Grad Rebel Advantage Program
Congratulations to our incoming 2021-2022 Mentees
Kristi Kemple

Academic Bio
Kristi graduated from Chaparral High School in 1997. She went back to school in 2014 and received her Associate in Business from College of Southern Nevada in 2020. Kristi loves numbers and business matters, which brought her to decide on an Accounting major. She participates in Institute of Management Accountants.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
Kristi plans to pursue a master’s in accounting. This program will give her the education she needs to acquire her CPA and become the CFO of a non-profit organization.
Academic Bio

David is a first-generation Biochemistry major that was born and raised in Las Vegas. He works in a chemical research lab where he synthesizes, purifies, and characterizes novel organic compounds for uses in green chemistry, biosensors, and functional materials.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

David possesses a strong motivation for organic/polymer materials research and plans on continuing his studies to earn a doctorate in the field for a research-related career. He’s also passionate about STEM education and aspires to become an educator in the field of materials science.
Sharica Lee is a first generation student, caregiver, mother and proud wife to a disabled Army Veteran. Sharica graduated Spring 2021, from CSN, with an AA in Psychology (Honors). Apart from her academic accomplishments, Sharica is currently serving her community as a Biblical Care Coach, also known as faith-based counseling. Sharica desires to help others persevere, just as she has, in areas of self-discipline, spirituality, mental health and emotional intelligence.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Sharica is a relationship builder and explains that helping two or more individuals work together, in unity, is what thrives her aspirations to seek the graduate program of Couple and Family Therapy (CFT).
KISHAYLA LESSIER

Class Standing: Junior
Department: Liberal Arts
Major: Psychology

Academic Bio

I am a first-generation student. I was born and raised in Las Vegas, Nevada. My family was based in San Diego, California. My parents moved to Las Vegas Nevada before I was born. I am the 5th child out of 6. I am currently working a retail job which I hope to leave after graduating college. My dream is to open my own non-profit for youth and the homeless just like my older sibling did. I’m very passionate about understanding people so that I can help them in the most positive and effective way. That’s why I choose Psychology.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

The Graduate program that I want to pursue is the Graduate Program of Science- Couple and Family Therapy. “Work with individuals, couples, families, and groups on mental health, behavioral, personal and/or relational concerns.” This is the definition of what my career would consist of, and this is exactly what I want to do. Issues typical start at the home and I would love to help others communicate better so that we have better individuals entering our society. Which means more positivity, smiles, and less negativity.
BRIANNA LOMAX

Class Standing: Senior

Department: School of Public Health

Major: Public Health

Academic Bio

Brianna was born and raised in Las Vegas, Nevada. She's a member of the Nevada Public Health Association and UNLV's Public Health Student Association, as well as a Peer Mentor at UNLV. Brianna is passionate about resolving disagreements within communities and empowering people to be their best selves.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Brianna plans to pursue a Masters in Public Health, focusing on Environmental and Occupational Health. She's passionate about the health, safety, and comfort of employees, especially those who work at computers. After gaining her Masters, she plans to pursue a leadership role within occupational health and safety.
Sophia Longi

Class Standing: Senior

Department: College of Liberal Arts & Greenspun College of Urban Affairs

Major: Dual Majoring in Psychology & Criminal Justice

Academic Bio

Sophia is a born and raised Las Vegan. She is a transfer student from the University of San Francisco. Upon her arrival to UNLV, she added a Criminal Justice major as she is interested in how the domains of Psychology and Criminal Justice coincide. These fields together, she believes, have the potential to transform how society views criminality, and reform the ways in which society provides treatment and resources.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

She plans on pursuing a graduate program in Criminal Psychology or Psychology with a concentration in Criminology. These graduate programs fit her interests as she is dedicated to understanding, preventing, and intervening in criminal behavior, by providing the population with targeted resources and treatment.
Academic Bio
Melanie was born and raised in Las Vegas, NV. She currently works at State Farm as a representative and is a full time student at UNLV. She is a psychology major pursuing marriage and family therapy. Her goal is to get a master degree in the MFT program and become a licensed therapist. She is currently an induced member of the National society of leadership and success. Some of her hobbies include listening to music, playing video games, and cruising.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
Melanie plans on attending the graduate college of UNLV and will be going into the MFT program because she has been interested in therapy and prefers the clin
Academic Bio

My family and I migrated from Mexico when I was very young. I have lived in Las Vegas for about 17 years. Thus, I consider myself a local Las Vegan. I am also a first generation college student. Furthermore, I decided to major in History because it has always fascinated me the way events from the past has shaped the societies of today. Additionally, I have always admired the ways specific people from the past changed history.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

I plan on pursuing the History graduate program because I would like to research and study certain historical topics more in depth. I especially look forward to studying hispanic history more in depth because in current American society their history has been erased. I believe American history should be more inclusive and reflective of a diverse American society. I would like to contribute to this field of knowledge by studying this history further.
Academic Bio

Rachel is a second-generation college student who was born and raised in Las Vegas. Originally returning to college to pursue music, she took ANTH 101 and fell in love with anthropology and archaeology. Now pursuing a bachelors degree in anthropology with a minor in psychology she hopes to one day join an archaeological research team that focuses on site preservation.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Rachel plans to pursue a Master of Arts in Anthropology with a concentration in archaeology. She plans on pursuing this passion for learning about past societies in hopes of preserving that knowledge for generations to come.
Samuel Marner

Class Standing: Sophomore
Department: Kinesiology and Nutrition
Major: Nutrition-Pre

Academic Bio
Samuel is a first generation college student from Iowa City, IA. While working manufacturing for 8 years in Iowa, he kept a close eye on his health and wellness through his passion for competitive foot races. His interests include exercise, mental health, food, cooking, and spending time with his family.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
Samuel is pursuing a master’s degree in either nutrition or public health. He is interested in how lifestyle choices affect both performance and longevity, insulin resistance, gut health and the microbiome, and intermittent fasting.
KAYLA MARSHALL

Class Standing: Junior

Department: CSUN- Lee Business School Senator

Major: Business Marketing & Global Entrepreneurship

Academic Bio

I am a Las Vegas native and first generation University student. I am currently a Lee Business School Senator and Vice Chair of the Community Initiatives Committee of CSUN. For work I am a Social Media Manager through a Facebook Fellowship Program. I decided to major in Business Marketing because I love the creativity and impact that promotional materials can have for a business and in some ways society.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

I plan on pursuing the Business Administration graduate program. I chose this program to progress my education and my future career aspects in the business industry. I also received great recommendations from mentors in the past.
Julissa Martinez was born and raised in Las Vegas, Nevada. She is a first-generation college student. She is planning on joining Psi Chi Honor Society this Fall. She recently got into a lab and is excited to get hands-on experience in research. She chose to major in Psychology and minor in Neuroscience because she is interested in the workings of the human brain and behavior.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Julissa plans on pursuing the graduate program Cognitive Psychology. She plans on pursuing Cognitive Psychology because she wants to research the human brain and its correlations with human behaviors. Julissa would like to become a psychology professor and/or a psychology researcher.
Cesar Montalvo Guerra

Class Standing: Senior
Department: Liberal Arts
Major: English

Academic Bio
Cesar was born in Upland, California by immigrant Salvadorian parents, he is a first generation student. He was raised in Nashville and Las Vegas. On campus he is part of ROTC program and serves First Generation Club as VP of Communications. Cesar is also currently a Cadet in the National Guard.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
Cesar in his graduate program plans to pursue a dual MBA/JD. A dual program would best prepare his future aspirations to join the JAG Corps and serve his Latino community.
Elia is a local Las Vegas and first-generation student majoring in psychology to further explore human behavior. Currently, she is an Honors College Peer Mentor, vice president of Active Minds at UNLV, Engelstad & McNair Scholar, and a research assistant for the Gambling, Addictions, and the Microaggression Experience (GAME) lab.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Elia plans to pursue UNLV's Clinical Psychology Doctorate program as this program can allow her to not only dive deeper into her passion for research but to also engage in clinical practicum.
Academic Bio

Michal is a first-generation college student pursuing a B.A. in psychology. She is a Research Assistant at the Interactive Measurement Group lab, and recently joined the Psychophysiology of Emotion and Personality lab to pursue an Honors project. Her research interests include psychopathy in community populations, personality disorders, risk-taking, and PTSD.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Michal's goal is to be accepted into a clinical Ph.D. program, so she can one day treat people affected by the justice system and be involved with the hiring process of police officers.
Jessica is a first-generation college student. She was born in Dallas, TX, where she would later complete high school, but spent most of her childhood in Detroit, MI. Jessica is a Psychology major and initially chose this major to help veterans, like herself, with various mental illnesses in a clinical setting.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Jessica plans to attend a Ph.D. program in neuroscience. Throughout underage she had intended to go the clinical route, however, she took a liking to the brain. She hopes to further her understanding of the brain and how it relates to mental illness, specifically treatment resistant depression and PTSD.
Hello! I was born and raised here in Las Vegas. I am both a first-generation college student and a first-generation American. Human behavior fascinates me, so I knew Psychology was the perfect major for me. In addition to my major, I am also minoring in Neuroscience and Addiction's Treatment.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

I plan on pursing a Master of Social Work. As a first generation American, I noticed how many fundamental services marginalized communities lacked. I specifically want to specialize in childhood trauma and bring more awareness to the importance of mental health.
Academic Bio

Born and raised in Maryland, Jerrell moved to Las Vegas in 2014. He is an Officer in the Hospitality Toastmasters Club; member of the National Society of Leadership and Success, and Eta Sigma Delta; holds certifications in CompTIA Project+, and Hotel Industry Analytics (CHIA); and maintains a 3.7 GPA.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Jerrell plans to pursue the Dual MBA/MS in Management Information Systems. He would like to pursue a career in data analytics and combine it with Project Management. He seeks to become a business analyst for golf courses or golf resorts where he can use technology to increase ROI.
Max originally is from Germany and a first-generation college student. He has spent his time since moving to Las Vegas focused on activism. He has worked for several youth led organizations focusing on various things, such as, voter engagement, lobbying both federally and locally for comprehensive sex education, and advocacy for trans rights.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Max plans on pursuing an ethnographic program that allows him to use media. He wants to focus on his creativity and passion for advocacy and activism. He is generally interested in researching political structures, social movements, and exploitation.
Academic Bio

Megan Rubio was born and raised in Las Vegas. She participated in numerous volunteer work, a few art exhibitions, and the IB program during all of high school. Megan chose graphic design because it combines her passion for the arts and offers many creative opportunities in today’s technology-based world.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Megan Rubio plans on pursuing the art program because although she is a graphic design major, one of her long-term goals is to get involved and become more knowledgeable in diverse media. Megan strongly admires multimedia and aims to experience art with many different medias.
YARELI ROMUALDO DANIEL

Class Standing: Senior

Department: Epidemiology and Biostatistics

Major: Public Health

Academic Bio
Yareli is originally from Hidalgo, Mexico but moved to the beautiful city of Las Vegas when she was 5 years old. She is a first generation student. Yareli is currently a senior disease investigator in the UNLV contact team. She enjoys helping the community in any way she can. Working in public health means working alongside the community to create a better living for those in the population.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
Yareli has seen many of those around suffer from preventable diseases. This has caused her to take a serious interest in the Master of Public Health degree graduate program. She wants to take part in protecting the lives in her community and promoting healthy life-styles. The most important aspect in life is health and therefore it should be taken seriously.