



## Connected to the KU Community

This week, everyone at KU is adjusting to a new schedule that takes us out of our normal routines, in a commendable effort to promote health for our entire community. We hope each and every member of our community is well and feels connected with family and friends during this turbulent time. We recognize that many of us are facing completely new and unforeseen challenges and, in some cases, several new adventures all at once. Our primary goal in Graduate Studies right now is to help smooth the path for each and every one of you who carry out the primary teaching and research missions of this institution.

In order to keep staff safe and healthy during the COVID-19 pandemic, the University of Kansas has encouraged staff to work remotely. Staff in the offices of Graduate Studies, Graduate Admissions, Graduate Military Programs, and the Self Graduate Fellowship, like many in the KU community, are working remotely but still ready and available to support you in promoting graduate students in your programs. Please email [graduate@ku.edu](mailto:graduate@ku.edu) to connect. Members of our team are available via Zoom and Skype appointments during Spring Semester 2020.

## Coronavirus (COVID-19) Updates



The University of Kansas is closely monitoring the situation regarding the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic. The most up-to-date information is available at [coronavirus.ku.edu](http://coronavirus.ku.edu). Basic guidance from Graduate Studies is also available on our website [graduate.ku.edu](http://graduate.ku.edu) and we encourage you to reach out with any questions that you have as this situation evolves.

Please help ensure that your graduate students are registered with the campus emergency notification system. KU leadership will use this system to push urgent notifications to the entire campus community, including major announcements about the

## Grad Students Rising

**Swarnagowri Vaidyanathan and Sal Rahmani took the top prizes for the Lawrence campus at the [2020 Capitol Graduate Research Summit](#)**

Ms. Vaidyanathan, studying Bioengineering in Professor Soper's lab, earned recognition from this year's sponsor, BioKansas, for her project on [Development of a Nanofluidic Device for Detecting Cancer](#).

Mr. Rahmani, a member of Professor Wang's Aerospace Engineering lab, demonstrated [Reduction of Supersonic Jet Noise by Modifying the Nozzle Exit Geometry](#).

## Exciting News, Save the Date!

### Summer Research Scholarships

*Nominations close Wednesday, Apr. 15<sup>th</sup>*

### Argersinger Dissertation Awards

*Nominations close Monday, Mar. 23<sup>rd</sup>*

COVID-19 situation.

We know that circumstances surrounding COVID-19 can have a number of non-academic consequences for graduate students. We are working closely with other units on campus to provide emergency funds for those students who encounter financial hardship and will send out information as soon as we receive it.

## Graduate and Professional Student Appreciation Week

The National Association of Graduate-Professional Students has promoted a Graduate and Professional Student Appreciation Week since 1993. This year, KU will take part in the national event from April 6-12. We encourage faculty, departments, and research groups to take time to celebrate these students' important contributions.

This is a great opportunity to be outspoken in our shared appreciation for graduate students and their impactful work at KU. Showing appreciation and care for your graduate students is particularly important during this uncertain time. They are a cornerstone of our shared teaching and research missions at all times and, like all of us, are going to extra lengths to help us meet our goals this semester.



The Office of Graduate Studies will host a Virtual Pet Café with Rue the Cat and her human, Vice Provost Jennifer Roberts.

- Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, 3:30-4:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, 3:30-4:00 p.m.
- Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, 3:30-4:00 p.m.

Zoom links will be posted at [graduate.ku.edu](https://graduate.ku.edu) and via our social media accounts. Please encourage your students to join the group, introduced their pets, and get to know other pets and their humans. We will also host a drawing for some OGS swag and other goodies that your students can enter via a webform at [graduate.ku.edu](https://graduate.ku.edu).

## Quick Tips:

## Awards and Scholarships

Graduate Studies administers several awards for current graduate students and mentors, such as the Argersinger Dissertation Award and the Byrd Graduate Educator Award. If you have a student or colleague (faculty/staff) who has excelled in graduate education, please consider nominating them for an award. You can find a list of awards with upcoming deadlines in Spring 2020 [on our website](#).

Because KU has restricted travel, we have suspended awards from the Graduate Scholarly Presentation Travel Fund for trips scheduled to take place during spring semester 2020. Students who have already received this award and whose travel has been canceled should work with their SSC to get refunds, reschedule their travel, or utilize the funds for other scholarly purposes. No one will be asked to return their award if it can be used. We will reinstate awards once KU has lifted the travel restriction. The application portal remains open to receive requests from students facing serious hardship due to cancelled travel for which no other remedy is available.

## Funding Applications Currently Open

The Lt. General William K. Jones Military-Affiliated Student Center is accepting applications and nominations for approximately ten awards to support study next year. Graduate students are eligible for many of them. Please review the opportunities [here](#) and encourage your students to do the same.

Graduate Studies is currently accepting applications for [Argersinger Dissertation Awards](#) and [Summer Research Scholarships](#). The following awards will open for nominations next week.

- [Graduate Teaching Assistant Awards](#)
- [Byrd Graduate Educator Award](#)
- [Outstanding Graduate Support Staff Award](#)

## Website Updates

We have made minor changes to rearrange the [Faculty and Staff Resources](#) landing page. Most notably, we've added a big button at the top to take you directly to the Admit/Prospect system, and we've added an archive of Grad Astra's first year. Other items on this page may appear in a slightly different order but it's all still there!

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