

THE ANNUAL URSCA SYMPOSIUM



Knutson Campus Center Centrum & Atrium
Morrie Jones A-B, C-D, ISC 201, 260, 301, 338
Olin 124, Hvidsten Christiansen Recital Hall

15 | APRIL | 2026

- Poster Sessions
- Concurrent Sessions
- Senior Art Exhibition
- Dept/Program Sessions
- Resource Tables
- COSS Assignment
- COSS Competition
- COSS Quest & Prizes



DEFINITIONS

URSCA

Undergraduate Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity (URSCA) is an acronym used to encompass the many ways students and mentors are scholars in their fields. At Concordia, URSCA refers to the wide range of hands-on, faculty- and staff-mentored learning experiences that empower students to ask big questions, explore original ideas, and create meaningful work in any discipline. From lab research to musical composition, fieldwork to visual art, URSCA opportunities help students build critical thinking skills and deepen their academic and personal engagement. Learn more at ursca.org.

URSCA SYMPOSIUM: COSS

The URSCA Symposium: Celebration of Student Scholars, or COSS, is Concordia's annual spring event that showcases the outstanding research, scholarship, and creative activity of our undergraduate students. Through posters, talks, performances, and exhibition, students share their work with peers, faculty, staff, and the broader community. COSS highlights the important impact of mentorship and inquiry as part of a liberal arts education and celebrates the scholarly contributions of our campus community.

Peak Experiences

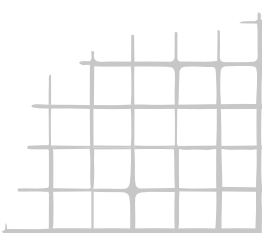
Peak experiences are high-impact learning opportunities that integrate academic knowledge with real-world application. Whether a research project, internship, service-learning initiative, or global experience, each Peak is designed to challenge students, deepen their understanding, and foster leadership and reflection. Every Concordia student completes at least two Peak experiences before graduation—an essential part of becoming responsibly engaged in the world. Learn more at www.concordiacollege.edu/admission/commitment/peak/.





CONCISE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

ALL DAY	Senior Art Exhibition Cyrus M. Running Gallery
8:00 - 8:45 A.M.	Refreshments, Social Time, Poster Set-up KCC Centrum
8:45 - 8:55 A.M.	Opening Remarks, Mentor of the Year Award KCC Centrum
8:55 - 10:15 A.M.	Poster Session 1 KCC Centrum, Atrium
10:30 - 11:10 A.M.	Concurrent Session 1 ISC, Morrie Jones, Olin, Hvidsten
11:25 A.M. - 12:05 P.M.	Concurrent Session 2 ISC, Morrie Jones, Olin, Hvidsten
12:15 - 1:30 P.M.	Department Sessions, Lunch break, Poster Set-up Various Locations
1:45 - 2:25 P.M.	Concurrent Session 3 ISC, Morrie Jones, Olin, Hvidsten
2:40 - 3:40 P.M.	Concurrent Session 4 ISC, Morrie Jones, Olin, Hvidsten
3:55 - 5:15 P.M.	Poster Session 2 KCC Centrum, Atrium
5:15 P.M.	Closing KCC Centrum





SESSION FORMATS

POSTER SESSIONS

These are fluid sessions that include large printed posters on easels as well as a variety of creative works such as 2D and 3D art displayed on pedestals or digital monitors. Students are assigned a window of time to stand by their work in the Knutson Campus Center Centrum or Atrium along with other posters and/or art exhibits. They communicate their research or creative scholarship with attendees as they move throughout the space.

ART EXHIBITION

The Senior Art Exhibition is featured in the Cyrus M. Running Gallery in the Olin building.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

These sessions feature several presentations scheduled at the same time in different locations. Presenters in concurrent sessions are assigned a specific room on campus and a time slot within the session during which they present their work to a seated audience. Presentations are grouped by theme and audience members are encouraged to stay for the duration of the session. Concurrent session format options are described below.

Panel

40-minute session featuring a 10- to 20-minute presentation followed by facilitated discussion for the remainder of the session

Classic

15-minute oral presentation (e.g. papers, PPT, artist's talks, performance talks, extemporaneous speeches) followed by 5 minutes of Q&A for a total of 20 minutes

Nano

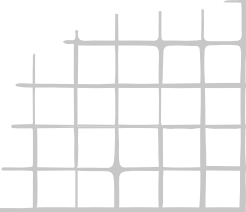
8- 10-minute presentations followed by 3 to 5 minutes of questions.

Pecha Kucha

400-second PPT presentation containing 20 PPT slides, each auto-timed for 20 seconds, with spoken word choreographed with each visual aid to tell a compelling story

DEPARTMENT SESSIONS

Academic departments and programs have the option of offering a special session during the lunch break. Examples of department session activities include honor society inductions and conversations with alumni.



COSS PASSPORT: COSS Assignment & COSS Quest

DESCRIPTION

The COSS Passport can be used to track attendance, to play COSS Quest for chances to earn prizes, and for students to submit reflections and/or pictures to their instructors. QR codes on the back of the Passport lead to surveys for the flexible COSS assignment and to COSS Quest trivia questions.



Pick up your Passport from the Knutson Campus Center Centrum.

Collect stamps on your Passport as you:

- attend concurrent and poster sessions, and
- visit the resource tables in the atrium.

Show your stamped Passport to COSS volunteers in the Centrum for prize drawing entries.

Submit reflections and pictures on sessions for your instructors - ask if they are requiring an assignment or offering extra credit!

Scan the COSS Quest QR code and answer trivia questions - winners will be drawn from top scorers during the second poster session.

Use #coss2026 #cordmn when commenting about your COSS experience on socials.

SHOWCASE

DESCRIPTION

The Concordia Scholars - Showcase of Undergraduate Research is a digital collection of exemplary works presented by Concordia students at COSS. Faculty, staff, and guests are invited to nominate COSS presentations of any format for the Showcase. Students may also self-nominate. Nominations are due by 30 April 2026. To nominate, email the scholar's name and presentation title to archives@cord.edu.

Visit the Showcase:

<https://digitalhorizonsonline.org/digital/collection/cord-work>

The screenshot shows the Digital Horizons website interface. At the top is the logo 'DIGITAL HORIZONS Life on the Northern Plains' and a navigation menu with links for Home, About, Browse, Contributors, Contact, Facebook, and Log in. Below the navigation is a breadcrumb trail: Home > Concordia's Scholars - Showcase of Undergraduate Research (Concordia College) > A Tale of Two Cities: ... The main content area displays the title 'A Tale of Two Cities: CLV Waldsee in the Crucible of History and Memory' and 'Page 1'. A large image shows a snowy street scene with a building in the background. A yellow banner over the image reads 'A TALE OF TWO CITIES CONCORDIA LANGUAGE VILLAGE WALDSEE IN THE CRUCIBLE OF HISTORY AND MEMORY'. Below the image is a search bar and a 'Browse' button. A vertical sidebar on the right shows a list of pages from Page 1 to Page 9.

The screenshot shows the 'About this collection' page for Concordia's Scholars - Showcase of Undergraduate Research (Concordia College). The page features the Digital Horizons logo and navigation menu at the top. The main content area is titled 'Concordia's Scholars - Showcase of Undergraduate Research (Concordia College)' and 'About this collection'. It describes the Concordia College's Institutional Repository and lists the criteria for nomination. The criteria are: Project demonstrates a high degree of rigor, depth and quality; Project is an original, creative activity or a research project that makes a relevant contribution to the area of study; Presentation of research (written, oral, performance) is clear, professional, and engaging; Research was conducted and presented in an ethical manner; Project as a whole serves as an excellent example of undergraduate scholarship for the Concordia College community. A 'Browse' button is located below the criteria. The footer includes navigation links and the text 'Powered by CONTENTdm®'.

NOMINATION CRITERIA

- Project demonstrates a high degree of rigor, depth, and quality
- Research or creative activity is original work that makes a relevant contribution to its area of study
- Presentation of research (written, oral, performed) is clear, professional, and engaging
- Research was conducted and presented in an ethical manner
- Project serves as an excellent model of undergraduate scholarship for the Concordia community



DETAILED SCHEDULE

<https://ursca.org>

8:00 - 8:45 A.M. REFRESHMENTS, SOCIAL Knutson Campus Center Centrum

The URSCA Symposium begins with refreshments and social time in the Knutson Campus Center Centrum. During this time, students in the first poster session should set up their poster at their designated numbered easel.

8:45 - 8:55 A.M. WELCOME, MENTOR OF THE YEAR AWARD Knutson Campus Center Centrum

Brief welcome remarks will be followed by the announcement of the Mentor of the Year Award.

8:55 - 10:15 A.M. POSTER SESSION 1 Knutson Campus Center Centrum

P01. “Vehicle Routing Problems with Pickup and Delivery”

Student Presenter: Brady Andrews

Mentored by: Dr. Gregory Tanner

P02. “Climate Migration in Central Asia: A Gendered Vulnerability Trap”

Student Presenter: Tony Berndt

Mentored by: Dr. Jenn Sweatman

P03. “Eyes on the Hunt: Sclerotic Ring Variation in Raptors”

Student Presenters: Bridget Danielson, Serena Middendorf

Mentored by: Dr. Joseph Whittaker

P04. “Bat Detection in Minnesota Urban and Rural Areas Using AudioMoth Recorders”

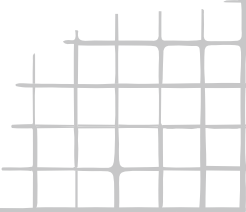
Student Presenters: Makena Hedlund, Delia Denis, James Rende

Mentored by: Dr. Joseph Whittaker, Dr. Mike Bush

P05. “Bat Detection Using Machine Learning”

Student Presenter: Sam Bolger

Mentored by: Dr. Gregory Tanner





DETAILED SCHEDULE

<https://ursca.org>

8:55 - 10:15 A.M. POSTER SESSION 1 Knutson Campus Center Centrum

P06. “We’re Just Here for the Food: Organizational Behavior in the Food Industry”

Student Presenters: Erik Marchesano, Bailey Plante, Brody Fischer, Carson Hutton, Kate Stephens

Mentored by: Dr. Shontarius Aikens

P07. “Analysis of the Construction Industry”

Student Presenters: Katelyn Gulbranson, Hannah Corbin, Ben LaPard, Tucker Skime, Isaac Sisneros

Mentored by: Dr. Shontarius Aikens

P08. “OB in the retail world”

Student Presenters: Enrico Rolle, Alex Kriesel, Maxton Meyer, Isaiah Schmitz

Mentored by: Dr. Shontarius Aikens

P09. “The Evolution of TCavProductions”

Student Presenters: Trenten Cavanese, Jordan Petron

Mentored by: Heather McDougall, J.D.

P10. “The Ethnographic Essay”

Student Presenters: Gigi Graham, Tyler Kraft, Kai Black, Mia Morones

Mentored by: Dr. Karla Knutson

P11. “The Impact of Grief and Loneliness in Older Adults in Assisted Living Homes”

Student Presenters: Hailey Cloutier, Reese LaRocque, Ceci Buzzeo, Sam Lindsay

Mentored by: Dr. Phillip Lemaster

P12. “Importance of Autonomy in Older Adulthood”

Student Presenters: Lauren Bangs, Sydney Kostman, Genevieve Gruba

Mentored by: Dr. Philip Lemaster

P13. “Moorhead Community Homelessness Awareness Study”

Student Presenter: Gannon Brooks

Mentored by: Dr. Daniel Biebighauser





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8:55 - 10:15 A.M. POSTER SESSION 1

Knutson Campus Center Centrum

P14. “Housing Instability, Youth Homelessness, and Juvenile Recidivism”

Student Presenter: Oliver Fluegel-Murray

Mentored by: Dr. Michelle Lelwica

P15. “Connections Between Wake Episodes, Mental Health, Diet, and Cognitive Function in Older Adults with Overweight or Obesity”

Student Presenters: Emily Rengo, Naima Sharif

Mentored by: Dr. Betsy Cogan

P16. “2QRU: What Could it Possibly Do?”

Student Presenters: Dawson Fleck, Jordan Nicholson, Max Baumgartner

Mentored by: Dr. Julie Mach

P17. “3FEQ: Strength in Numbers (All 16 of Them)”

Student Presenters: Luke Brendefur, Tyler Winterrowd

Mentored by: Dr. Julie Mach

P18. “Cra-Z Chromatography: Bringing Dye Analysis from Washable Markers to the General Chemistry Lab”

Student Presenters: Lily Heskin, Steya Tian

Mentored by: Dr. Graeme R. A. Wyllie

P19. “Variational Quantum Algorithms for Computing Excited States in Small Molecules on Near-Term Quantum Devices.”

Student Presenter: Abdihakim Adan

Mentored by: Dr. Ayush Asthana, Dr. Darin Ulness

P20. “From Engineered Inorganic Perovskite Colloids to 3D Printed Structures”

Student Presenter: Ashlyn Campbell

Mentored by: Dr. Saroj Thapa

P21. “Juvenile Detention Center Staff Training in The United States”

Student Presenters: Alexandra Runyan, Gwen Lindahl, Milton Hillegass

Mentored by: Dr. Michelle Lelwica





DETAILED SCHEDULE

<https://ursca.org>

8:55 - 10:15 A.M. POSTER SESSION 1 Knutson Campus Center Centrum

P22. “Plant Census at Henderson WMA”

Student Presenter: Liam Weis

Mentored by: Dr. Joseph Whittaker

P23. “Vascular Pathway Modulation in Quercus macrocarpa Gall Development”

Student Presenters: Cael Schlauderaff, Delia Denis

Mentored by: Dr. Mallorie Taylor-Teeples

P24. “Crop Scouting Wheat and Soybeans in Northwest MN”

Student Presenters: Jordan Hunnicutt, Angie Peltier, Jochum Weirsma

Mentored by: Dr. Anthony Hanson, University of MN Extension

P25. “Christian Ethics and the Transhumanist Question”

Student Presenter: Ethan Leopold

Mentored by: Dr. Michael Johnson

P26. “Effective & Efficient Language Learning: Analyzing the Possible Role of AI”

Student Presenters: Qwame Martin, Daniel Skrade

Mentored by: Dr. Lisa Twomey

P27. “Effectiveness of Second-Language (L2) Learning with Artificial Intelligence”

Student Presenters: Maggie Brown, Olivia Hanson

Mentored by: Dr. Lisa Twomey

P28. “Artificial Intelligence and Cultural Understanding in Spanish Language Learning”

Student Presenter: Camila Gutierrez

Mentored by: Dr. Lisa Twomey

P29. “Artificial Intelligence and Language Learning”

Student Presenter: Isabelle Vos

Mentored by: Dr. Lisa Twomey





DETAILED SCHEDULE

<https://ursca.org>

8:55 - 10:15 A.M. POSTER SESSION 1

Knutson Campus Center Centrum

P30. “An Analysis of Influences of Supreme Court Decision Making and Case Outcome”

11:45 a.m. - 12:05 p.m. | Classic

Student Presenters: Aidan Dahl, Britta Nordin

Mentored by: Dr. Nicholas Howard

8:55 - 10:15 A.M. POSTER SESSION 1

Knutson Campus Center Atrium

P31. “Little Cormorant Lake”

Student Presenter: Brennan Steele

Mentored by: Dr. Mike Bush

P32. “Star Lake Water Quality Assessment”

Student Presenter: Joshua Kolling

Mentored by: Dr. Mike Bush

P33. “A Water Quality Study Of Langdon Lake”

Student Presenter: Samuel Dioszeghy

Mentored by: Dr. Mike Bush

P34. “Surveying Tick Species and Pathogens in Northwestern Minnesota”

Student Presenters: Riley Duppong, Gabriella Castro, Seema Mustafa

Mentored by: Dr. Emerson Towey

P35. “Macroinvertebrate Diversity of the Little Pigeon River, Tennessee”

Student Presenters: Charlotte Dove, Phia Revoir, Sam Dioszeghy, Rosella Geraci, Grace Henderson, Chloe Nyberg, Tyra Skjeret, Stella Peterson, Felisha Dale, Nora Schwieters, Peter Weinzierl, Olivia Swenson

Mentored by: Dr. Mike Bush

P36. “Fetal Development in Space: Radiation and Genetic Variation in Monozygotic Twins”

Student Presenters: Jack Nichol, Melinda Chen, Daniela Heggstad, Milgo Abdi

Mentored by: Dr. Krys Strand





DETAILED SCHEDULE

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8:55 - 10:15 A.M. POSTER SESSION 1 Knutson Campus Center Atrium

P37. “Addressing Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) in Rural and Indigenous Communities”

Student Presenter: Annika Johnson

Mentored by: Dr. Julie Rutherford

P38. “Effect of Cortisol Levels on Immune Function in Long-Duration Spaceflight”

Student Presenters: Annika Johnson, Oriana Richter, Jillian Walz, Lissa Lee

Mentored by: Dr. Krys Strand

P39. “How Teacher Behavior Affects Classroom Management”

Student Presenters: Eden Weinhandl, Kia Nelson

Mentored by: Dr. Teri Langlie

P40. “Modeling Calm: A Study of Elementary Classroom Management”

Student Presenter: Anna Person

Mentored by: Dr. Teri Langlie

P41. “AI and Cognition”

Student Presenters: Laila Ahmed, Arine Omer, Alin Oray

Mentored by: Innovation Challenge Neuroscience faculty

P42. “Fostering Student Interest in Nutrition Science: Exploring Professional Development for Middle School Science Teachers”

Student Presenters: Carli Olson

Mentored by: Dr. Ashley Roseno, Dr. Meredith Wagner

P43. “Understanding Teacher-Perceived Barriers to STEM Engagement in Midwestern Classrooms”

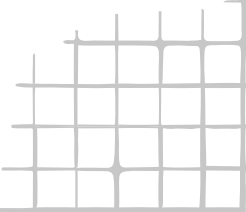
Student Presenter: Jacee Vang

Mentored by: Dr. Ashley Roseno, Dr. Meredith Wagner

P44. “Student Engagement and Understanding of Open Science in Psychology: A Multi-Institutional, Follow-Up Study”

Student Presenters: Josie Brown, Haley Walsh-Frisby

Mentored by: Dr. Mona Ibrahim





DETAILED SCHEDULE

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8:55 - 10:15 A.M. POSTER SESSION 1

Knutson Campus Center Atrium

P45. “The Effects of Isolation on Circadian Rhythm, Psychosocial Behaviors, and Mental Health for Future Space Exploration”

Student Presenters: Alexa Routledge, Julia Wolf, Anika Jones, Josie Brown

Mentored by: Dr. Krys Strand

P46. “From Forensic Fandoms to Resource Integrators: A Review of Fan Engagement and Participatory Labor”

Student Presenters: Hana Weegman

Mentored by: Dr. Aileen Bulsig

P47. “Effects of Long-Duration Spaceflight on Female Cardiovascular Health”

Student Presenters: Erika Mork, Keelyn Wittenberg, Emily Brugman, Carissa Dalen

Mentored by: Dr. Krys Strand

P48. “Microgravity Effects on Bone Density”

Student Presenters: Arine Omer, Sean Laurel, Sylvia Gitamo

Mentored by: Dr. Krys Strand

10:30 - 11:10 A.M. CONCURRENT SESSION 1

Morrie Jones A-B (Knutson Campus Center)

C01. “Gatekeeping Parenthood: Institutional Discrimination in Social Work and Its Effects on Adoption Access”

10:30 - 10:50 a.m. | Classic

Student Presenter(s): Sky Johnson

Mentored by: Dr. Darren Valenta, Dominic Meyers

C02. “Deepening Perceptions of ‘Musicking’ within Civil Rights Pilgrimage”

10:50 - 11:10 a.m. | Classic

Student Presenter(s): Ephriam Cooper

Mentored by: Dr. Jeff Meyer



DETAILED SCHEDULE

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10:30 - 11:10 A.M. CONCURRENT SESSION 1

Morrie Jones C-D (Knutson Campus Center)

C03. ““Women Will All Turn Monsters’: Misogyny and Villainization of Femininity in Shakespeare’s King Lear and Macbeth”

10:30 - 10:50 a.m. | Classic

Student Presenter: India Carlson

Mentored by: Dr. Karla Knutson

C04. “Escaping the Shackles of Misogyny- Medea”

10:50 - 11:10 a.m. | Classic

Student Presenter(s): Ava Rolfson

Mentored by: Dr. Stephanie Lemmer

Integrated Science Center 201

C05. “Breast Cancer Survivor”

10:30 - 10:50 a.m. | Classic

Student Presenter(s): Anna Jaeger

Mentored by: Dominic Meyers, Eric Bailly

C06. “The Fall and Rise of a Richardson’s Ground Squirrel Population: Using Translocation as a Supplement to Recovery”

10:50 - 11:10 a.m. | Classic

Student Presenter(s): Caitlin Haasser, Peter Weinzierl, Katie Waugh, Maria Ramstad

Mentored by: Dr. Joseph Whittaker

Integrated Science Center 260

C07. ““Why do I have to put up with this crap”: Advancing the onboarding experience”

10:30 - 10:50 a.m. | Classic

Student Presenter(s): Janae Owen

Mentored by: Dominic Meyers, Dr. Stephanie Lemmer

C08. “A Second rump Presidency: The First 100 Days”

10:50 - 11:10 a.m. | Classic

Student Presenter(s): Jordon Perkins

Mentored by: Dr. Vincent Reusch



DETAILED SCHEDULE

<https://ursca.org>

10:30 - 11:10 A.M. CONCURRENT SESSION 1

Integrated Science Center 301

C09. “Resonance Induced Hyers Ulam Instability in Undamped Spring Mass Systems”

10:30 - 10:50 a.m. | Classic

Student Presenter(s): Collin Smolke

Mentored by: Dr. Douglas Anderson

C10. “A Gas Chromatography–Mass Spectroscopy Analysis of Aromatherapy Products”

10:50 - 11:10 a.m. | Classic

Student Presenter(s): Madison Van Binsbergen

Mentored by: Dr. Mark Jensen

Olin 124

C11. “Performing the Antihero: Hasan Piker; Masculinity and the Rhetoric of Digital Politics”

10:30 - 10:50 a.m. | Classic

Student Presenter(s): Brennan Jensen

Mentored by: Dominic Meyers, Dr. Darren Valenta

C12. “More Than My Body - A Poster Protest Surrounding Body Image on Concordia’s Campus”

10:50 - 11:10 a.m. | Classic

Student Presenter(s): Saige Mattson

Mentored by: Dominic Meyers

Hvidsten Christiansen Recital Hall

C13. “The Power of Small Moments”

10:30 - 11:10 a.m. | Panel

Student Presenters: Emily Lubenow, Ayden Schauer, Lea Altic

Mentored by: Dr. Darren Valenta



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<https://ursca.org>

11:25 A.M. - 12:05 P.M. CONCURRENT SESSION 2

Morrie Jones A-B (Knutson Campus Center)

C14. "Effects of Teacher Retention Rates on Incarcerated Youth: A Literary Synthesis of Works on the Inequalities in Educational and Special Educational Services in Juvenile Detention Centers."

11:25 - 11:45 a.m. | Classic

Student Presenters: Henry Skatvold, Jacob Thomas

Mentored by: Dr. Michelle Lelwica

C15. "Examining ICE Through the Prison Industrial Complex: Inequality, Power, and Justice in the Modern Legal System"

11:45 a.m. - 12:05 p.m. | Classic

Student Presenter: Mari Kader

Mentored by: Dr. Stephanie Lemmer

Morrie Jones C-D (Knutson Campus Center)

C16. "Spilling the Tea: Safety, Resistance, and the Platformization of Gossip"

11:25 - 11:45 a.m. | Classic

Student Presenter: Jonah Krogstad

Mentored by: Dr. Amy Watkin

C17. "Race Based Gender Dysphoria"

11:45 a.m. - 12:05 p.m. | Classic

Student Presenter: Qwame Martin

Mentored by: Dr. Sinjin Roming, Dr. Madison Clark

Integrated Science Center 201

C18. "Project NOURISH: Teacher Perceptions of Interdisciplinary Science Engagement Strategies"

11:25 - 11:45 a.m. | Classic

Student Presenter: Jenny Bratsch

Mentored by: Dr. Ashley Roseno, Dr. Meredith Wagner

C19. "Experimenting with Locally Housed LLMs"

11:45 a.m. - 12:05 p.m. | Classic

Student Presenters: Cheryn Lindsay, Temiloluwa Afolabi

Mentored by: Dr. Ahmed Kamel

DETAILED SCHEDULE

<https://ursca.org>

11:25 A.M. - 12:05 P.M. CONCURRENT SESSION 2

Integrated Science Center 260

C20. "Framing the North Star: Media Coverage of the 2026 Minnesota ICE Protests"

11:25 - 11:45 a.m. | Classic

Student Presenter: Ross Motter

Mentored by: Dr. Aileen Buslig

C21. "Saxophone Club went to NASA (but it's not what you think)"

11:45 a.m. - 12:05 p.m. | Classic

Student Presenters: Landon Longero, Connor Leao

Mentored by: Russell Peterson

Integrated Science Center 301

C22. "Microgravity and the Vertebral Column"

11:25 - 11:45 a.m. | Classic

Student Presenters: Celani Gonzalez-Vazquez, Genesis Weekes, Alin Oray

Mentored by: Dr. Krys Strand

C23. "An Integrated Fungal-Plant-Fish Bioregenerative Life Support System (BLSS) as a Countermeasure for Neurocognitive Decline in Isolation and Confinement in During Space Missions."

11:45 a.m. - 12:05 p.m. | Classic

Student Presenters: Aitor Burillo Arellano, Anusheh Shreonty

Mentored by: Dr. Krys Strand

Integrated Science Center 338

C24. "Microculture over Food"

11:25 - 11:40 a.m. | Nano

Student Presenter: Dylan Knecht

Mentored by: Dr. Karla Knutson

C25. "Drinking the Future Part 1: Creating the foundations for a portable filtration system to combat water pollution and scarcity."

11:40 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. | Classic

Student Presenter: Casper Miller

Mentored by: Damian Lampl



DETAILED SCHEDULE

<https://ursca.org>

11:25 A.M. - 12:05 P.M. CONCURRENT SESSION 2 Olin 124

C26. “Competing for Care: How Rural Minnesota Hospitals Can Thrive in Today’s Healthcare System”

11:25 - 11:45 a.m. | Classic

Student Presenter: Erik Hedstrom

Mentored by: Dominic Meyers

C27. “Anchors of Care: The Role of Federally Qualified Health Centers in Sustaining Rural Healthcare”

11:45 a.m. - 12:05 p.m. | Classic

Student Presenter: Karsten Stumo

Mentored by: Dominic Meyers

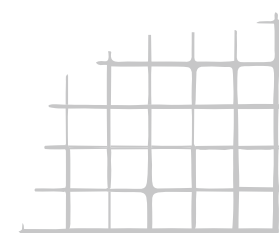
Hvidsten Christiansen Recital Hall

C28. “Getting It Off Our Chest: Autoperformance, Confession, and Healing”

11:25 a.m. - 12:05 p.m. | Panel

Student Presenters: Soren Thompson, Meredith Tullbane

Mentored by: Dr. Darren Valenta





DETAILED SCHEDULE

<https://ursca.org>

12:15 - 1:30 P.M. DEPARTMENT SESSIONS

Art | Location: Olin 207

The Marvelous Miscellany: How to Build a Gratifying Career Based on Curiosity and Play

Cady Rutter (Class of 2013) will share how she transformed an interdepartmental approach from her time at Concordia to an interdisciplinary career in visual arts, publishing, and travel. Cady is the Programs Coordinator at The Rourke Art Gallery + Museum and Senior Editor at Theran Press.

Communication Studies and Theatre Art | Location: Frances Frazier

Comstock Theatre, Lab Theatre

CSTA Honors and Awards Ceremony

Please join the Communication Studies and Theatre Art Department at the Celebration of Student Scholarship. The newest members of Lambda Pi Eta, the national communication honor society, will be inducted at this ceremony. We will also be presenting department awards to this year's honorees. Invite your families and friends to share this day with us.

History | Location: Old Main 331

Phi Alpha Theta Induction Ceremony and Lunch

History welcomes its new members into the Phi Alpha Theta honor society.

Physics | Location: ISC 249

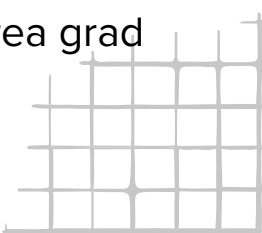
Sigma Pi Sigma Induction Ceremony and Lunch

The Department of Physics will host the Sigma Pi Sigma physics honor society induction ceremony and recognize recipients of the NASA–Minnesota Space Grant Consortium scholarships. Lunch will be provided.

Psychology | Location: ISC 106

Psi Chi Induction and Psychology Grad School Focus Session with Lunch

Come celebrate our Psi Chi Honor Society inductees and learn about psychology-related grad school opportunities from a panel of representatives and alumni that have experience and expertise in area grad school programs. Refreshments will be provided.





DETAILED SCHEDULE

<https://ursca.org>

12:15 - 1:30 P.M. DEPARTMENT SESSIONS

Social Work | Location: Heimarck 150

Lessons from the Field

Field placement and seminar are considered the capstone experience for a social work major. The process of securing a placement and navigating the professional waters of an agency are both challenging and rewarding. This transformative semester offers great opportunity for growth professionally and personally. Senior Social Work students currently engaged in their field placement will present on lessons they learned through the process of placement exploration, the incorporation of the core curriculum in their agency setting, their personal and professional growth, as well as the transition from student to professional roles. Undergraduate social work majors are encouraged to attend to gain understanding of this capstone experience.

World Languages and Cultures | Location: Bishop Whipple 144

How to Make Parchment from Whitetail Deer: Materials and Process

Before the printing press, bookmaking was an expensive, laborious artform that relied on a diverse collection of materials, knowledge, and skill. In this talk, Dr. Korte will demonstrate the medieval process of turning animal hides into parchment. Lunch will be provided.

12:15 - 1:30 P.M. SENIOR ART EXHIBITION

Olin, Cyrus M. Running Art Gallery

A01. "An Act of Care"

Artist: Abigail Thurmer
Mentors: Dwight Mickelson,
Jessica Matson-Fluto

A02. "Exploring Through Making"

Artist: Giulio Angotti
Mentors: Chris Mortenson, Jessica
Matson-Fluto

A03. "Juntos"

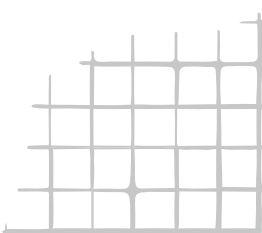
Artist: Grace Dowden
Mentor: Ross Hilgers

A04. "Aphrodite of Artemision"

Artist: Stella Peterson
Mentor: Chris Mortenson

A05. "Body of Work"

Artist: Samuel Zimmerman
Mentor: Dwight Mickelson





DETAILED SCHEDULE

<https://ursca.org>

1:45 - 2:25 P.M. CONCURRENT SESSION 3

Morrie Jones A-B (Knutson Campus Center)

C29. “Exploring Mental Health Coping Mechanisms Across Different Religious and Spiritual Practices”

1:45 - 2:25 p.m. | Panel

Student Presenters: Mame Diarra Bousso, Safiyo Bakar

Mentored by: Dr. Anne Mocko

Morrie Jones C-D (Knutson Campus Center)

C30. “Values of Peace and Dialogue in Norwegian Upper Secondary Education”

1:45 - 2:05 p.m. | Classic

Student Presenter: Yelitza Hernandez-Guitron

Mentored by: Dr. Erik Cleven

C31. “Friluftsliv & Inclusion; Exploring How Outdoor Spaces and Activities Foster Social Inclusion for Refugees and Immigrants in Norway”

2:05 - 2:25 p.m. | Classic

Student Presenter: Phia Revoir

Mentored by: Dr. Erik Cleven, Dr. Jenn Sweatman

Integrated Science Center 201

C32. “Phones, Fatigue, and Performance: How Screen Time Impacts Athletes”

1:45 - 2:05 p.m. | Classic

Student Presenter: David Johnston

Mentored by: Dominic Meyers

C33. “The Three Layers of Extractivism in Artificial Intelligence”

2:05 - 2:25 p.m. | Classic

Student Presenter: Iqra Hassan

Mentored by: Dr. Jan Pranger, Dominic Meyers





DETAILED SCHEDULE

<https://ursca.org>

1:45 - 2:25 P.M. CONCURRENT SESSION 3

Integrated Science Center 260

C34. “How Fracking Reshapes Social Conditions, Water Security, and Gendered Harm in the Bakken Oil Region”

1:45 - 2:25 p.m. | Panel

Student Presenters: Delaney Claggett, Lily Medved-Charpentier, Leah Lenz, Naima Sharif

Mentored by: Dr. Jenn Sweatman

Integrated Science Center 301

C35. “Small Course, Big Impact: Undergraduate Learning in a Week-long Rat Behavior Lab”

1:45 - 2:25 p.m. | Panel

Student Presenters: Al Sterling, Brynn Drevlow, Asher Utsch, Kolton Goehring

Mentored by: Dr. Susan Larson

Olin 124

C36. “Locked In: A Proposal for Increased Campus Safety”

1:45 - 2:25 p.m. | Panel

Student Presenters: Elise Halvorson, Avalon Hughs, Ben Heil, Megan Greshowak, Evan Froslic

Mentored by: Dominic Meyers

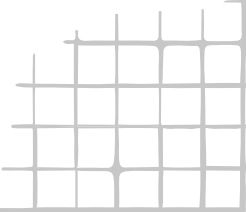
Hvidsten Christiansen Recital Hall

C37. “Poetry and Autoperformance – Language as a Means to Communicate Identity”

1:45 - 2:25 p.m. | Panel

Student Presenters: Oliver Fluegel-Murray, Saige Mattson

Mentored by: Dr. Darren Valenta





DETAILED SCHEDULE

<https://ursca.org>

2:40 - 3:40 P.M. CONCURRENT SESSION 4

Morrie Jones A-B (Knutson Campus Center)

C38. "The Price of Participation: Who Can Afford to Be Politically Active?"

2:40 - 3:00 p.m. | Classic

Student Presenters: Andrew Traeger, Cale Bauer

Mentored by: Dr. Nicholas Howard

C39. "Community in Practice: An Ethnographic Review of Service and Connection at Churches United"

3:00 - 3:15 p.m. | Nano

Student Presenter: Kaelyn Van Dellen

Mentored by: Dr. Karla Knutson

C40. "Compassionate Care: An Ethnographic Review of the NICU Community"

3:15 - 3:30 p.m. | Nano

Student Presenter: Eleanor Culloton

Mentored by: Dr. Karla Knutson

Morrie Jones C-D (Knutson Campus Center)

C41. "The Ethnographic Study of Adult Ballet Classes"

2:40 - 2:55 p.m. | Nano

Student Presenter: Alexis Miller

Mentored by: Dr. Karla Knutson

C42. "Coaching for Success: Insights from Athletic Coaches"

2:55 - 3:10 p.m. | Nano

Student Presenters: Kaylie Zimmerman, Dylan Sipe, Xermoua Loranxay

Mentored by: Dr. Shontarius Aikens

C43. "Paul Bissonnette Interviewing Techniques"

3:10 - 3:30 p.m. | Classic

Student Presenter: Chase Rawson

Mentored by: Dominic Meyers, Dr. Kirsten Theye



DETAILED SCHEDULE

<https://ursca.org>

2:40 - 3:40 P.M. CONCURRENT SESSION 4

Integrated Science Center 201

C44. "Queer Social Structures in US Women's Rights Movements from 1889 to 1918"

2:40 - 3:00 p.m. | Classic

Student Presenter: Samwise Tritabaugh

Mentored by: Dr. Madison Clark

C45. "The Pilgrim And The Artist: Connected Through Liminal Space"

3:00 - 3:20 p.m. | Classic

Student Presenter: Henry Skatvold

Mentored by: Dr. Jeff Meyer

C46. "The Medieval Poet-Musicians as Pilgrims: Reimagining the Traditions"

3:20 - 3:40 p.m. | Classic

Student Presenter: Zachary Catalan

Mentored by: Dr. Jeff Meyer

Integrated Science Center 260

C47. "AI in Fraud Detection and Prevention"

2:40 - 2:55 p.m. | Nano

Student Presenters: Eric Cockhill, Morgan Sauvageau, Emma Ravnaas, Jillian Martinez, Zach Ellerbusch

Mentored by: Dominic Meyers, Lindsey DiFiore

C48. "The Power of Power: An Analysis of Russia's Resource Driven Foreign Policy"

2:55 - 3:15 p.m. | Classic

Student Presenter: Grace Phan

Mentored by: Dr. Jan Pranger

C49. "Examining Partisan Congressional Oversight of the Executive Branch"

3:15 - 3:35 p.m. | Classic

Student Presenters: Silas Dahlseid, Robbie Kreps

Mentored by: Dr. Nicholas Howard



DETAILED SCHEDULE

<https://ursca.org>

2:40 - 3:40 P.M. CONCURRENT SESSION 4 Integrated Science Center 301

C50. “Who Taught You to Hate Yourself’ Malcolm X’s take on internalized racism”

2:40 - 3:00 p.m. | Classic

Student Presenter: Nader Said

Mentored by: Dr. Stephanie Lemmer

C51. “Gustave Caillebotte’s Man at His Bath (1884)”

3:00 - 3:20 p.m. | Classic

Student Presenter: Grace Dowden

Mentored by: Dr. Susan Lee

C52. “Documentary Poetry as a Tool for Rehumanization”

3:20 - 3:40 p.m. | Classic

Student Presenter: Jordon Perkins

Mentored by: Dr. Vincent Reusch

Olin 124

C53. “Building a Business with Intention: Cobbertunity Fund”

2:40 - 3:00 p.m. | Classic

Student Presenter: Kiya McLaurin

Mentored by: Heather McDougall, J.D.

C54. “Color Theory’s Role in Marketing”

3:00 - 3:20 p.m. | Classic

Student Presenter: Maya Parkin

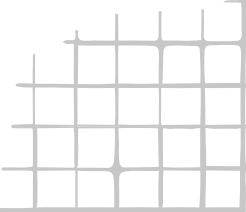
Mentored by: Dominic Meyers

C55. “Inside Third Spaces: An Ethnographic Review of Brewhalla”

3:20 - 3:35 p.m. | Nano

Student Presenter: Julia Vickers

Mentored by: Dr. Karla Knutson





DETAILED SCHEDULE

<https://ursca.org>

2:40 - 3:40 P.M. CONCURRENT SESSION 4

Hvidsten Christiansen Recital Hall

C56. “The Grapes of Wrath and the Resisting Reader”

2:40 - 3:00 p.m. | Classic

Student Presenter: Sarah Schroeder

Mentored by: Dominic Meyers, Dr. Karla Knutson

C57. “Growing Music and Business Entrepreneurship”

3:00 - 3:20 p.m. | Classic

Student Presenter: Elisabeth Grack

Mentored by: Bree Langemo, J.D.

C58. “Women in Music: Interpreting Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel’s ‘Das Jahr’”

3:20 - 3:40 p.m. | Classic

Student Presenter: Maria Clapp

Mentored by: Dr. Jay Hershberger



DETAILED SCHEDULE

<https://ursca.org>

3:55 - 5:15 P.M. POSTER SESSION 2

Knutson Campus Center Centrum

P49. “How Movement in the Classroom Affects Student Engagement”

Student Presenter: Lauren Sekely

Mentored by: Dr. Teri Langlie

P50. “More Than Books: An Ethnographic Study of Space, Use, Student Connection, and Needs at Carl B. Ylvisaker”

Student Presenter: Lukas Stofer

Mentored by: Dr. Karla Knutson

P51. “Organizational Behavior Challenges Facing Managers in the Education Industry”

Student Presenters: Nicklaus Savidge, Andrew Hinojos, Kylie Huseeth, Zach Pribyl

Mentored by: Dr. Shontarius Aikens

P52. “Key Organizational Challenges in the Hospitality Industry”

Student Presenters: James LaVoy-Brunette, Grant Anderson, Mason Swanson, Victor Ambenge

Mentored by: Dr. Shontarius Aikens

P53. “Understanding Organizational Behavior in Retail: Insights from Fargo–Moorhead Managers”

Student Presenters: Tayte Lecy, Dae Henderson, Mark Noah, Clay Erickson

Mentored by: Dr. Shontarius Aikens

P54. “The Extraction of UV Filters Using Deep Eutectic Solvent-Based Ferrofluid”

Student Presenters: Olivia Shelton

Mentored by: Dr. Mark Jensen

P55. “The Synthesis of RAPTA-based Organometallic Anticancer Drugs”

Student Presenters: Mohamed Mustafa, Max Baumgartner

Mentored by: Dr. Donald "Chopper" Krogstad

P56. “Bioinformatic Prediction and Experimental Validation of Esterase Activity in Protein 4Q7Q”

Student Presenters: Jackline Peace Nanyonga, Peyton Breidenbach, Abby Lovelace

Mentored by: Dr. Julie Mach

DETAILED SCHEDULE

<https://ursca.org>

3:55 - 5:15 P.M. POSTER SESSION 2 Knutson Campus Center Centrum

P57. “Adaptive Robot-Facilitated Exercise & Simulation System: Personalized AI-Driven Nutrition and Exercise to Prevent Muscle Loss in Microgravity”

Student Presenters: Kyla Nygaard, Braden Jackson, Riham Jameel, Charlotte Dove

Mentored by: Dr. Krys Strand

P58. “Fungi in Space: Mushroom Cultivation in Extraterrestrial Regolith Simulants for Sustainable Food Systems”

Student Presenters: Rosella Geraci, Jeremiah Stevens, John DeJong

Mentored by: Dr. Krys Strand

P59. “Identifying Microbial Keystone Species in High-Salinity Soils”

Student Presenters: Carley Motz, Avery Folsom, Ditam Chakraborty

Mentored by: Dr. Samiran Banerjee

P60. “Transcriptional Profiling of THP-1-Differentiated Macrophages During Spotted Fever Group (SFG) Rickettsia Infection”

Student Presenters: Gabriella Castro, Seema Mustafa

Mentored by: Dr. Emerson Towey

P61. “Determining Alternative Antibiotic Efficiency in SFG Rickettsia Infections”

Student Presenters: Seema Mustafa

Mentored by: Dr. Emerson Towey

P62. “The Expression and Characterization of GMA6_37 and Mbo2_CDS_48 Phage Protein”

Student Presenters: Khoi Pham, Jack Sticha

Mentored by: Dr. Julie Mach

P63. “Mathematical Modeling in Epidemiology: Simulating a Measles Outbreak”

Student Presenter: Luke Brendefur

Mentored by: Dr. Julia Walk



DETAILED SCHEDULE

<https://ursca.org>

3:55 - 5:15 P.M. POSTER SESSION 2 Knutson Campus Center Centrum

P64. “Human Activity and Urban Wild Turkey Behavior Patterns: Spatial Analysis and Policy Recommendations”

Student Presenters: John Lawrence, Brennan Steele, Linnea French, Christian Hayden, Ryan Kloster

Mentored by: Dr. Jenn Sweatman

P65. “Relationship Between Richardson’s Ground Squirrel Burrow Condition to Population Size”

Student Presenters: Tierney Stevenson, Caitlin Haasser, Reygan McCanna, Maria Ramstad

Mentored by: Dr. Mike Bush, Dr. Joseph Whittaker

P66. “Assessing Microplastic Presence in the Gastrointestinal Tracts of Tree and Ground Squirrels (Sciuridae) Across Urban and Rural Environments”

Student Presenters: Eleanor Puzzo, Keelyn Wittenberg, Yuden Dorji, Fatima Mohammed, Favziya Rasulova, Mubina Rasule, Sharon Mac-George Nwabi

Mentored by: Dr. Joseph Whittaker

P67. “Presence of Microplastics in the Guts of Gryllus pennsylvanicus Crickets at Concordia College”

Student Presenters: Ashlee Schueller, Megan Greshowak, Gale Klevan Schmitz

Mentored by: Dr. Joseph Whittaker, Dr. D. Bryan Bishop

P68. “Prevalence and Polymer Composition of Microplastics in the Prairie Pothole Region of North Dakota”

Student Presenters: Rowan Lindholm, Ella Shinn

Mentored by: Dr. Jenn Sweatman Dr. Graeme R.A. Wyllie

P69. “Bilingual Salience Priming, Gender, and Theory of Mind”

Student Presenters: Derek Dorsey, Hazel Bring

Mentored by: Dr. Rowena Xia



DETAILED SCHEDULE

<https://ursca.org>

3:55 - 5:15 P.M. POSTER SESSION 2 Knutson Campus Center Centrum

P70-73. “FRENCH 112: How Work-Based Learning Impacts Career Readiness”

Student Presenters:

P70. Mia Donner, Abigail Guttormson, Dante Novembre, Layne Polen

P71. Emma Swanson, Caden Larson, Aidan O'Shea, Trinity Kirschenmann

P72. Eliza McIntyre, Hank Bell, Lauren Diers, Andrew Annette

P73. Harper Wilson, Merissa Witte, Kinan Khatib, Katie Storbakken

Mentored by: Dr. Rachel Dwyer

P74. “Oracle Chamber Music Festival: How a Non-Profit Music Organization Builds Intergenerational, Intercultural, and Interdisciplinary Community While Providing Barrier-Free Music Education”

Student Presenters: Phia Revoir, Caroline Becker, Brady Burss, Taj Baang

Mentored by: Dr. Eduard Teregulov

P75. “Non-Profit Grant Writing: A Creative and Collaborative Internship Experience”

Student Presenter: Phia Revoir

Mentored by: Dr. Leila Zakhirova, Stephanie Carpenter

P76. Withdrew

P77. “Promageddon: The Dismantling of Prom Culture”

Student Presenter: Liv Wojahn

Mentored by: Dr. Darren Valenta, Dominic Meyers

P78. “Is he...you know... ?”: Sexuality- and Gender-Based Emoji Dialects”

Student Presenter: Jordon Perkins

Mentored by: Dr. Aileen Buslig



DETAILED SCHEDULE

<https://ursca.org>

3:55 - 5:15 P.M. POSTER SESSION 2 Knutson Campus Center Atrium

P79. “Training Neural Networks to Identify Phase Transitions”
Student Presenters: Logan Olson, Levi Patton
Mentored by: Dr. Luiz Manzoni

P80. “Synchronized Multimodal Retrieval Augmentation Generation (RAG) Pipeline for Process Video Data.”
Student Presenter: Temiloluwa Afolabi
Mentored by: Damian Lampl

P81. “Impacts of Barley on the Survivability of Minnows”
Student Presenter: Al Sterling
Mentored by: Dr. Mike Bush

P82. “Using EthoVision Deep Learning to Measure the Effect of Vivaldi Music Enrichment on Zebrafish Behavior”
Student Presenters: Annika Griffith, Cayley Borrud, Anusheh Shreonty, Riham Jameel Setiya Hamidi
Mentored by: Dr. Krys Strand, Harshana De Silva Feelixge

P83. “Exotic Animal Habitat Updates”
Student Presenter: Fenley Grumann
Mentored by: Dr. Krys Strand

P84. “AI Chatbots in Second-Language Learning: A Comparative Study of ChatGPT and Copilot for Advanced Spanish Practice”
Student Presenter: McKenna Monger
Mentored by: Dr. Lisa Twomey

P85. “Representación de la Cultura en Inteligencia Artificial”
Student Presenter: Gwendolyn Lindahl
Mentored by: Dr. Lisa Twomey

P86. “Learning about Spanish Speaking Cultures Using AI”
Student Presenter: Aaron Staryszak
Mentored by: Dr. Lisa Twomey





DETAILED SCHEDULE

<https://ursca.org>

3:55 - 5:15 P.M. POSTER SESSION 2 Knutson Campus Center Atrium

P87. “Build-Your-Own Language Tutor: How to Design Effective Prompts and Structure Sessions in ChatGPT Voice Mode for Spoken Spanish Practice”

Student Presenter: Oliver Fluegel-Murray

Mentored by: Dr. Lisa Twomey

P88. “Growing Energy, Growing Communities: Ethanol in Peru”

Student Presenter: Lydia Fynboh

Mentored by: Karin Hillstrom

P89. “Does AI-Based Tutoring Reduce Foreign Language Anxiety While Improving Grammar Acquisition?”

Student Presenters: Serena Middendorf, Kiara Wakefield, Aneli Zavala, Franco Isis Nunez-Martinez

Mentored by: Dr. Lisa Twomey

P90. “Social Activity Effects on Cognitive Decline in Older Adults”

Student Presenters: Tyra Skjeret, Taylyn Cope, Lila Lanctot

Mentored by: Dr. Philip Lemaster

P91. “How Does Intentional Human Connection Affect the Life Satisfaction and Health of Older Adults?”

Student Presenters: Eli Hunt, Daniel Skrade, Serenity Martinez

Mentored by: Dr. Philip Lemaster

P92. “Dietary Intake of Polyphenols, Antioxidant Vitamins, and Cognitive Performance in Aging Adults with Overweight or Obesity”

Student Presenters: Naima Sharif, Emily Rengo

Mentored by: Dr. Betsy Cogan

P93. “Challenging Assumptions: Pharmacokinetics and Pharmacodynamics Responses in Sedation and Analgesia for Patients with Down Syndrome”

Student Presenter: Alyssa Larson

Mentored by: Dr. Jennifer DeJong





DETAILED SCHEDULE

<https://ursca.org>

3:55 - 5:15 P.M. POSTER SESSION 2

Knutson Campus Center Atrium

P94. “DPAL: A National Collaboration for Pharmaceutical Analysis”
Student Presenter: Carter Weiser
Mentored by: Dr. Graeme R.A. Wyllie

P95. “Supporting Healing to Reduce Recidivism Among Justice-Involved Girls”
Student Presenters: Annika Johnson, Ella Hess, Jordan Jensen
Mentored by: Dr. Michelle Lelwica

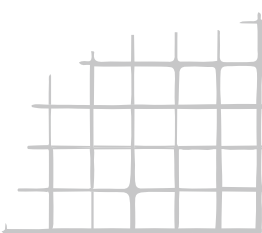
P96. “Trauma and Transmission: How Sexual Assault Influences Adolescent Offending Patterns”
Student Presenters: Eric Cockhill, Spencer Schumacher, Owen Hoover
Mentored by: Dr. Michelle Lelwica

SYMPOSIUM PASSPORT TABLES

Knutson Campus Center Atrium

Visit these tables for information about the services and opportunities they offer to students. Collect a stamp on your Passport at each table.

- Center for Holistic Health
- Community Engagement and Peak
- Global Learning
- Concordia Language Villages
- Career Center
- Archives and Showcase
- The Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership
- Office of Mission and Inclusion





MENTOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

DESCRIPTION

Mentors play a key role in student success. COSS presenters were invited to nominate their mentor for the Mentor of the Year Award. An outstanding mentor demonstrates excellence in a variety of ways, including being a resource for students, guiding them, and providing support throughout the project; facilitating students' academic and professional growth, encouraging independence, and creating a positive learning environment; and supporting students as whole individuals, engaging with them in meaningful and encouraging ways throughout their project.

MENTOR OF THE YEAR AWARD RECIPIENTS

2013	Dr. Laura Aldrich-Wolfe	2020	Dr. Jenn Sweatman
2014	Dr. Aileen Buslig	2021	Dr. Julie Mach
2015	Dr. Krys Strand	2022	Dr. Indira Neill Hoch
2016	Dr. Darcie Sell	2023	Dr. Joseph Whittaker
2017	Dr. Ellen Aho	2024	Dr. Annett Richter
2018	Dr. Jason Askvig	2025	Harshana De Silva Feelixge
2019	Dr. Susan Lee	2026	Will be announced before Poster Session 1

THANK YOU MENTORS!





GRATITUDE

STAFF, VOLUNTEERS, AND DONORS

The URSCA Symposium would not be possible without the many staff and volunteers who help make the day run smoothly. The COSS Steering Committee thanks all of the session hosts, student moderators, competition jury members, COSS Quest assistants, hospitality providers, catering, facilities, and tech professionals. We would also like to thank all of the donors who have made URSCA possible at Concordia. Research and creative scholarship are transformative experiences for students, and we deeply appreciate the generous philanthropy of donors.

THANK YOU!

2026 COSS STEERING COMMITTEE

Dr. Krys Strand, Director of URSCA, Associate Professor of Biology,
Neuroscience Program Director

Dr. Susan Lee, Associate Professor of Art History, Heritage and Museum
Studies Program Director

Dr. Michael Bush, Assistant Professor of Biology, Environmental and
Sustainability Studies

Dr. Emerson Towey, Assistant Professor of Biology

Dr. Samantha Archer, Assistant Professor of Communication Studies

Lori Feigum, Office Manager, Art, URSCA

Kari Weidner, Administrative Assistant, Psychology, Neuroscience, URSCA

Jackline Peace Nanyonga, Neuroscience Major, URSCA Intern

Annika Griffith, Neuroscience and Psychology Major, URSCA Intern

