

Texas Speech Communication Association

Press Release

October 5, 2025

Texas Speech Communication Association Announces Top Student Paper Award

The Texas Speech Communication Association (TSCA) held its annual conference October 2nd through the 4th in Allen, Texas. The TSCA College and University Standing Committee hosted students from across the country in the Graduate and Undergraduate Student Scholarship Conference, which ran in conjunction with the TSCA Conference. Students presented research on various issues within the communication field. Noah Tew of the University of Texas at Tyler was awarded the Dr. June Smith Top Student Paper Award for his paper “From Acclaims to Attacks: Rhetorical Shifts in U.S. Presidential Debates, 2021 vs. 2024”. Noah stated, “When I started this paper, I just wanted to understand why political debates feel so different now compared to a decade ago. To have that research recognized with this award is incredibly meaningful and makes every late night and revision worth it. I owe a lot to my mentors at UT Tyler, whose guidance and encouragement helped shape this project from the very beginning.” Noah’s award includes an opportunity to refine his work and publish it in the Texas Speech Communication Journal (TSCJ). TSCJ Editor, Dr. Amanda Jo Ratcliff stated, “We are thrilled to host student research panels and give young scholars an opportunity to present and receive feedback on their work. To be able to publish original research in an academic journal is quite the accomplishment. We congratulate Noah on his award.” The Top Student Paper Award is named after Dr. June Smith of Angelo State University for her long-standing participation in TSCA and her passion for student research.