This is the official program for the December 2023 Commencement at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. It includes the names of students who have applied to graduate. Please note that participation in a commencement ceremony does not guarantee degree conferral. Degrees are conferred (granted) only when all requirements have been met and the final grades for a student's final semester have been computed. Degrees are conferred and diplomas mailed during a 10-week period following the end of each semester.
Wednesday, December 20, 2023

4:00 PM

Student and Dignitary Processional.................................................................UNLV Jazz Ensemble
with Master of Ceremony Adam Paul

Opening Remarks .............................................................................................. Provost Christopher L. Heavey

Presentation of Colors ..................................................................................... UNLV Air Force & Army ROTC Honor Guards
Field Drummer Chandler White

National Anthem ............................................................................................... Kourtney Holmes, Soprano
The Star-Spangled Banner, accompanied by David Loeb, Piano

UNLV Alma Mater ............................................................................................. UNLV Choral Ensemble, UNLV Symphony Orchestra
Joseph Svendsen, Thomas G. Leslie, Musical Directors

President’s Message ............................................................................................ President Keith E. Whitfield

Greetings .............................................................................................................. Nevada System of Higher Education

Recognition of Outstanding Graduates ............................................................. President Whitfield

Student Commencement Speaker ....................................................................... Sierra Suzanne Gil

Alumni Association President ........................................................................... Gabrielle Angle

Class Profile ........................................................................................................ Provost Heavey

Conferring of Degrees ....................................................................................... President Whitfield

Readers .................................................................................................................. UNLV Faculty
Joe Ervin, Ann McDonough, Jacob Thompson

Concluding Remarks .......................................................................................... President Whitfield

Recessional .......................................................................................................... UNLV Fight Song

Grand Marshal ..................................................................................................... Sara Jordan
A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, LAS VEGAS

Since its first classes were held in the 1950s, the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) has undergone an amazing transformation, from a dusty outpost on the south edge of town to a thriving urban research institution. Along the way, thanks to its innovative frontier spirit, UNLV has kept pace with one of the country’s fastest-growing and most enterprising cities.

The university’s origins were humble. In 1951, when the post-war boom had swollen the Las Vegas valley’s population to more than 50,000, the University of Nevada, Reno established an extension program here. Twenty-eight students began meeting for classes in the dressing rooms of Las Vegas High School’s auditorium. In 1954, the Nevada Board of Regents founded the Southern Regional Division of the University of Nevada, popularly known as Nevada Southern. Twenty-nine students accepted degrees at the university’s first commencement in 1964.

The UNLV Graduate School was founded in 1965, and we graduated our first 11 master’s students in 1967. In 1969, with the Board of Regents’ approval, the university adopted its current name, the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. By the following year, as Las Vegas’ metropolitan population reached 275,000, UNLV enrolled more than 5,500 students. Our first doctoral student, an Ed.D., graduated in 1977, and we granted our first Ph.D.s in 1991.

Over the next several decades, UNLV continued this heady rate of development — erecting more than 100 buildings, developing dozens of graduate programs, creating partnerships with the community, holding nationally ranked sports teams, founding an alumni association, promoting scholarship, establishing a fundraising foundation, and recruiting diverse and talented students from across the country. UNLV has come a long way from the high school dressing rooms that once served as its classrooms. It is fair to say that the first 57 years of graduate education at UNLV have been characterized by growth and maturation. Thanks to the dedication of faculty and staff members, students, generous donors, and Las Vegas residents, the university has much to celebrate, especially at commencement.

ACADEMIC DRESS

The academic caps, gowns, and hoods that make the procession so colorful are part of an 800-year tradition. Academic clothing was first worn in medieval universities like Cambridge, Oxford, Paris, and Bologna.

The European custom was carried to America with the establishment of our own colleges and universities. In 1895 an academic code of dress was adopted, and the standards of a robe, hood, and cap were accepted by most of the colleges and universities in the United States.

Different types of gowns may be distinguished in the academic procession. The bachelor’s gowns have long, pointed sleeves. The master’s gowns have oblong sleeves with an arc cut away in the front. The doctoral gowns are faced with velvet and have bell-shaped sleeves with three bars of velvet. The hood, draped from the shoulder, denotes by its length and colors the field of study and the institution that conferred the doctoral degree.

Doctoral regalia was standardized in the U.S. by the Intercollegiate Commission that created the Intercollegiate Code in 1985. It is periodically updated, and the last update was in 1986 when it was recognized that dark blue is the official color for Ph.D.s. UNLV is unique. Gray with scarlet doctoral robes are absolutely distinct, and there is no other university that has a robe like ours. We adopted the unique scarlet and gray in 2012 when Neal Smatresk was the president of UNLV.

The doctoral hood harkens back to ancient Greece when students would give donations to teachers by placing coins in their hood, because it was not appropriate to pay teachers outright. We can still carry on this tradition today. Graduates, please let family members and friends know that they can continue the tradition of dropping money into hoods.

UNLV commencements have historically been held with both undergraduate and graduate students combined. However, in May 2022, the university hosted its inaugural graduate commencement that gathers the graduate community together. At that time, we also began a new tradition of utilizing the doctoral hoods and a new UNLV lucky coin. Our “Vegas twist” is that after a graduate is hooded, the advisor will drop a UNLV lucky coin in the graduate’s hood, symbolically saying farewell, good luck, and best wishes as they embark on their next journey. This is uniquely UNLV and Las Vegas.
UNIVERSITY MACE

The university mace, which has its traditions deeply rooted in history, is carried on ceremonial occasions at the head of the academic procession by the Grand Marshal, whose symbolic duty is the protection of the university, its persons, and its processes.

The mace, a long club with a ball of iron, steel, or brass at one end, was used in warfare as late as the 16th century. The use of the mace as an instrument of ceremony, however, began about the year 1250 in England and France. The mace is still used widely today in university ceremonies like commencements and inaugurations.

The UNLV mace, cast by UNLV art professor emeritus Michael McCollum in 1970, was created using the lost wax process. Erik Gronborg's design for the cubical head of the mace included facets depicting the university seal, a rendering of the Statue of Liberty, a likeness of Renaissance scholar Leonardo da Vinci, and a shelf of books flanked by artists' brushes. The mace bearer for the December 20 ceremony is Sara Jordan, professor in the Couple and Family Therapy program.

OUTSTANDING GRADUATES

UNLV has a long-standing tradition of honoring graduating students who have made a special mark during their time at the university. Undergraduate and graduate students are selected for the honor after a semester-long nomination process. Those students highlighted during commencement are chosen based on such factors as academic achievement, community outreach, research and creative work, and their ability to overcome adversity.

HONOR SOCIETY MEDALLIONS

Students who have been initiated into UNLV's chapter of Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society may wear a bronze medallion hung on a blue ribbon to be worn at commencement. Each year Chapter 100 at UNLV invites to membership the top 10 percent of graduate students and undergraduate seniors in their college class and the top 7.5 percent of the junior class in all academic disciplines.

Many disciplines have honor societies specific to their fields. Members wear their cords, pins, or medallions at commencement.
Graduate College

Doctor of Philosophy

Godson Ebenezer Adjovu, Civil and Environmental Engineering

David Almanza, Public Affairs
Development, Voice, and Vulnerability: A Rhetorical Analysis of the Policy-Making Discourse Regarding the Paris Agreement as an Organizational Response to Climate Change

Victoria Bacon, Clinical Psychology
Utilizing Nonparametric Statistical Methods to Inform Equitable and Inclusive MTSS Models of School Attendance/Problems

Catherine A. Bacos, Curriculum and Instruction
Assessing Social Attention in Social Interactions: A Second-Person Approach to Eye-Tracking Research and Interventions

Dylan Barth, Biological Sciences
Sequestered Sequences: A Bioinformatic Approach to the Forgotten Genome

Sherry Bell, Psychological and Brain Sciences
A Mixed Methods Examination of First Year College Students: The Impact of Ethnic Studies on Post-Secondary Education Experiences

Mouhsine M. Benmbarek, Mechanical Engineering
Heat Transfer Enhancement in Heat Exchangers Using Compound Enhancement

Mark C. Carroll, Curriculum and Instruction
Toward Data Science for Research in Novel Online Learning Environments: A Mixed Method, Complex Systems Approach

Shuktika Chatterjee, Public Affairs
Addressing Challenges Faced by Public Organizations: The Central Role of Agility at the Federal Level During the Covid-19 Crisis

Yen-Ling Chen, Clinical Psychology
Cultural Mechanism of Mothers’ Perceptions of Youth Psychopathology

Ashley Kaitlyn Colson, School Psychology
Teachers’ Relationship Ratings of Adolescents With and Without the “Emotional Disturbance” Label

Sergio Contreras, Electrical Engineering
Travel Time Theory for Traffic Conservation Laws With Applications

John Joseph Crandall, Anthropology

Jennifer Mary Crownhart, Public Affairs
Examining The Social Equity Pillar of Sustainability: The Effects of Public Participation and State Actions on Local Social Service Initiatives

Michael Bevan Dial, Interdisciplinary Health Sciences
Effects of Circadian Rhythm Disruption and Social Jetlag on the Cardiometabolic Adaptations to Exercise

Nadia Eldemerdash, Political Science
Transnational Actions, Domestic Outcomes: How Diasporas Effect Change in Their Countries of Origin

Md Abdul Motalebaysal, Computer Science
Scalable Algorithm Design and Performance Analysis for Graph Motifs Discovery

Anthony D. Feldman, Geoscience
Climatic Influences on Incipient Alteration in Mars-Relevant Ultramafic Soils

Ariane Fisher, Clinical Psychology
The Relationship Between Psychopathy and Sexism Across Self-Report, Vignette, and Novel Dialogue Tree Tasks

Warren Christopher Forbes, Interdisciplinary Health Sciences
The Influence of Concussion History and Head Impact on Lower Extremity Function

John Michael Gonzales, Civil and Environmental Engineering
Abiotic and Bio-Enhanced Reduction of Perchlorate and Co-Contaminants With Zero-Valent Iron (ZVI)

Mahdi Hajiali, Computer Science
OCR Post-Processing Using Large Language Models

Phillip G. Hammer, Radiochemistry
The Room Temperature Electrolysis of F-Elements in Aqueous and Ionic Liquid Media: Synthesis, Dissolution, and Reduction

Joo-Hee Han, Nursing
Babywearing’s Influence on Parent and Infant Heart Rates

Md Nahid Hasan, Mathematical Sciences
Synergy and Antagonism in Log-Linear Models

Alicia Nierva Herrera, Learning Sciences
Instructional Practices that Foster Argumentative Discourse in Secondary Science Classrooms

Amanda N. Howard, Psychology
Examining the Factor Structures of the ERQ-CA, RCADS, and RSCA to Identify Unique Predictors of PTSD Symptom Clusters in Maltreated Youth
Christian Victor Ison, Interdisciplinary Health Sciences
Depression, Anxiety, and Estimated Cardiorespiratory Fitness in College Students

Carrie Watkins Jeffrey, Nursing
Emergency Remote Teaching and Transition to Nursing Practice During the Covid-19 Pandemic: An Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis

Igor Kowal, Clinical Psychology
Clinical Utility of the Substance Use Items of the Sport Interference Checklist in Collegiate Athletes

Hana C. Kuwabara, Psychology
Measurement Invariance of Impact in Bilingual and Monolingual High School Athletes

Choonghan Lee, Mechanical Engineering
Development of Pre-Magnetized Magnetorheological Elastomer for Bidirectionally Variable Stiffness Applications

Sam A. Leif, Curriculum and Instruction
Beyond the Surface: A Novel In-Game Behavioral Observation Matrix to Assess Video Game Expertise

Elizabeth León Zaragoza, Higher Education
Examining Athletic Training Educators’ Perceptions of the Entry-Level Master’s Degree

Christian Joy Lewis, Sociology
The Force That Sets the Stage: The Professional Performances and Emotional Labor of Black Academic Faculty at Predominantly White Institutions

Alireza Maghsoudlou, Educational Psychology
Profiles of Cross-Domain Motivational Beliefs: Relations With Engagement and Gender

Sayeda Ummeh Masrura, Civil and Environmental Engineering
Application of Biochar for Antibiotic-Free Nutrient Recovery From Source-Separated Human Urine

Sean M. McCray, English
Evolving Expressions of Trauma in James Joyce, Jean Rhys, and Caryl Phillips

Hiroko Mullner, School Psychology
Gender Differences in Internalizing Problems and Everyday Behaviors Associated With Executive Function in Children And Adolescents With Autism Spectrum Disorder

Rubaiya Murshed, Mechanical Engineering
Development and Characterization of Lead & Lead-Free Perovskite Solar Cell Materials

Skeeter Marie Newman, Curriculum and Instruction
A Multiple Case Study Examining the Role of Racism in the Development of Relationships Between White Teachers and Students of Color

Olufemi Olubode, Electrical Engineering
Pantograph Carbon Strip Degradation Monitoring – Pulsed Power Application Using Electromagnetic Dot Sensor

Amanda Marie Ostwald, Geoscience
Migmatic Processes Leading to Compositional Diversity in the Mars Crust

Lei Ping, Teacher Education
A Multiple Case Study on Student-Centered Teaching and Educational Equity for Diverse Learners

Suraj Venkat Pochampally, Mechanical Engineering
Engineered Biomass-Derived Carbon Adsorbents for Targeted Contaminant Remediation From Aqueous Environments

Shelley Leann Price, Nursing
Compassion, Oxytocin, and Simulation Experiences Among Prelicensure Nursing Students

Victor Manuel Quintanilla Jr., Mechanical Engineering
Numerical Investigations of sCO2 Compressor Aerothermodynamics Using a Streamline Curvature Based Throughflow Method

Leigh Ann Pouncey Richardson, Public Health
Impact of Dietary Pattern Adherence and Physical Activity on Indicators of Cardiovascular Disease In Adults With and Without Type 1 Diabetes

Erick Rogers, Clinical Psychology
Examination of Performance Validity and the Relationship to Cognition and Symptoms in Schizophrenia Spectrum Disorders

Prosun Roy, Mechanical Engineering
Towards CFD Investigations Into Particulate Air Pollution of a Desert Urban Environment

Yasaman Saedi, Civil and Environmental Engineering
Treatment of Oxyanion Contaminants From Waste Brine Streams Using Halophilic/Halotolerant Microorganisms

Melissa C. Schofield Londono, Biological Sciences
Regulation of Toxicity in the Pseudomonas Aeruginosa Envelope Stress Response

Shekhar Singh, Computer Science
Facial Expression Recognition Using Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) and Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs) for Data Augmentation and Image Generation

Edward Albert Smith, Clinical Psychology
The Psychopathology Circumplex+: A Novel Conceptualization of Psychopathology and Associated Measure

Alina Paige Swafford, Interdisciplinary Health Sciences
Physiological and Biomechanical Response to Indoor Cycling With and Without the Ability to Sway
Heather M. Thompson, School Psychology

Joseph P. Thomson, History
A Tale of Two Townsites: The Formative Years of the Las Vegas Valley 1902-1907

Kristin Dee Vierra, Psychological and Brain Sciences
Examining Oppressive Social Systems: Activism, Academics, and Alpha Males

Jack T. Watts, Special Education
Enhancing the Relationships of Students With Emotional and Behavioral Disorders and Their Teachers

Carolyn S. Willis, Public Affairs
Offender Reintegration In Nevada: A Longitudinal Study Focusing on Transitional Challenges, Reentry Capital, and Recidivism

Xiangxue Xiao, Public Health
Development of a MetaPGS for Accurate Prediction of Osteoporotic Fracture

Yingke Xu, Public Health
Polygenic Risk Score Development and Validation for Early Detection and Risk Stratification of Rheumatoid Arthritis and Osteoarthritis In Postmenopausal Women

Melissa Yarczower, Special Education
Exploring Early Childhood/Early Childhood Special Education Personnel Preparation for Teaching Social Emotional Skills and Addressing Challenging Behaviors

Yunxuan Zhang, Hospitality Administration
The Framing Effects of In-Flight Workplace Sexual Harassment Awareness Campaigns on Passengers’ Attitudes and Reporting Intentions

Doctor of Education
Melissa Suzanne Giannantonio, Executive Educational Leadership
Principals’ Perceptions of School Sponsored Field Trips

Doctor of Musical Arts
Kyle S. Bissantz, Performance
Get a Grip: An Anatomical Survey of Four-Mallet Grips for Solo Marimba

Brandilyn Davidson, Performance
Culturally Responsive Music Education: History and Applications in Instrumental Music Education

Yupeng Wei, Performance
Introduction to Chinese Ethnic Percussion Through the Concept of Free Rebound

Specialist in Education
Jamie S. Elliott, School Psychology
Rachael Alexandra Thomas, Curriculum and Instruction

Executive Master of Healthcare Administration
Arnaldo F. Laus, Executive Master of Healthcare Administration

Master of Arts
Esmeralda Matos Aguilar, English
Cole Ryan Aubin I, Urban Leadership
Mikaila Julianne Becze, Urban Leadership
Shaun Brown, Urban Leadership
Sarah Lynn Calvo, English
Anthony Cave, Journalism and Media Studies
Junlee Navarro Ceniza, Urban Leadership
Sheccid Ariza Crayton, Economics
Haley Skye Dougherty, Anthropology
Kinsey Ellis, Clinical Psychology
Maileena Moahna Faaita, Journalism and Media Studies
E’lala Frank, Urban Leadership
Miranda Hannasch, English
Monserrath Hernandez, Journalism and Media Studies
Aly Riad Hiko, Political Science
Michael D’andre Hollis, Urban Leadership
Kara Jones, Anthropology
Kazim Julian, Economics
Laekyn A. Kelley, Communication Studies
Sean Michael Kenny, Journalism and Media Studies
Justus Reign King, Urban Leadership
Naomi Lemba, Urban Leadership
Jared Wayne Leslie, Psychological and Brain Sciences
Raymond Eugene Lopez, Clinical Psychology
Chase Alan Maddux I, Urban Leadership
Devin LaVon Matthews, Urban Leadership
Kelli Rose McClain, Urban Leadership
Nicole Elizabeth Minton, English
Melanie Rede, Clinical Psychology
Nyeri Sidney Richards, Urban Leadership
Aly Riad Hiko, Political Science
Monserrath Hernandez, Journalism and Media Studies
Kara Jones, Anthropology
Kazim Julian, Economics
Zackary Scott Simon, Urban Leadership
Monique Tanisha Smith-Sarr, Urban Leadership
Bahareh Soltani, Economics
Nancy Gabriela Swanson, Urban Leadership
Kimberly Amanda Taylor, Journalism and Media Studies
Brittany Markarian Toth, Urban Leadership
Sabrina Katarina Tzilos, Journalism and Media Studies
Rodrigo Javier Vazquez, Economics
Angel Jenny Wakihiuri, History
Sierra Marie Webb, Urban Leadership

**Master of Business Administration**
Benjamin Pierce Bishop, Master of Business Administration
Schadrey L. Bonds, Business Administration
Zoe Jo Brill, Master of Business Administration
Ana Carolina S. Buccini, Master of Business Administration
Shannon Marie Cain, Master of Business Administration
Brian Michael Califf, Master of Business Administration
Caitlin Marie Chadwick, Master of Business Administration
Jordan Michael Chapman, Master of Business Administration
Pingwei Chen, Master of Business Administration
Paul Chestovich, Master of Business Administration
LeAntwuan Cooke, Business Administration
Colleen Craig Freedman, Master of Business Administration
Chris L. Funches, Business Administration
Marlena Terese Gatlin, Master of Business Administration
Amanda Kay Glomske, Business Administration
Jacob Scott Gotcher, Master of Business Administration
Emily Hamill, Business Administration
Jamie J. Harvey, Master of Business Administration
Lauren Hughes, Master of Business Administration
Olay Jabbi, Business Administration
Hunter Christian Jensen, Master of Business Administration
Alvin Kenon, Business Administration
Freddy Lopez, Business Administration
Jason T. Mackay, Master of Business Administration
Verna L. Mandez, Business Administration
Spencer H. Mcmilian, Master of Business Administration
Frederick Melms, Master of Business Administration
Heather M. Nepa, Business Administration
Vy Thuy Nguyen, Master of Business Administration
Olumide T. Olagunju, Business Administration
Jayla Elyse Olson, Master of Business Administration
Yuliya Pearson, Master of Business Administration
Cooper Caleb Rhodes, Master of Business Administration
Kody William Sampson, Master of Business Administration
Bre Anne Su Stark, Business Administration
Jeffrey G. Wagner, Business Administration
Jenny Wilt, Master of Business Administration
Jacob Alden Zeiss, Master of Business Administration

**Master of Education**
Mohammed Abdallah, Higher Education
Ayodele Patience Aborishade, Special Education
Hayley Adams, Higher Education
Katelin Marie Adams, Early Childhood Education
Folasade Olubanke Aguilar, Curriculum and Instruction
Sydney Michelle Anderson, Special Education
Ashley Nicole Arburua, Curriculum and Instruction
Monica Arce, Curriculum and Instruction
Alejandra Arias, Special Education
Marco A. Arizpe-Macias, Special Education
Corey Alexa Arnold, Curriculum and Instruction
Taryn Marisa Bearden, Special Education
Uriah Palomar Bradley, Special Education
Kalie Rose-Delley Brown, Curriculum and Instruction
Katawina Burnett, Special Education
Christopher David Burns, Curriculum and Instruction
Mayte Alejandra Cano, Higher Education
Krystal Rosio Cardenas-Parr, Special Education
Calise Anne Cardin, Curriculum and Instruction
Devin Carlson, Special Education
Coby Lee Carner, Intercollegiate and Professional Sport Management
Victoria Andrea Carpenter, Curriculum and Instruction
Jesus Carrillo, Special Education
Sharde Carter, Early Childhood Education
Tayvion Froncel Carter, Intercollegiate and Professional Sport Management
Lidia T. Ccopa, Special Education
Regjara Cephus-Johnson, Special Education
Hsiao-Hsien Chen, Special Education
Chynna Knight Cohen, Intercollegiate and Professional Sport Management
Sandra Denise Cosey, Early Childhood Education
Angela Lynn Crouch, Curriculum and Instruction
Strom Lindell Dahlgren, Curriculum and Instruction
Rachel De Vera, Higher Education
Savanna Marie Declue, Curriculum and Instruction
Christopher DeHart-Reed, Curriculum and Instruction
Zachary Wills Delkus, Special Education
Melike Durmaz, Special Education
Patricia L. Earley, Special Education
Maryanne Monique de Leon Elequin, Curriculum and Instruction
Jonathan B. Eskin, Intercollegiate and Professional Sport Management
Wenquan Fan, Curriculum and Instruction
Kristi Felix, Curriculum and Instruction
Carrie Fierro, Special Education
Anthony Edward Filippo, Curriculum and Instruction
Fernanda Flores, Curriculum and Instruction
William John Girgash, Curriculum and Instruction
Marlon Gomez, Curriculum and Instruction
Ashley Dianne Gonzalez, Early Childhood Education
Dayana Maria Gonzalez, Curriculum and Instruction
Charles Parker Graham, Early Childhood Education
Alexis Teresa Gray, Special Education
Jennifer Laine Halili, Special Education
Christian Harrison, Educational Policy and Leadership
Melisa Hellman, Curriculum and Instruction
Carla N. Hernandez, Curriculum and Instruction
Monse Rath Hernandez, Curriculum and Instruction
Karla Jean Howard, Curriculum and Instruction
Candice A. Alexa Hughes, Curriculum and Instruction
Milan Demariz Hughes, Curriculum and Instruction
Tonya Christine Humphries, Early Childhood Education
Cynthia Hunsucker, Special Education
Lakissia Denee Jackson, Special Education
Sara Rosemary James, Special Education
Amelia Jara-Magallanes, Early Childhood Education
Jennifer Jasso, Special Education
Madison Elaine Jones, Special Education
Marie E. Jones, Special Education
Sara Kelley, English Language Learning
Timothy Devin Kemp, Special Education
Tiffany Marie Kingsbury, Special Education
Courtney Rose Kirwan, Curriculum and Instruction
Amanda S. Koehler, Special Education
Michele Theresa LaFrance, Special Education
Ellen Lambert, Curriculum and Instruction
Lawra Landis, Special Education
Caroline Liendo, Curriculum and Instruction
Chloe Marie Lipka, Curriculum and Instruction
Esmeralda Enriqueta Lopez, Special Education
Wendy Lopez, Curriculum and Instruction
Jacquelyn Lopez Lopez, Early Childhood Education
Oscar Lopez-huerta, Intercollegiate and Professional Sport Management
Frederick Earl Lowe Jr., Special Education
Roxana Loya, Special Education
Sara Paige Luna, Curriculum and Instruction
Alana Martinez, Curriculum and Instruction
Leonardo Martinez, Curriculum and Instruction
Trevor McFann, Special Education
Michael James McGahan, Curriculum and Instruction
Jade Lorae Morgan, Early Childhood Education
Stacey Elaine Morgan, Early Childhood Education
Nicole Marie Moynahan, Curriculum and Instruction
Billy R. Murphy III, Special Education
Emma Mari Muth, Curriculum and Instruction
Keith Nagel, Curriculum and Instruction
Alexis Newmark, Curriculum and Instruction
Sadie Rose Newsom, Intercollegiate and Professional Sport Management
Jeremy Nguyen, Curriculum and Instruction
Charis Nixon, Curriculum and Instruction
Serena Morales Norris, Curriculum and Instruction
Camilla Robyn Nyhus, Curriculum and Instruction
Stephanie Ortega, Curriculum and Instruction
Cristian Pabon, Curriculum and Instruction
Kiersten Anna Paskal, Curriculum and Instruction
Cody J. Payton, Curriculum and Instruction
Marcela Bordinhao Penha, Curriculum and Instruction
Bryant Matthew Portales, Curriculum and Instruction
Larry D. Puckett, Special Education
Aldair Armando Pulido, Early Childhood Education
Lindsey Purcell, Curriculum and Instruction
Angela Marie Raines, Curriculum and Instruction
Jessica Caitlyn Rainier, Curriculum and Instruction
Christina Maria Ramos, Curriculum and Instruction
Sevda Rendon, Special Education
Patricia Ricetti-Bradway, Special Education
Gabrielle Milagros Rivera, Curriculum and Instruction
Tia Monique Robinson-Freeman, Special Education
Candice Ann Rowe, Curriculum and Instruction
Lanique Sanabria, Higher Education
Sheyla Jasiel Sanchez Vergara, Curriculum and Instruction
Gina Marie Sandoval, Curriculum and Instruction
Garrett Michael Santiago, Curriculum and Instruction
Susanna Selvester, Early Childhood Education
Tiffany Small, Curriculum and Instruction
Cole Smith, Special Education
Jisu Son, Special Education
John Matthew Cabanos Soriano, Curriculum and Instruction
Cydne Miner Stephenson, Special Education
Stephanie Pauline Ruth Steyh, Special Education
Hilda Vega, Early Childhood Education
Amber Marie Votry, Special Education
Amy Joy Walker, Special Education
Jonathan Howard Wardle, Curriculum and Instruction
Cecily Warnke, Curriculum and Instruction
Thomas Wayne Winwood, Curriculum and Instruction
Amy Mariko Yamashita, Early Childhood Education
Jessica M. Zezulka, Curriculum and Instruction

Master of Fine Arts
Michael W Hanson, Creative Writing
Mark Lester Ranchez, Creative Writing

Master of Healthcare Administration
Jayzel Wagas Cagape, Healthcare Administration
Aileen Ruiz Morales, Healthcare Administration
Katerra Skinner, Healthcare Administration
Cynthia Solis-Murillo, Healthcare Administration

Master of Hospitality Administration
Melissa Bennett, Hospitality Administration
Joseph C. Bompartito Jr., Hospitality Administration
Edith Yuenshan Chow, Hospitality Administration
Celine Yvonne Cloquet, Hospitality Administration
John Collins, Hospitality Administration
Diandra Green, Hospitality Administration
Kyle David Helmick, Hospitality Administration
Jamia V. Jackson, Hospitality Administration
Michael Palad, Hospitality Administration
Stewart Patchefsky, Hospitality Administration
Andre Nicola Keao Teixeira, Hospitality Administration

Master of Music
Rocco Joseph Gordon, Music
Edoardo F. Lacala, Music
Wonyoung Na, Music
Jena Tracey, Music

Master of Public Administration
Kelsey Hand Claus, Public Administration
Aly Riad Hiko, Public Administration
Charanjit Singh Mangat, Public Administration
Jennifer L. McCarville, Public Administration
Kaylee O’donnell, Public Administration
Tanner Harrison Owens, Public Administration
Mary Janet Ramos, Public Administration
Crystal Lynn Zuelke, Public Administration

Master of Public Health
Erin N. Arreola, Public Health
Tina M. Brandon Abbatangelo, Public Health
Bradon Phillip Bucher, Public Health
Amanda Castelo Saragosa, Public Health
Katelyn Nicole Faulk, Public Health
Daidre N. Gamboa, Public Health
Bemnet Samson Kebede, Public Health
Brittney Machin-Campos, Public Health
Samantha Morales, Public Health
Smriti Neupane, Public Health
Daemyn Rall-Santos, Public Health
Kimberly Ann Dy Tomas, Public Health
Te’a Eriko Wiley, Public Health

**Master of Science**
Mehdi Abid, Cybersecurity
Kenneth Ryan Acevedo, Cybersecurity
Karen Renee Ahern, Management Information Systems
Naveed Ahmed, Construction Management
Mustafa Al Mosawi, Management Information Systems
Faisal Albaqawi, Hotel Administration
Victor H. Aldana, Cybersecurity
Genevieve Allan, Water Resources Management
Mi Hyun An, Accounting
Marian Cristiana France Giner Aniceto, Accounting
Nastaran Badrzadeh, Data Analytics
Lara Brooke Bellingham, Water Resources Management
Benjamin Pierce Bishop, Quantitative Finance
Mary Helen Blankenship, Chemistry
Bradley Nathan Bohannon, Water Resources Management
Selena Renea Boquist, Accounting
Deise Borghetti, Couple and Family Therapy
Jacob Borosky, Accounting
Ana Carolina S. Buccini, Management Information Systems
Argona Bytyqi, Hotel Administration
Yun Cai, Hotel Administration
Davis B. Cammann, Biological Sciences
Edward Arthur Camplese, Mathematical Sciences
Danielle N. Cathey, Couple and Family Therapy
Nicole Sarai Chavez-Martinez, Accounting
Pingwei Chen, Hotel Administration
Kimberly Ann Chiao, Accounting
Yuang-Sheng Chiu, Hotel Administration
Emma Clayton, Couple and Family Therapy
Skylar Violet Cornwell, Couple and Family Therapy
Kelsie Cayla Peret Dayrit, Accounting
James J. Detrolio, Hotel Administration
Pamela DeVillez, Nutrition Sciences
Christopher Patrick Dunn, Accounting
Mariah Elizabeth Eckert-Berry, Couple and Family Therapy
Rebecca Fargo, Couple and Family Therapy
Ali Farid, Quantitative Finance
Preston Fidler, Couple and Family Therapy
Venkata Narasimha Chowdary Ganjikunta, Management Information Systems
Patricia Garcia Amar, Hotel Administration
Erik Gardiel, Accounting
Alemtsehay Belay Gebru, Management Information Systems
Jonathan George, Chemistry
Sierra Suzanne Gil, Educational Psychology
Sheryl D. Goldstein, Couple and Family Therapy
Alejandria Gonzalez, Cybersecurity
Christopher Gonzalez, Accounting
Jacob Scott Gotcher, Quantitative Finance
Aaron Gutierrez, Applied Economics and Data Intelligence
Dave Harrison Hadiprawira, Accounting
Kristine Haley, Physics
Cara Lynn Hardy, Couple and Family Therapy
Jamie J. Harvey, Management Information Systems
Wai Wa Ho, Accounting
Kajuanama Hollis, Clinical Mental Health Counseling
Brittany Holmes-Sutton, Couple and Family Therapy
William Houston, Data Analytics
Chunyan Hua, Hotel Administration
Alaa Huwaykim, Hotel Administration
Cameron Thomas Jensen, Materials and Nuclear Engineering
LaToya J. Jones, Clinical Mental Health Counseling
Daniel Jun, Accounting
Jin H. Jung, Data Analytics
Ananya Kalidindi, Data Analytics
Scott Michael Karren, Mathematical Sciences
Hyounwoo Ko, Hotel Administration
Kyle H. Koo, Accounting
Benjamin Jesse Kuszel, Hotel Administration
Marc Kuzbari, Accounting
Keisha Lackland-Mckinney, Couple and Family Therapy
Sai Karthik Lala, Management Information Systems
Stefan Lalovic, Hotel Administration
Tasha Joanna Lane, Couple and Family Therapy
Jessica Lynne Lauderdale, Hotel Administration
Emily Elizabeth Laurita, Couple and Family Therapy
Ruixue Li, Quantitative Finance
Shaufen Li, Hotel Administration
Wanjin Li, Hotel Administration
Wanjin Li, Management Information Systems
Peqi Liang, Accounting
Yu-Hsuan Lin, Hotel Administration
Rita Mariana Linares Alvarado, Accounting
Wenjing Liu, Hotel Administration
Pinghai Luo, Hotel Administration
Ngoc Hong Ly, Biological Sciences
Maximillian Manuel Mata II, Mathematical Sciences
Mandi Leigh-Yates Merrill, Educational Psychology
Dana Elaine M. Middleton, Couple and Family Therapy
Haiwen Miller, Accounting
Elena Milovanovic, Hotel Administration
Janessa Montenegro, Biological Sciences
Jessica Shalai Morales Alvarez, Clinical Mental Health Counseling
Enrique Necahual Moreno, Nutrition Sciences
Akissi Sonia Sylvaine Nguessan, Hotel Administration
Vy Thuy Nguyen, Hotel Administration
Carmen Viviana Nieto, Couple and Family Therapy
Ma Chrizelle L. Omotoy, Accounting
Morgan Michelle O’Neal, Couple and Family Therapy
Weiyi Ou, Hotel Administration
Richard Panduro Allanson, Geoscience
Harli Rae Parker, Couple and Family Therapy
Raviteja Patchava, Construction Management
Manisha Patil, Quantitative Finance
Maria Goma Perilloux, Cybersecurity
Thi Tuyet Minh Pham, Hotel Administration
Nancy Phu, Accounting
Jared Timothy Powers, Cybersecurity
Laurence Thomas Price, Accounting
Angelica Rangel-Sandoval, Hotel Administration
Brittney N. Rench, Nutrition Sciences
Mariana Ivonn Resendiz Dominguez, Quantitative Finance
Karrison Armand Rimon, Couple and Family Therapy
Rebeca Rivera, Biological Sciences
Shakila M. Rodriguez, Couple and Family Therapy
Glen M. Rugaber, Quantitative Finance
Laura C. Salado, Couple and Family Therapy
Md Easin Sarkar, Cybersecurity
Bibek Satyal, Data Analytics
Ryan Troy Schlichting, Hotel Administration
Payton Schwartz, Accounting
Brandon Chester Scott, Geoscience
Kelly Seeley, Chemistry
Pardis Shaabani, Management Information Systems
Zane Stephen Shaieb, Accounting
Yusei William Shigeta, Hotel Administration
Alicja Maria Staszowska, Accounting
Charlotte Stephenson, Couple and Family Therapy
Cody Sten Swenson, Couple and Family Therapy
Mia Tallerico, Cybersecurity
Jia-Xin Teo, Couple and Family Therapy
Tony Teoh, Cybersecurity
William James Thomas, Mathematical Sciences
Kimberly Nathalie Usbeck, Couple and Family Therapy
Joshua Richard Van Cleave, Physics
Luka van der Merwe, Hotel Administration
Rishikesh Velkar, Data Analytics and Applied Economics
Ang Huoy Veng, Hotel Administration
Gwendolyn Hope Verbeck, Mathematical Sciences
Garima Verma, Hotel Administration
Samuel Luis Villanueva, Cybersecurity
Andres Eduardo Wagner, Accounting
Ian Perrin Walton, Quantitative Finance
Jessica Wang, Accounting
Jueer Wang, Hotel Administration
Jueer Wang, Management Information Systems
Keala HD Watson, Biological Sciences
Patrick Gray Welsh, Accounting
Stephanie Ann Whalen, Accounting
Jenny Wilt, Management Information Systems
Marcus Anthony Wixom, Management Information Systems
Betelhem Getu Wolde, Accounting
Charles Michael Wood, Cybersecurity
Wei Wu, Hotel Administration
Ziqiong Xu, Accounting
Kecheng Yu, Hotel Administration
Devin Michael Zeeveld, Accounting
Jacob Alden Zeiss, Hotel Administration
Nicole Zhao, Accounting
Haoheng Zhou, Hotel Administration
Yan Zhu, Accounting
Zeling Zhu, Hotel Administration
Allison C. Zilberman, Clinical Mental Health Counseling

**Master of Science in Computer Science**
Nima Faraji, Computer Science
Trevor J. Gower, Computer Science
Simbarashe Michael Mbereketo Sithole, Computer Science

**Master of Science in Engineering**
Forough Askarishahooie, Mechanical Engineering
Jazmine Elizabeth Boloor, Electrical Engineering
Taiga Cibulka, Civil and Environmental Engineering
Lucas Kelly Gallup, Mechanical Engineering
Manisha Ghimire, Electrical Engineering
Jasmann Gray, Civil and Environmental Engineering
Tyler A. Hill, Civil and Environmental Engineering
Brandon Thieu Huynh, Civil and Environmental Engineering
Jonathan Salvi Cruz Lazatin, Mechanical Engineering
Abraham Modesto Lopez, Electrical Engineering
Andrew Charles Pappas, Civil and Environmental Engineering
Zillur Rahman, Electrical Engineering
Shrijan Shrestha, Civil and Environmental Engineering
Kyle VanAllen, Mechanical Engineering
Stone Michael Wachs, Mechanical Engineering

**Master of Science in Kinesiology**
Micaela Chewjalearn, Kinesiology

Kelsey Klug, Kinesiology
Kyle Ray Pulvermacher, Kinesiology

**Master of Science in Nursing**
Stephanie Robianes Acoba, Nursing
Alvin Acupan, Nursing
Amado-alexander Adawag Agrisola, Nursing
Kristine Kate Austria Alvarado, Nursing
Cloie Sophia Miravite Antolin, Nursing
Shauna Lee Aranton, Nursing
Justin R. Armour, Nursing
Summer Santos Aromin, Nursing
Mary Addelid De Ocampo Bayot, Nursing
Kristina Nicole Beckman, Nursing
Tracilli M. Beswayan, Nursing
Michelle Bluth, Nursing
Courtney Burke, Nursing
Iredila Timagos Bynum, Nursing
Nicole Elizabeth Capobianco, Nursing
Julie Carr, Nursing
Luis Giovanni Carrasco Tobar, Nursing
Bryan O. Chung, Nursing
Kenneth Blancaflor Clarete, Nursing
Lori Connell, Nursing
Nicholas Stuart Curry, Nursing
Noelle Kathryn Davis, Nursing
Austin Brett Dean, Nursing
Reyna Rosario Dominquez, Nursing
Kevin Reyes Encinareal, Nursing
Leilani Ferrer, Nursing
Rhonda K. Geist, Nursing
Josi George, Nursing
Brandon Serrano Granil, Nursing
Lindsey Haener, Nursing
Brandi J. Hermes, Nursing
Mark Foster Johnson, Nursing
Nancy Carolina Johnson, Nursing
Zamaica Kabiling, Nursing
Daliah Kosmicki, Nursing
Rudyard O. Langub, Nursing
Alan Lopez, Nursing
Edylaine Jane Malonzo, Nursing
Jayison McCorkle, Nursing
Stephanie Meneses, Nursing
Liliana Theresia Miller, Nursing
Alexis Jade Moon, Nursing
Mariclar Vizcarra Osorio, Nursing
Meagan Larae Parsons, Nursing
Elizabeth Maria Pattison, Nursing
Gilberto Pelayo Torres, Nursing
Brittany Lynn Perez, Nursing
Arienne Carisse Reyes Pineda, Nursing
Spencer Timothy Planck, Nursing
Latia Sharan Rahming, Nursing
Amber Dawn Rayburn, Nursing
Ciara L. Richman, Nursing
Angelica Marie Riordan, Nursing
Stephanie D. Salazar, Nursing
Anna Valeryevna Simonenko, Nursing
Jackalynn Therese Smith, Nursing
Kiersaula Madiel Gabato Taylor, Nursing
Ngoc Loan Tong, Nursing
Jon-Raymond A. Valdez, Nursing
Jonas Basilio Vargas, Nursing
Ehren K. Watada, Nursing
Deborah Kay Wentzel, Nursing
Mary Jessica Jauregui Yanga, Nursing

Master of Social Work
Sophia Barba, Social Work
Yasamin Motamed Damavandi, Social Work
Savi Marie Garcelon, Social Work
Devan Michael Manley, Social Work
Steven Medrano, Social Work
Maxwell Angelo Paris, Social Work
Andrea C. Philogene, Social Work
Andre Proctor, Social Work
Alexandra Elizabeth Rusake, Social Work
Gladys Iveth Santistebean, Social Work

Angela Lynette Stevenson, Social Work
Alexandrerene Nicole Farro Sulio, Social Work
Cassidy Harris Vendramin, Social Work
Ashley Renee Victorian, Social Work
Mark Alan Wecker, Social Work

Graduate Certificate Candidates
Walter Aguilar, Graduate Certificate in Infection Prevention
Erick R. Alcantar, Graduate Certificate in Public Management
Scott Michael Anderson, Conditional Licensure Certificate for Secondary Teaching
Christine Marie Andrews, Graduate Certificate in English Language Acquisition and Development
Grace Q. Angel, Graduate Certificate in Leadership for Teachers and Professionals
Dien Artiaga, Graduate Certificate in Leadership for Teachers and Professionals
Kaleab Ayalew, Graduate Certificate in Nuclear Criticality Safety Engineering
Kaleab Ayalew, Graduate Certificate in Nuclear Safeguards and Security
Kenneth Alan Belknap II, Graduate Certificate in Leadership for Teachers and Professionals
Joanna Cano, Graduate Certificate in English Language Acquisition and Development
Stacy L. Carpenter, Advanced Graduate Certificate in Mental Health Counseling
Sophia Cerda, Graduate Certificate in Nonprofit Management
Caitlin Marie Chadwick, Graduate Certificate in Business Administration
Constandina Maria Ciulla, Graduate Certificate in Business Administration
Sandra Davila, Graduate Certificate in English Language Acquisition and Development
Paolo Roberto de Leon, Graduate Certificate in Gaming Management
Veronica M. De Ville Dannaker, Graduate Certificate in English Language Acquisition and Development
Lisa A. DiNapoli, Graduate Certificate in Leadership for Teachers and Professionals
Sabrina Elefantis, Graduate Certificate in English Language Acquisition and Development
Adrian Erik Esparza, Graduate Conditional Licensure Certificate for Elementary Teaching
Alexander Todd Feese, Graduate Certificate in Emergency Management Cybersecurity
Christopher Allen Forepaugh, Graduate Certificate in Quantitative Psychology
Chelsea Parado Ganotisi, Graduate Certificate in Leadership for Teachers and Professionals
Zachary Mark Garner, Graduate Certificate in Business Administration
Amanda Gift, Graduate Certificate in Leadership for Teachers and Professionals
Jarrell Ramone Glasper, Graduate Certificate in Public Health
Lori Grenke, Graduate Certificate in English Language Acquisition and Development
Kathleen Elyse Tyler Guillaume, Graduate Certificate in Leadership for Teachers and Professionals
Zachary Jarred Harlan, Graduate Certificate in Leadership for Teachers and Professionals
Jason James Henkle, Graduate Certificate in Emergency Management Cybersecurity
Melissa A. Hewitt, Graduate Certificate in Leadership for Teachers and Professionals
Aly Riad Hiko, Graduate Certificate in Online Teaching and Training
Aly Riad Hiko, Graduate Certificate in Social Science Methods
Kelly Jo Koehler, Advanced Graduate Certificate in Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner for FNP
Sai Karthik Lala, Graduate Certificate in Cybersecurity
Tam Robert Lester, Graduate Certificate in Leadership for Teachers and Professionals
Alejandra Linares Sierra, Graduate Certificate in English Language Acquisition and Development
Bryan Lockwald, Graduate Certificate in Social Science Methods
Thi My Ly, Graduate Certificate in Cybersecurity
Maybelle F. Manalo, Graduate Certificate in English Language Acquisition and Development
Jeanine Martucci, Graduate Certificate in Leadership for Teachers and Professionals
Amy Christine Mathis-Leonard, Graduate Certificate in Post-Secondary Mathematics Education
Tava L. Mcginty-Jimenez, Graduate Certificate in Higher Education
Rileigh K. Merritt-Dietz, Graduate Certificate in Special Education
Suzanne Elizabeth Miller, Graduate Certificate in Management Information Systems
James M. Mitchell, Graduate Certificate in Leadership for Teachers and Professionals
Holly Nicole Nava, Graduate Certificate in Solar and Renewable Energy
Angelique M. Orengil, Graduate Certificate in Leadership for Teachers and Professionals
Christia Ann Osborn-preston, Graduate Certificate in English Language Acquisition and Development
Nyjaa Armonti Peterson, Graduate Certificate in Leadership for Teachers and Professionals
Teresa M. Praus, Advanced Graduate Certificate in Nursing Education
Kelsey Mae Rathke, Graduate Certificate in Emergency Management Cybersecurity
John William Reynolds, Graduate Certificate in Quantitative Psychology Certificate for Elementary Teaching
William Ridgway, Graduate Certificate in Quantitative Psychology
Julie E. Roos, Graduate Certificate in Leadership for Teachers and Professionals
Shannon Noelle Ross, Graduate Certificate in Leadership for Teachers and Professionals
Katherine Irene Russo, Graduate Certificate in English Language Acquisition and Development
Allie Santos, Graduate Certificate in Business Administration
Jung-Eun Song, Graduate Certificate in Online Teaching and Training
Traci Surette, Graduate Certificate in English Language Acquisition and Development
Mayra A. Tapia Burnham, Graduate Certificate in English Language Acquisition and Development
Willie Jesus Vasquez-Genchis, Graduate Certificate in Leadership for Teachers and Professionals
Sydney L. Venable, Graduate Certificate in Leadership for Teachers and Professionals
Derek Jay Watterud, Graduate Certificate in Emergency Management Cybersecurity
Jeannine Marie Winer, Advanced Graduate Certificate in Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner for FNP
Barry Wissman, Graduate Certificate in English Language Acquisition and Development
Samantha Yazzie, Graduate Certificate in English Language Acquisition and Development
Sarah Elisabeth York, Graduate Certificate in Chief Diversity Officer in Higher Education
Justin Zhou, Graduate Certificate in Business Administration
Maria Elvira Zuniga, Graduate Certificate in English Language Acquisition and Development
UNLV JAZZ ENSEMBLE
Conducted by Nathan Tanouye, Associate Professor of Jazz Studies
UNLV School of Music

Gary Fowler, Shaddai Johnson – Vocals
Micah Smith – Piano
Edoardo Lacala – Bass
Zach Guzman-Mejia – Drums
Jaren Smith – Trumpet
Giovanni Lacala – Trombone
Chris Ellis – Tenor Saxophone

ALMA MATER
(Composed by Eric Whitacre, Lyrics by Thomas Leslie and Robyn Lemon Chapman)

Alma Mater, we praise you
For Spirit, the eternal flame.
Strength which never falters,
A tribute to your name.

Alma Mater, we thank you,
Exalted Scarlet and Gray.
Truth and wisdom from your
Standard in our minds and hearts will stay.

Alma Mater, we cherish you.
And in days that are yet to be,
Our voices let us ever raise
In honor, U-N-L-V.
The University of Nevada, Las Vegas is proud to honor those who have served in the Armed Forces. Below is a list of veterans who are graduate degree candidates this May.

**ARMY**

Benjamin Pierce Bishop
Lori Connell
Jamie J. Harvey
Keisha Lackland-Mc Kinney
Laurna Landis

**NAVY**

Leilani Ferrer
Ellen Lambert
Raymond Eugene Lopez

**MARINE CORPS**

Mehdi Abid
Victoria Andrea Carpenter
Enrique Necahual Moreno
Kimberly Amanda Taylor

**AIR FORCE**

Brandon Serrano Granil
Lauren Hughes
Leigh Ann Pouncey Richardson
Kody William Sampson
Rachael Alexandra Thomas
Thomas Wayne Winwood
Graduate College Awards

Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award

2014-2015
1st Place  Jennifer Whitmer
2nd Place  Moinak Bhaduri
3rd Place  Ashok EM Sudhakar

2015-2016
1st Place  Andrew Scott Murtishaw
2nd Place  Meysam Najimi
3rd Place  Caitlin Saladino

2016-2017
1st Place  Sarah Murphy
2nd Place  Nicholas Baxter
3rd Place  Kazem Jadidirendi

2017-2018
1st Place  Matthew Le Claire
2nd Place  Erdogan Kaya
3rd Place  Michael Isaacs

2018-2019
1st Place  Joy Immak
2nd Place  Malayka Cornejo
3rd Place  Mirae Fornander

2019-2020
1st Place  Weerakonda De Silva
2nd Place  Mark Toussaint
3rd Place  Elena Bejinariu

2020-2021
1st Place  Dustin Davis
2nd Place  Christopher Wakefield
3rd Place  Nina Paul

2021-2022
1st Place  Torisha Khonach
2nd Place  Joshua Donnelly
3rd Place  Ghazaleh Laleh

2022-2023
1st Place  Nanette Rasband Hilton
2nd Place  Md N. Hasan

Outstanding Dissertation Award

2014
Jonathan William Plaue

2015
Jordan Watkins

2016
Seth Gainey

2017
Janelle Droessler
Margaret Huettl

2018
Cheryl Anderson
Tyler Stalbaum

2019
Leland Barker
Scot Ewen

2020
Sarah McCarthy
Joshua Sackett

2021
Ali Saber Sichani
Shae Cox

2022
Jeremy Smallwood
Yen-Ling Chen

2023
Suzanne Renae Mulligan
Edward A. Smith

Outstanding Thesis Award

2014
Riley Berry

2015
Miliakeala SJ Heen

2016
Catherine Wisnosky

2017
Jesse Cook
Michael Steiner

2018
Sara Black
Jeremy Smallwood

2019
Olufunke Ogundimu
Jacqueline Phan
2020
Frank Johnson
Rachel Rahib

2021
Lara Turello
Christopher Forepaugh

2022
Cale Seymour
Maribel Calderon

2023
Evan William O’Neal
Madison Wiese

Outstanding Graduate Faculty Leadership Award

2017
Dr. Janet Dufek

2018
Dr. Hokwon Cho

2019
Dr. Jennifer Rennels

2020
Dr. Pramen P. Shrestha

2021
Dr. Peter Gray

2022
Dr. Kaitlin Clinnin

2023
Dr. Natalie Pennington

Outstanding Graduate Faculty Mentorship Award

2017
Dr. Daniel N. Allen

2018
Dr. Janet Dufek

2019
Dr. Lori Candela

2020
Dr. Jacimaria Batista

2021
Dr. Jennifer Pharr

2022
Dr. Pramen P. Shrestha

2023
Dr. MaryKay Orgill

Graduate College Medallion Recipients

Godson Ebenezer Adjovu
Warren Christopher Forbes
Sayeda Masrura
Rubaiya Murshed
Suraj Venkat Pochampally
Shekhar Singh
Alina Paige Swafford
Kristin Dee Vierra

Land Acknowledgement Statement

The University of Nevada, Las Vegas wishes to acknowledge and honor the Indigenous communities of this region, and recognize that the university is situated on the traditional homelands of the Nuwuvi, Southern Paiute People. We offer gratitude for the land itself, for those who have stewarded it for generations, and for the opportunity to study, learn, work, and be in community with this land. We encourage everyone in this space to engage in continued learning about the Indigenous peoples who work and live on this land since time immemorial, including the Las Vegas Paiute Tribe and the Moapa Band of Paiutes, and about the historical and present realities of colonialism. As one of the most diverse universities in the United States, UNLV believes it is important to recognize and appreciate the use of Southern Paiute land as part of its mission to be a welcoming and inclusive place for working and learning.

What is the purpose of a Land Acknowledgement?

A land acknowledgement recognizes and respects the relationship that exists between Indigenous Peoples and their ancestral and contemporary territories. Additionally, land acknowledgements provide us with the opportunity to explore the impacts of colonization and systems of oppression on Indigenous Peoples. Land acknowledgements do not exist in a historical context or past tense. It is vital to understand the long-standing history that brought us to reside on the land, and to seek to understand our place within that history. Colonialism is a current, ongoing process, and we need to build our mindfulness and understanding of our present participation.
Dear Class of 2023,

On behalf of the UNLV Alumni Association and its 144,000-plus members worldwide, congratulations and best wishes! We celebrate your successes with you and are incredibly proud of the accomplishments you have already achieved as students. We know you will continue on that path of greatness, and as you embark upon and progress through your careers, we urge you always to remember why you chose your respective field and the sacrifices you endured to make it happen.

#RebelsMakeItHappen

Undoubtedly, you will serve as notable ambassadors for your alma mater by continuing to build upon its reputation for excellence.

We are pleased to welcome you into the Rebels Forever Family as graduates. Through our Rebels Forever program, all UNLV Alumni have access to numerous benefits and services, including Career Services, Rebel Alumni Email, events, special deals, discounts, and more! To learn more, be sure to visit and bookmark unlv.edu/rebelsforever.

We also ask that you always remember your college or school, former professors, and fellow and future Rebels in the coming years. We encourage you to engage with and give back to the university by supporting activities, programs, and scholarships, and by keeping us updated on the many achievements you will experience in your careers and personal lives.

Congratulations once again on your incredible accomplishment! We are committed to supporting you as Rebel Alumni and fostering a vibrant, lifelong relationship between you and UNLV.

With Rebel Pride,

Gabrielle Angle ‘10
President, UNLV Alumni Association

Blake Douglas
Executive Director, UNLV Alumni Association
Associate Vice President, Alumni Engagement