UNLV | GRADUATE COLLEGE

Graduate College Mentorship Certification

Congratulations to
our incoming cohort

2017-2018

Maria Aladjova

I am an International Graduate Student pursuing a Master's degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. I am also a Graduate Student Academic Advisor at the Academic Success Center. I aim at continuing my education at UNLV as a doctoral student at the Department of Educational Psychology and Higher Education. I hope to do a research on recognizing bullying patterns and identifying preventive measures.

Bree Boppre

Bree is currently a third-year doctoral student in Criminology and Criminal Justice studying under Dr. Emily Salisbury.

Her research focuses on correctional rehabilitation as well as feminist and intersectional criminology.

Her project for RAMP will examine women's pathways in and out of crime with a particular focus on how intersectional experiences, shaped by gender, race, class, and sexuality, relate to justice-involvement.

Valarie Burke

Valarie is a doctoral candidate in Sociology and supervised by Dr. Simon Gottschalk. Her dissertation focuses on the various communication methods used to connect with graduate students.

Her project for RAMP will use both quantitative and qualitative research to ascertain the preferred method of communicating with graduate students regarding deadlines and events.

LINA CHATO

Lina Chato is a second year Ph.D. student in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, working under the supervision Dr. Shahram Latifi on machine learning techniques in classifications and regressions.

Currently, she is working on detecting abnormalities in medical images by extracting meaningful information to improve early detection and diagnosis of deadly diseases. Her research focuses on studying the effects of using multi-modalities medical images registration to improve detection results.

Hafthor Erlingsson

Hafthor Erlingsson is a doctoral student in the Department of Political Science, advised by Dr. John Tuman. His research interests include the study of transnational political participation and his dissertation examines what determinants influence developing countries to expand political rights to their citizens living abroad.
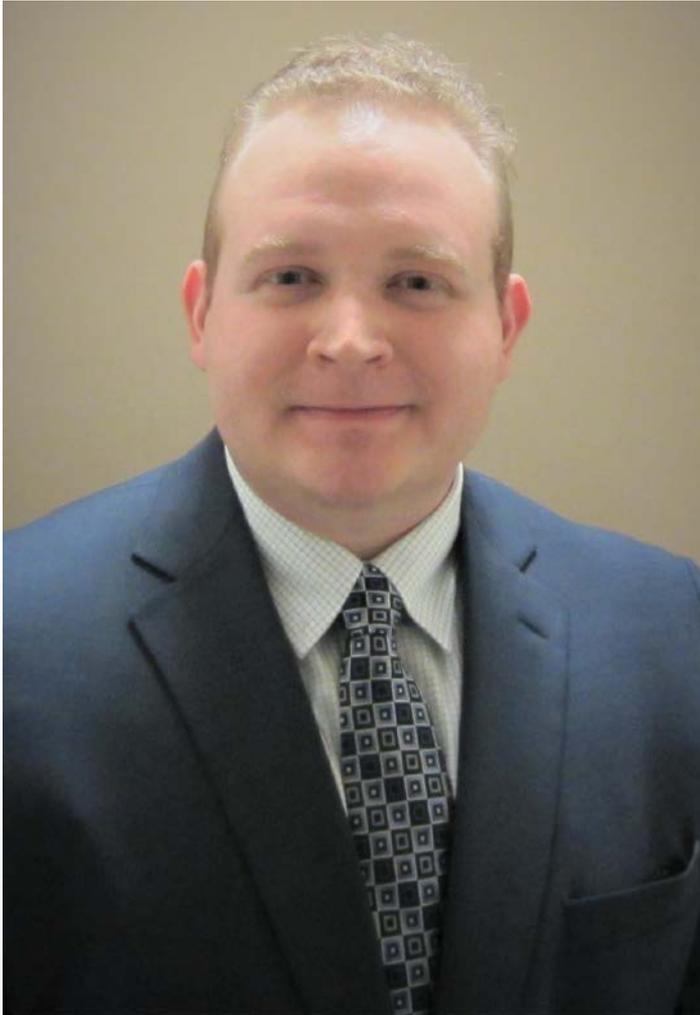
Marina Galante

Marina Galante is a second year doctoral student in the Clinical Psychology Program; she is currently mentored by Dr. Bradley Donohue. Interested in establishing empirically-based treatments for vulnerable populations, Marina will work with a RAMP mentee to build skills related to maintaining a research-based mental health clinic, as well as dissemination of evidence-based treatments.

Anthony Jordan

Anthony Jordan is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Political Science, supervised by Dr. John Tuman, with an emphasis on diplomacy. His dissertation research examines the role of political party and populism on the likelihood of diplomatic expulsion. He is studying the effects of New Left presidents on the expulsion of U.S. diplomats, ambassadors, and other personnel. This area is often ignored in the literature. As a mentor, he would like to help students who run into similar issues find a way to advance their research and meet this challenge.

Dale E. Karas

Dale E. Karas is a 3rd-year Mechanical Engineering PhD student, specializing in energy-efficient materials science fabrication and testing. His research efforts include optical analyses methods for energy-efficient nanomaterials characterization, computer-aided engineering, and advanced materials manufacturing. Prior to joining the Energy & Environmental Materials Laboratory (EEML) in Fall 2015, he obtained his B.S. in Optical Sciences & Engineering and a B.M. in Music Composition from The University of Arizona, where his work experiences involved remote sensing, machine vision, nanophotonic materials fabrication, and illumination engineering/design. He is president of *Etendue: The UNLV Student Optics Chapter*, representing student members of SPIE and OSA.

Erdogan kaya

Erdogan Kaya is a PhD student in science education. He is working as a graduate assistant and teaching science methods courses. Prior to beginning the PhD program, he received his MS degree in computer science and engineering and holds a BS degree in chemical engineering. He coached robotics teams and was awarded several grants that promote Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). He is also interested in improving STEM education for minorities. He has been volunteering in many education outreach programs including Science Fair and Robotics programs such as First Robotics competitions. Over the past four years, he published several journal papers and presented at national and international conferences. Areas of research interest include engineering and computer science education, STEM, 3D printing and robotics in K-12 education. More information can be found at http://kaya571.wix.com/unlv
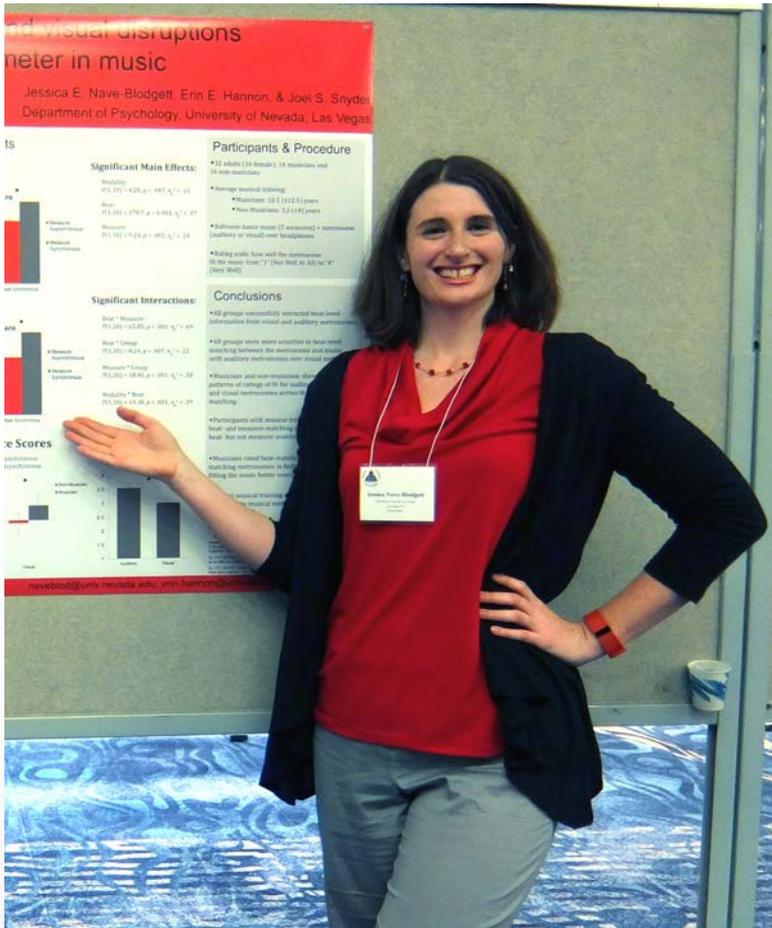
Kevin McVay

Kevin P. McVay is a second-year Master's student in the Department of Educational Psychology & Higher Education at UNLV. He is pursuing an education degree with an emphasis in Student Affairs. He is interested in understanding how college administrators can address the issue of rising student debt and increase student persistence through the implementation of institution-sponsored financial literacy programs. As an academic advisor at UNLV and graduate student mentor, Kevin is excited to participate in the GCMC certificate to learn how he can more effectively serve his students.

Stephanie Molina

Stephanie is pursuing her Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Health Sciences within the Department of Health Physics, with an emphasis on medical/laser biophysics, under the direction of Dr. Steen Madsen. Her research is investigating the development of a cell-based drug delivery approach for the treatment of cancers by photochemical internalization, a photonic technique. Her goal is that studying the *in vitro* efficacy of drug-carrying delivery vehicles will translate to an effective treatment protocol for diffuse brain tumors.

Jessica Nave-Blodgett

Jessica Nave-Blodgett is a 5th year student in the Experimental Psychology Ph.D. Program, working with Dr. Joel Snyder and Dr. Erin Hannon. Jessica's dissertation research will focus on the perception of timing and rhythm information in speech in children, adolescents, and adults. She is working to develop a test that measures listeners' sensitivity to speech rhythm. With this test, we hope to uncover not only the relationships between musical ability and speech and language ability, but also to screen for early signs of specific language impairments and other speech or timing disorders.

Matthew Pusko

Matthew Pusko is a 2nd year mechanical engineering student working towards his PhD under the supervision and leadership of Dr. Jaeyun Moon. His background is a BS and MS in physics from Stephen F Austin State University in Texas with an emphasis in nano-materials and solar energy. He is currently focusing on engineering flexible thermoelectric materials to be used as a wearable energy harvesting devices. Matt enjoys mentoring and teaching greatly, winning first prize at a poster contest with his last mentoree. Much of his time is spent in the laboratory creating new materials and testing their properties. Mentorees will learn these procedures and assist in these processes.

Agnes San Antonio

Agnes San Antonio is a M.Ed. student in the Department of Teaching and Learning, under the tutelage and advisement of Dr. Howard Gordon. Her focal interest is guiding non-traditional and first-generation students in postsecondary institutions. She is eager to learn and utilize mentorship principles and techniques that will emphasize what she has learned thus far, and enable her to transition into an advisory role.

Shahab Tayeb

Shahab Tayeb is a third year Ph.D. student in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, conducting research under Dr. Shahram Latifi's supervision on Cyber Physical Systems' security. His specific research interests include development, modelling, and analysis of communication networks and security of the Internet of Things (IoT) sensors using System-on-Chips. He is a member of IEEE, ACM, ISOC, Teachers without Borders, and NSPE and hold several industry certifications such as CCIE, CCDP, CCNP, and CCAI from Cisco; CNSS4011 Recognition from NSA; TKT from Cambridge; and VMCA from VMware.