



GSS

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KENT STATE UNIVERSITY
GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
ANNUAL REPORT

2016 - 2017



KENT STATE UNIVERSITY GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE ANNUAL REPORT 2016-2017

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Center for Student Involvement
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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 forward 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



COMMITTEE REPRESENTATION

VICE EXECUTIVE CHAIR - MARK RHODES

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.

This is a testament to the quality of feedback and perspective graduate students provide while serving on committees.

This year, GSS appointed representatives to thirteen active committees 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.

ACTIVE COMMITTEES WITH GRADUATE STUDENT REPRESENTATION

COMMITTEE NAME	PRIMARY GRADUATE STUDENT COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE
Advisory Committee for Academic Assessment	Loubna Bilali
College of Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee	Timothy Rose
Educational Policies Committee	Suparna Navale
Faculty Senate	Kathryn Klonowski
Intercollegiate Athletics Committee	Lorriane Odhiambo
University Libraries Advisory Committee	Elizabeth Melick
Public Safety Advisory Committee	Prithviraj Nandigrami
Student Health Advisory Committee	Prithviraj Nandigrami
Student Media Board	Kristen Traynor
Transportation Advisory Committee	Tierra James
University Diversity Action Council	Rusty Schnellinger
University Teaching Council	Kathryn Hannum
University Accessibility Committee	Ashley Johnson

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.

Semester	Total Applications	Funded Applications	Total Awarded
Summer 2016	29	11	\$14,273
Fall 2016	13	5	\$4,500
Spring 2017	13	3	\$4,500
Summer 2017	25	16	\$23,000

Statistics

Number of Students Awarded

35

- Utrecht, Netherlands
- Utrecht, Netherlands
- Utrecht, Netherlands
- London, United Kingdom
- Sheffield, United Kingdom
- Glasgow, United Kingdom
- Glasgow, United Kingdom
- Aarhus, Denmark
- Vienna, Austria
- Hamburg, Germany
- Munich, Germany
- Ljubljana, Slovenia
- Honolulu, Hawaii, USA
- Puebla, Mexico
- Sydney, Australia
- Phnom Penh, Cambodia
- Phnom Penh, Cambodia
- Phnom Penh, Cambodia
- Bangkok, Thailand
- Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
- Hong Kong, China
- Beijing, China
- Hunan, China
- Tokyo, Japan
- Tokyo, Japan
- Tokyo, Japan
- Tokyo, Japan
- Tokyo, Japan
- Tokyo, Japan
- Accra, Ghana
- Accra, Ghana
- Cape Town, South Africa

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 Socha
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 Kroupa

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

Committee Members

ANTHROPOLOGY

Morgan Chaney
 Angelia Werner
 Nicole Perrone

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Shannah Witchey

CHEMISTRY AND BIOCHEMISTRY

Prakash Kharel
 Sumirtha Balaratnam
 Morgan Stilgenbauer
 Nicholas Penman

ENGLISH

Elizabeth Melick

FOUNDATIONS, LEADERSHIP, AND ADMINISTRATION

DeAnn Zalom-Novak
 Klonowski, Kathryn
 Ilfa Zhulamanova
 Courtney Wade
 Mayagul Satlykgylyjova

GEOGRAPHY

Hanieh Haji Molana
 Christopher Willer
 Joseph Tokosh

GEOLOGY

Sarah Morrison

HISTORY

Stephanie Vincent

JOURNALISM AND MASS COMMUNICATIONS

Carrie Winters

MODERN AND CLASSICAL LANGUAGE STUDIES

Zelda Bravo
 Carine Graff

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Yeo Jung Yoon
 Mehdi Ghayoumi

PSYCHOLOGY

Rachel Haupt

TEACHING LEARNING CURRICULUM

Mila Rosa Librea

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

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.

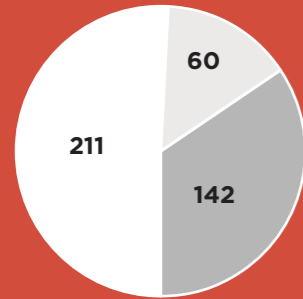
Semester	Total Applications	Total Awardees ¹	Funded Awardees ²	Total Awarded
Summer 2016	60	41	37	\$11,058
Fall 2016	142	105	97	\$48,500
Spring 2017	211	179	179	\$48,500 ³
Total	413	325	313	\$149,058

¹ Students eligible for the award

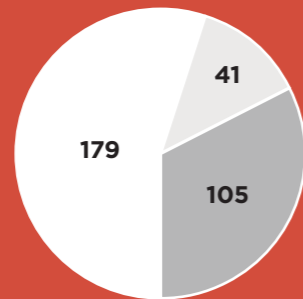
² Students who successfully submitted reimbursement packet

³ Total awarded derived from total number of awardees

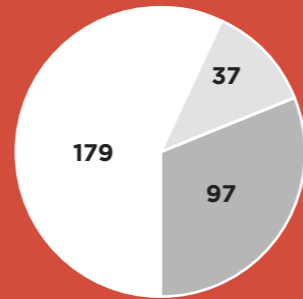
TOTAL APPLICANTS



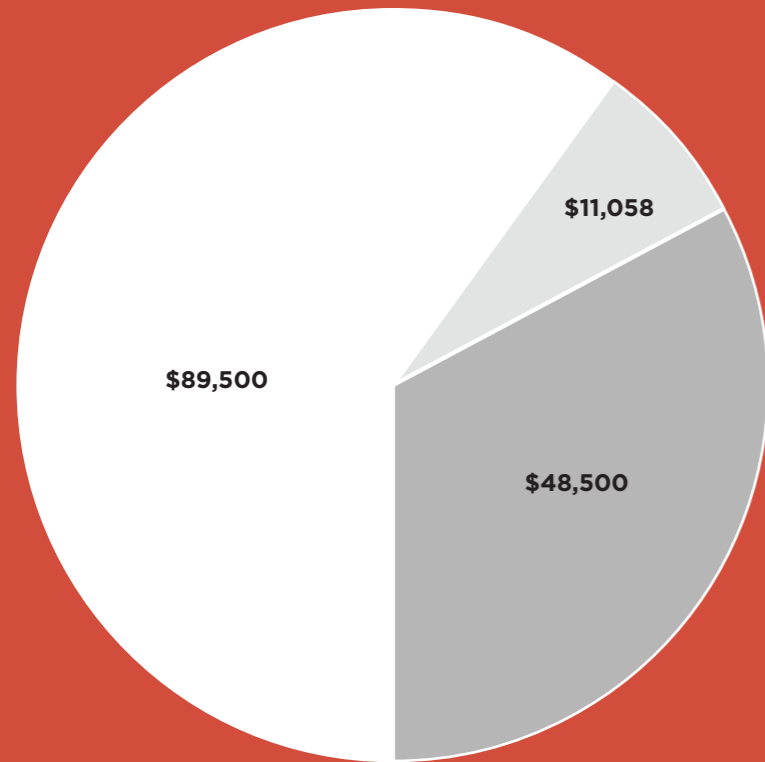
TOTAL AWARDEES



FUNDED AWARDEES

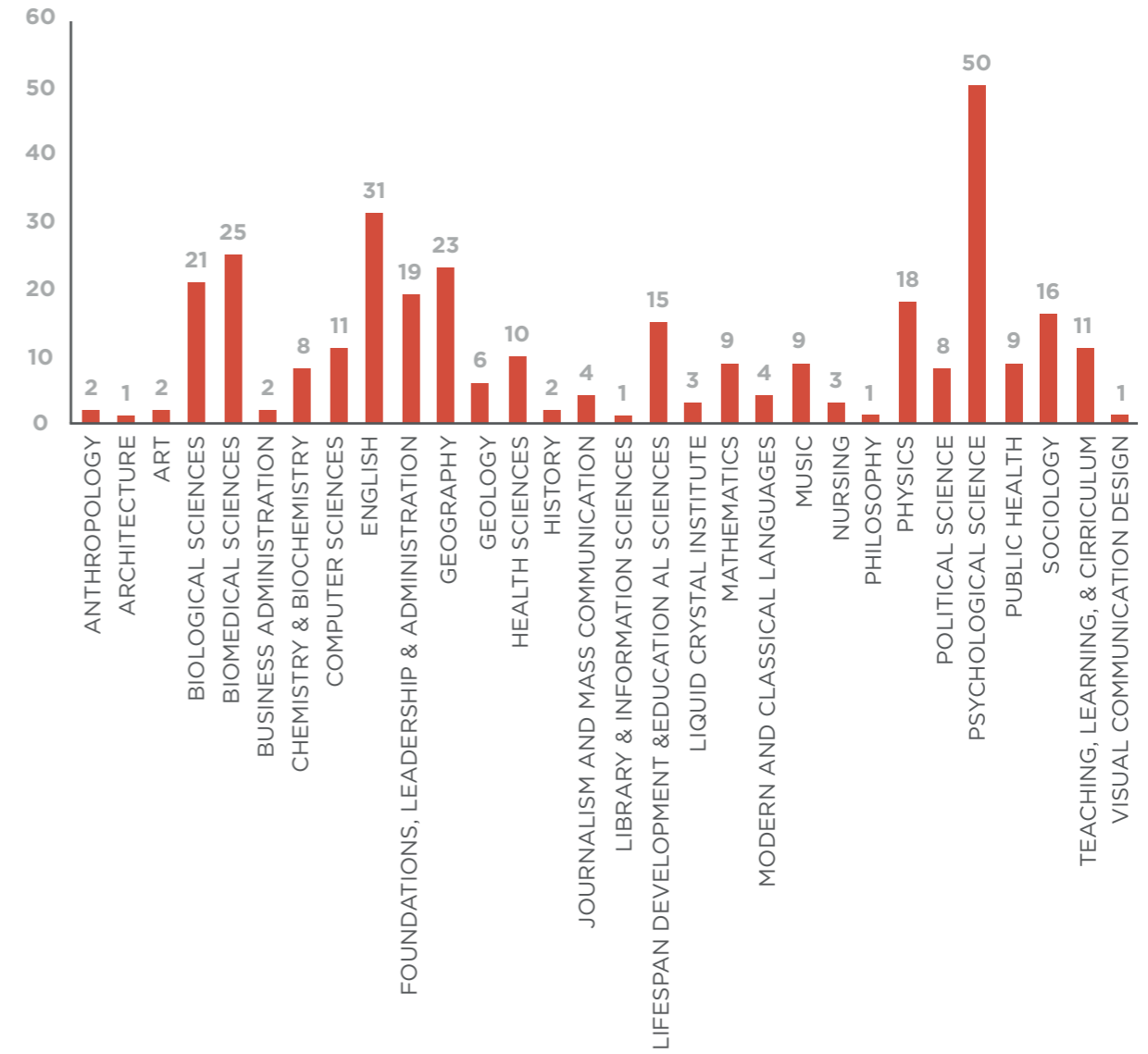


TOTAL AWARDED



- SUMMER 2016
- FALL 2016
- SPRING 2017

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

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

PARTIAL FUNDING

(4 projects, 1 returned award)

JASON ADKINS

Political Science -
Politics from the Pulpit: A Critical Test
of Elite Cues on American Politics

WILLIAM KELVIN

Communication and Information -
Shen Yun: Public Relations Disguised
as Cultural Education

KARIN NYLOCKS

Clinical Psychology -
Transition to College Study

AMANDA PENKO

Exercise Physiology -
The effects of dual-task training
on physical activity in individuals
with Parkinson's disease

**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

JONATHAN 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

ALESCIA 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 GIVEN

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 WITCHEY

Biology -
Mechanisms important to neural regulation
of maternal behavior

PHILANTHROPY – IIA, 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

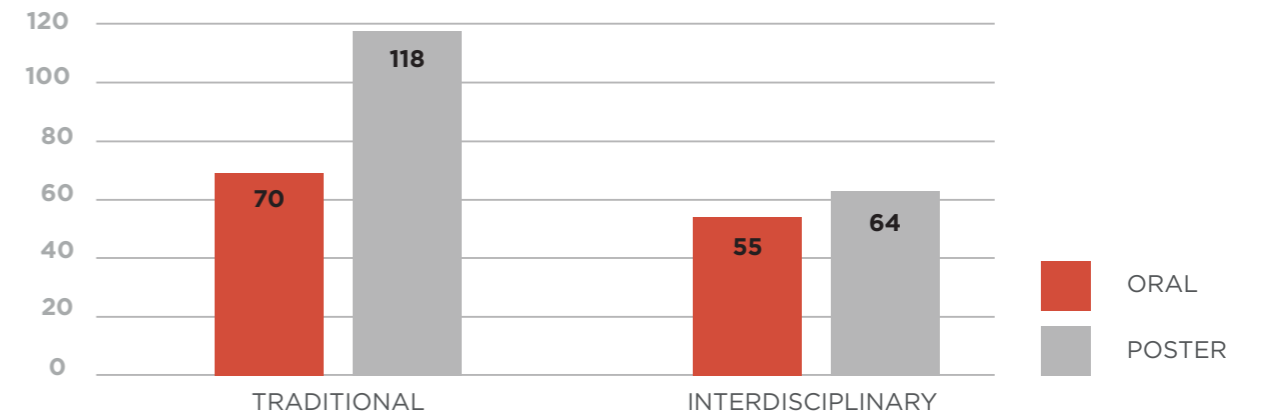
Proudly hosted by the Kent State University Graduate Student Senate, the Graduate Research Symposium is a springtime event that features oral and poster presentations by graduate students from a wide variety of disciplines. Once again, we had roughly 100 faculty and graduate students served as judges 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



2017 President's Award Winner

NASER AL MADI
Computer Sciences

2017 Winners From The Traditional Poster Session

FRANKLIN KROUSE
Architecture

BRITTANY FOLLOWAY
Health Sciences

CODY RUIZ
Anthropology

BUSHRA ALDOSARI
Lifespan Development
& Educational Sciences

KELLY MARKOWSKI
Sociology

TYLER SINGER
Health Sciences

DANIELLE JONES
Anthropology

SARAH FAUL
Lifespan Development
& Educational Sciences

DANIEL SOCHA
Communication

JON STAVRES
Health Sciences

SAMANTHA AYOTTE
Architecture

JENNIFER MANTHEY
Lifespan Development
& Educational Sciences

EMMALEIGH GIVEN
Biological Sciences

MONA MATAR
Mathematics

THOMAS DELULLO
Architecture

JONATHAN PENVOSE
Architecture

LAYLA ALMUTAIRI
Biomedical Sciences

JACOB SAS
Architecture

NASER AL MADI
Computer Sciences

BETHANY SCHMIDT
Biological Sciences

ELIZABETH AULINO
Biological Sciences

SAMANTHA SHRESTHA
Architecture

SHANKAR MANDAL
Chemistry & Biochemistry

ASHLEY DAVIS
Biomedical Sciences

2017 Winners From The Interdisciplinary Poster Session

Healthy Communities Sessions

EZINNE ANABA
Public Health

EDWARD CHIYAKA
Public Health

BRITAIN WETZEL
Podiatric Medicine

ANGELA JUNGLEN
Psychological Sciences

Global Understanding Sessions

LAUREN WOOD
Psychological Sciences

RACHEL NOLAN
Public Health

Advanced Materials Session

NILIN RAO
Health Sciences

Environmental Science & Design Sessions

XIN HONG
Geography

EMILY APPELBAUM
Architecture

ASHLEY KERWOOD
Architecture

BREE RICHARDSON
Biological Sciences

BRIANNE YARGER

Brain Health Sessions

SABINA BHATTA
Biomedical Sciences

LEAH KERSHNER
Biological Sciences

LOLAGUL RAIMBEKOVA
Teaching, Learning
& Curriculum

SHANNAH WITCHEY
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

Advanced Materials Sessions

AROSHA DASSANAYKE
Chemistry & Biochemistry

LEWIS SHARPNACK
Physics

Global Understanding Sessions

KATHRYN HANNUM
Geography

WILLIAM KELVIN
Communication

MAYA SATLYKGYLYJOVA
Foundation, Leadership,
& Administration

Environmental Science & Design Sessions

SANDRA BEMPAH
Public Health

BRIGID CALLAGHAN
Architecture

LIPING ZHANG
Chemistry & Biochemistry

2017 Winners From Traditional Oral Sessions I And III

Culture & Identity I:

JASON ADKINS
Political Science

Culture & Identity II:

JASON CARRUTHERS
History

Biology & Health I:

SURANJANA GOSWAMI
Biological Sciences

Biology & Health II:

RAHUL BHATTACHARJEE
Biological Sciences

Environmental Research I:

JENNIFER SENSOR
Biomedical Sciences

Environmental Research II:

ANJALI KRISHNAN
Biological Sciences

Health & Exercise I:

YU LUN TAI
Health Sciences

Math & Physics I:

ANTHONY HARRISON
Mathematics

Psychology & Cognition:

RACHEL DEFRANCO
Psychological Sciences

Educational Studies I:

**DR. NATASHA H
CHENOWITH**

Educational Studies II:

KELSEY PHILLIPS
Communication Studies

Technology:

NASER AL MADI
Computer Sciences.

Culture & Identity III:

ANGELIA N. WERNER
Anthropology

Biology & Health III:

NAZAR J. HUSSEIN
Biomedical Sciences

Environmental Research III:

THERESA WOLANIN
Biological Sciences

Math & Physics II:

**SERGII
MYROSHNYCHENKO,**
Mathematics

Educational Studies III:

KATHERINE AUSTIN

Work, Business, & Politics:

CHRISTIANA PERRY
Business Administration

GRADFEST AND SOCIAL MEDIA

INFORMATION SERVICES CHAIR - ERIK TYLER SMITH

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.

FIND US!

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

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**

