As part of K-State’s Graduate Student Appreciation Month, the annual GSC Awards and Recognition Reception serves to recognize accomplishments and contributions of K-State graduate students. The 2020 reception was canceled as part of K-State’s limited operations in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Listed below are the graduate students and graduate faculty who were to be recognized at this year’s reception.

**University Awards**

**University Distinguished Professors Graduate Student Award Recipients**
The University Distinguished Professors Graduate Student awards recognize exceptional achievement in graduate studies. Award recipients must demonstrate excellence in scholarship through publications and other accomplishments in their academic field. The recipients were selected by an interdisciplinary committee of graduate faculty and a member of the University Distinguished Professors group. Funds are used to support their dissertation, research, travel, planning postdoctoral moves or other expenses.

2019-2020 Award Recipients

*Hojjatollah Fallahi, Electrical and Computer Engineering*

*Jun Li, Biological and Agricultural Engineering*

*Santiago Tamagno, Agronomy*

*Anastasia Cooper, Entomology*

2020-2021 Award Recipients

*Hayley Fisher, Psychology*

*Simranjot Bawa, Biochemistry*

*Matthew Galliart, Biology*

**Alvin and RosaLee Sarachek Predoctoral Honors Fellowship in Molecular Biology**
The Sarachek Predoctoral Honors Fellowship provides an award of $17,000 to a graduate student enrolled in a PhD program at Kansas State University. The award recognizes exceptional achievement in scholastics and research that relies significantly on one or more contemporary molecular biological techniques. Recipients must show evidence of effective communication of research results through publications in leading journals and presentations at national and international meetings. Fellowship funds are intended to assist with the recipient’s transition to his or her postdoctoral career. In addition to the fellowship, up to three travel wards of $1,000 each may be presented annually.

*Fellowship Recipient: Konner Winkley, Biology*

*Travel Award Recipient: Paula Silva, Genetics*

*Travel Award Recipient: Anil Pant, Biology*

**Catalyzing Advocacy in Science and Engineering (CASE) Workshop Participants**
The C.A.S.E. workshop is an opportunity for students to learn about the structure and organization of congress, the federal budget and appropriations processes, and tools for effective science communication and civic engagement. Attendance at the C.A.S.E workshop is funded by the Graduate School, Office of the Vice President for Research and Office of Governmental Relations.

*Kahao Lim, Civil Engineering*

*Anne Schechner, Biology*

**GSC Awards for Graduate Student Teaching Excellence**
The GSC Award for Graduate Student Teaching Excellence recognizes graduate teaching assistants who have excelled in classroom teaching and serve to promote awareness of the important contributions graduate students make to the scholarship of the university. Each year one master’s student and one doctoral student is selected.

*Doctoral Award: Tucker Jones, Psychology*

*Master’s Award: Katie Cline, English*
Three Minute Thesis Award Winners
This past February the Graduate School hosted K-State’s fourth annual 3MT® competition. Top presenters from each heat were selected by judges to move forward and compete in the final competition. From the final competition, a judging panel selected first and second place presenters, and a people’s choice award winner was selected by the audience.

First Place: Cameron Osborne, Entomology
Second Place: Mikaela Rader, Geology
People’s Choice Award: Kristen Sikorsky, Horticulture and Natural Resources

K-State Alumni Association Graduate Student Award Recipients

International Leadership Award
The International Leadership Award program recognizes outstanding international graduating students for service and leadership within the international K-State and Manhattan communities.

Ayyappan Elangovan, Chemistry
Narmadha Mohankumar, Statistics

Tony Jurich Community Commitment and Leadership Student Award
The Tony Jurich Community Commitment and Leadership Student Award honors two graduating students (one undergraduate and one graduate) who have demonstrated a commitment to community leadership and service. The recipients of the Tony Jurich awards have demonstrated Jurich’s Core Leadership Tenets, which guided his teaching and leadership: strive for resonance; assume value and be respectful; be compassionate; do what is right; seek out, affirm and utilize diversity; and lead by example.

Michelle Washburn-Busk, Human Ecology-Couple and Family Therapy

Graduate Award for Outstanding Leadership and Service
This award recognizes a graduate student who has made an impact by serving and leading graduate students.

Emily Pascoe Oertling, Human Ecology-Apparel, Textiles, and Interior Design

Graduate Award for Outstanding Academics
This award recognizes a graduate student who has contributed to his/her academic field of study.

Hojjatollah Fallahi, Electrical and Computer Engineering

College Recognitions
The Graduate Student Council invites each academic college to recognize a select number of graduate students, as well as one graduate faculty member who has made significant contributions to graduate education. The method for selecting students and a faculty member to be recognized is determined by each college.

College of Agriculture

Faculty:
Dr. Elini Pliakoni, Horticulture and Natural Resources
College of Agriculture Graduate Faculty Teaching Award

Students:
Karen Schneck, Horticulture and Natural Resources
Richard Elmore Brown Graduate Student Teaching Award

Caitlin Evans, Grain Science
Richard Elmore Brown Graduate Student Teaching Award

Ester McCabe, Animal Science
Richard Elmore Brown Graduate Student Teaching Award

Robert Elliott Carver, Agronomy
2019 North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture Graduate Student Teaching Award
Nar Ranabhat, Plant Pathology
Kansas Academy of Science Graduate Student Award

Randall Martin, Grain Science
Co-author of paper selected as 2019 Isydore Hlynka Best Student Award in the Rheology Division - AACC

Madison Butler, Animal Science
Beef Improvement Federation 2019 Baker/Cundiff Scholarship

Paula Rozo, Entomology
Finalist in K-State Three Minute Thesis Competition

School of Applied and Interdisciplinary Studies

Faculty:
Dr. Paige Adams, Applied Interdisciplinary Studies
Outstanding Professional Science Master’s Faculty Award

Student:
Morgan Martin Miller, Applied Science and Technology
Outstanding Professional Science Master’s Student Award

College of Architecture, Planning and Design

Faculty:
Dr. David Seamon, Architecture
Recognized for a decades long career mentoring graduate student research and his stature as a highly published researcher in theories of place and phenomenology. His most recent book is “Life Takes Place: Phenomenology, Lifeworlds, and Place Making”

Students:
Kanoa San Miguel, Interior Architecture and Product Design
Winner of the Steelcase NEXT competition and recipient of $30,000 Donghia Foundation Scholarship

Bridget Hake, Landscape Architecture
K-State 2020 Landscape Architecture Foundation Olmsted Scholar, recognizing her leadership (1) the advancement of sustainable planning and design, and (2) fostering human and societal benefits

Lindsey Logan, Regional Community Planning
2020 American Institute of Certified Planners Outstanding Student, a national recognition for academic achievement, leadership, and commitment to planning as a career

Somnath Mukherjee, Architecture
Through the Dane Hansen Foundation, Somnath completed an internship in St. Francis, KS, working closely with townspeople to collaboratively design a new community center in their downtown core. His design has helped the small town to raise over $100,000 towards construction. His interest in rural Kansas has culminated in his involvement in Associate Professor Michael Gibson’s Net Postive studio, which this year designed an affordable and energy-efficient house prototype for St. John, Kansas.

Hamed Goharipour, Environmental Design and Planning
Recognized for recent outstanding publications and presentations, such as “Narratives of a Lost Space: A Semiotic Analysis of Central Courtyards in Iranian Cinema” in Frontiers of Architectural Research

College of Arts and Sciences

Faculty:
Dr. Michael Kanost, Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics
2019-2020 recipient of the Commerce Bank and WT Kemper Foundation Distinguished Graduate Faculty Award
Students:
Ghashia Kiyani, Security Studies
Received highly competitive scholarship from the Empirical Implications of Theoretical Models Institute to attend the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research summer program at, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor

Simran Bawa, Biochemistry
Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics 2019 Excellence in Graduate Research Award

Taihao Yang, Biochemistry
Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics 2019 Excellence in Graduate Teaching Award

Lisa Caitlin Highsmith, History
Outstanding service as the Digital Media Coordinator for the peer reviewed journal, “Kansas History: Journal of the Central Plains”

Jake Pichelmeyer, Mathematics
2019 Recipient of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching

Mikaela Rader, Geology
NSF Graduate Research Fellowship honorable mention

Billy Croslow, History
Winner of the Missouri Valley History Conference’s Carroll Award for the best Graduate Student Paper in Military History, “Suppression of Japanese Culture Among the Nissei in the Army”

Ashish Kumar, Biochemistry
2020 recipient of the Presidential Graduate Teaching Assistant Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching

Priscila Guzman, Biology
2020 Yale Ciencia Academy fellow

College of Business Administration

Faculty:
Dr. Roger McHaney, Management
Research productivity, support for grad program curriculum innovations, and teaching

Students:
Calvin King, Business Administration
2019 Big 12 MBA Case Competition Award Recipient and student leadership

Andrew Morrison, Accounting
2019 Deloitte Audit Innovation Campus Challenge Award Recipient

College of Education

Faculty:
Dr. Doris Carroll, Special Education, Counseling and Student Affairs
Michael Holen Excellence in Graduate Teaching

Students:
Abbey Gilliland-King, Counseling and Student Development
Presented “Understanding and Working with Christian Students” at Upper Midwest Region Association of College and University Housing Officers Annual Conference

Nelofar Khamisani, Curriculum and Instruction
Presented “Teaching ELL in Rural Elementary School: Identifying Best Practices of Teachers” at Critical Questions in Education Symposium
Roxanne Seraphina Kennedy, Counseling and Student Development
Presented “Supporting Trans-Identifying Students Across Our Institutions” at NASPA IV-West Regional Conference

Joseph M. Lynch, Curriculum and Instruction
Presented “Teachers as learners: Grappling with tele-collaboration, professional learning, and teacher agency” at AESA Annual Conference

Latania Marr y Ortega, Curriculum and Instruction
Presented “Teachers as learners: Grappling with tele-collaboration, professional learning, and teacher agency” at AESA Annual Conference

Rachael L. Smith, Curriculum and Instruction
Presented “Teachers as learners: Grappling with tele-collaboration, professional learning, and teacher agency” at AESA Annual Conference

Graciela Berumen, Curriculum and Instruction
Presented “Teachers as learners: Grappling with tele-collaboration, professional learning, and teacher agency” at AESA Annual Conference

Shabina Kavimandan, Curriculum and Instruction
Presented “Teachers as learners: Grappling with tele-collaboration, professional learning, and teacher agency” at AESA Annual Conference

Heather Moore, Counseling and Student Development
Presented “An Obviously Invisible Student Population: The Educational Needs of Students with Incarcerated Parents” at Center for Urban Education Summer Educator Forum

Eileen Wertzberger, Curriculum and Instruction
Published: “The future of field experiences in distance education: A case study of coteaching practices in a telepresence-facilitated field placement. Theory and Practice in Rural Education.”

Carl R. Ice College of Engineering

Faculty:
Dr. Melanie Derby, Mechanical Engineering
Dedication to interdisciplinary work and leading the first NSF Research Traineeship in Kansas

Students:
Leah Collins, Architectural Engineering
Recipient of Humbert Memorial Scholarship, Dudley Williams & Associates Scholarship, Larry L Watkins Scholarship, Tointon Scholarship, Phi Alpha Epsilon Scholarship, Coonrod Memorial Scholarship, and George F Hoferer Scholarship

Jiayi Xu, Chemical Engineering
Recipient of a travel award from the International Congress of Catalysis

Lu Zhou, Computer Science
2020 Computer Science Outstanding Graduate Student

Kaiming Bi, Industrial Engineering
Outstanding service to the Industrial and Manufacturing Systems Engineering department as a GTA and an outstanding dissertation

Robert Sherwood, Civil Engineering
Winner of ASCE Geo-Institute Organizational Member Award

Lawryn Edmonds, Electrical and Computer Engineering
Dedication to excellence and commitment to her department, college, and the university
College of Health and Human Sciences

Faculty:
Dr. Jared Anderson, Family Studies and Human Services
Service on graduate student committees, outstanding research record that actively engages graduate students, and service as the College of Health and Human Sciences Faculty Advisory Council chair.

Students:
James (Jimmy) Bridges, Human Ecology
Outstanding Graduate Student in Family Studies and Human Services

Shane Hammer, Human Ecology
Outstanding Graduate Student in Kinesiology

Emily Oertling, Human Ecology
Outstanding Graduate Student in Interior Design and Fashion Studies

Claudia Woodard, Nutritian, Dietetics and Sensory Sciences
Outstanding Graduate Student in Food, Nutrition, Dietetics and Health

Wenhao Zhang, Human Ecology
Outstanding Graduate Student in Hospitality Management

College of Technology and Aviation

Faculty:
Dr. Richard Zajac, Integrated Studies
Excellence and quality in graduate student advising

Student:
Chad Bailey, Technology
Excellence in capstone project for the Professional Masters of Technology

College of Veterinary Medicine

Faculty:
Dr. Michael W. Sanderson, Diagnostic Medicine and Pathobiology
Recipient of the 2020 Zoetis Animal Health Award for Veterinary Research

Students:
Yvonne Wikander, Biomedical Science
Outstanding 1st place poster presentation at the 2020 Phi Zeta Research Day

Andrew Curtis, Physiology
Outstanding and tireless work to create camaraderie and cohesiveness within College of Veterinary Medicine graduate student community
Recognition of Research Forum Winners

Research and the State is an annual fall semester event where graduate students present posters of their research or scholarly work and discuss the implications their work has for issues of interest to state legislators. From this event, 10 presenters are selected to represent K-State at the annual Capitol Graduate Research Summit, which was held in February at the Capitol Building in Topeka. These students presented their research alongside students from our fellow regent’s universities.

Research and the State Winners

Dryden Baumfalk, Human Ecology-Kinesiology
Arvind Damodara Kannan, Civil Engineering
Ashish Kumar, Biochemistry
Stephen Lauer, Sociology
Randall Martin, Grain Science
Paige McAllister, Human Ecology-Couple and Family Therapy
Hannah Quellhorst, Entomology
Paula Silva, Genetics
Holly Speck, Mass Communications
Catherine Stewart, Genetics

Capitol Graduate Research Summit Winners

Dryden Baumfalk, Human Ecology-Kinesiology
Arvind Damodara Kannan, Civil Engineering
Ashish Kumar, Biochemistry

GSC Professional Development Certificate Recipients

It has been a successful year for the Graduate Student Council. This success would not be possible without the students who regularly dedicate their time to enhancing graduate student life at K-State.

Graduate Student Council Executive Committee
President—Manzamasso Hodjo
President Elect—Hannah Shear
Secretary—Kaylee Goss (Fall 2019)
Secretary—Bailey Cox Hinkle (Spring 2020)
Treasurer—Olabisi Ekong
SGA Liaison—Billy Croslow

Graduate Student Council Leadership Committee
Professional Development Co-Chairs
Priscila Guzman
Abbey Gilliland-King (Fall 2019)
James Lin (Spring 2020)

Research Forums Co-Chairs
Nicholas Neumann
Tej Man Tamang

Student Affairs Co-Chairs
Nirupama Kotian
Naomi Manu

Fundraising Co-Chairs
Emily Parker
Narmadha Mohankumar

Awards and Recognition Chair
Ryan Urban
Public Relations
Holly Pate
Jessie Piper

Representatives
Mari-Esther Edwards, Claudia Hissong, Nathan Astle, Keisha Clark, Destiny Bell, Billy Croslow, Alayna Colburn, Anthony Diproperzio, Brooke Keilholtz, Dryden Baumfalk, Judith Bautista, Alexis Carpenter, Trenton Colburn, Hilary Dalton, Grant Gardner, Matthew Harder, Marcus Kidd, Natalia Kuzmina, Bradley Galka, Kara Langin, Roberta Meloni, Mikaela Rader, Harrison Taylor, Ryan Urban, Tracee Watkins, Christina Wilson

Student Senators
Yemane Belaineh, Abbey Gilliland-King, Marcus Kidd, Camila Rivera, Meghan Brence, Mary Kurzweil

2020 - 2021 Executive Committee
Election Results

President—Hannah Shear
President Elect—Pingping Chen
Secretary—Baily Cox Hinkle
Treasurer—Devin Brand
SGA Liaison—Billy Croslow