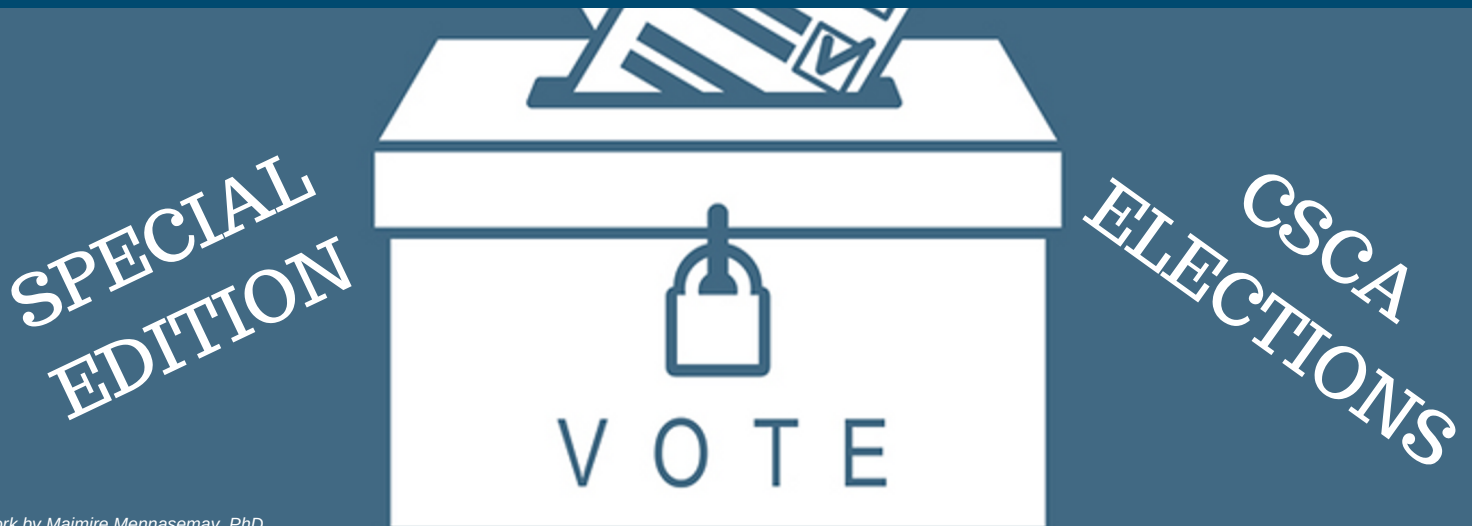




# CENTRAL STATES COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER  
SEPTEMBER 2019, VOLUME 87, ISSUE 4 (ELECTION SUPPLEMENT)

## Meet the Candidates Election Supplement



Artwork by Maimire Mennasemay, PhD

## Your 2019 Candidates for Office

It's election time, CSCA! To help you with this important process, CSCA Newsletter Editor Stephen A. Spates, in consultation with CSCA Executive Director Chad Edwards, have put together this special insert to help inform you in your voting decisions. Special thanks to the CSCA President Chad McBride and the CSCA Finance Chair Jeff Child for serving as election vote counters. Included are descriptions for each office, photos and statements provided by the candidates, and information about the voting procedure.

You will receive an email informing you when the polls are open. We will also post reminders about voting on the organization website (<http://www.cscanet.org>) as well as on our official Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/CentralStatesComm>). In short, we will do all we can to keep you informed about the process and to help you vote in this year's election.

As a final note, the CSCA office would like to thank the 2019 Nominating Committee for the work they have done in recruiting this year's nominees! This committee has the essential task of encouraging members to apply for officer positions, carefully reviewing their credentials, and ultimately putting forth candidates to the membership. It takes time, energy, and social capital – and we are so fortunate that members volunteer their time and service to the organization.

-CHAD EDWARDS, CSCA EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR

# Make Your Voice Heard



Vote by 11:59 p.m.  
on October 30

# Meet the Candidates: Second Vice President

The Second Vice-President shall serve for one year, and then succeed to the office of First Vice-President. The First Vice-President shall serve for one year, and then succeed to the office of President for one year. The President shall serve for one year, then succeed to the office of Past President for one year. Specific duties include planning a pre-conference and serving as an executive committee member during the Second Vice-President year; planning a full CSCA meeting during the First Vice-President year; and presiding over organizational business. The person who is elected to this position will also select standing committee chairs. Please see the organizational bylaws for full details about other officer duties. Candidates are presented here in alphabetical order. Each candidate provided the statements and photos presented here.

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## Ahmet Atay The College of Wooster



CSCA has been my academic home since 2004. As an international student whose second language was English, I felt intimidated by our scholars and their amazing work. However, I immediately felt welcomed into the organization. CSCA provided the scholarly platform that I needed to feel welcomed. I was mentored and provided a place to present my research.

First you accepted me, then mentored me, and finally trusted me to mentor your students, publish in your journals, and take on leadership roles. Since then, I have been committed to mentoring our graduate students and new faculty members as they make CSCA their academic home.

I now consider several of you to be mentors, colleagues, collaborators, mentees, and lifelong friends. Over the years, I served with you on multiple panels, presenting papers and participating in fruitful discussions. I also collaborated and published with many of you over the years. I co-edited a special issue on intercultural communication for our journal, *Communication Studies*, and have been serving as an editorial board member for CSCA's *Journal of Communication Pedagogy*. These opportunities allowed me to collaborate with you and get to know you and your work better, ultimately empowering me to give back to our community.

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Additionally, I chaired intercultural communication, popular culture, sexual orientation, and gender identity interest groups and caucuses. I served as secretary for IC more than once and am currently serving as the vice-chair of our newly formed Ethnicity, Race, International and Class Concerns Caucus. I served on the Federation Research Prize Committee and have been serving as the chair of NCA's International and Intercultural Communication Division as well. As my track record suggests, I am highly committed to CSCA and would like to serve as its 2nd VP.

Those of you who know me personally know my commitments to diversity and internationalization. I have devoted my entire academic career to diversity and identity issues in media, classrooms, organizations, and our everyday encounters. The need to intersectionally and performatively ponder our identities as we continue to co-exist within our extended academic family cannot be underestimated. In this regard, I would thus like to serve CSCA as its 2nd VP to achieve our organizational goals of inclusivity, diversity, and internationalization.

I come to you with four interrelated goals in mind:

- **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion:** This summer, our discipline engaged in serious conversations about diversity. As does our parent organization, I firmly believe that we have responsibilities and some work to do. No matter how you feel about diversity, this topic is critical for most of us as we continue to occupy different identity positions, mentor students who come from different backgrounds, or research groups of people and their cultural practices and performances, relationships, needs, desires, health, and ways of being and living. Therefore, diversity is at the heart of every discussion that I will engage in should I be elected as CSCA's 2nd VP. As part of this principle, I will also lead with transparency.
- **Internationalization:** As international faculty, I am fully committed to the internationalization of our discipline. For example, my courses have transnational perspectives, and my leadership style recognizes, values, and embodies feminist, queer, and transnational sensibilities. My research, committees, and discussions have an international perspective. The ways in which I see the world are also informed and influenced by international sensibilities. I would like to bring these commitments to CSCA. We might be located in the Midwest, but we are connected to the rest of the world in so many ways. Over the years, I made a conscious effort to attend international conferences to network with and learn from our global colleagues. I hope to bring the same energy and commitment to CSCA. I hope to continue carving the paths you have carved for us over the years by trying to increase our internationalization efforts not only through showcasing our international colleagues' work within CSCA but also by building connections with international organizations within and outside of the US.

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- **Mentoring:** One thing I truly appreciate about CSCA is how we mentor undergraduate and graduate students and junior faculty. I first turned to you as a graduate student, then as junior faculty, then again when I was under review for tenure. You helped me to become a researcher and taught me how to become a good teacher. You mentored me to be a leader. If I am elected as 2nd VP, I will devote my time and energy to cultivating formal and informal mentoring opportunities. Particularly, I will start organizational conversations about how to mentor faculty and students of color, international faculty and students, and members of the other marginalized groups who experience the world differently and have different needs. Hence, I would like to work with you create research and teaching maps to develop organic mentorship opportunities between students and faculty.
- **Connection:** While many of us began our academic journeys at CSCA, some became regular members, and some decided to join other regional or smaller conferences. I believe it is important to attract new members and retain our graduate students within our organizations when they become junior faculty. I would like to work with the institutions in our region, particularly to invite historically marginalized faculty members and graduate students to join us. It is also important to establish close connections with PhD and master's degree programs to continue cultivating a productive and welcoming community.

One of my professional dreams is to become CSCA's first international/transnational president. I would like to bring my experiences, training, and energy as well as my commitments to diversity and internationalization to CSCA as its 2nd VP. As an international student and ultimately a faculty member, I learned not to dream big, because I know that we face complex challenges. This time, I am going to dream big. I would be honored to serve as CSCA's 2nd VP, as I wish to become a role model for others as CSCA has been for me.



# Kenneth Lachlan

## University of Connecticut



I am honored to be nominated for 2nd Vice President of the Central States Communication Association. Please allow me to discuss my academic history, service contributions, and scholarship. I earned my PhD from Michigan State University in December of 2003, and immediately took a position as an Assistant (later Associate) Professor at Boston College. In 2009, I made the nine-mile move across town to become the founding department chair at UMass-Boston; during my time there I spearheaded the development of an entire undergraduate curriculum and department, growing the program from a

minor housed in the American Studies department to a major of over 300 students. The opportunity to work with graduate students drew me to the University of Connecticut in 2015, and I was promoted to Professor and Department Head in 2017.

I have a fairly lengthy service history to the field of Communication on the whole. I currently serve on the editorial boards of *Communication Quarterly*, *Human Machine Communication*, *Journal of Communication Pedagogy*, *Journal of International Crisis and Risk Communication Research*, *Communication Studies*, and *Communication Research Reports*; I have been an ad hoc reviewer for another 40 journals both inside and outside the field. I was recently appointed to NCA's convention planning committee, and I have served as a frequent reviewer, panel chair, and respondent for various divisions of NCA, ICA, AEJMC, CSCA, and ECA. At CSCA, I served as program planner for the Communication Theory Interest Group in 2012, and chaired the 2014 committee that awarded the prestigious Federation Prize for research (an award I won myself in 2005). Above all else, I am the immediate past editor of *Communication Studies*, a role that I occupied from 2016 to 2018. During my editorship of *Communication Studies*, my team and I processed over 300 manuscripts a year, with an acceptance rate of about 12%. Average review times were reduced to about a month, and the journal saw significant growth in terms of citation metrics and readership indicators.

As a scholar, I am a social scientist who conducts data-driven research concerning the effects of mediated information on attitudes and behaviors. Of late, the central component of my research agenda has been the study of risk messages.

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Much of this work has explored real world information seeking patterns and psychological responses to crisis and health messages from people under extreme duress. My earliest efforts in this area included an investigation into communication behaviors on 9-11 and in the weeks and months that followed, identifying differences among audience groups in their media use and motivations, along with the utility of media as an instrument of uncertainty reduction. A series of studies conducted after Katrina examined field data collected from evacuees in relief centers, and explicated the nature of health knowledge gaps among underprivileged New Orleans residents, differences in cognitive and affective responses to emergency messages across demographics, the use of media and other resources as coping strategies, and the informational needs of disabled subpopulations in the time leading up to landfall. I have also published a number of studies exploring similar risk and health information needs and behavioral responses following school shootings, infrastructure failures, and large scale weather events. Across these varying outcomes, I attempt to not only examine individual level processes and effects, but to provide clear policy recommendations that can be used by those responding to environmental risks. Two recent citation analyses ranked my publication count in the top 1% of the field from 2007 to 2011, and from 2012 to 2016 (Bolkan, Griffin, Holmgren, & Hickson, 2012; Griffin, Bolkan, & Dahlbach, 2017).

Given recent events and controversies in our field, I feel that I should add that diversity and inclusion have long been central to my scholarly identity. As stated above, much of my research has addressed the needs of historically underserved communities during crises and disasters, using data to inform our understanding of structural inequalities, knowledge gaps, and issues of institutional distrust. A quick glance at the articles published during my time at Communication Studies suggests a similar dedication to inclusion in the editorial process. For example, the very first article I accepted addressed issues of aural body rhetoric, and won the 2017 Anita Taylor Award from the Organization for the Study of Communication, Language, and Gender (Booth & Spencer, 2016). As founding department head at UMass Boston I made five tenure track hires (including my own replacement); all were women, and three were women of color. As department head at UConn I have overseen the successful promotion and tenure of two minority faculty, while a third has recently won national level fellowships from both the Ford Foundation and the American Association of University Women. I have also dedicated resources to aggressively recruiting diverse graduate students; of the 15 students to enter the program on my watch, roughly half come from historically underrepresented backgrounds. Should I be elected to this position, I pledge that I would bring this spirit of inclusivity into my efforts and decisions as an officer of the association.

In conclusion, I would like to thank you for considering my candidacy for 2nd Vice President of the Central States Communication Association. I hope this statement has provided somewhat of an overview of my background and experiences. CSCA has long been an academic home for me, and I view my candidacy as an opportunity to give back. I would be greatly honored to serve an association that has been so valuable to my career.

# Meet the Candidates:

## Member at Large

The duties of the two Member at Large positions include attending and participating in all Executive Committee meetings. There they serve as a voice for CSCA members. Members at Large also assist the Executive Committee in carrying out the work of CSCA. The person elected to this position shall serve a two-year term. Candidates are presented here in alphabetical order. Each candidate provided the statements and photos presented here.

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### Sara Baker Bailey

### Southern Connecticut

### State University



Where are you from? For me, that is an interesting question. Do you mean the state I grew up in, or where I spent a significant time as a graduate student, or maybe where I live and work now? Those answers are all complicated and shifting. So when I am able to put down roots somewhere be it physical or symbolically, those places and spaces are key to me.

One such place and space that has been consistent for me throughout several shifting landscapes has been my membership in the Central States Communication Association. It is a place that I am proud to call home. It has been an organization that has helped me grow as a teacher, as a scholar, and as a practitioner in communication.

I believe that I have been able to grow in these ways due to the membership of the organization as well as its leadership. I have long felt CSCA as a place where I could learn and grow. Our leadership has diligently helped us chart a course of growth. I see it encapsulated in such actions as the availability of pronoun ribbons at check in, gender inclusive restrooms at conference locations, and most recently the swift attention to updating of our publication practices to remove outdated, gendered titles. I see in our organization, leaders and members who are self-reflexive, colleagues and peers who are willing to listen, and people who strive to treat one another with respect. I see what Andrew Sayer dubs the “everyday pleasantries,” alive and well in our organization. Every day pleasantries are not trivial by any means. What we say and do in the company of one another matters.

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It makes a difference in how a person individually experiences the world the around them. The ripple in the pond.

On a broader level, attention has rightfully shifted to address inequitable institutionalized practices and systems. Our publishing practices have been put on notice for #communicationsowhite. And this summer, we had an intense and necessary discussion about the privilege that has been instilled in our recognition practices. CSCA members and leadership within our caucuses were quick to begin discussions and organize responses to these practices. I was proud to see so many thoughtful and supportive statements from our caucuses. It also encouraged me that now is the time for CSCA, as an association, to look inward. Our organization can be one of the change agents to tackle and dismantle #communicationsowhite and other non-inclusive practices. Let us ask ourselves to identify our blind spots, acknowledge them, and address them. We cannot simply condemn others, but we must be self-aware of what we say and do and work within ourselves to address it. The amazing part is, I know we can. I have seen the leadership push and nudge and work to move us forward.

Now, I want to step up and do my part to serve CSCA and to push and nudge and move us forward. A big part of my philosophy and approach to thinking about organizations is dignity, which is both personal to the individual, and social as it depends on the respect of others (Hodson, 2001). As such, I approach the member-at-large position as one that should think about the personal, the individual experiences that one is having within our organization and how that impacts our collective group as a whole. I seek to experience CSCA from a member point of view when I can, and put those individual experiences and the diversity of the membership in conversation with the organization as it seeks growth. I would like to help us take the statements and sentiments that were shared this summer and see how our organization can implement meaningful growth. How can we work together to dismantle #communicationsowhite and other non-inclusive practices? How can we be change agents as an association?

In closing, I look forward to seeing how our association continues to grow from not only these most recent discussions, but also with discussions that lie ahead on the horizon. I always look forward to booking my travel to the annual conference as I know it means I am getting closer to our proximal time together as a community. Each year my roots grow a little stronger and a little deeper. I am grateful to those who have mentored and cared for those roots over the years. Thank you to the membership at large for the opportunity to be considered for this position.

# Adam Tyma

## University of Nebraska at Omaha



To the CSCA Membership:

For those that do not know me, my name is Adam Tyma. I am on faculty at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, and I am asking for your consideration for the position of Member-At-Large on the upcoming ballot and, ultimately, your vote.

Per the CSCA by-laws, the duties of the Member-At-Large include (to paraphrase): attend all executive committee meetings, serve as a voice for association members, and assist the EC in carrying out the work of CSCA. Each of these are important parts of the position. However, it is the second aspect – serve as a voice for CSCA members – that I am most interested and hope to do in this role. It is imperative that all voices are heard, recognized, respected, and brought forward to those in leadership positions. As an advocate and liaison for the membership, I would see my primary role to work on our behalf to make sure that our diversity in thought and action are recognized. CSCA has a tradition of pedagogy and activism that serves alongside our strong research and more traditional academic pursuits. It is this intersection that I wish to continue to foster as your Member-At-Large.

I have been able to with and for CSCA in a number of capacities since I attended my first conference in Indianapolis in 2006. Unlike NCA, where it is completely overwhelming for a graduate student (and, to be fair, many non-students), CSCA was welcoming, challenging, awe-inspiring, and everything that an academic conference should be. Since then, I have chaired three Interest Groups (Media Studies, Communication Theory, and Popular Culture ... twice), including being one of the founders for the Popular Culture Interest. I have reviewed for, responded, chaired, and presented for a number of our IGs, have served on organization-wide awards committees, acted as the local host contact this past year in Omaha ... and, yes, I started and ran the CSCA Pub Crawl for nearly a decade. It is time for me to serve CSCA in a new way, which is what brings us to this moment.

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This is the second time I have been nominated for this position, and I am just as excited by the opportunity as the first time. We often hear CSCA and our membership described as “home,” “family,” “friends,” or “colleagues.” I want to give back to those that allowed me in and have been part of my life for 13 years. I want to work for you. Thank you for this opportunity to serve.

All the best -

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Adam Tyma". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'A' and 'T'.

Adam Tyma  
Life Member, CSCA

# Central States Communication Association: 2019 Election Voting Procedures

Voting for CSCA's slate of candidates will take place electronically. A link to cast your ballot will be sent to members on or around October 20, 2019. Please check the email address you have registered with CSCA in order to get your link. If you cannot find your voting email by October 23, 2019, please email CSCA Executive Director Chad Edwards at [csca.ed@gmail.edu](mailto:csca.ed@gmail.edu) so he can provide you with a voting link.

Only current CSCA members are allowed to vote in the election. If anyone who does not have a current membership votes in the election, then those votes will be ignored. Anyone who joins CSCA after October 20, 2019 will not be allowed to vote in this election. If a member votes more than once, only the first vote(s) will be counted. Everyone who votes in the election will receive an email confirming that they have voted.

Once you receive the email telling you that voting is now open, simply click on the link to be taken to the ballot. Follow the instructions from there to complete the process.

Voting ends October 30, 2019 at 11:59 p.m. CST.

CSCA looks forward to counting your votes and announcing our new leadership!

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## Newsletter Staff & Executive Director



Stephen A. Spates  
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CSCA Newsletter Editor



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Southern Connecticut  
State University  
CSCA Scholarship  
Supplement Editor



Chad Edwards  
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