

ursca.org ●

URS CA

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH | SCHOLARSHIP | CREATIVE ACTIVITY

SYMPOSIUM

PROGRAM

9 APRIL 2025



CELEBRATION OF STUDENT SCHOLARS



**CONCORDIA
COLLEGE**

MOORHEAD, MINNESOTA

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.

COSS

The Celebration of Student Scholars (COSS) is Concordia's annual spring symposium that showcases the outstanding research, scholarship, and creative activity of our undergraduate students. Through posters, talks, performances, and exhibits, 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

Pivotal Experience in Applied Knowledge (PEAK) is a high-impact learning experience that integrates 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 PEAKs 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, ISC Commons
8:00 - 8:45 A.M.	Refreshments, Social Time Centrum
8:45 - 8:55 A.M.	Opening Remarks, Mentor of the Year Award Centrum
8:55 - 10:15 A.M.	Poster Session 1 Centrum
10:30 - 11:10 A.M.	Concurrent Session 1 ISC, Morrie Jones, Olin
11:25 A.M. - 12:05 P.M.	Concurrent Session 2 ISC, Morrie Jones, Olin
12:15 - 1:30 P.M.	Department Sessions, Lunch break Various Locations
1:45 - 2:25 P.M.	Concurrent Session 3 ISC, Morrie Jones, Olin
2:40 - 3:40 P.M.	Concurrent Session 4 ISC, Morrie Jones, Olin
3:55 - 5:15 P.M.	Poster Session 2 Centrum
5:15 P.M.	Closing 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 EXHIBITS

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. Presenters and audience members are encouraged to stay for the duration of the whole session. Current sessions include up to four variations, selected by students when they submitted their abstract.

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-minute presentations followed by group Q&A. Three to four nano presentations may be scheduled in a single concurrent session

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

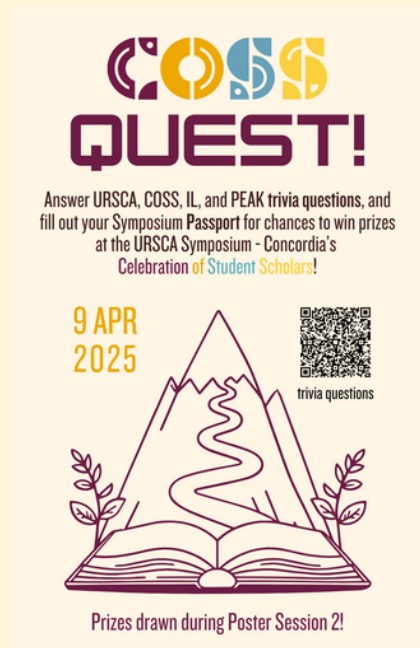
DEPARTMENT SESSIONS

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 QUEST

DESCRIPTION

COSS QUEST is a gamified way to enjoy and interact with the various events at the URSCA Symposium (COSS). Anyone can play. Answering trivia questions, attending sessions, visiting resource tables in the atrium, submitting reflections and pictures using the online form, and posting on socials are all ways to be part of COSS QUEST!



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

Use #coss2025 #cordmn when commenting about your COSS experience on socials.



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 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!

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 2025. 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 image shows a screenshot of the Digital Horizons website. The top navigation bar includes 'Home', 'About', 'Browse', 'Contributors', 'Contact', 'Facebook', and 'Log in'. The main content area displays the title 'A Tale of Two Cities: CLV Waldsee in the Crucible of History and Memory' and 'Page 1'. Below the title is a large image of a building with a yellow banner that reads 'A TALE OF TWO CITIES CONCORDIA LANGUAGE VILLAGE WALDSEE IN THE CRUCIBLE OF HISTORY AND MEMORY'. To the right of the image is a search bar and a list of pages from Page 1 to Page 9. Below the image are tabs for 'Transcript' and 'Object Description'. On the right side, there is a detailed view of the collection page, including the title 'Concordia's Scholars - Showcase of Undergraduate Research (Concordia College)', a section 'About this collection', and a list of criteria for nomination. A 'Browse' button is visible below the criteria. The footer of the website includes 'Home About Browse Contributors Contact Facebook Log in' and '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>

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

Knutson Campus Center Centrum

P01. “Bringing ‘A Bar at the Folies-Bergere’ to Life and Its Historical Context”

Student Presenter(s): Annika Widenhoefer

Mentored by: Dr. Susan Lee

P02. “Christianity’s Impact on the Roles of Post Colonial African Women”

Student Presenter(s): Darlene Bulafu

Mentored by: Dr. Michael Johnson

P03. “Deforestation in the Amazon: Political Influences, Environmental Consequences, and Conservation Strategies”

Student Presenter(s): Giorgia Mancini

Mentored by: Dr. Fanny Roncal Ramírez

P04. “The Forced Removal of Indigenous Communities and its Impact on Biodiversity Conservation in U.S. National Lands”

Student Presenter(s): Stella Peterson, Aicha Abdoulaye, Chantelle Schmidt

Mentored by: Dr. Jenn Sweatman

P05. “Halfway Hill Fire Aftermath and Rehabilitation”

Student Presenter(s): Austin Burraston

Mentored by: Dr. Jenn Sweatman

P06. “How FREN 112 Helps with Career Readiness”

Student Presenter(s): Kasa Waller, Toutou Axvig, Josie Brown, Akeelah Christian, Lettie Caspers, Ella Corwin, Kalee Hansen, Shukri Mohamed, Florance Mutoni, Katherine O’Donnell, Laelia Sackett, Gaby Schuetz, Evan Slack, Malik Smith, Jeanne Uwezo

Mentored by: Dr. Gay Rawson

P07. “Spanish Immersion School Relevance in the U.S.”

Student Presenter(s): Brandon Marroquin

Mentored by: Dr. Fanny Roncal Ramírez

P08. “El Movimiento de las Madres de Plaza de Mayo”

Student Presenter(s): Ilsa Martinez

Mentored by: Dr. Fanny Roncal-Ramírez

DETAILED SCHEDULE

<https://ursca.org>

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

P09. "Making Music and Connections: Oracle Chamber Music Festival 2025"

Student Presenter(s): Phia Revoir

Mentored by: Dr. Eduard Teregulov, Dr. Greg Hamilton

P10. "The Use of Art in Therapy"

Student Presenter(s): Kaija Martin

Mentored by: Ross Hilgers

P11. "Organizational Behavior in Real Estate Brokerage"

Student Presenter(s): Daniel Davies, Mohanned Abdulla, Troy Mann, Magnar Gjertsen, Noah Christensen, Ike Nienhaus

Mentored by: Dr. Shontarius Aikens

P12. "From University to Career: Analyzing the Path to Success"

Student Presenter(s): Iyanu Lamina

Mentored by: Damian Lampl

P13. "Top 10 Managerial Activities Used in the Financial Services Industry"

Student Presenter(s): Dylan Erholtz, Hunter Bjorge, Maiah Christianson, Chris Gratke, Anjali Bhujel, Yahir Chavez

Mentored by: Dr. Shontarius Aikens

P14. "MSSA Conference: Integrating Trauma-Informed Mindfulness and Enhancing Client Resilience"

Student Presenter(s): Madie Draper

Mentored by: Nicole Ness, Kelli Gast

P15. "'Top 10' Organizational Behavior Concerns in The Education Industry"

Student Presenter(s): Tyler Rademacher, Skylar Timmer, Abbie Hale, Ben Peterson, Alex VonRueden, Giorgia Mancini

Mentored by: Dr. Shontarius Aikens

P16. "Boundary Conditions for Human Perceptual and Cognitive Detection of AI-Generated Content"

Student Presenter(s): Alexis Strus, Dilan Sypnieski, Charles Pikula, Mya Follingstad

Mentored by: Neuroscience Program faculty

DETAILED SCHEDULE

<https://ursca.org>

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

P17. “Enhancing Human Detection of AI-Generated Faces: The Role of Perceptual and Adaptive Learning”

Student Presenter(s): Iqra Hassan, Zamzam Mohamed, Naima Sharif

Mentored by: Dr. Dwight Peterson, Dr. Ahmed Kamel

P18. “Influencing Policy: Analyzing Bill Content and Complexity in Minnesota’s 93rd Legislature”

Student Presenter(s): Kayla Molstre

Mentored by: Dr. Nicholas Howard

P19. “Show Me the Money: Analyzing Campaign Finance trends in the Midwest”

Student Presenter(s): Nicholas Trzynka

Mentored by: Dr. Nicholas Howard

P20. “Candidate Competition in Statewide Primary Elections”

Student Presenter(s): Britta Nordin, Jordan Jensen, Nathan Jordan

Mentored by: Dr. Nicholas Howard

P21. “Quantification of Caffeine and its Metabolites from Urine: An Undergraduate Biochemistry Experiment”

Student Presenter(s): Gabriel Sparks

Mentored by: Dr. Mark Jensen, Dr. Julie Mach

P22. “I’m Moving to Canada: Rhetorical Escapism through Inauguration Book Lists ”

Student Presenter(s): Sydney Steinhaus

Mentored by: Dominic Meyers

P23. “Function and Characterization of PDB Entry 2QRU”

Student Presenter(s): Isaiah Soori, Brinna Fish, Ahna Novasio

Mentored by: Dr. Julie Mach

P24. “Analysis of Volatile Organic Compound Release from Essential Oil Patches Using SPME-GC-MS: Method Development and Optimization”

Student Presenter(s): Jorgen Deitz

Mentored by: Dr. Mark Jensen

DETAILED SCHEDULE

<https://ursca.org>

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

Knutson Campus Center Centrum

P25. “Elucidating the Function of YXIM_BACsu (2014): a Putative Rhamnogalacturonan Acetylerase”

Student Presenter(s): Cael Schlauderaff, Braden Jackson, Seema Tian

Mentored by: Dr. Julie Mach

P26. “Shifting Public Perception: Advocating for Richardson’s Ground Squirrels (*Uroditellus richardsonii*) by Raising Awareness in Northwestern Minnesota”

Student Presenter(s): Peter Weinzierl, Katie Waugh, Gavin Groshelle

Mentored by: Dr. Jenn Sweatman, Dr. Joe Whittaker

P27. “A Comparison of Diversity by Year for Resident and Migrant Species at Toucan Ridge Ecology and Education Society (TREES) in Belize”

Student Presenter(s): Madelyn Barlage, Katie Waugh, Gavin Groshelle, Peter Weinzierl, Scandia Cruz, Mathieu Charette, Vanessa Kilburn

Mentored by: Dr. Joe Whittaker

P28. “Optimizing Deep Eutectic Solvents for the Extraction of Phthalates from Aqueous Solutions”

Student Presenter(s): Olivia Shelton

Mentored by: Dr. Mark Jensen

P29. “Investigating the Impact of Runoff on Nutrient Levels and Water Quality in the Buffalo Red River Watershed District”

Student Presenter(s): Erin Vruwink, Cate Satoris

Mentored by: Dr. Jenn Sweatman

P30. “A Novel Classroom Laboratory Approach to Zebrafish Neuron and Oligodendrocyte Cultures”

Student Presenter(s): Trevor Tiongson, Meg Shercliffe, Sharleen Mtesa

Mentored by: Dr. Krys Strand, Harshana De Silva Felixge

Knutson Campus Center Atrium

P31. “Lost in Translation: Addressing Healthcare Disparities in Latino/Hispanic Maternal and Neonatal Patients”

Student Presenter(s): Drew Frolek

Mentored by: Karin Hillstrom

DETAILED SCHEDULE

<https://ursca.org>

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

P32. “Strengthening Primary Care to Reduce Emergency Department Overcrowding”

Student Presenter(s): Ava Kiemele

Mentored by: Dr. Julie Rutherford

P33. “Ageism: The Last Acceptable Prejudice”

Student Presenter(s): Marissa Piasecki, Ruben Bowen, Gabby Brown, Maya Tannous

Mentored by: Dr. Philip Lemaster

P34. “When Minutes Matter: The Impact of Limited Time with ER Doctors”

Student Presenter(s): Karissa Jones

Mentored by: Dr. Julie Rutherford

P35. “The Impact of Sleep Issues on Successful Aging”

Student Presenter(s): Maggie Brown, Molly Musland, Catherine Thompson, Hailee Bailey

Mentored by: Dr. Phillip Lemaster

P36. “Role of Gut Microbiome in Prevention and Treatment of Alzheimer’s Disease”

Student Presenter(s): Edwin Rasidovic, Peyton Kessel

Mentored by: Dr. Julie Rutherford

P37. “MMP9 & Its Impact on Memory Retrieval”

Student Presenter(s): Charlene Geraci, Jenna Gierke

Mentored by: Dr. Mikel Olson

P38. “Tracking Phage Resistance in *Ruegeria pomeroyi*”

Student Presenter(s): Landen Kjos, Carson Dahlke, Victoria Powell

Mentored by: Dr. Sara Anderson, Dr. Michelle Tigges

P39. “Dietary Intake of Emergency Food Pantry Participants”

Student Presenter(s): Kelyn Henry-Perlich, Aitor Burillo Arellano, Connor Chloupek, Brady Goss, Luke Van Erp

Mentored by: Dr. Betsy Cogan

DETAILED SCHEDULE

<https://ursca.org>

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

Knutson Campus Center Atrium

P40. “Examining How Kitchen Skills Impact Nutritional Intake Among Food-Insecure Adults”

Student Presenter(s): Jennifer Rupp, Jenny Bratsch, Rosemary Unglaub, Tori Fenner, Andrew Annette

Mentored by: Dr. Betsy Cogan

P41. “Social Isolation and its Effects on Older Adults”

Student Presenter(s): Logan Clark, Derek Dorsey, Averi Prentice, Junior Surpris

Mentored by: Dr. Phillip Lemaster

P42. “Exploring the Origins and Impact of Microplastics on Squirrel Gut Microbiomes: Investigating Bacillus subtilis and the Firmicutes to Bacteroidetes Dynamics in Urban and Rural Squirrels.”

Student Presenter(s): Yuden Dorji

Mentored by: Dr. Joe Whittaker

P43. “Differences in Green Spaces within Communities Inside the Fargo Area”

Student Presenter(s): Bryan Manuel, Zamora Montero, Jack Cella, Daniel Pambu

Mentored by: Dr. Jenn Sweatman

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

Center for Student Success

Sustainability

Community Engagement and PEAK

Global Learning

Career Center

Archives and Showcase

DETAILED SCHEDULE

<https://ursca.org>

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

Morrie Jones A-B (Knutson Campus Center)

C01. “Investigating Chitosan-Alginate Bioplastics as a Pharmaceutical Delivery System”

10:30 a.m. – 10:50 a.m. | Classic

Student Presenter(s): Aitor Burillo Arellano, Dawson Fleck

Mentored by: Dr. Graeme Wyllie

C02. “Effect of Vivaldi Music Enrichment on Anxiety-Like Behavior and Memory in Adult Leopard and Striped Zebrafish”

10:50 a.m. – 11:10 a.m. | Classic

Student Presenter(s): Riham Jameel, Fenley Grumann, Jackline Peace Nanyonga

Mentored by: Dr. Krys Strand, Harshana DeSilva Feelixge

Morrie Jones C-D (Knutson Campus Center)

C03. “No, I Don’t Know my Real Parents: An Autoethnographic study about the manifestation of adoption stigma”

10:30 a.m. – 10:50 a.m. | Classic

Student Presenter(s): Ayden Schauer

Mentored by: Dominic Meyers

C04. “Born Evil: Ideological Rhetoric within Dungeons and Dragon’s Fantasy Orcs”

10:50 a.m. – 11:10 a.m. | Classic

Student Presenter(s): Parsley Sternhagen

Mentored by: Dominic Meyers

Olin 124

C05. “Box It, Don’t Toss it: Sustainable Dining Solutions”

10:30 a.m. – 11:10 a.m. | Panel

Student Presenter(s): Molly Lysne, Kennedy Jorgensen, Jocelyn Brown, Daniella Ray, Stephanie Boulka

Mentored by: Dominic Meyers

DETAILED SCHEDULE

<https://ursca.org>

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

Integrated Science Center 201

C06. “My Mental Health Journey: How different mental health activities helped my mood throughout the week”

10:30 a.m. – 10:50 a.m. | Classic

Student Presenter(s): Tommie Treptau, Kylee James

Mentored by: Dominic Meyers

C07. “Drive Me to Doggy Daycare: Stand-up Comedy’s Impact on Suicidality Discourse”

10:50 a.m. – 11:10 a.m. | Classic

Student Presenter(s): Saige Mattson, Olivia Slyter

Mentored by: Dr. Darren Valenta

Integrated Science Center 260

C08. “Interaction and Interconnectedness: Social and Musical Elements in Participatory Musics”

10:30 a.m. – 11:10 a.m. | Panel

Student Presenter(s): Carter Egesdal Aaron Kess Ellie Chang

Mentored by: Dr. Jeff Meyer

Integrated Science Center 301

C09. “Is Climate Conflict Inevitable in Central Asia? Insights from the Past Thirty Years”

10:30 a.m. – 10:50 a.m. | Classic

Student Presenter(s): Alina Sokolova, Tony Berndt

Mentored by: Dr. Leila Zakhirova

Abstract

C10. “Reduce, Reuse, Reality Check – Recycling Isn’t Enough!”

10:50 a.m. – 11:10 a.m. | Classic

Student Presenter(s): Crisavy Seeman

Mentored by: Bree Langemo

DETAILED SCHEDULE

<https://ursca.org>

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

Integrated Science Center 338

C11. “Through Woven Mist: The Nuanced Eroticism of Utamaro’s ‘Mother Nursing Baby under Mosquito Net’”

10:30 a.m. – 10:50 a.m. | Classic

Student Presenter(s): Hannah Sleath

Mentored by: Dr. Susan Lee

C12. “Nourishing Babies, Asserting Strength: The Nursing Body as Art in the Works of Paula Modersohn-Becker (1876-1907) and Catherine Opie (b. 1961)”

10:50 a.m. – 11:10 a.m. | Classic

Student Presenter(s): Lydia Repnow

Mentored by: Dr. Susan Lee

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

Morrie Jones A-B (Knutson Campus Center)

C13. “ISC is a Cult: An Ethnographic Study of Nonverbal Communication”

11:25 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. | Classic

Student Presenter(s): Janae Owen

Mentored by: Dominic Meyers

C14. “Deviance from Femininity in Susan Glaspell’s Trifles”

11:45 a.m. – 12:05 p.m. | Classic

Student Presenter(s): Briea Freeman

Mentored by: Dr. James Postema

DETAILED SCHEDULE

<https://ursca.org>

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

Morrie Jones C-D (Knutson Campus Center)

C15. "Laser-Induced Thermal Plume/Surface Interactions in Molecular Liquids"

11:25 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. | Classic

Student Presenter(s): Reese Anderson, Sean Oakes, Alex Rapelje

Mentored by: Dr. Darin Ulness, Dr. Mark Gealy

C16. "Norwegian Green Energy, Indigenous Groups, & Culture Retention: Who or what are we saving?"

11:45 a.m. – 12:05 p.m. | Classic

Student Presenter(s): Anna Kronbeck

Mentored by: Dr. Jan Pranger

Olin 124

C17. "Giving Voice: The Power of Restorative Justice in Music Rehabilitation"

11:25 a.m. – 12:05 p.m. | Panel

Student Presenter(s): Adeline Polzin, Josh Powell, Aneleise Martinson, Sophia Keller, Luci Kulseth, Dylan Pringle, Sam Sadlowsky

Mentored by: Dr. Joseph Kemper

Integrated Science Center 201

C18. "Persuading Jurors: A Rhetorical Criticism of Trauma within a Court Room"

11:25 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. | Classic

Student Presenter(s): Miranda Travis

Mentored by: Dominic Meyers

C19. "The Effects of Reading Crime on Young Female Readers."

11:45 a.m. – 12:05 p.m. | Classic

Student Presenter(s): Kylee James

Mentored by: Dominic Meyers

DETAILED SCHEDULE

<https://ursca.org>

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

Integrated Science Center 260

C20. “The NACE Competencies and Concordia Goals for Liberal Learning: A Case for FREN 112”

11:25 a.m. – 12:05 p.m. | Panel

Student Presenter(s): Cedric Buchholtz, Khoi Pham, Becca Hendrickson, Tommy Schreiner, Julia Vickers, Sam Williams

Mentored by: Dr. Gay Rawson

Integrated Science Center 301

C21. “Generative AI: Emerging Policy, Innovation, and Debate”

11:25 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. | Classic

Student Presenter(s): Caroline Cronk, Cheryn Lindsay, Isaac Wayne

Mentored by: Dr. Ahmed Kamel

C22. “Investigation of the Magnetic Properties of Aluminum, Nickel, and Chromium Doped Goethite”

11:45 a.m. – 12:05 p.m. | Classic

Student Presenter(s): Jordan Masterson, Kate Hemmer

Mentored by: Dr. Thelma Berquó

Integrated Science Center 338

C23. “Clearing the Mind: The Role of the Glymphatic System in Neurodegeneration and Potential Therapeutic Strategies”

11:25 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. | Classic

Student Presenter(s): Drew Frolek, Lucas Hinojos

Mentored by: Dr. Jason Askvig

C24. “Crossing Weights and Virtualization: Using n-Gons to Characterize Knots”

11:45 a.m. – 12:05 p.m. | Classic

Student Presenter(s): Parker Webster, Gillian Lee

Mentored by: Dr. Sarah Seger

DETAILED SCHEDULE

<https://ursca.org>

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

Art | Location: Olin 207

Art: Beyond the Starving Artist: Unlocking Career Opportunities with a Liberal Arts Degree in Art

Educator, teaching artist, printmaker, and Director of Education at the Plains Art Museum, Anna Jacobson (Cobber Alum '03) shares how she has applied her liberal arts degree in art to build a fulfilling and diverse career.

Communication Studies and Theatre Art | Location: Frances Frazier Comstock 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 301

Phi Alpha Theta Induction Ceremony and Lunch

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

Physics | Location: Integrated Science Center 249

Dedication of Dr. E. O. Wollan Lab

The Physics Department hosts Drs. Ben Larson and John Ahlquist, who will honor the legacy of Dr. E. O. Wollan ('23) with the dedication of a newly named lab in his memory.

Psychology | Location: Integrated Science Center 106

Psi Chi Honors Induction and Psychology Job Panel

Come celebrate our Psi Chi Honor Society inductees and learn about psychology-related job opportunities (both internship and post-graduation!) from a panel of representatives from local agencies, including Anne Carlsen Center and Solutions Behavioral Health. 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: Grose 236

What Can Languages Do for You?

Please join faculty from Chinese, French, German, and Spanish of the Department of World Languages and Cultures (WLC) for an open-door conversation about languages and what one might be able to do with languages after Concordia. This session is sponsored jointly by WLC and the following WLC chapters of national language honor societies: Pi Delta Phi in French, Delta Phi Alpha in German, and Sigma Delta Pi in Spanish. Box lunches will be provided for the first 30 people. Meet in GR 236 to get started.

DETAILED SCHEDULE

<https://ursca.org>

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

Morrie Jones A-B (Knutson Campus Center)

C25. “Comedy Has Gone Woke’: How has political polarization affected late-night sketch comedy?”

1:45 p.m. – 2:05 p.m. | Classic

Student Presenter(s): Aidan Sears

Mentored by: Dominic Meyers

C26. “Butch or Bust: An auto-ethnography of viewing masculine versus feminine-presenting lesbian stand-up comics”

2:05 p.m. – 2:25 p.m. | Classic

Student Presenter(s): Saige Mattson

Mentored by: Dominic Meyers

Morrie Jones C-D (Knutson Campus Center)

C27. “Sports Scheduling with Linear Programming”

1:45 p.m. – 2:05 p.m. | Classic

Student Presenter(s): Ye Yint Win

Mentored by: Dr. Nate Axvig

C28. “Optimizing Growth of Duckweed for Lunar and Martian Habitats”

2:05 p.m. – 2:25 p.m. | Classic

Student Presenter(s): Ren Lind

Mentored by: Dr. Krys Strand

Olin 124

C29. “The Politics of Control: Pink Tax, Drag Bans, and Reproductive Rights”

1:45 p.m. – 2:25 p.m. | Panel

Student Presenter(s): Beck Benson, Brooklyn Hannig, Ceci Buzzeo

Mentored by: Dr. Darren Valenta

DETAILED SCHEDULE

<https://ursca.org>

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

Integrated Science Center 201

C30. “The Impact of Teacher-Student Relationships”

1:45 p.m. – 2:05 p.m. | Classic

Student Presenter(s): Jerica Friese

Mentored by: Dr. Teri Langlie

C31. “COVID-19 Impact on American Education”

2:05 p.m. – 2:25 p.m. | Classic

Student Presenter(s): Brock LaTourell

Mentored by: Bree Langemo

Integrated Science Center 260

C32. “Languages and Cultures – PEAKing at CLV”

1:45 p.m. – 2:25 p.m. | Panel

Student Presenter(s): Sean Martin, Al Sterling, Emery Bell, Catherine Rademacher, Allison Roth

Mentored by: Dr. Gay Rawson, Marty Fankhanel, Paul Faust, Zhen-Jing Luo, Sina Stuhlert

Integrated Science Center 301

C33. “Add to Cart, Delete from Planet? Confessions of a Sustainable Gen-Z Consumer”

1:45 p.m. – 2:05 p.m. | Classic

Student Presenter(s): Crisavy Seeman

Mentored by: Dominic Meyers

C34. “Levels of Motivation Based off of Environmental Factors”

2:05 p.m. – 2:25 p.m. | Classic

Student Presenter(s): Kaitlin Petrich

Mentored by: Dominic Meyers

DETAILED SCHEDULE

<https://ursca.org>

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

Concurrent Session 4 is one hour long and will include two to three presentations in each room.

Morrie Jones A-B (Knutson Campus Center)

C35. “The Fight For Intellectual Freedom: Resisting Literary Censorship and Its Impact on Education”

2:40 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. | Classic

Student Presenter(s): Jessica Shaw

Mentored by: Dr. Kristi Loberg, Dr. Amy Watkin

Abstract

C36. “Breaking the Silence: Building Empathy for Rural Queer People in Prairie Silence”

3:00 p.m. – 3:20 p.m. | Classic

Student Presenter(s): Jordon Perkins

Mentored by: Anna Bushy

Abstract

C37. “Diversity, Empathy, & The Hate U Give in the K-12 Classroom”

3:20 p.m. – 3:40 p.m. | Classic

Student Presenter(s): Jay Rust

Mentored by: Anna Bushy

DETAILED SCHEDULE

<https://ursca.org>

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

Concurrent Session 4 is one hour long and will include two to three presentations in each room.

Morrie Jones C-D (Knutson Campus Center)

C38. “Cap Punched Nazis: An Ideological Analysis of Shifting Political Ideologies through Comic Books”

2:40 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. | Classic

Student Presenter(s): Nicholas Trzynka

Mentored by: Dominic Meyers

C39. “Colonizing Cleanliness: An Ideological Analysis into the ‘CleanGirlAesthetic’”

3:00 p.m. – 3:20 p.m. | Classic

Student Presenter(s): Julia Vickers

Mentored by: Dominic Meyers

C40. “Australian Women’s Push Through the Patriarchy in Charlotte Jay’s ‘Beat Not the Bones’”

3:20 p.m. – 3:40 p.m. | Classic

Student Presenter(s): Laura Brown

Mentored by: Dr. James Postema

DETAILED SCHEDULE

<https://ursca.org>

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

Concurrent Session 4 is one hour long and will include two to three presentations in each room.

Olin 124

C41. “La Romantización de las Comunidades Marginadas por García Lorca (The Romanticization of Marginalized Communities by García Lorca)”

2:40 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. | Classic

Student Presenter(s): Qwame Martin

Mentored by: Dr. Fanny Roncal Ramirez

C42. “Home or just Homophobia? An Autoethnography on Entering New Christian Spaces as a Queer Pastor’s Kid”

3:00 p.m. – 3:20 p.m. | Classic

Student Presenter(s): Jonah Krogstad

Mentored by: Dominic Meyers

C43. “Unpacking Feminism: A Personal Journey Through Women and Gender Studies, Activism, and Political Change”

3:20 p.m. – 3:40 p.m. | Classic

Student Presenter(s): Olivia Hanson

Mentored by: Dominic Meyers

DETAILED SCHEDULE

<https://ursca.org>

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

Concurrent Session 4 is one hour long and will include two to three presentations in each room.

Integrated Science Center 201

C44. “Cultivating Creative Scholarship in the Minnesota Intercollegiate Honor Band”

2:40 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. | Classic

Student Presenter(s): Ann Vanderlinde, Aneleise Martinson, Isaak Montemayor, Bryant Neumann

Mentored by: Dr. Jennifer Hawkinson

C45. “Moving from Creativity to Career”

3:00 p.m. – 3:20 p.m. | Classic

Student Presenter(s): Lauren Liebl

Mentored by: Dr. Nat Dickey Bree Langemo

C46. “Freedom to Read: A Local Activism Project”

3:20 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. | Nano

Student Presenter(s): Alyssa Czernek

Mentored by: Dr. Amy Watkin

DETAILED SCHEDULE

<https://ursca.org>

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

Concurrent Session 4 is one hour long and will include two to three presentations in each room.

Integrated Science Center 260

C47. “Meta’s Misinformation Dilemma: The Motive Behind Fact-Checking Rollbacks.’ A rhetorical analysis of the controversy and potential motivations behind Meta’s decision.”

2:40 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. | Classic

Student Presenter(s): Tate Inniger, Aidan Sears

Mentored by: Dominic Meyers

C48. “Ctrl + Alt + Understand: Navigating the Changing Role of Digital Literacy in our Communities”

3:00 p.m. – 3:40 p.m. | Panel

Student Presenter(s): Jade Ford, Kiya McLaurin, Emma Ravnaas, Elisabeth Grack, Olivia Feigum, Abby Fiset, Parsley Sternhagen, Mariana Martins Carvalho

Mentored by: Dr. Samantha Archer

DETAILED SCHEDULE

<https://ursca.org>

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

Concurrent Session 4 is one hour long and will include two to three presentations in each room.

Integrated Science Center 301

C49. “Uncomfortably Familiar: Snapshots from Nan’s Life”

2:40 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. | Classic

Student Presenter(s): Annika Rickbeil

Mentored by: Dr. Susan Lee

C50. “Duane Mickelson: the Legacy of a Local Artist”

3:00 p.m. – 3:20 p.m. | Classic

Student Presenter(s): Belem Ortega

Mentored by: Dr. Susan Lee

C51. “From Dig to Pedestal: The Life of an Archeological Artifact”

3:20 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. | Pecha Kucha

Student Presenter(s): Ellie Bergsten

Mentored by: Dr. Heather Waddell Dr. Susan Lee

DETAILED SCHEDULE

<https://ursca.org>

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

P44. “URSCA PEAK Opportunities”
Office of URSCA

P45. “MyPlate: Is It Effective Throughout Life?”
Student Presenter(s): Jenny Bratsch
Mentored by: Dr. Ashley Roseno

P46. “Exploring the Goals and Interests of Food Pantry Users when Their Food Needs are Met”
Student Presenter(s): Maria Ramstad, Andie Sandman, Naima Sharif, Narjis Albuothah, Edwin Rasidovic
Mentored by: Dr. Betsy Cogan

P47. “Toy-Mediated Distraction Effectiveness in Reducing Needle-Vaccination Pain Response in the Pediatric Client”
Student Presenter(s): Katie Noah, Mitchell Druley
Mentored by: Dr. Jennifer DeJong

P48. “Understanding Crisis Pregnancy Centers: an evaluation of moral and social injustices”
Student Presenter(s): Delaney Claggett
Mentored by: Dr. Amy Watkin

P49. “S.P.A.C.E. (Sculpture Pad Art Collaborative Experiment)”
Student Presenter(s): Abigail Thurmer, Gabby Brown, Samuel Zimmerman
Mentored by: Dwight Mickelson

P50. “Concordia Student Experience at North American Saxophone Alliance Conference”
Student Presenter(s): Aidan Miland, Britta Nordin, Jaxon Dewald, Trevor Brabec
Mentored by: Russell Peterson

P51. “Snapshot Photography and the Portrait: Nan Goldin, Andy Warhol & Weegee”
Student Presenter(s): Annika Rickbeil
Mentored by: Dr. Susan Lee

DETAILED SCHEDULE

<https://ursca.org>

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

P52. “Unpacking the Multifaceted Identities and Lived Experiences of Arab-Americans: An Arab-American Justice Journey”

Student Presenter(s): Khamisa Jok, Cale Bauer, Aisha Ahmed

Mentored by: Dr. Anne Mocko

P53. “Interactions between Castilian Spanish and Indigenous Languages in Mexico”

Student Presenter(s): Hannah Hulett

Mentored by: Dr. Fanny Roncal Ramírez

P54. “Comparing the differentiation of White-Footed mice (*Peromyscus leucopus*) from Deer mice (*Peromyscus maniculatus*) through analysis of their salivary amylase and cellulose acetate gel electrophoresis and morphological measurements.”

Student Presenter(s): Kylie Brenny

Mentored by: Dr. Joe Whittaker

P55. “Documenting Occurrences of Richardson’s Ground Squirrel (*Urocitellus richardsonii*), A Rare Species Vulnerable to Habitat Fragmentation”

Student Presenter(s): Peter Weinzierl, Katie Waugh

Mentored by: Dr. Joe Whittaker

P56. “Zebra Mussels and Native Mussels”

Student Presenter(s): Andrina Rockstad, Milgo Abdi, Jack Nichol, Mallory Greiff

Mentored by: Dr. Joe Whittaker

P57. “Stopping Aquatic Invaders: The Role of Minnesota’s Watercraft Inspection Program”

Student Presenter(s): Leah Lenz

Mentored by: Dr. Mike Bush

P58. “Dietary Preferences of Small Fishes of the Red River Basin”

Student Presenter(s): Al Sterling, Alex McPhee

Mentored by: Dr. Mike Bush

DETAILED SCHEDULE

<https://ursca.org>

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

P59. “Environmental Policy in Democracies and Autocracies in Latin America”

Student Presenter(s): Tony Berndt

Mentored by: Dr. Fanny Roncal Ramírez

P60. “Optical Properties of Bromide Based-Inorganic Perovskites”

Student Presenter(s): Matthew Mondry

Mentored by: Dr. Saroj Thapa

P61. “Land Use Patterns and Bird Call Diversity at the Darakuta Ranch in Tanzania”

Student Presenter(s): Ella Shinn, Gavin Groshelle, Peter Weinzierl, Cameron Whittaker, Luke Young

Mentored by: Dr. Joe Whittaker, Dr. Jennifer Sweatman, Dr. Michael Bush

P62. “Assessing the Prey Contents in Northern Saw-Whet Owl Pellets in Fargo, North Dakota.”

Student Presenter(s): Gavin Groshelle, Madelyn Barlage, Katie Waugh

Mentored by: Dr. Joe Whittaker

P63. “Assessing Microplastic Concentrations and Composition in the Gastrointestinal Tracts of Urban and Rural Tree and Ground Squirrels (Sciuridae)”

Student Presenter(s): Fatima Mohammed, Yuden Dorji, Mubina Rasul, Favziya Rasulovala

Mentored by: Dr. Joe Whittaker Graeme Wyllie

P64. “A Risk Unmasked: The Untold Story of GABA Signaling, Autism, and Seizure Vulnerability”

Student Presenter(s): Riley Hurley

Mentored by: Dr. Krys Strand

P65. “Age-Dependent Changes in Nogo Protein in the Rat Supraoptic Nucleus”

Student Presenter(s): Heidi De Leon Escobar, Drew Frolek

Mentored by: Dr. Jason Askvig

DETAILED SCHEDULE

<https://ursca.org>

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

P66. “The Role of Reward-Based Prioritization in Visual Working Memory Binding”

Student Presenter(s): Meg Shercliffe

Mentored by: Dr. Dwight Peterson

P67. “The Synthesis of RAPTA-based Compounds for Pharmaceutical Treatment of Tumors”

Student Presenter(s): Ahna Novasio, Seema Tian

Mentored by: Dr. Chopper Krogstad

P68. “Investigation of 3B7F Function Using Bioinformatic Tools: A Potential Xyloglucan-Specific Glycosyl Hydrolase”

Student Presenter(s): Mohamed Mustafa, Mckenna Wangen, Josh Kolling

Mentored by: Dr. Julie Mach

P69. “Deep Dive into Deep Eutectics”

Student Presenter(s): Sean Oakes

Mentored by: Dr. Darin Ulness

P70. “Enhancing Planetary Habitability Classification Using Random Forest”

Student Presenter(s): Antonio Lyons

Mentored by: Dr. Luiz Manzoni

P71. “Space Plants”

Student Presenter(s): Riley Duppong, Ashlyn Campbell

Mentored by: Dr. Krys Strand

P72. “Uncovering the Molecular Basis of Bassettia flavipes Induced Galls in Quercus macrocarpa”

Student Presenter(s): Cael Schlauderaff, Olivia Brault

Mentored by: Dr. Mallorie Taylor-Teeples

P73. “Comparison of Rotifer Abundance in Tree and Ground Moss”

Student Presenter(s): Sam Dioszeghy, Max Baumgartner, Lukas Stofer, Zack Ehnstrom

Mentored by: Dr. Bryan Bishop

DETAILED SCHEDULE

<https://ursca.org>

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

P74. “Investigating Implicit and Explicit Foreigner Bias in Multicultural and Monocultural College Student Study”

Student Presenter(s): Jonas Bratholmen

Mentored by: Dr. Rowena Xia

P75. “Breaking Traditions: Does Ambivalent Sexism Fuel Relationship Backlash?”

Student Presenter(s): Rebecca Nelson, Tennyson Kelm

Mentored by: Dr. Darcie Sell

P76. “The Rise and Fall of the PRI (Institutional Revolutionary Party)”

Student Presenter(s): Sebastian Rosiles

Mentored by: Dr. Fanny Roncal-Ramírez

P77. “Venezuela: Causes and Consequences of the Ongoing Migration Crisis”

Student Presenter(s): Maisy Jablon

Mentored by: Dr. Fanny Roncal Ramírez

P78. “The Hidden Legacy of Women in the Mexican Revolutionary”

Student Presenter(s): Vanessa Islas Peralta

Mentored by: Dr. Fanny Roncal Ramírez

P79. “Bureaucratic Activity in the U.S.”

Student Presenter(s): Lily Medved-Charpentier, Ben Cook

Mentored by: Dr. Nicholas Howard

P80. “The Influence of Religion and Politics on the Understanding and Acceptance of Science”

Student Presenter(s): Lydia Holmgren, Lexi Strus, John DeJong, Kayitare Esther Mwiza

Mentored by: Dr. Darcie Sell

P81. “Predicting Stock Market Movements Using Data Mining Techniques”

Student Presenter(s): Amir Hosseini

Mentored by: Dr. Gregory Tanner

DETAILED SCHEDULE

<https://ursca.org>

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

Knutson Campus Center Atrium

P82. “Decolonizing the Introductory Psychology course: Marginalized students’ perceptions and experiences”

Student Presenter(s): Marissa Piasecki, Cody Hospes, Claire Dummer

Mentored by: Dr. Mona Ibrahim

P83. “Poverty and Education as a Development Issue in Nigeria”

Student Presenter(s): Owen Koenen

Mentored by: Dr. Nicholas Ellig

P84. “Leading Through Change: Top 10 Managerial Priorities in the Evolving Retail Industry”

Student Presenter(s): Seth Kotzbacher, Joseph Headrick, Anthony Marsh, Jake Wolf, Caleb Parker, Troy Dahlheimer

Mentored by: Dr. Shontarius Aikens

P85. “Organizational Behavior of Leaders in the Sports Industry”

Student Presenter(s): Isaac Hauser, Jersey Selzler, Anistyn Walthers, Blake Vagle, Alecious Togbah, Lance Fretwell

Mentored by: Dr. Shontarius Aikens

P86. “Organizational Behavior Concerns that Leaders in the Education Industry Should be Aware of.”

Student Presenter(s): Jade Ford, Amelia Gunnufson, Mateo Leslie, Trace Hochsprung, Cooper Mattern, William Freking

Mentored by: Dr. Shontarius Aikens

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

Center for Student Success

Sustainability

Community Engagement and PEAK

Global Learning

Career Center

Archives and Showcase

MENTOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

DESCRIPTION

Mentors can be key to student success. COSS presenters were invited to nominate their mentor(s) 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	Will be announced with the opening remarks
2019	Dr. Susan Lee		

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!*

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Neuroscience Program Director

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

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Sustainability Studies

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Kari Weidner, Administrative Assistant, Psychology, Neuroscience, URSCA

Allison Koster, Chemical Safety Officer, ISC Building Manager (retired)

Justin McDowell, Librarian

Sharleen Mtesa, Neuroscience and Psychology Majors, URSCA Intern

Jackline Peace Nanyonga, Neuroscience Major, URSCA Intern