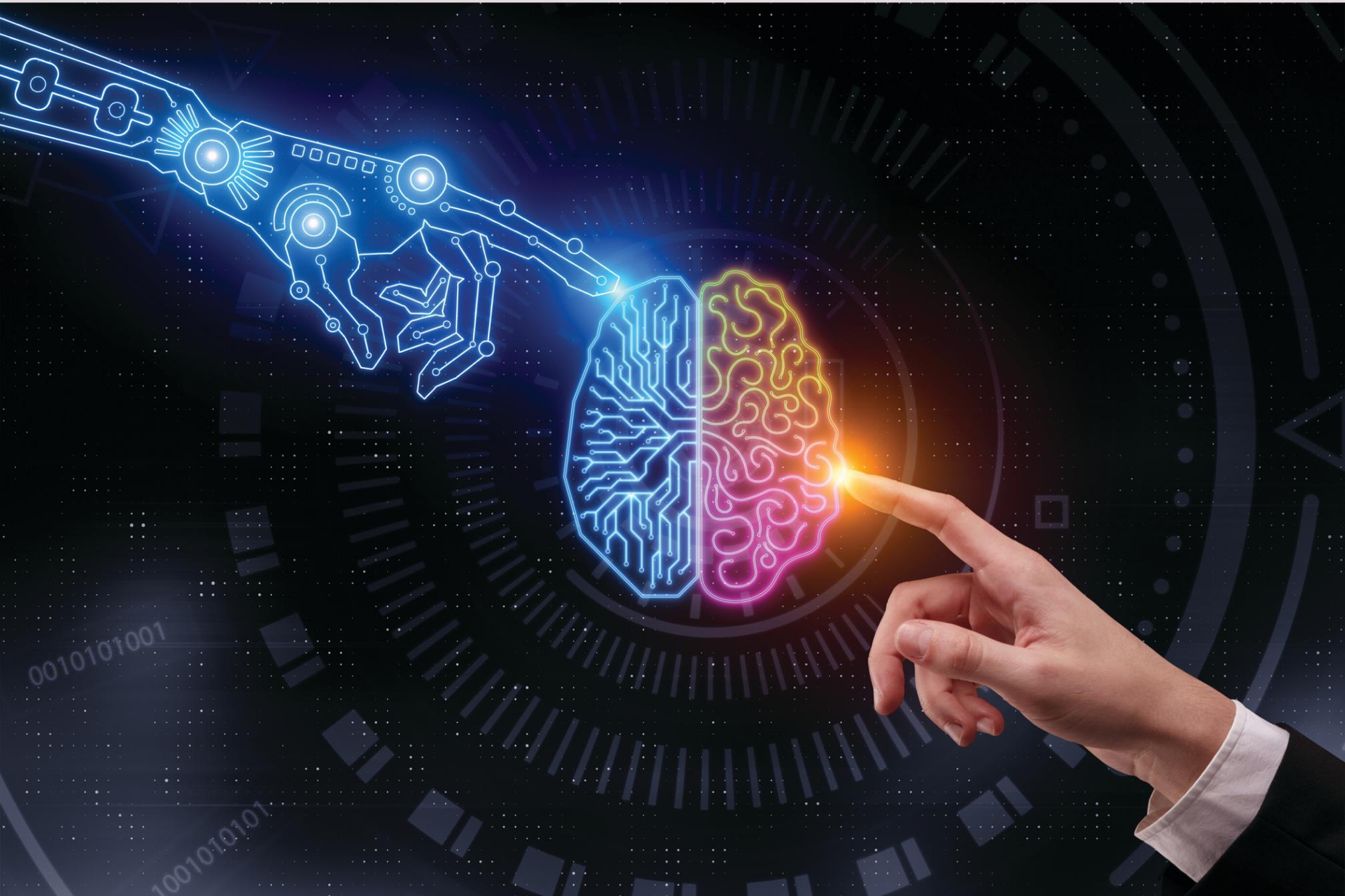


MASS COMM WEEK 2026

Creativity and Critical Thinking in the Age of AI



Monday, March 23

1:30-2:45 pm, MUC Maple-Dogwood Room

Interdisciplinary Panel: Creativity and Critical Thinking in the Age of AI

Panelists: Mitchell Haas; Jeff Manual; Sinan Onal; Shivendu Singh

Moderator: Gary Hicks

3:00-4:15 pm, MUC Maple-Dogwood Room

Topic: The Cultural Mind Shift: Practicing AI Beyond the Tool

Speaker: Omar Perkins, Director of AI Strategies at the Perkins Institute

4:30-5:45 pm, MUC Maplewood-Dogwood Room

Topic: Critical Perspectives on AI

Speakers: Gary Hicks & Ashton Speno

Tuesday, March 24

11:30 am-1:00 pm, Dunham Hall Patio

First Amendment Free Food Festival

1:15-3:00 pm, Dunham Hall Conference Room (2042)

Mass Comm Club Writing Contest

3:30-4:45 pm, MUC Maple-Dogwood Room

Topic: Creative Workflows with AI: Human and Ethical Issues

Speaker: Nick Walden, Partner, Brand and Creative at Elasticity

Wednesday, March 25

2:00-3:15 pm, MUC Maple-Dogwood Room

Alumni Panel: What We Wish We Knew Before We Graduated

Panelists: Amyri Davis; Syndey Gordon; Hannah Ledford; Prajakta Pawaskar

Moderator: Cory Byers

3:30-4:45 pm, MUC Maple-Dogwood Room

Mass Comm Impact: showcasing students' impactful work and accomplishments.

Thursday, March 26

2:00-4:00 pm, The Abbot Auditorium at Lovejoy Library

Film screening: The Librarians

**DEPARTMENT OF
MASS COMMUNICATIONS**

**SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
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