

Tower Day - April 24, 2026



**TOWER
DAY**



The Tower Day Conference highlights students' and faculty's academic and creative achievements across all disciplines. It provides a space for students and faculty from all majors to come together to present, discuss and network about their innovative research and artistic creations.



[Submit an abstract application](#)



Volunteer to serve



[Tower Day Registration Form](#)

[Schedule](#)

Important Dates

February 10 - Early Submission

February 24 - Abstract Submission Closes

Early Submissions have greater chance of acceptance.

February 10-27 - Review of Applications

March 12 - Notification of Acceptance

April 8 - Registration Deadline

April 6-10 - Presentation Materials

April 24 - Due* Tower Day

Tower Day Schedule

9:00am-3:00pm

CSU Cunningham Center

Available Session Types

Oral Presentation

Poster Presentation

Visual/Performing Arts

Student Film

Mentor-Led Sessions (Internships/Senior Seminars)

Professional Development

Registrations after the deadline of March 19, 2026 is at the discretion of the Tower Day committee. Please be sure to register to solidify the presentation slot.

Tower Day has a registration fee of \$10 for undergraduate students and \$20 for graduate students and faculty. The registration fee is accompanied by some cool swag. All presenters are responsible for printing their posters. Posters can be printed at the Cougar Copy Center for \$60. The cost can be covered by SRACE Travel if the student applies for the grant in time.

For more information, please contact the Tower Day Committee at TowerDay@ColumbusState.edu

Speakers

Tower Day 2026 Keynote Speaker

Matthew R. Perry is a Research Scientist at the Planetary Science Institute. His research involves the interpretation of subsurface radar sounding data specifically as it pertains to the presence of near-surface water ice deposits. He is also involved in numerous NASA-funded research projects aimed at developing high-resolution 3D radargrams from Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter (MRO) Shallow Radar (SHARAD) and Mars Express Mars Advanced Radar for Subsurface and Ionosphere Sounding (MARSIS) observations. He is a Co-Investigator on MRO SHARAD and serves as the System Manager for the Colorado SHARAD Processing System, which is primarily responsible for processing and delivering SHARAD data to the SHARAD Science Team. CO-SHARPS also provides parameterized processing for end-users around the world. He also serves as the System Manager for the MARSTHERM web-application.

Submission Information

Submission Information

The Abstract submission portal opens on **November 11, 2025** and will close on **February 24, 2026**.

[Submission Details and Directions](#)

[Abstract Guidelines \(by Discipline Area\)](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Tower Day?

Columbus State University's Tower Day Research Conference is an annual celebration and showcasing of student and faculty academic and creative endeavors. Participants from all majors present, discuss, and network about research and artistic productions.

Where and when is Tower Day being held?

Tower Day will be held at the Cunningham Conference Center, located at 3100 Gentian Blvd, Columbus, Georgia, on Friday, April 24, 2026.

Who can submit to Tower Day?

Any current student, recent graduate, or faculty member of CSU may submit an abstract to present at Tower Day. The primary requirement for student submissions is that the academic or creative work must have been completed while the individual was enrolled as a CSU student.

What do I need to have ready before I submit an application?

You will need to enter the following information in the online submission form:

Required Information:

- Project Title
- Project Abstract (150-word limit)
- Mode of Presentation (e.g., Poster, 15-minute presentation)
- Equipment needs (e.g., DVD, PowerPoint)
- Full names and academic level of all student collaborators
- Full names and departments of all faculty mentors

Other Information (*the following responses will not impact whether or not your project is selected for Tower Day*):

- If the project originated as a class assignment, you will need the course name and number (e.g., PSYC 4125)
- If the project has been previously presented, published, or received an award, you will need the relevant names, dates, and/or journal citations.
- If the project was funded by a grant, you will need source, type, and amount

Presenters can use this [Tower Day Application Guide](#) to prepare.

How do I submit an abstract to participate in Tower Day?

Abstracts must be submitted using the online form available on the Tower Day webpage. You must be logged in to MyCSU to access the form. Alternatively, you can find the application by logging into your MyCSU account, selecting the "Student" tab, opening the "Student Records" menu, and then choosing "CSU Tower Day Application" under the "Applications" section.

Who/what is a faculty mentor?

If a student is presenting work completed for a class or conducted independent research under the guidance of a faculty, the instructor or the faculty is considered the faculty mentor and should be listed as such on the student's abstract submission. The faculty mentor will then be responsible for reviewing and signing off on the student's submission before it goes forward for committee review.

If multiple faculty mentors have assisted the student, the student should consult with them to determine who will serve as the primary faculty mentor. Typically, this is the faculty member who contributed the most time to the project. All faculty mentors should be acknowledged and formally thanked in the presentation.

Who should be the primary faculty mentor?

The primary faculty mentor will be copied on all correspondence and will be the first mentor listed. If several faculty mentors have assisted you, discuss this issue with them. In general, you should select a faculty mentor in the department the project is predominantly based, and one who devoted the greatest amount of time to the project. All faculty mentors will be recognized and formally thanked.

When are the deadlines for submissions and faculty mentor review of submissions?

Student abstracts must be submitted no later than Monday, February 23, 2026. Early submission deadline is Monday, February 10, 2026.

What are other important dates and scheduling information for Tower Day?

Please see the "2025-2026 Important Dates" flyer under the resources tab.

What types of presentations are acceptable for Tower Day?

In person presentation options will be available to include poster presentations, oral presentations, demonstrations, and art displays or performances. Mentor led sessions are also included and the description of the presentation types can be found under the resource tab.

Should I do a poster or a presentation?

Poster sessions consist of a collection of student projects presented concurrently in a room (in person) with projects from various disciplines. Students present their work on triboards or standard poster boards and spend an hour talking to text-sm groups who circulate throughout the room. This is a great way for students to interact personally with their audience and ideal for those who are hesitant to talk in front of a larger group.

Oral presentations may take the form of 15-minute lectures or performances, often utilizing PowerPoint technology.

Student topics are typically arranged in sessions of 7 presentations and the presentation set is facilitated by a moderator.

If you are not sure whether a poster or a presentation is right for you, follow up with your faculty mentor.

How do I go about buying a poster?

Be sure to consider submitting an application for the [SRACE Travel Grants](#). Application deadline for SRACE grants is typically early in the fall and spring semesters. To purchase a poster (~\$60 and at cost of presenter), you can go through the [Cougar Copy Center](#) located on the ground floor of Davidson Student Center. You can also purchase a poster at a local office supply store.

Is there a dress code for Tower Day?

Presenters are encouraged to be dressed in business casual attire. For more information about professional attire, please refer to the [Center for Career Coaching's website](#).

When will my application be reviewed? When will I know if my abstract has been accepted for Tower Day?

Applications will be reviewed around March 4, 2026, and notice of acceptance will begin being sent to selected/accepted students as of March 12, 2026.

What if I have class during the Tower Day Event?

If you have a class on the day of the event, you can request an excuse letter from the Tower Day committee by emailing [Dr. Kerri Shelton Taylor](#) or [Dr. Bryan Banks](#)

How do I volunteer to be a judge and/or reviewer for Tower Day?

We would love your help as a faculty judge or reviewer! Abstract reviewers will be notified by Kuali. A Microsoft form will be given day of the Tower Day conference. Student volunteers are needed day of for moderator role and check in assistance. Contact [Dr. Kerri Taylor](#) for information on either role.

Is registration required for Tower Day?

Registration is required for all presenters. Each member of an accepted group project who is listed as a presenter must register by the published deadline to secure the group's place in the event schedule. The registration fee is \$10 for undergraduate students and \$20 for graduate students and faculty. Non-presenters are not required to register. Guests of

presenters are asked to register for a fee of \$10 so that we can allow for the proper food during the breakfast and lunch portion of the program.

Is Tower Day only for participants of the event or is it open to the whole university and/or the public?
The event is open to the university and general public.

For more information, please contact:

[Dr. Kerri Shelton Taylor](#) or

[Dr. Bryan Banks](#)

For future updates, please follow our Instagram page:

https://www.instagram.com/csu_towerday/

Resources

[Important Dates](#)

[Instructor Resources](#)

[Mentor Recruitment Handout](#)

[Student Resources](#)

[Previous Winners](#)

2025 Winners

[2025 Tower Day Program](#)

2025 Keynote Speaker

Sam Kean will be our Tower Day keynote speaker. The New York Times bestselling author and science writer is known for his engaging and narrative-driven approach to complex scientific topics. His stories have appeared in The Best American Science and Nature Writing, The New Yorker, The Atlantic, Slate and Psychology Today. [Read more about Sam >>](#)

Undergraduate Poster

1st Place

Julia Wise and Christina Wise

Investigating the Correlation Between Regular Moderate-Flow Menstrual Products Based on Brand and the Levels of Endocrine-Disrupting Chemicals (EDCs)

2nd Place

Ericka King

Is Suicide Among the Elderly Population Warranted or Preventable?

Josh Adams

Investigating the Impact of Roundup Exposure on Hearing in Channel Catfish (*Ictalurus punctatus*)

Undergraduate Oral

1st Place

Collin Miller

Dissolved Heavy Metal Concentrations in the Muscle Tissue of Bluegill (*Lepomis macrochirus*) in the Chattahoochee River Drainage, Columbus, Georgia

Nylah Phillips

Identification of pathogenic bacterial strain of *Aeromonas hydrophilia* isolated from GreenSun Fish (*Lepomis cyanellus*) collected from Weracoba Creek in Columbus GA **2nd Place**

Aleha Korzen

Effects of riparian floral invasive diversity on aqueous chlorophyll a in the tributaries of the Chattahoochee River, Columbus, GA area

Taylor Wicklund

The Relationship Between Heterophil#to#Lymphocyte Ratios and the Reproductive Success of Female Eastern Bluebirds

Kaylan Moudy

Georgia vs. Alabama: How the State's Response to the Dobbs Decision Affect Women's Prisons

Graduate Oral PPT

1st Place

Arpan Bosmia

Exploring New Teachers' Preparedness for Student Behavior Management **2nd Place**

Sarah Braswell

SLO Down, I've Got You in My "SI"ghts: Crafting Supplemental Instruction Outcomes for Student Success **3rd Place**

Gaurob Saha

Optimizing Large Language Models: QLoRA-Based Fine-Tuning for LLaMA 2 Using 4-Bit Quantization

Graduate Poster

1st Place

Lauren Bonicoro and Hollings Manderson

Treatment of Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder Using Inference Based Cognitive Behavioral Therapy