

The logo consists of the letters 'GSS' in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The second 'S' is stylized to include a white silhouette of a graduation cap (mortarboard) on its right side.

— *est. 1977* —

KENT STATE UNIVERSITY
GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
ANNUAL REPORT

2017 - 2018

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



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

EXECUTIVE BOARD



EXECUTIVE CHAIR
Mark Rhodes
Doctoral Student Geography



VICE-EXECUTIVE CHAIR
Kathryn Klonowski
Doctoral Student Cultural
Foundation



SYMPOSIUM CHAIR
Elizabeth Melick
Doctoral Student English



**INFORMATION
SERVICES CHAIR**
Morgan Chaney
Doctoral Student Biomedical
Science



FINANCE CHAIR
Suparna Navale
Doctoral Student Public Health



ADVOCACY CHAIR
Timothy Rose
Doctoral Student Sociology



**ADMINISTRATIVE
SERVICES CHAIR**
Yeo Jung Yoon
Doctoral Student Political Science



ADVISOR
Dr. Melody Tankersley
Senior Associate Provost and
Dean of Graduate Studies

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:

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

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL AWARD (ITA)

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.

AWARD PERIOD	TOTAL APPLICATIONS	FUNDED APPLICATIONS	TOTAL AWARDED
Fall 2017	5	3	\$ 3,500
Spring/Summer 2018	15	6	\$ 8,382
Summer/Fall 2018	26	14	\$ 19,156
TOTALS	46	23	\$ 31,038

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

ZACHARY HUMPHRIES

Journalism and Mass Communication
Presentation
Czech Republic

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.

GRADUATE/UNDERGRADUATE MENTORSHIP (GUM)

This year, GSS began a new initiative with Research and Sponsored Programs (RASP) to create workshops for undergraduates, as well as an ongoing mentorship program for undergraduates interested in learning about research. Several graduate students have

already volunteered to be panelists, presenters, and mentors for the undergraduate researchers. GSS will continue to collaborate with RASP to strengthen this programming effort.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GRADUATE-PROFESSIONAL STUDENTS (NAGPS)

In the summer of 2017, Kate Klonowski attended the NAGPS Leadership Summit and became the Outreach Director for the Midwest.

In the fall of 2017, Mark Rhodes attended the National NAGPS Convention and presented on Kent State GSS's advocacy tactics.

In the fall of 2017, GSS sent Kate Klonowski and Betsy Melick to participate in the Fall Advocacy Summit and Legislative Action Days in Washington, D.C. during that time, they met with the offices of Senators Brown and Portman, and Reps. Renacci and Ryan. In the spring of 2018, GSS sent Kate Klonowski, Shadi Kanan, Carolyn Good and Robert Hakes to Washington D.C. for the Spring Advocacy Summit and Legislative Action Days. They joined forces with the graduate student organization of Ohio University and met with the offices of the above listed legislators again, as well as Reps. Stivers & Gibbs. The delegates discussed the following issues: The PROSPER Act, DACA, The Higher Education

Reform Act, Campus Safety, Research Paywalls, Funding Student Research, and many others. Our advocacy efforts appear to have been well-received by our Ohio legislators, and we plan to continue our visits to D.C. as well as writing letters and reaching out to our elected officials to solicit their support for graduate students everywhere.

In the spring of 2018, Kent State hosted the 2018 NAGPS Midwest Regional Conference at the Conference Center and Hotel in Downtown Kent. It was attended by delegations from 5 universities including Ohio University, Western Michigan University, Purdue University, University of Kentucky, and Kent State University. The Ohio State delegation had a last-minute change of plans. During this conference, three Kent State graduate students were elected to the Midwest NAGPS board: Suparna Navale, Vice Chair; Kathryn Hannum, Outreach Director; and Ashley Hartlaub, Communications Director.

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.

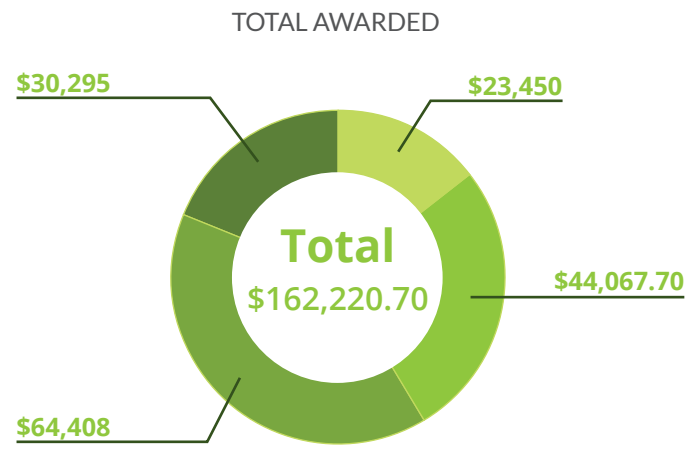
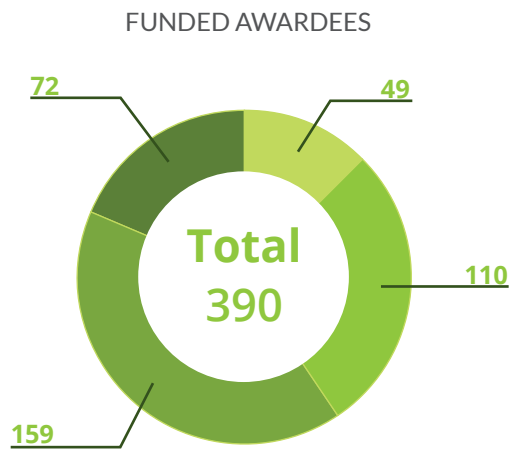
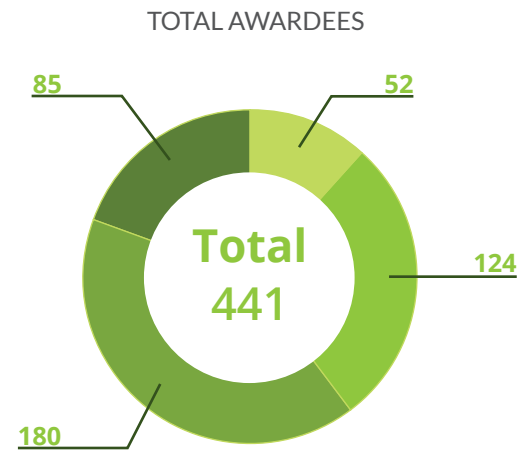
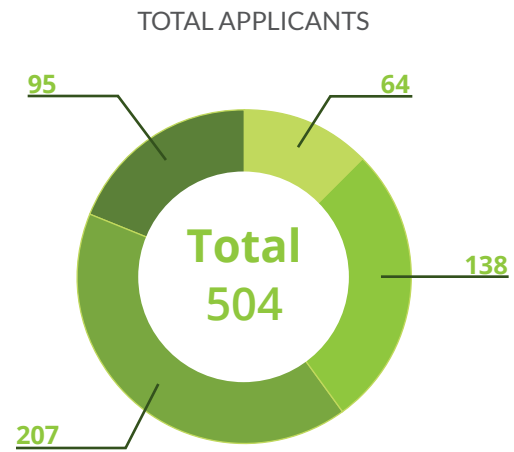
DOMESTIC TRAVEL AWARD METRICS

SEMESTER	TOTAL APPLICATIONS	TOTAL AWARDEES ¹	FUNDED AWARDEES ²	TOTAL AWARDED
Summer 2017 ³	64	52	49	\$ 23,450
Fall 2017	138	124	110	\$ 44,067.70
Spring 2018	207	180	159	\$ 64,408
Summer 2018	95	85	72	\$ 30,295
TOTALS	504	441	390	\$ 162,220.70⁴

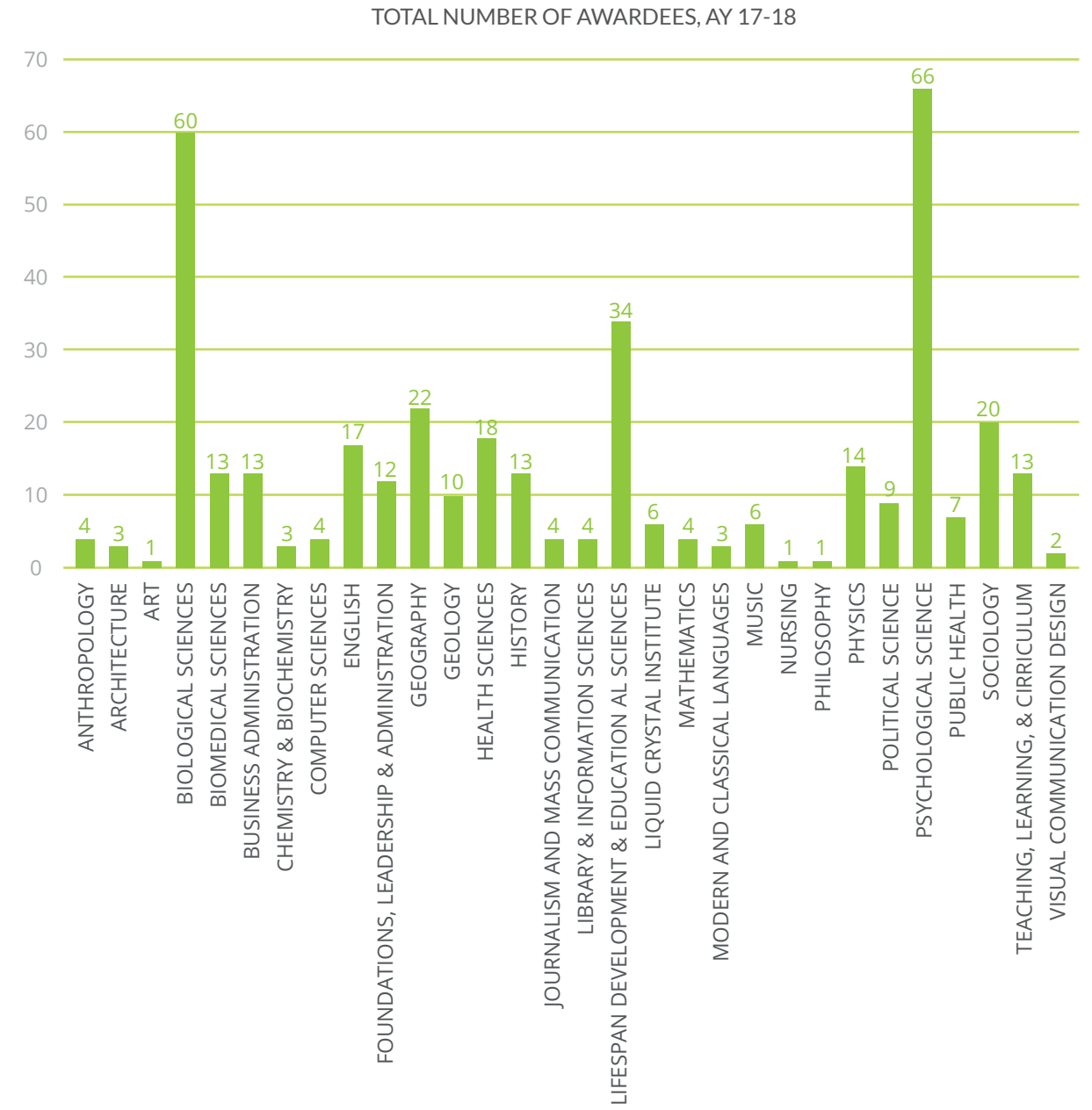
1 Students eligible for the award.
2 Students who successfully submitted reimbursement packet.
3 The Summer 2017 was not reported in the 2016-17 annual report, so it is added here.
4 It also includes summer 2017. The total awarded for academic year 17-18 is \$138,770.70.

DOMESTIC TRAVEL AWARD CHARTS

■ Summer 2017
 ■ Fall 2017
 ■ Spring 2018
 ■ Summer 2018



DEPARTMENT BREAKDOWN OF AWARDS



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

SEMESTER	TOTAL APPLICATIONS	TOTAL AWARDEES ¹	FUNDED AWARDEES ²	TOTAL AWARDED
Spring 2018	14	8	8	\$ 4,472.76
Summer 2018	4	2	1	\$ 300
TOTALS	18	10	9	\$ 4772.76

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

GRADUATE STUDENT CLIMATE SURVEY

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 grad-

uate 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).

MEDIAN ANNUAL STIPEND

\$13,000

1 IN 4 GRADUATE STUDENTS HAVE CHILDREN



PHILANTHROPIC ACTIVITIES

Advocacy Chair – Timothy Rose

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 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

SEMESTER	TOTAL APPLICATIONS	TOTAL AWARDEES	FUNDED AWARDEES	TOTAL AWARDED
Fall 2017	59	22	9	\$ 16,656.53
Spring 2018	29	22	15	\$ 28,933.00
TOTALS	88	44	24	\$ 45,589.53

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 Ghasemahmad

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

Zeinab Parsouzi Azad
Sharabiani

SOCIOLOGY

Brennan Miller

GRADUATE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

Symposium Chair – Elizabeth Melick

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

POSTER SESSIONS

ANTHROPOLOGY

Cody Ruiz

ARCHITECTURE II

Scott Maslar

ARCHITECTURE IV

Mary Myers

ARCHITECTURE VI

Caitlyn McCausland

ART, MUSIC, ARCHITECTURE

Amanda Paniagua

ENGINEERING, DESIGN, AND TECHNOLOGY

Reem Al Suhaibani

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES I

Emma Given

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES II

David Barnard

ECOLOGY

Alescia Roberto

BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES I

Devashi Mitesh Mehta

BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES II

Manasi Agrawal

BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES III

Rachel Corrigan

CHEMISTRY AND BIOCHEMISTRY I

Srijana Bhandari

CHEMISTRY AND BIOCHEMISTRY II

Arosha Dassanayake

TEACHING, LEARNING, AND CURRICULUM

Abigail Ball

GEOLOGY, GEOGRAPHY, AND MATHEMATICS

Matthew Stiller

EXERCISE AND SPORTS SCIENCES

Savannah Hall

HEALTH AND SPORTS SCIENCES

Tyler Singer

PUBLIC HEALTH

Junghyae Lee

PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCES I

Carli Obeldobel

PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCES II

Lisa Manderino

CREATIVE SESSIONS

ART

Allison Smith

MUSIC

Efferus String Quartet

*Irene Guerra,
Maria Florez,
Paula Castañeda,
Cristian Diaz*

CREATIVE WRITING

Molly Fuller

THEATER

Jess Tanner

ORAL SESSIONS

ARCHITECTURE

Jessica Schultz

ANTHROPOLOGY

Garrett Blauch

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES I

Kevin Budge

FINE ARTS AND COMMUNICATION

Alescia Roberto

TEACHING AND LEARNING I

Tracy Arner
Rachael Todaro

PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Haylee DeLuca

ENGLISH IN CONTACT WITH OTHER LANGUAGES

Antonina Pakholkova-
Mohamed

CHEMISTRY AND BIOCHEMISTRY I

Srijana Bhandari

CHEMISTRY AND BIOCHEMISTRY II

Aroscha Dassanayake

PHYSICS

Zeinab Parsouzi

COMPUTER SCIENCE, ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS

Basma Alqadi

GEOGRAPHY

Sokinsal Kimsroy

STUDIES IN JAPAN AND CHINA, JAPANESE AND CHINESE

Josiah Murphy
Clara Fodera

PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCES II

Kayla Morehead

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES II

Sohini Dutta

TEACHING AND LEARNING II

Jennifer Lowers

SOCIAL MEDIA AND GRADFEST

Information Services Chair – Morgan Chaney

YEAR	TWITTER FOLLOWS	FACEBOOK LIKES
2016	319	662
2017	418	716
2018	496	752

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!

SHARED GRADUATE STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

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.

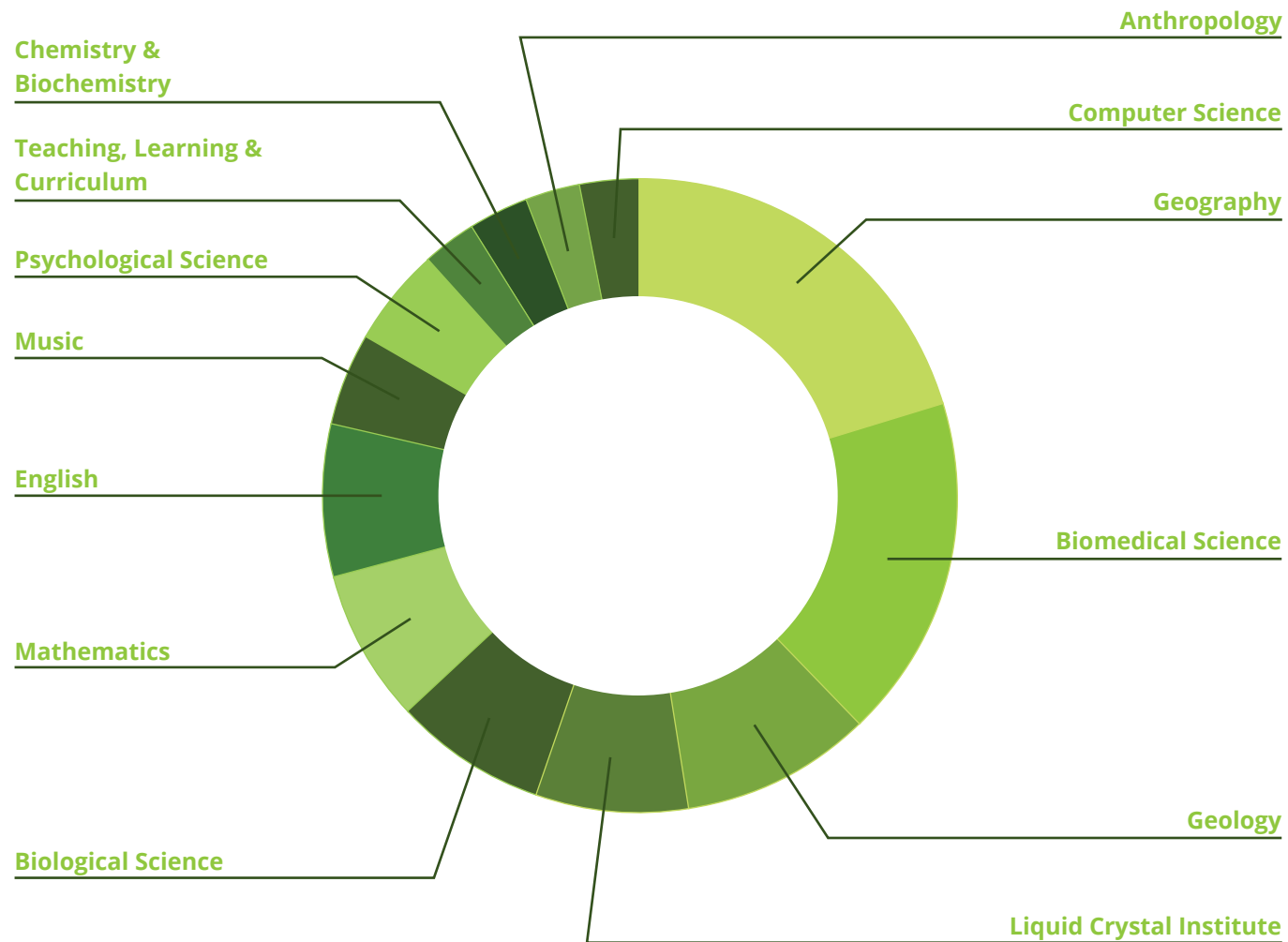


Figure 1: Breakdown of graduate student-authored journal articles shared during Spring, 2018