

KAPFER RESEARCH AWARD

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The Philip and Miriam Kapfer Endowed Faculty Research Award (referred to hereinafter as the Kapfer Research Award) is designed to give financial assistance to one faculty member annually in the College of Arts & Sciences. Recipients of the Kapfer Research Award are selected by the Committee on Creative Work and Research under the auspices of the Office of the Provost. Selection is based on the originality and significance of the proposal and the applicant's perceived capacity to complete the work.

The Kapfer Research Award is funded from an endowment established by the Kapfer family. Depending on the University's endowment spending guidelines established by the Board of Directors, the Kapfer Fund is expected to generate an award amount of \$10,000 per academic year. The stipend will not be subject to retirement benefits.

The award will be used during the academic year for which it is granted for research in the faculty member's area of expertise. It may not be used for a project that in any way contributes toward the attainment of a degree. The award recipient will provide the Office of the Provost a comprehensive, written report on the completed research together with plans for additional ways to disseminate the research results by October 1 following the award year.

In the event that no eligible request for the Kapfer Research Award is received in a given year, no award may be granted, and that year's earnings on the fund will be added to the principal of the fund.

Goals: The goals of the Kapfer Research Award include the following:

1. To highlight the value of current research in higher education, specifically in the Arts and Sciences.
2. To use various appropriate research methodologies including applied research, classroom research, and field research.
3. To develop new insights and strategies for teaching and learning in higher education that will be of value to other researchers, teachers, and students.
4. To communicate the faculty member's research results to the University community and to appropriate academic outlets outside the University via reports, publications, conferences, seminars, etc.

Eligibility: To be eligible to apply for the Kapfer Research Award, the faculty member must:

1. Hold the rank of lecturer or above with a full-time, continuing appointment.
2. Be tenured or have served the University in a full-time capacity for at least three (3) academic years prior to the effective date of the award.
3. Have demonstrated the ability to conduct original research.

A faculty member who has received a Kapfer Research Award may be considered again for the award only if three (3) or more years have elapsed since the original award year.

Application Guidelines: The application with all supporting documents is to be submitted to the Office of the Provost by October 15 and include several basic elements:

1. Formulate the research question clearly. Include reasons why the answer to this question is important.
2. List the practical steps that will be taken to collect, interpret, apply, and communicate the research results and conclusions.
3. Speculate on ways in which the proposed research will benefit the faculty member in his or her primary role as a teacher at Valparaiso University. Also, suggest ways in which VU students will benefit from the proposed research.
4. Provide a proposed budget if the faculty applicant expects to divide the award between research-related expenses and a stipend.

Important Dates: May 1 (annually) - the focus of the Kapfer Research Award is publicized through appropriate channels on campus and in the Valparaiso University community.

October 15 (academic year prior to the year of the award) - Faculty applications and all supporting documents are due at the Office of the Provost.

December 15 (academic year prior to the year of the award) - The award recipient and all other applicants for the award are notified. The announcement of the person selected for the award is publicized as appropriate.

August (of the award year) - The award recipient is recognized at the Opening Convocation for the academic year.

October 1 (following the award year) - The award recipient provides to the Office of the Provost a comprehensive, written report on the completed research together with plans for additional ways to disseminate the research results.

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