



Graduate Student Newsletter



KENNESAW STATE
UNIVERSITY
GRADUATE COLLEGE

JANUARY 2026

Dr. Herman “Gene” Ray is New Associate Dean, Graduate College

Dr. Herman “Gene” Ray joined the Graduate College staff as the Associate Dean of Graduate Student Success on January 1, 2026. He comes to the Graduate College from the College of Computing and Software Engineering (CCSE) at Kennesaw State, where he was most recently a professor of data science and biostatistics and Director of the Data Science and Analytics Ph.D. program.

In his new role, Ray aims to create an integrated portfolio of programs, such as workshops and events that will support graduate students across four areas that include academic success, excellent professional work, robust market preparation, and balanced mental, physical, and relational health.

“I have a very non-traditional background,” Ray says. “I worked while completing both my MS and Ph.D., and balanced family responsibilities throughout my undergraduate and graduate studies. In fact, there is a six-month-old baby in each of my graduation photos!”



Both Ray’s research background and career experience demonstrate a focus on supporting students both academically and professionally, while using data-driven insights to improve outcomes.



Study abroad as a graduate student!

Education Abroad offers a variety of faculty-led programs for graduate students. Regardless of what field of study or country you are passionate about, there is an education abroad program for you.

Speak with your program coordinator to see [which of these courses](#) can work for you!

NOW ACCEPTING AWARD NOMINATIONS!

KSU Global Education's
Sheth International Distinguished Alumni Award for Exceptional Humanitarian and Service Achievement
AND
Sheth Faculty Award for Distinguished International Achievement

DEADLINE
JANUARY 31
ksuhub.com/sheth.2026



Want to share news from your program or give a shout out to a student who is doing amazing research? Let us know! Send your story idea to Tracy Gaudlip in the Graduate College at tgaudlip@kennesaw.edu.



KSU Graduate Student Investigates How Human Activity Shapes Wildlife Behavior and Health

When Sydney Morton decided to pursue a graduate degree, she looked for a university that had a program and lab that would allow her to explore human-wildlife interactions, particularly in relation to urbanization. “I chose KSU for a few different reasons,” she explained. “The biggest selling point was all of the cool research I saw coming out of the integrative biology (MSIB) program.”

Now as a graduate student in the MSIB program at Kennesaw State, Sydney studies how urbanization affects the genetics of field mice. As urban areas sprawl, small mammal populations can become increasingly isolated due to barriers like roadways, buildings, and other human infrastructure. This isolation can reduce genetic diversity and make populations more susceptible to disease outbreaks.

Read the full article on the [Graduate College's News page](#).

KSU ISSSO Workshops

Multiple in-person and virtual OPT sessions are available from January 20, 2026 to June 9, 2026.

Please use the link at [Calendly - KSU ISSSO Workshops](#) to sign up for a session that fits your schedule.

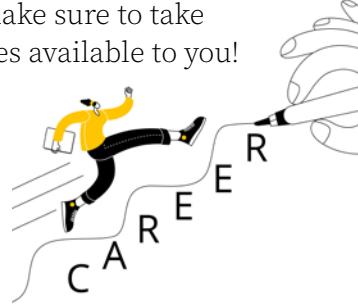
Graduate-Only Evening Career Advising

The Department of Career Planning and Development is piloting a new evening advising program to increase availability for students who may work during the day.

Grad students are able to register through Handshake and receive career-focused support, such as resume review, interview prep, career path planning, and more.

Evening spots are limited, but daytime appointments slots are also available, so make sure to take advantage of all the resources available to you!

[Schedule an advising appointment with a career advisor today.](#)



ScholarshipUniverse is Open

The portal for ScholarshipUniverse is open now through **March 1, 2026**.

ScholarshipUniverse provides a customized list of the scholarships whose eligibility requirements you meet, saving you time and effort.

Visit the [Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid web page](#) to learn about how to search for and apply for scholarships.

Want to share news from your program or give a shout out to a student who is doing amazing research? Let us know! Send your story idea to Tracy Gaudlip in the Graduate College at tgaudlip@kennesaw.edu.



January 2026 Events

Spring Semester Meet and Greets

Join us for a relaxed and welcoming social event to kick off the new semester! This is a great opportunity for graduate students to connect, share experiences, and build community across disciplines. Whether you're new to campus or returning, come enjoy light refreshments, meet fellow grad students, and start the semester off right!

- **January 21, 4-6 p.m.**

Academic Learning Center, Room 3550A
Kennesaw Campus

- **January 22, 5-6:30 p.m.**

Norton Hall, 2nd Floor
Marietta Campus

Chats with the Graduate College Staff

Join us for an informative and interactive session where you'll:

- Meet the Graduate College staff and get to know your support team
- Learn the ins and outs of GRA/GTA roles
- Understand key milestones in your academic progression
- Discover upcoming student success events and how to get involved

- **January 27, 4-6 p.m.**

Academic Learning Center, Room 3550A
Kennesaw Campus

- **January 28, 4:30-6 p.m.**

Norton Hall, 2nd Floor
Marietta Campus

- **January 29, 5-6 p.m.**

Microsoft Teams
[Link to the Virtual Chat](#)



Career Planning

Education Fair

1/27 • 3 - 6 p.m.
Siegel Student Rec Center
Kennesaw Campus

Spring All Majors Job and Internship Fair

1/28-29 • 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Siegel Student Rec Center
Kennesaw Campus

STEM Job, Co-op, and Internship Fair

2/24-26 • 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Marietta Event Center
(the old Gymnasium)

Government & Non-Profit Fair

3/3 • 12 - 2 p.m.
Siegel Student Rec Center
Kennesaw Campus

Part-Time Employment Fair

3/26 • 12 - 2 p.m.
Siegel Student Rec Center
Kennesaw Campus

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



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.