBECCA ANDERSON, AND DR. SANDY PENSONEAU-CONWAY**