



SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY CARBONDALE

SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION
STUDIES

KUDOS AND CELEBRATIONS

Nailing It!

On Oct. 7, Dr. Nilanjana Bardhan had the pleasure of virtually interacting with students in an international public relations class at Massey University, Wellington, NZ, which is being taught by Dr. Mimi Hodis, a CMST alum and former doctoral advisee of Dr. Bardhan. She spoke about public relations in the U.S. and shared insights from her recent co-authored book *The Role of Leadership in Building Inclusive Diversity in Public Relations*.

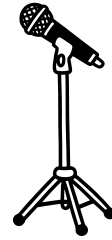
On Oct. 22, Jonny Gray gave a talk, "More than Visibility: Community Service and Engagement for LGBTQ+ Southern Illinois," at Rend Lake College. Gray also coordinated the visit of Dr. Desiree Rowe, who offered a workshop on qualitative research and her performance, "Wave 1.12.22," the first weekend of October. The visit was sponsored by the Fine Arts Activity Fee.

Frankie Kimmell's paper "From Public Speaking to Public Playing: Envisioning Drag Pedagogy in Introductory Communication Courses," was awarded Top Student Paper from the Basic Course Division at NCA.

Janifar Nova, Jajuan Blankenship, and SIU alumni Folakemi Bakare's paper "Intercultural Training Module for Increasing Interaction and Understanding between Domestic and International Students" was awarded as a Top Paper in the Research and Applications in Training and Development Division.

Lindy Wagner successfully defended her dissertation proposal on September 26. Her research is titled "The 'It' Factor: On Being a Highly Skilled Intercultural Communication Trainer." Her doctoral advisor is Dr. Nilanjana Bardhan, and her dissertation committee members are Drs. Rebecca Anderson, Saran Donahoo, Craig Engstrom and Sandy Pensoneau-Conway. While working on her dissertation, Lindy is working full time as Assistant Vice Chancellor for Inclusive Excellence, Education and Development at SIUE.

Speakers Forum



The Speakers Forum Fall 2025 announced the five finalists who will perform at Guyon Auditorium Nov. 6 at 7 p.m. This semester's theme is The Power of Influence: Who (or What) Shapes Us.

Finalists are:

Eric Guijon (he/him) – 2nd Year Psychology Major from Cobden, Illinois.
“The Foundation of Influence: Nature vs. Nurture.”

Christopher (Chris) DePalma (he/him) – Freshman, Undecided Major from St. Louis, Missouri.
“Parasocial Relationships: Influence Without Interaction.”

Kaleb Rehmer (he/him) – Senior Communication Major, Music Minor from Chester, Illinois.
“How TTRPGs Have Influenced Our Interpersonal Relationships.”

Samuel McNeilly (he/him) – 2nd Year, Double Major in History and Political Science from Villa Park, Illinois.
“The Heroes That Shape Us.”

Uzma Afsar (she/her) – Senior Architecture Major from Hyderabad, India.
“The Architecture of Choice: How Physical and Digital Spaces Decide for Us.”

In the Spotlight

"Shelby Swafford and Christina Ivey co-directed Paula Horton's *"Autism in Real Life"* for the Kleinau Theatre with Jonny Gray as Technical Director."



“*At a Crossroads*,” compiled and Directed by Dr. Shelby Swafford and devised with the Cast, will take the stage Nov. 13-15 at 7p.m.

On the Horizon