KENT STATE UNIVERSITY
GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
ANNUAL REPORT 2017–2018

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As the Graduate Student Senate transitions out of its 40th consecutive year of service, I have the great honor to introduce the fantastic work of the Executive Board and the Senate at large for the 2017-2018 academic year. While continuing to honor the core of our mission to provide research and travel funding to the greatest number of graduate students possible, this year’s Senate also assumed a necessary advocate role at university, state, and national levels.

First, through our continued partnership with Research and Sponsored Programs we were able to increase Domestic Travel Awards from our base rate of $300 to $415 each. Secondly, we instituted a new policy allowing for graduate students to apply for multiple Domestic awards each year. Third, we created an entirely new award, the Special Contingency Award, to handle the many situations that don’t fall neatly into our other award guidelines. And finally, we have begun an intense campaign to raise the presence and prestige of our Research Awards and International Travel Awards.

All 2017 awardees were invited to the Graduate Studies awards banquet where they were honored and I have personally created a database of the 303 known Research Awardees since at least 2007, and the 224 known publications which have resulted directly from Graduate Student Senate funding.

Much more difficult, and a bit new, to the Senate as a whole was dealing with the numerous threats to graduate students this year. Working closely with our partners across Ohio and in the National Association of Graduate and Professional Students (NAGPS), we countered the passing of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act otherwise known as the “Grad Tax.” Furthermore, the Senate signed resolutions protecting Title IX, international visas, and DACA.

As the Senate forges forward into the next academic year, we will continue to support Kent State graduate students to the best of our ability through research, travel, and organizational funding. We will also not ignore both the external and internal impacts on graduate students’ physical, mental, and financial wellbeing.

Best,

Mark Alan Rhodes II
Doctoral Student, Geography
Executive Chair, Graduate Student Senate
2017-2018

2 LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE CHAIR
2017–2018 | GSS ANNUAL REPORT

GRADUATE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM
SENATORS

Anthropology
Kristen Hirter

Applied Engineering, Sustainability, & Technology
Tom Davis

Architecture
Grace Myers

Art
Lindsey James

Biological Sciences
Liz Aulino

Biomedical Sciences
Anjali Krishnan

Business Administration
Matt Lozykowski

Chemistry & Biochemistry
Nick Penman

Communication & Information
Gretchen Weger

Computer Sciences
Amjad Hossain

Digital Science
Bryant Allbrittin

Economics
Arya Rudra

English
Iryna Zhuchenko

Foundations, Leadership & Administration
Kristen Herrick

Geography
Hanieh Molana

Geology
Catherine Ruhm

Health Sciences
Tyler Singer

History
Joe Bean

Lifespan Development & Educational Sciences
Annaleise Lessick

Liquid Crystal Institute
Sasan Shadpour

Mathematics
Nasim Eshghi

Modern & Classical Language Studies
Cierra Sharp

Music
Kevin Wilson

Nursing
Shadi Kanan

Philosophy
Matthew Boone

Physics
Mitch Powers

Political Science
Eli Kaul

Psychological Sciences
Maeson Latsko

Public Health
Robert Hakes

Sociology
Matthew Pfeiffer

Teaching, Learning & Curriculum
Mila Rosa Librea

Theater & Dance
Heather Sinclair
This year, GSS appointed representatives to 16 active committees (and 1 temporarily dormant) throughout the university. The Executive Vice Chair is responsible for the coordination of representation. Once appointments are made, the representatives then attend all committee meetings and report back to the Executive Vice Chair and Senate. This allows for information discussed within each committee to be disseminated to the graduate student body through each Senator. This process provides the most direct and concise method for the distribution of pertinent information to all graduate students at Kent State University, and allows graduate students to be visible in the Kent State University Community.

The Vice Executive Chair’s responsibilities primarily include: 1.) Providing representation at the university level on a number of committees across Kent State and 2.) Administering the selection of International Travel Award (ITA) recipients.

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 Ohio. The ITA is offered for Fall, Spring, and Summer travel. This year, there were three 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 opportuni-ty to experience foreign cultures, and to extend Kent State University’s recognition on an international level. 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.

### INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL AWARD (ITA)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AWARD PERIOD</th>
<th>TOTAL APPLICATIONS</th>
<th>FUNDED APPLICATIONS</th>
<th>TOTAL AWARDED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2017</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>$3,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring/Summer 2018</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>$8,382</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer/Fall 2018</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>$19,156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTALS</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>$31,038</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### COMMITTEE REPRESENTATION

**Vice Executive Chair – Kate Klonowski**

The Vice Executive Chair’s responsibilities primarily include: 1.) Providing representation at the university level on a number of committees across Kent State and 2.) Administering the selection of International Travel Award (ITA) recipients.

This year, GSS appointed representatives to 16 active committees (and 1 temporarily dormant) throughout the university. The Executive Vice Chair is responsible for the coordination of representation. Once appointments are made, the representatives then attend all committee meetings and report back to the Executive Vice Chair and Senate. This allows for information discussed within each committee to be disseminated to the graduate student body through each Senator. This process provides the most direct and concise method for the distribution of pertinent information to all graduate students at Kent State University, and allows graduate students to be visible in the Kent State University Community.

### ACTIVE COMMITTEES WITH GRADUATE STUDENT REPRESENTATION 2017–2018 AY:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMMITTEE NAME</th>
<th>PRIMARY GRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Advisory Committee for Academic Assessment</td>
<td>Loubna Bilali</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee</td>
<td>Timothy Rose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee on Administrative Officers</td>
<td>Mark Rhodes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational Policies Council</td>
<td>Kate Klonowski</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty Senate</td>
<td>Mark Rhodes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intercollegiate Athletics Committee</td>
<td>Lorriane Odhiambo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University Libraries Advisory Committee</td>
<td>Elizabeth Melick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Safety Advisory Committee</td>
<td>Robert Hakes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Health Advisory Committee</td>
<td>Kristen Herrick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Media Board</td>
<td>Jennifer Mani</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation Advisory Committee</td>
<td>Tierra James</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University Diversity Action Council</td>
<td>Kate Klonowski</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Diversity Action Council</td>
<td>Kate Klonowski</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University Teaching Council</td>
<td>Kathryn Hannum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University Accessibility Committee</td>
<td>Nasim Eshghi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s Center Advisory Committee</td>
<td>Amy Kelly</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
AWARDEES

LAUREN BALDARELLI  
Biological Sciences  
Presentation  
Israel  

ANNE NEVEU  
Modern and Classical Languages  
Presentation  
Poland  

IAN FARNKOPF  
Biomedical Sciences  
Presentation  
Canada  

NOLA DALEY  
Psychological Sciences  
Presentation  
Netherlands  

MICHELLE RIVERS  
Psychological Sciences  
Presentation  
Netherlands  

KEVIN SPENCE  
Higher Education Administration  
Presentation  
Mexico  

KAYLA MOREHEAD  
Psychological Sciences  
Presentation  
Netherlands  

LI YU  
Cultural Foundations  
Presentation  
Mexico  

LYDIA SNYDER  
Music  
Workshop  
Germany  

ROSANN GAGE  
English  
Presentation  
England  

MOLLY FULLER-REYNOLDS  
English  
Presentation  
France  

ZEINAB PARSOUZI  
Physics  
Presentation  
Japan  

KEVIN WILSON  
Music  
Workshop  
South Korea  

MARK RHODES  
Geography  
Presentation  
Wales  

MICHELLE BEBBER  
Anthropology  
Presentation  
France  

KRISTEN HIRTER  
Anthropology  
Internship  
Japan  

HEATHER SALVO  
Health Sciences  
Presentation  
Japan  

SOKVISAL KIMSROY  
Geography  
Internship  
Cambodia  

XIN HONG  
Geography  
Presentation  
Turkey  

MIRJETA PASHA  
Mathematics  
Summer School  
Italy  

VICTORIA SANBORN  
Psychological Sciences  
Presentation  
Singapore  

JOHN TUCKER  
Modern and Classical Languages  
Presentation  
Switzerland  

ZEINAB PARSOUZI  
Physics  
Presentation  
Japan  

HEATHER SALVO  
Health Sciences  
Presentation  
Japan  

SOKVISAL KIMSROY  
Geography  
Internship  
Cambodia  

XIN HONG  
Geography  
Presentation  
Turkey  

MICHELLE RIVERS  
Psychological Sciences  
Presentation  
Netherlands  

KEVIN SPENCE  
Higher Education Administration  
Presentation  
Mexico  

LI YU  
Cultural Foundations  
Presentation  
Mexico  

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
Finance Chair – Suparna Navale (prepared by Xin Hong, Finance Chair 2018-19)

The Domestic Travel Award (DTA) is a noncompetitive award that supports academic presentation from Kent State University graduate students. 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. Students can apply the award every semester, but priority will be given to students who have not received a DTA in a previous semester in the same academic year. Additional awards for previously awarded students, will be chosen in a second round of selection, based on availability of funds. 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.

Thanks to the generous support of Research and Sponsored Programs (RASP), the DTA was increased to $415 per awardee for Fall 2017 through Summer 2018.

DOMESTIC TRAVEL AWARD METRICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEMESTER</th>
<th>TOTAL APPLICATIONS</th>
<th>TOTAL AWARDEES1</th>
<th>FUNDED AWARDEES2</th>
<th>TOTAL AWARDED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Summer 2017</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>$23,450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2017</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>$44,067.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring 2018</td>
<td>207</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>$64,408</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer 2018</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>$30,295</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTALS</td>
<td>504</td>
<td>441</td>
<td>390</td>
<td>$162,220.704</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Students eligible for the award.
2 Students who successfully submitted reimbursement packets.
3 The Summer 2017 was not reported in the 2016-17 annual report, so it is added here.
4 It also includes summer 2017. The total awarded for academic year 17-18 is $138,770.70.
SPECIAL CONTINGENCY AWARD

The Special Contingency Award (SCA) is a competitive award that was newly created to offer students funding for active dissemination of one's primary graduate work that does not fall within the purview of the two other GSS travel awards (ITA and DTA). The award started to accept application on Spring 2017. Its application availability and review follow the schedule of GSS general meeting. The award is dependent on student's budget, but must be between $300 and $1,500. Final amount will be determined by GSS senators. Funding will be based on availability of funds and will be first-come, first-served.

Application must be received at least two weeks prior to any GSS meeting. Application will be reviewed by GSS Executive Board as the first-round evaluation, and then selected students will be required to present their case to the senators at the next GSS meeting as the second-round evaluation. Senators will deliberate and vote on the student’s application and budget at the GSS meeting.

SPECIAL CONTINGENCY AWARD METRICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEMESTER</th>
<th>TOTAL APPLICATIONS</th>
<th>TOTAL AWARDEES¹</th>
<th>FUNDED AWARDEES²</th>
<th>TOTAL AWARDED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spring 2018</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>$4,472.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer 2018</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>$300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTALS</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>$4,772.76</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Students eligible for the award. 
2 Students who successfully submitted reimbursement packet.

SPRING 2018 AWARDEES

PUBLIC HEALTH
Sierra Clark

BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES
Emily Plyler

MUSIC
Lydia Snyder

LIFESPAN DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATIONAL SCIENCES
Tracy Arner

PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCES
Jessica Janes

ENGLISH
Jason Smith

LIFESPAN DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATIONAL SCIENCES
Rachael Todaro

MODERN AND CLASSICAL LANGUAGES
Jonathan Tomolonis

SUMMER 2018 AWARDEES

NURSING
Jason Fisher

ENGLISH
Krista White
In the Spring of 2018, a Graduate Student Climate Survey was conducted in coordination with the Graduate student Senate in order to assess various aspects of the lived experiences of graduate students at Kent State University. The survey was administered to the entire population of Kent State University graduate students enrolled during the Spring 2018 semester, including part-time and online-only graduate students. Approximately 870 of 5,617 graduate students completed the survey for a conservative response rate of 15.5%, not including significant partial cases. By the end of the Spring 2018 semester, selected preliminary analyses had been conducted with the Co-P.I. of the study organizing additional data analysis session for the Summer and Fall of 2018. Initial results from the survey found that the median annual stipend of graduate students at Kent State University was $13,000, while the median monthly expenditures of graduate students was $1,450. In addition, preliminary analyses indicated that approximately 26% of respondents lived in a household with an annual income of less than $15,000.

In addition to information pertaining to graduate student economic situations, information pertaining to elements of overall department climates across the university were solicited. In general, graduate students indicated that department climates in general were very positive for graduate students. On a 1-5 scale, where 1 indicated “Not at all” and 5 indicated “Very”, the average score for department climates in terms of respect, inclusiveness, benevolence, and supportive were 4.20, 3.95, 3.82, and 3.94 respectively. Open-ended comments captured throughout the survey indicate that mental health is a common concern among graduate students in general, as well as particular concerns expressed by international students regarding their perceived vulnerability to sanctions if they were to speak out about problems they face at the University. Finally, an interesting finding regarding the demographics of the respondents was that 25% of the graduate student respondents were parents of dependent children, with several open-ended comments indicating that additional support for members of this particular segment of the graduate student population is needed (such as an on-site daycare facility).

In the last year, members of the graduate student body at Kent State University were involved in two very important philanthropic donation drives associated with aiding disadvantaged populations. Students from across the university ultimately parted with more than a dozen boxes of books that were donated to the Books for Prisoners organization, which provides free books and reading materials to incarcerated individuals. These books were assembled in personalized packages and given to prisoners in accordance with the belief of emphasizing “solidarity, not charity.” In addition to donating books to incarcerated individuals, Kent State University graduate students also were involved in a donation drive for the Second Chance organization, which services homeless individuals in the Akron area. In an effort to provide more than the means to survive but also better themselves as individuals, graduate students donated a variety of items to be used in the arts and crafts programs offered by the Second Chance village. In doing so, graduate students provided the opportunity for those members of our society who are in an extremely disadvantaged place in life to continue developing themselves and thereby easing their reintegration into society.
RESEARCH AWARD

This award is offered by the Graduate Student Senate. It is offered twice a year (Fall and Spring) to help offset up to $2000.00 in research related expenses incurred by graduate students. Both full and part-time graduate students who are members of academic units in good standing with the Senate are eligible to receive this award once an academic year, with the award covering expenses for up to a year after the issuing of the award. The Research Award monies can be used on all elements of research related costs (barring items prohibited by Kent State University), but cannot be used on the same project funded by the International Travel Award. All recipients of this award are required to present at the next available Graduate Research Symposium.

IMPROVEMENTS TO THE RESEARCH AWARD PROCESS

- A revised committee evaluation rubric containing more interval-style measurements (1-5 scales).
- An updated Research Award Guideline highlighting the changes to the letter of recommendation submission process and blinding guidelines.
- The creation of a Blinding Guideline to assist with the blinding of the documents submitted as a part of the Research Award, with a particular focus on how to blind Flashline schedules.
- The creation of a submission link for the letter of recommendation (as opposed to directly emailing the Advocacy Chair the letter).
- Various revisions to the application portal including: prohibiting the uploading of files that are not in the correct format; an automatic email sent to the person listed as providing the letter of recommendation for the applicant reminding them of the deadline and where to submit their letter; and automatic confirmation email sent to the applicant when their letter of recommendation has been received.

RESEARCH AWARDS FOR THE FALL 2017 AND SPRING 2018 SEMESTERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEMESTER</th>
<th>TOTAL APPLICATIONS</th>
<th>TOTAL AWARDEES</th>
<th>FUNDED AWARDEES</th>
<th>TOTAL AWARDED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2017</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>$16,656.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring 2018</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>$28,933.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTALS</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>$45,589.53</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FALL 2017 AWARDEES

- BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES
  - Anna Droz
  - Mohammed Rumman
  - Megan Linscott
  - Sohini Bhattacharyya

- CHEMICAL PHYSICS INTERDISCIPLINARY PROGRAM
  - Greta Cukrov

- EXERCISE PHYSIOLOGY
  - Yu Lun Tai

- MS – ECOLOGY/BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES
  - Theresa Wolanin

- TEXTILES
  - Allison Smith

SPRING 2018 AWARDEES

- ANTHROPOLOGY
  - Ashley Rutkoski

- BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES
  - Raissa Marques
  - Mendonca
  - Emma Leigh Given
  - Morgan Chaney
  - Zahra Ghaseemahmad

- CHEMISTRY AND BIOCHEMISTRY
  - Prakash Kharel

- GEOGRAPHY
  - Sokvisal Kimsroy
  - Kathryn Hannum
  - Sandra Bempah
  - Chhunly Chhay

- HIGHER EDUCATION ADMINISTRATION
  - Michael Pfahl

- ARCHITECTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN
  - Brigid Callaghan

- NEOMFA/ ENGLISH
  - Melanie Cook

- PHYSICS
  - Zenab Parsouzi Azad
  - Sharabiani

- SOCIOLOGY
  - Brennan Miller
The Graduate Research Symposium is an event held annually at Kent State University for its graduate students, and hosted by the Graduate Student Senate. This was the 33rd year of the event, and once again, we had hundreds of graduate students and faculty members present, judge, volunteer, or attend the event. The event is funded by the Graduate Student Senate, with additional funding provided by Research and Sponsored Programs.

This was a year of change for the Graduate Research Symposium. In response to the continual growth of the event in the past five years, some aspects of the symposium had to be adapted in order to accommodate the large number of KSU students who wish to participate. The GRS has traditionally been a one-day event held on a Friday, but this year it was expanded to a two-day event, with some of the presentations being given on Thursday and others on Friday. This change allowed all of the poster presentations to be held in the KSC ballroom at the same time, and made it much easier for volunteers to calculate the winners of each session. The symposium also added new types of sessions in an effort to better accommodate the work of students in creative disciplines. Students from Art, Music, Creative Writing, and Theater presented their work in an art exhibit, session of readings, and performances. These new sessions, as well as the shift to a two-day event, were well received by presenters, judges, and attendees.

With the shift to a two-day event, we added a reception on Thursday evening, during which the musicians performed and creative writing students gave readings. Continuing the tradition from previous years, a luncheon was held on Friday, with a keynote address given by Marie Bukowski, the new director of the School of Art. The winners of each session were announced at the luncheon.

The success of the Graduate Research Symposium would be impossible without the contributions of faculty and staff, as well as the participation of KSU graduate students.

### 2018 GRADUATE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM AWARD WINNERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POSTER SESSIONS</th>
<th>CREATIVE SESSIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANTHROPOLOGY</td>
<td>CHEMISTRY AND BIOCHEMISTRY I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cody Ruiz</td>
<td>Srijana Bhandari</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARCHITECTURE II</td>
<td>CHEMISTRY AND BIOCHEMISTRY II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scott Maslar</td>
<td>Arosha Dassanayake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARCHITECTURE IV</td>
<td>TEACHING, LEARNING, AND CURRICULUM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Myers</td>
<td>Abigail Ball</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARCHITECTURE VI</td>
<td>GEOLOGY, GEOGRAPHY, AND MATHEMATICS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caitlyn McCausland</td>
<td>Matthew Stiller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ART, MUSIC, ARCHITECTURE</td>
<td>EXERCISE AND SPORTS SCIENCES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amanda Paniagua</td>
<td>Savannah Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGINEERING, DESIGN, AND TECHNOLOGY</td>
<td>HEALTH AND SPORTS SCIENCES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reem Al Suhaibani</td>
<td>Tyler Singer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES I</td>
<td>PUBLIC HEALTH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emma Given</td>
<td>Junghyae Lee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES II</td>
<td>PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCES I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Barnard</td>
<td>Carli Obeldobel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECOLOGY</td>
<td>PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCES II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alescia Roberto</td>
<td>Lisa Manderino</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES I</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Devashi Mitesh Mehta</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES II</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manasi Agrawal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES III</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rachel Corrigan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
This year, the social-media presence of the GSS grew in multiple measures. We continued to increase our numbers of likes and follows, and our page engagements saw several impressive peaks this year. The most exciting of these occurred in November, 2017 when the GSS social media pages joined the surge of online protest and advocacy around the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. For example, during one week in this month, the posts on our Facebook page reached well over 5,000 people!
Since the beginning of Fall semester, our social media pages have showcased the fine work being published by graduate students on our campus. We have shared 39 separate journal articles by graduate students across a wide array of disciplines. This initiative has become a mainstay of our social media, and we look forward to its continued impact.

Finally, the GSS hosts several social events per semester. These Grad Fests are held on a Friday at one of the several bars in downtown Kent, and free pizza is offered along with the chance to win several free prizes. This year, we continued this great tradition, which allows for some much-needed social time; and we also brought in a professional trivia host, Cody Ruiz (Ph.D. student, Biomedical Sciences), to emcee one of Grad Fest per semester this year.

**Figure 1:** Breakdown of graduate student-authored journal articles shared during Spring, 2018