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## CoLA Lowdown

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**From** COLA-ANNOUNCE-L <COLA-ANNOUNCE-L@LISTSERV.SIU.EDU>  
on behalf of  
Hine, Amanda G <00000156dc71743d-dmarc-request@LISTSERV.SIU.EDU>  
**Date** Thu 4/17/2025 10:49 AM  
**To** COLA-ANNOUNCE-L@LISTSERV.SIU.EDU <COLA-ANNOUNCE-L@LISTSERV.SIU.EDU>



# CoLA Lowdown

## A NOTE

# From the Dean

The State of the College of Liberal Arts, despite many headwinds this year, is **Excellent**:

- Students are succeeding. For CoLA
  - CoLA Overall (Undergraduate and Graduate Students) at the beginning of F25: **1,227**. (978 were undergraduates)
  - Of those 978, **499 were CoLA majors (up 6.5% from last year)** and **479 were Undecided and SSI students**.
  - Many of our majors maintained stable numbers this year, and a few programs saw overall **growth**, including **Anthropology** and **English**.
  - Our **CoLA major retention rate** from F24 to F25 was about **77%** (overall SIU rate was about **67%**). The **Fall to Spring rate was 91%** for CoLA majors and Undecided students, and **73%** for SSI students (which is up 2% or so from last year). These numbers are very close to last year for both groups.
- Despite beginning the FY with **no new budget** for hiring, we have been actively hiring:
  - **4 TT** hires this FY due to resignations and retirements (CvEX, Fiction, Spanish, & Political Science) all were replacements;
  - **4 new advisors**, 2 more **staff** replacements;
  - **3** new permanent school Directors;
- Increased Efficiencies
  - Rewritten and (largely) approved **OPs** for every school that more accurately reflects the makeup of CoLA
  - New **Student Advisory Committee** to allow for increased student communication with CoLA leadership
  - Effusive thanks to **Toby Merriman**, we are completing a whole year with CvEX open to all. He has done the work of two leaders as we continued to see CvEX help us all increase student engagement;
- New Career Development Opportunities
  - New **Career Week** last Fall with several successful panels, classes, and alumni participation;
  - **Focus2Career**, a donor supported and now available web portal
  - **Podium Education Approved** for a pilot: students can sign up for a course that provides workplace experience, new skills, and an online internship-like experience;
- **New Advising Team**: a big thanks to Thomas and all the other advisors as we transitioned and received **undecided SSI students**; a gigantic lift with very little advanced preparation or an increased budget;

So, objectively, CoLA is doing pretty well. We continue to face financial and personnel challenges, but with every challenge comes opportunities.

It is truly **an honor** to serve you as Dean. Thank you very much for all of your support and kindnesses.

## College Calendars

[CoLA Events Calendar](#)

[CoLA Faculty & Staff Calendar](#)

## College Committees

[CoLA Committees Webpage](#)

The CoLA Committees webpage lists all the committee meeting minutes.

## College

### *Meetings*

**Directors** meetings take place the second Thursday of every month at 3pm, Dean's Conference room, Faner 2408.

**Undergraduate Program Coordinators** meetings take place the fourth Tuesday of every month at 3pm, Dean's Conference room, Faner 2408.

## Upcoming

### *Deadlines*

April 18: NTT workload assignments due

May 1: NTT Annual Review

May 15: GA performance evaluations

# Share Your News

Do you have news to add to an upcoming CoLA Lowdown? Submit [this form](#) to share news, events, awards, and more with the rest of the College.

## Incentive Winners 2025

### Associate Professor Incentive (\$5,000)

- **Gray Whaley:** To conduct research on a new project on the history of the Klamath Indian Reservation. The project focuses on the interactions among Klamath tribal representatives and federal officials, primarily congressman and employees of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), regarding the administration of the reservation forestry.
- **Ken Mulligan:** To finalize research on a book project examining how changes in mainstream U.S. news media have led to the success of investigative journalism but at the cost of lowering trust in democracy. As news media organizations do a better job of holding government accountable, the associated rise in negative news and government drives down public trust in political institutions. This is the double-edged sword: Traditional news media protects democracy by keeping citizens informed while simultaneously undermining democracy by diminishing public trust in political institutions.

### Assistant-Full Summer Incentive (\$5,000)

- **Michele Freeman:** To conduct research for an ongoing book project examining martyrdom. Her project seeks to better understand the different means of identification with martyrs promoted by the Greek and Syriac preachers, and to understand why certain Syriac preachers favor graphic, sensorial descriptions to incorporate audiences into martyrs' suffering, while avoiding discourses of imitation. Overall, the project reevaluates the social and ritual dynamics of the early Christian cult of martyrs through the lens of homilies preached by clergy, as well as the under-recognized regional diversity in practices of martyr veneration.
- **Allison Hammer:** To complete a new book project, titled *Unruly Alliances: Cultures and Politics of Liberation*. The work looks to aesthetics as a tool

for the development of unruly alliances that cross, transcend, and dissolve borders and boundaries between categories of race, sexual and gender identity, and class, as well as between disciplinary and generic boundaries. Through interdisciplinary research methods, the project investigates how cultures and politics of liberation take shape during and after crises, such as authoritarian takeover, war, climate disasters, pandemics, and other large-scale, global and local events.

- **Anna Sicari:** To complete a new research project examining a reproductive health care center in Carbondale. The funds will be used to travel to several out of state locations to interview staff, and to interview local staff members and stakeholders to examine strategies to successfully build community and support in the clinics.

### **Interdisciplinary Incentive (\$3,000)**

- **Ulrich Reichard and Chris Stantis:** Their project combines the research methods of two fields – anthropology, a field of study that links the social sciences with the physical sciences, and chemical archaeology, which focuses on analyzing stable isotopes in human remains – to examine whether insects are a fallback food for white-handed gibbons. They will examine whether insect consumption is relatively higher during the dry season, when fruit is less available, than low during the rainy season.
- **Tobin Grant:** To develop curriculum for two initiatives: (1) an undergraduate course in History expanding students' understanding of America's religious diversity and (2) a graduate workshop providing advanced training in the social scientific study of religion and politics. The incentive program will support course preparation, training sessions, and instructional videos for faculty in Political Science, Sociology, and related fields.

### **Grant Writing (\$2,000)**

- **Santiago Gualapuro:** For work to develop a research grant proposal that aims to investigate the development of linguistic competence in the interpretation of quantifiers and numerals in typical developing Kichwa-Spanish bilingual children aged 5 to 8. This study will be the first to explore these linguistic elements in a minority language, addressing a significant gap in our understanding of language development and cognitive processes in bilingual populations.

### **Pedagogy Enhancement (\$1,000)**

- **Kyle Sutherland:** To develop experiential learning opportunities in SOC 302-Contemporary Social Problems. Funding will be used to forge meaningful relationships with community stakeholders and organizations in Carbondale that are addressing important social issues.
- **Shelby Swafford:** To develop innovative online course content and material for CMST 201—Performing Culture. CMST 201 is one of the last

core Communication Studies courses that does not have dedicated online course content. The funds will be used to obtain editing software and course design materials to create new online content for the course.

### **Inclusive Excellence (\$3,000)**

- **Tobin Grant:** To support the development of a plan for a new yearlong pipeline program in community-engaged social science that will provide students with training and experience in community-engaged research. Research projects will include collaboration with communities to develop research questions, methods, and analysis that produce ethical and impactful outcomes. Community-engaged research provides students with hands-on experience in all stages of the research process and a deeper understanding of communities and their needs.

## *2025 CoLA Awards*

**Early Career Faculty Excellence Award – Santiago Gualapuro**, Assistant Professor, School of Languages and Linguistics.

**Scholar Excellence Award – Shu-Ling Wu**, Associate Professor, School of Languages and Linguistics.

**Tenured/Tenure-Track Outstanding Teacher Award – Joe Shapiro**, Associate Professor, School of Literature, Writing, & Digital Humanities.

**Non-Tenure-Track Outstanding Teacher Award - Sabrina Starnaman**, Assistant Professor of Practice, School of History and Philosophy.

**Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant (Ph.D.) – Emine Turkmen**, Teaching Assistant, School of History and Philosophy.

**Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant (M.A.) – Mónica Rodríguez Herman**, Teaching Assistant, School of Languages and Linguistics.

Please join us in congratulating this year's winners. We would also like to give a special thank you to the 2025 CoLA Awards committee members for their hard work and thoughtfulness in reviewing the nominations.

### **Recent Accomplishments**

# Faculty

**Dustin Greenwalt**, Assistant Professor of Practice, School of Communication Studies, recent publication titled "Optimism" in the forthcoming edited volume, *Ecological Feelings: A Rhetorical Compendium*, edited by Joshua Trey Barnett and published by Michigan State University Press (2025). 209–228.

**Shelby Swafford**, Assistant Professor of Practice, School of Communication Studies, received the Outstanding Book Chapter Award from the Central States Communication Association.

# Graduate Students

**Reza Shirmaz**, Teaching Assistant, School of Communication Studies, is having his play "Muzzled" produced at the prestigious Chopin Theater in Chicago by the Theater of the Absurd, May 2 - 25, 2025.

## Recent Events

# Honors Day





Honors Day 2025 was a success for CoLA with 45 students, and their families, attending the ceremony. Jennifer Sigler, an SIU English Alum and current Director of SIH Foundations and Funds Development, gave the keynote address. Thank you to all of our CoLA faculty who attended and helped to celebrate our students.



# Important Information

**CoLA Electives Webpage** - CoLA is looking to highlight courses for Summer and Fall 2025 that majors across the university can take as electives. We're looking for courses that do not require a prerequisite and are likely 200/300/400 level courses. These courses will be included on the CoLA Electives Webpage and sent out to advisors across the university. Courses that are not taught often, are new, or are Special Topics courses are especially encouraged. If interested, please send a course flyer to Rachel Wolters ([rachelw@siu.edu](mailto:rachelw@siu.edu)).



**College of Liberal Arts Commencement** will be held Saturday, May 10, 1pm, at the Banterra Center. Faculty information can be found [here](#).

**The LGBTQ+ Faculty and Staff Council is now accepting nominations for a number of open positions.** Nominations are open until Thursday, May 1.



## SIU LGBTQ+ Faculty and Staff Council (QFSC) CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

**May 1**  
nominations due\*

**May 5**  
nominations verified\*

**May 6-16**  
voting open\*

**VP**

### **Vice President** (August 2025-July 2027)

ensures proper performance of Exec Board duties; serves as liaison between committees and Exec Board; responds to any procedural or constitutional issue that may arise; serves as presiding officer in President's absence; chair elections committee; annually reviews and presents Bylaws to General Membership.

**T**

### **Treasurer** (August 2025-July 2027)

proposes annual budget; oversees deposits and disbursements; maintains fiscal records; ensures all expenditures are within approved budget and constituency policies; maintains membership roster.

**CS**

### **Civil Service Representative** (August 2025-July 2027)

enforces and maintains constitution; ensures meetings follow parliamentary procedures; maintains ongoing communication between QFSC and LGBTQ+ civil service staff at SIUC; attends Civil Service Council meeting.

**A/P**

### **A/P Representative** (August 2025-July 2026)

enforces and maintains constitution; ensures meetings follow parliamentary procedures; maintains ongoing communication between QFSC and LGBTQ+ A/P staff at SIUC; attends A/P staff council meeting.

**F**

### **Faculty Representative** (August 2025-July 2026)

enforces and maintains constitution; ensures meetings follow parliamentary procedures; maintains ongoing communication between QFSC and LGBTQ+ faculty at SIUC; attends Faculty Senate meetings.

\*Each nominee is expected to be a current member, or to become a member, of the QFSC in order to hold office.  
Voting is open to any QFSC member who has attended 2+ meetings in the past 12 months.

**We invite you to attend our next meeting: Friday, April 4, 2:00 PM, LIB 480A or on Teams**

For questions, or to submit nominations (self-nominations encouraged), contact one of the following:

- ✓ Sandy Pensoneau-Conway, sandypc@siu.edu
- ✓ Chris Simkins, chris.simkins@siu.edu
- ✓ Angela Towne, angela.towne@siu.edu

## Upcoming Events



Lecture  
Friday, April 18, 2025  
11:00am

**Matthew J. Brown**

**“What is *Pragmatist* About the New  
'Pragmatist' Philosophy of Science?”**

Philosophical pragmatism has been enjoying a renaissance in philosophy of science. Brown will bring this recent work into conversation with classical pragmatism to explore the question: What makes a philosophy of science *pragmatist*? The recent work is in some respects more faithful to the classical pragmatist tradition than earlier appropriations of pragmatism, but it also differs in emphasis in ways that are problematic. Brown does not argue that there is some single, essential character of philosophical pragmatism, nor does he try to sort the “true pragmatists” from the pretenders. Rather, he will attempt to articulate the value of the new pragmatist philosophy of science while also indicating valuable resources from the pragmatist tradition that have yet to receive their proper due, particularly concerning the interplay of science and values.

*Matthew J. Brown is the Jo Ann and Donald N. Boydston Chair of American Philosophy and Director of the Center for Dewey Studies at SIU. His research areas include the history of 19th and 20th century philosophy and the history and philosophy of science. He is the author of Science and Moral Imagination: A New Ideal for Values in Science (2020) and is currently editor-in-chief of HOPOS: The Journal of the International Society for the History of Philosophy of Science.*



**Center for Dewey Studies • Morris Library Basement, Room 0044**

## **Center for Dewey Studies Lunchtime Talks**

<http://deweycenter.siu.edu>

The Center for Dewey Studies is the home of research, publishing, and outreach focused on the life, work, and legacy of the American philosopher and educator John Dewey. Our Lunchtime Talks feature speakers researching Dewey and related thinkers, work in the pragmatist tradition, and work in a broadly Deweyan spirit.



Scan to learn more





SIU CARBONDALE  
SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES AND  
LINGUISTICS PRESENTS

# DR. ROBERT HENDERSON

MULTIMODAL  
DOCUMENTATION  
OF HIGHLAND  
MAYAN SIGN  
LANGUAGE +  
GESTURE

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**April 18, 2025**

3:00 pm CST

ZOOM

[HTTPS://US05WEB.ZOOM.US/J/82348512758](https://us05web.zoom.us/j/82348512758)



Morris Library 752




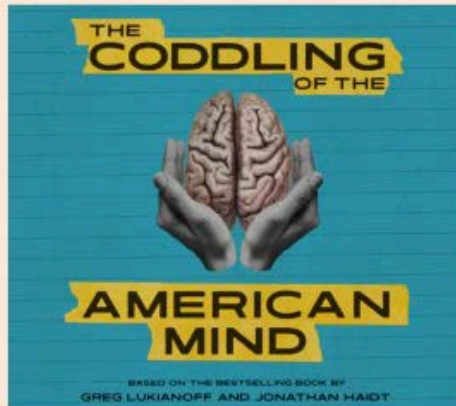
# Film Screening & Conversation





## The Coddling of the American Mind

*You're Invited!*

Join us for a special screening of "The Coddling of the American Mind: An Anxious Generation Searches for Happiness," a powerful and timely documentary inspired by Greg Lukianoff and Jonathan Haidt's best-selling 2018 book.

 The film explores the impact of overprotection, emotional reasoning, and ideological polarization on the mental health of a rising generation—and invites viewers to rethink how we raise, educate, and engage young minds. A 30-minute open discussion will follow the screening.



-  Date: Monday, April 21
-  Time: 3:00 – 4:30 PM
-  Reception: 2:30 – 3:00 PM in the Rotunda
-  Location: Guyon Auditorium, Morris Library



**Free & Open to the Public**

**Come for the film. Stay for the conversation.**

**heterodox academy**  
at  
Southern Illinois University - Carbondale

Join us at <https://heterodoxacademy.org/campuses/southern-illinois-university-carbondale/>



# DÍA DEL Español



## YOU'RE INVITED TO SPANISH LANGUAGE DAY!



**Date:** April 23rd



**Place:** Faner 1526



**Time:** 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM




(Come and go as you wish — join us whenever it suits you!)



Join us for a day full of fun, culture, and  
celebration of the Spanish language!

- ✓ Experience Spanish language and culture in a fun way!
- ✓ Meet new people and connect with the community.
- ✓ Enjoy interactive activities, contests, performances,  
theatre, music, dance, and more.



Scan the QR code   
to join this fantastic day  
celebrating the Spanish language.

Register by April 20th!




 **OPEN TO EVERYONE ON AND OFF CAMPUS.**

**DON'T MISS OUT!** 



For more information, contact us at [gisell.chapal@siu.edu](mailto:gisell.chapal@siu.edu) or [albuixel@siu.edu](mailto:albuixel@siu.edu)

 Come and be part of this amazing celebration of the Spanish language!



Lecture  
Thursday, April 24, 2025  
11:00am

## Steven Fesmire, "Moral Fundamentalism, Stupid Decisions, and the Ends-Means Continuum"

Moral fundamentalists habitually act as if they have access to: (1) the exclusively right way to diagnose moral or political problems and (2) the single approvable practical solution to any particular problem. Building on the pragmatist tradition, I will argue that moral fundamentalism underwrites stupid decisions. In part, this is because it obstructs communication and constricts deliberation about what's possible. But its implied methodology is even more worrisome, as it asks people to trust ends which are asserted autocratically. Instead of asking people to cooperatively trace varied consequences of the means being proposed, ends like liberty and justice are framed and understood as self-justifying finalities to be won at any price.

*Steven Fesmire is Professor of Philosophy and Chair of Philosophy & Religious Studies at Radford University. He is the author Beyond Moral Fundamentalism: Toward a Pragmatic Pluralism (Oxford University Press, 2024). He edited The Oxford Handbook of Dewey (Oxford University Press, 2023), and his books John Dewey and Moral Imagination (Indiana University Press, 2003) and Dewey (Routledge Press, 2015) won Choice "Outstanding Academic Title" awards. A 2009 Fulbright Scholar in Japan, Fesmire's public philosophy work has appeared in places like Salon, The Chronicle of Higher Education, Inside Higher Ed, and The Humanist.*



**Center for Dewey Studies • Morris Library Basement, Room 0044**

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Scan to learn more



# Carbs and Caffeine

WEEK (MAY 5-10)

Panera bagels, coffee, fruits, and  
snacks served every day  
7:45am-2:00pm (while supplies last)

## Schedule:

**Monday-** Larry's Donuts  
**Tuesday-** La Unica Bakery

**Wednesday-** Kozy Cakes

**Thursday-** Cristaudo's Pastries  
**Friday-** Bunmakers

Second floor of Faner  
Wing C, above the museum



# Spring Cleaning Your Office or Home??



Donate any of the following items to  
be used in student lounge and sitting  
spaces in Faner:

Artificial Plants  
Artwork  
Board Games  
Bowls/Platters for Snacks

Something else? Ask Rachel  
([rachelw@siu.edu](mailto:rachelw@siu.edu))

**Drop off items in Faner 2433/35**



Southern Illinois University | College of Liberal Arts 1000 Faner Dr | Carbondale, IL 62901  
US

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