



Graduate Mentorship Certification

**Congratulations to our incoming
2022-2023 cohort**

Amit Gajurel

**Ph.D. student,
Department of Civil and
Environmental
Engineering and
Construction**

Advisor: Dr. Erica J Marti



I am a third year Ph.D. student in Civil and Environmental Engineering. My research is focused on disinfection byproducts and their precursors in water systems.

Chlorination is the most common disinfection technique in water treatment because of its low cost, easy application and effective germicidal properties. However, reaction of chlorine with dissolved organic matter produces disinfection byproducts (DBPs) that are toxic to human health. My research is focused on one of the unregulated disinfection byproducts, Haloacetonitriles (HANs), their precursors and their removal from our water supply systems.

I hope mentorship certification program gives me an opportunity to share my research experiences with other participants and learn from their experiences. This program, I am sure, will help me fortify my skills as a mentor. This program will be very helpful for me to achieve my career goal to be in academics.

AUTUMN AGUILERA



**M.S. Student,
Emergency and Crisis
Management**

**Advisor: Dr. Dory
Mizrachi**



I am currently pursuing a degree in Emergency and Crisis Management, so that I will be able to pursue a career in terrorism prevention after graduation. I have volunteered on various domestic and international disaster relief aid trips which has ultimately led me to pursue a career with Homeland Security.

In order to be an effective emergency manager I will need to be able to bridge the gap of what each community needs to prepare for, potentially experience, and rebuild after a disaster strikes. There is no such thing as one size fits all in any situation, but especially in a disaster setting. This is why being apart of the Graduate College Mentorship Certification will be so beneficial in my future endeavors.

CLAUDIA CHIANG-LOPEZ



**Ph.D. student,
Teaching and Learning**

**Advisor: Dr. Chris
Clark**



Claudia's research focuses on QPOC in education and pushed-out student experiences. They hope to go into academia and continue working with undergraduate and graduate students on their research. As a first-generation immigrant and student, Claudia knows how important it is for students to have mentors who can share resources, skills, and information. Mentors helped them navigate higher education, and they want to be able to pay that forward. As a 2-time graduate of UNLV (Communication, M.A., '19, Multidisciplinary Studies, BA, '17), they are very familiar with UNLV resources, supports, and opportunities and are excited to share that knowledge with students.

JEANNETTE HERNÁNDEZ

**Ph.D. Candidate,
Sociology**

**Advisor: Dr. Robert
Futrell**



My name is Jeannette Hernández and I am a Ph.D. candidate in the department of Sociology at UNLV. I would like to be a mentor to an undergraduate student in Graduate College Mentorship Program because I would like to assist students in their academic pursuits through valuable support and mentorship. As a first-generation student, mentorship has been a cornerstone in my academic journey and I understand that mentorship and guidance are critical in achieving professional and/or academic goals. I want to develop my skills as a mentor and learn about how I can provide undergraduate students with academic and professional guidance and prepare them for graduate school.

Jorge Reyes



Ph.D. Candidate, Mathematical Sciences

Advisor: Dr. Monika Neda



Jorge Reyes is a fourth year Ph.D. student in Computational Mathematics. His research focuses on the theoretical and computational studies of fluid flow models that are based on Navier-Stokes equations (NSE). These studies include stability of the model's, numerical solution, finite element error estimates, sensitivity computations and simulations of benchmark fluid flow problems. Additionally, he is currently working on research on Epidemiological Modeling using SIR models. SIR models consist of three populations, susceptible (S), infected (I) and recovered (R).

Mentoring is critical part of academia and to be able to serve as a mentor is a rare opportunity for graduate students. Jorge has been very fortunate to have mentors guide him in my journey as a student and he wish to extend that favor to the next generation. Through the Mentorship Certification program Jorge hope to refine his leadership style and learn about serving as a mentor do a diverse group of students.

JOSEPH YOON SUB KIM

Dual Master's student in Hotel Administration and Management Information Science



Joseph is an international student from Singapore and a second year Master's student in Dual Hotel Administration and Management Information Systems.

His research interests focuses on big data analysis in the hospitality industry and how it affects businesses and companies. Goals for his research is to gain insights that lead to better business decisions, help businesses get ahead of its competitors, learn about their customers, and grow strategically.

Joseph also graduated with his bachelors here in UNLV and understands that it can be a challenging endeavor for students coming to a foreign country to pursue their academic goals. He hopes that he can be of help to students and be an aspiring figure just like his mentors did for him.

The Graduate College Mentorship program is the first building block to achieve those goals and give him the foundation to help other students succeed in their academic journey.

KARIN TIDGEWELL



**Doctor of Public Policy
student, School of
Public Policy and
Leadership**

**Capstone Advisor:
Dr. Michael Bruner**

As a longtime advocate for military families, my personal and professional experiences have highlighted the need for increased academic assistance for highly-mobile military children, particularly at the elementary level. Every time a military child moves, that student encounters radically different education systems because states differ not only in what they teach, but when and how they teach it. My policy work examines how to best assist military children with these frequent transitions and improve their academic performance.

Central to public policy are the relationships and coalitions practitioners develop, and every day brings a new opportunity to learn from others. Participating in the Graduate Mentorship Certification will allow me to grow, both as a mentor and mentee, and better assist others on their own paths.

Keishmer Cardoso



**Ph.D. student,
School of Public
Health**

**Advisor: Dr. Gabriela
Buccini, PhD, MSc,
IBCLC**



My current research interest is in physical activity, physical education, nutrition, and child development. I am a Las Vegas native and have been a student at UNLV since 2009.

As a First-Generation Latino, I am aware of the importance that mentorship holds in the development of young minority students in Higher Education. As part of my studies and professional development, I hope to develop effective mentorship strategies, techniques, and practices as I work toward mentoring students in Higher Education.

I hope to be a small but vital piece to the increase of minority student participation in Graduate and Professional level studies.

MINA ESMAIL ZADEH NOJOO KAMBAR



**Ph.D. candidate at the
Department of
Computer Science**

**Advisor: Dr. Kazem
Taghva**



I got my master's degree from Urmia University, Iran, in 2017, and after a few years of research, in 2019, I came to the U.S. to seek my academic dreams. I am passionate about Machine Learning and Deep learning techniques to solve Natural Language Processing (NLP) problems, especially in the Bioinformatic research area. I am now working as a research assistant in a clinical/medical text processing project and have published a few papers in this area. As a woman working in the field of AI, I would like to learn more and share more experiences with other people in this domain.

Torisha Khonach



**Ph.D. Candidate,
Sociology**

**Advisor: Dr. Elizabeth
Lawrence**

I am a PhD Candidate in Sociology whose research focuses broadly on the social constructions of the body, exploring how the meanings of bodies change over time. I use parents as a case study to investigate how parents' bodies shift from "private" to "public" through the constructions of health and assumed normality.

I would like to further develop the skills needed to be an outstanding mentor. Throughout my graduate career, I have sought to be an innovative and supportive mentor to my students in both formal and informal ways. I will never stop working with students, my role as an instructor will be central as universities would not exist without our students. Participating in RAMP will help me obtain my professional and career goals because my goals are already centered on student success.

WARREN FORBES

**Ph.D. student,
Interdisciplinary
Health Sciences**

**Advisor: Dr. Janet
Dufek**



Warren Forbes' research seeks to understand the relationship between concussion history and lower extremity biomechanics during landing tasks. The implications of his research will hopefully help to reduce the likelihood of individuals who have suffered a concussion from sustaining a subsequent lower extremity injuries upon their return to sport. Warren seeks to obtain a Graduate College Mentorship Certification to aid him in his future career aspirations in academia. He understands that mentorship is an important aspect of a successful faculty member and it's important to maximize his skills to be able to better aid future students with their goals and needs.