Students must submit abstracts of their faculty mentored research, scholarly, or creative activity.

Reminder: For group projects, only one abstract and one submission are required.

**Abstract Content**

**What Is an Abstract?**

- An abstract is a single, well-developed paragraph, and should be exact in wording.
- It is a summary of your presentation and your entire project.
- It should have an introduction, body and conclusion.
- It highlights major points of the content and explains why your work is important, what your purpose was, how you went about the project, what you learned, and what you concluded.
- It must be understandable to an interdisciplinary audience.
- It does not include any charts, tables, figures, citations, or other supporting information.

**Abstract Format**

Many abstracts follow a format similar to this:

1. The problem to be investigated.
   One to two sentences that state why the project was undertaken.

2. The purpose of the study.
   One to two sentences that outline the nature of the project and how it differs from other, similar projects.

3. The methods.
   One to two sentences that summarize the important methods used to perform the project.

4. The major results.
   One to two sentences that summarize the major results—not necessarily all the results—of the project.

5. The interpretation.
   One to two sentences that summarize your interpretation of the results.

6. The implications.
   One sentence that summarizes the meaning of your interpretation—what is important about these results.

**Sample Abstracts**

**Dance Abstract**

**Title of the Paper**
Jenny A. DeMuth
Mentor: Dr. Marc Kotz

The definition of syncope is: a brief lapse in conscience caused by a transient cerebral hypoxia (lack of oxygen). Using the theme “brief lapse in consciousness,” this piece focuses on the audience’s perception and the interference in the visual reception. It explores the use of non-traditional light sources to illuminate the body and face. The illumination of the body
creates a dramatic contrast of light vs. dark. The darkness
becomes just as important as the light in the visual field.
Development of this piece involved learning how to control
the visual field with movement and having the dancers
manipulate the audience’s spatial perception. I learned how
this process works by rehearsing in a dark studio with
flashlights. The flashlights can be used to light the whole
body or specific parts of the body. The images of floating body
parts create a magically surreal mood. It is sometimes difficult
for the audience to perceive what is real and what is an
illusion, creating brief lapses with reality or consciousness.
The music adds to the overall atmosphere of the piece because
of its low and calming effect.

Humanities Abstract
Cristina Peri Rossi: The Postmodern Transgressions of Parody
and Ambiguity
Eduardo Ruiz
Mentor: Dr. Lucia Guerra-Cunningham
Uruguayan writer Cristina Peri Rossi’s first book, El libro de
mis primos (The Book of My Cousins, 1969), is compared
with her later novel, La nave de los locos (The Ship of Fools,
1984), to suggest how an authoritarian society can be
criticized through parody and then rebuit on the foundations
of a philosophy of ambiguity, similar to Lyotard’s vision of
the postmodern. Dissatisfaction with the power structures of
tradition and validation of marginality are characteristics of
such vision, which inscribe Peri Rossi in the postmodern
current of Latin-American literature. The postmodern
condition agrees with the major conclusions drawn from both
works. First, tradition is viewed as a decadent state of affairs
that needs to be brushed aside, for it does not respond to
genuine human concerns and, in fact, has frustrated and
destroyed them. Parody is the tool used to dispose of tradition.
Secondly, there has to be an acceptance of the margins, of the
other. This presupposes a tolerant ambiguity of inclusion that
is capable of rebuilding instead of destroying, and does so by
using the very materials of the other. What El Libro destroys
La nave rebuilds. El Libro’s mission is to do away with the
atrophied waste of patriarchal order, while La nave seeks to
fill up the resulting void with one possible solution: the
conciliation of opposing forces by a tolerant philosophy of
inclusion.

Science Abstract
Persistent Global Activation of the Aplysia Serotonergic
System After Sensitizing Stimuli
Kristine Kolkman
Mentor: Dr. Thomas Carew
The marine mollusk Aplysia responds to noxious stimulation
with a stereotyped arousal reaction that includes escape
locomotion, increased heart rate and sensitization of defensive
reflexes. Although previous studies have shown that serotonin
(5-HT) is important for most of these behavioral responses, it
is still unclear how the 5-HT system is activated in response to
noxious stimuli. To address this question, I used a specific
staining of the 5-HT neurons in the living central nervous
system (CNS) that allowed me to (1) systematically record
their electrical activity following a noxious stimulus, and (2)
trace their projections using the neuronal tracer Neurobiotin. I
found that in response to tail-nerve shock, a procedure known
to mimic a noxious tail stimulus, the vast majority of 5-HT
neurons increased their firing rate for several minutes and
became more excitable. 5-HT neurons were found to project
toward various peripheral targets such as the gill, heart, body
wall, tail, siphon, head, and tentacles as well as to other
ganglia in the CNS. This study shows that the Aplysia 5-HT
system is globally and persistently activated after a noxious
stimulus. Such an activation might serve to synchronize the
different aspects of the arousal reaction in Aplysia.

Social Sciences Abstract
Stereotype Threat
Stephanie Domzalski
Mentor: Dr. Geoffrey Iverson
The stereotype threat theory (Steele 1992, 1997) examines the
underperformance of women in mathematical domains and
minorities in academic domains and attempts to explain these
trends as being due to situational anxiety. Research indicates
that the performance differential between genders and
ethnicities can be best understood in terms of stereotype threat
activation rather than biological determinants. The anxiety a
stereotyped individual feels when confronted with an
academic task is compounded by a societal expectation of
failure. However, not much research currently exists on the
mediating effects of personal belief in the stereotype. The goal
of this study was to examine whether anxiety was correlated
with a stronger belief in the stereotype among college-aged
participants. Individuals from stigmatized groups
demonstrated a significantly greater likelihood to experience
higher anxiety levels if they believed the negative stereotype
and that higher anxiety level correlated with lower test scores.
These results provide general support for Steele’s stereotype
threat hypothesis.

Studio Art Abstract
Water Soluble Colorants On Porcelain
Jennifer L. Brant
Mentor: Dr. Charles Olson
In the ceramic work of Scandinavian artist Arne Ase, water-
soluble materials such as titanium sulphate, cobalt chloride,
tungsten oxide, molybdenum chloride, and selenium chloride
are utilized as decorative elements on his porcelain forms.
Such chemicals are not of common use in the ceramic arts
because of the expense of the raw materials and the possible
hazards of working with these chemicals. However, these
colorants can create subtle yet breathtaking effects, including
hues of black, blue, yellow, or pink, that blend with the
surface of the clay, as if the porcelain vessel were a watercolor
painting. It is his research, which I have expanded upon and
integrated into my own ceramic work. Additional colorants
have been tested, including iron sulphate, cobalt sulphate, and
copper sulphate. A different firing atmosphere has been
incorporated in the research, as well as two porcelain bodies,
to expand the palette of colors that can be obtained. The most
successful test results have been applied to my porcelain
forms, which include a wide variety of functional objects, in
order to contribute to my ongoing exploration of personal
expression through the medium of clay.