

Vice Provost's Welcome: Professor Jennifer Roberts

Graduate students hold multi-faceted and wide-ranging roles across our University. They collaborate with faculty, staff, other students, and alumni to achieve ambitious academic and research goals that push the boundaries of human knowledge. Our graduate students are a vital community at the heart of who we are.

As the new Vice Provost for Graduate Studies, I am excited to work with students, faculty, and staff across KU to promote graduate student success. This work involves reflecting on all areas of the graduate student experience and working collaboratively with teams across campus. My new role is part of a larger network of support, and I look forward to working with others in a shared mission to perpetually improve the success and wellbeing of KU graduate students.



Transitions in the Office of Graduate Studies

My new role was created as part of a recent structural reorganization within the Office of Graduate Studies that placed the office within the Office of the Provost and moved Graduate Admissions and recruiting functions to the Office of Enrollment Management. This reorganization will create new opportunities to further serve and support graduate students as well as faculty in their academic and research missions. The reorganization was the result of months of collaborative planning between the Graduate Studies Advisory Committee work groups, the Vice Provost for Graduate Studies search committee, Graduate

Grad Students Rising

Eight graduate students will represent the University of Kansas Lawrence Campus at the [2020 Capitol Graduate Research Summit](#) (date and time below)

The summit provides an opportunity to showcase the quality of graduate research performed in the State of Kansas. This select group of graduate students will engage directly with education officials, members of State government, and the general public.

The graduate students presenting their research are:

- Sal Rahmani
- Swarnagowri Vaidyanathan
- Beth Rankin
- Gregory Leung
- Amirreza Zarnaghsh
- Noriko Nakamura
- Amilee Turner
- Andrea Garcia

Learn more about them and their research [here](#).

**Exciting News,
Save the Date!**

Studies staff, and university leaders. I thank all for the thought and effort that went into the transition process. I especially want to thank Interim Dean Audrey Lamb for her incredible leadership during the reorganization, as well as Interim Provost Carl Lejuez, whose hard work, vision, and leadership strengthened the Office of Graduate Studies and leaves us well poised for continued growth.

The reorganization of the Office of Graduate Studies is already benefiting students in a number of ways. For example, the Executive Council of Graduate Faculty (ECGF), comprised of faculty from units across KU, recently restructured the Chancellor's Doctoral Fellowships to provide multi-year, competitive funding for top doctoral applicants who display exceptional research potential. I want to thank the members of ECGF for their work to both administer and improve these awards, which allow KU to continue to recruit top students and promote their doctoral studies.

Supporting Graduate Student Professional Development and Research

In addition to fellowships, the Office of Graduate Studies also provides current graduate students with funding for research and travel.

The *Graduate Scholarly Presentation Travel Fund* is intended to help graduate students advance their research and develop professional networks by presenting their original scholarship at a meeting of a learned or professional society held outside the state of Kansas. Thanks to the Student Senate and their commitment to graduate student professional development, we have considerably more funding available than in previous years by which to support graduate student travel. The fund provides reimbursements of \$500 for domestic or international travel. Additional eligibility requirements, information, and the link to the application form may be found on our [website](#). The application for travel funds is currently open.

The Office of Graduate Studies also administers the *Doctoral Student Research Fund (DSRF)*, which supports KU doctoral students on the Lawrence and Edwards Campuses. This fund provides assistance to carry out research that advances the student's progress toward a doctoral degree. Funds are limited, with an average of only 16 awards per semester. A doctoral student is eligible to receive one (1) award during their doctoral career. Award amounts vary, with a maximum award of \$1,500. Applications for the DSRF are due **February 19th at 4 p.m.** Additional details can be found on our [website](#).

One Day. One KU. Graduate Student Emergency Fund

The Office of Graduate Studies has identified the *Graduate Student Emergency Fund* as our fundraising priority during the [One Day. One KU](#) drive, which takes place **February 20th**. This fund provides financial aid to graduate students facing unexpected economic strain due to illness, the death of a family member, accident, theft, or other causes of similar nature. In many instances, this aid has proven to be a critical factor in

2020 Capitol Graduate Research Summit
Wednesday, Feb. 26th
10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
1st floor Rotunda,
State Capitol
Building in Topeka,
Kansas.

allowing a student to continue their studies when confronted with otherwise insurmountable expenses. However, current student need is significantly outpacing the availability of funds. On **February 20th**, please consider supporting our *Graduate Student Emergency Fund* by making a donation. Your generosity will help ensure that no KU student is left without financial relief when emergencies arise. To find out more about our campaign, visit our [One Day. One KU. page](#) or give anytime [here](#).

Quick Tips:

Funding Applications Currently Open

Graduate Studies is currently accepting applications for the [Doctoral Student Research Fund](#) and the [Graduate Scholarly Presentation Travel Fund](#).

Policy Updates Published

Graduate Studies has published recent updates to the [Doctoral Student Oral Exam Committee Composition](#) policy. Please contact [Amber Roberts Graham](#) with any questions.

The Office of the Provost has published a new policy outlining the hearing procedures and regulations governing the [Graduate Teaching Assistant Grievance Resolution Committee](#) (GTA GRC).

GradFac Database now viewable by all faculty and staff

All faculty and staff at KU now have the ability to view the GradFac database through the KU portal. This means anyone with a staff or faculty login can assist graduate students with looking up potential committee members and confirming the privileges they hold. As part of this update, access to GradFac database reports is changing. Please contact [Amber Roberts Graham](#) if you need a report run while these changes are taking place or if you regularly use the reporting functions in GradFac.

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