

**Mount Mercy University 2026 Scholarship Festival Schedule**  
**Wednesday, April 29**

**Session 1: Crystalline Porous Materials for Biomedical and Environmental Applications**

8:00 AM – 8:55 AM, University Center 110

Moderator: Joe Nguyen

Presenter: Jada Garrett

Presentation title: “Can novel crystalline, porous materials be used as vessels for drug delivery?”

Presenters: Sean Aschenbrenner, Lauren Garity, Halee Jackson, Elizabeth Mickelson, Hailey Shaw

Presentation title: “Can novel crystalline, porous materials be used to absorb "forever chemicals"?”

**Session 2: “CS/ISS Innovation Pitch Day”**

8:00 AM – 9:30 AM, University Center 220

Moderator: Ritu Shandilya

Presenters: Blessing Olutunde Simeon Jauhiainen Ahmad Ingram:

Presentation: “NBA Predictive Analytics Model”

Presenters: Alen Dizdagic Brandon Reagan Ensar Fejzic

Presentation: “Pharmacy Inventory Management System”

Presenters: Drew Welter Alex Cuende Sanz Lucia Martín Gonzalez

Presentation: “Events Centralized Scheduler System”

Presenters: David Tackett Ayriana Veerhusen Becky Lang

Presentation: “Cedar Rapids Resource Directory”

Presenters: Eric Pecson, Breon Wade, Uros Cukic

Presentation: “Athlete Game Performance Percentile Analysis System”

**Session 3: Literary Analysis of Power and Empathy**

9:00 AM – 9:25 AM, University Center 110

Moderator: Joy Ochs

Presenter: Taylor Wells

Presentation: “The dynamics between power and empathy in Susan Collins’ novel *The Hunger Games*”

**Session 4: Session 4: The Philosophy of Alasdair MacIntyre**

9:30 AM – 9:55 AM, University Center 110

Moderator: Bryan Cross

Presenter: Brian McGrane  
Presentation: “MacIntyrean Insights for Higher Education”

**Session 5: Music Theory Composition**

10:00 AM - 10:55 AM, University Center 110  
Moderator: Jack Frank

Presenter: Nathan Sullivan-Helm  
Presentation: “Winds of Time”

Presenter: Madison Hovancik  
Presentation: “I Wish It Was A Dream”

Presenter: Derek Frimml  
Presentation: “Piano Adventure”

Presenter: Joel Silcox  
Presentation: “The Flight of Icarus”

**Session 6: Adaptor Protein Functionality**

10:00 AM – 10:55 AM, University Center 220  
Moderator: Alesia Hruska

Presenters: Nada Nawwarah Abdul Jalil, Sean Aschenbrenner, Sophia Boborci, Natalia Gallegos, Emily Maeger, Serenity Owens, Lane Spieker, Ivy Tran  
Presentation: “Uncovering functions of SH3PXD2b/TSK4 by confirming its interaction with six different proteins discovered using DEEPN”

**Session 7: Popular Culture in Secondary Education Pedagogy**

11:00 AM – 11:55 AM, University Center 110  
Moderator: Amanda Klinkenberg

Presenter: Joshua Lauer  
Presentation: “Implementing Pop Culture in Social Studies Instruction”

**Session 8: Genetic Markers for Mushroom Toxicity**

11:00 AM – 11:25 AM, University Center 220  
Moderators: Josué D. Santiago-Vera and Alesia Hruska

Presenter: Memphis James  
Presentation: “Tasty or Toxic? Uncovering Mushroom Identity with DNA Barcoding”

**Session 9: Creative Writing from The PAHA Review**

12:00 PM – 12:55 PM, University Center 110  
Moderator: Joy Ochs

Presenters: Keira Carper, Rebecca Heim, Gianna Kittleson, Hayden Umoren, Josue Guerrero, Dylan Hagans

**Session 10: Flute Performance**

1:00 PM – 1:25 PM, Sisters of Mercy University Center Commons

Moderator: Carolyn Sternowski

Presenter: Hailee Huntoon

Presentation: “Celtic Dreams” by Kevin Keil and “Allegro movement from Sonata for Flute” by Leonardo Vinci.

**Session 11: Artificial Intelligence in Education**

1:30 PM – 1:55 PM, University Center 110

Moderator: Robert Todd

Presenter: Samarah Anderson, Ryan Mitchell, Maggie McNally

Presentation: “Artificial Intelligence in Education”

**Session 12: Faculty Panel on *Magnifica Humanitas*: Pope Leo XIV on Artificial Intelligence**

2:00 PM – 2:55 PM, University Center 110

Moderator: Bryan Cross

Panelists: Richard Barrett, Joy Ochs, Joseph Hendryx, Bryan Cross

**Session 13: Artificial Intelligence Coding**

4:00 PM – 4:25 PM, University Center 110

Moderator: Robert Todd

Presenter: Quinn Van Horn

Presentation: “Simulating Ticket to Ride: An adventure in AI Coding”

**Poster Session: Service Learning in Guatemala**

11:00 AM – 1:00 PM, Sisters of Mercy University Center Commons

Moderator: Amanda Klinkenberg

Presenters: Ariana Lopez and Alexis Randal

Presentation: “Guatemala Service Trip”

Presenters: Maggie McCollough and Rita Sourwine

Presentation: “Mount Mercy Service Experience in Guatemala”

Presenters: Sam Schrage and Lily Wuethrich

Presentation: “Guatemala: The Experience”

**Nursing Program Posters**

10:00 AM – 11:50 AM, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Donnelly Center

Project Advisor: Madison Woods, MSN RN