

The background features several overlapping, tilted rectangular outlines in green, blue, and orange. The green shapes are at the top, blue shapes are on the left, and orange shapes are at the bottom. A long orange line also extends from the bottom right towards the center.

VIRTUAL

GRADUATE SHOWCASE

Oct. 21, 2020
4-5 p.m.

tinyurl.com/graduateshowcase2020

WELCOME TO OUR FOURTH ANNUAL GRADUATE SHOWCASE!

The fourth annual Graduate Showcase at UNLV will highlight some of the best and brightest graduate students from all across campus who have competed for the chance to present their research at this special event.

WELCOME

Dr. Kate Korgan

Dean, Graduate College

OPENING REMARKS

Dr. Chris Heavey

Interim Executive Vice President and Provost, UNLV

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Perry Chacon

DMA Student, School of Music

SHOWCASE PRESENTATIONS

Harjiv Singh

Interdisciplinary Health Sciences

Maryam Mohieddin Rad

Teaching and Learning

Jeremy Smallwood

Physics and Astronomy

Mathew Sunil Varre

Kinesiology and Nutrition

Lili Equihua

Couple and Family Therapy

Shekhar Singh

Computer Science

CLOSING REMARKS

Dr. Kate Korgan

Dean, Graduate College

HARJIV SINGH

Skilled motor performance is something we are all thriving for. From lifting more weight at the gym to learning to play tennis to running greater distances, how we control our attentional focus is paramount toward the success of these endeavors.

Harjiv's research examines how the development of skilled performance is a function of one's attentional focus. Understanding how the motor system utilizes different attentional focus manipulations will provide performers and practitioners with tools to aid in improving performance, reducing injuries, and creating a more optimal learning environment.



MARYAM MOHIEDDIN RAD

Maryam's research is dedicated to investigating the campus life challenges and experiences of Muslim female students in the U.S. According to the literature, Muslim students encounter a myriad of challenges during their campus life. These challenges proved to affect Muslim students' academic outcome as well as their campus life quality and often result in their marginalization on campus.

Maryam's research aims to identify the key contributing factors to Muslim students' campus life challenges through a case study. Being a Muslim student herself, Maryam hopes that her research helps policymakers and campus officials hear Muslim students' voices and develop strategies to accommodate their needs on campus. Undoubtedly, providing students with quality campus life contributes to their psychological health as well as assisting them to succeed in the trajectory of academic success.



JEREMY SMALLWOOD

Understanding our planets form outside of our solar system is instrumental in eventually answering the big questions in astronomy, like “are we alone in the universe?” The majority of stars in the galaxy are formed in binary pairs, meaning the two stars orbit one another. Furthermore, disks of gas and dust are commonly seen around binary star systems, which are the sites of planet formation.

Jeremy’s research looks into how the disk evolves around binary systems utilizing hydrodynamical simulations and linear theory. The forming planets are dependent on the disk structure; therefore, Jeremy’s simulations can further understand planet formation scenarios within the galaxy. The more we learn about the planets around us, the more we can explain how our planet came to be.



MATHEW SUNIL VARRE

Mathew is a final year doctoral student at UNLV, and he studies the biomechanical changes occurring in people with diabetes mellitus. Diabetes is the seventh leading cause of death in the United States and leads to other serious health issues. In individuals with diabetes, neuropathy, a common complication, leads to breakdown of skin underneath the feet and high loads or pressures under the feet making them prone to foot ulcers. Early detection and intervention could reduce the risk for these foot ulcers and amputations.

Through his research, Mathew attempts to predict the progression of diabetes and its complications using pressure data collected with pressure measuring insoles and machine learning algorithms. The computer model trained based on the pressure data could be used as a screening tool to monitor changes in people with diabetes and diagnose neuropathy at an early stage. Successful development of such a diagnostic tool will allow clinicians to provide better treatment and foot care management recommendations to persons with diabetes.



LILI EQUIHUA

Lili is a master's student at the UNLV School of Medicine in the Couple and Family Therapy program. Her passion, focus, therapeutic model, and research revolves around resilience. Everyone suffers from adversities in their lives, even now with COVID-19, economic uncertainty, and/or injustice in our society. Lili has dedicated her research and career to empower and teach others about resilience.

Her research specifically discusses how resilience can be used to help treat individuals battling substance abuse; however, her mission is to help others find the strength and resilience within themselves. Life is full of adversities small or grand, but the difference is whether or not you are going to be resilient with the adversities you encounter in your life.

“Life doesn't get easier or more forgiving, we get stronger and more resilient.”

— Steve Maraboli; Life, the Truth, and Being Free

SHEKHAR SINGH

Emotions are a powerful tool in communication, and one way that humans show their emotions is through their facial expressions. One of the challenging and powerful tasks in social communications is facial expression recognition. In nonverbal communication, facial expressions are key. In the field of artificial intelligence, Facial Expression Recognition (FER) is an active research area.

We demonstrate the classification of FER based on static images, using Convolutional Neural Networks including Pre-processing and Feature extraction techniques. FER can be applied in vast domains, such as security, monitoring and law enforcement, marketing and entertainment, e-learning and medicine, and emotionally intelligent robotic interfaces.





CONGRATULATIONS 2020-21 FELLOWSHIP WINNERS!

BARRICK FELLOWSHIP

Shangjia Zhang
Astronomy

PRESIDENT'S UNLV FOUNDATION GRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

Christopher Defelice
Geoscience

Cindy Kha
Biological Sciences

Zakai Olsen
Mechanical Engineering

UNLV FOUNDATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES FELLOWSHIP

George William Kajjumba
Civil and Environmental Engineering



SUMMER DOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

Amro Abdalla
Chemistry

Rosnidar Arshad
Curriculum and
Instruction

Jason Avedesian
Interdisciplinary Health
Sciences

Celine Ayala
Sociology

Victoria Bacon
Psychology

Catherine Bacos
Curriculum and
Instruction

Mary Baggio
Psychology

Megan Becker
Psychology

Brianne Borgia
Interdisciplinary Health
Sciences

Adrienne Bugayong
Biological Sciences

Lina Chato
Electrical Engineering

Yen-Ling Chen
Psychology

Christopher Defelice
Geoscience

Weerakonda De Silva
Chemistry

Visar Farhangi
Civil and Environmental
Engineering

Andrea Fink-Armold
Psychology

Elena Gavrilova
Psychology

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Instruction

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Biological Sciences

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Psychology

Chengcheng Li
Teacher Education

Bridget Longoria
Sociology

Aileen Lovitt
Psychology

Nicholas Mac Murray
Sociology

Joy McKenna
Biological Sciences

Sheila Mosallaei
Biological Sciences

Karli Nave
Psychology

Vanessa Nunez
Sociology

Samantha O'Connell
Psychology

Jaclyn Parker
Criminology and
Criminal Justice

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Psychology

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Tereza Trejbalova
Criminology and
Criminal Justice

Christopher Wakefield
Sociology

Gang Xu
Mathematical Sciences

Ezgi Yesilyurt
Curriculum and
Instruction

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATE COLLEGE MEDALLION RECIPIENTS!

GRADUATE COLLEGE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDALLION

Dr. Carolyn Reedom
Janis Riceberg

GRADUATE COLLEGE MEDALLION SPRING 2020

Johanna Andrews
Public Health

Kavita Batra
Public Health

Carlos Cisneros
Social Work

Patrick Daleiden
Computer Science

Philip Danquah
Public Health

Marina Galante
Psychology

Milia Heen
Criminal Justice

Wendy Schuchart Wimmer
English

Mike Isaacs
Life Sciences

Monia Kazemeini
Engineering

Eun Joo (EJ) Kim
Hospitality Administration

Holly Martin
Life Sciences

Austin McKenna
Life Sciences

Jessica Nave-Blodgett
Psychology

John Olawepo
Public Health

SUMMER 2020

Erdogan Kaya
Teaching and Learning

Joy McKenna
Life Sciences

Jonathan-Georges Mehanna
Political Science

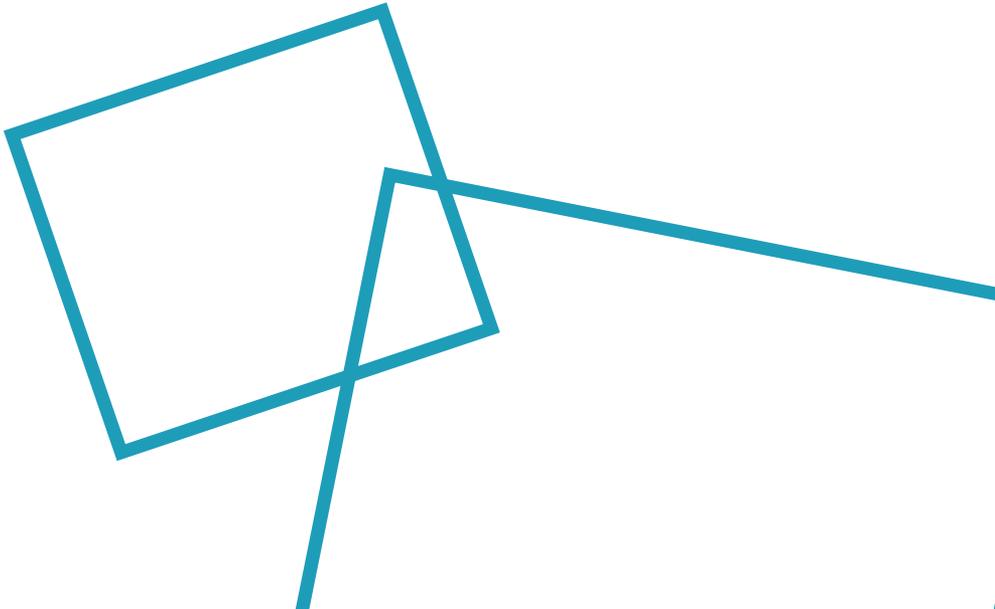
Ezgi Yesilyurt
Teaching and Learning



HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT GRADUATE STUDENTS



Graduate assistantships, scholarships, and fellowships support graduate students and make possible their innovative and impactful research. For more information on how you can support graduate education at UNLV, please visit unlv.edu/graduatecollege/support or contact Liz Kahane, director of development, at liz.kahane@unlv.edu or (702) 895-3429.





UNLV APPRECIATES THE LEADERSHIP AND SUPPORT OF OUR NEVADA SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION BOARD OF REGENTS

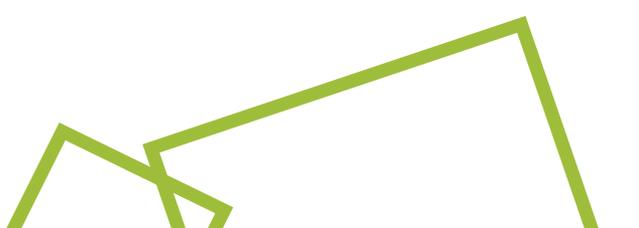
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NOV. 18

4-5 P.M.

REBEL

GRAD

SLAM

3MT

VIRTUAL

FINALS

**JOIN US FOR OUR 7TH ANNUAL
REBEL GRAD SLAM 3-MINUTE
THESIS COMPETITION!**

Join the Graduate College virtually for the final round of the Rebel Grad Slam 3MT, where graduate students compete to win over the judges and audience by presenting their research in three minutes, using only one slide. The final round will feature students who have advanced throughout the competition.

Presentations will be livestreamed

Learn more and RSVP at
tinyurl.com/gradslam20
by Nov. 17.

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