Mission and Goals
The mission of the Division of Graduate Studies is to advance graduate education at Kent State University and to serve as its advocate within the university and beyond. Fundamentally, Graduate Studies helps to prepare students for successful academic and professional careers and to contribute to a diverse and changing world.

The primary functions of Graduate Studies are: admitting highly qualified and diverse graduate students, providing services to enhance the quality of life for Kent State graduate students, and ensuring that the university’s graduate programs are cutting-edge and meet the highest standards of academic excellence.

To succeed in its mission, Graduate Studies must:
• attract and support the highest quality graduate students;
• enhance the quality of and foster innovation in graduate education;
• promote and develop a diverse graduate student population;
• increase the number of graduate students commensurate with increases in research/scholarship;
• enhance the intellectual and creative environment on campus for graduate students;
• provide outlets for graduate students to be involved in cross-disciplinary collaboration; and
• provide competitive and attractive support and services.
### Graduate Admissions

#### Domestic applications by college from fall 2012 to 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COLLEGE/SCHOOL</th>
<th>FALL 2012</th>
<th>FALL 2013</th>
<th>FALL 2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COLLEGE OF APPLIED ENGINEERING, SUSTAINABILITY AND TECHNOLOGY</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COLLEGE OF THE ARTS</td>
<td>217</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>187</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES</td>
<td>1,192</td>
<td>1,261</td>
<td>1,215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION</td>
<td>239</td>
<td>223</td>
<td>208</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION</td>
<td>635</td>
<td>591</td>
<td>533</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES</td>
<td>1,420</td>
<td>1,540</td>
<td>1,410</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COLLEGE OF NURSING</td>
<td>465</td>
<td>509</td>
<td>439</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCHOOL OF DIGITAL SCIENCES</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL DOMESTIC APPLICATIONS</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,488</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,681</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,298</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### International applications by college from fall 2012 to 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COLLEGE/SCHOOL</th>
<th>FALL 2012</th>
<th>FALL 2013</th>
<th>FALL 2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COLLEGE OF APPLIED ENGINEERING, SUSTAINABILITY AND TECHNOLOGY</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COLLEGE OF THE ARTS</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES</td>
<td>1,230</td>
<td>1,292</td>
<td>1,494</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION</td>
<td>530</td>
<td>365</td>
<td>357</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES</td>
<td>284</td>
<td>255</td>
<td>249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COLLEGE OF NURSING</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCHOOL OF DIGITAL SCIENCES</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>266</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL INTERNATIONAL APPLICATIONS</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,497</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,368</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,784</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Overall, **6,149 students**, a **two-percent increase** over **6,030 students** last year, are taking advantage of over **50 master’s programs** in more than **100 areas of specialization** as well as **23 doctoral programs** with more than **50 specializations offered** at Kent State University.

**Graduate School enrollment on the Kent campus continues to grow**, including a **173–percent increase** in enrollment in the School of Digital Sciences and a **41–percent increase** in enrollment in the College of Public Health. Enrollment in Graduate Programs for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) is also up **10.7 percent**, with **629 students** seeking advanced degrees in STEM compared to 568 last year.

### Enrollment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DEGREE STATUS</th>
<th>FALL 2013</th>
<th>FALL 2014</th>
<th>% CHANGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Master's</td>
<td>3,905</td>
<td>3,968</td>
<td>2.13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctoral</td>
<td>1,307</td>
<td>1,372</td>
<td>4.87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional</td>
<td>423</td>
<td>429</td>
<td>1.42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational Specialist</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>2.56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Non-Degree</td>
<td>356</td>
<td>320</td>
<td>-10.11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL GRADUATE ENROLLMENT</strong></td>
<td><strong>6,030</strong></td>
<td><strong>6,149</strong></td>
<td><strong>1.97%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Graduate enrollment by college

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COLLEGE/SCHOOL</th>
<th>FALL 2013</th>
<th>FALL 2014</th>
<th>% CHANGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>College of Applied Engineering, Sustainability and Technology</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>5.08%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of Architecture and Environmental Design</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>13.85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of the Arts</td>
<td>349</td>
<td>351</td>
<td>0.57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of Arts and Sciences</td>
<td>1,263</td>
<td>1,333</td>
<td>5.54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of Business Administration</td>
<td>302</td>
<td>295</td>
<td>-2.32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of Communication and Information</td>
<td>1,130</td>
<td>1,126</td>
<td>-0.35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of Education, Health and Human Services</td>
<td>1,694</td>
<td>1,582</td>
<td>-6.61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of Nursing</td>
<td>536</td>
<td>523</td>
<td>-2.43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of Podiatric Medicine</td>
<td>423</td>
<td>429</td>
<td>1.42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of Public Health</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>40.94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School of Digital Sciences</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>173.33%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Online/Distance Education

Online or distance education provides an alternative to campus-based programs. Kent State offers more than a dozen online graduate degrees, and to keep up with increased interest and demand, the Office of Continuing and Distance Education (OCDE) recently engaged a new external partner, Everspring, to help the university implement several fully online degree programs in the coming years. The formal agreement was signed in spring 2014; and in April, Everspring began recruiting for the following three master’s programs: User Experience Design, Public Administration, and Criminology and Criminal Justice, which were first offered in fall 2014.
Student Success

Degrees Conferred

Master’s degrees conferred from 2011 to 2014

Doctoral degrees conferred from 2011 to 2014
Michael Allen, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Geography at Old Dominion University
Academic program: Geography
Hometown: Greensburg, Pennsylvania

Graduate Student Involvement and Awards:
- Symposium Chair, Graduate Student Senate, 2010 - 2012
- Geography Ensole Memorial Graduate Award, 2012
- Executive Chair, Graduate Student Senate, 2012 - 2014
- President, Geography Graduate Student Association, 2012 - 2014
- Teaching Fellow, Graduate Student Orientation, 2012 - 2014
- Member, Presidential Search Committee, 2013
- Member, Commission on Women in STEM Education and Research, 2013
- University Fellowship, 2013
- Nash-Endy Centennial Award, 2013 - 2014

How did your leadership experience as a graduate student leader at Kent State prepare you for your current position?

Kent State provided me with a real-world look into an academic career. Balancing research, teaching and service, I was actively involved in my department, across campus and in the broader discipline of geography. Here in Norfolk, I’m doing the same things I did at Kent State. The scale may be different, but Kent State provided me with a real-world look into an academic career. Balancing research, teaching and service, the opportunity to connect with people from a wide range of backgrounds was rewarding. Whether at Graduate Student Orientation, Gradfest or in my department, I gained a lot from listening to people— their stories, perspectives and values. Learning doesn’t have to stop in the classroom and learning from the people at Kent State was truly inspiring.

What was your favorite part of your graduate student experience at Kent State?

My experience serving as symposium and executive chair of Graduate Student Senate was my favorite. Through senate, I met lifelong friends and connected with faculty and administrators across campus. Even the challenging aspects proved rewarding as they taught me lessons on humility, patience and teamwork. Graduate Student Senate really shaped me into a well-rounded individual, and I had an incredible experience participating.

What was your most impactful experience as a graduate student leader at Kent State?

The human experience. From the custodial staff of McGilvrey to President Beverly Warren, the opportunity to connect with people from a wide range of backgrounds was rewarding. Whether at Graduate Student Orientation, Gradfest or in my department, I gained a lot from listening to people— their stories, perspectives and values. Learning doesn’t have to stop in the classroom and learning from the people at Kent State was truly inspiring.

What is most rewarding about your current position?

Sure, there are good days and bad days, but the privilege to make a career out of my passion is the most rewarding part. Every day, I wake up excited about going to work. I teach the classes I enjoy teaching. I research things I enjoy researching. Not sure I can adequately answer this question because there are so many rewarding aspects. Early in life, I was told that if you love what you do, you’ll never work a day in your life. Every day, I wake up excited about going to work. I teach the classes I enjoy teaching. I research things I enjoy researching. Sure, there are good days and bad days, but the privilege to make a career out of my passion is the most rewarding part.

Andrée P. Simms, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Special Education at State University of New York Plattsburgh
Ph.D. (2014)
Academic program: Special Education
Hometown: Nassau, Bahamas

Graduate Student Involvement and Awards:
- Graduate Assistant, School of Lifespan Development and Education Services, 2010 - 2013
- Graduate Assistant, Center for Innovation in Transition and Employment, 2011
- Member, Special Education Search Committee, 2012
- Teaching Fellow, Graduate Student Orientation, 2012 - 2013
- Member, School of Lifespan Development and Educational Sciences Advisory Committee, 2012 - 2014
- Education, Health and Human Services Alumni Hall of Fame Award, 2013
- Graduate Assistant, Division of Graduate Studies, 2013

How did your teaching experience as a graduate teaching assistant at Kent State prepare you for your current position?

As a graduate teaching assistant, I was fortunate to have the opportunity to participate in search committees for Special Education professors in my department. This experience provided most fruitful when I was ready to pursue a teaching position in higher education. I interviewed well and was able to secure offers from all three of the universities I interviewed with, despite the fact that I applied ABD. This success can be directly attributed to the experiences that I have had teaching at Kent State in my department. I taught undergraduate and graduate students; classes as large as 175 students and as small as 18 students; and in online and face-to-face learning environments. I am grateful for everything that I’ve learned through my teaching experience as a graduate teaching assistant at Kent State. I learned how to prepare lectures, create a positive learning environment for students, master the art of collaboration, conduct purposeful textbook selection, grade fairly, incorporate research in lectures and assignments, develop effective quizzes and exams, and more.

What was your most impactful experience as a graduate teaching assistant at Kent State?

My experiences as a teaching assistant gave me the qualifications to become a Teaching Fellow for Graduate Student Orientation (GSO). My most impactful experience as a graduate teacher at Kent State was working with GSO and Dr. Kate McAnulty. Through GSO, I learned how to work well with my peers as a team. This was great preparation for my current position, which requires me to work within a unit and to teach in the cohort model. GSO meetings prepared me for departmental meetings and team projects which are a requirement of my present job at SUNY Plattsburgh. What stands out most to me is when I was near the end of my journey and feeling the pains that come along with pushing for dissertation completion, the outpouring of support and encouragement that I received from the GSO team was just what I needed to help me cross the finish line. The friendships I’ve made with graduate students coming from countries around the world are priceless. Many of them are first generation college students like me, and know the struggles of rising from poverty and oppression in an effort to pursue one’s dreams. As I observe their continuous accomplishments, I am inspired and motivated to push forward in my own career.

What is most rewarding about your current position?

Attending the graduation ceremonies and watching my students cross the stage is a very rewarding experience for me. Also, I enjoy the continued communication with former students after they have graduated and obtained teaching positions.
2013-2014 Doctoral Graduates
Kent State University conferred over 150 doctoral degrees during the 2013-14 academic year. Below is a listing of all graduate students who received a doctoral degree in fall 2013, spring 2014, and summer 2014, organized by semester of graduation, then college, and then academic program.

Fall 2013
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
Applied Mathematics
Tom Ashu
Biological Sciences
Curtis C. Cleverger
Lisa K. Regula Meyer
Andrea T. Musial
Charni Shukla
Oscar J. Valverde-Barrantes
Biomedical Sciences-Cellular and Molecular Biology
Maxim Alexandrovich Bushuev
Biological Sciences-Cellular and Molecular Biology
Bruna Braga
Translation Studies
Fawzi Hamed
Physics
Saoudi Chakraborty
Sonal Dey
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
Management and Information Systems
Maxim Alexandrovich Bushuev
COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION
Communication Studies
Darrin S. Freeburg
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Curriculum and Instruction
Sultan Abdullah Al Muhaimeed
Bryan L. Ashkettle
Felicia V. Black
Katherine F. O'Brien
Lynn Annette Rudd
Karen A. Zapko
Educational Psychology
Kristen L. Chorba
Richard B. Holts
Hyangsook Lee
Exercise Physiology
Matthew V. Bliss
Matthew R. Feedback
Spring 2014
COLLEGE OF THE ARTS
Music Education
Travis John Weller
Musicology-ETHnomusicology
Prapap Chaisomboonwong
Ming-Yon Lee
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
Applied Mathematics
Patrick W. Starvaggi
Biological Sciences-Cell Biology
Charni Shukla
Biological Sciences-Ecology
Gloria P. Johnston
Biomedical Sciences-Cellular and Molecular Biology
Loral E. Showalter
Chemical Physics
Vianney K. Gimenez-Pinto
Israel E. Lazo Martinez
Chemistry
Deepak Koralia
Clinical Psychology
Jude M. Chamberlain
Computer Science
Muad M. Abu-Ata
English
Seth W. Johnson
Geoffrey W. Moses
Experimental Psychology
Bryce J. Hruska
Kaili E. Vaughan
Geography
Bille J. Arnold
Catherine Cartwright-Jones
Cameron C. Lee
Physics
Ayan Chakraborty
Pavan Kumar Challu
Pure Mathematics
William M. Montanaro Jr.
Catherine B. Sass
Political Science
Aysegul Keskin Zeren
Sociology
Chivon H. Fitch
Sarah B. Sambanet
Translation Studies
Christopher D. Melling
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
Marketing
Kun Chen
Rebecca Erin Dingus
COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION
Communication Studies
John H. Huap
Jenny Rosenberg
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND HUMAN SERVICES
Counseling and Human Development Services
Maiko Xiong

Cultural Foundations
Denis Katsukiwi
Victor A.owan
Curriculum and Instruction
Ellen Broock Kopelowich
Terril L. Christensen
Shu-Hui Lin
Elizabeth H. Shoveck
Kimberly J. Yoak
Education Administration-Higher Education
Rhonda D. Ripson
Patrick E. Jackson
Educational Administration-K-12 Leadership
Matthew C. Bradic
Exercise Physiology
Andrew J. Barnes
Robert S. Phillips
Health Education and Promotion
Kristina N. Knight
Special Education
Abdulkarim H. Alhassan
Deirdre S. Dransfield
School Psychology
Katherine B. Lavik
COLLEGE OF NURSING
Nursing
Philip G. Moser
(N.D.P)
COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Public Health
Vanessa J. Marshall
Summer 2014
COLLEGE OF THE ARTS
Music Education
John E. Veneskey
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
Applied Geology
Chandrawimal H. E. R. Siriwardana
Applied Mathematics
Yuxi Cui
Biological Sciences-Physiology
Santanu De
Biomedical Sciences-Cellular and Molecular Biology
Payel Chatterjee
Tejasvi Dudiki
Danielle Marie Janota
Biomedical Sciences-Neurosciences
Sara A. Houston
Chemical Physics
Yue Cui
Chemistry
Harshichandra Subedi
Philip M. Yangyuoru
Clinical Psychology
William E. Ajayi
Emily Kay Bell
Petra Duran
Ashley M. Holbert
David A. Kalmbach
Katherine Couper Leventhal
Lindsay Ann Miller
Adam T. Morris
Computer Science
Abdulkareem AlAli
Gregory S. DeLosier
Lin Liu
English
Lauren A. Matus
Lea Povzhaev
Experimental Psychology
Christie Lee Bartholomew
Lynn T. Hammond
Travis J. Hartin
Mohammed Shalkeel Kalathil
Sean Chandler Rite
Geography
Michael James Allen
Bradley J. Austin
Weronica Anna Kusek
David E. Widner
History
Melissa A. Steinmetz
Physics
Kelly E. Reidy
Political Science
Jessica E. Rumsey
Pure Mathematics
John W. Hoffman
Olana S. Kozhushkina
Sociology
Chivon H. Fitch
Kelly MacArthur
Stephen D. Mullet
Lindsay Lauren Westermann Ayers
Higher Education-Administration
Kimberly J. Yoak
Shu-Hui Lin
Natalya A. Schenck
Winola Sue Amodio (D.N.P)
COLLEGE OF NURSING
Nursing
Andrea Patrice Simms
Winola Sue Amodio (D.N.P)

Finance
Thomas A. Hanson
Natalya A. Schenck
Nona Sorokin
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND HUMAN SERVICES
Audiology
Kelly Anne Bohlander
Kelly L. Cartwright
Jennifer M. Castellucci
Debra Ashley Clark
Carlee Ann Cox
Katie Cragen Englehart
Erin M. Hunt
Lauren D. McGiver
Kayla McKay
Allyson N. Valentine
Catherine L. Voit
Counseling and Human Development Services
Eric R. Batrinic
Colleges Art Foundations
Aaron M. Karoni
Bryan Andrew Silverman
Curriculum and Instruction
Katherine E. Batchelor
Lisa Marie Geocaris
Education Administration-Higher Education
Holly Craider
Talat Renee Drummer
Education Administration-K-12 Leadership
Merritt T. Waters
Educational Psychology
Shawn D. Golden
Evaluation and Measurement
Ipek Ozer
Exercise Physiology
Duane Benjamin Corbett
Michael Rebold
Health Education and Promotion
Manuela Barboracrawley
Special Education
Yovonne Ellen Hale
Andrea Patrice Simms
COLLEGE OF NURSING
Nursing
Wiwona Sue Amodio (D.N.P)

Lory Anne Lewis (Ph.D)

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DIVISION OF GRADUATE STUDIES
The Graduate Dean's Award (GDA) promotes diversity of views, experiences and ideas in the pursuit of research, scholarship and creative excellence within graduate education at Kent State University. The GDA seeks to enhance Kent State's recruitment and support of academically excellent graduate students from diverse backgrounds. Each GDA recipient is awarded $5,000 for full-time work on the dissertation.

**University Fellowships**

The University Fellowship is awarded annually to recognize excellent scholarship and research potential. The University Fellowship provides recipients with a full-time graduate assistantship for the fall semester (with a service commitment) and a non-service appointment for spring semester to allow for full-time work on the dissertation. Sixteen University Fellowships were awarded for AY 2014-15.

**Awards and Fellowships**

**Graduate Dean's Award (GDA)**

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American English. The focus of her project is to determine if there are general norms in reading, writing, and speaking, and their relationships to cultural transfer and national identity. Dr. Bisee has authored one journal article and has presented internationally. She plans to use the University Fellowship to complete her dissertation and to present and publish the study findings.

BRIAN DON
Ph.D., Experimental Psychology
Don is a doctoral candidate in Kent State’s Department of Psychology. His research focuses on close relationships, psychological well-being and physical health. Based on self-expansion theory, Don’s dissertation explores how social support fosters or hinders the development of meaning in life. Future studies will examine the effectiveness of social support seeking and provision within intimate relationships. Don has published six articles, five of which are first authored, and two book chapters. He has regularly presented at both regional and nationally. In addition, Don recently received the Steve Duck New Scholar Award from the International Association of Relationships Research. He plans to use the University Fellowship to finish writing his dissertation and to submit manuscripts for publication.

MICHELLE JONES
Ph.D., Clinical Psychology
Jones is a doctoral candidate in Kent State’s Department of Psychology. Her research interests are in the areas of eating psychopathology, body image, weight suppression and fat talk. Jones’ dissertation focuses on the development and maintenance of eating psychopathology. Specifically, it examines the predictive relationship between weight suppression and eating psychopathology among adolescent and young adult females. It also examines a number of factors associated with this relationship, including dietary restraint, impulsivity and emotion dysregulation. Jones has published three journal articles, and is first or second author on two of these. In addition, she has presented her research at several conferences. Jones plans to use the University Fellowship to complete the dissertation work and to submit manuscripts for publication.

GALYNA LIVSHYTS
Ph.D., Mathematics
Livshyts is a doctoral candidate in Kent State’s Department of Mathematical Sciences. She previously earned a M.S. from Kharkiv National University in Ukraine. Her research interests include asymptotic analysis, probability theory, Brunov-Minkowski theory and the geometry of Gaussian measures and log-concave measures. Her dissertation studies the geometry of log-concave measures, and provides a full solution to the reverse isoperimetric problem for the entire class of log-concave rotation invariant probability measures. Livshyts is the sole author of two journal articles, and has presented her work both nationally and internationally. She has given numerous invited talks, including one at the Banff International Research Station in Canada and one at the Asymptotic Geometric Analysis Seminar in Israel. In addition, Livshyts served as an advisor for undergraduate students in the Ohio Northern University fellowship program. She plans to use the University Fellowship to conduct additional studies and to finish writing her dissertation.

NORMA GUNATHILAKE
Ph.D., Chemistry
Gunathilake is a doctoral candidate in Kent State’s Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. She is primarily interested in the synthesis of nano-materials for potential environmental applications, such as carbon dioxide (CO2) sequestration from industrial power plants, uranium extraction from seawater, and heavy metal capturing from waste streams. Her dissertation will examine the effects of current technologies for CO2 sequestration by synthesizing metal incorporated silicon-based materials with different amine groups. These synthesized materials will be characterized for chemical, physical and biological properties.

HILLARY MELLEMA
Ph.D., Marketing
Mellema is a doctoral candidate in Kent State’s Department of Marketing and Entrepreneurship. She previously earned a B.A. from Saginaw Valley State University. She is currently interested in research on consumer decision-making processes. Mellema’s dissertation explores how consumer decision-making processes impact consumer satisfaction and purchase intentions. Her dissertation will examine how consumer decision-making processes impact consumer satisfaction and purchase intentions.

MARIUS PAULIKAS
Ph.D., Geography
Paulikas entered Kent State’s doctoral program in Geography after obtaining a B.S. from Northern Illinois University. His research interests focus on severe weather outbreaks and public safety. Although the National Weather Service advises people to seek shelter in first-floor interior rooms when basements are not available, historical data suggests that first-floor interior rooms are not always safe during severe storms. Paulikas’ dissertation investigates a model to predict tornado fatality rates on the basis of people’s daily migration patterns and the availability of safe basements. Future studies will further examine migration patterns and shelter availability in tornado-prone regions of the United States. Paulikas is first author on three articles and has presented his research at regional and national conferences. He plans to use the University Fellowship to finish his dissertation and to disseminate his research findings.

PIOTR POPOV
Ph.D., Physics
Popov is a doctoral candidate in Kent State’s Department of Physics. He obtained his B.S. in Physics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and his M.S. in Physics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His dissertation will examine the effectiveness of indecisive consumers make better consumption choices. Melkumian is an author on two journal articles and has presented her work at local and national conferences. In addition, she has served as the academic professor as a conference reviewer and as Vice Chair of Research for the Doctoral Special Interest Group of the American Marketing Association. Melkumian plans to use the University Fellowship to finish data collection and to write the dissertation.

PIOTR POPOV
Ph.D., Physics
Popov is a doctoral candidate in Kent State’s Department of Physics. He obtained his B.S. in Physics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and his M.S. in Physics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His dissertation will examine the effectiveness of indecisive consumers make better consumption choices. Melkumian is an author on two journal articles and has presented her work at local and national conferences. In addition, she has served as the academic professor as a conference reviewer and as Vice Chair of Research for the Doctoral Special Interest Group of the American Marketing Association. Melkumian plans to use the University Fellowship to finish data collection and to write the dissertation.

MARIUS PAULIKAS
Ph.D., Geography
Paulikas entered Kent State’s doctoral program in Geography after obtaining a B.S. from Northern Illinois University. His research interests focus on severe weather outbreaks and public safety. Although the National Weather Service advises people to seek shelter in first-floor interior rooms when basements are not available, historical data suggests that first-floor interior rooms are not always safe during severe storms. Paulikas’ dissertation investigates a model to predict tornado fatality rates on the basis of people’s daily migration patterns and the availability of safe basements. Future studies will further examine migration patterns and shelter availability in tornado-prone regions of the United States. Paulikas is first author on three articles and has presented his research at regional and national conferences. He plans to use the University Fellowship to finish his dissertation and to disseminate his research findings.

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community outreach. Vincent is author of one journal article and co-author of one book, and she has published several book reviews. She has presented her research at both regional and national conferences. Additionally, Vincent has served her profession as a manuscript reviewer and as an executive board member of Phi Alpha Theta. She plans to use the University Fellowship to finish writing and editing her dissertation.

MATTHEW WORDEN
Ph.D., Chemistry

Worden is a doctoral candidate in Kent State’s Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. His research interests are in the areas of materials chemistry, nanoparticles and magnetism. For his dissertation, Worden is examining how the shape of iron oxide nanoparticles affects their physical and chemical properties. In particular, his focus is on whether shape leads to specific cell uptake or penetration of the blood brain barrier. This work has implications for various medical applications, such as drug delivery and MRI contrast. Worden is an author on seven journal articles and is co-author of two U.S. patents. He has presented his work at several conferences, and received an award at the 2013 Canadian Chemistry Society conference. He plans to use the fellowship to collect additional data and write his dissertation.

Jeanette and Louis Reuter Fellowship in Developmental Science

The Jeanette and Louis Reuter Fellowship in Developmental Science is awarded annually in memory of Jeanette Reuter to an outstanding graduate student who is studying a significant topic in mental health and exceptional scholarship. One award was made.

SHANNON CLAXTON
Ph.D., Experimental Psychology

Claxton is a doctoral candidate in Kent State’s experimental psychology program. Her research primarily focuses on causal sexual relationships and experiences (CSRE) during adolescence and emerging adulthood, an emerging area of research in the field of human development. Claxton’s dissertation examines the longitudinal associations between CSRE engagement and depression and self-esteem in a large, community-based sample of emerging adults. Claxton is an author on six journal articles and one book chapter, and she has presented her research at regional, national and international conferences. She has served her department as a student representative on several committees and her profession as a journal reviewer. In addition, Claxton was recently selected as a junior scholar for a training program offered by the European Association for Research on Adolescence and the Society for Research on Adolescence.

Lillian Friedman Award

The Lillian Friedman Award is presented annually in honor of the late Lillian Friedman to recognize an outstanding graduate student contributing to and studying in the area of mental health. Criteria include studying a significant topic in mental health and exceptional scholarship. One award was made.

SARAH GARCIA
Ph.D., Clinical Psychology

Garcia is a doctoral candidate in Kent State’s clinical psychology program. Her research interests are primarily focused on the neuropsychological functioning of older adults, especially in the context of sleep and medical conditions. In particular, she is interested in how sleep quality, fitness, and medical factors influence cognition in older adults. This research has important implications for identifying treatment options that can alleviate problems in cognition and sleep—both of which are commonly impaired in older adults. Garcia is an author on ten articles and one book chapter. She has presented her work at regional, national and international conferences. She is currently completing an internship at the University of California, Los Angeles Medical Center. After graduation, Garcia plans to complete licensure in neuropsychology and work in an academic setting.

David B. Smith Award

The David B. Smith Award is presented annually in honor of David B. Smith, a magna cum laude graduate of Kent State University, to recognize exceptional scholarship and research potential. Criteria include outstanding accomplishment in scholarship and teaching, and at least a 3.5 GPA. One award was made.

MICHAEL ALOSCO
Ph.D., Clinical Psychology

Alonso is a doctoral student in the clinical psychology program. His research interests are in the area of medical neuropsychology. More specifically, his current research focuses on the impact of cardiovascular disease on the brain and how these effects translate to impairments in daily function. Alonso’s impressive record includes authorship on more than 60 articles, of which more than 35 are first-authored, and over 25 presentations at international conferences. He was recently the managing editor of a journal, and regularly serves as a journal reviewer. In addition, he has received several awards, including a fellowship from the American Heart Association and an Early Graduate Student Researcher Award from the American Psychological Association. Alonso is currently completing an internship at The Boston Consortium in Clinical Psychology. He plans to become a licensed and board-certified neuropsychologist and establish an independent line of research.
The Division of Graduate Studies offers many programs and resources for graduate students across all academic disciplines. Examples include new student and teaching assistant orientation, professional and academic development workshops, social gatherings, and research support and opportunities for current graduate students.

Graduate Student Orientation (GSO)

Graduate Student Orientation (GSO), held prior to fall and spring semesters, provides an opportunity for new graduate students of all disciplines to meet and network with their peers and representatives of Kent State's faculty, staff and administration, and to learn about university resources.

GSO includes general sessions about campus services, a resource fair, and breakout sessions on topics related to research, technology and teaching. The two-day format optimizes the opportunity for new students to learn about and become socialized to Kent State, while minimizing the time spent away from work or other obligations. The first day is a general program that is open to all new graduate students. The second day is teaching-specific and is required for graduate students. The second day is a general program that is open to all new graduate students. The second day is teaching-specific and is required for graduate students.

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GPAD workshops have significantly enriched my graduate education at Kent State University. From these workshops, I have met other graduate students, learned how to be more efficient in my research as well as how to prepare for the job market after graduation. GPAD workshops are versatile, as they provide opportunities for students to professionally develop throughout all stages of their graduate education.”

— Alex Lesak, master’s student in Public Health

Graduate Professional and Academic Development (GPAD)

The Division of Graduate Studies sponsors a weeklong professional development workshop series each semester known as GPAD (Graduate Professional and Academic Development). The one-hour workshops are free and open to Kent State graduate students from all disciplines. The workshops are designed to supplement material that was presented during Graduate Student Orientation, along with professional and academic development that occurs at the program- or college-level.

The GPAD workshops are a collaborative initiative between the Division of Graduate Studies and other campus units including University Libraries, Research and Sponsored Programs, Career Services, Blackstone LaunchPad, LGBTQ Student Center, Information Services and the Office of Continuing and Distance Education. The sessions are facilitated by university faculty, staff and teaching fellows. Faculty collaboration and student attendance at the Graduate Professional and Academic Development workshops have increased each semester since its inception in fall 2012, and more than 500 students have participated to date.

Changes were made to the program based on survey feedback from participants, including the development of new workshops and modifications to existing workshops. For example, “Rethinking Your Course for the Online Environment” was added to account for the increase in online course offerings, and “RefWorks” was split into two sessions (Basic and Advanced) to better accommodate students with varying levels of knowledge on the subject.

Graduate Student Senate

The Graduate Student Senate (GSS) represents the concerns and provides support to the graduate student community. By serving as an allocation body, GSS assists with graduate student travel and research funding. Additionally, GSS organizes and provides financial support for graduate student social activities. GSS meets four times each semester, and lunch is always provided. An event known as GradFest is held monthly at local establishments and allows students to socialize and network with their peers. All graduate students are welcome to become involved with Graduate Student Senate.
Graduate Research Symposium
Each year, the Graduate Student Senate sponsors the Graduate Research Symposium, which provides a forum for students to share findings from or products of their research and creative activities. All forms of scholarship are encouraged, as the program features oral and poster presentations by students from various disciplines. Monetary awards are given for the most outstanding presentations, as judged by Kent State faculty, and a keynote address is given by an esteemed faculty or staff member at the awards luncheon.

The 29th Annual Graduate Research Symposium was held on Friday, April 11, 2014, in the Kent Student Center. It was the largest symposium to date, with a total of 236 presentations, and students from all 10 academic colleges were represented. Additionally, nearly 70 faculty and staff members served as judges and volunteers. The theme was “Sharing the Vision: A Community of Research,” and the awards luncheon speaker was Dr. Melody Tankersley Ph. D., Associate Provost for Academic Affairs at Kent State University.

Graduate Student Socials
The Division of Graduate Studies collaborated with the Office of Global Education to host two Graduate Student Socials during spring 2014 in the Cartwright Hall Atrium. These new events served as a platform for social engagement among graduate students from various disciplines, as well as an informal environment for international and domestic students to interact. The event in February served to welcome international and domestic students to interact. The event in February served to welcome international and domestic students to interact. The event in February served to welcome international and domestic students to interact. The event in February served to welcome international and domestic students to interact. The event in February served to welcome international and domestic students to interact. The event in February served to welcome international and domestic students to interact. The event in February served to welcome international and domestic students to interact. The event in February served to welcome international and domestic students to interact. The event in February served to welcome international and domestic students to interact. The event in February served to welcome international and domestic students to interact.

Graduate Student Involvement and Awards:

- GRADUATE TEACHING FELLOW FOR GRADUATE STUDENT ORIENTATION, 2012 - PRESENT
- TEACHING ASSISTANT
- KSU BUSINESS CONCEPT AWARD, 2012

WHAT ARE YOUR LONGTERM CAREER GOALS? My career goal is to become an expert in my area of research, and to make an important research contribution that helps people understand themselves and the world. My research is on computational cognition. More specifically, the study of comprehension and molding the ways humans understand text and multimedia through computer science. My thesis is studying the variations between text and multimedia comprehension and the emotional states involved. One of the interesting aspects of this kind of research, is that a complex cognitive task, such as comprehension, is studied using the tools and methods of computer science.

HOW WILL YOUR RESEARCH EXPERIENCE AS A GRADUATE STUDENT AT KSU PREPARE YOU FOR A CAREER IN YOUR FIELD? The research-oriented nature of my program is vital for my future career. Acquiring the skills needed to evaluate research and new ideas is essential. Additionally, the experience of doing research and teaching imitates the role of a researcher in a future career.

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR MOST IMPACTFUL EXPERIENCE AS A RESEARCHER AT KENT STATE? Publication rejection can be seen as a very negative experience. The fact is that everyone in the academia at some point will experience it. For me I found it to be frustrating but an educational experience. To put your work under the microscope and get the feedback of experts will make your work better, and more importantly it will make you a better researcher.

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR FAVORITE PART OF YOUR GRADUATE STUDENT EXPERIENCE AT KENT STATE? The combination of teaching and being a student at the same time is very unique. It gives me the perspective of a student and an instructor at the same time, and that allows me to become better in both.

Student Spotlight

Name: NASER MADI
Graduate student status: Ph.D. STUDENT AND TEACHING ASSISTANT
Anticipated graduation dates: M.S. (2014); Ph.D. (2017)
Current Academic program: COMPUTER SCIENCE
Hometown: AMMAN, JORDAN

Administrative Updates

Graduate Studies Administrative Advisory Committee (GSAAC)

The Graduate Studies Administrative Advisory Committee (GSAAC) is comprised of the associate dean for graduate affairs from each academic college, and is chaired by the dean of Graduate Studies. GSAAC serves the university as the primary academic advisory body to the dean of Graduate Studies on those matters involving graduate school programs, policies and procedures.

2013-2014 Membership

MARY ANTHONY,
College of Nursing
RAYMOND CRAIG,
College of Arts and Sciences
JAN CROWTHER,
College of Arts and Sciences
JOHN GRAHAM,
College of Public Health
CATHERINE HACKNEY,
College of Education, Health, and Human Services
LUETT HANSON,
College of Communication and Information
VINCE HETHERINGTON,
Pediatric Medicine

RALPH LORENZ,
College of the Arts
I. RICHMOND NETTEY,
College of Technology
DONALD WILLIAMS,
College of Business Administration
WILLIAM WILLOUGHBY,
Associate Dean, College of Architecture and Environmental Design

Admissions Workgroup

Participation in the Graduate Studies Admissions workgroup grew during the 2013-14 academic year. The group consists of administrative personnel who work closely with graduate deans, coordinators and graduate faculty throughout the application process. The group meets once per month to exchange information and ideas regarding new initiatives and policies, as well as to discuss concerns related to graduate education at Kent State.

Communication

Graduate Student Newsletter

GradNews, the graduate student newsletter, is distributed biweekly to over 6,000 graduate and professional students. The bulletin provides students with university-level information about upcoming events and deadlines. Kent State students, staff and administrators are encouraged to submit information for consideration for the newsletter.

“Graduate Student Socials! To me, the social is all about taking a minute to put down my research and courses and reconnect with people. It always ends up that I run into someone I haven’t seen in the longest time and we get a chance to catch up. It doesn’t hurt that the food is always amazing, and there’s live entertainment and drinks! What more could a graduate student want?”

— Scout McCully, doctoral student in Clinical Psychology

Graduate Coordinator Newsletter

The graduate coordinator newsletter provides communication from Graduate Studies to faculty and support staff involved in graduate education and admissions processes. The bulletin is sent monthly, and includes information on topics such as admission policy and procedure changes, as well as application and enrollment updates, and upcoming events.

Facebook
https://www.facebook.com/kent.grad.studies

The rise in popularity of social media sites, such as Facebook, enables us to connect and engage with Kent State graduate students prior to their arrival to campus and throughout their academic careers. The Division of Graduate Studies Facebook page provides current and prospective students with university-level information regarding professional and academic development opportunities, upcoming deadlines and social events. The page also promotes interdisciplinary research opportunities, networking opportunities and local events. Additionally, Graduate Studies maintains the Graduate Student Orientation (GSO) Facebook page, which provides new students with information about orientation, including updates to the schedule and program details.