KENT STATE UNIVERSITY
GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
ANNUAL REPORT
2016 – 2017
Letter from the Executive Chair
Committee Representation
International Travel Award
Domestic Travel Award
Advocacy Chair Report 2016 - 2017
Philanthropy & New Initiatives Report
Graduate Research Symposium Report
GradFest & Social Media
Graduate Student Senate (GSS) has seen a period of exceptional growth over the last few years, and this year was no exception. I write this letter as out-going Executive Chair with a great sense of accomplishment for what GSS has been able to accomplish. We have made great strides in our goal of assisting the graduate student population at Kent State, and I know that the Senate will continue to enhance their ability to provide for students at Kent.

As usual, we have seen tremendous growth in our Annual Graduate Research Symposium. This year the growth came in the format and structure of the symposium while also having another record year in terms of students presenting research. With the additional support of Research and Sponsored Programs, this year’s Symposium focused on interdisciplinary research. This came in the form of special sessions with awards sponsored by Research and Sponsored Programs. This focus on interdisciplinary research reflects the University’s overall goal of creating and supporting these kinds of research initiatives.

Also through partnership with Research and Sponsored Programs, our Domestic travel Award, which provides support to students travelling and presenting at conferences within the United States, was upgraded to provide $500 in support to each student. This award is usually only funded at a rate of $300 per student, so this upgrade was substantial. The partnership between GSS and Research and Sponsored Programs provided fantastic support to the Graduate Student body at Kent, but it also represents an excellent example of how the University views what GSS and the Graduate Student body can give back to Kent State. GSS will seek to continue this and other similar relationships in order to provide as much support to the graduate student body as possible.

This annual report provides much more detail on the activities and growth of the GSS over this academic year. The goal of this report is to ensure awareness and provide a history of the fantastic work that the Executive Board and all of GSS has accomplished this year.

GSS is in exceptional hands moving forward and I look forwarding to hearing about all of the continued growth over the next few years.

Best,

Fritz Yarrison
Doctoral Student, Sociology
Executive Chair, Graduate Student Senate
2016-2017
The professional responsibilities of an academic can be summarized into three main categories: research, teaching, and service. As Graduate Student Senate (GSS) is the governing body for all graduate students at Kent State University, it represents a service component of graduate training for those individuals who are senators or executive board members. In addition, GSS is charged with providing representation at the university level on a number of committees across Kent State. These positions are wonderful opportunities for professional development in the service aspect of academia. Additionally, the opportunity to participate in committee work at the university level is a privilege. GSS is honored to have committees request graduate student representation.

The Senate voted in Fall 2016 to update the ITA criteria to no longer fund research projects. This change went into effect in Spring 2017.

### INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL AWARD

The GSS International Travel Award (ITA) is a competitive award that offers up to $1,500 for travel outside of the contiguous United States and Canadian provinces and territories not adjacent to the contiguous U.S. The ITA is offered for Fall, Spring, and Summer travel. Full- and part-time graduate students whose departments are in good standing with GSS are eligible for the ITA. The purpose of the award is to promote the professional and academic development of Kent State University’s graduate student population, to support diversity by giving students the opportunity to experience foreign cultures, and to extend Kent State University’s recognition on an international level by providing financial assistance for international professional development, conference presentation, or the equivalency in other fields. Funding supports individuals presenting, performing, or actively participating at professional conferences, competitions, festivals, performance tours, internships, or workshops related to their academic program or specialized interests.

### Update

The Senate voted in Fall 2016 to update the ITA criteria to no longer fund research projects. This change went into effect in Spring 2017.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Total Applications</th>
<th>Funded Applications</th>
<th>Total Awarded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Summer 2016</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>$14,273</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2016</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>$4,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring 2017</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>$4,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer 2017</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>$23,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Number of Students Awarded

35

Amount Awarded Summer 2016 to Summer 2017

$46,273

Countries Visited

16

Awardees

ART
Rachel Davis

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES
Binaya Adhikari

BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES
Jessica Krieger

CHEMISTRY AND BIOCHEMISTRY
Nathan Beals

COMPUTER SCIENCES
Arne Leitert

FOUNDATIONS, LEADERSHIP, AND ADMINISTRATION
Siwei Zheng
Hongyi Xu
Neete Saha

GEOGRAPHY
Savina Sirik
Kathryn Hannum
Xin Hong
Christopher Willer

HEALTH SCIENCES
Yu Lun Tai

JOURNALISM & MASS COMMUNICATION
Daniel Sacha
Kelsey Husnick

LIFESPAN, DEVELOPMENTAL, AND EDUCATIONAL SCIENCES
Grace Murray
Victoria Giegerich

MATHEMATICS
Matthew Alexander

MODERN AND CLASSICAL LANGUAGES
Ashley Gauer
Grace Pilgrim
Sarah Mortland
Alvaro Marin Garcia

MUSIC
Maya Brown
Kevin Wilson
Lydia Snyder

NURSING
Sureeporn Suwannaosod

PHYSICS
Brandon Krouppa

POLITICAL SCIENCE
Yeo Jung Yoon

PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCES
Elizabeth Baker
Haylee DeLuca
Logan Stigall
Eric Rindal

PUBLIC HEALTH
Hilla Sang

TEACHING, LEARNING, AND CURRICULUM
Rashmi Singh
The GSS Domestic Travel Award (DTA) supports research and the professional development of Kent State University graduate students, and is the largest expense in the GSS budget. Students who apply for and receive the award are required to present research (oral, poster, or roundtable) and must travel within the continental United States and Canadian Provinces adjacent to the continental US. Full and part-time graduate students whose departments are in good standing with GSS are eligible to receive one DTA per academic year. The award is disbursed at a flat rate of $300, minus any taxes based on the student’s residency status, after successful completion of the reimbursement packet showing proof of presentation and attendance. The number of awards is contingent on the funds allocated for each semester. If there are more applicants than funds allocated, randomization will be used to select awardees. Finally, funding from other sources to attend conferences will no longer be processed through GSS; students will need to make arrangements for those payments.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Total Applications</th>
<th>Total Awardees</th>
<th>Funded Awardees</th>
<th>Total Awarded</th>
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<tr>
<td>Summer 2016</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>$11,058</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall 2016</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>$48,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring 2017</td>
<td>211</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>$48,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>413</td>
<td>325</td>
<td>313</td>
<td>$149,058</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Students eligible for the award
2 Students who successfully submitted reimbursement packet
3 Total awarded derived from total number of awardees

All graduate students are invited to serve on the review committee for the International Travel Award each semester. This commitment includes reviewing each blinded application based on an established rubric. Upon assessing all applications, the review committee convenes to discuss the applications and ultimately determine which applications receive the International Travel Award. We would like to thank each graduate student who served on the International Travel Award committee this past academic year. We are so appreciative of your time and dedication to this process.
DOMESTIC TRAVEL AWARD

TOTAL APPLICANTS

TOTAL AWARDEES

FUNDED AWARDEES

TOTAL AWARDED

Department Breakdown Of Awards
ADVOCACY CHAIR REPORT 2016 - 2017
ADVOCACY CHAIR – KATE KLONOWSKI

Research Award – Fall 2016
(Budgeted: $22,000; Awarded: $18,760)

FULL FUNDING (8 Projects)
MICHAEL BARANSKI
Psychological Sciences -
Effects of Mindfulness Meditation on Working Memory

MOHAMMED RUMMAN HOSSAIN
Biology -
Characterization of bacterial colonization on microplastics in freshwater

PRAKASH KHAREL
Chemistry -
Synthesis of a novel nucleotide analogue to study the effect of oxidative stress on RNA folding with significant implications on the pathophysiology of neurological disorders

JESSICA KRIEGER
Biomedical Sciences -
Bioreactor Peristaltic Pump Design: An Artificial Heart for Tissue Engineering

GINNY NATALE
Sociology -
The Impact of Chronic Illness on Life Course Decision-Making

NICOLE PERRONE
Anthropology -
A Comparative Study of Cortisol Levels and Parenting Strategies in 3 Lemur Taxa

PARTIAL FUNDING (4 projects, 1 returned award)
LOGAN STIGALL
Psychological Sciences -
Daily Perceptions of Alcohol Use in Romantic Relationships

JOE TOKOSH
Geography -
Shopping Malls: Typologies, Managerial Strategies and Stories from the World of Retail

Research Award – Spring 2017
(Budgeted: $26,000; Awarded: $24,500)

FULL FUNDING (11 Projects)
KHOLOUD ALKHAYER
Biology -
The Role of Hemoglobin in Regulating Mitochondrial Respiration through Histone H3 Methylation

DAVIDA BUEHLER
Curriculum and Instruction -
Science Identity and Experiences Through Geology Professional Development

CHHUNLY CHHAY
Geography -
Cambodian women on the move: Household decision-making to be migrant workers in Malaysia

SOKVISAL KIMSROY
Geography -
The roles of state and non-state actors in climate change governance: Case study of Prek Toal Community Protected Area

ERIN LAWRENCE
English -
Undermined: A Novel

COREY LOWE
Anthropology -
Residue Analysis of Early Woodland Pottery in North Central Ohio

JONATHON OVERTON
Sociology -
Status Contagion: It’s Who You Know

MARK RHODES
Geography -
Memory Work: Constructing Landscapes, Places, and Performances of Welsh National Identity through History

AILESCIA ROBERTO
Biology -
The effects of inorganic pollutants on biofilm community development

JONATHON VAN GRAY
Biology -
Identifying freshwater chloride stress through bacterial biofilm biomonitoring

MENGJIAO WU
Educational Psychology -
Emotion Transfer and Acoustic Features in L2 Acquisition and Language Proficiency

PARTIAL FUNDING (4 projects)
PAIGE BOSICH
Sociology -
The Emotional Labor of Mental Health Professionals

EMMALEIGH GIVENS
Biology -
Testing Cross-habitat impact of invasive plants: Do terrestrial invasive plants alter stream invertebrate communities?

KAELA STUART PARRIGON
Clinical Psychology -
The Role of Attachment in Dynamic Emotion Processes

SHANNAH WITCHERY
Biology -
Mechanisms important to neural regulation of maternal behavior
PHILANTHROPY - II A, HABITAT FOR HUMANITY, KIN
This year, GSS took up collections in the fall for the International Institute of Akron to assist refugees in the area. We also collaborated with Habitat for Humanity in the spring semester. Collections of school and office supplies were taken to Cleveland Kids in Need.

NEW INITIATIVES – GAAP
In response to the expected removal of the health care subsidy for G.A.s that was announced at the beginning of the 2016-2017 academic year (to go into effect in January—it was subsequently tabled indefinitely by the state), GSS created a taskforce (the Graduate Appointee Advocacy Program or GAAP) to take a survey to determine how the loss of health benefits would affect G.A.s. Since we were sending out a survey, it was decided to include questions about stipends and work conditions as well. The survey made it clear that GSS should be vigilant in finding a way to work with Graduate Studies to create an equitable university policy for G.A.s that address the concerns found in the survey and to facilitate efforts to establish consistency. A presentation of the survey’s findings was presented to Graduate Studies in April and it was determined that continued measurement should be the priority of the taskforce. This taskforce will continue indefinitely and will be chaired by the Advocacy Chair of GSS.

GRADUATE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM REPORT
SYMPOSIUM CHAIR – BROOKE LONG
Proudly hosted by the Kent State University Graduate Student Senate, the Graduate Research Symposium is a springtime event that features oral and poster presentations by graduate students from a wide variety of disciplines. Once again, we had roughly 100 faculty and graduate students served as judges for groups of presentations or posters sharing similar themes or representing common areas of study.

This year several new aspects were added to the symposium. First, the schedule of events was extended into the late afternoon with a break for lunch and our keynote address delivered by Dr. Justin Lathia of the Lerner Research Institute and the Cleveland Clinic. The Symposium concluded with the Awards Reception opened by President Beverly Warren where we gave out over 10,000 worth of awards. The extension was established to allow for more oral presentation sessions to provide more time for each presenter and a session devoted entirely to posters.

The second major addition to the Symposium was the establishment of the Interdisciplinary sessions and awards, which was support by Kent State’s Research and Sponsored Programs. These sessions were created to complement the establishment of five research institutes at Kent State. We highlighted interdisciplinary work through special thematic sessions this year. These sessions are organized around the five research institutes: Brain Health, Advanced Materials, Global Understanding, Healthy Communities, and Environmental Science & Design. Overall, these sessions were well-attended and we received excellent feedback regarding the interdisciplinary sessions.

This event would not be possible without the continued support of our faculty and staff here at Kent State, as well as the graduate student population who continuously participates in our annual event in growing numbers to showcase the research and scholarly endeavors of graduate students.

Traditional & Interdisciplinary Session Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Traditional</th>
<th>Interdisciplinary</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oral</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poster</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**2017 Presidents Award Winner**

NASER AL MADI

Computer Sciences

**2017 Winners From the Traditional Poster Session**

**FRANKLIN KROUSE**
Architecture

**KELLY MARKOWSKI**
Sociology

**DANIEL SOCHA**
Communication

**EMMALEIGH GIVEN**
Biological Sciences

**JONATHAN PENVOSE**
Architecture

**BETHANY SCHMIDT**
Biological Sciences

ASHLEY DAVIS
Biomedical Sciences

**FRANKLIN KROUSE**
Architecture

**KELLY MARKOWSKI**
Sociology

**DANIEL SOCHA**
Communication

**EMMALEIGH GIVEN**
Biological Sciences

**JONATHAN PENVOSE**
Architecture

**BETHANY SCHMIDT**
Biological Sciences

ASHLEY DAVIS
Biomedical Sciences

**BRITTANY FOLLOWAY**
Health Sciences

**TYLER SINGER**
Health Sciences

**MONA MATAR**
Mathematics

**LAYLA ALMUTAIRI**
Biomedical Sciences

**ELIZABETH AULINO**
Biological Sciences

BUSHRA ALDOSARI
Lifespan Development & Educational Sciences

CODY RUIZ
Anthropology

DANIELLE JONES
Anthropology

SAMYA AYOTTE
Architecture

THOMAS DELULLO
Architecture

JACOB SAS
Architecture

NASER AL MADI
Computer Sciences

SHANKAR MANDAL
Chemistry & Biochemistry

**2017 Winners From the Interdisciplinary Poster Session**

**HEALTHY COMMUNITIES SESSIONS**

**EZINNE ANABA**
Public Health

**EDWARD CHIYAKA**
Public Health

**BRITAIN WETZEL**
Pediatric Medicine

**ANGELA JUNGLIN**
Psychological Sciences

**LAUREN WOOD**
Psychological Sciences

**RACHEL NOLAN**
Public Health

**ASHLEY KERWOOD**
Architecture

**NINJA RAO**
Health Sciences

**BRIAN RICHARDSON**
Biological Sciences

**BRIAN RICHARDSON**
Biological Sciences

**2017 Winners Of The Oral II Interdisciplinary Sessions**

**HEALTH COMMUNITY SESSIONS**

**AMAL ALHADABI**
Foundations, Leadership & Administration

**DIANA KINGSBURY**
Public Health

**GINNY NATALE**
Sociology

**CARISSA SMOCK**
Public Health

**Brain Health Sessions**

**REBECCA CURRY**
Biomedical Sciences

**OLIVIA HOGUE**
Public Health

**AROSHA DASSANAYKE**
Chemistry & Biochemistry

**LEWIS SHARPNACK**
Physics

**Global Understanding Sessions**

**KATHRYN HANNUM**
Geography

**WILLIAM KELVIN**
Communication

**MAYSATYKGILVOVA FOUNDATION, LEADERSHIP, & ADMINISTRATION**

**NASER AL MADI**
Computer Sciences

**BRIGID CALLAGHAN**
Architecture

**LIPING ZHANG**
Chemistry & Biochemistry

**EDUCATIONAL STUDIES I & II**

**KATHRYN HANNUM**
Geography

**KELSEY PHILLIPS**
Communication Studies

**ANGELIA N. WERNER**
Anthropology

**JASON ADKINS**
Political Science

**JASON CARRUTHERS**
History

**SURANJANA GOSWAMI**
Biological Sciences

**LEAH KERSHNER**
Biological Sciences

**LOLAGUL RAIMBEKOVA**
Teaching, Learning & Curriculum

**SHANNAH WITCHEY**
Biological Sciences

**THOMAS DELULLO**
Architecture

**JACOB SAS**
Architecture

**NASER AL MADI**
Computer Sciences

**SHANKAR MANDAL**
Chemistry & Biochemistry

**2017 Winners From Traditional Oral Sessions I And III**

**CULTURE & IDENTITY I:**

**JASON ADKINS**
Political Science

**JASON CARRUTHERS**
History

**SURANJANA GOSWAMI**
Biological Sciences

**RAHUL BHATTACHARJEE**
Biological Sciences

**JENNIFFER SENSOR**
Biomedical Sciences

**Brain Health Sessions**

**SURANJANA GOSWAMI**
Biological Sciences

**LEAH KERSHNER**
Biological Sciences

**LOLAGUL RAIMBEKOVA**
Teaching, Learning & Curriculum

**JACOB SAS**
Architecture

**NASER AL MADI**
Computer Sciences

**SHANKAR MANDAL**
Chemistry & Biochemistry

**ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE & DESIGN SESSIONS**

**EDWARD CHIYAKA**
Public Health

**BRITAIN WETZEL**
Pediatric Medicine

**ANGELA JUNGLIN**
Psychological Sciences

**LAUREN WOOD**
Psychological Sciences

**RACHEL NOLAN**
Public Health

**ASHLEY KERWOOD**
Architecture

**NINJA RAO**
Health Sciences

**BRIAN RICHARDSON**
Biological Sciences

**BRIAN RICHARDSON**
Biological Sciences

**2017 Winners From the Interdisciplinary Poster Session**

**HEALTHY COMMUNITIES SESSIONS**

**EZINNE ANABA**
Public Health

**EDWARD CHIYAKA**
Public Health

**BRITAIN WETZEL**
Pediatric Medicine

**ANGELA JUNGLIN**
Psychological Sciences

**LAUREN WOOD**
Psychological Sciences

**RACHEL NOLAN**
Public Health

**ASHLEY KERWOOD**
Architecture

**NINJA RAO**
Health Sciences

**BRIAN RICHARDSON**
Biological Sciences

**BRIAN RICHARDSON**
Biological Sciences

**ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE & DESIGN SESSIONS**

**EDWARD CHIYAKA**
Public Health

**BRITAIN WETZEL**
Pediatric Medicine

**ANGELA JUNGLIN**
Psychological Sciences

**LAUREN WOOD**
Psychological Sciences

**RACHEL NOLAN**
Public Health

**ASHLEY KERWOOD**
Architecture

**NINJA RAO**
Health Sciences

**BRIAN RICHARDSON**
Biological Sciences

**BRIAN RICHARDSON**
Biological Sciences

**ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE & DESIGN SESSIONS**

**EDWARD CHIYAKA**
Public Health

**BRITAIN WETZEL**
Pediatric Medicine

**ANGELA JUNGLIN**
Psychological Sciences

**LAUREN WOOD**
Psychological Sciences

**RACHEL NOLAN**
Public Health

**ASHLEY KERWOOD**
Architecture

**NINJA RAO**
Health Sciences

**BRIAN RICHARDSON**
Biological Sciences

**BRIAN RICHARDSON**
Biological Sciences

**ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE & DESIGN SESSIONS**

**EDWARD CHIYAKA**
Public Health

**BRITAIN WETZEL**
Pediatric Medicine

**ANGELA JUNGLIN**
Psychological Sciences

**LAUREN WOOD**
Psychological Sciences

**RACHEL NOLAN**
Public Health

**ASHLEY KERWOOD**
Architecture

**NINJA RAO**
Health Sciences

**BRIAN RICHARDSON**
Biological Sciences

**BRIAN RICHARDSON**
Biological Sciences
GSS hosts monthly social events called GradFest which enable students to have fun and network with other graduate students from across campus. Each GradFest is held in a downtown establishment where GSS provides pizza and a raffle of prizes of Kent State University gear such as mugs, shirts and a coveted large stuffed black squirrel. The seven GradFests held during the 2016-2017 year were hosted at 157 Lounge, Dominick’s, Zephyr Pub, and Kent Lanes Bowling Alley.

To boost communication and foster a more connected social environment, GSS can be found on both Facebook and Twitter. Both social media platforms are used to announce meetings and important deadlines, but also share photographs and exciting news from the Senate, the University, or elsewhere. Twitter was utilized during this year’s Symposium to connect presenters and audience members alike. Furthermore, we encourage all recipients of our awards to tag us on social media as they travel around the country and world for conferences and research.

**GRADFEST AND SOCIAL MEDIA**

**INFORMATION SERVICES CHAIR – ERIK TYLER SMITH**

**TWITTER FOLLOWERS**

- April 2014 - 84
- April 2015 - 180
- April 2016 - 319
- April 2017 - 418

**FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS**

- April 2014 - 377
- April 2015 - 506
- April 2016 - 653
- April 2017 - 716

**FIND US!**

@KSUGSS https://twitter.com/KSUGSS
https://www.facebook.com/KentStateGSS/