

ATTENTION ALL STUDENTS

The Office for Biomedical Research & Training
MBRS-SCORE*, MARC -U- STAR**, & RISE***



Presents:

Tasting Shapes, Seeing Music, $2 + 7 = \text{Green}$: Exploring the Role of Attention in Synesthesia

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former RISE Scholar

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Synesthesia refers to the involuntary physical experience of cross-sensory associations (Cytowic, 2002). For individuals with *grapheme-color synesthesia*, processing of alphanumeric stimuli (letters and numbers) results in perception of colors, called *concurrents*. One explanation is that concurrents arise from direct cross

activation between cortical language and color processing areas. Whether the binding of color and alphanumeric form that results in concurrents is an automatic or attention-demanding process was examined using an attentional blink (AB) procedure with synesthetes. Results showed that synesthetes automatically see colors when processing alphanumeric stimuli. Many synesthetes also reported tasting shapes, seeing music, and counting in colors (e.g., $2 + 7 = \text{green}$).

Thursday, **October 18**, 2007

4:00 p.m. to 5:30

Commons 206

Refreshments will be provided