

Tennessee Communication Association



2026 Conference

Friday, September 25-

Saturday, September 26

Volunteer State Community College

Gallatin, Tennessee

**“Progression During Retrogression:
When Education Rewinds,
Communication Leads”**

Dear 2026 TCA Members, Participants, and Guests:

Welcome to the annual conference of the Tennessee Communication Association! The faculty of the Department of Communication Studies at Volunteer State Community College are excited and honored to host you on our campus.

As I reflect on my role as president-elect of the Association, I want to express my overwhelming gratitude to those who have fought the good fight for so many years in our state. Your commitment, tenacity, and fortitude serve as a continual source of inspiration, particularly in moments when we are called to retreat rather than advance. It is both an honor and a privilege to stand alongside you in this work to engage in this struggle with decorum, intellectual rigor, excellence, and an unwavering regard for the greater good.

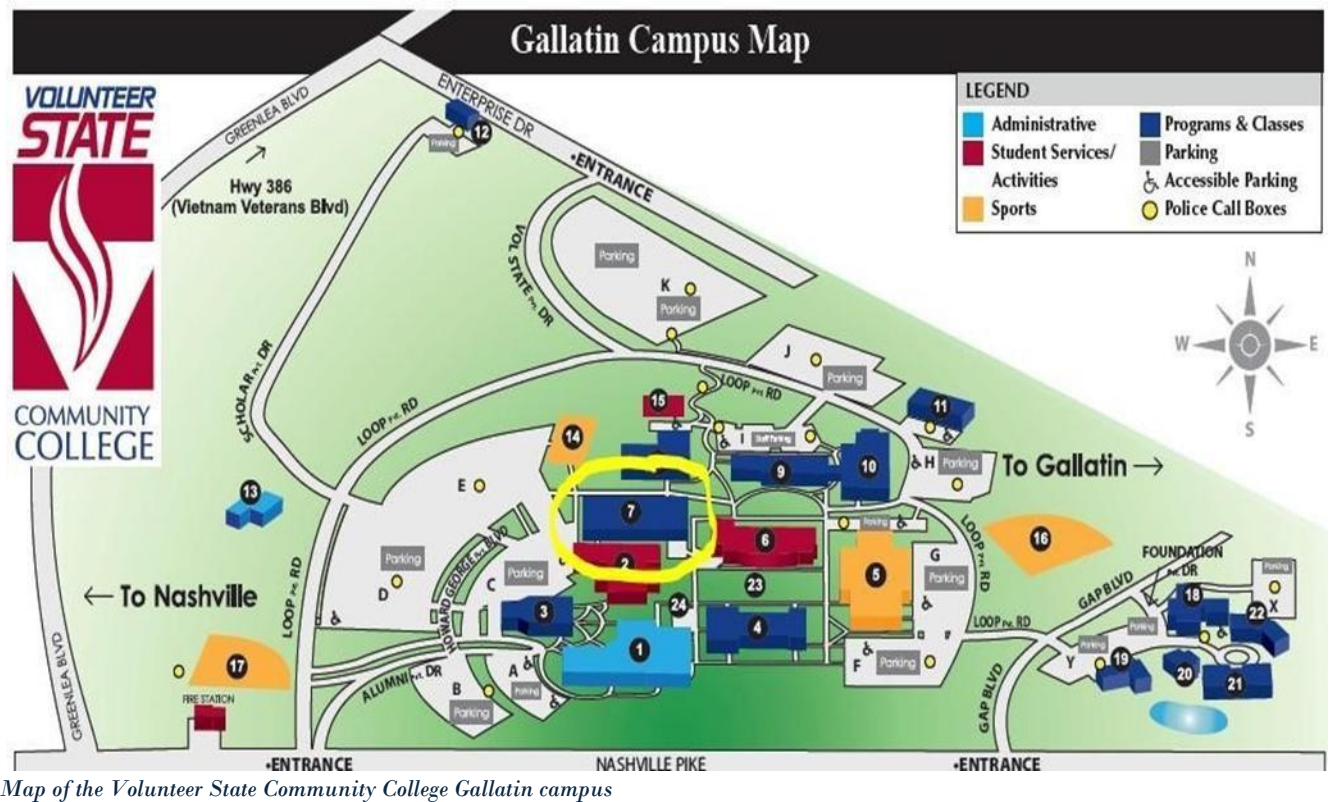
We find ourselves navigating an increasingly bleak educational and political landscape, one in which intellect, inquiry, and purpose are being displaced by complicity and complacency. We have been asked to acquiesce to sweeping transformations in content and curriculum that privilege expediency over evidence and appeasement over intellectual integrity. Yet, precisely because of these circumstances, the work we do has never been more consequential.

Our responsibility extends beyond the preservation of our discipline; it is a commitment to preserving the very principles that make education transformative: critical inquiry, intellectual freedom, informed discourse, and the courage to challenge prevailing assumptions. As communication scholars and educators, we understand that progress is not merely a destination, rather, it is a deliberate process of engaging ideas, interrogating systems, and creating pathways toward a more informed and equitable future.

This year's theme, "Progression During Retrogression: When Education Rewinds, Communication Leads," captures both the urgency of this moment and the responsibility before us. It calls us to convene not simply as colleagues and friends, but as scholars, educators, and advocates committed to charting a course forward when the prevailing currents seek to carry us backward. Together, we will consider how communication can illuminate what has been obscured, challenge what has been normalized, and mobilize us toward what is possible. More importantly, we will reaffirm that regression need not define our trajectory. Even in an era marked by retreat, we can choose to lead. We can choose to remain intellectually courageous, professionally steadfast, and deeply committed to the work of progression. The charge before us is clear: when education rewinds, communication must lead. Thank you for what you do. Thank you for being here. Enjoy the conference.

Dr. Karen Hill, 2026 TCA President-Elect
Volunteer State Community College

The 2026 TCA conference will be held in the *SRB Humanities Building*. The building is circled on the map.



Parking is free at Volunteer State Community College.

Thanks to the Volunteer State Community College faculty/staff for your support and hospitality welcoming TCA to your campus.

Friday, September 25

12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. – Conference Registration, 1st Floor of SRB Humanities Building

12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. – Refreshments, 2nd Floor SRB Atrium

12:45 p.m. – 12:55 p.m. – Welcome, SRB Humanities Building Room 150

1:00 p.m. – 1:50 p.m. – Session 1, SRB Room 251, 254, 255, 258

2:00 p.m. – 2:50 p.m. – Session 2, SRB Room 251, 254, 255,

3:00 p.m. – 3:50 p.m. – Session 3, SRB Room 251, 254, 255, 258

4:00 p.m. – 4:50 p.m. – Session 4, SRB Room 254, 255, 258

5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. – Student Film Showcase/Dinner, SRB Room 151

Saturday, September 26

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. – Conference Registration, 1st Floor of SRB Humanities Building

8:00 a.m. – 8:50 a.m. – Session 5, SRB Room 251, 255, 258

9:00 a.m. – 9:50 a.m. – Session 6, SRB Room 251 and 258

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. – Session 7, Business Meeting SRB 151

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. – Session 8, Awards Luncheon, SRB 151

Curriculum and Instruction: SRB 251

Panel Title: Working Professionally While Still in the Classroom: How students can utilize faculty contacts and partnerships to gain employment in the field

Panelists:

Barry Gresham, Austin Peay State University

David Ellison, Austin Peay State University

Monique Bradley, Austin Peay State University

William West, Austin Peay State University

Nick Arvin, Austin Peay State University

T.J. Carillon, Austin Peay State University

This panel will feature both faculty and students from Austin Peay State University. Student panelists will share their experiences working in arena video scoreboard production, sports multimedia journalism and live event production; highlighting how these opportunities enhanced their classroom learning and strengthened their professional skills prior to graduation.

Attendees will gain practical approaches for developing community partnerships, combining professional experiences into communication curricula, and preparing students for successful transitions into the workforce. By presenting both faculty and student perspectives, this session offers a model for connecting academic training with professional success.

Moderator: Dr. Tracy Giovanetti, Dyersburg State Community College

Mass Communication: SRB 254

Panel Title: From Cronkite, Pyle, and Galloway to “This video submitted by our viewer”: How Social Media and Online News Have Taken Us Back to Journalism’s Less Responsible Roots and What Educators Can do to Help Prepare Tomorrow’s Journalists to Apply More Professional Approaches Seen in American Media Coverage of Events from WWII through the Vietnam Conflict and Beyond

Panelists:

Brian Hamilton, Walters State Community College

Robert Pratt, Walters State Community College

Joseph Bryant, Walters State Community College

Like much of what passed for journalism in the early “penny press” days of our country, modern media coverage with its “you heard it first online here” mentality and social media pressure have led to a lack of depth and accuracy in even mainstream media reports of major news events. This tendency is particularly noticeable in coverage of armed conflicts around the world. This panel will explore this trend while focusing on some legendary American journalists who covered military conflicts in the

mid20th Century. The panel will discuss the contributions of these journalists and how the qualities that set them apart can serve as a basis for sound journalistic instruction today.

Moderator: Brian Hamilton, Walters State Community College

Corporate and Organizational Communication: SRB 255

Panel Title: Community Engagement Efforts at MTSU and APSU

Panelists:

Dr. Janet McCormick, Middle Tennessee State University

Dr. Carol Swayze, Middle Tennessee State University

Dr. Tracy Nichols, Austin Peay State University

In keeping with the conference theme "Progression During Retrogression: When Education Rewinds, Communication Leads", MTSU and APSU have teamed up to share information about Community Engagement efforts at their respective universities. MTSU is home to the Community Engagement Council whose primary task is to celebrate and elevate community engagement in teaching, learning, scholarship, and the co-curriculum. Janet and Carol are both active Council members and will highlight some of the specific ways they are involved in addressing this charge. Tracy is prepared to provide details of APSU's university wide Day of Service on the first day of fall classes as well as how they bring Community Engaged Learning to their Honors Program. She will also highlight the Community Communication and Servant Leadership class she recently created.

Moderator: Dr. Janet McCormick, Middle Tennessee State University

Great Ideas for Teaching Students (GIFTS): SRB 258

Passive to Persuasive: The Power of a Pitch

Presenters: Brooke O'Dell, Walters State Community College

Kayla Huber, Walters State Community College

Pathos over A.I.

Presenter: Joseph Bohannon, Pellissippi State Community College

BOW (Bring Out the WOW).

Presenter: Lori Kissinger, Middle Tennessee State University

PowerPoint: The Strategic Value of Visual Communication

Presenter: Brandon Bragg, Northeast State Community College

Moderator: Brandon Bragg, Northeast State Community College

Session 2 – 2:00 p.m. – 2:50 p.m.

Friday, September 25

Curriculum and Instruction: SRB 251

Panel Title: Truth in the Age of AI: Does Storytelling Survive?

Panelists:

Karen Bullis

Professor, Documentary Filmmaking, Video Production

Jamie Bowen

Professor, Journalism, Film Studies

Dr. James Zhang

Professor, Journalism, Multi-Media Storytelling

Micca Terrell

Professor, Ethics, Broadcast News Writing

Dr. Nader Dagher

Professor, Social Media, Public Relations

Artificial intelligence is rapidly transforming journalism, documentary filmmaking, podcasting, photography, and nearly every form of media production. As AI-generated content becomes increasingly sophisticated, educators and media professionals face urgent questions:

How do we preserve truth and authenticity in storytelling? How do we prepare students for careers in a media landscape where both creation and deception are powered by AI? What skills will remain essential long after today's tools have evolved? Do timeless principles still define quality journalism and storytelling? And how might those principles guide the next generation of media professionals in an AI-driven world.

Moderator: Dr. Tracy Giovanetti, Dyersburg State Community College

Mass Communication: SRB 254

Panel Title: The power of a phone call: The role of human voice in an era of hyper-digital communication

Panelists:

Dr. Rob Baron - Associate Dean and Professor of Communication, College of Arts and Letters, Austin Peay State University

Mike Dunn- Assistant Professor, Department of Communication,
Austin Peay State University

This paper explores the role that the human voice continues to play in our hyper-mediated and hyper digital era. It explores the power of the human voice as carried over a phone call, as a less-meditated experience, in relation to other more-mediated experiences. In doing so, it address the conference theme of exploring communication's role at this moment of change.

Part one of the paper (Baron) channels the work on Marshal McLuhan to offer a meditation on the medium of the telephone today. It explores what the message of the phone (as medium) is among all of the communication technologies available to us today.

Part two of the paper (Dunn) offers a reflection on the role of the human voices, as mediated by the phone, in working through the many challenges we face in our day to day lives as higher educators.

Moderator: Dr. Rob Baron, Austin Peay State University

Corporate and Organizational Communication: SRB 255

Paper Title: Communication and Psychological Adjustment: An Interview Study of Indonesian Expatriates in South Korea

Presenter: Yang-Soo Kim, Ph.D., Professor, Middle Tennessee State University

This study examines the communication experiences and cross-cultural adaptation of Indonesian expatriates in South Korea. Grounded in Kim's Cross-Cultural Adaptation Theory (1988, 2001, 2005, 2012, 2015, 2018), it explores how communication competence shapes expatriates' psychological wellbeing within the Korean sociocultural context.

Using a qualitative approach, data were collected through 15 in-depth interviews with Indonesian expatriates in South Korea. The findings indicate that cultural differences in verbal communication styles and workplace practices constitute major sources of psychological stress during the adaptation process. However, ongoing interaction with host nationals, along with the development of positive

workplace relationships, significantly enhances psychological well-being and facilitates successful adaptation.

Consistent with Kim's framework, the study underscores communication as a central mechanism in cross-cultural adaptation. It contributes to intercultural communication scholarship by offering empirical insights into expatriate adaptation in a non-Western context, highlighting the critical role of communication competence in shaping psychological health and adaptation outcomes.

Moderator: Mary White, Chattanooga State Community College

Session 3 – 3:00 p.m.– 3:50 p.m.

Friday, September 25

Curriculum and Instruction: SRB 251

Panel Title: TBRs and DNFs: Books that shaped our pedagogy and those that did

Panelists:

Dr. Natonya Listach, Middle Tennessee State University

Kristin Naylor, Middle Tennessee State University

Rebecca Richey, Middle Tennessee State University

Dr. Patrick Richey, Middle Tennessee State University

For those of us with more books on our To Be Read pile than we will ever have time to read.

This panel seeks to casually compile a list of books that each of us has read that has positively guided our teaching philosophy and pedagogy. Some panelists will also offer titles of books that we found utterly useless – to save others the wasted time.

Moderator: Dr. Tracy Giovanetti, Dyersburg State Community College

Interpersonal Communication: SRB 254

Panel Title: Building Community in times of change: How we can connect our way toward a better future in higher education.

Panelists:

Dr. Rob Baron - Associate Dean, College of Arts and Letters and Professor of Communication, Austin Peay State University

Mike Dunn - Assistant Professor, Department of Communication, Austin Peay State University

This open panel discussion invites attendees to consider the way in which community building can serve as a means for working through the challenges we face today in higher education. It asks attendees how we might work as communicators, as well as communication educators, to navigate these historic changes and build community.

Attendees will be asked to consider how they constitute community and how they can collaborate to create community in their programs, departments and colleges in order to build resilience for themselves and their students.

Moderator: Dr. Rob Baron, Austin Peay State University

Interpersonal Communication: SRB 255

Paper Title: Before You Hit Send: Anticipated Social Consequences and Message Acceptability in Digital Interpersonal Communication

Presenter: Adediran Adeyanju, Western Illinois University

Digital communication has transformed how people manage interpersonal interactions. Unlike face-to-face conversations, text-based digital messages often provide fewer nonverbal cues and may offer less immediate feedback for clarifying meaning. They can also persist beyond the original exchange, allowing them to be reread, forwarded, or shared. Consequently, deciding whether to send a digital message may involve evaluating both its ability to accomplish a communication goal and its potential to produce unwanted social consequences.

Drawing on goal-based approaches to message production, this study examined the relationship between anticipated negative social consequences and the perceived acceptability of digital interpersonal messages. Specifically, it investigated whether messages would be perceived as less acceptable when communicators anticipated that they might offend the recipient, harm the relationship, appear rude or inconsiderate, or create tension or conflict.

Sixty-three adults recruited through Prolific evaluated proposed messages in six text-based digital interpersonal scenarios involving reciprocity, shared-task responsibility, repayment, relational uncertainty, household conflict, and social-media boundary setting. For each scenario, participants rated the acceptability of sending the message and the likelihood of the four negative social consequences using seven-point Likert-type scales. Pearson correlations were calculated between message acceptability and each anticipated negative outcome using participants' mean ratings across the six scenarios.

Message acceptability was significantly and negatively associated with anticipated offensiveness ($r = -.49$), relational harm ($r = -.53$), perceived rudeness or inconsideration ($r = -.55$), and anticipated tension or conflict ($r = -.36$). Perceived rudeness or inconsideration had the strongest negative association with message acceptability, although its association was similar in magnitude to that of anticipated relational harm.

These findings suggest that digital message evaluations are shaped by more than efficiency, clarity, or goal achievement. Communicators also consider how their messages may affect recipients,

relationships, and their own social identity. By examining these evaluations in contemporary digital contexts, this study extends goal-based message-production research and highlights the social considerations that may influence whether people send, revise, or withhold digital interpersonal messages.

Moderator: Jacob Metz, Tennessee Tech University

Mass Communication: SRB 258

Paper Title: “The Role of Radio Station KAAZ During the Cuban Missile Crisis: Broadcasting United States Political Propaganda from Arkansas to Cuba”

Presenter: Richard Robinson, University of Tennessee at Martin

This study focuses on an event that occurred in October 1962, during what became known as the “Cuban missile crisis.” As the crisis began, the United States government, through its propaganda arm, the United States Information Agency, asked nine commercial radio stations throughout the country to broadcast Voice of America propaganda in Spanish to the island of Cuba. The broadcasts continued for over three weeks.

During this time, a 50,000 clear-channel AM-radio station had just begun airing programming with new call letters and new owners in Little Rock, Arkansas. As the news of the propaganda broadcasts became known, a young program director at radio station KAAZ called officials at the United States Information Agency, to ask if his station could join this network of stations. KAAZ, from its geographical location, had a very strong signal in the island of Cuba during nighttime hours. The program director understood this coverage and risked his job to assist the federal government in its propaganda effort.

The research utilized several sources. These included the World Wide Web (Internet), newspaper accounts, government publications and documents, oral history transcriptions as well as personal and telephone interviews with employees of the Little Rock radio station.

The findings reveal an interesting case study about the first, and apparently only utilization of a Little Rock, Arkansas radio station to voluntarily broadcast government propaganda to a foreign country.

Paper Title: Sex, Death, & Whimsy

Presenter: Joseph Bohannon, Mississippi State Community College

Sex, Death, & Whimsy is an original unpublished paper, written by Joseph Bohannon, that explores the juxtaposition between life and death through post-mortem photography. It is full of personal detail and experiences, historical context, and artistic analysis of contemporary artists' visions.

Post-mortem photography was once in vogue and has now been replaced by a camera on everyone's phone. Cameras capture still and moving imagery 24/7/365. Do people now photograph their lives, missing the quieter moments of portraits or themes? What was communicated in the past might just be missing from the present.

Join me to discuss my paper utilizing visual elements to enhance my thesis and bring the page alive (pun intended) to the audience.

Moderator: Brian Hamilton, Walters State Community College

Session 4 – 4:00 p.m.– 4:50 p.m.

Friday, September 25

Curriculum and Instruction: SRB 251

Panel Title: Crossing the Hall to find Common Ground: Using interdisciplinary Simulations to advance Communication Students' Professional Skills

Panelists:

David Ellison, Associate Professor, Austin Peay State University

Kathy Heuston, Professor, Austin Peay State University

Dr. Jessica Morris, Associate Professor, Austin Peay State University

Ethan Schmidt, Instructor, Austin Peay State University

Dr. James Zhang, Assistant Professor, Austin Peay State University

Experiential learning is an important component of communication education, providing students with opportunities to apply classroom concepts in realistic professional settings. This panel explores an interdisciplinary simulation in which students from Public Relations, Journalism, and Radio-Television collaborated with students from Nursing and Criminal Justice during a simulated car crash scenario. Faculty members from Austin Peay State University will discuss how communication students engaged with students from other disciplines to navigate a complex event requiring information gathering, crisis communication, media production, and professional collaboration. The simulation challenged communication students to assume professional roles while interacting with future healthcare and criminal justice professionals in a high stress, real-world environment.

Through this experience, students developed skills in crisis communication, news gathering, multimedia storytelling, teamwork, and deadline-driven decision making. Panelists will share examples of student work, discuss lessons learned from the project, and examine how simulated events can create meaningful opportunities for applied learning. By sharing lessons learned and best practices, the panel offers ideas that other communication programs can adapt to better connect classroom learning with professional experience.

Moderator: Dr. Tracy Giovanetti, Dyersburg State Community College

Interpersonal Communication: SRB 254

Paper Title: Students as co-creators of knowledge: Building a case for citizenship education in basic communication courses

Presenter: Dr. Kakali Bhattacharya Chakrabarti, Austin Peay State University

Political, economic and cultural shifts are the only constant phenomena of human history. Civilizations are like mythical phoenixes; they emerge from their own ashes in which knowledge and learning play pivotal roles in the rebuilding process. Education and learning helped humans to form social groups, develop and transmit cultures, learn from their social groups, and gradually move from hunter-gatherer societies to formal civilizations, which need further education and learning to be maintained. As societies emerged into formal structures, education became an integral part of social institutions responsible for socialization and a vehicle for social transformation.

In the times of great political, economic and cultural shifts like of which the world is experiencing now, education system has the responsibility to teach fundamental concepts that will help younger generation appreciate their personal identities and that of others, and enable them to become responsible citizens of future. It is this role of education that this paper will argue about. Through conceptual lessons, skill-based experiential learning processes and reflective assessments, undergraduate basic education courses are the most opportune platform to impart cultural competency and responsible citizenry knowledge.

In the early 20th century, John Dewey's philosophical stance perceived education as intellectual opportunities to promote creativity, freedom and democratic choices, openness and dialogue with people in their communities, and raise their voice for the good of society. Schools, as he perceived in his pioneering work *Democracy and Education*, are responsible for upholding society's commitment to intellectual and moral growth of youth into being responsible citizens of the future. Dewey not only opposed the melting pot ideals that promoted cultural assimilation of groups, but also promoted an education system in which schools will honor multiple cultures and forge a multilayered culture. Education in a democracy must enable the growth of the students in a way that they positively contribute to society.

Dewey's ideals of education had a far-reaching influence, beyond the national boundaries. The first Asian-origin Nobel laureate, Rabindranath Tagore, had similar vision of role of education in the growth of individuals and society. Tagore's educational vision espoused that education should be not for mere success or progress but for illumination of heart and for inculcation of a spirit of sympathy, service and self-sacrifice in the individual, so that s/he could rise above egocentrism and ethnocentrism to a state of global consciousness.

Brazilian academic philosopher Paulo Freire, in his pioneering book, *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*, also discussed the need for education to be liberating, rather than just repetitive. He called for an education system that viewed students as co-creators of knowledge, instead of passive consumers which is only possible when students are encouraged to generate knowledge and perceive their ownership in this process.

Inspired by these reformist philosophies of education, this paper argues that basic education courses have the responsibility to engage students in real-life implications of communication, not merely as an academic discipline but a practical skill and to help them develop democratic citizenship morals.

Moderator: Jacob Metz, Tennessee Tech University

Rhetoric and Public Address: SRB 255

Panel Title: Pedagogy and Progress: Moving Academia Forward of Unrest Panelists:

Dominick Cinefro-Prelis, Middle Tennessee State University

Dr. Natonya Listach, Middle Tennessee State University

Kristin Naylor, Middle Tennessee State University

Dr. Chaminda Prelis, Middle Tennessee State University

Rebecca Richey, Middle Tennessee State University

As educational institutions face shifting policies, reduced resources, curricular restrictions, and growing public scrutiny, educators must find ways to sustain meaningful and inclusive learning. This panel explores how faculty are adapting their pedagogy while preserving academic rigor, ethical engagement, and student support. Panelists will share practical strategies for teaching difficult topics, creating authentic assessments, fostering dialogue across difference, and responding to institutional change. Together, presenters will demonstrate how pedagogy can help us move classrooms and departments forward even when educational systems seem to be moving backward.

Moderator: Dr. Natonya Listach, Middle Tennessee State University

Mass Communication: SRB 258

Panel Title: AI and the New World Order: The Ethics of Technological and Social Revisionism

Panelist:

Dr. Christina Hicks-Goldston . Austin Peay State University

The increased presence of Artificial Intelligence (AI) has generated a need for research and an infrastructure to educate and navigate the effects of AI's new role in information gathering and reporting, employment, medicine, transportation, the hospitality industry, academia, arts/entertainment, and advertising and commerce, among other areas. AI is disrupting (and will continue to disrupt) those aspects of daily life for everyone around the globe. This research explores AI's impact, with a suggested actionable plan for individuals to proceed in the future to retain their independence and social roles by applying theoretical frameworks such as Social Role Theory, Diffusion of Innovations Theory, and Technological Determinism.

Moderator: Brian Hamilton, Walters State Community College

Special Event

Student Film Showcase/Dinner- SRB 151– 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Session 5 – 8:00 a.m. – 8:50 a.m.

Saturday, September 26

Argumentation and Forensics: SRB 251

Panel Title: TIFA Fall Check In

Panelists:

Dr. Pat Richey, Middle Tennessee State University

Dr. Natonya Listach, Middle Tennessee State University

This panel's purpose is for those active in the Tennessee Forensic Community to come together before the competitive season begins. Topics may include but are not limited to tournaments, best practices, governance issues, and state of the union in TIFA. This panel will have an open dialogue with audience format.

Moderator: Dr. Patrick Richey, Middle Tennessee State University

Rhetoric and Public Address: SRB 255

Panel Title: Following Different Media Sources

People Make Different Responses to President Trump's 2026 State of the Union Address

Panelist: Dr. Yunying Zhang, Austin Peay State University

Abstract: It is not a surprise that President Trump's most recent (2026) state of the union (SOTU) address was met with different responses. No published research could be found about people's online responses to his 2026 SOTU following different YouTube sources. The current study focuses on 3 different media sources, namely C-Span, CNN and Fox News that posted the same SOTU, to examine media effects on people's online behaviors. Communal analytic word cloud, topic analyzer, sentiment analyzer and civility analyzer of their online comments showed differences in each of the above aspects or dimensions. Theoretical and practical implications are discussed.

Key words: State of the Union address, Trump, online responses, Communal analytic

Panel Title: "Don't Talk About Politics" in the Public Speaking Classroom

Panelist: Dr. Andrew Tinker, Mississippi State Community College

This presentation will discuss the application of Sarah Stein Lubrano's "Don't Talk About It" for the Public Speaking classroom. The book challenges the premise of "marketplace of ideas" for public communication in the 21st century. This presentation will examine discussions of the book and how it informs public speaking curriculum. It will also examine how the author envisions discussions of persuasion for TN classrooms as they navigate TBR guidelines for free expression.

Moderator: Brian Hamilton, Walters State Community College

Great Ideas for Teaching Students (GIFTS): SRB 258

Building Empathy through personal reflections

Presenter: Dr. Kakali Bhattacharya Chakrabarti,
Austin Peay State University

Practice With Purpose: Turning Asynchronous Practice Into Visible Progress

Presenter: Anna McClure, University of Tennessee at Knoxville

Language Online Discussion Board Idea

Presenter: Dr. Shaquille Marsh, Pellissippi State Community College

Moderator: Brandon Bragg, Northeast State Community College

Session 6 – 9:00 a.m. – 9:50 a.m.

Saturday, September 26

TCA competitive student paper submissions: SRB 251 (Undergraduate) SRB 258 (Graduate)

Undergraduate Papers

Presenter: Taylor Bird, East Tennessee State University
Faculty Mentor: Professor Holden Gaylor

Presenter: Skye Kletz, Middle Tennessee State University
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Patrick Richey

Presenter: Milan DiMartino, Middle Tennessee State University
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Patrick Richey

Presenter: Taylor Bird, East Tennessee State University
Faculty Mentor: Professor Holden Gaylor

Graduate Papers

Presenter: Markeem Tyler, Middle Tennessee State University
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Janet McCormick

Presenter: Jennifer Dix, Middle Tennessee State University
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Janet McCormick

Presenter: Traci Lively, University of Tennessee at Knoxville
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Michelle Violanti

Presenter: Rachel Harless, University of Kentucky
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Kyra Hunting

Moderator: Dr. Jessica Morris, Austin Peay State University

Session 7 – 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Business Meeting SRB 151

Saturday, September 26

Session 8 – 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Awards Luncheon SRB 151

Saturday, September 26

2025 – 2026 TCA Officers

President: Bambi Pelham, Walters State Community College

President-Elect: Dr. Karen Hill, Volunteer State Community College

Executive Director: Dr. Shaquille Marsh, Pellissippi State Community College

Past President: Dr. Jessica Morris, Austin Peay State University

Student Film Festival: Dr. Tracy Nichols, Austin Peay State University

2026 TCA Interest Chairs

Argumentation/Forensics: Dr. Patrick Richey, Middle Tennessee State University

Corporate/Organizational: Mary White, Chattanooga State Community College

Curriculum/Instruction: Dr. Tracy Giovanetti, Dyersburg State Community College

Great Ideas for Teaching Students (GIFTS): Brandon Bragg, Northeast State Community College

Interpersonal/Small Group: Jacob Metz, Tennessee Tech University

Mass Communication: Brian Hamilton, Walters State Community College

Rhetoric/Public Address: Dr. Robert Baron, Austin Peay State University

Race and Gender: Dr. Natonya Listach, Middle Tennessee State University

Tennessee Communication Association

2027 Conference

Tennessee Tech University

Cookeville, Tennessee

September 17 – 18, 2027

[Tennessee Communication Association Website](#)

