Program Content

Wednesday April 08, 2026

11:00 AM

008007   11:00 AM to 12:00 PM   Waterfront Room

Site Selection Committee Business Meeting

Chair: Jordan T. Atkinson, University of Kansas
Presenters:
  Stacy Smulowitz, University of Scranton
  Jessica Papajcik, Stark State College
  Colin Kearney, Hampton University
  Jeanne Persuit, UNC Wilmington
  Jennifer Waldeck, University of Georgia

The Convention Site Selection Committee is responsible for investigating potential sites for Association conventions and making appropriate recommendations concerning convention site selections to the Executive Council.

12:00 PM

010021   12:00 PM to 6:00 PM   Admiral Entry

Convention Registration

As you arrive at the convention, be sure to stop by registration to obtain your name tag, printed program, etc. Meghan will be there daily to welcome you and get you all set for a great experience!

12:15 PM

011007   12:15 PM to 1:15 PM   Waterfront Room

Finance Committee Business Meeting I

Chair: Jordan T. Atkinson, University of Kansas
Presenters:
  Stacy Smulowitz, University of Scranton
  Jessica Papajcik, Stark State College
  Colin Kearney, Hampton University
  Jeanne Persuit, UNC Wilmington
  Hannah Ball, Chapman University
  Timothy J. Brown, Eastern University
  Sara LaBelle, Chapman University
  Angela L. Putman, Penn State Brandywine

The Finance Committee is responsible for reviewing the financial health of the Association, evaluating proposals coming before the Executive Council which may have an economic impact on the Association, and making appropriate recommendations concerning financial issues to the Executive Council.

1:30 PM

013007   1:30 PM to 2:30 PM   Waterfront Room

Publications Committee Business Meeting

Chair: Jordan T. Atkinson, University of Kansas
Presenters:
  Colin Kearney, Hampton University
  Stacy Smulowitz, University of Scranton
  Hannah Ball, Chapman University
  Zac Johnson, California State University, Fullerton
  Dave Keating, University of New Mexico
  Sara LaBelle, Chapman University
  Angela L. Putman, Penn State Brandywine
  Inci Özüm Sayrak, Duquesne University
  Jennifer Waldeck, University of Georgia

The Publications Committee is responsible for the general supervision of all publications of the Association, evaluating proposals coming before the Executive Council which may impact the Association's publications, and making appropriate recommendations concerning publication issues and nominations for editorial positions to the Executive Council.

2:45 PM

015007   2:45 PM to 3:45 PM   Waterfront Room

Membership Committee

Chair: Jordan T. Atkinson, University of Kansas
Presenters:
  Stacy Smulowitz, University of Scranton
  Jessica Papajcik, Stark State College
  Colin Kearney, Hampton University
  Jeanne Persuit, UNC Wilmington
  Rayna Batool, Ohio University
  Zachary Carr, University at Buffalo (SUNY)
  Abbe Depretis, Carnegie Mellon University
  Christina Ferraz, University of Pittsburgh
  Elizabeth A. Johnson-Young, University of Mary Washington
  Dan Strasser, Rowan University
  Claude E Taylor, Middlesex College

The Membership Committee will meet to review current membership trends and discuss strategies for growing and sustaining ECA's membership across diverse institutional types and career stages. The committee focuses on developing a coordinated membership plan, including outreach to educational institutions in the region to increase awareness of and participation in the annual convention. Members also discuss ways to support student and contingent faculty engagement and consider recommendations related to membership structure and fees for presentation to the Executive Council.

4:00 PM

017007   4:00 PM to 6:00 PM   Waterfront Room

ECA Executive Council Business Meeting I

Chair: Jordan T. Atkinson, University of Kansas
Presenters:
  Stacy Smulowitz, University of Scranton
  Jessica Papajcik, Stark State College
  Colin Kearney, Hampton University
  Jeanne Persuit, UNC Wilmington
  Hannah Ball, Chapman University
  Dana Borzea, Grand Rapids Community College
  Erin Brummett, Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania - Bloomsburg
  Zachary Carr, University at Buffalo (SUNY)
  Jennifer Allen Catellier, Gannon University
  Abbe Depretis, Carnegie Mellon University
  Mary E. Donato, Central College
  Susan Drucker, Hofstra University
  Janie Harden Fritz, Duquesne University
  Elizabeth M. Glowacki, Northeastern University
  Robert J. Green, Commonwealth University Bloomsburg
  Noura Hajjaj, Duquesne University
  Meredith Marko Harrigan, State University of New York, Geneseo
  Alan D. Heisel, University of Missouri-St. Louis
  Austin D. Hestdalen, Purdue University Northwest
  Dave Keating, University of New Mexico
  Mary E. King, Bloomsburg University
  Sara LaBelle, Chapman University
  Ryan P. McCullough, West Liberty University
  Jessica Neu, Carlow University
  Trevor Parry-Giles, University of Maryland
  Angela L. Putman, Penn State Brandywine
  Christina E. Saindon, Queensborough Community College, CUNY
  Dan Strasser, Rowan University
  Doran Tucker, George Mason University
  Sally Vogl-Bauer, University of Southern Indiana

8:00 PM

021013   8:00 PM to 9:00 PM   Pointview
12 Step Meeting

This space is available nightly from 8:00-9:00 pm for 12 Step Meetings.

**Thursday
April 09, 2026**

7:00 AM

101023   7:00 AM to 8:00 AM   Lobby

Morning Emergence: A Walk, Jog, or Run through Pittsburgh

Start your day with energy and connection! Join Dr. Dan Strasser and fellow conference attendees for an invigorating morning run, jog, or walk around Pittsburgh. This casual and inclusive activity is for all fitness levels and offers an opportunity to network while enjoying the local scenery. Don't forget to bring your walking/running shoes and a smile!
If you are interested in participating, please email Dan at strasser@rowan.edu, or simply show up in the hotel lobby at 7:00 a.m.

7:30 AM

102021   7:30 AM to 5:30 PM   Admiral Entry

Convention Registration

As you arrive at the convention, be sure to stop by registration to obtain your name tag, printed program, etc. Meghan will be there daily to welcome you and get you all set for a great experience!

8:00 AM

103020   8:00 AM to 11:30 AM   Admiral / ECA Hub

ECA Hub Morning Coffee & Snack Café

Start your day at the ECA Hub! Enjoy complimentary coffee, teas, and breakfast bites to help ensure that you're ready for a productive conference. The ECA Hub offers a large attendee-only lounge with comfy furniture and café tables. The Hub also features our convention exhibitors, so be sure to stop in! Sponsored by the ECA.

8:30 AM

104001   8:30 AM to 9:45 AM   Elwood 1

Emerging Perceptions and Reactions of Trust, Identity, and Bias: Intersections of Politics, Religion, and Public Discourse

Sponsor: Political Communication
Chair: Raphael Birya, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill
Respondent: Ann-Marie Adams, Ithaca College
  "Divided Trust: The Role of Ideological Strength and Social Dominance Orientation in Shaping Trust in Alternative Media" Natalie Webster, Roanoke College; Alysse C Baker, Roanoke College
  "Individualist Ideology's Hijacking of the Western Evangelical Church" Kelsey Ingold, Duquesne University
  "Media Bias and DOGE Headlines: College Students' Perceptions of Framing and Accuracy" Janice Jones, Roanoke College; Alysse C Baker, Roanoke College

This panel explores perceptions of political power by examining how ideology shapes trust, identity, and interpretation across media and cultural systems. Collectively, the papers address three areas: the complexity of trust in alternative media, showing it cannot be treated as a uniform concept; the rise of individualism within the Western evangelical church and its implications for political power; and how media bias impacts college students' interpretations of DOGE headlines. Together, these studies examine the intersections of religion, politics, and public discourse, highlighting how social values and ideology shape perceptions and reactions across contexts.

104003   8:30 AM to 9:45 AM   Brighton 1

Investigating Organizational and Workplace Attitudes, Emotions, Perceptions, and Culture

Sponsor: Organizational Communication
Chair: Robin Smith Mathis, Kennesaw State University
  "Perceived Coworker Incompetence and the Mediating Role of Psychological Contract: Consequences for Workplace Attitudes, Communication, and Emotions" Michael Sollitto, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi
  "Am I Merely "Dressing Up and Playing Mass?" An Initial Examination of The Impostor Phenomenon and Job-Related Perceptions Among US Independent Catholic Clergy" Sean M. Horan, Fairfield University; Rebecca M. Chory, Frostburg State University; Jayme Mathias, Holy Family
  "Dancing Through Space and Place With Arts-Based Photography: Influence of Organizational Artifacts on Perceptions of Organizational Culture" Hayden Adams, Ball State University

These competitively selected papers examine how people experience and interpret their organizational environments across diverse settings. Together, these studies demonstrate how organizational members continuously interpret their environments through physical symbols, interpersonal relationships, and institutional dynamics, revealing the complex processes through which individuals develop commitment and navigate questions of belonging.

| 104005 | 8:30 AM to 9:45 AM | Brighton 3 |

Breaking the Silence: Emerging Perspectives in Health Communication

Sponsor: Health Communication
Chair: Shatakshi Semwal, Ohio University
  "Emerging Ethics in Maternal Health Communication: Reframing India's Public Health Campaigns (JSY and JSSK)" Shatakshi Semwal, Ohio University
  "Emerging From Stigma: The Role of Communication Apprehension and Anxiety in Addiction Counseling" Theodore A. Avtgis, Utah Tech University; Elizabeth M. Glowacki, Northeastern University; Veronica Nuzzolo, Empower Community Health
  "The Pandemic Ate My Homework: Examining the Impact of Long Covid Excuses on Credibility Among Peers" Laura Uzar, University of Connecticut; Stephen Stifano, University of Connecticut
  ""I Am Already Half Dead", Reconceptualizing HIV; A Step Towards Normalizing HIV Communication, Education and Awareness" Roshni Ashiq, Ohio University; Athar Memon, Ohio University

The papers in this session explore multiple perspectives in health communication. Specifically, authors explore anxiety and apprehension in addiction counseling, the reconceptualization of HIV to normalize dialogue and awareness, how Long Covid–related excuses influence students' perceived credibility, and how new paradigms of ethical communication are emerging in India's maternal health discourse.

| 104007 | 8:30 AM to 9:45 AM | Waterfront Room |

Institute of General Semantics Business Meeting

Sponsor: Institute of General Semantics (Affiliate Organization)
Chair: Thom Gencarelli, Manhattan University

The Institute of General Semantics Affiliate Group Business Meeting is open to all ECA members and individuals with an interest in general semantics. The meeting will provide a collaborative space for members to reflect on the past year's activities, share insights, and plan for future initiatives. The agenda includes officer reports, highlighting key accomplishments and updates from the past year, and a review of old business. Members will also discuss new business and upcoming opportunities. This meeting aims to foster community and strategic planning, ensuring the Interest Group continues to advance scholarly and practical contributions to the field.

| 104008 | 8:30 AM to 9:45 AM | Brighton 4 |

Emerging Perspectives on Communication and Conformity: Culture, Mental Health, and African American Cinema

Sponsor: Communication Traits
Chair: Alan D. Heisel, University of Missouri-St. Louis
Respondent: Lynda L. McCroskey, California State University, Long Beach
  "The Role of Culture and Personality in Conformity" Elly Do, University of Missouri-St. Louis
  "Cultural Conformity and Communicator Style: A Cross-Cultural Perspective on Mental Health through the Lens of Cultural Dimensions and Social Identity Theories" Jannatul Naime, University of Missouri-St. Louis
  "Portrayals and Betrayals: Conformity in African American Cinema" Felia Davenport, University of Missouri-St. Louis

Designed to address emerging perspectives on the role that communication plays in conformity, this discussion panel features presentations that will provide a foundation of extant literature as well as potential questions for future research. Topics include: What is the relationship between culture, personality, and communication? How is communicator style manifest in different conformity contexts? And, how do portrayals in African American cinema evidence and express conformity?

| 104009 | 8:30 AM to 9:45 AM | Edenburg |

Emerging Instructional Research

Sponsor: Instructional Communication
Chair: Zac Johnson, California State University, Fullerton
  "An Experimental Test of the Mere Presence Hypothesis on College Students: The Effects of Instructor Cell Phone Visibility in the Classroom" James P. Baker, Mission College; Cathlin Clark-Gordon, Seton Hill University
  "Supportive Communication Climates and Burnout Among Professional Graduate Students" Jordan T. Atkinson, University of Kansas
  "The Next Steps of Student Communication Research: Experiments, Sending, and the Potential for Theory Building" Zac Johnson, California State University, Fullerton
  "Voices of the Mountains: Communication Practices that Empower Rural, First-Generation Students" Allison Southard, Alice Lloyd College; Sara Pitts, Alice Lloyd College

As a field, instructional communication is poised to provide valuable insights into the landscape of teaching and learning. In addition to the historical hallmark of instructional communication, student perceptions of teacher behaviors and the impact of those behaviors on student outcomes, researchers have begun to explore a wealth of other issues. These include how students' interactions with one another shape their experiences, student perceptions of technology and its (in)appropriate use in the classroom, retention and persistence related issues, and the ways that communication in educational settings may change and shift over time (e.g., the course of a semester). This panel will discuss emerging instructional research programs and how they contribute to the broader canon of instructional research.

104010   8:30 AM to 9:45 AM   Haselton 1

Parasocial Connections, Affective Response, and the Dynamics of Digital Discourse

Sponsor: Media Communication
Chair: Hyeri Jung, Radford University
  "Awe Before Advocacy: Sequencing Effects in Sports Documentaries on Receptivity to Athlete Activism (Top Paper)" Qihao Ji, Marist University; Danyang Zhao, Western Illionis University; Wen Zhao, Fairfield University
  "#RIPQueenElizabeth: Parasocial Grief and Public Discourse on Social Media" Katie Olivia Thomas, Virginia Tech (faculty) & Liberty University (PhD student)
  "Issue Involvement and Crisis Emotions in Online Communities: A Content Analysis of Reddit Discussions on Kim Kardashian's EthereumMax Promotion" Sun-A Park, Robert Morris University
  "This was Absolutely Worse than 9-11 for me Personally: Parasocial Dissolution and Fan Resistance in Response to the Luka Dončić Trade" Alex Boesch, Ohio University

Bringing together research on parasocial relationships, affective publics, and online discourse, this session examines how parasocial ties shape public reactions and the dynamics of digital communication. The papers explore diverse mediated contexts, from social media mourning to fan pushback, influencer promotion, and sports activism, to show how emotional engagement with public figures drives conversation, controversy, and collective interpretation in online communities. The Top Paper for the Media Communication Interest Group is also featured in this session.

104011   8:30 AM to 9:45 AM   Haselton 2

Communication as Ethical Relation: Phenomenology, Mediation, and Responsibility

Sponsor: Communication Law and Ethics
Chair: Mary Mino, Penn State DuBois
Respondent: Erik Garrett, Duquesne University
  "Phenomenology of Environmental Justice Ethics" Noura Hajjaj, Duquesne University
  "Real and Imaginary: Phenomenology and Psychoanalysis in the Formation of Identity and Nationality" Garnet C. Butchart, Duquesne University
  "Social Media, Kayfabe, and Performance of the Really Real" Anthony Joseph Luchini, Duquesne University
  "The Hypothesis of Ethical and Unethical Boundaries According to Comparative Media Theory" Yaroub Al Obaidi, Duquesne University

This paper session examines communication as an ethical, phenomenological practice shaping mediation, identity, and responsibility. Drawing on phenomenology, psychoanalysis, media theory, and digital performance, the papers show communication as relational being that reveals self, community, power, and environment. The papers trace shifting moral horizons alongside technological change, reconceive authenticity as collaboratively produced in networked culture, and ground theory in environmental justice, emphasizing embodied vulnerability and the reconfiguration of relation, justice, and shared meaning across contemporary communicative contexts.

104012   8:30 AM to 9:45 AM   Elwood 2

Intentional Misunderstandings, (In)validation, and Loneliness: Examining Complexities in Interpersonal Communication

Sponsor: Interpersonal Communication
Chair: Erin Brummett, Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania - Bloomsburg
Respondent: Erin Brummett, Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania - Bloomsburg
  ""I Wanted to Buy my Favorite Lettuce:" Motives, Goals, and Plans Associated with Intentional Misunderstanding" Renee Edwards, Louisiana State University
  "Illuminating the Invisible and Unspeakable: Communicating Validation Through Casual Art, A Pilot Study" Meredith Marko Harrigan, State University of New York, Geneseo
  "The Attachment Lens: Understanding the Variations in the Communication of Social Support and Loneliness among International Students" Rhoda A Osei, Ohio University

The competitively selected papers on this panel highlight a variety of emerging issues and complexities within interpersonal interactions. Topics include motives and goals related to intentional misunderstanding, art-based research as a mechanism for understanding identity-related invalidation, and attachment as a lens for understanding the experience of loneliness among international students. The panel invites attendees to consider emerging concepts, methodologies, and theoretical applications in interpersonal communication.

104014   8:30 AM to 9:45 AM   Woodlawn

Applied Communication Business Meeting

Sponsor: Applied Communication
Chair: Mary E. Donato, Central College

The Applied Communication Interest Group Business Meeting is open to all ECA members and individuals with an interest in applied communication. The meeting will provide a collaborative space for members to reflect on the past year's activities, share insights, and plan for future initiatives. The agenda includes officer reports, highlighting key accomplishments and updates from the past year, and a review of old business. Members will also discuss new business and upcoming opportunities. This meeting aims to foster community and strategic planning, ensuring the Interest Group continues to advance scholarly and practical contributions to the field.

10:00 AM

107003   10:00 AM to 11:15 AM   Brighton 1

Narrative, Fantasy, and Cultural Imagination

Sponsor: James C. McCroskey and Virginia P. Richmond Undergraduate Scholars Conference
Chair: Katherine Elizabeth Armstrong, Missouri Valley College
Respondent: Jenny Warren, Collin College
  "Burkean Identification and "Epic: The Musical"" Jenalise Emily Muir, Penn State Schuylkill
  "Fantastical Worlds and Our Own: How Fantasy Reflects and Affects Reality" Malachy Jensen, State University of New York College at Geneseo
  "Narrative Theory as Seen in Kendrick Lamar's Super Bowl LIX Halftime Show" Lily Kay Kreiser, Penn State Schuylkill
  "The Rhetoric of Obsessive Nostalgia, A Response to Emergence: A Dramatistic Analysis of Noah Kahan's "New Perspective."" Nathanael Kolssak, Cedarville university, Lamda Pi Eta
  ""All Lights Turned Off Can be Turned On:" Constructing Belonging Through Burkean Identification and Creating Equipment for Living in Stick Season - Forever" Isabella Frederick, Penn State University - University Park

Papers in this panel examine how music, popular culture, and storytelling help people make sense of themselves and the world around them. Together, they show how narratives shape values, identity, and shared meaning in times of social and cultural change.

107004   10:00 AM to 11:15 AM   Brighton 2

Trustworthy or Toxic? The Complications of Digital Tech in Modern Social and Professional Life

Sponsor: Communication Technology
Chair: Cathlin Clark-Gordon, Seton Hill University
  "Cancel Culture on Social Media: An Examination of Public Sentiment on X in the Wake of Four Celebrities Facing Calls to Be Cancelled" Amanda D. Damiano, Marist University; Wenjing Xie, Marist College; Christina Brown, Marist University; Marisa Brown, Marist University; Rebecca Brown, Marist University; Leizl Carlo, Marist University; Noelle Cooke, Marist University; Anna Freeh, Marist University
  "Designing for All: Evaluating Generative AI's Ability to Create UDL-Aligned Syllabi in Introductory Communication Courses" Nicole M. Westrick, Morgan State University; Jennifer Hennessey-Booth, Eastern University
  "Digital Ghosting in Close Relationships: A Narrative Approach to Relational Loss" Namra Nadeem, Ohio University; Hira Nadeem, University of Delaware; Athar Memon, Ohio University
  "Let ChatGPT Help You Find a Job: Examining the Motivation Behind Job-Seekers' Use of AI" Siling Long, University at Albany, State University of New York

Our new digital communication technologies continue to mature, integrated into more and more of our ordinary live. This competitive paper panel discusses the adjustments, advantages, and agonies of how knowing everything all at once can be both boom and bust. Each paper respectively looks at daily professional and personal dynamics that have experienced considerable change depending on how easily or how rapidly the technologies have upset our previous ways of thinking and acting.

107005   10:00 AM to 11:15 AM   Brighton 3

Sylvia Wynter's Theory of Communicative Beings

Sponsor: Theory and Methodology
Chair: Ryan A D'Souza, Chatham University
Respondent: Paul E Johnson, University of Pittsburgh
  "Communication as a Struggle" Ryan A D'Souza, Chatham University
  "In Pursuit of Freedom: Theorizing Marronage, Colonial Silence/Violence, and Humanity" Anna Elise Lindner, Nazareth University
  "Rethinking Humanness in AI: Bios, Mythoi, and the Sociogenic Shaping of Intelligence" Thomas Richard Flynn, Slippery Rock University
  "Rhetorical Affect, Wynter, and Political Economic Change" Catherine Chaput, Fordham University

Sylvia Wynter, Professor Emerita of Spanish, Portuguese, African, and Afro-American Studies at Stanford University, proposes that humans/ we are hybridly bios/logos. She rejects biocentrism or biological idealism that reduces humans/us to an animal, on a continuum with purely biological and organic lifeforms. She emphasizes the human/our unique capacity for language and storytelling as the causes of our rupture from the purely biological realm. Wynter centralizes speech as human ontology, inviting communication scholars to engage with her ideas, posing the question, what is it to be human/us?

This panel approaches Sylvia Wynter as a communication theorist. Taking Robert Craig's helpful instructions for a fundamental theory of communication, i.e., it should be meta-discursive and practical, the panelists will discuss Wynter's expansive ideas with these two clauses. The aim is to explore the communicative underpinnings of Wynter's ideas.

107006	10:00 AM to 11:15 AM	Stoops Ferry

"Life Isn't Fair: The Sooner You Realize That, The Happier You'll Be": Communication, Unfairness, and the Emergence of Meaning

Sponsor: Critical/Cultural Communication
Chair: Sharon Storch, University of Nebraska at Omaha
  "Communication, Power, and Perceptions of Fairness" M.E. Yancosek Gamble, Fairmont State University
  "Envy, Unfairness, and Aggressive Responses" Miwa Ito, Governors State University
  "Fostering Fairness: Generational Narratives of Struggle in Appalachia" Aaron Burton, Concord University
  "How Algorithms shape the "Emergence of Meaning" during U.S. Elections: Social Media Addiction and Political Polarization" Lacey Fulton, PennWest University; Mark J Piwinsky, Indiana University of Pennsylvania; Danielle R. Mehlman-Brightwell, University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg
  "Interpreting Fairness: Faculty Sensemaking and Administrative Communication" Jennifer Walton, Radford University
  "Perceived Unfairness and the Communication of Loneliness: From Ostracism to Connection" Anita Gregory, Tiffin University
  "Uterine Fibroids: A Silent Crisis" Diana Mwikisa, University of Nebraska at Omaha

This panel brings together scholars from a variety of disciplines and approaches to explore the communicative construction of unfairness across social and cultural contexts. Participants will present research representing diverse communicative areas of contribution including organizational, health, political, interpersonal, media, and administration. Panelists and audience members will together consider how discourses of fairness, resilience, and contentment circulate and transform through communication.

107007	10:00 AM to 11:15 AM	Waterfront Room

Media Communication Business Meeting

Sponsor: Media Communication
Chair: Yiyi Yang, UNC Wilmington

The Media Communication Interest Group Business Meeting is open to all ECA members and individuals with an interest in media communication. The meeting will provide a collaborative space for members to reflect on the past year's activities, share insights, and plan for future initiatives. The agenda includes officer reports, highlighting key accomplishments and updates from the past year, and a review of old business. Members will also discuss new business and upcoming opportunities. This meeting aims to foster community and strategic planning, ensuring the Interest Group continues to advance scholarly and practical contributions to the field.

107008	10:00 AM to 11:15 AM	Brighton 4

General Semantics, AI, and Emergent Ways to Define and Conceptualize Meaning

Sponsor: Institute of General Semantics (Affiliate Organization)
Chair: Thom Gencarelli, Manhattan University
  "BookEnds, Revisited: The (Still) Changing Media Environment of American Classrooms" Peggy Cassidy, Adelphi University
  "From Agency to Semantic Responsibility: General Semantics, Communication Ethics, and the Moral Imperative of Meaning in the Age of AI" Tiffany Petricini, Penn State Erie--The Behrend College
  "GS, AI, and LLMs: Some Initial Reflections on Our Emerging Semantic Environment" Lance Strate, Fordham University
  "Human Intelligence, Artificial Generative Intelligence, and the Question of Time-binding into the Future" Thom Gencarelli, Manhattan University

A hallmark of the general semantics tradition is the study of how humans "time-bind": how we pass along and work to improve learning and knowledge across the generations and into our future. The papers on this panel examine and question the potential consequences of forms of AI on this project.

107011	10:00 AM to 11:15 AM	Haselton 2

CONNECT SESSION Communication Enhanced Curriculum: Leveraging Accreditation Requirements and General Education Expectations to Build Communication's Value

Chair: Christina E. Saindon, Queensborough Community College, CUNY
Presenters:
  Brent Allen Saindon, Mercy Univeristy
  Jay Zalinger, Mercy University

In this CONNECT session, presenters will share their experience building embedded communication experiences for students across multiple class types. The presentation will begin with a quick overview of Mercy University's General Education transformation, with specific emphasis on the role of communication skills in the interdisciplinary core. Presenters will talk through several examples of communication assignments embedded in general education and program-specific courses and will share ideas with the audience on how to develop innovative assignments with colleagues from other disciplines.

107012	10:00 AM to 11:15 AM	Elwood 2

Spreading the Love, and the Standards: Supporting our non-Communication Community College Colleagues in Presentation Design and Assessment

Sponsor: Community College

Chair: Dana Feightner, Wor-Wic Community College
  "Getting Tough with Soft Skills" Dara Phillips, Wor-Wic Community College
  "Speaking across the Extracurricular Curriculum: A Community College Model" Amy Oneal-Self, Wor-Wic Community College
  "Three Key Requirements for Better Presentations and Easy Assessment" Dana Feightner, Wor-Wic Community College

In this panel three communication colleagues will discuss their efforts to educate non-communication faculty through professional development sessions on designing and assessing speaking assignments in their classes. The panel will cover rationale and benefits; basic standards including time, delivery method, and visual aid design; share sample presentation assignments and rubrics for non-communication faculty; and discuss ways to create more speaking opportunities for students on campus.

107013   10:00 AM to 11:15 AM   Pointview
Bringing Difficult Conversations Home: Translation of Difficult Topics Outside the Classroom

Sponsor: Instructional Communication
Chair: Jessica Cherry, Fairfield University
Presenters:
  Jessica Cherry, Fairfield University
  Carly Densmore, University of Idaho
  Erin Sheila Craw, Fairfield University
  Chris Wernecke, University of North Carolina Wilmington

This round table brings together scholars with a variety of specialties and evaluates the impact of difficult conversations in the classroom. Various topics will be discussed, including how students may create dialogue around death and dying outside of the classroom. Discussion will focus on aging, and difficult conversations around challenging current events. Participants will share their experiences generating discussion on difficult topics with students, their resulting outcomes, and how they encourage communication about this topic outside of the classroom. Audience participation is highly encouraged.

107014   10:00 AM to 11:15 AM   Woodlawn
Organizational Communication Business Meeting

Sponsor: Organizational Communication
Chair: Robin Smith Mathis, Kennesaw State University

The Organizational Communication Interest Group Business Meeting is open to all ECA members and individuals with an interest in organizational communication. The meeting will provide a collaborative space for members to reflect on the past year's activities, share insights, and plan for future initiatives. The agenda includes officer reports, highlighting key accomplishments and updates from the past year, and a review of old business. Members will also discuss new business and upcoming opportunities. This meeting aims to foster community and strategic planning, ensuring the Interest Group continues to advance scholarly and practical contributions to the field.

107015   10:00 AM to 11:15 AM   Fountainview
Grounded Emergence: Finding Calm in Academic Chaos

Sponsor: First Vice President's Programming
Chair: Jessica Papajcik, Stark State College
Presenter:
  Natalie Sydorenko, Frequencies

In this session, participants will learn holistic techniques for managing academic stress, anxiety, and burnout. Participants will discuss and practice nervous system regulation methods including breathwork, mindfulness, movement, and tapping to activate the parasympathetic nervous system and reduce cortisol. We'll explore why meditation and nature are essential for our health as electrical beings and discuss practical ways to detach, ground, and restore energy depleted by constant mental work and technology. This session emphasizes a holistic perspective of rest and restoration as tantamount to sustaining our vibrancy and the quality of our work.

107018   10:00 AM to 11:15 AM   Grand Station 5
Emerging Tools for Emerging Students: Using AI Superheroes to Maximize Student Support and Unbounded Learning

Sponsor: Short Courses
Presenters:
  Elyse Gessler, Mitchell College
  Casey Michael Stratton, Salisbury University

Elevate the student experience and free up your time for meaningful connections! AI tools can serve as a co-instructor and success coach, lightening your workload and allowing you to focus on developing students' critical thinking skills. This session offers strategies and tools for partnering with AI to deepen learning and support. You'll interact with 10 Superhero AI Personas designed to tackle common student challenges, including: academic integrity, engagement, reading comprehension, metacognition, and critical thinking. Participants will choose 3 personas for hands-on activities and reflection. We will see AI tools in action and leave with a repertoire of teaching ideas, ethical considerations, and an expanded network. This session is the gift of all G.I.F.T.S., made possible by AI, that allows learning to emerge.
11:30 AM

109001   11:30 AM to 12:45 PM   Elwood 1

CONNECT SESSION: Allowing Students' Authentic Voices to Emerge from the Shadows in Academia

Chair: Christina E. Saindon, Queensborough Community College, CUNY
Presenters:
  Poppy Slocum, LaGuardia Community College, CUNY
  Carlos de Cuba, Kingsborough Community College

What do you do when a student says "aks" instead of "ask"? Do you correct them? Do you let it pass but wonder if you should have said something? This workshop focuses on the languages that we and our students use in the classroom and concrete strategies for how to effectively engage our students in discussions about language and power. We will also discuss how to do this without a) propagating colonial language ideology and b) sacrificing academic rigor. Participants will learn about linguistic discrimination, identify ways to move away from approaches that unfairly penalize speakers of "nonstandard" varieties of English, and come away with exercises and activities they can immediately apply in their classroom.

109003   11:30 AM to 12:45 PM   Brighton 1

Kenneth Burke at the Abyss: Emerging Perspectives for Dark Times

Sponsor: Kenneth Burke Society
Chair: Andri Kosasih, Duquesne University
Respondent: Cem Zeytinoglu, East Stroudsburg University
  "Burke in Contemporary Times" Rayna Batool, Ohio University
  "Peering Over the Edge: The Emergent Burke" Elvera Berry, Roberts Wesleyan College
  "Re-Reading Rhetoric of Hitler's Battle: Burke, Fanon, and Sociogenesis Today" Erik Garrett, Duquesne University
  "The Last Battle and the Technofeudal Text" Robert Foschia, Kutztown University
  "The Rhetoric of the Dark Enlightenment: A Burkean Analysis" Ryan P. McCullough, West Liberty University

Kenneth Burke's work consistently engaged with dark times - economic struggle, fascism, world war, nuclear threats, technological upheaval, and personal loss. All of these crises, and our use of language as we parse out the details of these situations, bring humans to the abyss - a place of despair. Yet Burke offered hope, providing communication and rhetorical scholars resources to understand rhetoric during troubled times through his analysis of language, symbols, and human drama. Today's economic, technological, and political crises mirror his era. Burke's work remains vital for navigating our current moment, and these papers reveal how his voice from the abyss's edge offers guidance.

109004   11:30 AM to 12:45 PM   Brighton 2

Emerging Intersections of Media Ecology: Gender, Culture, Health, and Reason

Sponsor: Media Ecology (Affiliate Organization)
Chair: Heather Marie Stassen, Daemen University
Respondent: Brent Malin, University of Pittsburgh
  "Intercultural Perspectives on the Media and Methods of Family Kin Keeping" Peggy Cassidy, Adelphi University
  "Mobile Media and Public Health Communication" Noura Hajjaj, Duquesne University
  "The Emergence of Irish Nationhood: Language, Culture and Communication" Grace Foley, Institute of General Semantics
  "The Emergency of Enlightenment: Reclaiming Human Reason in the Age of Artificial Intelligence" Laura Trujillo Liñán, Universidad Panamericana
  "Voices In The Street Revisited: Explorations In Gender, Media, And Public Space" Susan Drucker, Hofstra University

The papers on this panel explore the intersections of media ecology and cultural/intercultural communication, health communication, and the philosophy of communication. While some might believe that media ecology sits as the edge of communication studies, a sub-field of the field, the papers on this panel demonstrate the ways in which media ecology can offer valuable contributions to the entire field of communication. As such, the participants on this panel discuss how the study of media as environments emerges as a way to both uncover intractable problems and sound solutions to collective quandaries. Ultimately, the papers in this panel demonstrate how media ecology can break new ground in multiple areas of communication studies, illustrating how media ecology contributes to emerging discussions about communication and culture.

109005   11:30 AM to 12:45 PM   Brighton 3

Beyond the Podium: Emergent Pedagogies for AI, Speech, and Civic Voice

Sponsor: Applied Communication
Chair: Tim Michaels, Penn State University
  "Applied Communication and the OER Model" Sherry Rice, Penn State University--Teaching and Learning with Technology
  "Delivering the Speech" Rosemary Martinelli, Penn State--Great Allegheny
  "Ethics Matters & The Importance of Listening" Janie Harden Fritz, Duquesne University
  "Framing Emergence: Public Speaking in an Algorithmic Age" Tiffany Petricini, Penn State Erie--The Behrend College
  "Outlining" Jonathan Woodall, Penn State Harrisburg
  "Presentation Aids: Design and Usage" Lee Ann Dickerson, Penn State Erie--The Behrend College
  "The Importance of Language" Jacqueline Gianico, Penn State University

This panel introduces "Beyond the Podium: AI, Speech, and Civic Voice", an open educational resource (OER) designed to integrate AI literacy into public speaking pedagogy. Panelists will discuss the emergence of new challenges in teaching the communication basic course, including AI-authored texts, audience analysis in algorithmically mediated environments, and ethical dilemmas around authenticity, as well as emergent opportunities to prepare students as civic speakers in an age of automation. Panelists will share practical approaches, course-tested assignments, and author insights that reveal how AI integration reshapes traditional topics such as delivery, ethics, and audience engagement. Attendees will leave with concrete strategies, activities, and an understanding of how emergent pedagogies can prepare students for civic voice in algorithmic culture.

109006 **11:30 AM to 12:45 PM** Stoops Ferry

Top Papers in Voices of Diversity Interest Group

Sponsor: Voices of Diversity
Chair: Shatakshi Semwal, Ohio University
Respondent: Claude E Taylor, Middlesex College
   ""I don't like to be asking for the basics because the basics are something that should already be in existence, right?" Voices of International Graduate Students' Academic and Social Experiences at a U.S. University" Leonita Morina, James Madison University; Melissa Wood Aleman, James Madison University; Anitha Dushimirimana, James Madison University
   "Ethical Analysis of Campaign: From Policy to Practice: Ethical Challenges in Large-Scale Public Health Interventions - The Case of Egypt's '100 million Healthier Lives'" Ahmed Aly, Ohio University
   "Queer Vampires in a Queer Utopia: An Analysis of What We Do in the Shadows Through Queer Monstrosity and Queer Futurity" Alexandra Marie Rapp, Ball State University
   ""We are all lesbians": Analyzing resignification, humor, and disruption in the rhetoric of the Lavender Menace protests" Gavin Millard, Ball State University

This panel showcases the top papers from the Voices of Diversity interest group, examining how communication shapes inclusion, ethics, and identity across cultural and institutional contexts. From global health campaigns to queer activism and media representations, these papers discuss the rhetorical and ethical dimensions of belonging. Join us for great papers and conversation!

109007 **11:30 AM to 12:45 PM** Waterfront Room

Communication Traits Business Meeting

Sponsor: Communication Traits
Chair: Alan D. Heisel, University of Missouri-St. Louis

The Communication Traits Interest Group Business Meeting is open to all ECA members and individuals with an interest in communication traits. The meeting will provide a collaborative space for members to reflect on the past year's activities, share insights, and plan for future initiatives. The agenda includes officer reports, highlighting key accomplishments and updates from the past year, and a review of old business. Members will also discuss new business and upcoming opportunities. This meeting aims to foster community and strategic planning, ensuring the Interest Group continues to advance scholarly and practical contributions to the field.

109011 **11:30 AM to 12:45 PM** Haselton 2

The 2025 Virginia Gubernatorial Election: Referendum or Mandate?

Sponsor: Political Communication
Chair: Richard Eugene Vatz, Towson University
Presenters:
   Colin Kearney, Hampton University
   Paula Youra, University of Lynchburg
   Scott Wilson Dunn, Radford University
   Theodore Sheckels, Randolph-Macon College

The 2025 Virginia gubernatorial election offers a compelling case study in contemporary American politics, where national trends, cultural flashpoints, and candidate identity intersected in a closely watched contest as one of the first major elections following the 2024 presidential election. This panel brings together political communication experts representing four distinct Virginia regions - Southwestern Virginia, the Piedmont, Northern Virginia suburbs, and Tidewater-to examine how each party reflected or defied national positioning, whether the race served as a referendum on the Trump presidency, and how cultural issues around schools and gender continued to animate Republican messaging.

109012 **11:30 AM to 12:45 PM** Elwood 2

Technology in the Interpersonal Landscape: Emerging Uses of Media within Relationships and Research

Sponsor: Interpersonal Communication
Chair: Elizabeth M. Glowacki, Northeastern University
Respondent: Elizabeth M. Glowacki, Northeastern University
   "GIFs Increase Emotional Intensity of Messages, Motivating Helping Behavior" Monica Riordan, Chatham University; Lauren Trichtinger, Simmons University
   "The Impact of Multiple Social Media Platform Use on Relationship Satisfaction and Uncertainty Among Romantic Partners at a Midwestern University" Namra Nadeem, Ohio University; Athar Memon, Ohio University; Hira Nadeem, University of Delaware

""Friendship Breakups are Something Very Silenced:" An Analysis of How Friendship Dissolutions are Discussed on Reddit" Alexandra McNamara, University of Connecticut

Technology continues to emerge as both a subject and research tool in contemporary scholarship on interpersonal communication. The competitively selected papers on this panel highlight the role of technology in relational communication dynamics or as a source of information on relational communication issues. Topics include the role of GIFs in interpersonal requests for support, implications of social media use for relational uncertainty and satisfaction, and friendship breakups, as described via Reddit accounts.

| 109013 | 11:30 AM to 12:45 PM | Pointview |

Platformed Selves: Identity, Power, and Visibility in Digital Spaces

Sponsor: James C. McCroskey and Virginia P. Richmond Undergraduate Scholars Conference
Chair: Joshua Parcha, Penn State Hazleton
Respondent: Brent Allen Saindon, Mercy Univeristy
  "Cross-Platform Warfare: How Short-Form Media Platforms Are Circulating Antisemitism" Benjamin Daniel Levitsky, State University of New York Geneseo
  "How Fandoms and Their Idols Use Algorithms to Cooperate" Matthew Loesche, Rowan University; Joshua Bell-Gam, Rowan University
  "Interaction Between Selfie Exposure and Contingencies of Self-Worth, and Psychological Well-Being" Aisha Makama, University at Buffalo; Michael A Stefanone, University at Buffalo
  "Persona Switching: How Tiktok Creators Craft Their Many Selves" Jadesola Nwamaka Awofusi, Rowan University; Riley Dwyer, Rowan University

This session explores how social media platforms shape the ways people present themselves, interact with others, and encounter information. The papers highlight how identity, influence, and conflict take form within algorithm-driven environments.

| 109014 | 11:30 AM to 12:45 PM | Woodlawn |

Pennsylvania State Communication Association Business Meeting

Chair: Valerie Schrader, Penn State University - Schuylkill Campus

The Pennsylvania State Communication Association (PSCA) Business Meeting provides an opportunity for members to connect, discuss association updates, and collaborate on future initiatives. Join us to hear about PSCA's recent accomplishments, ongoing projects, and plans for the coming year. Members will have the chance to share feedback, contribute ideas, and engage in discussions that support the growth and success of the association. All PSCA members and those interested in learning more about the organization are encouraged to attend.

| 109015 | 11:30 AM to 12:45 PM | Fountainview |

G.I.F.T.S.: Great Ideas for Teaching Public Speaking and AI

Sponsor: G.I.F.T.S. (Great Ideas for Teaching Students)
Chair: Karen Padrutt, Stark State College
  "AI Trends in Your Field: The Future is Now Speech!" Karen Padrutt, Stark State College
  "Credo in Action: Teaching Communication Ethics in the Age of AI" Carolyn M. Hurley, Northern Virginia Community College
  "Speech Day Warm-Ups: Setting a Tone of Support, Readiness, and Connection" Marcy Milhomme, The Pennsylvania State University
  "The Golden Feed: Co-Creating a Class Code of Ethics in the Digital Age" April N Wright, West Virginia University
  "Thinking on Your Feet: Improvising with Confidence" Adam Giardino, University of Connecticut
  "Trust, but Verify: Guiding Responsible AI Use in Student Research" Marcy Milhomme, The Pennsylvania State University
  "Using the Curiosity Speech Assignment to Teach Integrating Sources and Using Oral Citations" Dana Feightner, Wor-Wic Community College
  ""Despite Their Best Efforts, None of Their Traps Were Working": Emerging Techniques to Persuade Your Audience" Nancy Bressler, West Virginia Wesleyan College

In this competitively selected panel, presenters will share their authentic, unique, and innovative "Great Ideas" for teaching students. G.I.F.T.S. include activities, projects, or simulations toward undergraduate courses that help students understand, apply, and appreciate communication skills, concepts, & theories relevant to the discipline. This specific G.I.F.T.S. session features ideas that either innovate public speaking pedagogy or help instructors create a roadmap for teaching in the age of AI.

| 109018 | 11:30 AM to 12:45 PM | Grand Station 5 |

Principles of Inter-Group Dialogue: Tools for Dialogue and Conflict Resolution in the Classroom

Sponsor: Short Courses
Presenter:
  Eva Burklund, University of Pittsburgh

Inter-Group Dialogue (IGD) is a course addressing the needs of an increasingly diverse United States by teaching students how to more effectively communicate with others and practice self-reflexivity as they navigate differences in identity and conflict with their peers. This short course, taught by a former IGD student and facilitator, will introduce IGD and its principles, as well as have participants engage in an activity that is conducted in an IGD course. Through learning about IGD, participants will gain a greater understanding of how the course encourages community-building and reflection among students, and how to incorporate principles of IGD in their own classrooms. Through partaking in an IGD activity, participants will gain a first-hand understanding of how these activities can challenge students, foster relationships between students from diverse backgrounds, and create a respectful environment where conversations about controversial topics can be productive and uphold the integrity of every student involved.

109019   11:30 AM to 12:45 PM   Reflections Room

Administrators' and Academic Leaders Lunch & Learn

Sponsor: Communication Administration
Chair: Timothy J. Brown, Eastern University
Presenters:
  Todd Allen, Messiah University
  Angie Corbo, Widener University
  Amanda G. McKendree, University of Notre Dame

Academic leaders and administrators serving (or aspiring to serve) their units in any capacity are invited to this lunch and learn networking session hosted by the Communication Administration Interest Group. Join your colleagues to discuss challenges and opportunities, best practices, and other issues facing higher education in general, and communication programs in particular. Preregistration is required. Lunch will be served. This event is generously sponsored by Eastern University.

12:00 PM

110020   12:00 PM to 2:30 PM   Admiral / ECA Hub

ECA Hub Afternoon Beverages & Bites Break

Take an afternoon break at the ECA Hub! Enjoy complimentary cold beverages and warm snacks to unwind and recharge. The ECA Hub offers a large attendee-only lounge atmosphere with comfy furniture and cafè tables. The Hub also features our convention exhibitors, so be sure to stop in! Sponsored by the ECA.

1:00 PM

112001   1:00 PM to 2:15 PM   Elwood 1

From Audiences to Architects: Participation, Fandom, and Cultural Power

Sponsor: James C. McCroskey and Virginia P. Richmond Undergraduate Scholars Conference
Chair: Zac Johnson, California State University, Fullerton
Respondent: Amanda G. McKendree, University of Notre Dame
  "Are You a True Believer?: Music as Political Awareness and Call Out" Malachi Dowdell, Student
  "Coding for Compulsory Monogamy: Monogamy and Infidelity Discourse on Reddit" Hana Ellen Jones, Gonzaga University
  "Perceptions of the NFL's Rooney Rule: The Emergence of Fans' Attitudes Toward NFL Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Initiatives" Alyssa Belmont, Suffolk University
  "Social Media Identities Constructed Through Product Consumption" Anna Michelle Tompkins, State University of New York at Geneseo
  "The Taylor Swift Effect: How Fans Produce Cultural and Economic Value" Kirstin Delgado, Rowan University

Papers in this panel explore how fans, audiences, and consumers actively shape culture, rather than simply responding to it. Together, they highlight how participation, identity, and influence emerge through engagement with media, sports, and celebrity culture.

112003   1:00 PM to 2:15 PM   Brighton 1

Communication of Travel: Emergence of Stories and Meaning in Travel

Sponsor: Philosophy of Communication
Chair: Sarah Constant, Penn State University
  "Aloneness Here and There: On Solitude, Loneliness, and Solo Travel" Tim Michaels, Penn State University
  "Feeling Away and at Home in Other Lands: Experiencing Travel" Margaret M. Mullan, East Stroudsburg University
  "Floating in the Most Peculiar Way: Space Tourism and the Emerging Ecological Class" Robert Foschia, Kutztown University
  "The Rhetoric of Place: Social Media Influence and the Production of Overtourism" Jenna M. Lo Castro, Point Park University

In travel we interact in/with new places, participate in or feel separate from local experiences, engage in economies of travel, while not always understanding how or why we travel. This panel explores communication about and around travel as a search for meanings of travel: the meanings for those who travel and those who at home in the places traveled to. This panel explores the impact of our travel on local cultures, how travel commodifies spaces, on our own sense of belonging or nonbelonging, and on the solitary dimensions of being a traveler. We bring various philosophers alongside our study of communication of travel. Panelists engage Henri Lefebvre, Bruno Latour, and Maurice Merleau-Ponty along with general philosophies of commodification, belonging and aloneness. In the reflecting about travel, in the shared stories and images, many meanings of travel emerge.

| 112004 | 1:00 PM to 2:15 PM | Brighton 2 |

Emerging Issues in Artificial Intelligence: Legal and Ethical Considerations

Sponsor: Communication Law and Ethics
Chair: Susan Drucker, Hofstra University
Presenters:
 Nicholas D. Bowman, Syracuse University
 Sanae Elmoudden, St. John's University
 Thomas Richard Flynn, Slippery Rock University
 Thom Gencarelli, Manhattan University
 Noura Hajjaj, Duquesne University
 Brian McFadden, Hofstra University
 Lance Strate, Fordham University
 Donald A. Fishman, Boston College

This roundtable will examine questions regarding ethical and legal issues and developments needed to understand the use of artificial intelligence. It will address such questions as: Can AI programs themselves be responsible actors or are they agents of humans? What are the differences between humans who think and computers which do not think yet? How are areas of current civil and criminal law being applied to AI? What codes and laws are emerging specific to the use of AI? What ethical and legal issues are arising day-to-day in our academic lives?

| 112005 | 1:00 PM to 2:15 PM | Brighton 3 |

Top Papers in Organizational Communication

Sponsor: Organizational Communication
Chair: Robin Smith Mathis, Kennesaw State University
Respondent: Corey Jay Liberman, Marymount Manhattan College
 "The Empathy Trap: Overcoming Leadership Manipulation" Natalie Lasky, Youngstown State University
 "Enacted Aggression in the Workplace: The Perpetrator's Perspective and the Role of Relationship" Miwa Ito, Governors State University; Loraleigh Keashly, Wayne State University
 "Welcome to your new home! Liminal Residency and How Non-Binary Folx Organize Support on Reddit" Weston Lawrence Wright, University of South Florida; Sidney Murray, University of South Florida

Organizational communication's top papers empirically examine emerging outcomes of constructs such as empathy, aggression, resilience and community organizing. Our first paper explores how adaptive, cognitive, and dark empathy in supervisors build trust or manipulate employees' emotional responses, job satisfaction, and productivity. Then, the influence of the perpetrator-target relationship on aggression from the perpetrator's perspective will be discussed. Finally, understanding how nonbinary communities' sensemaking of situations and how they enact resilience with one another will provide a new outlook into the ways liminality is understood.

| 112006 | 1:00 PM to 2:15 PM | Stoops Ferry |

Renewed Roundtable Series #1: Emerging Ideas in Teaching Interpersonal Communication

Sponsor: Community College
Chair: Ellen Santa Maria, West Chester University
Presenters:
 Laura O'Connell, Nassau Community College
 Kerry Byrnes-Loinette, Collin College
 Elizabeth M. Glowacki, Northeastern University
 Nadine Cichy, Sinclair Community College

Whether you are new to teaching Interpersonal Communication or you're a veteran, this first of a 3-part "Renewed Roundtable" series is for you! Need some new strategies for teaching perception? The communication process? Whatever the topic may be, faculty will share how they teach an array of topics in the classroom from a practical & pedagogical standpoint. Participants share their own ideas with one another and gain insights from featured experts. All will leave with a "renewed" approach to their interpersonal communication lessons.

| 112007 | 1:00 PM to 2:15 PM | Waterfront Room |

Interpersonal Communication Business Meeting

Sponsor: Interpersonal Communication
Chair: Angela G. La Valley, Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania - Bloomsburg

The Interpersonal Communication Interest Group Business Meeting is open to all ECA members and individuals with an interest in interpersonal communication. The meeting will provide a collaborative space for members to reflect on the past year's activities, share insights, and plan for future initiatives. The agenda includes officer reports, highlighting key accomplishments and updates from the past year, and a review of old business. Members will also discuss new business and upcoming opportunities. This meeting aims to foster community and strategic planning, ensuring the Interest Group continues to advance scholarly and practical contributions to the field.

112008   1:00 PM to 2:15 PM   Brighton 4

Persuasion in Practice: Message Design, Rhetoric, and Influence in Health Communication

Sponsor: Health Communication
Chair: Jennifer Allen Catellier, Gannon University
Respondent: Jennifer Allen Catellier, Gannon University
   "Are You Convinced Enough? An Analysis of the Persuasive Messages Designed for Sexual Health Education and Access" Roshni Ashiq, Ohio University
   "Emergence in Brief: Health Postcards, Vaccination, and Inoculation Theory" Josh Compton, Dartmouth College
   "When Distress Emerges as Dialogue: A Theory of Planned Behavior Approach to Mental Health Help-Seeking" Shatakshi Semwal, Ohio University; Athar Memon, Ohio University
   ""Bring Me Y'all's Babies" Affective Economies and Feminist Rhetorics of Cross-Nursing" Prathana Dodia, Ohio University

This session examines how persuasive message design and rhetorical strategies shape health knowledge, attitudes, and behavioral intentions across diverse health contexts. Papers explore the persuasive framing of sexual health education and access messages, analyze how emotional and narrative appeals influence audience engagement, and assess how strategic communication campaigns shape public understanding and health decision-making. Together, these studies highlight the role of message construction, audience-centered persuasion, and communication theory in improving the effectiveness and ethical impact of health communication interventions.

112009   1:00 PM to 2:15 PM   Edenburg

New York State Communication Association Business Meeting

Chair: Jason Wrench, New Paltz

The New York State Communication Association (NYSCA) Business Meeting provides an opportunity for members to connect, discuss association updates, and collaborate on future initiatives. Join us to hear about NYSCA's recent accomplishments, ongoing projects, and plans for the coming year. Members will have the chance to share feedback, contribute ideas, and engage in discussions that support the growth and success of the association. All NYSCA members and those interested in learning more about the organization are encouraged to attend.

112010   1:00 PM to 2:15 PM   Haselton 1

Emerging Identities: Race, Gender, and Culture Across Media

Sponsor: Critical/Cultural Communication
Chair: Freda Akosua Lekey, Salisbury University
   "Marry My Dead Body and Show Me the Ghost: A Critical Analysis of Genre-Blending and Modern Existential Anxiety" Gordon Alley-Young, Kingsborough Community College - CUNY
   "Whiteness, Womanhood, and Virtue in Spanish Colonial Cuba: The Fictions of Virginia Felicia Auber y Noya, 1849-1852" Anna Elise Lindner, Nazareth University
   "Cultural Ascriptions and Stereotypes in YouTube Comments: An Analysis of Customs Documentaries Using Social Identity Theory" Saki Amemiya, University at Albany
   "Co-managed Resources Communication between GWNT and First Nations Government: A Case Study in Emergent Agency" Paula Youra, University of Lynchburg

This panel offers an exploration of various critical/cultural communication scholarship. The first paper analyzes horror-comedy films Marry My Dead Body (2022), from Taiwan, and Show Me the Ghost (2021), from South Korea. The second considers the fictions of a Spanish writer, Virginia Felicia Auber de Noya, who published her stories in the official colonial newspaper in Cuba. The third analyses YouTube comments on documentaries about Japanese airport customs. And the final paper addresses communication about natural resources between the Government of the Northwest Territories and First Nations Governments in Canada since the 1930s. Each of these papers address identity and culture in the various forms they take across media.

112012   1:00 PM to 2:15 PM   Elwood 2

Divergent Bodies in Social Discourse: The Rhetorical Negotiation of Subjectivities, Narratives and Counter-Narratives

Sponsor: Rhetoric and Public Address
Chair: Guillermo G. Caliendo, Carnegie Mellon University
   "Conspiracies and Conspiracy Theory: A Means to a Political End" Margaret Sullivan Wise, George Mason University
   "Do You Even Crypto, Bro? Cryptocurrency At the Intersections of Financial and Affective Investment" Blake Abbott, Towson University
   "Exhibiting Dignity: Rhetorical Museology and the Public Memory of Chang and Eng Bunker, the "Original Siamese Twins"" Samuel T Allen, Randolph-Macon College; Kaitlyn Haynal, University of Mary Washington
   "The Sexual Revelation: Prophetic Rhetoric and Marital Innovation in Victorian America" Eric C. Miller, Commonwealth University - Bloomsburg

This panel analyzes the emergence of various discursive formations where the cultural agent and agency are not only contested, but most importantly (re)formulated. In doing so, papers in this panel observe how narratives and counter-narratives can influence civic engagement, religious argumentation, intersectional disability, and political conspiracy.

112013   1:00 PM to 2:15 PM   Pointview

The Music and the Media: The Emergence of Agency of Pop Culture Music Icons in Film

Sponsor: Media Communication
Chair: Valerie Schrader, Penn State University - Schuylkill Campus
Respondent: Janelle Gruber, Penn State Schuylkill
  ""Como La Flor:" Burkean Identification in Selena: The Movie" Jenalise Emily Muir, Penn State Schuylkill
  "Emergence through Stories and Songs: 8 Mile and Walter Fisher's Narrative Paradigm" Madisyn Marie Billingsley, Student
  "The Power of Reclamation: Approaching Constructed Meaning in Dolly Parton's Coat of Many Colors" Madison Butina, Chatham University
  ""That Gold Mine Changed You:" Fame, Facework, and Feminine Pain in Phoebe Bridgers' Public Persona" Isabella Frederick, Penn State University - University Park

Within the last few decades, movies that depict the lives of musical artists have become a popular subgenre of the film medium. These biopics allow viewers to see their favorite artists not simply as stars but as relatable humans. In this panel, four presenters will rhetorically analyze four different biopics about the lives of musical artists using different theoretical lenses to illustrate what can be learned from each film. Through this panel, we explore how the emergence of agency is depicted through the medium of film.

| 112014 | 1:00 PM to 2:15 PM | Woodlawn |

ECA Teaching Fellows Business Meeting

Chair: Janie Harden Fritz, Duquesne University

This meeting is reserved for members of the 2026 Distinguished Teaching Fellows program committee.

| 112016 | 1:00 PM to 2:15 PM | Grand Station 3 |

Mindful Emergence: Guided Meditation for All

Presenter:
  Natalie Sydorenko, Frequencies

Join us for a relaxing afternoon guided meditation meant to calm the body and mind and activate your "rest and digest" parasympathic nervous system. Participants can lie on mats or blankets, or sit in a chair while listening to Dr. Natalie Sydorenko guide you through a full body scan followed by an inward journey of rest and relaxation to open the chakras (the energy centers of the body) and promote reflection and awareness. You will leave the session feeling balanced and renewed!

| 112018 | 1:00 PM to 2:15 PM | Grand Station 5 |

Communication Instruction, Emerging Adulthood, and College Student Retention

Sponsor: Short Courses
Presenter:
  David E. Schneider, Saginaw Valley State University

Research has demonstrated an emphatic relationship between communication instruction and college student retention. Although communication instruction facilitates retention for all students, its impact in helping certain demographics (e.g. Black, first-generation, commuters, males) to successfully emerge into campus life is striking. Traditional college students need to be understood as emerging adults, with psychological needs that differ from adolescence and from adulthood. This course will review retention research, explain emerging adulthood theory, examine communication retention related content, review the relational and learning impact of mobile technology, and identify effective instructional retention practices that can be incorporated into a wide range of communication courses. Participants can expect to emerge with an understanding of high impact retention practices and program initiatives for communication instruction at all levels, including basic course instruction. The course will benefit teachers and administrators.

2:30 PM

| 114001 | 2:30 PM to 3:45 PM | Elwood 1 |

Emerging Challenges & Evolving Classrooms

Sponsor: Community College
Chair: Alexis de Coning, West Virginia Wesleyan College
Respondent: Jack Banks, University of Hartford
  "Artificial Intelligence as an Emergent Course in the Communication Discipline" Alexis de Coning, West Virginia Wesleyan College
  "Rethinking the Basic Course: Communication Competency & Self-Efficacy Across Modalities" Leigh Nelson, James Madison University; Eric Fife, James Madison University
  "Watching Media or Creating Course Connections?: Emerging Active Learning Strategies to Engage Our Students" Nancy Bressler, West Virginia Wesleyan College

As technologies, modalities, and student expectations evolve, communication educators must reimagine what it means to teach foundational communication skills. This panel explores how new pedagogical approaches (including AI literacy, modality-based course design, and active learning strategies) are transforming both teaching practice and student learning outcomes. Panelists examine emerging competencies in communication education, offering strategies for fostering ethical awareness, active engagement, and growth mindset in our students in an era of rapid technological change.

114003   2:30 PM to 3:45 PM   Brighton 1

Emerging from the Crucible: Fostering Civil Discourse on the Polarized Campus

Sponsor: Communication Administration
Chair: Timothy J. Brown, Eastern University
Presenters:
  Todd Allen, Messiah University
  Laura Hamilton Brown, West Chester University
  David T. Lindenmuth, Rowan University
  Lukas Pelliccio, Lincoln University
  Claude E Taylor, Middlesex College
  Candice Elaine Thomas-Maddox, Ohio University Lancaster

In an era defined by political polarization, academic administrators and faculty are increasingly confronted with the challenge of managing contentious ideas, acts, and symbolism on our campuses and classrooms. This panel brings together communication leaders from different career stages to discuss practical strategies for leading through these difficult moments. Drawing on theory and best practices, panelists will explore how to create classroom and campus environments that encourage robust, critical dialogue without sacrificing safety or well-being. The discussion will address the role of administrators and faculty on the polarized campus, navigating the political classroom, de-escalating conflicts, and building institutional policies that are both principled and adaptable. This panel will provide tangible takeaways and a framework for communication leaders and aspiring leaders to proactively manage the "crucible" of contemporary campus life.

114004   2:30 PM to 3:45 PM   Brighton 2

Emerging Frames for Representing Communication Theory to Graduate Students

Sponsor: Theory and Methodology
Chair: Carlos G. Aleman, James Madison University
  ""The Great Accommodation Race."" Brooklyn Kier, James Madison University
  "Emerging Frames for Representing Communication Theory to Graduate Students" Carlos G. Aleman, James Madison University
  ""Agenda in Focus: Media's Power Through Framing."" Oghenetega Ologbo, James Madison University
  ""Growth and Abscission of an Individual Opinion."" Paige D'Agostino, James Madison University
  ""Reweaving Stigma."" Reese Martin, James Madison University

This panel showcases innovative works by graduate students who committed to a creative process of discussing, imagining, drafting, designing, revising, researching, and otherwise rendering a field of communication theory. While each work is a unique creation, all works were informed by widely cited field representations that favor and criticize worldview and paradigm, discursive orientation, perspective, and traditions, as well as be inclusive of their own perspective, philosophies, and utilitarian needs for communication. There were few guidelines for the creative projects other than to be coherent and useful to first- or second-year graduate student users and to be professionally displayed as a conference-style poster, digital design, or other interactive design.

114005   2:30 PM to 3:45 PM   Brighton 3

Emergent Voices of Resistance: Identity, Identification, and the Negotiation of Invitational Rhetoric

Sponsor: Rhetoric and Public Address
Chair: Guillermo G. Caliendo, Carnegie Mellon University
Respondent: Abbe Depretis, Carnegie Mellon University
  "Annotating a COP29 Intervention: Inequality, Political Economic Work, and Power" Tom Duncanson, Green Citizen Diplomacy Project
  "Burkean Identification, Invitational Rhetoric, Public Memory, and the Weirton Community: A Thematic Analysis of Ruth Plunkett's "Potpourri" Column in the Weirton Daily Times" Valerie Schrader, Penn State University - Schuylkill Campus
  "Voice of Resistance: A Rhetorical Analysis of Personal Testimony in the Documentary Crip Camp" Baylea Gunkel, James Madison University

This panel analyzes how different discursive trajectories (i.e., environmental, disability, and feminist) construct and contest social identification through invitational rhetoric. Papers in this panel, observe how different forms of rhetorical testimony (i.e., communicative interactions) can give a powerful voice to marginalized identities that resist representational inequality in everyday experiences and socio-cultural practices.

114006   2:30 PM to 3:45 PM   Stoops Ferry

Emergence of Learning and Teaching: Reflective Instructional Practices Across Contexts

Sponsor: Instructional Communication
Chair: Anthony Joseph Luchini, Duquesne University
Respondent: Janie Harden Fritz, Duquesne University
  "Coaching in the Classroom: Emerging Professionals and the Capstone Course" Robin Smith Mathis, Kennesaw State University
  "Persuasive Speaking Courses Foster Emergent Communication and Confidence" Angie Corbo, Widener University
  "Teaching Intercultural Communication Through Comic Books: Emergent Creativity as Instructional Practice" Yaroub Al Obaidi, Duquesne University
  "The Emergence of Event Planning as Part of the Communication Discipline" Leeanne M. Bell McManus, Stevenson University

These four papers, representing a diverse array of contributors and institutional affiliations, offer reflections on courses that invite and stimulate student learning. This panel presents a prism refracting the theme of "emergence" in creative, engaging ways that invite audience participation and continued learning through dialogic interaction with panelists and each other for emergent learning. The experience of the panel itself offers presenters and attendees a chance to engage in reflection, expanding pedagogical horizons for emergent learning and teaching for the good of students, ourselves, our institutions, our field/discipline, and the larger human community.

| 114007 | 2:30 PM to 3:45 PM | Waterfront Room |

Health Communication Business Meeting

Sponsor: Health Communication
Chair: Athar Memon, Ohio University

The Health Communication Interest Group Business Meeting is open to all ECA members and individuals with an interest in health communication. The meeting will provide a collaborative space for members to reflect on the past year's activities, share insights, and plan for future initiatives. The agenda includes officer reports, highlighting key accomplishments and updates from the past year, and a review of old business. Members will also discuss new business and upcoming opportunities. This meeting aims to foster community and strategic planning, ensuring the Interest Group continues to advance scholarly and practical contributions to the field.

| 114008 | 2:30 PM to 3:45 PM | Brighton 4 |

Conflict, Resistance and Spirituality: Media Ecology Approaches

Sponsor: Media Ecology (Affiliate Organization)
Chair: Tiffany Petricini, Penn State Erie--The Behrend College
Respondent: Christina M. Knopf, SUNY Cortland
  "Medieval Media Ecology: A Media Analysis of The Battle of Hastings" Brian Gilchrist, Pennsylvania College of Technology
  "Digital Discursive Resistance Mapped by the GenZ212 & February 20th Movement Networks in Morocco" Hamdi NA Echkaou, Indiana University of Pennsylvania
  "A Divine Connection in Your Pocket? Probing the Ambivalent Companionship of Text With Jesus" Ryan Eisenhuth, Ohio University
  "Shadows and Everything Between: What Is Lost in Digital Environments" Joshua Clements, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College

The competitively selected papers on this panel explore and expand the study of media as environments. The papers on the panel recognize role of a medium of communication in determining our perceptions of conflict, resistance, and spirituality. Media ecology rests on the idea that one cannot divorce human activity and the human condition from the symbolic environment created by dominant and emerging media. When discussing crises of past and present, media ecology demands that we give attention to what each medium protects and promotes, and these papers explore how the media of a historical moment-from the medieval period to the current electronic-digital environment-constitute our relations in all facets of our lives. The scholars will also discuss specific emerging media, including social media and artificial intelligence.

| 114011 | 2:30 PM to 3:45 PM | Haselton 2 |

Liminal Voices: Rhetoric at the Threshold of Becoming

Sponsor: Voices of Diversity
Chair: Erik Garrett, Duquesne University
  ""Algorithm as Third Space: The In Between of Etymology"" Brandy Hadden, Southern New Hampshire University
  ""Art Official Sermons: A Praxis of Artful Dialogue and Co-Constructive Hermeneutics in Emergent Preaching"" Rodney Lyde, Duquesne University
  ""Talking Myself Through it: Audre Lorde's Emergent Intrapersonal Rhetoric and the Phenomenology of Betweenness"" Khadijah Pettus, Carlow University
  ""The Question of Charlie Kirk: Emerging Publics, Emerging Rhetoric, and the Contingency of Death"" William Burgess, Gallaudet University

This panel explores rhetoric as an emergent phenomenon materializing in liminal spaces. The presentations examine how meaning arises through dynamic interactions in diverse contexts: Lorde's intrapersonal communication, dialogic preaching practices, algorithmic third spaces, and contingent public discourse around mortality. Together, they reveal rhetoric not as predetermined strategy but as generative process unfolding at thresholds of established categories- within the self, between self and other, human and machine, life and death-where new possibilities for meaning continually emerge.

| 114012 | 2:30 PM to 3:45 PM | Elwood 2 |

Contested Voices: Rhetoric, Authority, and the Making of Public Meaning

Sponsor: James C. McCroskey and Virginia P. Richmond Undergraduate Scholars Conference
Chair: Mary Mino, Penn State DuBois
Respondent: Katherine Elizabeth Armstrong, Missouri Valley College
  "Aristotle and the American Civil Liberties Union: The Use of Ethos, Pathos, and Logos in Immigrant Rights Rhetoric" Veronica Plichta, Penn State University - Schuylkill Campus
  "Seeing Through a Blackout: Analyzing the Crisis Response of the FAA following the April 28 Communication Blackout using Situational Crisis Communication Theory (SCCT)" James Ryan, Northeastern University
  "The Book of Hebrews from a Rhetorical Perspective" William Mills, Penn State University-Schuylkill

"Vaccine Hesitancy Campaign" Angela Chang, Northeastern University

Papers in this panel examine how public arguments, institutions, and cultural debates shape what counts as credible, ethical, and persuasive communication. Collectively, they show how meaning, authority, and public judgment emerge through rhetorical struggle and response.

| 114014 | 2:30 PM to 3:45 PM | Woodlawn |

ECA Research Fellows Business Meeting

Chair: Jennifer Waldeck, University of Georgia

This meeting is reserved for members of the 2026 Distinguished Research Fellows program committee.

| 114015 | 2:30 PM to 3:45 PM | Fountainview |

Neighborhood Values: How Mission Shapes Fred Rogers Productions' Creative Process

Sponsor: First Vice President's Programming
Chair: Lewis Freeman, Fordham University
Presenters:
   Ellen Doherty, Chief Creative Officer - Fred Rogers Productions
   Kristin DiQuollo, Co-Executive Producer - Fred Rogers Productions
   Chris Loggins, Supervising Producer - Fred Rogers Productions

Since the days of Mister Rogers' Neighborhood, Fred Rogers Productions has created content and experiences with the mission to inspire a lifelong enthusiasm for learning. Hear from Ellen Doherty (chief creative officer and executive producer), Kristin DiQuollo (co-executive producer, Donkey Hodie), and Chris Loggins (supervising producer, Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood) as they discuss their approach to building on Fred Rogers' legacy in the work they do across the organization's current series. Each panelist will talk about their own inspiration for their work, how mission comes into play, and more. Learn more about what makes each series special, how the stories and learning goals are established, and the ways they build on one another to best serve families and children as they learn and grow. Attendees must preregister for this session.

| 114018 | 2:30 PM to 3:45 PM | Grand Station 5 |

Reclaiming Time to Focus on Pedagogy: Designing Efficient Feedback Systems

Sponsor: Short Courses
Presenter:
   Marcy Milhomme, The Pennsylvania State University

When faculty are asked to identify the most motivating factor in their careers, one answer consistently stands out: the students. According to The Chronicle of Higher Education, many faculty members agree that teaching provides a deep sense of purpose. However, they also note numerous responsibilities that take valuable time away from teaching such as administrative tasks, research obligations, and the pressures of promotion and tenure. Add grading to demands, and it is no surprise that faculty often wish for more time to focus on the craft of teaching. This short course helps faculty create a qualitative feedback system that integrates grading seamlessly with classroom instruction, freeing up time outside of class to focus on pedagogy. Throughout this course, faculty will be introduced to various grading methods to harness the power of feedback as an instructional method so they can spend more time enhancing inside and outside classroom experiences.

4:00 PM

| 117001 | 4:00 PM to 5:15 PM | Elwood 1 |

CONNECT SESSION From Panic to Podium: Cultivating Conference Confidence

Chair: Christina E. Saindon, Queensborough Community College, CUNY
Presenters:
   Sophia Nicole Bates, James Madison University
   Anitha Dushimirimana, James Madison University
   Oghenetega Ologbo, James Madison University
   Grace Smith, James Madison University
   Alena Yoder, James Madison University
   Rania Zaied, George Mason University

In this CONNECT session, graduate student presenters will offer insights on how to make the most out of the conference experience, moving from uncertainty (and yes, even imposter syndrome) to confidence in navigating the conference. Presenters will share a wide range of conference tips and stories, including selecting sessions, navigating surprises, networking with attendees, presenting posters, and more. Students are highly encouraged to attend this informative session! If you can't make this session, there is a second option on Friday from 8:30-9:45.

| 117004 | 4:00 PM to 5:15 PM | Brighton 2 |

Top Competitive Papers on Communication Traits

Sponsor: Communication Traits

Chair: Alan D. Heisel, University of Missouri-St. Louis
Respondent: Lynda L. McCroskey, California State University, Long Beach
   "Gender and Political Orientation as Predictors of Argumentativeness and Verbal Aggression" Suya Yin, Stockton University; Xu Song, Stockton University
   "Conceptualizing Communication as Soft Stigma" Elizabeth M. Glowacki, Northeastern University; Theodore A. Avtgis, Utah Tech University

The top competitive submissions to the Communication Traits Interest Group highlight the social relevance implicit in the interplay of individual traits and communication behaviors. Study 1 investigates the impact of argumentativeness and verbal aggressiveness on gender and political orientation. With emphasis on constructive argumentation and gendered norms, this study underscores the relevance of communication traits in public discourse. Study 2 is a conceptual work that proposes five axioms for "soft stigma," which often cause individuals to be perceived unfavorably by others. Drawing from the extant literature of communication apprehension, communicator style, and communication accommodation theory, the study highlights the inextricable relationship between self-concept, identity, and communication traits. Taken together, these papers represent enduring and emerging perspectives on the broader social and interpersonal implications of the trait paradigm.

117005   4:00 PM to 5:15 PM   Brighton 3

Emergent Pedagogy: Implications for Philosophy of Communication

Sponsor: Philosophy of Communication
Chair: Erik Garrett, Duquesne University
   "Dialogic Attentiveness in the Classroom: Emergent Courage to Teach in an Unfamiliar Intercultural Space" Andri Kosasih, Duquesne University; Basak M. Guven, Duquesne University; Inci Özüm Sayrak, Duquesne University
   "Emergent Discourse across Disciplinary Boundaries: Pedagogical Implications for Philosophy of Communication" Michael R. Kearney, Dordt University; Janie Harden Fritz, Duquesne University
   "Emergent Technological Crises in the First Year Seminar Course" Matthew P. Mancino, Indiana University South Bend; Susan Mancino, Saint Mary's College
   "Teachers, Students, Materials: How Does Education Emerge?" Elvera Berry, Roberts Wesleyan College
   "Teaching Business & Professional Communication: An Emerging Pedagogy" Anthony Joseph Luchini, Duquesne University
   "Teaching Intercultural Communication through Local History and Popular Culture: Engaging an Emergent Phenomenological Pedagogy of Place" Hanna Chumachenko Lassowsky, Duquesne University

This set of papers, constructed as a high-density panel, describes and reflects on pedagogical contexts and practices that hold implications for philosophy of communication. These implications emerge due to their theoretical framing within the purview of philosophy of communication as a foundation or due to the nature of the content they address-topics that call for further consideration from a philosophy of communication perspective. In other words, it is often the case that a phenomenological understanding emerges upon reflection on lived experience as it returns to us in memory and prompts an opening for theoretical engagement that provides meaning. Offered by contributors ranging from graduate students and early-career academic professionals through mid-career instructors to seasoned professors and hailing from various nationalities, these papers provide a chance for panelists and audience members to explore how pedagogical practices turn our attention phenomenologically-and in phenomenologically interesting ways-and give rise to an emergent pedagogy that invites learning for both instructors and students.

117006   4:00 PM to 5:15 PM   Stoops Ferry

Mountain Stories: The Past, Present, and Future of Journalism in Appalachia

Sponsor: Media Communication
Chair: Cecilia Salomone, West Liberty University
   "Carol Sutton and the Louisville Courier-Journal: Gender, Social Class and Journalism in Appalachia During the Women's Page Years" Kimberly Voss, University of Central Florida
   "Cosmopolitanism in Appalachia: The Wheeling Intelligencer and the 1860 Election" Ryan P. McCullough, West Liberty University
   "Imagining Resilience: An Ecological Analysis of Social Media, Stakeholders, and Sources in Stories of Helene's Impact on Appalachia" Mildred "Mimi" Perreault, University of South Florida
   "What Appalachian Communities Need from Journalists" Michael Clay Carey, Samford University

The Appalachian region of the U.S. stretches across 13 eastern states from New York to Mississippi and is home to 26.4 million people. Despite its size and diversity, popular media (including journalism) frequently typecast Appalachia's residents and communities in one-dimensional, often derogatory terms. This panel will explore the ways journalism and mass communication have shaped perspectives on Appalachia in the past, and how media practitioners in the region have attempted to shape and reshape public narratives about Appalachia. While much research (rightly) critiques news coverage of the region driven by negative stereotypes and assumptions, the research featured on this panel demonstrates how media inside Appalachia have contributed to a more dynamic telling of Appalachia.

117007   4:00 PM to 5:15 PM   Waterfront Room

Communication Administration Business Meeting

Sponsor: Communication Administration
Chair: Timothy J. Brown, Eastern University

The Communication Administration Interest Group Business Meeting is open to all ECA members and individuals with an interest in communication administration. The meeting will provide a collaborative space for members to reflect on the past year's activities, share insights, and plan for future initiatives. The agenda includes officer reports, highlighting key accomplishments and updates from the past year, and a review of old business. Members will also discuss new business and upcoming opportunities. This meeting aims to foster community and strategic planning, ensuring the Interest Group continues to advance scholarly and practical contributions to the field.

117008 4:00 PM to 5:15 PM Brighton 4

Relational Worlds in Formation: Power, Self, and Social Negotiation

Sponsor: James C. McCroskey and Virginia P. Richmond Undergraduate Scholars Conference
Chair: Stephen M. Kromka, The University of Tampa
Respondent: Zac Johnson, California State University, Fullerton
  "Campus Housing Accommodation and its Effects on Student Interactions: A Study Using Anxiety Uncertainty Management Theory" Mary Elizabeth Kulp, Eastern University
  "Connection and Control: Relationships with Avoidant Attachment and Power Imbalance in The Neighborhood" Olivia Watson, Northeastern University
  "Friday Night Dinners: Navigating Obligation and Power Dynamics in Gilmore Girls" Emily Morillo, Northeastern University
  "Nonverbal Communication Within Group Interactions in Association with Self-esteem Levels and the Big Five Personality Traits" Amber Mae Lieb, Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania (Bloomsburg Campus); Scott Rumbough, Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania (Bloomsburg Campus); Matt Stivers, Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania (Bloomsburg Campus)
  "Student Attitudes Towards Alcoholism" Chloe A Tran, Towson University

Papers in this panel examine how relationships, groups, and social interactions shape identity, belonging, and personal well-being. Together, they highlight how communication helps people negotiate power, connection, and everyday social life.

117009 4:00 PM to 5:15 PM Edenburg

Integrated Marketing Communication in Emerging Spaces: A Discussion on Integrated Marketing Communication Theory, Practice, and the Current Historical Moment

Sponsor: Applied Communication
Chair: Abbey N. McCann, University of North Carolina Wilmington
Presenters:
  Jeanne Persuit, UNC Wilmington
  Kati Elizabeth Sudnick, UNC Wilmington
  Emily Leigh Jones, UNC Wilmington
  Austin D. Hestdalen, Purdue University Northwest
  Abbey N. McCann, University of North Carolina Wilmington

This roundtable discussion explores the emergence of integrated marketing communication theory and practice in various places and spaces including politics, social media, public opinion, crisis communication, art, and personal branding. This discussion navigates how the discipline of integrated marketing communication can be utilized within the context of the political and social landscape of the current historical moment. In a capitalistic society and the increased consumeristic nature of our culture, advertising and marketing touch virtually every aspect of the lived experience. This roundtable discussion explores this lived experience and how integrated marketing communication must emerge as an ethical practice.

117011 4:00 PM to 5:15 PM Haselton 2

Emergent Neurodiversities: Rethinking Learning, Teaching, and Identity Across Generations

Sponsor: Instructional Communication
Chair: Carly Densmore, University of Idaho
Respondent: Ann Bainbridge Frymier, Ohio University
  "What We Wish They Knew: Disclosure Challenges of Neurodivergent College Educators" Maria Hannah, Augustana College; Andrea L Meluch, The University of Akron
  "Reimagining Diversity and Inclusion in Postsecondary Education: Critical Communication Pedagogy for the Neurodiverse Students" Satarupa Dasgupta, Ramapo College of New Jersey; Sara Hosbach, Ramapo College of New Jersey; Melissa Glasson, Ramapo College
  "Failure isn't an Option: Academic Entitlement: Why Gen Z students Believe They Deserve Good Grades" Clinton Stephen Mawusi, West Virginia University; Grace Sikapokoo, Northern Illinois University

This session explores how neurodivergence and generational identity are reshaping communication and learning in higher education. The papers address the needs of neurodiverse students, the disclosure challenges faced by neurodivergent educators, and the evolving expectations of newer generations. Together, they show how emerging identities and communication norms call for more adaptive and inclusive pedagogical practices aligned with the conference theme, "Emergence."

117012 4:00 PM to 5:15 PM Elwood 2

"There Is No Such Thing as a Single-Issue Struggle Because We Do Not Live Single-Issue Lives": Critiquing the Emerging Ideas About Feminism and the Motivations Behind Them

Sponsor: Voices of Diversity
Chair: Nancy Bressler, West Virginia Wesleyan College
Respondent: Jack Banks, University of Hartford
   "From Trad Wife to "Womanosphere": Is America Retreating From Feminism?" Jingsi Christina Wu, Hofstra University; Tomeka M. Robinson, Hofstra University
   "From Tying Harry Potter's Shoes To Feeding Him Cookies: Why Ginny Weasley's Personality Erasure In The Harry Potter Series Is Bad For Feminism" Faith Renee Yoho, West Virginia Wesleyan College
   "The Rhetoric of Toxic Empathy and its Assault on Intersectional Feminism" Jessica Neu, Carlow University
   ""I'll Do Just About Anything To Be Your Girl": Analyzing the Feminist Messages in Death Becomes Her" Nancy Bressler, West Virginia Wesleyan College
   ""The Girl At The Rock Show": Examining the Differences in Male and Female-Led Rock Bands" Elisha Taylor, West Virginia Wesleyan College

This panel seeks to address the question: what are prominent emerging feminist ideas in 2026? Inspired by ECA's theme "Emergence", panelists analyze female-led bands, "trad wife" and "womanosphere" influencers, toxic empathy, the erasure of female personalities in movie characters, and how "frenemies" can dismantle misogynist ideas. This panel seeks to understand what transformative and subversive feminist themes emerge; yet we also question what female voices are still inhibited and the motivations behind possibly silencing them.

| 117013 | 4:00 PM to 5:15 PM | Pointview |

Relatability or Backlash? Emerging Political Realities in the Sincerity Trap, Harris's "Brat Summer," and Fetterman's Social Media Campaign

Sponsor: Political Communication
Chair: Anne M. Czerwinski, University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg
Respondent: Bilal Al-zubaidi, University of South Carolina
   "Emerging from the Swamp: Sincerity, Trolling, and Political Rhetoric" Calum Matheson, University of Pittsburgh
   "Kamala Harris's Brat Summer: When Vibe Meets Vote" Amelia Little, Duquesne University of the Holy Spirit
   "Social Distortion: Consubstantiality in John Fetterman's Social Media Campaign Communications" Brian Snee, University of Scranton

This panel explores how political identity and voter perception emerge through social media and campaign discourse. Collectively, the papers examine: the rhetorical construction of trolling and the "sincerity trap" in reactionary populist discourse; the rhetorical consequences of viral metaphors such as "Kamala is brat" in shaping political backlash during the 2024 presidential campaign; and the rhetoric of John Fetterman's 2022 social media campaign communication in his U.S. Senate race. Together, these studies address emerging political realities: how voters and candidates navigate an evolving communicative landscape where engagement or dismissal provides entertainment for trolls and strategic advantage for populists, and how metaphors and consubstantiality help shape political identity and voter perceptions, framing candidates as either relatable figures or targets of backlash.

| 117014 | 4:00 PM to 5:15 PM | Woodlawn |

Community College Business Meeting

Sponsor: Community College
Chair: Laura O'Connell, Nassau Community College

The Community College Interest Group Business Meeting is open to all ECA members and individuals with an interest in community college teaching and research. The meeting will provide a collaborative space for members to reflect on the past year's activities, share insights, and plan for future initiatives. The agenda includes officer reports, highlighting key accomplishments and updates from the past year, and a review of old business. Members will also discuss new business and upcoming opportunities. This meeting aims to foster community and strategic planning, ensuring the Interest Group continues to advance scholarly and practical contributions.

| 117015 | 4:00 PM to 5:15 PM | Fountainview |

Won't You Play Along? Interactive and Community Extensions of Fred Rogers Productions

Sponsor: First Vice President's Programming
Chair: Lewis Freeman, Fordham University
Presenters:
   Brittany Smith, Director of Community Engagement - Fred Rogers Productions
   Melanie Harke, Director of Interactive - Fred Rogers Productions
   Anna Trier, Outreach & Partnerships Manager - Fred Rogers Productions
   Ana Acosta Ruiz, Interactive Production Coordinator - Fred Rogers Productions

Fred Rogers Productions is known for beloved series like Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood, Donkey Hodie, and Alma's Way. Part of what makes these shows uniquely impactful are the ways they enrich the lives of children and families beyond broadcast. Hear from Melanie Harke (director of interactive) and Ana Acosta Ruiz (interactive production coordinator) about how they approach digital game and content development to allow children to play the series as well as Brittany Smith (director of community engagement) and Anna Trier (outreach and partnerships manager) on the ways they work with PBS stations and mission-aligned partners to meet families where they are. From Emmy-winning games like "Cousin Hodie Playdate," to longstanding events like Be My Neighbor Day, the group will discuss how they approach their work on each series and support families, educators, and communities. Attendees must preregister for this session.

5:30 PM

119019   5:30 PM to 6:00 PM   Reflections Room

Newcomers Welcome Reception

Is this your first time attending an ECA convention? If so, start your ECA experience with this inviting gathering designed to welcome ALL first-time attendees to our community. ECA leadership will extend a special greeting to newcomers and provide a brief orientation to help newcomers navigate and make the most of their time at the conference. Connect with peers and colleagues, meet association leaders, and set the stage for an enriching convention experience. Enjoy complimentary hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. Stay afterward to continue the conversation at the Welcome Reception!

6:00 PM

120019   6:00 PM to 7:00 PM   Reflections Room

ECA Welcome Reception

All are invited to join us as we celebrate the start of ECA 2026 at the Welcome Reception! Enjoy a vibrant atmosphere with complimentary hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar, courtesy of the ECA. Take in the gorgeous reflections of the city skyline in the Monongahela River. Whether you're catching up with colleagues or diving into fresh conversations, this event sets the stage for an exciting and enriching conference. Don't miss the chance to mingle, eat, and toast to the start of a memorable experience!

8:00 PM

121013   8:00 PM to 9:00 PM   Pointview

12 Step Meeting

This space is available nightly from 8:00-9:00 pm for 12 Step Meetings.

Friday
April 10, 2026

7:00 AM

201023   7:00 AM to 8:00 AM   Lobby

Morning Emergence: A Walk, Jog, or Run through Pittsburgh

Start your day with energy and connection! Join Dr. Dan Strasser and fellow conference attendees for an invigorating morning run, jog, or walk around Pittsburgh. This casual and inclusive activity is for all fitness levels and offers an opportunity to network while enjoying the local scenery. Don't forget to bring your walking/running shoes and a smile!
If you are interested in participating, please email Dan at strasser@rowan.edu, or simply show up in the hotel lobby at 7:00 a.m.

7:30 AM

202021   7:30 AM to 5:00 PM   Admiral Entry

Convention Registration

As you arrive at the convention, be sure to stop by registration to obtain your name tag, printed program, etc. Meghan will be there daily to welcome you and get you all set for a great experience!

8:00 AM

203020   8:00 AM to 11:30 AM   Admiral / ECA Hub

ECA Hub Morning Coffee & Snack Café

Start your day at the ECA Hub! Enjoy complimentary coffee, teas, and breakfast bites to help ensure that you're ready for a productive conference. The ECA Hub offers a large attendee-only lounge with comfy furniture and café tables. The Hub also features our convention exhibitors, so be sure to stop in! Coffee service is generously sponsored by Taylor & Francis.

203024   8:00 AM to 9:00 AM   Grand Station 2

Morning Emergence: Gentle Yoga for All Levels

Join us for an all-levels yoga session led by Dr. Natalie Sydorenko, certified yoga instructor. In this session, we awaken our muscles and lengthen our connective tissues through gentle movements, both seated and standing. Gentle yoga balances active and calming energies within the body. This slow, meditative practice conditions the mind, body, and spirit. Participants are welcome to bring their own mat or use one of the chairs or mats provided. This class is accessible for all range of motions and postures can be modified to accommodate all abilities.

204001   8:30 AM to 9:45 AM   Elwood 1

Top Papers in Interpersonal Communication

Sponsor: Interpersonal Communication
Chair: Meredith Marko Harrigan, State University of New York, Geneseo
  "Navigating Power and Silence: Communicative Disenfranchisement in Interpersonal Menopause Healthcare Communication" Valerie Rubinsky, Community College of Allegheny County; Catherine Tolman, University of Maine at Augusta; Angela Cooke-Jackson, California State University, Los Angeles
  "Communal Coping Ten Years After the Sandy Hook Shooting" Jessica Cherry, Fairfield University
  ""Lied or Miscommunicated?" Location Sharing as a Turning Point in Close Relationships: Implications for Privacy Management and Relational Maintenance" Elizabeth M. Glowacki, Northeastern University; Joseph Schwartz, Northeastern University; Filiz Durgun, Northeastern University
  ""I Thought They Loved Me": Exploring Emotional Betrayal and Trust-Building After Performative Allyship" Stephen Obiri Agyei, Ohio University; Peace Chinenye Nwachukwu, Ohio University; China Billotte Verhoff, Ohio University

This panel highlights the top competitively selected papers in Interpersonal Communication. Topics include communication disenfranchisement in the menopausal healthcare experience, communal coping a decade after Sandy Hook, location sharing as a turning point in close romantic relationships, and dialectical experiences related to performative allyship. As a whole, these papers provide insight into contemporary issues and challenges emerging within interpersonal communication.

204004   8:30 AM to 9:45 AM   Brighton 2

Voices of Emergence: Durable Skills and AI Readiness

Sponsor: Applied Communication
Chair: Tiffany Petricini, Penn State Erie--The Behrend College
Presenter:
  Ann Debra Jabro, Robert Morris University

This roundtable explores how durable skills, such as communication, adaptability, teamwork, creativity, empathy, leadership, and critical thinking, are central to both AI readiness and applied communication practice.Our collaborative project, Readiness and AI Solutions for Employment in Pennsylvania (RAISE-PA) demonstrates how durable skills were not just an object of study but also the conditions of possibility for our own work. Participants will see how communication scholarship illuminates the role of durable skills in professional and personal life, teaching, and research, and how these skills can guide the ethical integration of AI in workforce readiness.

204005   8:30 AM to 9:45 AM   Brighton 3

AI Emergence in Nonverbal Communication Research

Sponsor: Nonverbal Communication
Chair: Madison Neurohr, University of Buffalo (SUNY)
  "Automated Emotion and Deception Detection in Applied Contexts" Mark G. Frank, University at Buffalo, SUNY
  "Is Using AI a Form of Deception in Academia?" Madison Neurohr, University of Buffalo (SUNY)
  "The Nonverbal Dynamics of AI Instruction and Artificial General Intelligence" Zachary Carr, University at Buffalo (SUNY)
  "Trust and Individual Differences in AI Usage" Zachary R. Glowacki, University at Buffalo

This panel explores how artificial intelligence is transforming nonverbal communication research across theoretical, ethical, and applied domains. Topics include the rise of AI instructors and the relational implications of machine-led learning, students' perceptions of AI use as deception and the behavioral factors shaping disclosure, how personality and trust influence human responses to AI, and advances in automated emotion and deception detection through machine learning. Together, these perspectives examine AI's emergence within nonverbal communication research.

204006   8:30 AM to 9:45 AM   Stoops Ferry

Black Knowledge Traditions and the Rhetoric of Embodiment

Sponsor: Critical/Cultural Communication
Chair: Erik Garrett, Duquesne University
  ""A Reckoning: Black Body Memory as Healing Practice"" Autumn Redcross, Point Park University
  ""Rhetoric, Intersectionality, and Black Women in Pittsburgh: Living Enough for the City"" Tahirah Walker, University of Pittsburgh
  ""The Body as Lyricist: Poetic Knowing in Audre Lorde's Theory and Practice"" Khadijah Pettus, Carlow University
  ""Victory Beyond Sims: Prophetic Rhetoric and Confrontation in the African American Prophetic Tradition"" William Burgess, Gallaudet University

This panel explores how embodied rhetoric functions as a site of knowledge production within Black intellectual traditions. Through examinations of Black women's urban experiences, Lorde's poetic theory, prophetic traditions, and body memory as healing practice, these presentations reveal how embodied knowing emerges through lived experience to challenge dominant epistemologies. Together, they demonstrate how the body itself speaks, resists, prophesies, and heals through rhetorical practices that create space for marginalized knowledge to emerge.

| 204007 | 8:30 AM to 9:45 AM | Waterfront Room |

Argumentation and Forensics Business Meeting

Sponsor: Argumentation and Forensics
Chair: Tim Michaels, Penn State University

The Argumentation and Forensics Interest Group Business Meeting is open to all ECA members and individuals with an interest in argumentation and forensics. The meeting will provide a collaborative space for members to reflect on the past year's activities, share insights, and plan for future initiatives. The agenda includes officer reports, highlighting key accomplishments and updates from the past year, and a review of old business. Members will also discuss new business and upcoming opportunities. This meeting aims to foster community and strategic planning, ensuring the Interest Group continues to advance scholarly and practical contributions to the field.

| 204008 | 8:30 AM to 9:45 AM | Brighton 4 |

Algorithmic Affects: Humans and the Digital Eye

Sponsor: Communication Technology
Chair: Basak M. Guven, Duquesne University
Respondent: Joel Scott Ward, Geneva College
  "Imageries of Mourning: Visualizing the 6.9-Magnitude Earthquake in Cebu, Philippines through the Technological Gaze" Cling Malaco, PhD student (Science and Technology Studies, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute)
  "The Mind-Body of the Network: Spinozist Affects in the Age of the Algorithm" Andri Kosasih, Duquesne University

Algorithm automation asks what becomes of us when we no longer act. Both of these papers consider the ethics that prevail when machines make decisions that previously were exclusive to human actors. Is this new domain of automatic action neutral or does it possess an automatic ethic which operates on the humans subject to its system?

| 204011 | 8:30 AM to 9:45 AM | Haselton 2 |

Emergent Ethics and the Mediated Human Condition: Communication, Law, and Responsibility

Sponsor: Communication Law and Ethics
Chair: Inci Özüm Sayrak, Duquesne University
Respondent: Heather Marie Stassen, Daemen University
  "Bridging Minds: Communication Theory and Neurodivergence" Christopher Michael Graham, Duquesne University
  "Freedom and Harm: Ethical Communication in the Age of Social Media" Gary Hughes, Duquesne University
  "Necropolitics, Urban Communication and Ethics" Steven Joseph, Duquesne University
  "Reframing Persuasion: AI, Rhetorical Ethics, and the Social Marketplace" Noura Hajjaj, Duquesne University

This session examines intersections of communication law, ethics, and technology amid emergent communicative forms. Across digital warfare, neurodivergent expression, social media, and algorithmic persuasion, papers frame emergence as a moral process demanding responsive ethical frameworks. Using interpretive, phenomenological, and critical traditions, the papers analyze power, harm, inclusion, and mediation, from war as discourse to AI branding. Together, the panel rethinks responsibility, ethics, and humanization within evolving technological systems shaping contemporary public discourse and mediated social life.

| 204012 | 8:30 AM to 9:45 AM | Elwood 2 |

CONNECT SESSION From Panic to Podium: Cultivating Conference Confidence

Chair: Christina E. Saindon, Queensborough Community College, CUNY
Presenters:
  Sophia Nicole Bates, James Madison University
  Anitha Dushimirimana, James Madison University
  Oghenetega Ologbo, James Madison University
  Grace Smith, James Madison University
  Alena Yoder, James Madison University
  Rania Zaied, George Mason University

In this CONNECT session, graduate student presenters will offer insights on how to make the most out of the conference experience, moving from uncertainty (and yes, even imposter syndrome) to confidence in navigating the conference. Presenters will share a wide range of conference tips and stories, including selecting sessions, navigating surprises, networking with attendees, presenting posters, and more. Students are highly encouraged to attend this informative session! If you can't make this session, there is a second option on Thursday from 4:00-5:15.

| 204013 | 8:30 AM to 9:45 AM | Pointview |

From Disruption to Discussion: Rhetorical Tools for Managing Controversial Issues in Class

Sponsor: Short Courses
Presenter:
  Richard Eugene Vatz, Towson University

This course will teach ECA attendees how to create and sustain their chosen teaching agenda within politicized emergent issues. Using rhetorical processes and methodologies, attendees will learn how to maintain a focused class discussion that bypasses a counter social agenda. To do so, examples will comprise national, international, and domestic political issues such as conflict in the Middle East and United States' election issues. Through video technology, we will discuss various rhetorical strategies that can help instructors to identify how interpretation and meaning can be manipulated depending on a persuader's goals. In doing so, this course allows attendees to reflect on the ethical constraints within a socio-political agenda-setting and spin control.

204014   8:30 AM to 9:45 AM   Woodlawn

Political Communication Business Meeting

Sponsor: Political Communication
Chair: Danielle R. Mehlman-Brightwell, University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg

The Political Communication Interest Group Business Meeting is open to all ECA members and individuals with an interest in political communication. The meeting will provide a collaborative space for members to reflect on the past year's activities, share insights, and plan for future initiatives. The agenda includes officer reports, highlighting key accomplishments and updates from the past year, and a review of old business. Members will also discuss new business and upcoming opportunities. This meeting aims to foster community and strategic planning, ensuring the Interest Group continues to advance scholarly and practical contributions to the field.

204015   8:30 AM to 9:45 AM   Fountainview

G.I.F.T.S.: Great Ideas for Applied and Engaged Learning

Sponsor: G.I.F.T.S. (Great Ideas for Teaching Students)
Chair: Laura O'Connell, Nassau Community College
   "A Modern Jigsaw for the Large Lecture: The COMMercial Assignment" Stephen Stifano, University of Connecticut; Laura Uzar, University of Connecticut
   "Dorm Room Hoops: Experiential Learning in Sports and Emerging Media" Carla Fox, Middle Tennessee State University
   "Fostering Student Belonging in the First Week: Online Tools for Remote Learning" Cyrus M Diamond, Univeristy of Connecticut
   "Group S(t)imulation Activity: Overcoming a Mid-Semester Slump" Steven Zwier, Community College of Baltimore County
   "Making Sound from Scratch - A Foley Classroom Activity" Sara Holland Levin, West Chester University
   "SWOT Analysis For A Corporate Public Relations Campaign Plan" Dalu Okoli, University of Connecticut
   "Using the 5D Model of Appreciative Inquiry in Applied Learning" Ann Liao, Buffalo State University

In this competitively selected panel, presenters will share their authentic, unique, and innovative "Great Ideas" for teaching students. G.I.F.T.S. include activities, projects, or simulations toward undergraduate courses that help students understand, apply, and appreciate communication skills, concepts, & theories relevant to the discipline. This specific session features ideas for applied learning and more engaged classrooms.

9:00 AM

205019   9:00 AM to 10:00 AM   Reflections Room

Emerging Research: The James C. McCroskey & Virginia P. Richmond Undergraduate Scholars Poster Session I

Sponsor: James C. McCroskey and Virginia P. Richmond Undergraduate Scholars Conference
Chairs: Kerry Byrnes-Loinette, Collin College; Steve Granelli, Northeastern University
   "An F in Communication: A lesson in Disengagement from Abbott Elementary" Eve Rieser, Northeastern University; Hannah Kuklin, Northeastern University; Madeline Bard, Northeastern University
   "Bitzer's Rhetorical Situation in Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings" Christine Weicicoskie, Penn State Schuylkill
   "Burkean Identification and "West Side Story"" Jenalise Emily Muir, Penn State Schuylkill
   "Creating engaged citizens: A proposed campaign for the development and implementation of a curricular framework for civic education" Maryellen Kane, Ramapo College of New Jersey
   "Decoding Swift: A Media Analysis of the 1989 Transformation" Rhea Jayne - Marie Yokum, West Virginia Wesleyan College
   "Do I Have a Massive Arsehole?: Belief Debugging in Fleabag's Opening Minutes" Ana Harb, Northeastern University; Ian Simmonds, Northeastern University; Jay Frohwirth, Northeastern University
   "Duet to Distance: Knapps Stage Model of Relationship Development in Troy and Gabriella's Relationship" McKenzie Reagan Morley, Northeastern University; Olivia Grace Berry, Northeastern University; Ellen Wright LaMontagne, Northeastern University
   "Framing the Game: Race, Gender, and Media Portrayal in Women's Basketball" Zari Nia Jelks-Heron, Syracuse University
   "From Exposition to Fallout - Narrative Analysis of Jimmy McGill's Moral Decline in Better Call Saul" Maya Rhea Davison, Penn State Wilkes-Barre
   "Gendered Policing of Authenticity: How Cancel Culture Disproportionately Targets Female Influencers" Riley Elizabeth Quinn, Riley Quinn; Ella Rogerson, Endicott College
   "Understanding Student Social Media Use, Norms, Self-Esteem, Political Identification, and Fear of Missing Out (FOMO)" Heidi Kunz, West Virginia University; Avery Powell, West Virginia University; Morghan Davies, West Virginia University; Allana Randolph, West Virginia University
   "When Stories Haunt Differently: Creepypastas Across Text, YouTube, and Podcasts" Elisha Taylor, West Virginia Wesleyan College
   ""It's nice to have a community:" Emerging themes of connection among Dungeons & Dragons players across modalities" jacob alexander valmassoni, Saint Vincent College

""No One Mourns the Fascist!" Exploring Themes of Facism Within Wicked" Faith Renee Yoho, West Virginia Wesleyan College
""You Have No Power Over Me:" A Rhetorical Analysis of Defying Hegemony as a Woman in the Film Labyrinth" Lily Kay Kreiser, Penn State Schuylkill

These posters were competitively selected for presentation at the James C. McCroskey and Virginia P. Richmond Undergraduate Scholars Conference.

| 205019 | 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM | Reflections Room |

Graduate Programs Showcase

Graduate program representatives from Master's and/or Ph.D. programs will be on hand to meet with interested and prospective students. Come and mingle with our graduate program representatives and check out the concurrent Undergraduate Scholars Poster Sessions!

10:00 AM

| 207001 | 10:00 AM to 11:15 AM | Elwood 1 |

Voices in the Machine? Ethical Concerns About Challenging and Engaging Knowledge in an Age of Synthetic Learning

Sponsor: Community College
Chair: Kerry Byrnes-Loinette, Collin College
Presenters:
  Nicholas D. Bowman, Syracuse University
  Nick Linardopoulos, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
  Susan Ward, Delaware County Community College

The use of generative AI tools in higher education raises critical ethical concerns about accountability, authenticity, understanding, and ownership of ideas. This roundtable emphasizes two key reasons for addressing these concerns. First, educators should question the assumption that AI should be used simply because it is pervasive-its ethical legitimacy deserves scrutiny. Second, rather than merely guarding against misuse, academia must consider whether AI exposes deeper flaws in how learning and intellectual engagement are traditionally understood. In addition, it is essential to increase awareness regarding those critical concerns in the way we learn and teach in higher education.

| 207003 | 10:00 AM to 11:15 AM | Brighton 1 |

Emerging Perspectives on Communication and Conformity: From Empathy, Emotional Intelligence, and Self-Awareness to Trauma, Deviance, and Political Messaging

Sponsor: Communication Traits
Chair: Alan D. Heisel, University of Missouri-St. Louis
Respondent: Lynda L. McCroskey, California State University, Long Beach
  "Empathy in Conformity: Authenticity and Spiral of Silence" Ashley Alexander, University of Missouri-St. Louis
  "Can Therapy Reduce Unconscious Conformity? The Role of Emotional Intelligence and Self-Awareness in Conformity" Jaymi Dean, University of Missouri-St. Louis
  "Trauma: Effects on Personality and Conformity to Deviant Groups" Elizabeth Gronemeyer, University of Missouri-St. Louis
  "In-Group Conformity and Messaging in "Respect MO Voters' Campaign" Ben Muehleisen, University of Missouri-St. Louis

Designed to address emerging perspectives on the role that communication plays in conformity, this discussion panel features presentations that will provide a foundation of extant literature as well as potential questions for future research. Topics include: What role does empathy, emotional intelligence, self-awareness, and personality play in susceptibility to conformity? How does trauma affect resistance to conformity? And, does in-group outgroup framing in political messaging matter?

| 207004 | 10:00 AM to 11:15 AM | Brighton 2 |

Kenneth Burke Society: Top Competitive Papers

Sponsor: Kenneth Burke Society
Chair: Tim Michaels, Penn State University
Respondent: Cem Zeytinoglu, East Stroudsburg University
  "Remoralizing Development at Old Crow Wetland" Robb Conrad Lauzon, Juniata College; Myles Miller, Juniata College
  "The Laughing Place: A Pentad Analysis" Tara Haney, East Stroudsburg University

This panel showcases the top competitively selected papers from the Kenneth Burke Society Interest Group, including both the top paper and the top student paper as selected by the division's reviewers. The authors of these papers have carried the legacy of Kenneth Burke through high quality investigations into unique rhetorical artifacts. Together, these papers aptly demonstrate the ongoing relevance of Burkean rhetoric in the contemporary world.

| 207005 | 10:00 AM to 11:15 AM | Brighton 3 |

On the (Re)Emergence of Propaganda in Contemporary Argumentative Discourse

Sponsor: Argumentation and Forensics

Chair: Erin Brummett, Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania - Bloomsburg

Respondent: Erin Brummett, Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania - Bloomsburg

"Focus on the Family: How Propagandists Exploit Family Conversations for Political Gain" Angela G. La Valley, Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania - Bloomsburg

"On the AI of propaganda and the propaganda of AI: Constructing consumption communities in the service of big tech" Robert J. Green, Commonwealth University Bloomsburg

"Propaganda's Past as Prologue: Conspiracy, (re)Construction of the "Enemy-Within" and Contemporary Authoritarianism" Andrew Barnes, James Madison University

"The Personal Is Propaganda: Gendered Rhetoric and Civic Duty in Cold War Civil Defense Campaigns" NICOLE R BARNES, James Madison University

"Theorizing the Overlaps and Distinctions of Ethical Persuasion and Provocative Rhetoric in an Age of Propaganda" James Petre, Bloomsburg University

This panel assembles scholars from a breadth of specialties to examine the (re)emergence of propaganda in contemporary argumentative discourse. Panelists will examine propaganda processes associated with conspiracy rhetoric and political persuasion, with gender and cold war legacies, with artificial intelligence and family communication. To examine the (re)emergence of propaganda is to examine how propaganda draws upon and rearticulates historically informed myths, struggles, stereotypes, symbols, and techniques to influence targeted audiences through the utilization of legacy and new media platforms-all in the service of systematically and deliberately shaping lived experiences to achieve above all else the goals of the propagandist.

| 207006 | 10:00 AM to 11:15 AM | Stoops Ferry |

The Three Faces of Barbie: Multidisciplinary Perspectives on the Rebranding of a Cultural Icon

Sponsor: Media Communication

Chair: Bonnie S. Jefferson, Boston College, retired

Respondent: Thom Gencarelli, Manhattan University

""Because We're Solitary Barbie Girls, Ain't We?"" Christina M. Knopf, SUNY Cortland

"Reviving an Outdated Brand: How the Barbie' Movie Transformed Brand Image Through Narrative and Experiential Marketing" Thomas Richard Flynn, Slippery Rock University

"To Barbie Land and Beyond: Subverting Hollywood's Gender Hierarchy through Barbie" Caleigh Elaine Flynn, University of Iowa

Once a cultural icon, Barbie came to be seen as an outdated embodiment of archaic gender stereotypes and unrealistic beauty standards, resulting in declining sales and loss of cultural relevance. The Barbie brand needed a makeover to reflect more contemporary perspectives of female empowerment, to more effectively engage young girls and regain the trust of their parents. The Barbie movie served as the centerpiece of Mattel's multi-faceted strategy to redefine the doll's brand image. The papers in this panel analyze the Barbie movie from three differing disciplinary perspectives.

| 207007 | 10:00 AM to 11:15 AM | Waterfront Room |

Instructional Communication Business Meeting

Sponsor: Instructional Communication

Chair: Stephen M. Kromka, The University of Tampa

The Instructional Communication Interest Group Business Meeting is open to all ECA members and individuals with an interest in instructional communication. The meeting will provide a collaborative space for members to reflect on the past year's activities, share insights, and plan for future initiatives. The agenda includes officer reports, highlighting key accomplishments and updates from the past year, and a review of old business. Members will also discuss new business and upcoming opportunities. This meeting aims to foster community and strategic planning, ensuring the Interest Group continues to advance scholarly and practical contributions to the field.

| 207008 | 10:00 AM to 11:15 AM | Brighton 4 |

Teaching Organizational Communication: Emergence of Innovative Methods

Sponsor: Organizational Communication

Chair: Maxine Gesualdi, West Chester University of Pennsylvania

Presenters:

Casey Michael Stratton, Salisbury University

Laura O'Connell, Nassau Community College

This workshop provides space for participants to actively discuss current efforts to innovate their courses and curriculum designs. The presenters will begin the session by sharing their efforts to innovate their methods and design. Then, presenters will facilitate an open discussion among attendees to share their efforts and ideas. At the end of the session, participants will gain an actionable list of small and big ways to innovate their teaching of organizational communication. Topics include experiential learning via the internship course, client-project integration, using current case studies, and non-traditional methods of classroom engagement (e.g., museums, field trips, and AI-driven methods).

| 207009 | 10:00 AM to 11:15 AM | Edenburg |

Contesting Ideological Interpellation: Emergent Moral Urgency and the Rhetoric of Legitimacy

Sponsor: Rhetoric and Public Address
Chair: Timothy Barney, University of Richmond
  "Coexisting with Polarized Facades: Emergent Rhetorics in a Politically Contested Cosmion" Kochav Koren, PhD Student in Rhetoric, Duquesne University; Erik Garrett, Duquesne University
  "Political Enemies: U.S. Media Discourse of Hamas-Likud War Outbreak on October 7, 2023" Ana Lopez Godoy, Doctoral Student at Texas A&M University
  "Scientology Online: A Dual-Theoretical Rhetorical Analysis of Scientology's Website" Whitney Morgan Elise Hill, University of South Florida
  "The Allure of Fake Authenticity: A Rubric for Rhetorically Reading Fictional Presidents/Presidential Fictions in a Time of Rampant Presidentialism" Trevor Parry-Giles, University of Maryland

This panel explores the formation and influence of political and cultural ideology. From different methodological perspectives, research papers study how situated representations (e.g., media, politics, scientology, and gentrification) can (re)negotiate the normalizing effect of pseudo-authenticity in public discourse.

207010   10:00 AM to 11:15 AM   Haselton 1

Top Papers in the Critical/Cultural Communication Interest Group

Sponsor: Critical/Cultural Communication
Chair: Anna Elise Lindner, Nazareth University
  ""The Real N-Word": Mapping Authenticity and Racial Discourse in Hip-Hop" Dominic Owusu Boakye, Syracuse University; Srividya Ramasubramanian, Syracuse University
  "Emerging Voices: Telling the Lived Experiences of Educated Ghanaian Women with Infertility in Ghana" Freda Akosua Lekey, Salisbury University
  "Time, Work-Discipline, and Industrial Academia: Emergent Productivity Stacks in Corporate Higher Education" Alexis de Coning, West Virginia Wesleyan College
  "Representation of Eastern European and Latina Women on American TV: Jane the Virgin" Alina Niftulaeva, Chapman University

This panel showcases the top four competitively selected papers from the Critical/Cultural Communication Interest Group. The authors of these papers approach critical/cultural communication scholarship across a variety of topics, contexts, theoretical perspectives, and research methodologies. Collectively, the papers represent the highest quality submissions and are deserving of recognition.

207011   10:00 AM to 11:15 AM   Haselton 2

Top Papers in Philosophy of Communication

Sponsor: Philosophy of Communication
Chair: Robert Foschia, Kutztown University
Respondent: Janie Harden Fritz, Duquesne University
  "Hell, Climate, Cool" Tom Duncanson, Green Citizen Diplomacy Project
  "Immanence and Interpretation: Spinoza and Ricoeur on the Logic of Emergent Selfhood" Andri Kosasih, Duquesne University
  "Jesus and the Transmission Model: God's Messenger" Zachary Sapienza, University of North Alabama
  "Presence/Absence and the Emergent Experience of Communication" Inci Özüm Sayrak, Duquesne University

This panel features the Top Papers in Philosophy of Communication.

207013   10:00 AM to 11:15 AM   Pointview

Harnessing Digital Emergence: A Practical Guide to Social Media Analytics

Sponsor: Short Courses
Presenter:
  Dolapo Michael Oyedokun, Ohio University

As digital communication continues to shape public discourse and academic inquiry, there is a growing need for scholars to leverage social media data. This workshop bridges the gap between traditional communication research methods and computational techniques, focusing on the emergence of social media as platforms for public discourse. Participants will acquire both theoretical knowledge and practical skills in social media analytics, including data scraping, visualization, and interpretation. Attendees will learn to use freely available tools and platforms to extract insights from platforms like YouTube and Reddit to understand how public opinion and audience behavior emerge in real time. The course will empower educators and researchers to incorporate these analytics tools into their classroom and research settings, enabling them to navigate the dynamic world of digital communication with confidence and address the contemporary issues that emerge from these evolving spaces.

207014   10:00 AM to 11:15 AM   Woodlawn

American Society for the History of Rhetoric (ASHR) Business Meeting

Sponsor: American Society for the History of Rhetoric (ASHR), (Affiliate Org)
Chair: David Carl Hoffman, Baruch College, CUNY

The American Society for the History of Rhetoric Affiliate Group Business Meeting is open to all ECA members and individuals with an interest in the history of rhetoric. The meeting will provide a collaborative space for members to reflect on the past year's activities, share insights, and plan for future initiatives. The agenda includes officer reports, highlighting key accomplishments and updates from the past year, and a review of old business. Members will also discuss new business and upcoming opportunities. This meeting aims to foster community and strategic planning, ensuring the Interest Group continues to advance scholarly and practical contributions to the field.

207015   10:00 AM to 11:15 AM   Fountainview

Emerging as a Published Scholar

Sponsor: First Vice President's Programming
Chair: Katherine Thweatt, University
Presenters:
  Sara LaBelle, Chapman University
  Zac Johnson, California State University, Fullerton
  Valerie Schrader, Penn State University - Schuylkill Campus
  Jeanne Persuit, UNC Wilmington
  Dan Strasser, Rowan University

Graduate programs train individuals with the necessary skills to conduct research and engage in scholarly activities. Many graduate students emerge from graduate programs with publications and transition to their careers with the assumption that publication will continue. However, not all scholarly and research trajectories look the same. Publications are meaningful when working toward tenure, but publications also contribute to satisfaction with one's own career. The roundtable will include panelists from different communication perspectives who have mastered publication in a variety of realms and contexts and who will share their process.

207019   10:00 AM to 11:00 AM   Reflections Room

Research in Emergence: James C. McCroskey & Virginia P. Richmond Undergraduate Scholars Poster Session II

Sponsor: James C. McCroskey and Virginia P. Richmond Undergraduate Scholars Conference
Chairs: Steve Granelli, Northeastern University; Kerry Byrnes-Loinette, Collin College
  "Defying Gravity: How the Wicked and Wicked: For Good Film Campaigns Reframed Villainy, Identity, and Cultural Emergence" Brooke Martin, Seton Hill University; Bara-Serene Mason, Seton Hill University
  "Emerging Identities: Supporting Military Dependents in Higher Education" Olivia Barnes, The Pennsylvania State University
  "Emerging Leaders in Undergraduate Communication Courses | Bridging the Divide Through a Student Ambassadorship Program" Mariya Grace Petrosky, Penn State University; Marcy Milhomme, The Pennsylvania State University
  "Humor, Power and Ethics of the "Chubby JD" meme" Evan Maxim Weinstock, Northeastern; Maya Waugh, Northeastern; Elliot Mcquide, Northeastern
  "Listening with the Body: Music as a Nonverbal Communication for Runners" Kristina Lesho, West Virginia Wesleyan College
  "Managed Understanding: Narrative Delegitimization and the Mediation of Black Lives Matter" Areonna Loryel Zarco, West Virginia Wesleyan College
  "Manufactured Innocence and the Sexualization of Minors in K-pop" Summer Kathryn Grace, Towson University
  "Playing the Algorithm: A Content Analysis of Men's and Women's Professional Soccer Teams on Social Media" Hannah Wiley, Canisius University
  "Raving for Relief: How EDM Affects Young Adult Well-Being" Daria Ivanov, Montclair State University
  "Research for AI, Tourism & Innovation: Empowering Young Professionals & Small Businesses in Greensburg, PA" Makenna Twombley, Seton Hill University; Amara Forsyth, Seton Hill University; Tationna Pack, Seton Hill University; Zoey Sussan, Seton Hill University; Grace Paredes, Seton Hill University; Andrew Somuah, Seton Hill University
  "Scrolling Between the Lines: Examining the Relationship Between Modern Political Memes and Ideology" Joseph Harvey Lescht, Rutgers University Camden
  "The Assault of the Black Body and Mind" Chinenye Ofor, Towson University
  "The Culture within the Game: An Emerging Intercultural and Organizational Communication Research on Youth Participatory Activities" Ashlynn Toppin, Stevenson University
  "The Digital Disconnect: How Texting Shapes Satisfaction in Romantic Relationships" Madeline Goepfert, Robert Morris University; Kayla Kosarik, Robert Morris University
  "The Role of Eastern Practice in the Western Wellness Industry" Celia Golden, UMW

These posters were competitively selected for presentation at the James C. McCroskey and Virginia P. Richmond Undergraduate Scholars Conference.

11:30 AM

209022   11:30 AM to 1:15 PM   Grand Station 3,4,5

ECA Keynote Address and Awards Celebration

All are invited to join us for this special convention-wide celebration as we honor the exceptional achievements of ECA award winners and fellows. This year, we are thrilled to celebrate our 2026 honorees and feature an inspiring keynote address by Dr. Natalie Sydorenko.

Natalie holds a Ph.D. from Purdue University in Communication and Rhetoric and taught in Higher Education for nearly three decades. Additionally, she is a Yoga and Meditation Instructor, a Reiki Master, and a Certified Celebrant. She now devotes her time to educating others about the body's innate capacity for healing and balance and the interconnection of mind, body, and spirit in wellness. Her greatest intention is to help others cultivate deeper self-awareness, restoration, and transformation -ultimately contributing to humanity's collective movement toward cooperation, peace, and joy.

We will also be celebrating the amazing achievements of our award winners for the following awards: Distinguished Service Award; Article of the Year Award; Everett Lee Hunt Award; Applied Urban Communication Research Grant; ECA Centennial Scholarships; Ecroyd Teaching Excellence Award; Past Officers' Award; ECA Research Fellows; ECA Teaching Fellows; Richard E. Vatz Agenda-Spin Persuasion Award; Dr. James W. Chesebro Marginalized Community Scholarship Fund; and the ECA Legacy Award for Distinguished IDEA Scholarship.

Refreshments will be served. Don't miss this opportunity to connect, celebrate, and be inspired!

1:30 PM

213001 | 1:30 PM to 2:45 PM | Elwood 1

Uncertainty Management and Institutional Change: A Round Table Discussion

Sponsor: Interpersonal Communication
Chair: Robert J. Green, Commonwealth University Bloomsburg
Presenters:
  Erin Brummett, Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania - Bloomsburg
  Lilliana Drosnock, Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania at Bloomsburg
  Paula Hopeck, Commonwealth University of PA at Bloomsburg
  Angela G. La Valley, Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania - Bloomsburg
  Lydia Price, Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania at Bloomsburg
  Grace Rinehimer, Commonwealth University of PA at Bloomsburg
  Matt Stivers, Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania (Bloomsburg Campus)

This round table discussion assembles students and faculty to discuss the interpersonal impact of managing the uncertainty that comes with significant institutional changes, both across the university and the state university system. Students will speak of their experiences with messages that they received from the university and how they navigated the uncertainty surrounding their education, from their projected graduation date to the changes in course availability, and how interpersonal communication was implicated in that process.

213003 | 1:30 PM to 2:45 PM | Brighton 1

"Can We Emerge from This?": Chair-apy, Emotional Labor, Administration, and the Chair as First Responder

Sponsor: Communication Administration
Chair: Mary Mino, Penn State DuBois
Presenters:
  Timothy J. Brown, Eastern University
  Leah Seurer, University of South Dakota
  Leslie Rossman, Edmonds College
  Dan Strasser, Rowan University
  Salma Shukri, University of Colorado Boulder
  Richard Jones, Marshall University

As academic first responders, we've carried the weight of others' stress, navigated competing demands, and tried to lead with compassion in a time when clarity, certainty, and calm were in short supply. This panel explores the emotional labor of leadership in higher education through case studies from our own diverse institutions. Topics include emotional intelligence, listening, relational dialectics, self-disclosure, and the art of perception checking when everyone wants something right now. Expect honest reflection, a few laughs, and takeaways that will help you elevate your own practice - without becoming the office dumping ground.

213004 | 1:30 PM to 2:45 PM | Brighton 2

Systems, Rhetoric, and Phenomenology: A Discussion of Media Ecology's Emergence

Sponsor: Media Ecology (Affiliate Organization)
Chair: Ryan P. McCullough, West Liberty University

Presenters:
　Ryan Eisenhuth, Ohio University
　Erik Garrett, Duquesne University
　Thom Gencarelli, Manhattan University
　Brent Malin, University of Pittsburgh
　Tiffany Petricini, Penn State Erie--The Behrend College
　Lance Strate, Fordham University
　Laura Trujillo Liñán, Universidad Panamericana
　Inci Özüm Sayrak, Duquesne University

In this roundtable, the participants discuss and articulate the points of convergence, divergence, and emergence between systems theory, rhetoric, and phenomenology in relation to media ecology as the study of media as environments. For students and scholars unfamiliar with the media ecology approach to the study of human and mediated communication, this roundtable will discuss how systems theory, the rhetoric of technology, and phenomenology of technology can serve as points of entry. This roundtable will also prove valuable to students and scholars who wish to expand their knowledge of media ecology by articulating the tradition's theoretical and philosophical underpinnings, leading to clarity on how media ecology emerged within communication and philosophical studies. The roundtable participants will also discuss the ways in which media ecology can help us to navigate emerging media.

213005　　　　　　　　　　　　1:30 PM to 2:45 PM　　　　　　　　　　　　Brighton 3

Health Information Seeking and Health Messages

Sponsor: Health Communication
Chair: Satarupa Dasgupta, Ramapo College of New Jersey
　"Beyond Planned Behavior: Understanding How Trust, Experience, and Topic Shape AI and Human Health Information Seeking" Xuan Qian, Cornell University
　"Guided by Routine and Nurturance: How Parent Characteristics Shape Online Infant Health Information Seeking" Melissa Robinson, Penn State Fayette; Elaine S Barry, Penn State Fayette, The Eberly Campus
　"Health Information Processing and Social Support on Social Media: Does platform matter?" Jennifer Allen Catellier, Gannon University; Lindsey J. DiTirro, Gannon University
　"I Saw this on TikTok: Examining the Nature of Memorable Health-Related Messages on TikTok" Andrea L Meluch, The University of Akron; Rhiannon Kallis, University of Akron

This paper session highlights three interconnected areas of Health Information Seeking and Health-Related Messaging. It examines public trust in health information in the era of artificial intelligence (AI), explores how individuals process and interpret health information, and investigates the role of memorable health messages in shaping health behaviors and decision-making.

213007　　　　　　　　　　　　1:30 PM to 2:45 PM　　　　　　　　　　　Waterfront Room

ECA 2027 Planners Meeting I

Chair: Colin Kearney, Hampton University

Are you a 2027 Interest Group Planner? Join us for the ECA 2027 Planner Meeting, an essential session designed to help you prepare for the Eastern Communication Association's 2027 Conference in Reston, VA. This meeting will provide crucial information about the planning process, including deadlines, procedures, and best practices for organizing engaging sessions. Connect with fellow planners, ask questions, and ensure you have the tools and resources needed to make ECA 2027 a success. Your role is vital to shaping a dynamic and impactful conference -don't miss this important opportunity to get started!
If you are not able to attend this session, please attend ECA 2027 Planner Meeting II on Saturday at 11:30AM . These two sessions include the same information, so please select the session that best fits your schedule.

213008　　　　　　　　　　　　1:30 PM to 2:45 PM　　　　　　　　　　　　Brighton 4

Emerging Analysis in Applied Communication Contexts

Sponsor: Applied Communication
Chair: Austin D. Hestdalen, Purdue University Northwest
　"Agrarian Technology and Communities of Attention" Maryl McGinley, University of Pittsburgh - Johnstown
　"Emerging from Tradition: The Scholar-Practitioner Model as a Bridge Between Leadership, Innovation, and the Common Good" Tricia Giannone McFadden, Saint Francis Univesity
　"Inoculation (Theory) Illustrated: Visualizing Vaccination, Countering Doubt, and the Emergence of Inoculation Logic" Josh Compton, Dartmouth College
　"Synthetic Consumers: Teaching AI-Generated Audience Responses in Marketing Research" Laura Kelly, University of Mount Union

This paper panel demonstrates the role of applied communication in understanding changes in leadership development, technology, and health misinformation. These papers demonstrate how strong models, theories, and paradigms can foster rich discussion and analysis while helping to "bridge" the gap in our understanding of the past, present, and future.

213009　　　　　　　　　　　　1:30 PM to 2:45 PM　　　　　　　　　　　　Edenburg

Top Papers in the Political Communication Division

Sponsor: Political Communication
Chair: Christina M. Knopf, SUNY Cortland
Respondent: Lacey Fulton, PennWest University
  "Reintegrating Terrorists, Alienating Citizens? A Sentiment Analysis of Social Media Reactions to Boko Haram Reintegration" Dolapo Michael Oyedokun, Ohio University
  "Beyond the Ballot: The Emergence of Political Identity in Ghana's Post-Primary Speeches" Dominic Awini Asitanga, Ohio University
  "Emerging Communication Styles of Empowerment in Resignations by Women Political Leaders" Julia A Spiker, The University of Akron
  "Religious and Political Values: An Analysis of Facebook Comments Surrounding Bishop Budde's Inauguration Sermon" Alexandra Marie Rapp, Ball State University

This panel features top papers in political communication. Collectively, the papers address various global contexts and examine: social media reactions to Boko Haram reintegration, which reveal a dominant negative sentiment linked to distrust, justice, and identity.; Ghanaian post-primary speeches through intergroup communication theories which illustrate how candidates construct unity and power; empowerment rhetoric in resignation statements by women leaders by framing exits as agency and inspiration; and Facebook discourse on Bishop Budde's inauguration sermon which presents polarized religious and political values. Together, these studies reveal emerging power structures shaped by ideology, identity, and media discourse worldwide.

| 213010 | 1:30 PM to 2:45 PM | Haselton 1 |

Transnational Identities, Queer Resistance, and Kinship Beyond Norms: Exploring Contemporary Issues Through Voices of Diversity

Sponsor: Voices of Diversity
Chair: Gordon Alley-Young, Kingsborough Community College - CUNY
Respondent: Christina E. Saindon, Queensborough Community College, CUNY
  "Beyond Bloodlines: Drag, Chosen Families, and the Social Practice of Motherhood in Pose" Gordon Alley-Young, Kingsborough Community College - CUNY
  "From International Others to Transnational Selves: Navigating Second World Difference as Graduate Students" Erjona Gashi, Towson University; Evgeniya Pyatovskaya, Loyola Marymount University
  "Impacts of Cisgender Heteronormative Ideologies on Queer Men" Hayden Adams, Ball State University
  "Investigating the Connection Between Liberal Arts and Sciences Education and Democracy: Representing Marginal Groups" Hamdi NA Echkaou, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

In this panel offered by the Voice of Diversity Interest Group, panelists will present contemporary work exploring the experiences of transnational graduate students, the role of education in fostering inclusion, the impact of cisheteronormative ideologies on queer identities, and the reimagining of kinship and motherhood in LGBTQIA+ communities. Each presentation offers unique methodological and theoretical perspectives on identity, representation, and resistance. Join us for engaging scholarship and conversation!

| 213011 | 1:30 PM to 2:45 PM | Haselton 2 |

Top Papers in Instructional Communication

Sponsor: Instructional Communication
Chair: Stephen M. Kromka, The University of Tampa
Respondent: Candice Elaine Thomas-Maddox, Ohio University Lancaster
  "Instructor Clarity Fosters Student Learning by Reducing Cognitive Load (For Some Students)" San Bolkan, California State University - Long Beach; Alan K. Goodboy, West Virginia University; Nick Serki, California State University, Long Beach
  "Using Rhetorical/Relational Goal Theory to Explore the Moderating Effect of Instructor Communication on Student Interest and Engagement" Scott Allan Myers, West Virginia University; Abigail Adejumo, West Virginia University; Nathaniel J. Beer, West Virginia University; Amarachi Nina Uma Mba, West Virginia University; Matthew Witkowski, West Virginia University; April N Wright, West Virginia University
  "Incorporating (Self) Deception into Public Speaking Courses" Miranda Rouse, Hampden-Sydney College; Xiaoti Fan, The University of Alabama in Huntsville; Darrin J. Griffin, The University of Alabama

This session features the highest-rated papers submitted to the Instructional Communication Interest Group, each illuminating emerging questions and practices shaping today's learning environments. Collectively, these studies advance the convention theme, "Emergence," by revealing new patterns in instructional communication that support student growth, relational resilience, and pedagogical innovation.

| 213012 | 1:30 PM to 2:45 PM | Elwood 2 |

The Emergence of Data Literacy: What Industry Wants and How Educators Can Deliver - PART 1

Sponsor: First Vice President's Programming
Chair: Thomas Richard Flynn, Slippery Rock University
Presenters:
  Dave Zuidema, Cleveland Guardians Baseball - Director of Consumer Research
  Pennilane G. Carlisle, Manager Shopper & Product Insights at American Greetings
  Glenn Staada, Executive Vice President at Radius Insights
  Beth Thompson, Sr. VP & Director of Public Relations - Gatesman Digital Marketing Agency

The digital revolution has dramatically transformed consumer audience engagement. To plan in this new paradigm, content-creators must mine mountains of data to gain an actionable understanding of their target audience. Data analytics provides the insights necessary to improve messaging performance and increase audience engagement.

Preparing students for this data-driven environment requires a paradigm shift: fewer undergraduates will pursue academia; most graduates will work in marketing communications, social media, public relations, or media production. Our discipline must transform our approach to teaching Research Methods to emphasize data interpretation for actionable insights. This two-part program guides this shift. In Part 1, a panel of esteemed professionals discuss how data analytics shapes their work and hiring profiles. In Part 2, academic panelists share tools and strategies to engage students in developing the skills necessary to compete in this data-driven environment. Attendees must preregister for this two-part session.

213013   1:30 PM to 2:45 PM   Pointview

The Emergent Academic Profile: Visual Pedagogy, Professional Identity, and Public Engagement

Sponsor: Short Courses
Presenter:
   Christina Ferraz, University of Pittsburgh

This course equips students to analyze, evaluate, and create strategic digital identities using LinkedIn as an emergent site of visual pedagogy that shapes how academic labor and knowledge circulate across disciplines and publics. Scholars will identify and articulate their scholarly positioning; apply best practices to design visually coherent, keyword-optimized profiles; and develop content strategies that communicate research and teaching to diverse audiences. By building intentional networks and aligning their digital presence with academic job market cycles, scholars will synthesize communication theory and practice to address contemporary societal, technological, and economic challenges-such as visibility in competitive markets, the democratization of scholarly discourse, and cross-sector collaboration. Through evaluating analytics and iterating strategies, scholars will engage in the emergence of communication practices that extend scholarship beyond the academy, positioning Communication Studies as vital to solving pressing issues in civic, organizational, and global contexts.

213019   1:30 PM to 3:30 PM   Reflections Room

James C. McCroskey & Virginia P. Richmond Undergraduate Scholars Conference Awards Luncheon

Chairs: Kerry Byrnes-Loinette, Collin College; Steve Granelli, Northeastern University

This celebratory luncheon will feature awards for our top undergraduate scholars. Lunch is complimentary for accepted USC presenters only. All are invited but preregistration is required.

213020   1:30 PM to 2:45 PM   Admiral / ECA Hub

Graduate Poster Session I

Sponsor: Graduate Poster Sessions
Chair: Jon Judy, Stark State College
   "#Girlboss: False Hope? The Overglorification of Luxury Living" Awni Kalkat, Drexel University
   "AI-Generated Podcast Messaging as an Emerging Form of Skin Cancer Prevention Strategy among Gen Z Individuals" Narges Ghafary, George Mason University; Wan-Lun Chang, George Mason University; Sojung Kim, George Mason University; Balkisa M. Sissy, George Mason University
   "Beyond Orientation: How Institutional Support Shapes International Students' Adjustment and Belonging" Aicha Ayeborboh Sawaneh, Youngstown State University
   "Defining Moments: From Helplessness to Advocacy; Bridging Gaps in Healthcare Communication and Responsiveness" Zahid Wali, Ohio University
   "Destigmatizing Mental Health in Black Communities: Applying Critical Race Theory to Family and Community Communication" Kendra Harris, Towson University
   "Emerging Transnational Family Support and Maternal Health Decision-Making: A Scoping Review of African Immigrant Women in the United States" Ezinne Abaneme, Ohio University; Mildred N. Komey, Ohio University
   "Examining the Emerging Social Support Preferences of Parents of Children with Disabilities" Melina Danko, West Virginia University; Lindsay Morris-Neuberger, West Virginia University
   "Motherhood in Academia: Identity Negotiation and Work-Life Balance Among Doctoral Student Mothers" Peace Chinenye Nwachukwu, Ohio University
   "Preferring friendship online? How social media influencers' traits shape Gen Z digital connections." Wan-Lun Chang, George Mason University; Narges Ghafary, George Mason University; Kaitlin N Cashin, George Mason University; Juliana Marcello, George Mason University; Sojung Kim, George Mason University
   "Safe Scares: The Anxiety-Reducing Effects of Horror Gameplay" Elena Yifei Zhao, Syracuse University
   "Splash Mountain "The Laughing Place"" Tara Haney, East Stroudsburg University
   "Swiping Right While Navigating Military Identity in Modern Online Dating" Kaitlin N Cashin, George Mason University; Narges Ghafary, George Mason University; Sojung Kim, George Mason University; Amelia Chromy, George Mason University; Sk Farhan Rabbi, George Mason University
   "Using Emerging Research Methods to Examine Sexual Misconduct Narratives" Chelsea Bihlmeyer, West Virginia University

The posters in this session have been competitively selected. Be sure to visit our graduate poster presenters!

| 216001 | 3:00 PM to 4:15 PM | Elwood 1 |

Celebrating the Life, Scholarship and Mentorship of Dr. Molly Wertheimer

Chair: Anne F. Mattina, Stonehill College
Presenters:
  Myra G. Gutin, Rider University
  Verónica Montecinos, Penn State University
  Elizabeth J. Natalie, University of North Carolina at Greensboro
  Katherine Sibley, Saint Joseph's University
  Lisa M. Burns, Quinnipiac University

Molly Wertheimer, long time member of ECA, was a triple alumna of Penn State University, where she earned her undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral degrees. She spent her distinguished career at Penn State Hazleton as a Professor of Communication Arts and Sciences and an affiliate professor of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Molly was a preeminent voice in political communication, specifically the voices of U.S. First Ladies. As a founding member and Secretary of the First Ladies Association for Research and Education (FLARE), she helped build the academic networks that support this scholarship today. Her landmark edited works continue to serve as essential resources for rhetoric scholars and others interested in the gendered dynamics involved with being the spouse/partner of an elected leader.

Friends, colleagues, former students and others are invited to join us as we reflect on Molly's scholarship and its lasting influence on the study of women's political speech; celebrate her long-standing commitment to the ECA; share personal reflections on her mentorship, her teaching, and her role as a founding pillar of the FLARE community.

| 216003 | 3:00 PM to 4:15 PM | Brighton 1 |

Mediating the Between: A Call for the Re-Emergence of Nuance Amidst Context Collapse

Sponsor: Philosophy of Communication
Chair: Kati Elizabeth Sudnick, UNC Wilmington
  ""The Spiritlessness the Precedes Decay": Context Collapse in Urban Communication and Media Systems" Austin D. Hestdalen, Purdue University Northwest
  "Andy Warhol and the Between" Sarah Deluliis, Duquesne University
  "Mediation as Concealment: Deconstructing Elemental, Transmission, and Protective Media" Matthew S. Lindia, Randolph-Macon College
  "Punk Is Dead: The Emergent Need for Nuance Amid Context Collapse Online" Kati Elizabeth Sudnick, UNC Wilmington; Abbey N. McCann, University of North Carolina Wilmington

This panel utilizes a philosophy of communication lens to explore the implications of context collapse as a communicative phenomenon in both digital and urban environments. Panelists draw on a diverse set of philosophical frameworks including Martin Buber's concept of the between, media ecology, popular culture, and urban communication theory, to investigate the consequences of the collapse of context both online and in mediated urban spaces. Together, these four presentations inform one another and highlight how the emergence of meaning and ethical engagement is hindered by the collapse of context, and with this collapse, there is a call for a reconstitution of nuance to restore the possibility of meaningful dialogue and negotiation of meaning online, in popular culture, and in urban settings.

| 216004 | 3:00 PM to 4:15 PM | Brighton 2 |

Neurodivergence and Debate: Emerging Issues and Opportunities in the Administration and Argumentation of Intercollegiate Forensics

Sponsor: Argumentation and Forensics
Chair: Arie Benjamin Likhtman, University of Pittsburgh
Presenters:
  Raymond Blanton, University of the Incarnate Word
  Shanna Carlson, Illinois State University
  Seth Davis, University of Pittsburgh
  Molly Martin, University of Pittsburgh
  Emily Mrowca, Illinois State University
  Glenn Price, St Catherine's University
  Alvin J. Primack, University of Pittsburgh
  Nadya Steck, Independent

This roundtable explores the emergence of neurodivergent voices and perspectives in intercollegiate debate. Participants, inclusive of undergraduate debaters, graduate coaches, and faculty directors, will discuss both the administrative and argumentative dimensions of neuroinclusivity: from tournament accommodations and coaching practices to how disability and neurodivergence are framed in argumentation itself. The discussion considers how debate spaces can better support neurodiverse thinkers while examining how neurodivergent epistemologies might reshape argumentative norms, competitive structures, and the broader pedagogy of forensics.

| 216005 | 3:00 PM to 4:15 PM | Brighton 3 |

Roundtable on The Emergent Pedagogy of Elvera Berry: Reading Burke as Equipment for Living

Sponsor: Kenneth Burke Society

Chair: Erik Garrett, Duquesne University
Presenters:
  Bryan Picciotto, SUNY Oneonta
  Susan Mancino, Saint Mary's College
  Matthew P. Mancino, Indiana University South Bend
  Micki Burdick, University of Delaware
  Steven Zwier, Community College of Baltimore County
  Robin Zwier, Community College of Baltimore County Maryland
  Elvera Berry, Roberts Wesleyan College

Dr. Elvera Berry of Roberts Wesleyan University has taught and trained a generation of Burkean undergraduate scholars who have gone on to study and teach around the country. A generation of Eastern Communication Association members started off in her classroom. This roundtable is made up of former students who will attest to Elvera's influence in the classroom and the power of her infectious love of Kenneth Burke. The panelists will reflect both on Elvera as a teacher and how to teach Burke in the future.

216006   3:00 PM to 4:15 PM   Stoops Ferry

Renewed Roundtable Series #2: Emerging Ideas in Online Teaching

Sponsor: Community College
Chair: Karen Padrutt, Stark State College
Presenters:
  Jordan T. Atkinson, University of Kansas
  Nadine Cichy, Sinclair Community College
  Jeanne Persuit, UNC Wilmington
  Laura O'Connell, Nassau Community College
  Christina E. Saindon, Queensborough Community College, CUNY

Many faculty have successfully been teaching online for quite some time, effectively guiding students in meeting the same learning objectives as a face-to-face course. Others are new to teaching in this context. Whatever your situation may be, if you are involved in online teaching, this this second of a 3-part "Renewed Roundtable" series is for you! Faculty will share how they teach an array of topics in the online environment from a practical & pedagogical standpoint. Participants will share their own ideas with one another and gain insights from featured experts. All will leave with a "renewed" approach to their online lessons.

216007   3:00 PM to 4:15 PM   Waterfront Room

Voices of Diversity Business Meeting

Sponsor: Voices of Diversity
Chair: Carla Rae Richards, Rowan University

The Voices of Diversity Interest Group Business Meeting is open to all ECA members and individuals with an interest in research, teaching, and study of communication within, between, and among diverse communities. The meeting will provide a collaborative space for members to reflect on the past year's activities, share insights, and plan for future initiatives. The agenda includes officer reports, highlighting key accomplishments and updates from the past year, and a review of old business. Members will also discuss new business and upcoming opportunities. This meeting aims to foster community and strategic planning, ensuring the Interest Group continues to advance scholarly and practical contributions to the field.

216008   3:00 PM to 4:15 PM   Brighton 4

Top Papers in Theory and Methodology

Sponsor: Theory and Methodology
Chair: Doran Tucker, George Mason University
  "A Discoursal and Linguistic Analysis of Citation Ethics in Undergraduate Student Academic Writing." Mwesah Mpundu Kapesa, James Madison University
  "Communication is....STORYTELLING" Tara Haney, East Stroudsburg University
  "Emergence: Performing Scholarly Resistance to Doing and Writing Qualitative Inquiry" Casey Michael Stratton, Salisbury University
  "Necropolitical Ageing: A Systematic Review and Critical Discourse Analysis of Cognitive Decline Research" Pav Gunna Reddy, George Mason University
  "Transnational Feminism in Practice: Rethinking Intimate Partner Violence Response and Mitigation Services across Borders" Satarupa Dasgupta, Ramapo College of New Jersey

This session includes the top papers submitted to the Theory and Methodology interest group. Topics range across different applications of emergence in communication theory and methods.

216009   3:00 PM to 4:15 PM   Edenburg

Repairing Reputation: Comparative Applications of Image Repair Theory Across Institutional and Celebrity Crises

Sponsor: Applied Communication
Chair: Lars Kristiansen, James Madison University

Respondent: Lars Kristiansen, James Madison University

"An Examination of Chris Brown's Extensive History of Assault Allegations through Image Repair Theory" Paige D'Agostino, James Madison University

"Image Repair Identity, and Institutional Crisis: A Strategic Communication Analysis of Claudine Gay and Harvard University" Ezekiel Olaniyan, James Madison University

"Scandal and reputation: Astronomer's Coldplay Jumbotron Crisis and Image Repair" Oghenetega Ologbo, James Madison University

"The Ukulele Apology: Colleen Ballinger's Image Repair in the Wake of Sexual Misconduct Allegations" Reese Martin, James Madison University

This panel brings together four empirical analyses that apply Image Repair Theory to recent institutional and celebrity controversies, comparing strategic choices, rhetorical patterns, and audience responses across contexts. The examination of contemporary crisis responses will reveal emerging norms and practical lessons for communication educators and practitioners, as the panel foregrounds how actors deploy denial, mortification, corrective action, and tactics that reduce offensiveness to manage legitimacy and public trust.

216010   3:00 PM to 4:15 PM   Haselton 1

Emergence: New(er) Perspectives on Stimulating College Student Interest and Engagement When Teaching Communication Courses

Sponsor: Instructional Communication

Chair: Scott Allan Myers, West Virginia University

"Experiential Learning to Stimulate Interest and Engagement" Cathlin Clark-Gordon, Seton Hill University

"From Classroom to Community: Fostering Engagement Through Real-World, Hands-On Assignments" James P. Baker, Mission College

"Is Curiosity the Missing Piece in Student Engagement?" Mary E. Donato, Central College

"Making it Matter: The Power of Relevance in Online Programs for Working Professionals" Kylie J. Wilson, Northwest Missouri State University

"Networking in Action: A Classroom Experience with Real-World Impact" Sara Pitts, Alice Lloyd College

"Using "Hooks" to Spark Student Interest and Engagement" Stephen M. Kromka, The University of Tampa

For many college instructors, both undergraduate and graduate student engagement is a desired classroom outcome. However, as many instructors can attest, the extent to which students willingly engage or participate in the classroom ultimately is tied to the interest they attach to the course content, the perceived relevance they associate with mastering the course content, or their general attitudes toward active class engagement. The purpose of this panel is to identify and discuss ways in which instructors can stimulate student interest and engagement. Each panelists will describe a specific teaching activity or assignment they created specifically to improve student interest, engagement, or both.

216011   3:00 PM to 4:15 PM   Haselton 2

From the Camera's Critical Gaze to AI Memes: Rethinking Traditional and Emerging Technologies

Sponsor: Media Communication

Chair: Sun-A Park, Robert Morris University

"The Diffusion of Generative AI Internet Memes in the 2024 U.S. Presidential Election" Wen-Hung Kuo, Robert Morris University; Ann Debra Summerall-Jabro, Robert Morris University

"Extending Cognitive Absorption Theory: Perceived Recognition and User Intentions on Algorithmic Interactive Social Media" Xuan Qian, Cornell University

"The Camera as Tour Guide: Political Detour, Media Form, and the Critique of Extraction in Heart of Gold" Abobo Kumbalonah, West Virginia University

"Postcolonial Readings of U.S. Media Coverage of Korean Popular Culture" Hyeri Jung, Radford University

This session examines the evolving landscape of media technologies, tracing the trajectory from traditional tools such as the documentary camera to contemporary phenomena like AI-generated memes. It offers theoretical and critical reflections on the intersections of media, power, culture, and society, exploring diverse contexts including U.S. presidential elections and environmental justice in Ghana. The papers address the social, political, and cultural implications of these technologies, investigating their impact on public discourse and their potential to shape societal change.

216012   3:00 PM to 4:15 PM   Elwood 2

The Emergence of Data Literacy: What Industry Wants and How Educators Can Deliver - PART 2

Sponsor: First Vice President's Programming

Chair: Thomas Richard Flynn, Slippery Rock University

Presenters:

  Adam Hepworth, Ohio University - Center for Consumer Research & Analytics

  Nazmul Rony, Slippery Rock University

  Theodore A. Avtgis, Utah Tech University

The digital revolution has dramatically transformed consumer audience engagement. To plan in this new paradigm, content-creators must mine mountains of data to gain an actionable understanding of their target audience. Data analytics provides the insights necessary to improve messaging performance and increase audience engagement.

Preparing students for this data-driven environment requires a paradigm shift: fewer undergraduates will pursue academia; most graduates will work in marketing communications, social media, public relations, or media production. Our discipline must transform our approach to teaching Research Methods to emphasize data interpretation for actionable insights. This two-part program guides this shift. In Part 1, a panel of esteemed professionals discuss how data analytics shapes their work and hiring profiles. In Part 2, academic panelists share tools and strategies to engage students in developing the skills necessary to compete in this data-driven environment. Attendees must preregister for this two-part session.

216013   3:00 PM to 4:15 PM   Pointview

"This is Not Normal!": Emerging Political Messages During Trump 2.0

Sponsor: Political Communication
Chair: Nancy Bressler, West Virginia Wesleyan College
Respondent: Jack Banks, University of Hartford
  "Actor or Activist?: Exploring The Trend Of Celebrities Using Their Social Media To Share Their Political Beliefs, and How It Sways Their Viewers" Faith Renee Yoho, West Virginia Wesleyan College
  "Inherited Votes, Independent Voices: Political Socialization in Transition to College" Elisha Taylor, West Virginia Wesleyan College
  "The Very Best Tweets That Anyone Has Ever Seen: How Newsom's Satirical Tweets Can Promote Bipartisan Political Discourse" Jessica Neu, Carlow University
  "Worth A Laugh, But Not A Vote: SNL Satire About Women Who Run For Office" Alison A Fisher Bodkin, James Madison University; Abby Price, Coastal Carolina University; Lily Whitener, Coastal Carolina University; Wendy Weinhold, Coastal Carolina University
  ""It's Your All New Government Approved Daily Show With Your Patriotically Obedient Host": Questioning How Jon Stewart and The Daily Show Elicits Political Discourse During Trump's Second Term" Nancy Bressler, West Virginia Wesleyan College

In celebration of this year's ECA theme "Emergence", this panel considers how politicians, comedians, celebrities, and college students approach political messaging during the second Trump administration. By examining Saturday Night Live, The Daily Show, a governor's social media tweets, and celebrity and social influence, panelists explore the emerging techniques being employed to engage in political discourse. How can these examples express emerging political ideas, demonstrate our current hopes and fears, and possibly encourage political action?

216014   3:00 PM to 4:15 PM   Woodlawn

Media Ecology Business Meeting

Sponsor: Media Ecology (Affiliate Organization)
Chair: Ryan P. McCullough, West Liberty University

The Media Ecology Affiliate Group Business Meeting is open to all ECA members and individuals with an interest in media ecology. The meeting will provide a collaborative space for members to reflect on the past year's activities, share insights, and plan for future initiatives. The agenda includes officer reports, highlighting key accomplishments and updates from the past year, and a review of old business. Members will also discuss new business and upcoming opportunities. This meeting aims to foster community and strategic planning, ensuring the Interest Group continues to advance scholarly and practical contributions to the field.

4:30 PM

218001   4:30 PM to 5:45 PM   Elwood 1

ECA BOOK CLUB! CrossFit, Doterra, and Wellness Influencers: The Emergence of Persuasive Language in Followership

Sponsor: First Vice President's Programming
Chair: Jenny Warren, Collin College
Presenters:
  Jenny Warren, Collin College
  Jessica Papajcik, Stark State College

Join us for the ECA's inaugural book club session - a new format emerging from our commitment to collaborative engagement with contemporary communication scholarship. In Cultish: The Language of Fanaticism, linguist Amanda Montell reveals how persuasive language operates and isn't confined to remote compounds - it emerges in boardrooms, social media feeds, and everyday interactions, shaping how we think, belong, and believe. Together, we'll discuss the book's key insights and explore its implications for communication research, pedagogy, and practice. Come ready for meaningful dialogue. No presentations, just thoughtful conversation among colleagues who've read the book. Please read the book in advance of the session.

218003   4:30 PM to 5:45 PM   Brighton 1

Top Papers in Applied Communication

Sponsor: Applied Communication
Chair: Mary E. Donato, Central College
Respondent: Erin Sheila Craw, Fairfield University

"Can a Research Communication Training Program Foster Efficacy, Bolster Willingness, and Challenge Deficit Model Beliefs? Results from an Intervention Study" Paul R. Brewer, University of Delaware; Erin Oittinen, University of Delaware; Wyatt Dawson, University of Delaware; Barbara L. Ley, University of Delaware

"Formative Research for a Loneliness Campaign Among College Students" Sara LaBelle, Chapman University; Henneh Kwaku Kyereh, Chapman University; Camryn Sievers, Chapman University

"Patterns of Control: A Narrative Review Exploring Nature and Scope of Technologically Mediated Intimate Partner Violence Among Generation Z Individuals" Satarupa Dasgupta, Ramapo College of New Jersey; Emily Christina Melvin, Ramapo College of New Jersey

The papers on this panel represent the top competitive submissions to the Applied Communication Interest Group. This top paper panel will feature a variety of applied research including an investigation into a training program for graduate students and faculty, technology facilitated intimate partner violence, and loneliness among college students.

218004   4:30 PM to 5:45 PM   Brighton 2

Emerging Voices in Patient-Centered Care: Technology, Respect, and Health Behavior Change

Sponsor: Health Communication
Chair: Athar Memon, Ohio University

"Exploring Patient–Provider Interaction and Respectful Maternity Care: Perceptions of Afghan Childbearing Women" Parwana Hamdam, Ohio University

"Healthcare Providers' Perceptions of Information and Communication Technologies in Improving Access to Healthcare for Immigrant Patients" Idris Alghazali, University of Ottawa; Rukhsana Ahmed, University at Albany, SUNY

"Odogwu as Leverage: Exploring Women-Initiated Health Behavior Change in Southeastern Nigerian Men" Amarachi Nina Uma Mba, West Virginia University; Lindsay Morris-Neuberger, West Virginia University

"Who Accesses Their Online Medical Records? Understanding Predictors of Patient Engagement in the Digital Era: Findings from Health Information National Trend Survey 2024" Athar Memon, Ohio University; Ezinne Abaneme, Ohio University; Namra Nadeem, Ohio University; Zahid Wali, Ohio University

This session examines how patient–provider communication and digital health tools are emerging as critical drivers of equitable healthcare access across diverse global contexts. Presentations explore healthcare providers' views on ICT use with immigrant patients, Afghan women's experiences of respectful maternity care, predictors of online medical record use in the U.S., and culturally grounded strategies for women-initiated health behavior change in Nigeria.

218005   4:30 PM to 5:45 PM   Brighton 3

Contemporary Political Rhetoric: Perspectives from Kenneth Burke

Sponsor: Kenneth Burke Society
Chair: Matt Corr, Shenandoah University

"Disjunction Between Substance and Identification: "Intersectionality" in Hillary Clinton's 2016 Harlem Speech" Matthew Thomas Althouse, SUNY Brockport

"Framing Colonization in Kashmir through Terministic Screens: A Cluster Analysis of Colonial Apparatus in Kanjwal's Colonizing Kashmir" Rayna Batool, Ohio University; Andrew Hunt, Miami University

"From Identification to Re-Identification: Burkean Rhetoric and the Dynamics of Social Movements" Andri Kosasih, Duquesne University

"Inoculative Incongruity: Gisele Fetterman's 2022 Democratic PA Primary Acceptance Speech" Brian Snee, University of Scranton

Rhetoric has long been intrinsically linked to political and social issues, offering an important critical perspective into the ways in which such discourse is both constructed and communicated. Kenneth Burke's contributions to the rhetorical canon – including identification, terministic screens, and the pentad – continue to offer effective lenses through which contemporary politics and society can be critiqued and understood. The papers in this session leverage several of Burke's theories to a variety of artifacts, from campaign speeches to social movements to colonialism, effectively demonstrating the endurance of Burke's utility for rhetorical studies of the domestic and international political realm.

218006   4:30 PM to 5:45 PM   Stoops Ferry

Emerging Voices: Rethinking Fear, Stigma, and Support in Instructional Communication

Sponsor: Instructional Communication
Chair: Sara Pitts, Alice Lloyd College
Respondent: Katherine Elizabeth Armstrong, Missouri Valley College

"Building Bridges with Patients through Supportive Communication: Recommendations for Instructing Medical Students on Navigating Initial Encounters with Patients with HIV" Elizabeth M. Glowacki, Northeastern University; Joseph B. Glowacki, Hackensack University Medical Center

"Authentic Belonging in the Speech Class: The Trials of ESL Students" Reshmi Sen, Waubonsee Community College

"Public Speaking in the Anthropocene: The Anthropological Alternative to the Usual Approach to Glossophobia" Tom Duncanson, Green Citizen Diplomacy Project

This session brings together three papers examining how communication emerges in contexts shaped by anxiety, stigma, and cultural or structural constraints. From ESL students seeking belonging to medical trainees learning empathetic dialogue to a critical reframing of glossophobia, these studies show how new forms of competence develop when familiar assumptions are questioned. In line with the "Emergence" theme, the session highlights how inclusive pedagogies and relational approaches create conditions where confidence and meaningful connection can take shape.

218007   4:30 PM to 5:45 PM   Waterfront Room

Communication Technology Business Meeting

Sponsor: Communication Technology
Chair: Joel Scott Ward, Geneva College

The Communication Technology Interest Group Business Meeting is open to all ECA members and individuals with an interest in communication technology. The meeting will provide a collaborative space for members to reflect on the past year's activities, share insights, and plan for future initiatives. The agenda includes officer reports, highlighting key accomplishments and updates from the past year, and a review of old business. Members will also discuss new business and upcoming opportunities. This meeting aims to foster community and strategic planning, ensuring the Interest Group continues to advance scholarly and practical contributions to the field.

218008   4:30 PM to 5:45 PM   Brighton 4

The Emergence of Public Memory: Phenomenological Rhetoric and the Construction of the Imaginary

Sponsor: Rhetoric and Public Address
Chair: Guillermo G. Caliendo, Carnegie Mellon University
  "Can't Help Myself: A Rhetorical Performance of the Horrific Sublime" Ryan Eisenhuth, Ohio University
  "Cartographic Imaginaries, Geoeconomic Imperialism, and Coloniality of Power in World War II U.S. Discourse" Divine Narkotey Aboagye, Villanova University
  "Exploring Images of Food Guidance and the Transformative Possibilities of the USDA MyPlate" Elizabeth A. Petre, Commonwealth University Bloomsburg; James Petre, Bloomsburg University
  "The Rhetoric of Air: Seeing Emergence in the Skies Above Pittsburgh" Josh Compton, Dartmouth College

From different methodological discursive perspectives, the papers in this panel analyze different representational frameworks (e.g., sculptures, post cards, maps and food guides) as "blueprints," "raw materials," or "contested arenas" whereby visual representations can influence not only how public imaginary is rhetorically constructed, but most importantly how a discourse of images can negotiate, even determine, what a public ultimately remembers about an event.

218009   4:30 PM to 5:45 PM   Edenburg

Spin, Frame, Repeat: Corporate Rhetoric in the Age of Influence

Sponsor: Organizational Communication
Chair: Carla Rae Richards, Rowan University
Respondent: Janie Harden Fritz, Duquesne University
  "Enhancing Empathy and Belonging Between Museums and Immigrant Communities Through Strategic Corporate Communication: An Application of Adam Smith's Moral Sentiment Theory" Yaroub Al Obaidi, Duquesne University
  "Performing Legitimacy: Veolia's CSR Strategy, Environmental Justice, and the Rhetorical Construction of Corporate Accountability" Carla Rae Richards, Rowan University
  "Philanthropy or Propaganda: How Ørsted Bought Public Opinion in Southern New Jersey" Lisa Fagan, Duquesne University
  "Placing Ethics at the Center of Strategic Corporate Rhetoric and Communication" Lazarus Langbiir, Duquesne University

This panel investigates how corporations use strategic rhetorical framing to shape public narratives, manage controversy, and build stakeholder trust in an era of heightened media influence. Drawing on communication and rhetorical theory, panelists analyze four timely instances of corporate messaging-from Veolia's CSR performance and museum messaging to Ørsted's wind farm advocacy and ethical frameworks for strategic communication. Together, these presentations reveal how corporate messaging operates as a deliberate act of rhetorical invention, navigating the complex terrain of persuasion, public perception, and ethical responsibility. This session offers valuable insights for scholars and practitioners interested in the evolving relationship between corporations and the public.

218010   4:30 PM to 5:45 PM   Haselton 1

Top Papers of the James C. McCroskey and Virginia P. Richmond Undergraduate Scholars Conference Moments That Matter: Communication at the Point of Change

Sponsor: James C. McCroskey and Virginia P. Richmond Undergraduate Scholars Conference
Chairs: Steve Granelli, Northeastern University; Kerry Byrnes-Loinette, Collin College
Respondent: Lynda L. McCroskey, California State University, Long Beach
  "Breaking Free From Tradition: An Analysis of Three Presidential Inaugural Addresses through the Lens of the Rhetorical Situation and the Commonalities of Presidential Rhetoric" Anastasia Marie Rakowsky, Penn State Schuylkill
  "Digital Playbook: Motivations of Sports Viewership and Consumption Among College Students" Olivia Watson, Northeastern University
  "Equity Theory and Attachment Styles: The Implications of "Work Spouses" in Netflix's Pressure Cooker" Emma Frances Buzgo, Northeastern University
  "RickRolled: How Deception and Semiotics Thrive in Our Evolving Culture" Jack Perez, Wake Forest

"Understanding Vaccine Perceptions in the Digital Age: Social Media's Role in Vaccine Viewpoints" Leah Flood, Rochester Institute of Technology

These are the top papers of the James C. McCroskey and Virginia P. Richmond Undergraduate Scholars Conference, highlighting outstanding scholarship across diverse areas of communication studies. Together, these projects explore how communication shapes understanding, behavior, and public life in moments of transition and transformation.

218011	4:30 PM to 5:45 PM	Haselton 2

Hyperreality, Post-Truth, and the Ethics of Persuasion

Sponsor: Philosophy of Communication
Chair: Tim Michaels, Penn State University
Respondent: Tim Michaels, Penn State University
  "Can There Be Evil in the Slop Society? Baudrillard, Hyperreality and the Politics of Care" Robert Foschia, Kutztown University
  "Exploring Hyperreality: Implications for Integrated Marketing Communication" Sarah Deluliis, Duquesne University
  "Simulated Convictions: Baudrillard, McIntyre, and Sharot on Post-Truth, Hyperreality, and the Neuroscience of Persuasion" Cem Zeytinoglu, East Stroudsburg University
  "Søren Kierkegaard's Existential Ethics: To Create Difficulties Everywhere" Matthew P. Mancino, Indiana University South Bend

This panel interrogates truth's erosion in hyperreal media ecologies through Baudrillard's simulations, Eco's spectacle critique, and Kierkegaard's existential ethics. Papers explore post-truth neuroscience, the moral vacuum of AI "slop," marketing's hyperreal strategies, and ethical resistance to digital determinism. Bridging media theory, cognitive science, and philosophy, the session analyzes how communication constructs belief-and whether agency persists in algorithmic persuasion. A vital dialogue for an era of deepfakes, synthetic content, and collapsing realities.

218013	4:30 PM to 5:45 PM	Pointview

G.I.F.T.S.: Great Ideas for Teaching Interpersonal and Intercultural Communication

Sponsor: G.I.F.T.S. (Great Ideas for Teaching Students)
Chair: Ellen Santa Maria, West Chester University
  ""I Saw That Going Differently in My Mind:" Identity Emergence in Hitch" Angela G. La Valley, Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania - Bloomsburg
  "Cultural Assumptions Bingo: Challenging Stereotypes and Building Intercultural Awareness" Dious Joseph, Ohio University
  "Emerging Relationship Advice: What do These "So-Called Experts" Know Anyway?" Eric Fife, James Madison University; Leigh Nelson, James Madison University
  "Getting to Know You: Breaking Bread as a Mechanism for Relationship Development" Sara Stifano, University of Connecticut
  "People Assume I... Bingo: Exploring Perception in Nonverbal and Interpersonal Communication" Jana Mae Sanden, Masters Student
  "Small Group Goes to Hollywood: Encouraging Creativity and Teambuilding" Paula Hopeck, Commonwealth University of PA at Bloomsburg
  "When Messages Miss: Exploring the Roots of Misunderstanding" Marianne Dainton, La Salle University

In this competitively selected panel, presenters will share their authentic, unique, and innovative "Great Ideas" for teaching students. G.I.F.T.S. include activities, projects, or simulations toward undergraduate courses that help students understand, apply, and appreciate communication skills, concepts, & theories relevant to the discipline. This specific session features ideas on how to innovate intercultural and interpersonal communication classrooms.

218014	4:30 PM to 5:45 PM	Woodlawn

Critical/Cultural Communication Business Meeting

Sponsor: Critical/Cultural Communication
Chair: Anna Elise Lindner, Nazareth University

The Critical/Cultural Communication Interest Group Business Meeting is open to all ECA members and individuals with an interest in critical and cultural communication. The meeting will provide a collaborative space for members to reflect on the past year's activities, share insights, and plan for future initiatives. The agenda includes officer reports, highlighting key accomplishments and updates from the past year, and a review of old business. Members will also discuss new business and upcoming opportunities. This meeting aims to foster community and strategic planning, ensuring the Interest Group continues to advance scholarly and practical contributions to the field.

218024	4:30 PM to 5:45 PM	Grand Station 2

Mindful Emergence: Guided Meditation for All

Presenter:
  Natalie Sydorenko, Frequencies

Join us for a relaxing afternoon guided meditation meant to calm the body and mind and activate your "rest and digest" parasympathic nervous system. Participants can lie on mats or blankets, or sit in a chair while listening to Dr. Natalie Sydorenko guide you through a full body scan followed by an inward journey of rest and relaxation to open the chakras (the energy centers of the body) and promote reflection and awareness. You will leave the session feeling balanced and renewed!

6:00 PM

220015	6:00 PM to 8:00 PM	Fountainview

Wine and Spots

Chair: Scott Wilson Dunn, Radford University

All are invited to join us for an evening of wine, appetizers, and engaging discussion at Wine and Spots, a cherished ECA tradition. Hosted by the Political Communication Interest Group and generously sponsored by Dr. Richard Vatz, this event invites attendees to view thought-provoking political spots and explore their significance in a relaxed, collegial setting. Connect with fellow scholars, share insights, and enjoy an intellectually stimulating and convivial experience that celebrates the intersection of politics and communication.

8:00 PM

221013	8:00 PM to 9:00 PM	Pointview

12 Step Meeting

This space is available nightly from 8:00-9:00 pm for 12 Step Meetings.

221019	8:00 PM to 10:30 PM	Reflections Room

ECA Pub Trivia!

Chair: Angela L. Putman, Penn State Brandywine

All are invited to attend our second annual ECA Pub Trivia! Join your fellow ECA members for an evening of trivia planned and emceed by your bomb diggity Trivia Hostess, Angela Putman! There will be complimentary concession snacks, lemonade, laughs, competition, and camaraderie. A cash bar will be available. We hope that you'll join us for this special evening of fun and shenanigans. This event is generously sponsored by Duquesne University and the Pennsylvania State Association.

Saturday
April 11, 2026

7:00 AM

301023	7:00 AM to 8:00 AM	Lobby

Morning Emergence: A Walk, Jog, or Run through Pittsburgh

Start your day with energy and connection! Join Dr. Dan Strasser and fellow conference attendees for an invigorating morning run, jog, or walk around Pittsburgh. This casual and inclusive activity is for all fitness levels and offers an opportunity to network while enjoying the local scenery. Don't forget to bring your walking/running shoes and a smile!
If you are interested in participating, please email Dan at strasser@rowan.edu, or simply show up in the hotel lobby at 7:00 a.m.

8:00 AM

303020	8:00 AM to 11:30 AM	Admiral / ECA Hub

ECA Hub Morning Coffee & Snack Café

Start your day at the ECA Hub! Enjoy complimentary coffee, teas, and breakfast bites to help ensure that you're ready for a productive conference. The ECA Hub offers a large attendee-only lounge with comfy furniture and café tables. The Hub also features our convention exhibitors, so be sure to stop in! Sponsored by the ECA.

303021	8:00 AM to 1:00 PM	Admiral Entry

Convention Registration

As you arrive at the convention, be sure to stop by registration to obtain your name tag, printed program, etc. Meghan will be there daily to welcome you and get you all set for a great experience!

303024	8:00 AM to 9:00 AM	Grand Station 2

Morning Emergence: Gentle Yoga for All Levels

Join us for an all-levels yoga session led by Dr. Natalie Sydorenko, certified yoga instructor. In this session, we awaken our muscles and lengthen our connective tissues through gentle movements, both seated and standing. Gentle yoga balances active and calming energies within the body. This slow, meditative practice conditions the mind, body, and spirit. Participants are welcome to bring their own mat or use one of the chairs or mats provided. This class is accessible for all range of motions and postures can be modified to accommodate all abilities.

8:30 AM

| 304003 | 8:30 AM to 9:45 AM | Brighton 1 |

Emerging From Stigmatized Identities in Close Relationships: Building Bridges with Students, Colleagues, and Relational Partners

Sponsors: Communication Traits; Interpersonal Communication
Chair: Elizabeth M. Glowacki, Northeastern University
   "Managing Soft Stigma in Conversations about Invisible Disabilities" Elizabeth M. Glowacki, Northeastern University
   "Designing inclusive, online learning spaces to promote success for students with vision impairments" Lynda L. McCroskey, California State University, Long Beach
   "Managing and Responding to Stigma from Early-Onset Parkinson's Disease" Meredith Marko Harrigan, State University of New York, Geneseo
   "Anxiety, Depression, and Illness: Shaping and Reshaping Identity in Relationships" Corey Jay Liberman, Marymount Manhattan College
   "Responding to Relational Marginalization and Stigma in Interracial Relationships" Erin Brummett, Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania - Bloomsburg

The goal of the panel is to consider how stigma manifests or presents as a trait-based communication feature and affects communication within close relationships. Presenters will speak on stigma as a marker of identity and group affiliation, strategies for managing stigma and its effects in close relationships, characteristics of stigmatized relationships, and stigma as a barrier to effective communication and support seeking. Presenters will draw from both their personal experiences and scholarship.

| 304004 | 8:30 AM to 9:45 AM | Brighton 2 |

Exploring how Organizational Messages and Paradoxes Emerge within Technology, Pedagogy, and Perception

Sponsor: Organizational Communication
Chair: Robin Smith Mathis, Kennesaw State University
   "The Organizing Effect of GenAI on (Instructional, Organizational) Communication Paradoxes, and a Digital Pedagogy of the Oppressed" Casey Michael Stratton, Salisbury University
   "Examining the Role of Organizational Messages in Sworn and Civilian Employees' Perceptions of the Agency's Wellness Program: A Qualitative Investigation of a Large State Police Department" Erin Sheila Craw, Fairfield University; Jennifer Bevan, Chapman University

These competitively selected papers examine how organizational communication shapes employee experiences and outcomes in educational and workplace settings. Both highlight critical disconnects between institutional intentions and actual impacts. Together, they demonstrate that organizational communication - whether through emerging technologies or traditional internal messaging - can inadvertently create barriers rather than solutions. Both studies emphasize the need for critical awareness, strategic communication approaches, and human-centered practices that align messaging with genuine organizational support to achieve intended educational and wellness outcomes.

| 304006 | 8:30 AM to 9:45 AM | Stoops Ferry |

Probing Public Speaking: Reshaping and Redesigning the Course

Sponsor: Community College
Chair: Susan Ward, Delaware County Community College
Presenters:
   Isa N Engleberg, Prince George's Community College
   Kerry Byrnes-Loinette, Collin College

Too often, the cornerstone public speaking course is trapped by traditional practices relying on familiar formats and old theories. The result? Students who can construct and deliver an assigned speech may not be able to connect, engage, or adapt to audiences in today's diverse and dynamic speaking environments. Drawing on a careers devoted to championing introductory communication courses, our experts will discuss how and why public speaking instruction is broken and propose how we can rebuild it. Participants will receive a handout outlining these proposals and will be invited to gather in small groups to challenge, expand, and reshape them. This interactive session is for educators ready to question old models, share new visions, and re-imagine one of communication's most vital courses.

| 304007 | 8:30 AM to 9:45 AM | Waterfront Room |

Nonverbal Communication Business Meeting

Sponsor: Nonverbal Communication
Chair: Madison Neurohr, University of Buffalo (SUNY)

The Nonverbal Communication Interest Group Business Meeting is open to all ECA members and individuals with an interest in nonverbal communication. The meeting will provide a collaborative space for members to reflect on the past year's activities, share insights, and plan for future initiatives. The agenda includes officer reports, highlighting key accomplishments and updates from the past year, and a review of old business. Members will also discuss new business and upcoming opportunities. This meeting aims to foster community and strategic planning, ensuring the Interest Group continues to advance scholarly and practical contributions to the field.

| 304008 | 8:30 AM to 9:45 AM | Brighton 4 |

Manufacturing Meaning: Influence, Value, and the Attention Economy

Sponsor: James C. McCroskey and Virginia P. Richmond Undergraduate Scholars Conference
Chair: Candice Elaine Thomas-Maddox, Ohio University Lancaster

Respondent: Jenna M. Lo Castro, Point Park University

"Are Your Genes Good Enough?: Thematic Analysis of Viewer Comments on YouTube Jeans Commercials by American Eagle and Gap" Anna Brennan, Penn State Wilkes-Barre

"Behind The Comments: Analyzing Audience Sentiment on TikTok Beauty Content" Pacelyn April King, Penn State Wilkes-Barre

"Better in Denim: Burkean Identification and Gap's Viral Campaign" Emma Mary Wollyung, Penn State Schuylkill

"Why alignment matters?: Celebrity–Brand Fit, Audience Engagement and Brand Perception in Fashion Advertising" Brianna Lynette Rached, Ramapo College of NJ

Papers in this panel explore how advertising, branding, and influencer culture shape what audiences value and how they make decisions. Together, they examine how persuasion and identity are constructed in today's media and consumer environment.

304009   8:30 AM to 9:45 AM   Edenburg

How Do We Manage Our Grief and Student Grief in Our Current Political Climate?

Sponsor: Instructional Communication
Chair: Carly Densmore, University of Idaho
Presenters:
  Carly Densmore, University of Idaho
  Jessica Cherry, Fairfield University
  Jennifer Walton, Radford University
  Kakali Bhattacharya Chakrabarti, Austin Peay State University
  Christina SanInocencio, Fairfield University

Forbes (2025) reported that some Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion bans have prevented campus counseling centers from offering targeted mental health services to specific student groups. Additionally, back in April 2025, the federal government froze billions in funding to Harvard University, leaving campus mental health providers unsure how to support vulnerable student groups without risking federal penalties (USA Today, 2025). Recognizing that campus resources are being impacted by the political climate in the United States, instructors at all levels must be aware of how this affects students who are managing grief and the various reasons why students may be grieving these choices.

304011   8:30 AM to 9:45 AM   Haselton 2

Human + Machine: Teaching Ethical AI Communication Practices

Sponsor: Short Courses
Presenter:
  Dious Joseph, Ohio University

The rapid emergence of generative AI presents both opportunities and ethical challenges for communication educators. This 75-minute interactive short course equips instructors and scholars to teach ethical AI communication practices in their classrooms. Participants will examine real examples of AI-generated texts and media to identify issues of authorship, bias, transparency, and misinformation. Through guided discussion and collaborative exercises, they will develop strategies to integrate AI ethically into assignments, activities, and assessment. The session culminates in the creation of a Responsible AI Use Framework that participants can adapt for syllabi or classroom policies. Emphasizing critical thinking, digital citizenship, and communicative integrity, this course moves beyond using AI as a tool, positioning it as a teaching partner that fosters accountability, inclusivity, and creativity. The workshop directly supports the ECA 2026 theme "Emergence" by highlighting how new technologies reshape communication ethics and pedagogy.

304012   8:30 AM to 9:45 AM   Elwood 2

Follow the Money, Follow the Media: All The President's Men at 50

Sponsor: Political Communication
Chair: Colin Kearney, Hampton University
Presenters:
  Trevor Parry-Giles, University of Maryland
  Jason Edwards, Bridgewater State University
  Timothy J. Brown, Eastern University
  Christina M. Knopf, SUNY Cortland
  Tracey Quigley Holden, University of Delaware
  Timothy Barney, University of Richmond

When it was released on April 9, 1976, All The President's Men became a cultural touchstone for how Americans understood investigative journalism, political accountability, and the relationship between media and democracy. Fifty years later, as media have evolved and diffused, the film's impact remains. This roundtable brings together scholars to revisit the film's legacy through the lenses of political communication, journalism studies, media ethics, and cultural history. Using clips from the film and connections to today, participants will explore the film's impact on public perceptions of the press in the post-Watergate era, its role in shaping the celebrity journalist, and its enduring relevance in an age of digital media, misinformation, and eroding trust in institutions.

304013   8:30 AM to 9:45 AM   Pointview

The Philosophical, Historical and Rhetorical Meaning of Food: The Medium Is the Sandwich

Sponsors: Media Ecology (Affiliate Organization); Philosophy of Communication
Chair: Erik Garrett, Duquesne University
  "Eating to Be: The Ontological Path of Nourishment in Aristotle, Plato, and Epicurus" Laura Trujillo Liñán, Universidad Panamericana
  "Kirbiszupa for the Soul: Food and Creolization as the Immigrant's Medium" Erik Garrett, Duquesne University
  "Penzey's Political Rhetoric: Promoting Cooking and Civic Engagement" Mary L. Kahl, The Pennsylvania State University, the Behrend College
  "The Media of Food: Or the Meal is the Message" Susan Drucker, Hofstra University
  "The Other Oral Culture: Food for Thought Regarding the Raw and the Cooked" Lance Strate, Fordham University
  "Why Does Teaching about Food Communication Matter?" Yaroub Al Obaidi, Duquesne University

Recently there has been much attention to food in Communication, Rhetoric, History, and Philosophy. From Frye and Bruner's The Rhetoric of Food to the forthcoming Food Justice Rhetorics and Literacies to How the World Eats: A Global Food Philosophy to A History of Food the topic of food has garnered a lot of academic interdisciplinary attention. This panel will take an interdisciplinary approach to food grounded in the philosophy of media ecology looking at the meaning of food as medium.

| 304014 | 8:30 AM to 9:45 AM | Woodlawn |

Communication Law and Ethics Business Meeting

Sponsor: Communication Law and Ethics
Chair: Thomas Richard Flynn, Slippery Rock University

The Communication Law and Ethics Interest Group Business Meeting is open to all ECA members and individuals with an interest in nonverbal communication. The meeting will provide a collaborative space for members to reflect on the past year's activities, share insights, and plan for future initiatives. The agenda includes officer reports, highlighting key accomplishments and updates from the past year, and a review of old business. Members will also discuss new business and upcoming opportunities. This meeting aims to foster community and strategic planning, ensuring the Interest Group continues to advance scholarly and practical contributions to the field.

| 304015 | 8:30 AM to 9:45 AM | Fountainview |

Emerging High Impact Practices in Communication Education

Sponsor: First Vice President's Programming
Chair: Jeanne Persuit, UNC Wilmington
Presenters:
  Leeanne M. Bell McManus, Stevenson University
  Amanda G. McKendree, University of Notre Dame
  Christina McDowell, Cornell University
  Jordan T. Atkinson, University of Kansas
  Jeanne Persuit, UNC Wilmington
  Angie Corbo, Widener University

High Impact Practices (HIPs) are those educational practices that have a positive effect on student learning, leading to increased retention, graduation rates, and career readiness. In recent studies, it has been observed that students and employers have a significant gap in perception of communication proficiency. Participants in this roundtable will address HIPs that attend to this gap at their own institutions. Additionally, the audience and participants will discuss what HIPs are emerging on their campuses and what resources, support, or strategies are needed to support HIPs to address this gap.

10:00 AM

| 307001 | 10:00 AM to 11:15 AM | Elwood 1 |

Unsettling the Ordinary: Norms, Myths, and the Rewriting of Social Life

Sponsor: James C. McCroskey and Virginia P. Richmond Undergraduate Scholars Conference
Chair: Valerie Schrader, Penn State University - Schuylkill Campus
Respondent: Mary Mino, Penn State DuBois
  "Ethical Implications of Heteronormative Representations of Sexual Fluidity in "Love Is Blind"" Caileigh Schroeder, Fordham University
  "Technological Advancements and its Implications: A Rhetorical Analysis of Cyberpunk 2077" Jessica Paula Jaeppelt, Purdue University Northwest
  "Uncovering American Myths and Values in Disney's "Cars" and "Miracle"" Elizabeth Dodman, Student

This session examines how cultural stories, technologies, and social expectations influence what is seen as normal, acceptable, or desirable. The papers show how communication both challenges and reshapes taken-for-granted assumptions about social life.

| 307003 | 10:00 AM to 11:15 AM | Brighton 1 |

The Emergence of AI Fluency: Bridging Classroom Innovation and Organizational Practice

Sponsor: Organizational Communication
Chair: Corey Jay Liberman, Marymount Manhattan College

Presenters:
  Casey Michael Stratton, Salisbury University
  Corey Jay Liberman, Marymount Manhattan College
  Ann Bainbridge Frymier, Ohio University
  Maxine Gesualdi, West Chester University of Pennsylvania
  Candice Elaine Thomas-Maddox, Ohio University Lancaster

The AI revolution is here, reshaping communication in our classrooms and workplaces. Are we prepared? Our roundtable discusses and develops best practices for working with AI, instead of for or against it. First, we advocate for AI literacy and improved critical thinking skills in various organizational settings. Second, we deliberate on processes for effectively and ethically implementing AI use in organizational policies and training. Finally, we discuss pedagogical strategies for learning with AI, preparing emerging professional students with AI literacy, critical thinking, and ethical reasoning, among other important skills.

307004　　　　　　　　　　　　　10:00 AM to 11:15 AM　　　　　　　　　　　　　Brighton 2

Emerging Visions: Mapping the Rhetoric of Higher Education Mission Statements

Sponsor: Applied Communication
Chair: Ryan Eisenhuth, Ohio University
  "Doing Diversity: The Rhetoric and Reality of Inclusion in Higher Education" Elina Nikolskaya, Ohio University
  "Ideographs of Faith: The Constitutive Rhetoric of Mission and Vision Statements of Faith-Based Intuitions of Higher Education" Ryan Eisenhuth, Ohio University
  "Rhetorics of Intellectual Diversity: Knowledge, Identity, and Belonging in Midwestern Universities" Dolapo Michael Oyedokun, Ohio University
  "Whose Knowledge, Whose Mission? A Postcolonial Rhetorical Reading of the Midwestern University" Dominic Awini Asitanga, Ohio University

In this panel, we analyze mission and vision statements of colleges and universities as rhetorical artifacts. By engaging with how mission and vision statements frame "intellectual diversity," performatively employ the word "diversity," contain ideographs that constitute publics, and reproduce colonial epistemologies, we aim to spark conversations about the emergence of visions for the future of higher education, as it is communicated by the mission and vision statements of universities around the United States. Through not only describing the ideological content of mission and vision statements but also offering practical applications for how they can better respond to the exigencies facing our world today, we believe that our panel will offer insights for anyone seeking to change our institutions for the better as we continue to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century.

307005　　　　　　　　　　　　　10:00 AM to 11:15 AM　　　　　　　　　　　　　Brighton 3

Bridges of Argument: The Re-Emergence of Debate Community in Pittsburgh

Sponsor: Argumentation and Forensics
Chair: Alvin J. Primack, University of Pittsburgh
Respondent: Arie Benjamin Likhtman, University of Pittsburgh
  "Carlow University" Kori Miller, Carlow University
  "Duquesne University" Anthony Wachs, Duquesne University
  "Pennsylvania State University" Tim Michaels, Penn State University
  "University of Pittsburgh" Alvin J. Primack, University of Pittsburgh

Over the past three years, debate programs at the University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania State University, and Duquesne University have collaborated to rebuild and reimagine a regional debate community rooted in connection, accessibility, and public engagement. After years of relative fragmentation among collegiate programs in Western Pennsylvania, these institutions have fostered a re-emergent culture of collaboration through public debates, invitational events, and shared pedagogical initiatives.

This panel highlights the ways that argumentation and forensics programs in Pittsburgh have revitalized intercollegiate and public debate spaces. Panelists will discuss how cross-institutional collaboration has reshaped opportunities for both students and community members, examining how regional engagement has encouraged dialogue between competitive circuits, local institutions, and emerging programs. The session will showcase concrete initiatives, such as the founding of new teams (e.g., Carlow University), the inclusion of community colleges (e.g., Allegheny Community College) and other regional programs (e.g., Carnegie Mellon University, Grove City College), and the hosting of public events that bring argumentation into civic life, all of which reflect an ethos of emergence grounded in renewal and cooperation.

Through the lens of argumentation pedagogy and community-building, this panel explores how regional collaboration among universities has not only revitalized competitive opportunities but also re-centered public debate as a practice of civic discourse and democratic education.

307006　　　　　　　　　　　　　10:00 AM to 11:15 AM　　　　　　　　　　　　　Stoops Ferry

The Rhetoric Surrounding the Assassination of Charlie Kirk

Sponsor: Political Communication
Chair: Richard Eugene Vatz, Towson University
  "Do Not Speak ill of the Dead: Emerging Rhetorical Boundaries of Free Speech in Jimmy Kimmel's September 15, 2025, Monologue Regarding Charlie Kirk" Paula Youra, University of Lynchburg

"Donald Trump's Rhetoric of Revenge Pursuant to the Assassination of Charlie Kirk" Theodore Sheckels, Randolph-Macon College
"Spinning Political Violence: Conservative Rhetorical Responses to Charlie Kirk's Assassination" Scott Wilson Dunn, Radford University
"The Vile Rhetoric of Hatred Toward Charlie Kirk and Turning Point: A Personal Story" Richard Eugene Vatz, Towson University

These presentations examine the rhetorical landscape surrounding political violence, free speech, and civility in contemporary American discourse. The panel explores how partisan actors selectively frame violence to advance political narratives, how leaders deploy revenge-driven rhetoric targeting opponents and institutions, and how personal experiences reveal deep ideological divisions within academic and media spaces.

307007   10:00 AM to 11:15 AM   Waterfront Room
Rhetoric and Public Address Business Meeting

Sponsor: Rhetoric and Public Address
Chair: Guillermo G. Caliendo, Carnegie Mellon University

The Rhetoric and Public Address Interest Group Business Meeting is open to all ECA members and individuals with an interest in rhetoric and public address. The meeting will provide a collaborative space for members to reflect on the past year's activities, share insights, and plan for future initiatives. The agenda includes officer reports, highlighting key accomplishments and updates from the past year, and a review of old business. Members will also discuss new business and upcoming opportunities. This meeting aims to foster community and strategic planning, ensuring the Interest Group continues to advance scholarly and practical contributions to the field.

307008   10:00 AM to 11:15 AM   Brighton 4
Emerging General Semantics: Ethics and Education

Sponsor: Institute of General Semantics (Affiliate Organization)
Chair: Thom Gencarelli, Manhattan University
Respondent: Lance Strate, Fordham University
  "Chalk and Talk: Exploring a Thermostatic Approach to Education in the Age of AI" Peggy Cassidy, Adelphi University
  "Emerging Ethics: Human Engineering as a Bridge Between" Joshua Clements, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College
  "Postman, Ethics, and Education: Emergent Challenges and Creative Solutions" Gerald Erion, Daemen University
  "WIGO into the Counter-Environment: Question Mark and Period" Ryan P. McCullough, West Liberty University

The papers on this panel explore the connections between general semantics, ethics, and education. Starting with the convention theme "Emergence", the papers on this panel develop the ways in which general semantics ethics emerge and converse with other ethical traditions. Moreover, these papers seek to connect the ethical orientations offered by general semantics to educational practices. Not only does general semantics connect to educational practices, but through ethics, general semantics connects to studies and practices in human dialogue. General semantics emerges a connection point between media-communication education and media ecology. The papers on this panel will also detail concepts foundational to general semantics, providing a clear entry point for those who wish to explore general semantics in the future.

307009   10:00 AM to 11:15 AM   Edenburg
Emergenc(y): The State of Free Expression Today

Sponsor: Communication Law and Ethics
Chair: Susan Drucker, Hofstra University
  ""AI, Regulation, and the of Free Expression," Doug Strahler, Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania" Douglas C. Strahler, Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania
  ""Don't fence me in": The Algorithmic Closure of the Digital World" Thomas Richard Flynn, Slippery Rock University
  ""Free Speech Perishes at the Pentagon: Pete Hegseth and Prior Press Restraint".Mary Kahl, The Pennsylvania State University, the Behrend College" Mary L. Kahl, The Pennsylvania State University, the Behrend College
  "Free Speech and Higher Education: The Multitudes of Censorship in and of the Classroom" Erik Garrett, Duquesne University
  "No Laughing Matter: Comedians and The First Amendment" Susan Drucker, Hofstra University
  "Policing Free Expression: The Revocation of U.S. Passports Bill" Noura Hajjaj, Duquesne University

Across American public forums and institutions, debates over free speech are intensifying. This panel examines the consequences of government action or inaction, media consolidation's impact on expressive rights, and the state of free expression in education. It interrogates cancel culture, emerging AI policies, and federal shifts reshaping First Amendment debates. Together, these issues suggest a possible inflection point, as the panel assesses contemporary challenges to freedom of expression and democratic discourse in a polarized society.

307010   10:00 AM to 11:15 AM   Haselton 1
AI Literacy and Workplace Readiness for Communication Educators

Sponsor: Instructional Communication
Chair: Jeanne Persuit, UNC Wilmington
  "Designing AI Literacy Assignments for Ethical, Creative, and Workplace-Ready Communicators" Karen Padrutt, Stark State College
  "Navigating AI (Artificial Intelligence) While Maintaining AI (Academic Integrity) in College and Beyond" Angela L. Putman, Penn State Brandywine

"NCA Perspectives on AI: Insights from Town Halls and Emerging Resources" Kerry Byrnes-Loinette, Collin College

This interactive panel explores how communication educators integrate AI literacy to prepare students for ethical, creative, and workplace-ready communication. Panelists share NCA perspectives, assignment strategies, and classroom practices that position AI as a collaborative partner. Participants will gain adaptable tools, policies, and resources to lead AI-ready teaching.

307011   10:00 AM to 11:15 AM   Haselton 2

Emerging Pedagogy: Teaching Media Literacy for Social Awareness and Civic Engagement

Sponsor: Short Courses
Presenters:
  Jack Banks, University of Hartford
  Nancy Bressler, West Virginia Wesleyan College

Given the increased use of social media and students' reliance on producing and watching media content, we argue that this short course is essential because of the need for more pedagogical development that focuses on media literacy, critical thinking skills, and practical applications to real world social and community issues in our media saturated world. By connecting course content to real world applications, this short course considers to what extent media-based pedagogies can incorporate active learning and encourage conversations that can lead to greater social awareness. Through small group discussions and examples from facilitators of sample assignments, this short course analyzes what tools are needed to facilitate the connections between scholarship and application in media-based classrooms. Inspired by ECA's theme of "Emergence", we explore how we can advance student engagement through examining and creating media that promotes social and cultural awareness as well as civic action.

307012   10:00 AM to 11:15 AM   Elwood 2

CONNECT SESSION Knowing Our Neighbors: Connecting Campus and Community

Chair: Christina E. Saindon, Queensborough Community College, CUNY
Presenters:
  Paula Hopeck, Commonwealth University of PA at Bloomsburg
  Matt Stivers, Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania (Bloomsburg Campus)
  Grace Rinehimer, Commonwealth University of PA at Bloomsburg

This session will help participants take the first steps toward building successful relationships in the local community, whether for teaching, scholarship, service, or just wanting to be involved in your local community. Drawing on the speaker's personal experiences working on community service projects in the town, interviews with faculty and community leaders, this session will explore how faculty can get involved in the community, how faculty can help students navigate relationships in the community, and some insight about what community members wish we knew.

307013   10:00 AM to 11:15 AM   Pointview

From Fanfiction to Interactive Media: Critical Perspectives on Gender and Identity

Sponsor: Media Communication
Chair: Katie Olivia Thomas, Virginia Tech (faculty) & Liberty University (PhD student)
  "Exploring Racialized Objectification and Sexualization in Interactive Media: Analysis of "Match the Person" videos on YouTube" Alina Niftulaeva, Chapman University
  "50 Shades of Gay: A Content Analysis of Explicit Fanfiction" Emily Elizabeth D'Antonio, West Virginia University; Ashley Bontempo, Ohio State University; Elizabeth Cohen, West Virginia University; Hailey Scherer, West Virginia University
  "Reconceptualizing Masculinity in Relation to Cisness and Transness: An Ideological Criticism of @stazzyfit" Hayden Adams, Ball State University

This session examines the dynamic interplay between identity, media, and culture, highlighting how identities emerge, evolve, and are contested in increasingly complex mediated spaces. From fanfiction to interactive videos and social media performances of masculinity, these studies reveal how layered and sometimes conflicting cultural and technological forces shape the representation and negotiation of identity in contemporary media.

307014   10:00 AM to 11:15 AM   Woodlawn

Philosophy of Communication Business Meeting

Sponsor: Philosophy of Communication
Chair: Matthew P. Mancino, Indiana University South Bend

The Philosophy of Communication Interest Group Business Meeting is open to all ECA members and individuals with an interest in the philosophy of communication. The meeting will provide a collaborative space for members to reflect on the past year's activities, share insights, and plan for future initiatives. The agenda includes officer reports, highlighting key accomplishments and updates from the past year, and a review of old business. Members will also discuss new business and upcoming opportunities. This meeting aims to foster community and strategic planning, ensuring the Interest Group continues to advance scholarly and practical contributions to the field.

307015   10:00 AM to 11:15 AM   Fountainview

G.I.F.T.S.: Great Ideas for Teaching Media Technology

Sponsor: G.I.F.T.S. (Great Ideas for Teaching Students)
Chair: Nadine Cichy, Sinclair Community College
  "Communicating Accessibility and Inclusion in Media" Evelyn McDonald, Graduate Student at University of Connecticut, Storrs
  "Cops Versus Criminals: A Comprehensive Activity Covering the Dark/Deep Web and Cyber Security" Alexandra McNamara, University of Connecticut
  "Rebuilding the iPhone from Scratch: A Collaborative Debate Activity on Media Technology and Society" Laura Uzar, University of Connecticut
  "The Emergence of New Inventions: Using Snopes.com to Determine if Inventions Seen on Social Media Are in Fact Real before Utilizing Information in a Speech" Leigh Nelson, James Madison University; Eric Fife, James Madison University
  "Top 5 Project: A Media and Technology History Debate" Carla Fox, Middle Tennessee State University
  "What are the Messages? Engaging in Observations of Health Communication Messages All Around Us" Elizabeth A. Johnson-Young, University of Mary Washington

In this competitively selected panel, presenters will share their authentic, unique, and innovative "Great Ideas" for teaching students. G.I.F.T.S. include activities, projects, or simulations toward undergraduate courses that help students understand, apply, and appreciate communication skills, concepts, & theories relevant to the discipline. This specific session features ideas for how to teach critical analysis of media technologies.

307020   10:00 AM to 11:15 AM   Admiral / ECA Hub

Graduate Poster Session II

Sponsor: Graduate Poster Sessions
Chair: Jon Judy, Stark State College
  "A 5-Step Playbook for Human-Centered Layoff Communication" Crystal Marie Gray, University of Hartford
  "Analytical Modeling of Climate-Change Denialism as Blunt-Edged Politics in Participatory Media" Essien Oku Essien, Drexel University; Samuel Ajala, University of Arkansas; Emmanuel Chukwueloke, University of Hull; Philip Akingbemisola, Florida International University
  "Fan Vids, American Animation, and Fan Identity" Culiandra Nero, Tufts University
  "From Coffee Orders to Culture Wars: A Framing Analysis of the Charlie Kirk-Starbucks Viral Video's Social Media Comments on TikTok and X" Alexa Hilty, Graduate Student; Churchill Bounds, Graduate Student; Jody Kieffer, Graduate Student; Samantha Raymond, Graduate Student; Erin Maranto, Graduate Student
  "Internal Communication as Corporate Control" Shelen Rayann Savarese, Graduate Student at Towson University
  "Leading Through Sovereignty: Lula's Response to Trump's Tariff: A Case Study in Leadership Communication" Caroline Rodovalho Boriolo, Fairfield University; Christina SanInocencio, Fairfield University
  "Presidential Rhetoric and the Moral Framing of Mental Health: A Narrative Analysis of Joe Biden's 2023 Address" Zahid Wali, Ohio University; Athar Memon, Ohio University; Namra Nadeem, Ohio University
  "Regulating Hate Speech: An Uphill Battle" Sanjana Vinjamuri, New York University; Jennifer Lambe, University of Delaware
  "Rhetorics of Fertility Governance and Women's Everyday Negotiations Across China's One, Two, Three-Child Policy Eras" Siyuan Xiang, Ohio University
  "Silence, Stigma, and Shifting Spaces: Exploring Gendered Sexual Health Communication Among Pakistani Women in Diaspora" Roshni Ashiq, Ohio University
  "The Re-Emergence of the Debate over Audre Lorde's "Master's Tools" Challenge for These Times" Megan Rodak, James Madison University; Emily P. Nicholson, James Madison University; Anitha Dushimirimana, James Madison University
  "The Relationship Between the Communication of Social Support, Loneliness, And Adult Attachment Styles Among International Students" Rhoda A Osei, Ohio University
  "Watched Without Warning: Considering the Perspectives of Interpersonal Surveillance Targets" Matthew Witkowski, West Virginia University; Lindsay Morris-Neuberger, West Virginia University

The posters in the session have been competitively selected. Be sure to stop by and visit our poster presenters!
11:30 AM

309001   11:30 AM to 12:45 PM   Elwood 1

The Emergence of Public Identity: "Alternative Facts" and the Contestation of Disciplinary Narratives

Sponsor: Rhetoric and Public Address
Chair: Christina Ferraz, University of Pittsburgh
Respondent: Guillermo G. Caliendo, Carnegie Mellon University
  "Epistemological and Identity Formation in The Monthly Extract (Work In Progress)" Elisabeth Stevens, Penn State University
  ""Heads I Win, Tails You Lose": The Role of Zero-Sum Game Rhetoric in White Supremacist Ideologies (Work In Progress)" Clifford T. Manlove, Penn State Greater Allegheny
  "Social Media as Alternative Source of Counter Information: Police Brutality in Chile, Peru, and Colombia (Work In Progress)" Fabiola Liliana Carrion Anampa, PhD Student in Communication Texas A&M University
  ""Now We Have a Scalp in Jimmy Kimmel, and There are Going to be Many, Many, Many More Scalps": Examining the Threat Against Free Speech in the Trump Administration (Work In Progress)" Anne M. Czerwinski, University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg

The "Works in Progress" panel allows scholars to present research before it is a finished paper. In doing so, presenters can get valuable input from peers and senior academics for further development. In all, submissions provide a valuable forum for developmental feedback within the discipline. As such, this panel deals with tactical argumentation and strategic persuasion, especially, how the notion of "common sense" has become a dubious, even insidious, form of identity negotiation and disciplinary biopower. The papers represent different perspectives on how discourse (political, social, or comedic) can ultimately influence our understand of women's health, police brutality, white supremacists, and free speech.

309004   11:30 AM to 12:45 PM   Brighton 2

Communicating Care: Knowledge, Access, and Human Vulnerability

Sponsor: James C. McCroskey and Virginia P. Richmond Undergraduate Scholars Conference
Chair: Christina E. Saindon, Queensborough Community College, CUNY
Respondent: Jenny Warren, Collin College
  "Brains in All Shapes: Building Better Classrooms for Neurodiverse Learners" Miranda Lee Frisbee, Ramapo College of New Jersey
  "Crisis Across Borders: A Literature Review of Humanitarian Media Narratives" Seyram Adzo Essey, College of Wooster
  "Dance as a Medium of Communication as it Relates to Eating Disorders" Cadence Delaney Valentina Panol, State University of New York at Geneseo
  "Knowledge Gap Hypothesis and Learning Accessibility in West Virginia" Mattelyn Marie Lamp, West Liberty University

This session brings together research on health, education, and social support to explore how communication affects understanding and access to care. The papers show how messages, media, and institutions shape responses to vulnerability and need.

309005   11:30 AM to 12:45 PM   Brighton 3

Emerging Strategies for Teaching Nonverbal Communication

Sponsor: Nonverbal Communication
Chair: Nicole Blau, Ohio University Lancaster
  "Let's Revise our Nonverbal Toolkit: New Ways to Teach Nonverbal Communication in an Online World" Nicole Blau, Ohio University Lancaster
  "Modeling the Message: Nonverbal Pedagogy from Artistic Swimming to the Communication Classroom" Mariia Kriuchkova, University of the Incarnate Word; Trey Guinn, University of the Incarnate Word
  "Teaching Ethical Leadership through Nonverbal Communication" Melissa Rizzo, Ohio University

As we consider communication as an ever-evolving process, we must pause to consider the ways in which nonverbal communication has also changed. Moreover, we must consider adapting teaching strategies to help students learn to communicate nonverbally effectively in a time when much of our communication takes place online. This panel will explore innovative, inclusive, and adaptive teaching strategies that respond to these changes.

309006   11:30 AM to 12:45 PM   Stoops Ferry

Top Student Papers in Philosophy of Communication

Sponsor: Philosophy of Communication
Chair: Austin D. Hestdalen, Purdue University Northwest
Respondent: Kati Elizabeth Sudnick, UNC Wilmington
  "Necropolitics, Sovereignty and the Death of Colonized Populations" Steven Joseph, Duquesne University
  "Reinhold Niebuhr: A Public Theologian Whose Ideas Are Relevant in Today's Communication Field" Andrew Thomas Connolly, Duquesne University
  "The Beauty and Pain of Being Human: Embracing Suffering Necessary for Human Thriving and Experiencing the Totality of Being" Kelsey Ingold, Duquesne University

This panel features the Top Student Papers in Philosophy of Communication.

309007   11:30 AM to 12:45 PM   Waterfront Room

ECA 2027 Planner Meeting II

Chair: Colin Kearney, Hampton University

Are you a 2027 Interest Group Planner? Join us for the ECA 2027 Planner Meeting, an essential session designed to help you prepare for the Eastern Communication Association's 2027 Conference in Reston, VA. This meeting will provide crucial information about the planning process, including deadlines, procedures, and best practices for organizing engaging sessions. Connect with fellow planners, ask questions, and ensure you have the tools and resources needed to make ECA 2027 a success. Your role is vital to shaping a dynamic and impactful conference -don't miss this important opportunity to get started!
If you are not able to attend this session, please attend ECA 2027 Planner Meeting I on Friday at 1:30PM. These two sessions include the same information, so please select the session that best fits your schedule.

309008   11:30 AM to 12:45 PM   Brighton 4

Faculty and Student Voices on Experiential Learning in Applied Communication Campaigns

Sponsor: Applied Communication

Chair: Cathlin Clark-Gordon, Seton Hill University

"AI Tools for Entrepreneurs: Graduate Perspectives on Innovation and Professional Growth" Grace Paredes, Seton Hill University; Andrew Somuah, Seton Hill University; Zoey Sussan, Seton Hill University

"Bridging the Classroom and the Field: Faculty Reflections on Experiential Learning Design" Rachel Kaplan, Seton Hill University; Cathlin Clark-Gordon, Seton Hill University

"Emerging Talent and Place-Based Communication: Undergraduate Perspectives on an AI-powered Tourism Campaign" Amara Forsyth, Seton Hill University; Makenna Twombley, Seton Hill University

This interactive panel highlights how experiential learning fosters professional growth, creativity, and collaboration in communication education. Featuring both faculty and student presenters, the session explores how applied fieldwork, teamwork, and exposure to emerging technologies prepare students for professional success in communication and business contexts. Student panelists will discuss their work on community-based campaigns and innovative projects integrating Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools into entrepreneurial communication. The faculty presenters will offer insights on course design and mentoring strategies that connect classroom theory to real-world practice. Together, these perspectives illustrate how experiential learning deepens reflection, builds confidence, and cultivates adaptable skill sets in an evolving communication landscape. Attendees will gain actionable strategies for implementing applied learning project, designing reflective assignments, and integrating AI and professional development into communication curricula.

309009   11:30 AM to 12:45 PM   Edenburg

The Emergence of Critical/Cultural Studies at ECA: Promise, Peril, and Precarity

Sponsor: Critical/Cultural Communication

Chair: Dan Strasser, Rowan University

Presenters:

Anna Elise Lindner, Nazareth University

David C. Oh, Syracuse University

Ryan A D'Souza, Chatham University

Paul E Johnson, University of Pittsburgh

Angela L. Putman, Penn State Brandywine

This round table, made up of long-time ECA attendees and those new to the association, celebrates the expansion of the Intercultural Interest Group to "Critical/Cultural" this year at ECA and considers what the IG might look like going forward. Audience members are invited to participate in this discussion; topics include definitions of "critical/cultural" studies; the emergence and future of this IG at ECA; ongoing struggles over epistemological stances, power, and freedom of speech; our positionalities as teacher/scholars in this fragile moment for academic freedom; critical/cultural studies on the ground; and critical/cultural approaches to race and whiteness.

309012   11:30 AM to 12:45 PM   Elwood 2

Emergence of Technology: Deficits and Challenges for 2-Year and 4-Year Institutions Alike

Sponsor: Community College

Chair: Laura O'Connell, Nassau Community College

Presenters:

Casey Michael Stratton, Salisbury University

Maxine Gesualdi, West Chester University of Pennsylvania

Donica O'Malley, Bunker Hill Community College

Theodore (Teddy) Alan Clingman Frost, Sinclair Community College / Liberty University

Based on formal and informal research, findings show that with the emergence of technology, colleges and universities are facing student deficits due to the rise of electronic communication, especially with AI. These deficits are hindering student success. The purpose of this roundtable is, through guided discussion, audience participation, and collaboration amongst participants, to develop creative strategies to this emerging problem. Topics to be discussed include AI, student writing, critical thinking deficits in students, and more.

309013   11:30 AM to 12:45 PM   Pointview

"They Must Learn to Adapt Or They'll Be Voted Off": Analyzing the Emerging Shifts in Traditional and Digital Media

Sponsor: Media Communication

Chair: Nancy Bressler, West Virginia Wesleyan College

Respondent: Jack Banks, University of Hartford

"Making Homemade Water: How the Tradwife Trend is Dismantling Fourth Wave Feminism" Jessica Neu, Carlow University

"The Evolution of Binge Worthy Content: Examining the Relationship Between Serial TV Distribution and the Structure of Storytelling" Brent Allen Saindon, Mercy Univeristy

""Broadcasting is Really Too Important to Be Left to the Broadcasters": How Do Sports Broadcasters Navigate Contemporary Media?" Mason Thomas Halfin, West Virginia Wesleyan College

""Here's.....Cancellation?!" Questioning the Emerging State of Late Night Comedy" Nancy Bressler, West Virginia Wesleyan College

""She Doesn't Even Go Here!": Exploring Universities' Decisions To Utilize AI In Their Marketing/Advertising Instead Of Their Respective Students" Faith Renee Yoho, West Virginia Wesleyan College

Given the rate of decline of traditional media, panelists examine social media, marketing, sports broadcasting, television dramas, and late night comedy content to better understand how the media creators of these examples must adapt and possibly shift to digital platforms in order to increase and expand their recurring audiences. In celebration of ECA's theme "Emergence", this panel explores the emerging techniques that media must employ to revolutionize themselves to survive in a digital world.

309014   11:30 AM to 12:45 PM   Woodlawn

Theory and Methodology Business Meeting

Sponsor: Theory and Methodology
Chair: Doran Tucker, George Mason University

The Theory and Methodology Interest Group Business Meeting is open to all ECA members and individuals with an interest in communication technology. The meeting will provide a collaborative space for members to reflect on the past year's activities, share insights, and plan for future initiatives. The agenda includes officer reports, highlighting key accomplishments and updates from the past year, and a review of old business. Members will also discuss new business and upcoming opportunities. This meeting aims to foster community and strategic planning, ensuring the Interest Group continues to advance scholarly and practical contributions to the field.

309015   11:30 AM to 12:45 PM   Fountainview

"Everything COM Is New Again!" A Conversation and Workshop About the Endurance of Communication Scholarship in an Increasingly Complex World

Sponsor: First Vice President's Programming
Chairs: Nicholas D. Bowman, Syracuse University; Jessica Papajcik, Stark State College
Presenter:
  Nicholas D. Bowman, Syracuse University

In an increasingly hybrid and synthetic society, we see media reports and trendy scholarship on seemingly-novel and emergent ideas, from influencers and filter bubbles to cancel culture and discussions of authenticity and human relationships. These "new" ideas are often deeply rooted in COM scholarship and accordingly, COM has provided answers for a long time. In this workshop, our moderator will open with concepts that are emerging in modern discourse and facilitate audience discussion about how COM concepts continue to emerge as "hot new ideas" but in many respects, have conceptual roots in the field of Communication. The session will end with a group discussion about the continued relevance of Communication as a field, with plans towards a moderator-led "many authored" publication codifying our dialogue.

309019   11:30 AM to 12:45 PM   Reflections Room

ECA Past Officers Club Luncheon

This private, invitation-only luncheon honors past ECA leaders.

<div align="center">12:00 PM</div>

310020   12:00 PM to 2:30 PM   Admiral / ECA Hub

ECA Hub Afternoon Beverages & Bites Break

Take an afternoon break at the ECA Hub! Enjoy complimentary cold beverages and warm snacks to unwind and recharge. The ECA Hub offers a large attendee-only lounge atmosphere with comfy furniture and cafè tables. The Hub also features our convention exhibitors, so be sure to stop in! Sponsored by the ECA.

<div align="center">1:00 PM</div>

312001   1:00 PM to 2:15 PM   Elwood 1

Social Support in the Workplace for People with Disabilities: Managing Stigma Through Constructive Communication

Sponsor: Voices of Diversity
Chair: Elizabeth M. Glowacki, Northeastern University
Presenters:
  Cynthia Jackson, Northeastern University
  Nicole Davis, Northeastern University
  Theodore A. Avtgis, Utah Tech University

This open forum will address facilitators of and barriers to social support in the workplace for people with disabilities (both visible and invisible). The goal is to facilitate a discussion and exchange ideas on the ways stigma plays a role in conversations about disability and strategies for managing stigma. Discussants will consider how soft stigma manifests in encounters in the workplace and will provide recommendations for communicating in ways about disability that are inclusive and validating. Presenters will also encourage attendees to share strategies for asking about a colleague's disability, identifying opportunities for providing social support, and presenting information in ways that align with the needs and processing capacity of the individual with the disability.

312003   1:00 PM to 2:15 PM   Brighton 1

Top Papers in Communication Law and Ethics

Sponsor: Communication Law and Ethics
Chair: Fadoua Loudiy, Slippery Rock University
  "Chaos and Order: Emerging Critiques and Best Practices of Corporate Apologia with Implications for Communication Ethics" Marianna Orth, Duquesne University
  "Stability as Reconnective Action: A Study of Trends of K-12 School Shootings from 1999-2025" Christopher M Bondi, Fairmont State University
  "The Ethics of Whistleblowing: The Dr. Jeffrey Wigand Case Against the Tobacco Industry" Tara Haney, East Stroudsburg University
  "Protecting America's Conscience: A Tool to Deny Women's Access to Reproductive Care" Christine Marie Willingham, UNC Wilmington

This session features the top papers from the Communication Law and Ethics Interest Group. These papers examine organizational responses to destabilization - from corporate apologia and crisis communication to whistle-blowing and rhetorical strategies that obscure harm. Drawing on communication ethics, these analyses reveal tensions between institutional self-preservation and accountability, investigating how organizations attempt rehabilitation, re-connection, and justification. Collectively, the session addresses fundamental questions about institutional conscience, the ethics of organizational communication during crisis, and pathways toward accountability.

312004   1:00 PM to 2:15 PM   Brighton 2

From Home to Campus: Communication Challenges and Opportunities in Sexual Health and Abuse Prevention

Sponsor: Health Communication
Chair: Paula Hopeck, Commonwealth University of PA at Bloomsburg
  "Breaking the Silence: International Students' Communication About Sexual Assault and Opportunities for Improved Prevention Messaging" Samaha Ghani, West Virginia University; Daniel Totzkay, West Virginia University
  "Parents' Communication Clarity and Trustworthiness Role in Influencing Emerging Adults' Engagement in Health-Risk Behavior Discussions" Amarachi Nina Uma Mba, West Virginia University; Abigail Adejumo, West Virginia University; Scott Allan Myers, West Virginia University
  ""I am not "White" to Talk about Sexual Health," Exploring Mother Daughter Dyad Communication on Sexual Health and its Implication in the Prevention of Sexual Abuse in Pakistan-Unfolding Dark Realities" Roshni Ashiq, Ohio University; Athar Memon, Ohio University

This paper session highlights how communication about sexual health and safety must Emerge more openly and responsibly across families, cultures, and educational settings. The papers examine parent–child conversations, culturally constrained dialogue in Pakistan, and international students' communication about sexual assault revealing where communication is nurtured, where it is silenced, and where it urgently needs to emerge.

312005   1:00 PM to 2:15 PM   Brighton 3

Re-Emerging Pedagogies: The Flipped Classroom and the Transformative Integration of AI in Communication Education

Sponsor: Communication Technology
Chair: Beth Michalec, Penn State Lehigh Valley
  ""Human Before Hardware: Preserving Ethics and Connection Amid Emergent Technologies"" Kristen Jenkins Hark, Pennsylvania State University-Lehigh Valley
  ""Integrating Generative AI for Pre-Class Engagement and Conceptual Scaffolding"" Kasey Hudak, Pennsylvania State University-Penn State New Kensington
  ""Navigating New Noise: Using AI Tools for Real-Time Crisis Communication Analysis"" Beth Michalec, Penn State Lehigh Valley
  ""Thinking Critically with (and About) AI: Reflection and Metacognition in the Flipped Classroom"" Melissa Robinson, Penn State Fayette

This panel explores how the flipped classroom model, once seen as a novel but temporary innovation, has re-emerged as a transformative and sustainable teaching approach in the age of AI and digital interactivity. In this interactive panel, communication faculty and scholars will share their experiences and research on how integrating emergent technologies within the flipped classroom model revitalizes student engagement, supports inclusive learning, and cultivates digital literacy. Each presentation highlights practical and theoretical intersections between communication pedagogy, emergent technologies, and transformative classroom design.

312006   1:00 PM to 2:15 PM   Stoops Ferry

Stories of GTA Emergence: Early Moments That Shape Teaching Identity

Sponsor: Instructional Communication
Chair: Lindsay Morris-Neuberger, West Virginia University
Presenters:
  Katherine Johnson, West Virginia University
  April N Wright, West Virginia University
  Matthew Witkowski, West Virginia University
  Chelsea Bihlmeyer, West Virginia University
  Emily Elizabeth D'Antonio, West Virginia University
  Clinton Stephen Mawusi, West Virginia University
  Priscilla Amoako-Nuamah, West Virginia University
  Nathaniel J. Beer, West Virginia University

This session spotlights "Emergence" as GTAs share brief turning points that helped form their teaching identity. Each speaker shares a short story tied to instructional communication constructs such as clarity, immediacy, credibility, confirmation, conflict management, or communicator style. A facilitated dialogue weaves the stories into common themes and insights and audience members are invited to contribute brief experiences, ask questions, and compare approaches. The session emphasizes authentic experience, reflective dialogue, and actionable strategies for new instructors and the mentors who support them, and attendees leave with a one-page, QR-linked tip sheet.

312007   1:00 PM to 2:15 PM   Waterfront Room

ECA Nominating Committee

Chair: Jeanne Persuit, UNC Wilmington

This meeting is reserved for members of the 2026 ECA Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall be composed of representatives of all recognized Interest Groups. The Interest Group representatives will be the Chairperson of that group or such person as the Interest Group shall delegate. Annually, the Nominating Committee shall prepare a slate of nominees for the open elected positions of ECA.

312008   1:00 PM to 2:15 PM   Brighton 4

Emerging Discourses in Parenthood: Teen-ternity and Paternal Postnatal Depression

Sponsor: Interpersonal Communication
Chair: Angela G. La Valley, Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania - Bloomsburg
Respondent: Angela G. La Valley, Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania - Bloomsburg
  "Emerging Discourses of Teen-Ternity Leave: Relational Dialectics of Maternal Presence and Emotional Labor" Shatakshi Semwal, Ohio University
  "Emerging Dialogues of Fatherhood: Identity, Emotion, and Support in Paternal Postnatal Depression" Dious Joseph, Ohio University

As families and family issues continue to evolve, new perspectives must emerge to explore communication dynamics within the family. The competitively selected papers on this panel highlight potential directions for research and questions to be explored in contemporary motherhood and fatherhood. The panel invites attendees to consider emerging experiences and identities germane to parenting.

312009   1:00 PM to 2:15 PM   Edenburg

Refiguring Difference: Representation, Bodies, and Social Recognition

Sponsor: James C. McCroskey and Virginia P. Richmond Undergraduate Scholars Conference
Chair: Amanda G. McKendree, University of Notre Dame
Respondent: Valerie Schrader, Penn State University - Schuylkill Campus
  "Disability Representation in Children's Media: How Television Shows Like Carl the Collector Will Shift The Next Generation's View On Disability" Sara Katherine Hecht, Fordham University
  "Performing Compliance: Hope Solo and The Policing of Femininity in Women's Sports" Zoe Selene Feldshon, Northeastern University
  "The Portrayal of Autism in Film: A Framing Analysis of Temple Grandin (2010)" Bianca Evangeline Hilario, University of Connecticut
  "Tradwives and Curated Lives: Internalization Through the Media Gaze" Jenna E Maguire, West Liberty University
  "Victims of Incel Culture & the Effect of Manosphere Engagement" Rachel Nicole Kobelski, Ramapo College of New Jersey

This session focuses on how media portrayals influence public understanding of gender, disability, and marginalized identities. The papers explore how representation can both reinforce stereotypes and open up new possibilities for recognition and inclusion.

312010   1:00 PM to 2:15 PM   Haselton 1

Renewed Roundtable Series #3: Emerging Ideas in Teaching Public Speaking

Sponsor: Community College
Chair: Karen Padrutt, Stark State College
Presenters:
  Colin Kearney, Hampton University
  Jon Judy, Stark State College
  Karen Padrutt, Stark State College
  Ellen Santa Maria, West Chester University
  Guillermo G. Caliendo, Carnegie Mellon University
  Matt Pitchford, Northeastern University

Whether you are new to teaching Public Speaking or you're a veteran, this final of a 3-part "Renewed Roundtable" series is for you! Faculty will be sharing how they teach an array of topics in the classroom from a practical & pedagogical standpoint. Participants share their own ideas with one another and gain insights from featured experts. All will leave with a "renewed" approach to their lessons.

312011   1:00 PM to 2:15 PM   Haselton 2

Integrating Community-Engaged Learning into the Communication Classroom

Sponsor: Short Courses

Presenters:
  Amanda DeWitt, Seton Hill University
  Cathlin Clark-Gordon, Seton Hill University

This interactive short course guides instructors on integrating Community-Engaged Learning (CEL) into the Communication classroom. CEL provides students opportunities to learn through reciprocal partnerships with community organizations, co-creating knowledge while fostering civic responsibility. Participants will explore CEL's conceptual foundations and its distinction from experiential, service-learning, and "charity" models through an emphasis on reciprocity, reflexivity, and long-term collaboration. Guided examples and applied exercises will illustrate how Communication uniquely supports CEL; from message design and public discourse to advocacy and civic engagement. Case studies drawn from courses within the discipline will demonstrate low-, medium-, and high-threshold approaches. Implementing CEL is often a natural fit for communication courses, and can start with as little as revising one existing assignment, and expand up to a semester-long project. Participants will leave with resources to implement CEL into their own courses at any level, and will reflect on CEL's role in preparing students for twenty-first-century challenges.

312012　　　　　　　　　　　　　1:00 PM to 2:15 PM　　　　　　　　　　　　　Elwood 2

Moral Authority and Religious Freedom: Rhetoric, Faith, and Power in the American Political Imagination

Sponsor: Rhetoric and Public Address
Chair: Susan Jasko, California University of Pennsylvania
Presenters:
  Susan Drucker, Hofstra University
  Noura Hajjaj, Duquesne University
  Mary L. Kahl, The Pennsylvania State University, the Behrend College
  Heather Marie Stassen, Daemen University
  Lance Strate, Fordham University

This roundtable examines how claims of moral authority shape the intersection of religion and politics in the contemporary United States. Participants explore how appeals to faith are deployed to define civic virtue, justify policy decisions, and marginalize competing moral frameworks. In a nation founded on religious freedom, the privileging of particular belief systems reveals deep tensions between pluralism and power. Drawing from diverse perspectives, panelists consider how political, religious, and mediated rhetorics construct hierarchies of morality determining who is seen as righteous, who is silenced, and how these narratives influence the boundaries of democratic belonging.

312013　　　　　　　　　　　　　1:00 PM to 2:15 PM　　　　　　　　　　　　　Pointview

CONNECT SESSION The Genie's Out: Redesigning a Better Bottle for the Age of AI

Chair: Christina E. Saindon, Queensborough Community College, CUNY
Presenters:
  Laura Hamilton Brown, West Chester University
  Eryn Travis, West Chester University
  Jennifer Hennessey-Booth, Eastern University

Banning AI is a losing battle; a more productive pursuit is reimagining how we teach and learn with it. This session offers a grab bag of adaptive strategies for incorporating AI into the communication classroom. Without offloading student thinking, we'll examine how to frame AI-not as a content mill, but as a collaborator-emphasizing that students must "own the output" of their work. Rather than attempting to confine the genie, we will explore how to build a better bottle, by redesigning the classroom for the world our students already inhabit.

312014　　　　　　　　　　　　　1:00 PM to 2:15 PM　　　　　　　　　　　　　Woodlawn

Kenneth Burke Society Business Meeting

Sponsor: Kenneth Burke Society
Chair: Tim Michaels, Penn State University

The Kenneth Burke Society Interest Group Business Meeting is open to all ECA members and individuals with an interest in research and teaching pertaining to Kenneth Burke. The meeting will provide a collaborative space for members to reflect on the past year's activities, share insights, and plan for future initiatives. The agenda includes officer reports, highlighting key accomplishments and updates from the past year, and a review of old business. Members will also discuss new business and upcoming opportunities. This meeting aims to foster community and strategic planning, ensuring the Interest Group continues to advance scholarly and practical contributions to the field.

312024　　　　　　　　　　　　　1:00 PM to 2:15 PM　　　　　　　　　　　　　Grand Station 2

Mindful Emergence: Guided Meditation for All

Presenter:
  Natalie Sydorenko, Frequencies

Join us for a relaxing afternoon guided meditation meant to calm the body and mind and activate your "rest and digest" parasympathic nervous system. Participants can lie on mats or blankets, or sit in a chair while listening to Dr. Natalie Sydorenko guide you through a full body scan followed by an inward journey of rest and relaxation to open the chakras (the energy centers of the body) and promote reflection and awareness. You will leave the session feeling balanced and renewed!

2:30 PM

314022   2:30 PM to 4:00 PM   Grand Station 3,4,5

ECA General Business Meeting

All are invited to join ECA Leadership for this year-in-review of the association, to learn about the incoming President's initiatives for the year to come, and to hear about ECA 2027 in Reston, VA. Your attendance is highly encouraged to stay informed, share your thoughts, and help shape the future of our association.

4:00 PM

317019   4:00 PM to 6:30 PM   Reflections Room

President's Reception

Join ECA President Jordan Atkinson and your colleagues for a celebration of the 2026 convention and the year's accomplishments. This lively event is a perfect opportunity to connect with fellow attendees, celebrate our successes, and look ahead to the future of the association. Enjoy music curated by the 2026 planning team, hors d'oeuvres, a cash bar, and great conversation. All tickets entered in the ticket box will be pulled for fun prizes during the reception. The 2026 President's Reception is generously sponsored by the Kendall Hunt Publishing Company.

8:00 PM

321013   8:00 PM to 9:00 PM   Pointview

12 Step Meeting

This space is available nightly from 8:00-9:00 pm for 12 Step Meetings.

Sunday
April 12, 2026

8:30 AM

404007   8:30 AM to 9:30 AM   Waterfront Room

Finance Committee Business Meeting II

Chair: Jordan T. Atkinson, University of Kansas
Presenters:
  Stacy Smulowitz, University of Scranton
  Jessica Papajcik, Stark State College
  Colin Kearney, Hampton University
  Jeanne Persuit, UNC Wilmington
  Hannah Ball, Chapman University
  Timothy J. Brown, Eastern University
  Sara LaBelle, Chapman University
  Angela L. Putman, Penn State Brandywine

The Finance Committee is responsible for reviewing the financial health of the Association, evaluating proposals coming before the Executive Council which may have an economic impact on the Association, and making appropriate recommendations concerning financial issues to the Executive Council.

9:45 AM

406007   9:45 AM to 11:30 AM   Waterfront Room

ECA Executive Council Business Meeting II

Chair: Jessica Papajcik, Stark State College

Presenters:
  Stacy Smulowitz, University of Scranton
  Jordan T. Atkinson, University of Kansas
  Colin Kearney, Hampton University
  Kerry Byrnes-Loinette, Collin College
  Hannah Ball, Chapman University
  Timothy J. Brown, Eastern University
  Erin Brummett, Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania - Bloomsburg
  Dana Borzea, Grand Rapids Community College
  Zachary Carr, University at Buffalo (SUNY)
  Jennifer Allen Catellier, Gannon University
  Cathlin Clark-Gordon, Seton Hill University
  Abbe Depretis, Carnegie Mellon University
  Susan Drucker, Hofstra University
  Thomas Richard Flynn, Slippery Rock University
  Robert Foschia, Kutztown University
  Elizabeth M. Glowacki, Northeastern University
  Alan D. Heisel, University of Missouri-St. Louis
  Austin D. Hestdalen, Purdue University Northwest
  Sara LaBelle, Chapman University
  Danielle R. Mehlman-Brightwell, University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg
  Jessica Neu, Carlow University
  Trevor Parry-Giles, University of Maryland
  Angela L. Putman, Penn State Brandywine
  Christina E. Saindon, Queensborough Community College, CUNY
  Dan Strasser, Rowan University
  Doran Tucker, George Mason University
  Sally Vogl-Bauer, University of Southern Indiana
  Sara Pitts, Alice Lloyd College

*** end of report ***

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