Grad Rebel Advantage Program
Congratulations to our incoming 2021-2022 Mentees
Academic Bio

Kelsi is a first generation student, who was born and raised on the island of Oahu, Hawaii and moved to Las Vegas to pursue her future career as an attorney. She is currently the Chapter President of the sorority, Alpha Xi Delta and works as an Office Manager at Blackout Dining in the Dark. She chose Criminal Justice as her major because she believed it would best prepare her to understand our Justice system and prepare for law school.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Kelsi plans on pursuing her education career in the Juris Doctor Program. She is motivated to pursue her career in the JD program because she one day wants to become an attorney to help her community and the less fortunate through the justice system.
KAILA SEIDLER

Class Standing: Junior

Department: Fine Arts and Hospitality

Major: Film and Hospitality Management

Academic Bio

Kaila is a third-year student majoring in Film and Hospitality Management. She was born in Canada and raised in deep South Texas. Kaila is an active member of the campus community as she is involved in many different organizations across campus including: NSLS, Cinefemmes, the Honors College Book Club, and more.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Kaila currently wants to continue her education by getting her Master’s in Business Administration. UNLV has a program that would allow Kaila to receive both her MBA as well as a Master’s in Hotel Administration. This is currently the route Kaila wants to pursue.
Academic Bio

Kristi moved to Las Vegas in 2018 to pursue her bachelor’s degree in geology. She loves chemistry and mineralogy because they reveal the true nature of Earth’s integrated processes. Kristi has a special interest in deep time and the biogeochemical cycles of early Earth. She believes that studying the evolution and equilibrium of our atmosphere and oceans over geological time provides insightful context on the state of today’s carbon cycle. The past is a key to the future!

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Kristi’s goal is to earn her master’s degree in geoscience and secure a position with the United States Geological Survey as a research geologist.
LANESSA SHIRLEY

Class Standing: Senior
Department: Liberal Arts
Major: Psychology

Academic Bio
Lanessa was born and raised in Las Vegas and has been attending UNLV for 2 years. Lanessa is a member of the psychology club at UNLV and recently completed a summer internship with a local homeless charity. Lanessa chose psychology due to her interest in behavioral health and brain chemistry.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
I plan on pursuing the graduate degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Psychology with an emphasis on cognitive psychology. I have always been interested in how and why people think the way they do and would love to learn as much as I can.
Class Standing: Senior
Department: Liberal Arts
Major: Spanish Linguistics

Academic Bio
Las Vegan for over 10 years from Lima, Perú. First generation college student active in two clubs at UNLV: Student Organization of Latinxs (SOL) and Latinx Student Alliance. Enjoys outdoor activities and volunteering on translation projects for the latinx community. Spanish Linguistics Major was chosen because the goal is to become a Professor. Teaching has been a fulfilling motivation and purpose since young.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
Plans on pursuing the Master of Arts in Hispanic Studies program because it will ease the transition into obtaining a PhD in Linguistics, and therefore reaching the goal of becoming a Professor and a Linguist.
SHELBIE SILVERS

Class Standing: Junior
Department: Psychology
Major: Psychology

Academic Bio
Shelbie is a local Las Vegan. She is first and foremost a dedicated musician who is in marching band and spends her free time playing gigs around Las Vegas. When she isn’t studying or gigging, she is working at her dream job, Shelby American where she is happily surrounded by Mustangs and muscle car fanatics. She chose Psychology as her major because her life goal is to create a lasting impact on those around her and she feels Psychology aligns with that vision.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
Shelbie plans on pursuing a Masters in Social Work so that she can work one-on-one with individuals and help them overcome mental health challenges. She hopes to help bring awareness to the importance of mental health in a variety of settings.
Hannah grew up in Las Vegas with hopes of leading her hometown to a more sustainable future, which motivated her to pursue Civil and Environmental Engineering. She is currently interning with Southern Nevada Water Authority, participates in organizations like Tau Beta Pi and ASCE, and is performing undergraduate research.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Hannah is excited to continue studying Civil and Environmental Engineering, with an emphasis in water resources. She is eager to combine her passion for sustainability, her internship with SNWA, and her UNLV education to work toward improving the longevity and efficiency of the Las Vegas water supply.
Shivangi Sinha

Class Standing: Senior
Department: School of Life Sciences
Major: Cell and Molecular Biology

Academic Bio
Shivangi is currently a Senior pursuing a degree in Cell and Molecular Biology stemming from a lifelong passion for science. She spends her time as a peer mentor in the College of Sciences and is looking forward to being a supplemental instructor in the Academic Success Center this year.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
After her undergraduate degree, Shivangi plans to pursue a Master’s in Genetic Counseling. With a shortage of genetic counselors in Nevada, she plans to be a pioneer in the field and return to Las Vegas to provide access to genetic counseling for communities in need.
Academic Bio

Jessica was born and raised in Las Vegas. She originally was attending SUU as a theatre major and after some time, Jessica developed a new passion for psychology and mental health. She found that she could collaborate the disciplines into a future career. Jessica was thrilled when she made the decision to transfer her studies to UNLV. Currently she resides as Secretary of UNLV’s Psi Chi and Psychology Club.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

The programs Jessica plans to pursue are Clinical Mental Health Counseling at UNLV and Drama Therapy at AU Seattle. Her goal is to become a licensed therapist and work in private practice for adults with mental illness. More specifically, she would like to specialize in treating trauma and PTSD with drama therapy.
ASHLIE SWAINSTON

Class Standing: Junior
Department: History
Major: History

Academic Bio
Ashlie is a Mojave Desert native and first-gen student. Her love of history derives from a love of people and their stories. Ashlie transferred from CSN where she became a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. She volunteers within her church and at the Las Vegas Natural History Museum.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
Ashlie plans to pursue a graduate program in History. Her study will include how Scottish migration of the 17th through 19th centuries shaped and influenced the British Empire, its colonies, and eventually America and the Atlantic World. Her interest in this stems from personal genealogy research and her ancestor's histories.
KIRSTEN TAN

Class Standing: Junior

Department: Mathematical Sciences

Major: Mathematics

Academic Bio

Thanks to her mother’s pursuit of a better education for her daughters, Kirsten Tan moved to Las Vegas from the Philippines at eight years old. She values the importance of education and is interested in subjects that combine the work of Mathematics and Computer Science.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Kirsten plans to pursue a Masters of Science in Computer Science with a concentration on the topics of Data Science and Big Data or A.I. and Machine Learning. These topics interest her because of their increasingly large influence in people’s everyday lives.
Weilun is a first generation college student who is seeking a bachelor's degree in physics. He moved to Las Vegas from China in 2013. Outside of the classroom, he is working in a physics research group and a chemistry lab on campus.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Intrigued by the interaction between particles, he decided to pursue a PhD degree in physics that specializes in AMO or particle physics. Furthermore, he was interested in gaining lab experience as well as in a field of relative topics, such as quantum computing.
Yoali Terrones

Class Standing: Junior
Department: Mechanical Engineering
Major: Mechanical Engineering

Academic Bio
Yoali is a local Las Vegan and a first-generation college student. She serves as an undergraduate peer mentor for UNLV’s LSAMP program and is vice president of UNLV’s SWE chapter. She chose her major because she wanted to create things that would help improve everyday life.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
Yoali plans on pursuing a graduate degree in biomedical engineering. This path will allow her to combine her interests in engineering and biology to help create the medical devices of the future. Her main career aspiration is to work on medical devices that will help improve women’s health.
LaShawn is a first-generation college student and moved from New Mexico. LaShawn is involved in the IMG research lab, Psi Chi club, and is a peer mentor for the COLA. He chose psychology and criminal justice to study the behavior of criminals and address psychological theories and legal issues.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

LaShawn plans to apply to the master of science at Arizona State University. He chose this program to focus on the more scientific aspects of forensic psychology, like research, data analysis and consulting.
Nguyen Tran (or Henry) is an international Vietnamese student. He has been in Las Vegas for 5 years and attended UNLV for 3 years. He is now a Junior in Biochemistry major. That is why he chose majoring in Biochemistry. Additionally, he has minor in Chinese. Henry Tran is currently a vice president of the Vietnamese Student Association.

**What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?**

During studying in Biochemistry major, Henry got more and more excited in this study and inspired by how interesting biochemistry work. So that, he desires to move forward and tries to get in a higher education by pursuing Master degree on Biochemistry.
Maleia Tremblay was born and raised in Las Vegas, Nevada. She works at Bliss Wedding Chapel as a hostess. Maleia enjoys playing the piano, Muay Thai kickboxing, and traveling. She majors in Psychology with the goal of pursuing a career as a Forensic Psychologist.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Maleia plans on pursuing a doctoral degree in Forensic Psychology. Her desire is to make an impact in the field by providing justice from a scientific perspective.
Academic Bio

Nghi Vu, also known as Zannie. She is an international student from Vietnam and has been living in Vegas for almost five years. Currently, she is a secretary of Vietnamese Student Association, and a member of Kinesiology Club and Pre-Occupational Therapy. She chose Kinesiology as her major because she enjoys learning in health-related field.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Nghi plans on pursuing the Occupational Therapy program and become an OT practitioner in the future. She is aspiring to become a therapist that emphasize on both physical and mental aspect to help people of all ages engage in meaningful occupation and quality services.
Academic Bio

Andres was born in San Diego, California, but was raised in Las Vegas. He chose to pursue an accounting degree based on its versatility among other business degrees. Currently, he is a member of Beta Alpha Psi and hopes to participate in other school organizations.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Andres plans on pursuing a Master of Science in Accounting to study for his Certified Public Accountant exams.
ANGEL WACKIHURI

Class Standing: Senior
Department: History
Major: History

Academic Bio

Angel is a local Las Vegan and a first-generation college student. She has worked as a peer mentor for the college of liberal arts and the religious studies program intern as well as being a part of the African student association. She studies history due to her deep love and passion for the past.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

I plan on applying for the History department's Graduate program here at UNLV. I really love history and studying it here at UNLV has been amazing and has given me a chance to research topics I would have never thought and I would like to further that in Graduate School.
Cassedy Walker

Class Standing: Senior
Department: College of Engineering and College of Liberal Arts
Major: Mechanical Engineering and Psychology

Academic Bio
Cassedy is a first generation college student and immigrant who moved here in 2009 from Germany. She has since gathered an interest in the medical field and hopes to use her mechanical engineering and psychology degrees to become a unique medical school applicant.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
Cassedy is planning on pursuing medical school after finishing up her undergraduate degrees. She found a love for medicine after taking an EMT class and understands how important it is to have doctors in emergency medicine that others can count on when lives are at stake.
Tracie moved to Las Vegas to create a new living experience outside of her life as flight attendant. That effort led her to complete a degree in Secondary Education she started over 19 years ago. Outside of academics, Tracie has self-published several books.

**What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?**

Although education has always been a passion of hers, writing has been a priority. Tracie would like to pursue graduate studies in the field of Linguistics and Writing because both fields will nurture her desire to teach and write both inside and outside of the world academics.
Academic Bio

Hello, my name is Sierra Wold. I moved to Las Vegas from Idaho in 2015. I am a licensed esthetician here in Vegas. I provided beauty services and consulting services here in Clark county. I am a sophomore this year at UNLV and enjoy hiking, the heat, and painting. I chose my major because I want to be able to do more invasive integumentary procedures. The skin works from the inside out so the deeper you can treat the better.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Sierra is looking forward to completing a Doctoral of Nursing Program or Medical school. Sierra has decided she wants to Direct cosmeceutical spas and educate.
RACHEL WUESTER

Class Standing: Junior
Department: Greenspun College of Urban Affairs
Major: Communication Studies

Academic Bio
Rachel is a native Las Vegan currently working towards a BA in Communication Studies. Along with her academics, Rachel works for UNLV’s Greenspun College of Urban Affairs as an Urban Ambassador. She also participates in student organizations including IGNITE, NCASC, and NSCS. Rachel chose Communication Studies because it can be applied everywhere.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
After completing her Bachelors, Rachel plans on continuing her academic journey by pursuing a Masters in Communication Studies. She has found that the bachelor’s introduced her to different aspects within a vast field. She hopes to strengthen her research and theory skills as she ventures into graduate school.
Academic Bio

Pursuing a degree in Hospitality Management with a minor in Entrepreneurship. Grew up in 3 countries; Hungary, Mexico, and America. Recently completed an internship with Resorts World in the Hotel Operations department. Current member of NSMH and AHLA. Looking to pursue being a general manager of a hotel.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Will pursue a graduate program concentrating in hospitality management. This will allow me to further my career as an executive director one day.
YURONG XU

Class Standing: Junior
Department: Harrah College of Hospitality
Major: Hospitality Management

Academic Bio

She is an international student from Shanghai, China. She has a passion for the hospitality industry because she loves to travel and interact with people. Currently, she is an intern in the Human Resources Department of the Hyatt Corporation Office to explore more about talent management and training sessions.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

She plans on pursuing hospitality, education, and human resources programs. She found interest in training sessions and looking forward to exploring more academic or professional opportunities in those industries.
Amal is a first-generation college student attending UNLV. She was born and raised in Las Vegas and has been attending UNLV since 2017. Amal chose kinesiology because she really enjoys learning about the human body and how it functions. Amal is apart of NSCS, MSA, and BSO.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Amal plans to pursue a career in occupational therapy and hopes to get accepted into an OT graduate program.
Alexandro (Alex) Zavala is currently a Junior majoring in Communication Studies and Urban Studies at UNLV. Alex has lived in Southern Nevada for most of his life and proudly represents a Mexican-American heritage. Additionally, Alex works at the City of Henderson full-time as an Administrative Assistant.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Alex wants to pursue a Master’s Degree in Higher Education, Political Science, or Public Administration because he has always had a passion for serving the public—whether that be through educating the community, conducting research, or assisting residents at his job.