



**GSS**

— est. 1977 —

**KENT STATE UNIVERSITY**  
GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2018 – 2019



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— *est. 1977* —

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## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE CHAIR

After a six-year tenure in the Graduate Student Senate, as Geography Senator, Information Services Chair, Vice-Executive Chair, Acting Executive Chair, and Executive Chair, I believe the Senate as a whole is in its best position in its history. Thanks to a combined effort of the Executive Board and the labor of the Senate at large, we oversaw a combined budget of over \$520,000 for the 2018-2019 academic year. Providing \$396,000 of this in direct support of graduate student organizations, travel, research, and presentation across 583 grad students stands as a testament to the core mission of the Graduate Student Senate.

This support would not have been possible without the combined commitment of President Beverly Warren, Vice President for Research Paul DiCorletto, and Provost Todd Diacon, whose combined contributions to the Senate total \$171,000 this past academic year. These commitments to graduate students and research-at-large at Kent State signal the beginning of what will hopefully be a meaningful and substantial shift in the lives of graduate students at Kent State. These awards allow for increased exposure of Kent State research, greater chances of graduate student publication, and seed moneys for national and international grants.

While these funds bring about significant change in the lives of everyday graduate students, they in no way begin to correct the malfeasance of colleges and departments across campus who pay their graduate assistants far below a livable or poverty wage. Some departments are paying graduate students well below \$10,000 annually, and in some cases those students teach more than one course a semester. These actions fall far below the moral and ethical standards to which Kent State should hold itself. Going forward, it will be

the responsibly of the Graduate Student Senate and any individual or unit on campus which purports to put Students First to hold those units exploiting graduate student labor to a higher moral standard.

Following a year in which grads across the country faced threats of taxation, deportation, and an increasing hostile national climate across the arts and sciences, Kent State graduate student continue to come together in a community of research. From the 34th Annual Graduate Research Symposium, Our Communities of Research, to a presence on the boards of the National Association of Graduate and Professional Students, to an online climate of sharing, the diverse and creative works of our students this year have pushed back against these broader trends. With stronger connections across graduate leadership in Ohio and Kent State's administration and an incoming Executive Board and advisorship exclusively (spare one) of the best and brightest women leadership on campus, the Graduate Student Senate has only began creating an atmosphere of financial, cultural, and political respect for all Kent State graduate students.

**Best,**



Doctoral Student, Geography  
Executive Chair, Graduate Student Senate  
2018-2019





# SENATORS

---

## **Anthropology**

Kristen Hirter

## **Applied Engineering, Sustainability, & Technology**

Surejya Prakash Gowda

## **Architecture**

Grace Myers

## **Art**

Alysia Klein

## **Biological Sciences**

Liz Aulino

## **Biomedical Sciences**

Anjali Krishnan

## **Business Administration**

Matt Lozykowski

## **Chemistry & Biochemistry**

Srijana Bhandari

## **Communication & Information**

Nahla Bendefaa

## **Computer Sciences**

Amjad Hossain

## **Digital Science**

Jianfeng Zhu

## **Economics**

Eden Lau

## **English**

Antonio Giorgi

## **Foundations, Leadership & Administration**

Lauren Lesser

## **Geography**

Hanieh Molana

## **Geology**

Catherine Ruhm

## **Health Sciences**

Tyler Singer

## **History**

Joe Bean

## **Lifespan Development & Educational Sciences**

Annaleise Lessick

## **Liquid Crystal Institute**

Runa Koizumi

## **Mathematics**

Nasim Eshghi

## **Modern & Classical Language Studies**

Bibiane Ogue

## **Music**

Kevin Wilson

## **Nursing**

Shadi Kanan

## **Philosophy**

Matthew Boone

## **Physics**

Zeinab Parsouzi

## **Political Science**

Megan Odell-Scott

## **Psychological Sciences**

Kayla Morehead

## **Public Health**

Joud Roufael

## **Sociology**

Bengt George

## **Teaching, Learning & Curriculum**

Ilfa Zhulamanova

## **Theater & Dance**

Patrick Ulrich

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

### **Executive Chair**



**Mark Rhodes**  
Doctoral Student Geography

### **Vice-Executive Chair**



**Timothy Rose**  
Doctoral Student Sociology

### **Finance Chair**



**Xin Hong**  
Doctoral Student Geography

### **Advocacy Chair**



**Mitchell Powers**  
Doctoral Student Physics



**Symposium Chair**



**Danielle French**  
Doctoral Student English

**Information  
Services Chair**



**Morgan Chaney**  
Doctoral Student Biomedical Science

**Administrative  
Services Chair**



**Jennifer Mani**  
Doctoral Student School of  
Lifespan Development & Educational Sciences

**Advisor**



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

## VICE EXECUTIVE CHAIR / TIMOTHY R. ROSE

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.

### Committee Representation

This year, GSS appointed representatives to 14 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 2018-2019 AY:

#### Committee Name

Advisory Committee for Academic Assessment  
 College of Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee  
 Committee on Administrative Officers  
 Educational Policies Council  
 Faculty Senate  
 Intercollegiate Athletics Committee  
 University Libraries Advisory Committee  
 Public Safety Advisory Committee  
 Student Health Advisory Committee  
 Student Media Board  
 Transportation Advisory Committee  
 University Diversity Action Council  
 Student Diversity Action Council  
 University Teaching Council  
 University Accessibility Committee  
 Women's Center Advisory Committee

#### Primary Graduate Representative

Timothy Rose  
 Sarah Sternbach  
 Mark Rhodes  
 Antonina Pakholkova Mohamed  
 Mark Rhodes  
 Chris Willer  
 Annaleise Lessick  
 Joud Roufael  
 Temporarily Inactive  
 Nicolle Peronne  
 Tierra James  
 Greta Babakhanova  
 Greta Babakhanova  
 Timothy Rose  
 Alex Weaver  
 Kayla Cagwin

### Matter of note regarding Committee Representation:

As per the Graduate Student Senate Bylaws, all Senators are to serve on at least one GSS affiliated committee per Academic Year. These committees can include temporary or permanent Graduate Student Senate committees, or any University Committee that includes a graduate student representative.

## 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 Ohio. The ITA is offered for Fall, Spring, and Summer travel.

This year, there were two application periods in which Full- and part-time graduate students whose departments are in good standing with GSS were able to submit an ITA application. 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. 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.

<b>Award Period</b>	<b>Total Complete Applications</b>	<b>Funded Applications</b>	<b>Total Awarded</b>
Spring/Summer 2019	14	9	\$12,000
Summer/Fall 2019	27	22	\$30,600
TOTALS	41	31	\$42,600

Matter of note regarding the ITA: As this was the first academic year in which there were only two funding periods, the Graduate Senate is advised to consider the logistical impact of having one award period span two academic years (Summer/Fall 2019 award period). Students who have been accepted for both a Summer and Fall semester conference presentation will be limited to only applying for one of these conferences, even though they take place in different academic years.

## INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL AWARD RECIPIENTS YEAR 2018 - 2019

**Ahmed Bedeir**

***Modern and Classical Languages***

Internship  
Switzerland

**Nicolle Simonovic**

***Psychological Sciences***

Other  
Israel

**Anuj Gurung**

***Political Science***

Conference Presentation  
Portugal

**Meagan Smith**

***Art***

Other  
Japan

**Ian Farnkopf**

***Biomedical Sciences***

Conference Presentation Czech Republic

**Michael Nycz**

***Physics***

Conference Presentation  
Greece

**Diana Pemberton**

***Art***

Other  
Mexico

**Michelle Rivers**

***Psychological Sciences***

Conference Presentation  
France

**Hyunjae Jeong**

***Computer Sciences***

Other  
Australia

**Mirjeta Pasha**

***Mathematics***

Conference Presentation  
Spain

**Irvin Cardenas**

***Computer Sciences***

Conference Presentation New Zealand

**Mona Matar**

***Mathematics***

Conference Presentation  
Spain

**Golam Mustafa**

***Physics***

Conference Presentation  
Peru

**Pallavi Aurora**

***Psychological Sciences***

Conference Presentation  
France

**Mustafa Aydogan**

***Lifespan Development and Educational Sciences***

Conference Presentation  
Italy

**Paul Geis**

***Foundations, Leadership, and Administration***

Conference Presentation  
Germany

**Sebiha Balci**

*Lifespan Development and Educational Sciences*

Conference Presentation  
Netherlands

**Keshav GC**

*Chemistry & Biochemistry*

Conference Presentation  
Poland

**Kathryn Hannum**

*Geography*

Conference Attendance  
Spain

**Karin Maria Nylocks**

*Psychological Sciences*

Conference Presentation  
France

**Samuel Yocca**

*Foundations, Leadership, and Administration*

Internship  
Bulgaria

**Kumudie Shamala Jayalath Arachchige**

*Chemistry & Biochemistry*

Conference Presentation  
Poland

**Runa Koizumi**

*Liquid Crystal Institute*

Workshop Participation  
Germany

## ***Funding Increases for the International Travel Award:***

In the Fall of 2018, President Beverly Warren made good on her commitment to help increase University funding for graduate student academic and professional development. This took the form of a \$100,000 annual increase to the overall funding of the Senate, which was used to increase the number of competitive award given by the Senate. As a result, the Graduate Student Senate was able to increase the total number of International Travel Award granted in the 2018-2019 AY by 20%, with a total of 29 graduate students receiving ITA funds during this academic year.

## FINANCE CHAIR / XIN HONG

### Domestic Travel Award

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 ac-

ademic year. Students can apply the award every semester, but priority will be given to students who have not received a DTA in the previous semester. 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 and President Warren and Research and Sponsored Programs (RASP), the DTA was increased to \$ 500 per awardee for Fall 2018 through Summer 2019.**

#### Domestic Travel Award Metrics

	Total Applicants	Total Awardees <sup>1</sup>	Funded Awardees <sup>2</sup>	Total Amount
<b>Summer 2018</b>	95	85	72	\$30,295
<b>Fall 2018</b>	138	138	138	\$69,000
<b>Spring 2019</b>	190	190	In progress	\$95,000
<b>Summer 2019</b>				\$44,500
<b>Total</b>				\$208,000 <sup>3</sup>

1 Students eligible for the award.

2 Students who successfully submitted reimbursement packet.

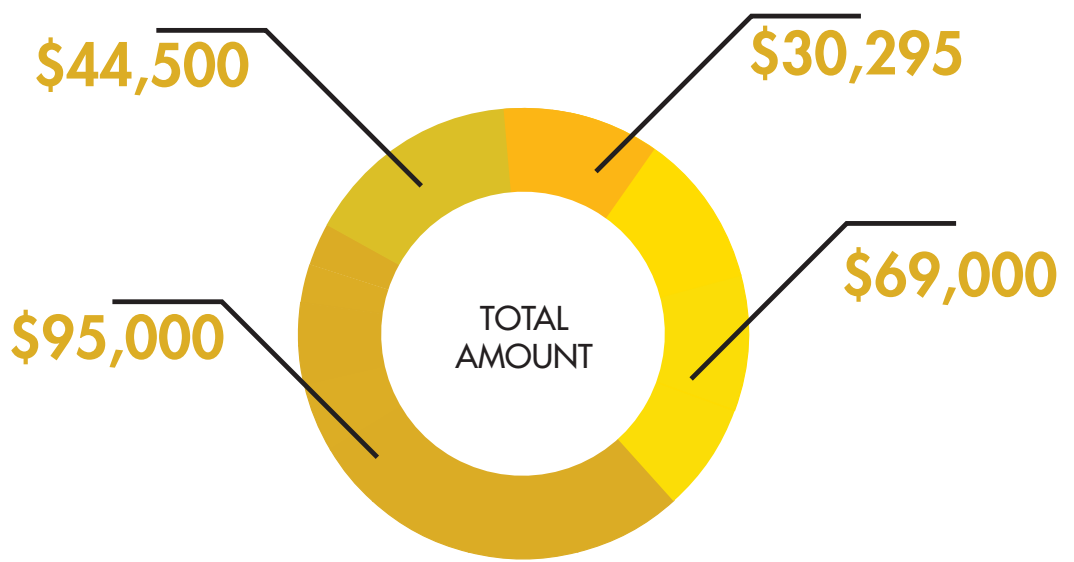
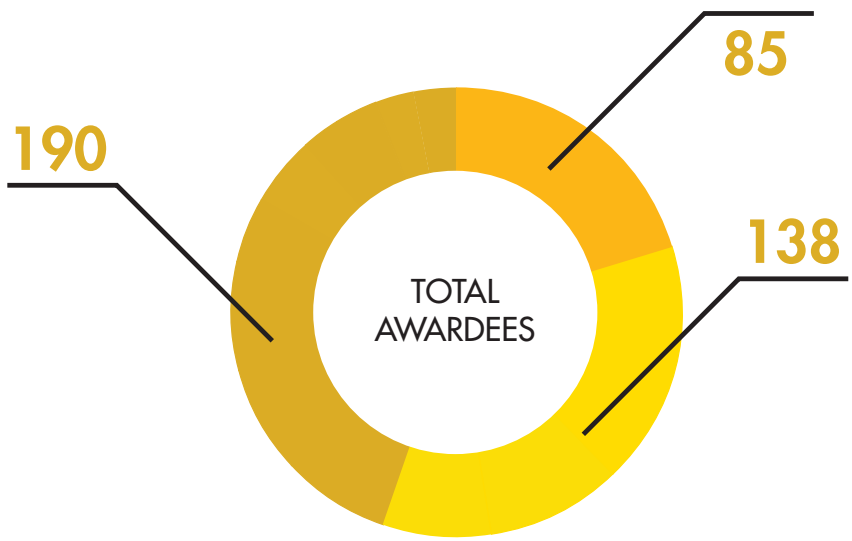
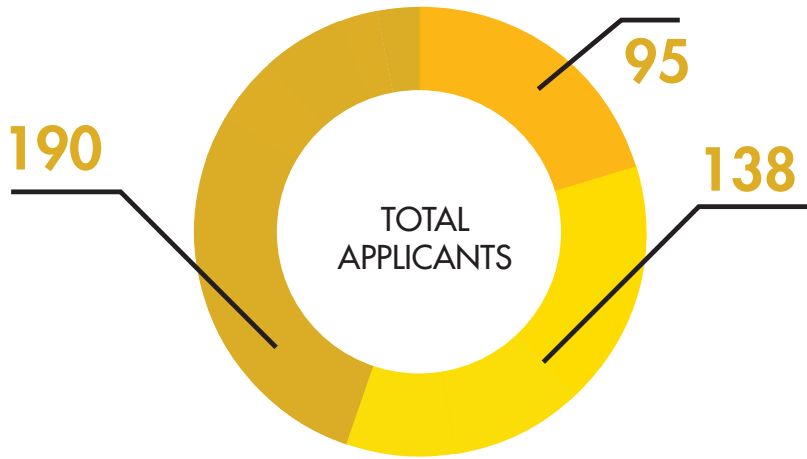
3 The total award for academic year 18-19. The sum does not include summer 2018.

**SUMMER 2018**

**FALL 2018**

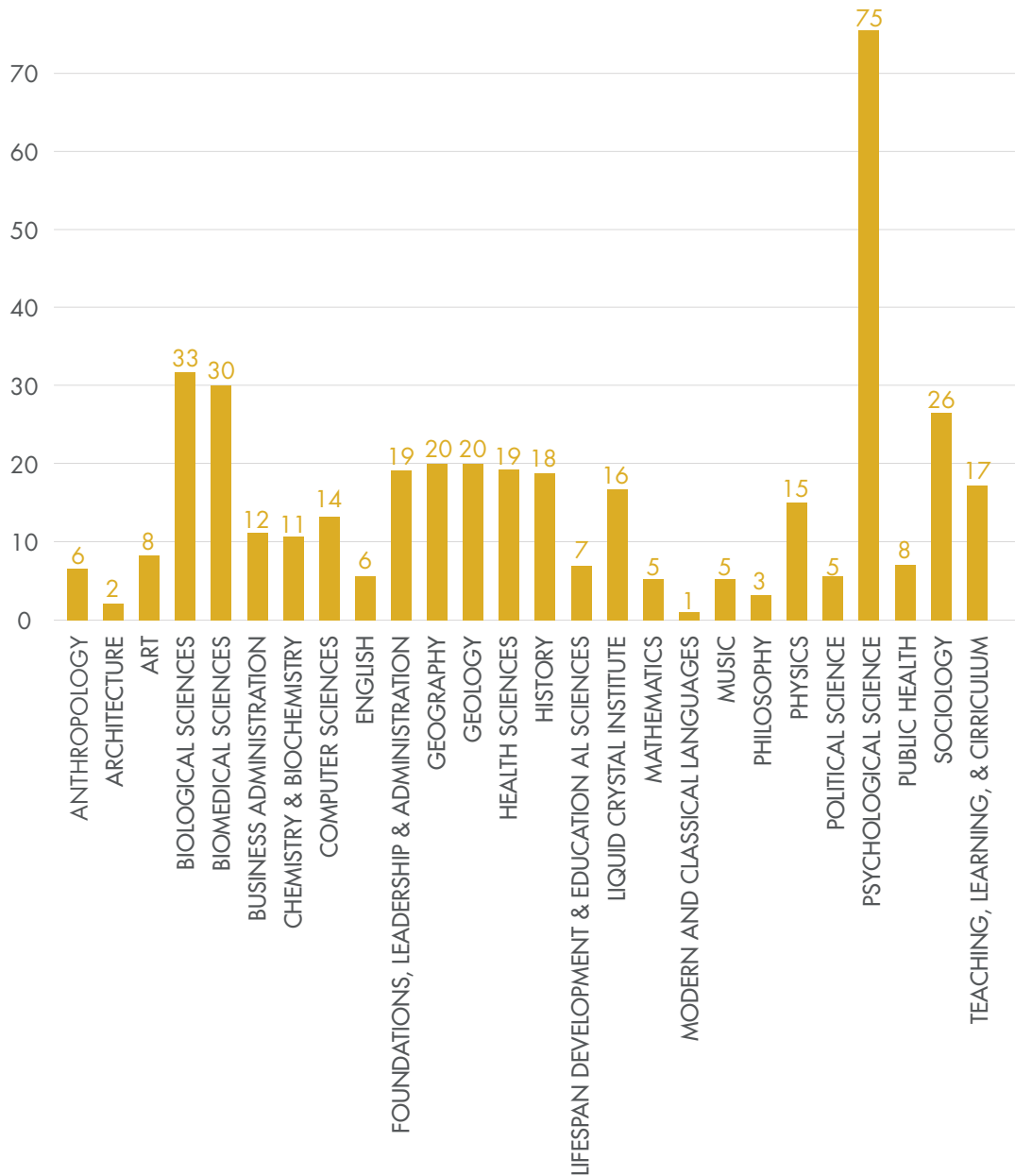
**SPRING 2019**

**SUMMER 2019**



# DEPARTMENT BREAKDOWN OF AWARDS

## TOTAL NUMBER OF AWARDEES, AY 18 - 19





## 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). Its application availability and review follow the schedule of GSS general meeting. The award is dependent on student's budget up to \$1,500. Final amount will be determined by SCA Review Committee. Funding will be based on availability of funds and will be first-come, first-served.

### Special Contingency Award Metrics

Semester	Total Applicants	Total Awardees <sup>1</sup>	Total Amount
Fall 2019	15	6	\$6,000
Spring 2019	14	8	\$6,000
Total	29	11	\$12,000

<sup>1</sup> Students eligible for the award.

#### Fall 2018 awardees

**Nicolle Simonovic**

Psychological Sciences (\$1000)

**Louisa Catalano**

Mathematics (\$500)

**Justine DeFrancesco**

Teaching, Learning and Curriculum (\$1500)

**Srijana Bhandari**

Chemistry and Biochemistry (\$850)

**Paula Castellano**

Music (\$650)

**Tien Hong Stanley**

Psychological Sciences (\$1500)

#### Spring 2019 awardees

**Elizabeth Aulino**

Biological Sciences (\$1100)

**Alex Colucci**

Geography (\$200)

**Karla Rodriguez**

Biological Sciences (\$200)

**Manasi Agrawal**

Biomedical Sciences (\$530)

**Rachel Steele**

Health Sciences (\$310)

**Winnie Bush**

Foundations, Leadership, and Administration (\$1230)

**Sarah Mohler**

English (\$930)

**Alicia Hall**

Lifespan Development and Educational Sciences (\$1500)

# ADVOCACY CHAIR / MITCHELL POWERS

## NAGPS and Legislative Advocacy

The GSS maintains a membership in the National Association of Graduate and Professional Students (NAGPS). This permits us to foster a culture of citizenship amongst the larger graduate student community. The NAGPS provides a valuable source of information and networking opportunities for graduate students. We have sent representatives to a number of NAGPS events this year, including the national conference held at the University of Arkansas, and the Legislative Action Days (LAD) events held each semester in Washington, D.C.

Reports from the national conference indicate that Kent State graduate students are as engaged with their university, if not more so, than our peers and emphasis was placed on the value of a strong relationship between graduate student organizations such as the GSS and the administration for the benefit of graduate students and the university at large.

The LAD events provide advocacy training and opportunities for graduate student representatives to discuss issues affecting graduate students with congressional staffers. However, NAGPS channels alone are not an effective means of advocating for Kent State graduate students, especially given Ohio’s unique stance on graduate student labor. Based on best practices learned through LAD events, the GSS will focus future efforts on building long term relationships with legislators at the state and local levels. This is not only more cost effective, but will help build relationships with

other graduate programs throughout the state. These efforts will be in parallel with Kent State’s own legislative efforts.

## Research Award

The GSS Research Award is a competitive award that funds graduate student research. All graduate students from departments in good standing with the GSS are eligible to apply for the award, which is offered in both the Fall and Spring semesters. It is one of the principle ways that the GSS reinvests in graduate students and their research.

This year we were able to award a total of 60 Research Awards, more than the past two years combined. This was made possible due to generous support from President Warren and RASP. While we were able to fund a record number Research Awards, we also set records for the number of rejected applications. Those who received Research Awards are but a small number of the thousands of graduate students doing excellent research here at Kent State. The research subjects reflect the impact that Kent State graduate students make in their fields and within our community. Subjects include the effects of the opioid epidemic, advances in liquid crystal technology, studies of cultural identity, and prehistoric ballistics. The work that is being done by these graduate students epitomizes the distinct character of Kent State.

<i>Term</i>	<i>Number of Awards</i>	<i>Sum Awarded</i>
<b>F16 – S18</b>	52	-
<b>Fall 2018</b>	23	\$38,783
<b>Spring 2019</b>	37	\$64,530
<b>Total F18 – S19</b>	60	\$103,313

# GSS RESEARCH AWARDEES

**Emily Munger**

Anthropology

**Tracy Arner**

Educational Psychology

**Melia Romine**

Anthropology

**Shannon Smith**

Educational Psychology

**Heather Smith**

Anthropology

**Brittany Helmick**

English

**Michael Wilson**

Anthropology

**Mary Le Rouge**

English

**Brittany Hujar**

Art History

**Valentino Zullo**

English

**Sohini Bhattacharyya**

Biological Sciences

**Lydia Snyder**

Ethnomusicology

**Andrew Eagar**

Biological Sciences

**Marie Stofan**

Evolutionary Biology

**Lia Gavazzi**

Biological Sciences

**Paul Geis**

Foundations, Leadership, and Administration

**Lydia Heemstra**

Biological Sciences

**Michaela Gawryst**

Geography

**Rumman Hossain**

Biological Sciences

**Hanieh Haji Molana**

Geography

**John Miller**

Biological Sciences

**Xin Hong**

Geography

**Cynthia Perkovitch**

Biological Sciences

**Erik Smith**

Geography

**Cody Ruiz**

Biological Science

**Sokvisal Kimsroy**

Geography

**Megan Smith**

Biological Sciences

**Joel Baehler**

History

**Manasi Agrawal**

Biomedical Sciences

**Mojtaba Rajabi**

Physics

**Nashrah Ahmad**

Biomedical Sciences

**Hend Baza**

Physics

**Morgan Chaney**

Biomedical Sciences

**Megan Linscott**

Physiology

**Ian Farnkopf**

Biomedical Sciences

**Preya Bhattacharya**

Political Science

**Sarah Sternbach**

Biomedical Sciences

**Eli Kaul**

Political Science

**Zahra Ghasemahmad**

Biomedical Sciences

**Marissa Gastelle**

Psychological Sciences

**Srijana Bhandari**

Chemistry/Biochemistry

**Erin Graham**

Psychological Sciences

**Keshav G C**

Chemistry/Biochemistry

**Samantha Ortiz**

Psychological Sciences

**Kumudie Jayalath**

Chemistry/Biochemistry

**Jacob Church**

Sociology

**Sagun Jonchhe**

Chemistry/Biochemistry

**Kelly Markowski**

Sociology

**Elaina Eakle**

Communication Studies

**Victoria Reynolds**

Sociology

**Naser Al Madi**

Computer Science

**Timothy Rose**

Sociology

**Greta Babakhanova**

CPIP/AMLCI

**Rusty Schnellinger**

Sociology

**Sasan Shadpour**

CPIP/AMLCI

**Tiah Wingate**

Sociology

**Senay Ustunel**

CPIP/AMLCI

**Brennan Miller**

Sociology

**Hao Wang**

CPIP/AMLCI

**Terence Cranendonk**

Theatre and Dance

## General State of Graduate Students

Life as a graduate student continues to be difficult in a number of ways. Graduate students are at an elevated risk of depression and other mental illnesses, are often overworked and always underpaid. Graduate students provide an easy source of labor in a time when the university faces recurring budget cuts. Policies affecting graduate students are implemented differently in each department, with regulations that are enforced heterogeneously across the university. Often graduate students do not know what conditions are like outside of their department, and have come to accept the status quo as a fact of graduate student life. This status quo includes food insecurity for the graduate students who are paid well below the poverty level, enthusiasm exploited for unpaid labor and a culture that breeds depression and burn out. Events such as "graduate student appreciation week" are a nice token, but true graduate student appreciation will only come from a living wage and healthy working conditions.

## SYMPOSIUM CHAIR / DANIELLE FRENCH

The Graduate Research Symposium is an event hosted by the Graduate Student Senate every spring semester, which features oral, poster, and fine arts presentations and performances of graduate students from every discipline at Kent State University. Faculty and graduate students serve as judges for groups of presentations sharing similar themes or representing common areas of study. The symposium is concluded with an awards luncheon, which features a keynote address and presentation of awards to the winning graduate students. Each awarded graduate student receives an award certificate and a monetary prize.

The symposium offers benefits for students with any range of presentation experience and skills. For those with minimal presentation experience, the symposium provides an opportunity to speak about research and receive interdisciplinary peer and faculty feedback. The multidisciplinary

nature of the event is one of its key features of the symposium; GSS is dedicated to fostering the multidisciplinary nature of the event, welcoming all forms of scholarship, from empirical research to works of art.

2019 Graduate Research Symposium:

This year, I kept the two-day Symposium that Betsy Melick pioneered in the 2018 Graduate Research Symposium, and I invited an internationally-acclaimed performer, Tayo Aluko, to be our Keynote Speaker for the event. Selecting an international speaker greatly added both to the integrity of the theme, which focused on interdisciplinary and global communities of research, and to the quality and quantity of performances and presentations during the two-day event.

The 34th Annual Graduate Research Symposium, "Our Communities of Research" took place on 4-5 April 2019. In conjunction with Graduate Studies' Graduate Student Appreciation Week, the 2019 Graduate Research Symposium offered students experience in presenting and many social opportunities, including our gala night, which featured fine arts performances, a special performance from our Keynote Speaker, and refreshments with a bar for students to enjoy, our Awards Luncheon, and a full performance of Call Mr. Robeson, given free-of-charge to all KSU community members on Friday evening.

Furthermore, 36 judges and 27 volunteers assisted in judging, moderating, and facilitating the event. Recruiting and maintaining judges for each session remains a perennial issue, as our judge registration had 17 fewer participants compared to the 2018 registration, though our volunteer registration increased by 16 compared to 2018 registration data.

In all, the event was highly successful, particularly considering our smaller graduate student population on campus and competing conferences and symposia, boasting 119 poster presentations, 82 oral presentations, and 4 fine arts performances. Our 2019 Graduate Research Symposium Presenter Registration had 325 submissions from nearly every college (Fig. 1) and various academic units on campus (Fig. 2).



2019 Graduate Research Symposium  
Keynote Speaker, Tayo Aluko

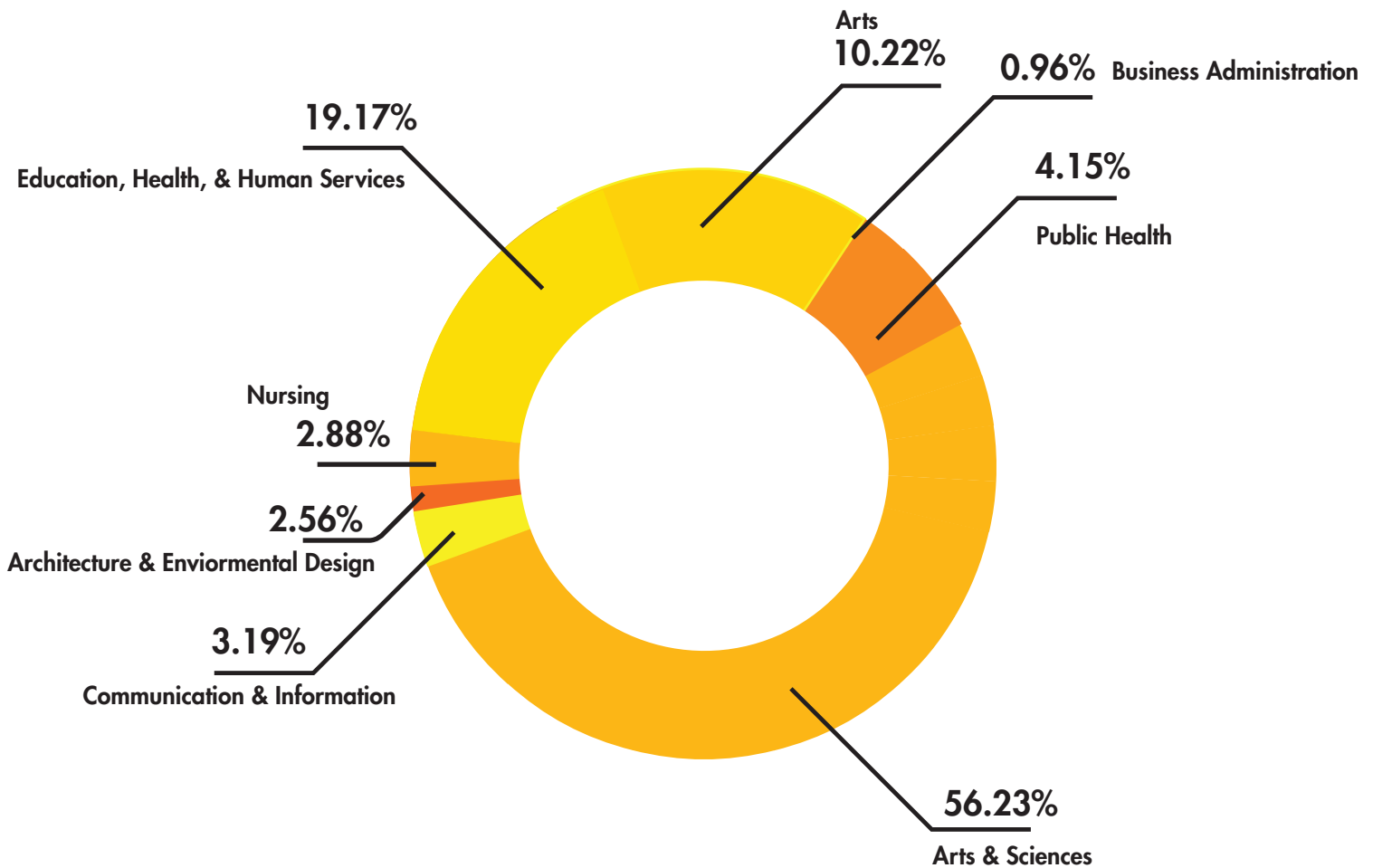


Efferus String Quartet performing 4 April 2019



2018-2019 Executive Board of the Graduate Student Senate with Dr. Tankersley and Tayo Aluko

## PRESENTER REGISTRATION BY COLLEGE

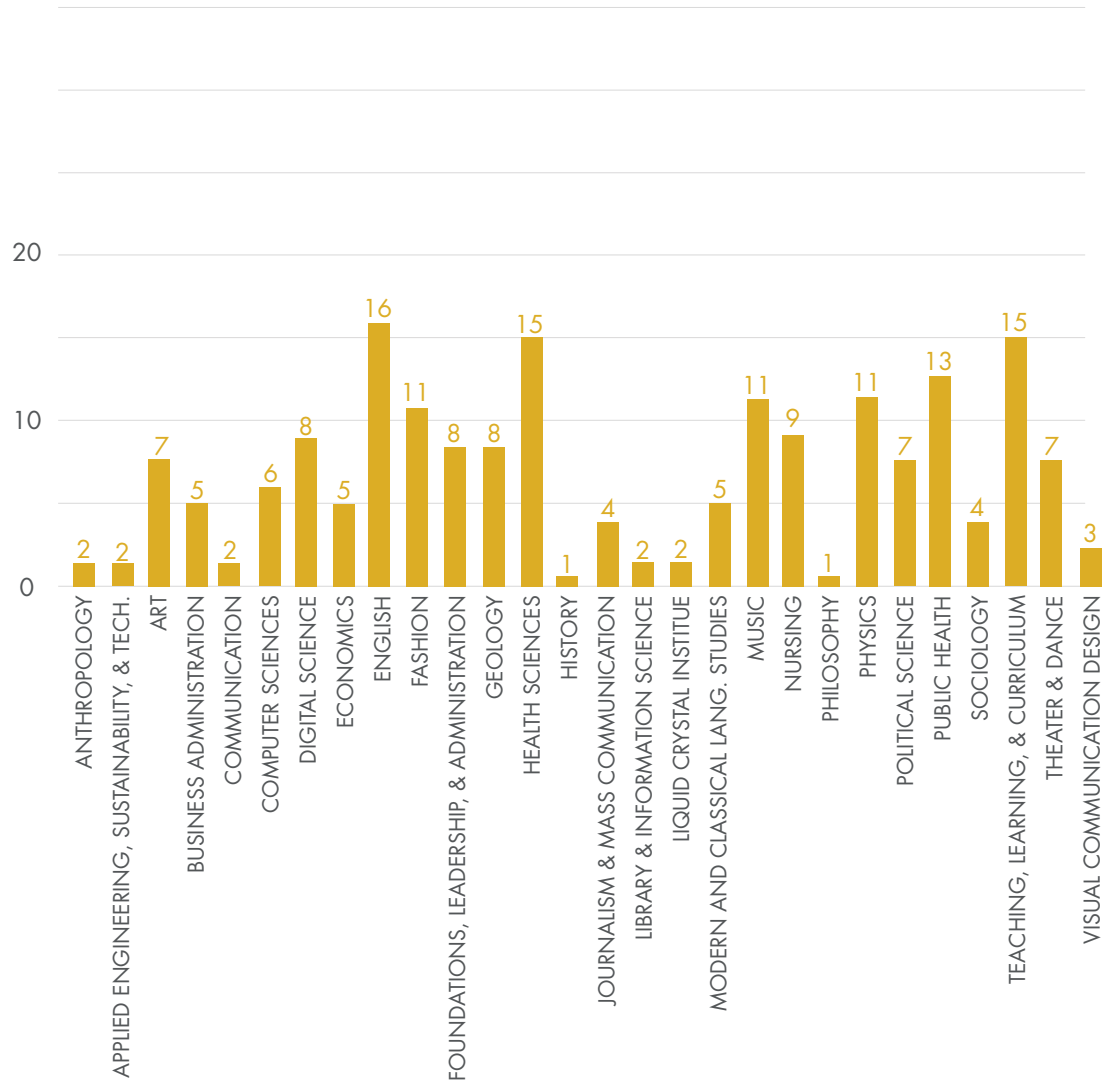


These presenter registration numbers are comparable with the 2018 Graduate Research Symposium, though our decline in graduate student enrollment is evident in participation for the event, particularly when compared to higher enrollment years of 2015 and 2016. We did have nine international visiting scholars present, and working with OGE to advertise the event will help include these scholars who have graduate student status but are often left out of graduate student listservs.

After allowing time for participants to withdraw or adjust their presentations, the 2019 Graduate Research Symposium Program listed 26 poster sessions, 2 fine arts sessions, and 20 oral sessions, all of which were comprised by over 200 graduate students and judged by 1-2 judges. The best presentation in each session was awarded a certificate and a \$200 monetary award, which is double the award amount from previous years. In total, 48 students were selected as winners in their respective session, which resulted in awarding \$9,600 directly to graduate students for presenting their research. The end of this report contains the list of winners, their session, and their presentation title.

# PRESENTER REGISTRATION BY ACADEMIC UNIT

## REGISTRATION BY ACADEMIC UNIT, AY 18 -19





**2019 Graduate Research Symposium Award Winners (those pictured present during Awards Luncheon)**

These presenter registration numbers are comparable with the 2018 Graduate Research Symposium, though our decline in graduate student enrollment is evident in participation for the event, particularly when compared to higher enrollment years of 2015 and 2016. We did have nine international visiting scholars present, and working with OGE to advertise the event will help include these scholars who have graduate student status but are often left out of graduate student listservs.

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## 2020 GRADUATE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM



**2018-2019 Symposium Chair, Danielle French  
at the Awards Luncheon on 4 April 2019**

The 2020 Graduate Research Symposium will take place on 9-10 April 2020, and the reservations have been confirmed for spaces in the Kent Student Center. With Dr. Melody Tankersley and Kyle Reynolds, I'm pleased to announce both the national and Kent State Graduate Student Appreciation Week will be 6-10 April 2020, which will allow for continued collaboration and advertising for the event. The incoming Symposium Chair, Srijana Bhandari, will have more details about registration, schedule, and theme later in the planning process.

It was a pleasure to serve as the GSS Symposium Chair for the 2018-2019 academic year, and I am confident that our incoming chair will continue to preserve this event and space for celebrating and emphasizing graduate student work at Kent State University.

## POSTER PRESENTATION WINNERS

### Poster Session 1: Art Exhibit, Theater, and Dance

3. Suwatana Rockland, Theater & Dance  
A comparison education between two countries

### Poster Session 2: Architecture & Design

6. Hajar Rajab, Architecture & Environmental Design, Floating lightweight concrete blocks made from dredged material

### Poster Session 3: Biological Sciences

11. M Rumman Hossain, Biological Sciences, Bacterial colonization on different microplastics in a local stream in Northeast Ohio

### Poster Session 4: Biomedical Sciences I

17. Kristen Hirter, Anthropology, Neurochemical Insights of Human Origins: A comparative analysis of dopaminergic innervation of the ventral striatum among primates

### Poster Session 5: Biomedical Sciences II

21. Devanshi Mehta, Biomedical Sciences, The importance of diurnal corticosterone rhythms in regulating mood

### Poster Session 6: Communication, Information, and Computer Science

25. Pavan Poudel, Computer Science, Adaptive versioning in transactional memories

### Poster Session 7: Chemistry & Biochemistry I

28. Payel Datta, Chemistry & Biochemistry, Liposomal Formulation of a Cholesterol-Conjugated Pt(IV) Prodrug of Cisplatin

### Poster Session 8: Chemistry & Biochemistry II

33. Pramila Poudyel Ghimire, Chemistry & Biochemistry, Development of nickel-incorporated MCM-41-carbon composites and their application in nitrophenol reduction

### Poster Session 9: Ecology and Evolutionary Biology I

36. Christian Bullion, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Using Crowdsourced Data to Analyze Patterns in Odonate Phenology

### Poster Session 10: Ecology and Evolutionary Biology II

42. Cynthia Perkovich, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Protein: carbohydrate ratios in the diet of *Lymantria dispar* (gypsy moth) affect its ability to digest tannins

### Poster Session 11: Education, Health, and Human Services I

49. Shabnam Moini Chaghervand, Teaching, Learning, & Curriculum, ESL teachers' perception of being an effective instructor  
Poster Session 12: Education, Health, and Human Services II

55. Stephanie Schafer, Lifespan Development & Educational Sciences, The effects of caregiver-implemented strategies on child's communication skills

### Poster Session 13: Fashion

60. Michelle Park, Fashion, Disrupting lymphedema through garment design and coloration

### Poster Session 14: Geography

64. Sandra Bempah, Geography, Monitoring Health Environments in Slums

### Poster Session 15: Geology

73. Sydney Laubscher, Geology, Manganese dissolution kinetics and uptake rates by red maple trees in soils

### Poster Session 16: Liquid Crystal

74. Ahlam Nemati, Liquid Crystal Institute, Amplification of chirality in axial chiral ligand by an enhancement of anisotropy factor of nanorods

### Poster Session 17: Mathematics

79. Mirjeta Pasha, Mathematics, Medical Image reconstruction by linearized Bregman iteration with non-negativity constraint

### Poster Session 18: Neuroscience I

83. Zahra Ghasemahmad, Neuroscience, Valence of Mating but not Restraint Vocalizations is Perceived Differently by Male and Female mice

### Poster Session 19: Neuroscience II

87. Alyx Weaver, Neuroscience, The Effect of Exercise on Brain Hemoglobin Expression in Rats

### Poster Session 20: Nursing

94. Dawn Troup, Nursing, Enhanced recovery after surgery for hysterectomy

### Poster Session 21: Physiology I

96. Bryan Dowdell, Exercise Physiology, Does high-cadence cycling improve emotional recog-

nition in individuals with Parkinson's Disease?

### Poster Session 22: Physiology II

102. Meredith Paskert, Exercise Physiology, Aging and autonomic modulation in women: Using resistance exercise as a countermeasure

### Poster Session 23: Psychological Sciences I

103. Jordan Adkins, Psychological Sciences, Differences Exist for training intensity required for safety learning in male and female mice

### Poster Session 24: Psychological Sciences II

108. Carli Obeldobel, Psychological Sciences, The relationship between mother-child attachment, depressive symptoms, and emotion regulation in middle childhood

### Poster Session 25: Public Health and Education

112. Megan Anderson, Public Health, Analysis of mental health referrals by university status and personality characteristics following Mental Health First Aid training

### Poster Session 26: Sociology

119. Rusty Schnellinger, Sociology, Contextualizing the epidemic: The role of neighborhood in non-medical use of prescription drugs

## Fine Arts Performance Winners

### Music

Efferus String Quartet with Maria Florez, Paula Castaneda, Irene Guerra, and Cristian Diaz, Music, String Quartet #9 in E-flat major, op. 117. D. Shostakovich

### Creative Writing

Bonné de Blas, NEOMFA, Excerpts from: La Ciudad de las Calles de Ramón y Cajal

## ORAL PRESENTATION WINNERS

### **Oral Session 1: Anthropology, History, and Communications Room 313**

Michael Wilson, Anthropology, Does it stick? Using thermoplastic vs. organic-based adhesives in experimental prehistoric ballistics weaponry testing

### **Oral Session 2: Bioinformatics Room 308**

Nazar Hussein, Cellular and Molecular Biology, A novel Regulatory Role of TRAPPC9 in Osteoarthritis

### **Oral Session 3: Biological Sciences Room 306A**

William Feng, Biological Sciences, The role of the fatty acid transporter CD36 in the therapeutic resistance of HER2-positive breast cancer cells

### **Oral Session 4: Chemistry & Biochemistry Room 313**

Pramila Poudyel Ghimire, Chemistry & Biochemistry, Histidine-assisted nickel incorporation in MCM 41-carbon composite and its application in nitrophenol reduction compounds using (coumarin-4-yl)methyl-based phototriggers

### **Oral Session 5: Digital Humanities I Room 310AB**

Josiah Murphy (and Matt Wong), Teaching English as a Second Language, Want to buy some snake oil? Enhance listening and speaking fluency in the English as a second/foreign language classroom

### **Oral Session 6: English & Library Sciences Room 318**

Ted Daisher, Teaching English as a Second Language, Do the Authentic and Graded Reader Versions of Texts Differ in their Collocation Content?

### **Oral Session 7: Teaching & Pedagogy I Room 315**

Tracy Arner and Rachael Todaro, Educa-

tional Psychology, Flipping the Educational Psychology classroom: Investigating the relation between instructional design, learning strategy use, and retention

### **Oral Session 8: Higher Education in Global Perspective Room 306B**

Liangtao Ni, Cultural Foundations of Education, China's "world-class universities" reform policy and the experiences of the Chinese higher education faculty in the American universities

### **Oral Session 9: Material Science I Room 306C**

Runa Koizumi, Liquid Crystal Institute, Swimming bacteria swirl around nematic attractors

### **Oral Session 10: Medical Humanities I Room 309**

Samantha Ortiz, Behavioral Neuroscience, Corticosterone administration after early adolescent stress selectively blocks stress-induced potentiation of morphine place preference in adulthood

### **Oral Session 11: Identity in a Global Context Room 319**

This special session will focus on "Communicating Gender in a Global Context: International Constructions of Identity."

Nahla Bendefaa, Session Chair, Communication Studies

### **Oral Session 12: Materiality Room 313**

Brittany Hujar, Art History, Kozo Miyoshi: An Interpretation of Water Through Photography

### **Oral Session 13: Material Science II Room 306C**

Babak Salehi Kasmaei, Physics, Production and flow of dileptons from quark-gluon plasma

### **Oral Session 14: Medical Humanities II Room 309**

Erica Marshall, Exercise Physiology, Autonomic Modulation After High-Intensity Heavy Rope Exercise in Resistance-trained Individuals

### **Oral Session 15: Music & Ethnomusicology Room 318**

Andrew Blake, Music Theory, Voice-leading and implied tonality in quarter tone spaces: "Chorale", from Ives' "Three Quarter-Tone Pieces"

### **Oral Session 16: Political Science Room 306A**

Ikhsan Darmawan, Political Science, E-voting Adoption in Many Countries: A Review of the Literature

### **Oral Session 17: Student Voice after Parkland Room 306B**

Danielle Weiser-Cline, Cultural Foundations, I Am Not Throwing Away My Shot: Theatre Education, Political Engagement, and the #NeverAgain Movement

### **Oral Session 18: Environmental Science Room 308**

Lindsey Yazbek, Geology, Speciation and transport in a coal mine drainage impacted stream

### **Oral Session 19: Teaching and Pedagogy II, Room 315**

Kayla Morehead, Cognitive Psychology, How much mightier is the pen than the keyboard for note-taking? A replication and extension of Mueller and Oppenheimer (2014)

### **Oral Session 20: Digital Humanities II Room 310AB**

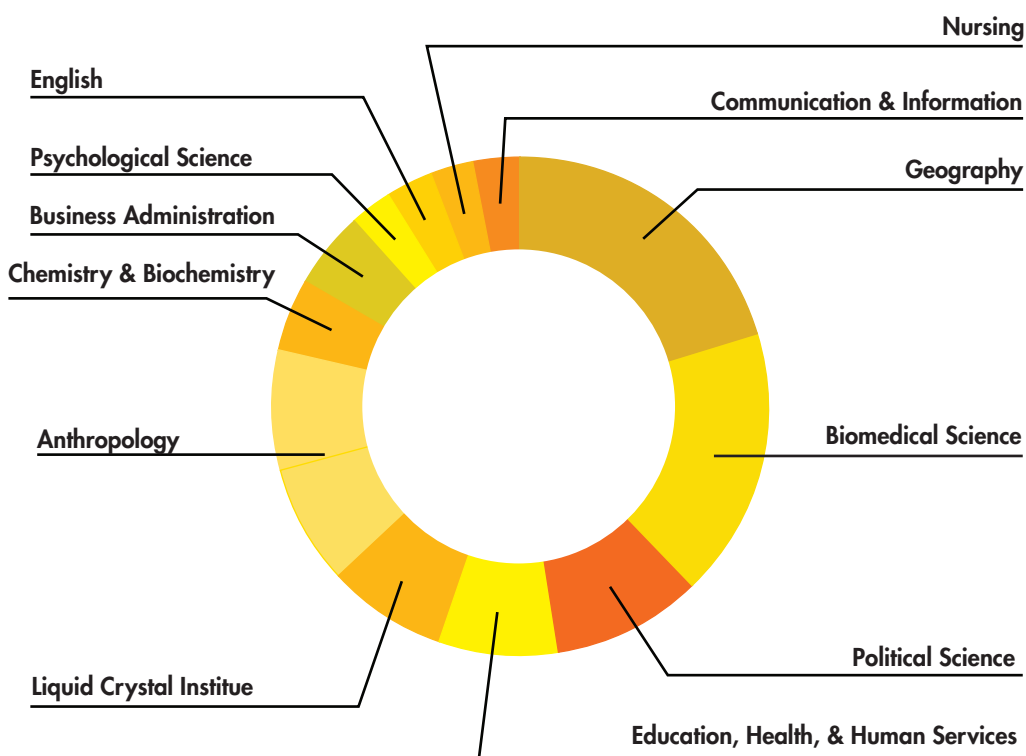
Naser Al Madi, Computer Science, Poor Man's Research Eye-tracking Kit

## Information Services Chair – Morgan Chaney

Year	Twitter Follows	Facebook Likes
2016	319	662
2017	418	716
2018	496	752
2019	582	860

**This year, the social-media presence of the GSS grew in multiple measures. We continued to increase our numbers of likes and follows in a linear way to increase our impact within and beyond the Kent State community.**

Since the beginning of Fall semester, our social media pages have showcased the fine work being done by graduate students on our campus. We have shared 36 separate accomplishments of graduate students across a wide array of disciplines (Fig. 1), including 29 separate articles! The majority of these publications shared by GSS social media had graduate students as the principal author. This initiative has become a mainstay of our social media, and we look forward to its continued impact in coming years.



**Figure 1: Breakdown of graduate student accomplishments shared during the 2018-2019 Academic Year.**

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 Grad Fest during the fall.



