Grad Rebel Advantage Mentees

Congratulations to our incoming 2022-2023 cohort
MADELINE CARROLL

Class Standing: Senior
Department: Science
Major: Geology

Academic Bio
Madeline was born and raised in Las Vegas. She works as a TA and undergraduate researcher at UNLV, and she works with people with disabilities. She chose her major because she loves the earth, and she wants to help reverse the effects of global warming.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
Madeline plans on pursuing a Ph.D. in a climate science related field. She chose this path because she wants to conduct research on global warming with the goal to stop and reverse its effects. She also wants to become a professor.
Academic Bio

Margaritte, who also goes by Meg, was born in Mandaluyong, Philippines and immigrated to Las Vegas at 4 years old. She’s a research assistant at the Nevada Institute For Children’s Research & Policy. She chose her major because she’s passionate about breaking mental health stigma in different cultures, especially among children.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Margaritte plans on pursuing either a Master of Science in Clinical Mental Health Counseling or a Master of Science in Couple and Family Therapy. She wants to pursue these programs to advocate for mental health in cultures where it’s overlooked.
Matheu Nazareno

Class Standing: Senior
Department: College of Life Sciences
Major: Matheu Nazareno

Academic Bio
Matheu Nazareno is a third-year undergraduate pre-medical student at UNLV, pursuing a major in Biology and a minor in Neuroscience. He currently works in the field of Geriatrics as a clinical care and education outreach coordinator at UNLV Medicine for the Nevada Interprofessional Healthy Aging Network. He conducts clinical research focusing on improving geriatric care. He is an executive board officer for the pre-professional health program, Alpha Epsilon Delta, and is a volunteer clinical scribe instructor at Volunteers in Medicine of Southern Nevada.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
Matheu plans on applying to medical school to focus on pursuing a career as a physician. The pursuit of medical education piqued his interest from his adoration of science and undergraduate experiences that have helped shape his intent to become a future healthcare professional. His long-term career goal is to make a positive impact on Nevada’s healthcare system and communities.
Matthew Faris

Class Standing: Junior
Department: College of Life Sciences
Major: Biology (Pre-Professional)

Academic Bio
Matthew is a Las Vegas local. Attending Portland State University for one year before transferring to UNLV. Gaining an interest in the medical field during high school. He hopes to use his interest to help his community which is why he has chosen to pursue a degree in biology.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
Matthew plans on pursuing medical school after graduating from UNLV in order to become a trauma surgeon. He feels that this will allow him to help those in need.
Maxime transferred to UNLV from CSN during the height of the pandemic. She works with the NeRD Lab analyzing data collected from the synchrotron and is working on the GeoPaths Legend's UNLV learning portal. During her summer research, she worked with the Hausrath research group on the Mars Project.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Maxime will pursue a Masters in Geology, with a focus on economic geology, to continue the research of future interstellar resource acquisition.
MELISSA SIMMONS

Class Standing: Senior
Department: Criminal Justice
Major: Criminal Justice

Academic Bio
Melissa is a Las Vegan and first-generation college student. She volunteers with a local youth impact program and raises money for charity by running half marathons.

Melissa chose to major in Criminal Justice after witnessing family members struggle to find appropriate youth services which led to involvement with the juvenile justice system.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
Melissa plans to pursue a Human Services graduate program. She believes Human Service professionals play a vital role in community resiliency by connecting individuals with resources so they can become self-sufficient.
Michelle A. Pinzon

Class Standing: Senior
Department: UNLV College of Education
Major: Elementary Education

Academic Bio
Michelle is a Las Vegas resident first-generation transfer student. She graduated from SECTA and attended CSN before transferring to UNLV. Michelle works as a student assistant for UNLV’s SOML since 2021. It’s Michelle’s dream to become a teacher. Therefore, her decision to major in elementary education came naturally to her.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
Michelle plans on pursuing a graduate program in education leadership to fulfill her long-term goal of becoming a college administrator one day. In addition, she positively aspires to transform the lives of young adults and be a supportive figure throughout their academic journey.
Mikayla was adopted from China and raised in Las Vegas. She is a member of the UNLV psychology club and recently celebrated her fifth anniversary working at Raising Cane’s. She chose to study psychology because of the impact it had on her life, and her wish to help those struggling with their mental health know that they are not alone.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Mikayla plans on pursuing a master’s degree in the field of clinical mental health counseling. She then plans on working towards a Doctorate degree in psychology. Mikayla states that having someone to turn to about daily demands and mental health struggles can reassure people that they are never alone, even during their greatest challenges.
MY-TU TRAN

Class Standing: Junior
Department: Lee Business School - Department of Economics
Major: Economics

Academic Bio
My-Tu Tran was born in Vietnam and moved to Las Vegas in 2018. She is a third-year student seeking a Bachelor of Arts in Economics. My-Tu is interested in the economics major because she loves to study human behavior in this field. She is currently a cultural chair of the Vietnamese Student Association and a member of Rebel Roots.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
My-Tu plans on pursuing a Ph.D. in Economics with an emphasis on environmental and/or behavioral economics since she is passionate about studying human behavior and applying it to help enhance environmental sustainability.
NADIA SHEIK YOSEF

Class Standing: Junior

Department: Department of Psychology

Major: Psychology

Academic Bio

Nadia Sheik Yosef was born and raised in Las Vegas. She is a first generation college student majoring in Psychology. Nadia is currently a research assistant in the CHAMPION Mental Health lab here at UNLV. She is a pescatarian and works at a local plant-based restaurant. Nadia chose Psychology as her major because she has taken a strong interest in the mind-body connection. She also believes that mental health should be better incorporated into our overall wellness checks and can be a preventative factor as well for many people.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Nadia plans on pursuing a graduate program in Clinical Psychology. While she hasn’t completely decided which route of Clinical Psychology she will go down, she favors both child and health psychology. Nadia likes Child Psychology because she feels like a lot of children can hold onto things and carry them into adulthood if there is no one checking up on their mental health. Health Psychology is interesting to Nadia because various things liked memory and cognition can greatly influence health behaviors.
Academic Bio

Natalie is a local Las Vegan who is pursuing a Philosophy and Law and Justice degree at UNLV. She is primarily interested in the field of ethics and the intersection between psychology and philosophy. This fall she will be starting her honors thesis relating to the field of metaphilosophy. After graduation she will be busy preparing her applications to graduate schools.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Natalie is looking to pursue a JD/PHD after graduating from UNLV. Her interest in ethics both translates to both philosophy and the legal field. Pursuing a JD/PHD allows her to continue work within her philosophical interests while also obtaining a legal career.
Natalya was born and raised in Las Vegas. She is a member of the National Society of Leadership and Success. She chose to major in Psychology because she wants to contribute to diminishing the stigma around mental health and raise awareness.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

I plan on pursuing the Ph.D. program in Clinical Psychology to further my understanding and knowledge of psychology, in order to conduct my own practices.
Naya Hudson was born in Sierra Vista, Arizona and moved to Las Vegas when she was two. She chose her major to make a difference in other’s lives through her passion for the arts. She currently serves in the Army National Guard and is aspiring to become a Creative Director.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Naya currently plans on pursuing the graduate programs at Boston University or New York University. She wants to eventually combine art and science into one career after being a Creative Director and believes the medical and art experience she can gain from these schools is worthwhile.
NICOLE BACANI

Class Standing: Junior
Department: School of Life Sciences
Major: Biological Sciences

Academic Bio
Nicole is a junior at UNLV who was born and raised here in Las Vegas. She is a member of three organizations on campus: LSSA, AMWA, and AED. Nicole recently became a student researcher with the Traffic Safety Research Group at the Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
Nicole is planning to pursue the Doctor of Medicine graduate program. She wants to be able to make a meaningful contribution in someone’s healing process. She wants members of the community to feel like there is a physician out there who has an open mind to their healthcare concerns.
RAISSA MULINARI PILON

Class Standing: Senior

Department: Liberal Arts

Major: Psychology

Academic Bio
Raissa is first generation North American with a South American background. Her Brazilian parents met in the city of Las Vegas, Nevada, where she was born and raised. She enjoys her leisure time singing and playing several instruments, yet her overall passion had always been Psychology since the 5th grade.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
Raissa is the type of person who has a strong mindset on helping others from the inside out. The graduate program that caught her eye is being a Doctor of Philosophy in Clinical Psychology. In the future, she desires to aid young adults because she believes that these Psychologists are needed now more than ever.
Rebecca Jimenez

Class Standing: Junior
Department: Honors College & Greenspun College of Urban Affairs
Major: Criminal Justice

Academic Bio
Rebecca is from Southern California but was raised in Las Vegas. Her major is Criminal Justice and her minor is Music. Rebecca plans to become a lawyer because of victim justice. Rebecca performs with the UNLV Honors College Chamber Ensemble and the university chamber ensemble, playing electric guitar and violin.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
Rebecca plans to pursue law school because of her interest in criminal etiology and socio-theories in order to better understand criminals. She also believes that some sentences are injustice would like to be involved in the sentencing process.
SAVANNAH HAVERSTICK

Class Standing: Junior

Department: College of Sciences

Major: Biological Sciences with a Pre-Professional Concentration

Academic Bio

Born and raised in Las Vegas, Savannah is entering her third year as a biology major in the Honors College. She works part time as a Writing Consultant at the UNLV Writing Center. She is the current Recruitment Chair of the Life Sciences Student Association and is a member of the Association for Pre-Health Professionals at UNLV. She chose to earn her degree in biology and participate in these organizations to help her fulfill her goal of applying to medical school.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Savannah is pursuing a career in medicine and plans on applying to the UNLV School of Medicine her senior year. She desires to make an impact on lives through obtaining the necessary medical knowledge and gaining leadership skills. She feels that interacting with graduate programs in undergrad will give her a better insight on her career and life after she obtains her bachelor’s degree.
SEBASTIAN LOZANO

Class Standing: Senior
Department: College of Liberal Arts
Major: Political Science
Minor: French

Academic Bio
Sebastian Lozano is a first-generation undergraduate student at UNLV. He studies political science along with a minor in French. Sebastian chose his major to examine political systems throughout the world. Aside from his studies, Sebastian has participated in the Rebels R.I.S.E program. He enjoys attending Café Langue.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
Sebastian Lozano aspires to pursue a Ph.D. in Political Science at UNLV. Sebastian believes that this graduate program will help him produce sophisticated research in Environmental Policy, Political Conflict, European Politics, and Sub-Saharan African Politics. He plans to enter political science academia after earning his post-undergraduate degree.
Academic Bio

Solex is focused on understanding how Economics empower and impede historically marginalized or oppressed people, hoping to discover best practices that uplift all. He won the “Outstanding Student Leader” Rebel Award as President of numerous campus organizations including The Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. and National Pan-Hellenic Council, and was inducted to The Order of Omega Greek Honorary Society.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

He plans to pursue the dual Doctor of Philosophy - Educational Psychology and Juris Doctor (Ph.D and J.D.). Solex wants to assist in identifying and advocating for diverse learning methods and means that develop inclusive sets of skills helpful in becoming self-reliant, productive and adaptable to change.
Sophia is a marketing undergraduate who moved to Las Vegas from San Jose, California, in 2018. She is proud to be a first generation college student. She has held a Public Relations position in the Circle K Club during the spring 2020 term. She also interned at the Palms Casino Resort, and experience her first opening of a amazing property. Sophia chose marketing because she enjoys challenging herself and developing new ideas in a way that's different from the norm. She also keeps up with the digital changes in the world around her. Throughout her college career, she's been able to rely on various skills to succeed in this field. Some of these include her analytical skills, creativity, and communication abilities.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Sophia plans to pursue the MBA in Marketing program. Her long-term professional goal is to start her own marketing agency. Sophia believe the MBA in Marketing program will give her the additional skills and knowledge that she will need not only to succeed in the field of Marketing, but in business as well. It will also train her to effectively engage target audiences, also to do so in a way that sustains long-term company growth in the future.
Academic Bio
Stephanie is an aspiring pre-med student with the goal of becoming a physician. Originally from California, she moved in her freshman year to attend the UNLV Honors College program. She is currently a Chair member at Alpha Epsilon Delta, experienced research assistant, and trauma/front desk volunteer at UMC Hospital.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
Stephanie plans to matriculate into medical school in 2024 to become a physician in family medicine. She is passionate about medicine and hopes to help others through compassion and determination. By attending medical school, Stephanie hopes to gain the necessary skills that will allow her to succeed in the future.