

Hello Graduate Students,

We are excited about several initiatives underway to support your success and will share more details over the summer and into the fall.

In the meantime, we would like to collect information about your scholarly achievements, specifically publications and presentations completed between May 31, 2025, to present.



To support this effort, we created a SharePoint site that includes a CV template, a publication and presentation report template, and a short survey about your contributions. The CV template is based on a faculty model but should be tailored to your experience. Please remove any sections that are not relevant to your discipline or background.

Please submit your information to the [Graduate Student Presentations and Publications SharePoint](#) by the end of the day (EOD) on May 4, 2026.

Thank you for your time and for submitting your information promptly. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Warmly,



Herman "Gene" Ray
Associate Dean for Graduate Student Success

KSU Graduate Alumni Recognized in Annual 40 Under 40

Congratulations to all our KSU graduate alumni who were named in the 2026 KSU Alumni Association's 40 Under 40:

- **Jonathan Boardman** (MS '18, Ph.D. '22), senior data scientist, Equifax
- **Wesley Cooper** (Ed.S. '21, Ed.D. '25), assistant principal and K-12 mathematics specialist, Morgan County Charter School System
- **Jorge Diez** (MBA '25), founder and principal, Georgia Strategy Group
- **Anita Douglas Murphy** (MPA '19), chief development officer, Status: Home
- **Lisa Hardt** (MPA '20), program director innovation and entrepreneurial strategies, Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia
- **Stephanie Hogue** (BA '12, MA '17), senior employee relations manager, Delta Air Lines
- **Breighlynn M. Polk** (MA '23), executive director, The Iberia African American Historical Society
- **Nikita Raper** (MSW '21, MBA '21), program director, Callanwolde Fine Arts Center
- **Shahzib Sarfraz** (MBA '22), chief executive officer, Driven Software Solutions
- **Catherine Fann Smith** (MPA '11), corporate social responsibility program manager, Shaw
- **Ket Preamchuen Vanderpool** (BS '14, MS '17), women's golf head coach, Kennesaw State University



Graduate Students Excel at 12th Annual 3MT® Competition

The 12th Annual [Three Minute Thesis](#) (3MT®) Competition was held on April 2, 2026, as part of Graduate Student Appreciation Week at Kennesaw State University. This year's event, sponsored by Delta Community Credit Union, featured 22 competitors, whose outstanding presentations showcased the depth, creativity, and real-world relevance of graduate research across an array of disciplines and six colleges.

Due to the high number of entries this year, the competition was divided into two groups, resulting in two first-place, two second-place, and two Audience Choice Award recipients. Every participant delivered their research in a clear, engaging, and accessible manner within the strict three-minute limit, demonstrating exceptional communication skills.

In Group 1, Nzubechukwu Ohalete, Ph.D. candidate, Data Science and Analytics, took first place with his compelling presentation, "Investigating Demographic Bias and Autonomous Survey Completion in Large Language Models." Sarala Lasanthi Gunathilaka Udaha Wadiya Ralle, Ph.D. candidate, Interdisciplinary Engineering, earned second place for her study, "Evaluating the Impact of Automated Speed Enforcement on Traffic Operations

Contestants and guests socialized in the Indoor Plaza of the Prillaman Building for the reception and 3MT awards ceremony after the competition.



Left to Right: Benjamin Angalet, Bright Bansah, Dean Julieet Langman, Nzubechukwu Ohalete, Syeda Umme Salma, Sarala Lasanthi Gunathilaka Udaha Wadiya Ralle, and Marcellyn Baker.

and Safety in School Zones: A Comprehensive Crash and Speed Analysis with Public Perception Insights." The Audience Choice Award went to Syeda Umme Salma, Ph.D. candidate in Computer Science for "AI That Cares: Mental Health Support for Alzheimer's Caregivers."

In Group 2, Marcellyn Baker, Ed.D. Candidate, Secondary and Middle Grades, claimed first place with "Perceptions and Beliefs of a High School Geometry Professional Learning Community During Initial Implementation of Standards-Based Grading." Benjamin Angalet, MS candidate, Integrative Biology secured second place for "Morphological Variation of the Lingual Glands in Wild American Alligator Populations." The Audience Choice Award was presented to Bright Bansah, Ph.D. candidate, International Conflict Management for "Mining and Local Community Conflicts in Ghana: Understanding the Dynamics from a Political Ecology Perspective."

The event highlighted the impressive caliber of our graduate students and their ability to communicate complex ideas effectively to a general audience. The two winners will travel to the [Georgia Conference of Graduate Schools annual meeting](#) in mid-April to compete against contestants from across Georgia.



Ph.D. Candidate Elected ASA Officer



Congratulations to Graduate Research Assistant and Ph.D. candidate in Data Science and Analytics, [Faruk Muritala](#) on being elected to Communications Officer for the [American Statistical Association, Georgia Chapter](#) (ASA GA).

New Graduate Housing Options

New graduate student housing is still available for immediate move-in through fall 2026. [The Bixby](#) in Kennesaw, across from Fifth-Third Stadium, offers:

- Fully-furnished apartments
- Priority placement with fellow graduate students
- Individual leases (you are responsible for your portion of rent only)
- Special graduate student programming such as study sessions, networking opportunities, and academic-focused events

The Bixby is waiving all application and administration fees at signing for a limited time.

Contact the Bixby at [678-394-0225](tel:678-394-0225) for details!

Commencement Dates and Times by College

May 12, 2026

7 p.m. Bagwell College of Education

May 13, 2026

7 p.m. Coles College of Business

May 14, 2026

10 a.m. Radow College of Humanities and Social Sciences

May 15, 2026

10 a.m. College of Computing and Software Engineering

3 p.m. Southern Polytechnic College of Engineering and Engineering Technology

Student Highlight: Patrick Arnold



Master of Science in Information Systems student, Patrick Arnold is a co-founder of [Fundoria](#), an educational technology initiative focused on strengthening financial literacy and real-world decision-making skills among students. “Fundoria is

something I built with my co-founder, Viz Garcia, because we saw a real gap in how kids learn money and real-world decision-making,” he said.

Fundoria presently centers on a K-6 learning model that introduces money concepts through interactive games such as Bank Teller and Grocery Dash, which are designed to guide students through realistic scenarios involving earning, spending, and saving. Rather than relying on memorization, the platform blends gameplay with data and AI-driven tools that adapt to individual learners, allowing progress to be measured by demonstrated understanding rather than simple task completion. “It’s built to be more than just a game—it’s about helping kids actually understand how money works and how to think through everyday decisions,” said Patrick.

What truly stands out about this project is Patrick’s commitment to community, as he is working directly with schools in Cobb County, Ga., placing focused effort on Marietta City Schools to ensure Fundoria is shaped by the needs of real students, educators, and families. A STEAM Night event at Baker Elementary in Fall 2025 provided an opportunity for students and families to interact with the platform firsthand, illustrating how hands-on, engaging experiences can reinforce practical learning while strengthening school-community collaboration.



Fundoria is currently in Phase 1 of development, with plans to expand into a full K-12 platform in Phase 2, followed by adult financial literacy offerings in Phase 3. The current version is accessible via web browser using Unity WebGL, with future plans to expand into mobile and tablet formats.



Upcoming Events

Library Tips and Tools for Graduate Students

• **April 15, 12-1 p.m.**

Register for this workshop with Dr. Kristina Clement and learn the tips and tools you need as a graduate student to navigate your library research successfully.

Sign up today by using the [Tips and Tools Registration Link](#).

Scholarly Publishing and Research 101

• **April 21, 1-2 p.m.**

KSU Libraries presents this workshop where you will learn the basics of scholarly publishing and research at the graduate level

Sign up today by filling out the [Publishing & Research Workshop form](#).

Delta Community Credit Union Student Loan Repayment Workshop

• **April 22, 1-2 p.m.**

Don't miss this online workshop with Ryan Behrens from Delta Community Credit Union for information on how to repay your student loan debt.

[Microsoft Teams](#)

Meeting ID: 247 118 764 468 80

Passcode: Pq7TM6Wo

For more information, locations, and to register for events, visit the [Events Calendar](#) on our website or scan the QR code.



Career Planning Workshops

[Profile Power: Unlocking LinkedIn for Career Growth](#)

• **April 9th, 11 am, Online**

Unlock the power of LinkedIn to build your personal brand, grow your network, and discover career opportunities. This hands-on workshop will guide students through creating a standout profile, connecting with professionals, and leveraging LinkedIn for internships and job searches.

[Write it Right: Resumes and Cover Letters](#)

• **April 16, 11 am, Online**

Join us for a practical workshop focused on creating strong resumes and cover letters. Learn how to use AI tools responsibly to generate ideas, refine language, and tailor your materials for specific opportunities.

Graduate Research Community Social

Drop in for informal networking, optional conversation prompts, and a brief feedback activity to gather input on future graduate research programming. Light snacks, coffee, and tea will be provided.

Date: Friday, May 1, 2026 • **Time:** 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

Location: Academic Learning Center (ALC), Room 5104

[Visit Owl Life to register.](#)

This event is hosted by the Graduate Research Community and the Graduate Student

Association: graduatestudentassoc@kennesaw.edu

Summer Assistantship Deadlines

Hiring Closes	May 1st
Student must Process with HR	June 4th
Contract Dates	June 1 - July 31

Send your program's events to Tracy Gaudlip in the Graduate College at tgaudlip@kennesaw.edu and we will publish it in our next issue.