UC San Diego

**DIVISION OF GRADUATE EDUCATION
AND POSTDOCTORAL AFFAIRS**

WHAT WE DO

The Division of Graduate Education and Postdoctoral Affairs (GEPA, pronounced geh-puh with a hard "g") is the central resource for matters related to graduate education and postdoctoral affairs at UC San Diego. We support approximately 1,300 postdoctoral scholars and over 9,000 students throughout their journeys here. Partnering with departments, we help recruit, retain, professionally develop, and launch the world's best and brightest scholars. Postdocs contribute to and students enroll in a broad range of academic and professional degree programs and specialties, 39 of which rank in the top 25 nationwide, as noted in "America's Best Graduate Schools" 2024 guidebook.

The GEPA team is a central campus resource that collaborates with students, postdocs, faculty, and staff on a range of topics including recruitment and admissions, professional development, graduate student and postdoc employment, policy, contract analysis, fellowship support, graduation requirements, academic program reviews, student affairs, and much more. GEPA staff and student employees serve an important purpose in delivering graduate education and postdoctoral support that transforms, enriches, and inspires.

OUR PARTNERS IN YOUR DEPARTMENTS

Departmental **Graduate Coordinators** and **Postdoctoral Scholar Administrators** serve as the primary connection between academic schools/departments/programs and GEPA in regards to graduate students and postdoctoral scholars. **They are your resident experts on all things GEPA and can often answer GEPA-related questions that you might have.** If you're not sure who your "Grad Coord" is, check out this list of department contacts, which is maintained by GEPA and accessible via Single Sign-On (SSO) and VPN: https://student-db.grad.ucsd.edu/grad_dept_prog_contacts. To find out who your Postdoctoral Scholar Administrator is contact OPSA@ucsd.edu.

UNITS WITHIN GEPA

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS: In close collaboration with graduate programs, the GEPA staff provide assistance throughout students' academic careers by reviewing various forms and exception requests and assisting individuals near completion of their degrees, including advising students on dissertation/thesis formatting. To ensure the academic rigor of programs, the Assistant Dean coordinates with Academic Senate to oversee the program review process for campus, curricular changes and new degree proposals, and the vetting of various faculty appointments and affiliated agreements.

ADMISSIONS: The GEPA staff are delegated by the Dean to conduct the evaluation of applicants nominated by graduate programs for admission to UC San Diego. They are a mighty team that coordinates the admissions process for over sixty graduate programs at the masters and doctoral level.

GEPA

FINANCIAL SUPPORT: In collaboration with academic programs, this team provisions the financial support graduate students and visiting scholars rely on from fellowships, grants, awards, and employment.

POSTDOCTORAL SCHOLAR AFFAIRS: Acts as the central hub for all postdoctoral scholar matters, including developing and implementing policies, analyzing collective bargaining agreements (CBAs), reviewing appointment and exception requests, addressing benefits issues, and offering guidance to postdocs, faculty and staff. This office collaborates with departments to share information, conduct staff training, and support postdocs. It also organizes programs and activities to enhance the community and advance postdoctoral scholars' professional development and career growth through initiatives such as monthly new postdoc orientations, Postdocs CAN, and Postdoctoberfest.

STUDENT AFFAIRS: Striving to create an inclusive and a collaborative student-centered campus that champions student success and well-being, the GEPA Student Affairs Team empowers students to discover and achieve their dreams. They work with departments to develop and implement programs to support student mental, physical, and social health and can be a valuable partner when you have a student in distress. The OAR^2 (Outreach, Access, Recruitment and Retention) Office, launched in 2022, conducts outreach and recruitment in collaboration with graduate programs. In addition, the OAR^2 office manages programs such as STARS and UC LEADS, which are key graduate preparation efforts aimed at diversifying the applicant pool for graduate study at UC San Diego. The team also supports graduate student retention and professional development through events such as Orientation, Competitive Edge, Grad SLAM, and grAdvantage.

STUDENT EMPLOYEES: Undergraduate student assistants support administrative work across all units including: communications, marketing, social media, video editing, website updating, conducting research and outreach, and managing special projects/events.

Graduate student interns provide high-level programmatic support to staff in the following areas: prospective student outreach and recruitment, professional development, student affairs, graduate education pipeline and student success programs, as well as the campus community centers. Our student employees offer unique skills and knowledge stemming from their areas of academic interest and provide valuable input based on their perspectives as current students.

ENGAGE WITH GEPA ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow us on Instagram
https://www.instagram.com/ucsdgepa/ (*content for everyone*)
https://www.instagram.com/ucsdgradlife/ (*content for current grad students*)

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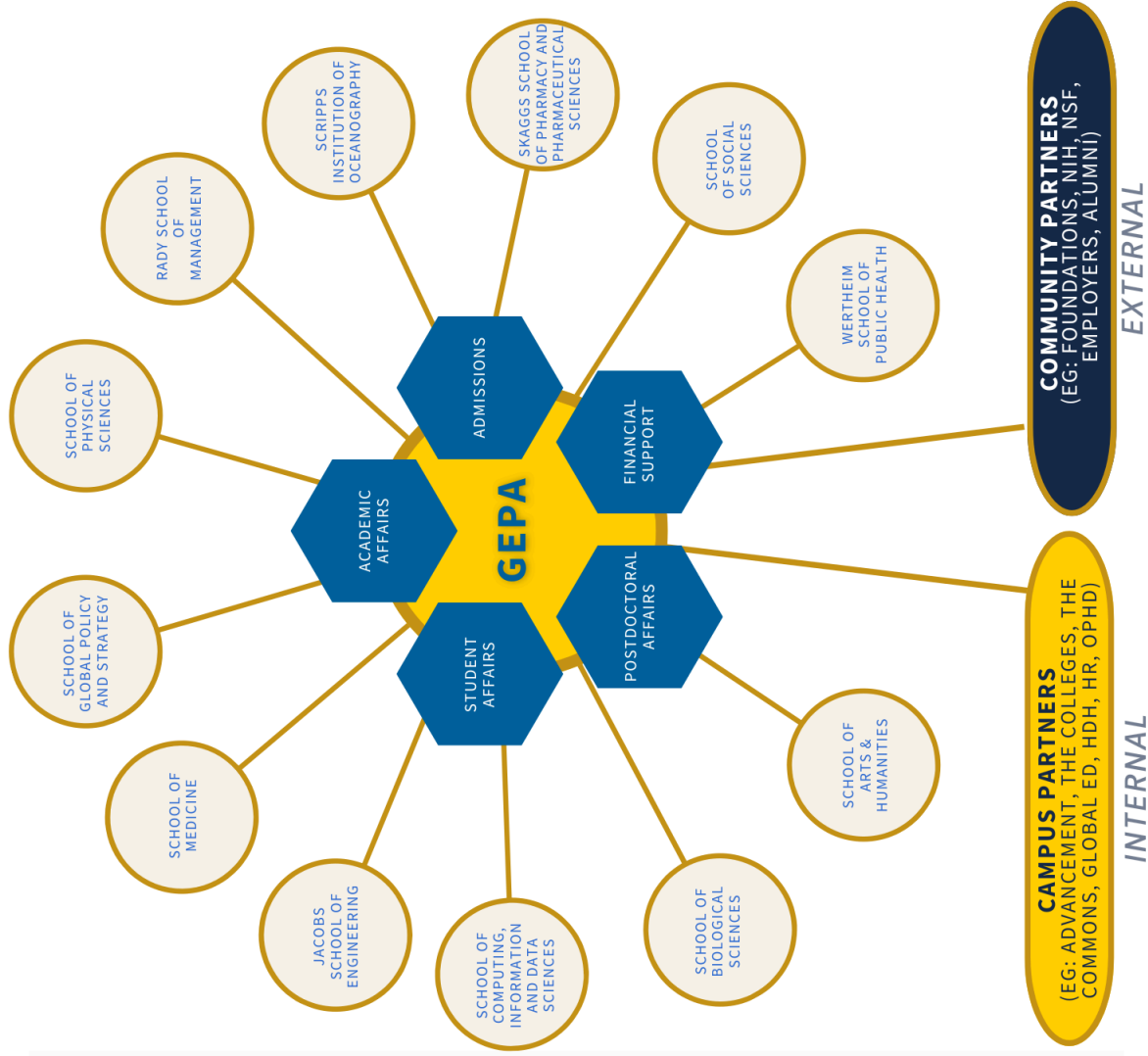## FACULTY ORIENTATION PRESENTERS TODAY

Judy Kim is the Interim Dean at GEPA and a Professor in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. As a classroom instructor, research mentor, and administrator, her top priority is to serve and support students. She has been engaged in a broad set of activities associated with graduate education, including academic progress, financial support, and faculty/student mentoring. She welcomes partnerships with units across campus to enhance the graduate student experience.

Thad Kousser is Interim Associate Dean of GEPA and a Professor of Political Science who joined UC San Diego's faculty in 2003 and studies American state and national politics, voting reforms, direct democracy, and trust in elections. He served a Chair of the Department of Political Science, co-chair of the Senate-Administration Workshop on the Future of Graduate Education, co-Director of the Yankelovich Center for Social Science Research, co-convener of the Council of Chairs, and chair of the Committee on Undergraduate Admissions. He has been a visiting professor at Stanford University, held the Flinders Fulbright Distinguished Chair at Flinders University in Australia, received UCSD's Academic Senate's Distinguished Teaching Award, served as co-editor of the journals Legislative Studies Quarterly and State Politics and Policy Quarterly, and has worked as a staff assistant in the California, New Mexico, and United States Senates. Kousser also comments on American politics for venues such as NPR, the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, the Washington Post, Politico, and the Los Angeles Times.

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SCRIPPS INSTITUTION OF OCEANOGRAPHY

SKAGGS SCHOOL OF PHARMACY AND PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES

RADY SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF PHYSICAL SCIENCES

WERTHEIM SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

ADMISSIONS

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

GEPA

SCHOOL OF GLOBAL POLICY AND STRATEGY

STUDENT AFFAIRS

POSTDOCTORAL AFFAIRS

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

SCHOOL OF ARTS & HUMANITIES

JACOBS SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

SCHOOL OF COMPUTING, INFORMATION AND DATA SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

COMMUNITY PARTNERS
(EG: FOUNDATIONS, NIH, NSF, EMPLOYERS, ALUMNI)

EXTERNAL

CAMPUS PARTNERS
(EG: ADVANCEMENT, THE COLLEGES, THE COMMONS, GLOBAL ED, HDH, HR, OPHD)

INTERNAL

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