

Issue 6, Spring 2021

## Seeking Nominations for the Position of Academic Ombud

Nominations for the position of Academic Ombud are now being accepted for the 2021-2022 academic year. Nominations from students for qualified faculty are welcome!

The Office of the Academic Ombud serves a critical role in assisting students, faculty, and administration in dispute resolution and the management of difficult academic issues. The Ombud must be well informed about academic policies and regulations, should have experience in dispute resolution, should possess outstanding communication and interpersonal skills, and the ability and willingness to work with students and faculty from diverse backgrounds. Qualifications, as established by Senate Rule 6.2.2, are that the Ombud must be either a tenured member of the faculty or a member of the emeriti faculty who is able to perform with fairness, discretion and efficiency and who is regarded by students as one genuinely interested in their welfare.

Submit a nomination by emailing the faculty member's name, college, and department to Anna Chalfant in the Office of the Provost at [anna.chalfant@uky.edu](mailto:anna.chalfant@uky.edu).

Nominations must be received by **Sunday, April 11th**.

All nominees will be contacted by the search committee and have until **April 19th** to officially apply.



## GradTeach LIVE!

### 2021 GradTeach Live! Virtual Showcase

4 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 14th, 2021  
Zoom link: <https://uky.zoom.us/j/88340833412>

**GradTeach Live!** (GTL) offers graduate teaching assistants the opportunity to showcase their teaching philosophy and instructional skills to the university community in a concise and engaging three-minute presentation. Our 2021 Live Virtual Showcase will include a keynote by Professor Kevin Gannon, author of *[Radical Hope: A Teaching Manifesto](#)* (West Virginia University Press, 2020). An activist, teacher, and public intellectual, Gannon writes for the Chronicle of Higher Education and speaks on the themes of social justice and teaching as a “radical act of hope.”

Gannon’s keynote is co-sponsored by [The Graduate School](#) and [Center for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching](#). Following the keynote, [GradTeach Live!](#) participants with the top submissions will present live, and then we will hold people’s choice voting, followed by the announcement of our winners.

Visit the [GradTeach Live! web page](#) for information.

## Online Scavenger Hunt for International Graduate Students

Are you an international graduate student? Would you like to meet other international graduate students at UK? Please join members of the Graduate Student Congress on Zoom for a Scavenger Hunt on **Friday, April 16th from 5:00 - 6:00 pm.**

There will be Crank and Boom ice cream vouchers for the participants and prizes for the scavenger hunt winners!

Register here: [https://uky.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_6JC2RapmWet7mGG](https://uky.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6JC2RapmWet7mGG)

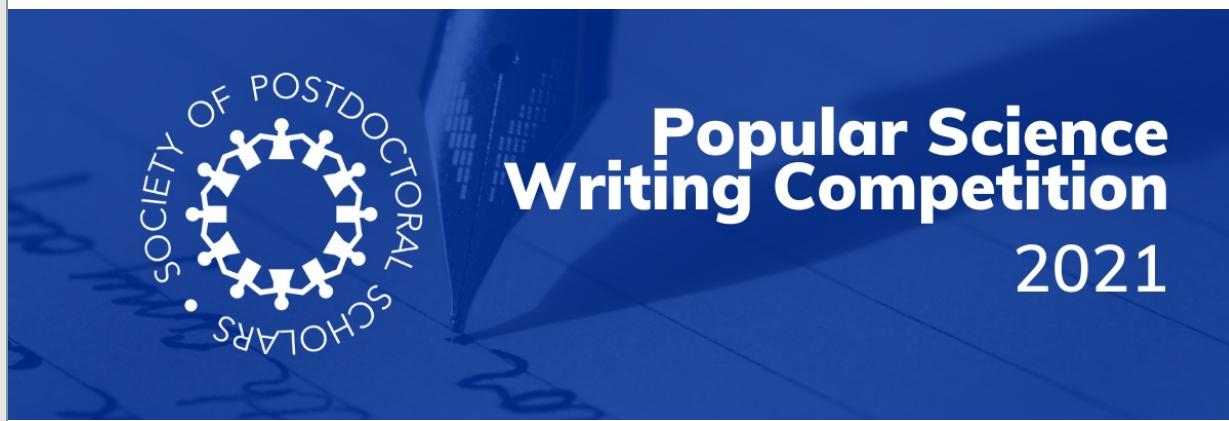
Sponsored by the [Graduate Student Congress](#), the [Graduate School](#), and the [International Center](#).

### Important Upcoming Dates

**April 16th** - Friday -- Last day for candidates for a May 2021 degree to submit a request to schedule a final examination in the Graduate School

**April 16th** - Friday -- Deadline for applying for admission to the Graduate School for the 2021 Summer Session

**April 30th** - Friday -- Last day for candidates for a May 2021 degree to sit for a final examination



### 2021 Society of Postdoctoral Scholars Popular Science Writing Competition

Transform one of your scientific papers into a popular science story worthy of sharing with the world!

This competition provides postdocs with the opportunity to not only expand their writing skills and learn how to effectively communicate their research with the public but to also build effective narratives to promote their work. The competition centers on taking a published research paper and turning it into an article intended to be read by the general public.

Prizes are awarded up to \$500!

Submission to the competition closes on **Friday, April 30th**.

For more information, visit the [Office of Postdoctoral Affairs website](#).

# May 2021 Commencement Ceremony Schedule

## Friday, May 14th

### Ceremony #1: 9:00am

College of Education  
College of Medicine

### Ceremony #2: 12:00pm

College of Fine Arts  
College of Public Health  
College of Social Work  
College of Pharmacy

### Ceremony #3: 3:00pm

College of Nursing  
College of Health Sciences  
College of Design

### Ceremony #4: 6:00pm

College of Engineering

## Saturday, May 15th

### Ceremony #5: 9:00am

College of Arts and Sciences 1

### Ceremony #6: 12:00pm

College of Arts and Sciences 2

### Ceremony #7: 3:00pm

Gatton College of Business and Economics 1

### Ceremony #8: 6:00pm

Gatton College of Business and Economics 2

## Sunday, May 16th

### Ceremony #9: 9:00am

College of Communication and Information  
Graduate School

### Ceremony #10: 12:00pm

College of Agriculture, Food, and Environment

## Other Reminders

### Graduating? What to Do With Your UK Accounts and Mail Before You Go

### What You Need to Know About the Johnson & Johnson Vaccine Available to Students



UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY  
GRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS

# News from The Graduate Student Congress

## **Introducing the 2021 – 2021 GSC Executive Board**

Congratulations to the following individuals on their election into a GSC Executive Board position for the 2021 – 2022 academic year:

**President:** Amanda Slone, Ph.D. Candidate in Communication

**Vice President:** Staci McGill, Ph.D. Student in Biosystems & Agricultural Engineering

**Chief of Staff and Operations:** Sam Glick, Ph.D. Student in Economics

**Secretary:** K.C. Vick, Ph.D. Student in Sociology

**Treasurer:** Rachel Davis, Ph.D. Student in Sociology

**External Affairs Officer:** Abigail Stephens, M.A. Student in History

**Internal Affairs Officer:** Ryan McCoy, Ph.D. Student in Philosophy

**Professional Student Affairs Officer:** Smaran Bhaktawara, Pharm.D. Student

The incoming Executive Board will be officially sworn in at the May General Assembly Meeting!

## **Robert E. Hemenway Writing Center Services Available to Graduate Students**

**Director:** Judith Gatton Prats ([judithgprats@uky.edu](mailto:judithgprats@uky.edu))

**Dates:** January 25th – May 7th

**Hours:** Monday-Thursday 10am-9pm & Friday 10am-3pm

### **REMOTE ONLY**

The Writing Center offers free and friendly help to all UK students (graduate and undergraduate), faculty, and staff. The Writing Center assists with writing assignments across the curriculum, offering advice on academic, creative, and professional projects.

The Writing Center can help clients:

- begin, develop, and/or review their projects
- fulfill assignment requirements
- communicate effectively in specific disciplines
- document sources fairly and correctly
- learn and practice academic standards of edited written English
- develop and polish their writing style

The Writing Center is committed to helping clients learn editing and proofreading strategies, as well as documentation skills. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the UK Writing Center offers virtual appointments (E-tutoring or Online Synchronous) for Spring 2021.

*Check out the [Writing Center's website](#) for more information!*

## **Survey on Confucius Institute Closing at UK**

**Sponsor:** Asian/Asian American Club

**President:** Yan Wang ([yan.wang80@uky.edu](mailto:yan.wang80@uky.edu))

**Anonymous Survey Link:**

[https://uky.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_0NZxaYcTVte86G2](https://uky.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0NZxaYcTVte86G2)

The current anti-Asian hate crimes, especially the massive shooting in Atlanta, has seriously damaged the Asian and Asian American community. Closing the Confucius Institute, which has been a comfort zone for the Asian community and intercultural learning, has also damaged the Asian community and other community that has been benefitted from the Confucius Institute on campus. The survey invites the UK community to share their thoughts on the closure of the Confucius Institute and to provide suggestions to the university to continue supporting student sense of belonging and intercultural learning. It will be very helpful for the university to hear from the community and provide support that the community needs the most. Thank you in advance for your support.

*Visit the [Asian/Asian American Club's webpage](#) to get involved!*

## Celebrating Diversity Month (03/22 - 04/18)

**Committee:** Institutional Advocacy

**Chair:** Staci McGill

**Event Lead:** Olumuyiwa Moses Desmennu & Edward Lo

**Dates:** Monday, March 22nd, 2021 – Sunday, April 18th, 2021

**Times:** various (see website for exact times)

**Community Dialogues Registration Form:** <https://forms.gle/xuJ9NCwnCogzmdz99>

**Virtual Popup Museum Submission Form:**  
<https://form.jotform.com/210877713597165>

The Graduate Student Congress (GSC) invites all faculty, staff, and students to participate in this year's "Celebrating Diversity Month" (CDM) program series. The purpose of CDM is to bring together members of the UK community for active and intentional engagement in issues pertaining to diversity, equity, inclusion, and social justice. During CDM, the GSC will offer three distinct activities or events: (1) a Virtual Popup Museum to communicate and visually illustrate the diversity of backgrounds that enrich UK; (2) a Cultural Libraries Book Project, to collect titles and provide free access to books from underrepresented authors and on ideas related to diversity and inclusion; and (3) a Community Dialogues event series in collaboration with several university and community activists at UK, to coordinate deep conversations about the complex ideas and histories surrounding diversity, equity, inclusion, and social justice.

*Visit the [GSC's website](#) to find out more information!*

## End-of-the-Year Gala Award Nominations Open 04/02

**Committee:** Awards

**Chair:** Lan Jiang

**Nominations Open:** Friday, April 2nd, 2021, at 12:01 a.m.

**Nominations Close:** Friday, April 16th, 2021, at 11:59 p.m.

The Graduate Student Congress (GSC) invites all its Congressional Body members – including Executive Board members, Leadership Team members, Representatives, and volunteers – as well as affiliated faculty and staff, to self- or other nominate for an End-of-the-Year Gala Award. The purpose of the Gala Awards is to acknowledge and honor those individuals who went above-and-beyond in helping the GSC pursue its mission and achieve its goals during the academic year. This year, the GSC will be bestowing three (3) named Gala Awards and four (4) Pillar Awards. Award recipients will be selected by majority vote of the GSC Awards Committee, and a formal notification and announcement of award winners will be made at the annual End-of-the-Year Gala/Dinner with the President.

*Check out the [GSC's website](#) for more information about each award!*

## **NAGPS Midwestern Regional Conference (04/05 - 04/08)**

**Partnerships:** National Association of Graduate/Professional Students (NAGPS) & Ohio University's Graduate Student Senate (GSS)

**Event Leads:** Katherine Counts (UK) & Amal Shimir (OU)

**Dates:** Monday, April 5th, 2021 – Thursday, April 8th, 2021

**Times:** 5:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. EST

**Registration Form:** <https://forms.gle/1G1h1JgfQDu56FF58>

The Graduate Student Congress (GSC) at the University of Kentucky (UK) and the Graduate Student Senate (GSS) at Ohio University (OU) invite all graduate and professional students across the country to attend the 2021 National Association of Graduate/Professional Students (NAGPS) Midwestern Regional Conference. The purpose of the NAGPS Midwestern Regional Conference is to provide graduate and professional students in the midwestern region of the United States, along with their affiliate Graduate/Professional Student Organizations (GPSOs), the opportunity to meet and interact one another, while also learning about and discussing important topics related to graduate and professional student education. The purpose of this year's conference, specifically, is to give a voice to those graduate and professional students whose hard work and dedication often goes unnoticed and underappreciated at institutions of higher education.

*Check out the [GSC's website](#) for a schedule of presenters!*

## **Awards Cycle 6 Opens on 04/09**

**Deadline:** Friday, April 30th, 2021, at 11:59 p.m. EST

**Awards Committee Chair:** Lan Jiang ([lan.jiang@uky.edu](mailto:lan.jiang@uky.edu))

Awards Available During Cycle 6:

- 7 Conference Awards (\$500 each)
- 2 Research Awards (\$500 each)
- 1 Professional Development Award (\$250 each)
- 19 Graduation Regalia (9 M.A. and 10 Ph.D.)

The Graduate Student Congress (GSC) provides awards to University of Kentucky graduate and professional students to attend conferences, conduct research, engage in professional development, and purchase or rent graduation regalia. We do not place specific restrictions on the types of research, conferences, or professional development that we will fund. Successful applicants should be able to make a strong case for how their

proposed research, conference, or professional development will contribute to their personal and professional growth. Due to the competitive nature of the awards, and our desire to fund as many students as possible, applicants are only eligible for funding once for each type of award per academic year.

*See the [GSC's website](#) for more information and links to each application!*

## NAGPS Virtual Legislative Action Days (04/10 - 04/11)

**Committee:** External Affairs

**Chair:** Ellie Johnson, External Affairs Officer

**Dates:** Saturday, April 10th, 2021 – Sunday, April 11th, 2021

**Times:** TBD

**Deadline to Register:** Wednesday, March 31st, 2021 at 11:59 p.m. EST

**Contact Email:** [eleanor.johnson@uky.edu](mailto:eleanor.johnson@uky.edu)

The Graduate Student Congress (GSC) External Affairs Committee is planning a virtual trip to Washington, D.C. in partnership with the National Association of Graduate/Professional Students (NAGPS), to discuss federal legislation that impacts the graduate student, professional student, and postdoctoral scholar communities across the nation. The trip will include informational sessions on policy issues, and best practices for conducting meetings with policymakers on issues in higher education policy. Specifically, the topics to be discussed include mental health resources, sexual harassment prevent, and institutional transparency. Following the Advocacy summit, selected attendees will virtually meet with their Representatives to advocate for graduate and professional education. Any graduate or professional students or postdoctoral scholars interested in participating in this virtual advocacy trip are more than welcome to join the External Affairs Committee. Interested individuals should email the GSC's External Affairs Officer and Chair of the External Affairs Committee, Ellie Johnson, at [eleanor.johnson@uky.edu](mailto:eleanor.johnson@uky.edu).

*Check out the [NAGPS website](#) for a copy of their Legislative Platform!*

## Upcoming Spring Semester Events

### April

04/10 - 04/13: Legislative Advocacy Days

04/16: "Celebrating Diversity Month" Panel

04/16: "Celebrating Diversity Month" Closing Keynote Presentation

04/26 - 04/30: UK Graduate and Professional Student Appreciation Week

04/30: End-of-the-Year Gala/Dinner with the President

### May

05/06: General Assembly Meeting (Executive Board Transitions)

05/13: Graduation Celebration

*Follow the GSC on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter below!*

