Hello, my name is Victoria Mitchell. I started my college career at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) in the Fall of 2012 and will be completing my Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with an emphasis in Marketing this May. When I arrived at UNLV, I had many goals and aspirations including being involved on campus, earning a high GPA, and making a difference in my community. I had these goals in mind; not only for myself, but as a first-generation student it was also for my family.

My favorite aspect of UNLV is its ability to provide many opportunities to students. There is something for everyone. I was lucky enough to started after being selected as a Hixson-Lied Success Scholar in the summer of 2012. I enjoyed being a part of this program because of the friends I have made, the leadership development it has offered, and the mentors who have supported me.

Not only am I thankful for my experiences as a Hixson-Lied Success Scholar, but I am also proud of my time spent in the Lee Business School as an International Ambassador and a Lee Scholar. As an ambassador, I was able to spend two summers in London studying business and exploring England’s rich history. Through these programs, I made lasting connections with fellow students and university faculty and staff. As a member of Alpha Phi Omega, I have had the opportunity to contribute countless hours of community service to the Las Vegas area.

Ms. Christina M. Hixson graduated from high school in Clarinda, Iowa and moved to Omaha, Nebraska to attend business school. She later went to work for Mr. Ernst F. Lied, a car dealership owner in Omaha and in 1960 she joined Mr. Lied in Las Vegas, Nevada as his assistant. After Mr. Lied’s death in 1980, Ms. Hixson became the sole trustee of the Lied Foundation Trust and turned the Lied Foundation Trust into one of the largest foundations in the state of Nevada at that time. Ms. Hixson has a special understanding of young people who, like her, came from a challenging family background and are willing to work hard.

Mr. Ernst F. Lied was born in Columbus, Ohio and attended the University of Kansas for two years, where he played on the golf team. He ultimately graduated from the University of Nebraska in 1927. Mr. Lied became a Buick dealer in Omaha, Nebraska and later his dealership was ranked third in the country for the number of cars sold. Mr. Lied established his charitable foundation in 1972, and upon his death in 1980 at age 74 nearly his entire estate funded the Lied Foundation Trust. Lied Foundation Trust has enhanced the capabilities of many schools and enriched the quality of many lives!
Hello, my name is Natalie Costa. I will be graduating in Spring of 2017 with a Bachelor’s degree in Journalism and Media Studies and a minor in Business Marketing. The past four years in college at UNLV have been an amazing experience. I've made many friends and connections while pursuing my degree. While being a part of the Hixson-Lied Success Scholars Program, I've been able to grow professionally, learn from advisors, and learn to better manage my time as a student. Additionally, I've had the pleasure of mentoring fellow students in a First-Year Seminar where I have been able to help others prepare for their futures.

My favorite aspect of UNLV has truly been the connections I've made by working with the staff that brings real world experiences into the classroom. I look forward to my last year at UNLV while preparing for graduation. Currently, I am working for KEMP Broadcasting, where I am a part of the promotions and street team. However, I plan to get a job working in the marketing or special events office in the casino industry after graduation.

During my first semester of college, I joined Zeta Tau Alpha sorority and have held numerous positions such as Director of Sisterhood, Internal Philanthropy Chair, and Panhellenic Delegate. This has been one of the most rewarding experiences and this organization truly became my second family. This spring I will be joining our alumni chapter. I also was apart of the Victoria Secret Pink Street team, where I served as the campus organization outreach.

Hello, my name is Kelly Lutzker. I will be graduating from UNLV in December of 2016 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice, and I will be graduating from of the Hixson-Lied Success Scholars Program at the end of this Spring 2016 semester. The Hixson-Lied Success Scholars Program helped me fund my college experience and introduced me to two women who have become close friends of mine outside of school. Aside from Hixson-Lied, I have been a part of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, the Criminal Justice Club, and the Trailblazers Peer Mentoring Program. I have done various volunteer work with a lot of different clubs on and off campus. I recently joined The Rebel Yell staff as well.

As far as being a college student goes, I am in my element. I love to learn and I love to be around like-minded individuals who are passionate about the same things I am passionate about. I love the freedom and the opportunity that being a UNLV student provides. I got to learn and indulge in the extensive diversity on campus. College as whole has changed
the way I think about things, the way I see people, the way I approach different situations, and the methods I use to solve problems. I am a new and improved version of myself.

My plan for next semester is to finish my degree strong with an internship at the Clark County Detention Center and through an independent study course with Emily Troshynski on either police regulation surrounding domestic violence or offender reentry and rehabilitation programs, while working with first-generation criminal justice students as a Trailblazers peer mentor. I also plan to continue being an officer for the Criminal Justice Club here on campus. After graduation, I plan to work for a while in a law office as a law secretary or paralegal to pay off my student loans a little before going for either a Master's degree in Criminal Justice or a Bachelor's degree in English. I will also be continuing my work as assistant editor opinion for The Rebel Yell, UNLV’s school newspaper. My favorite part about UNLV would have to be the connections and networking opportunities I have had. I doubt I would have been able to meet the people I did without UNLV.

**Broaden Contributions through Alternative Breaks**

*By Vivian Sam, Hixson-Lied Success Scholar*

UNLVolunteers is a student organization at UNLV that hosts Alternative Break Trips, often called “alt breaks,” where students can travel to different communities to explore social justice issues and be involved in community service. The most recent alt break allowed me to spend five days of my spring break camping in Santa Catalina Island, where 10 other UNLV students and I worked alongside the Catalina Island Conservancy, learning about and participating in conservation efforts. We were able to enjoy the outdoors and wake up to a beautiful view from the volunteer camp each morning, all while making a difference.

Through the first day’s Naturalist Training, we became familiar with ecological topics regarding the island, such as their processes in managing invasive species and bringing back endangered and endemic (native and limited to a particular region) species to a more viable population. After getting our feet wet in learning about the island, we were able to immerse ourselves in volunteering by participating in beach clean-ups, trail maintenance, invasive plant removal, and fence removal from old research plots. Each activity was strenuous and tiring; each alt-breaker was hard-working and held a determination to make an impact on the island’s environment.

Fellow alt-breakers were able to form relationships, not only with each other, but with those of the conservancy as well. The passion held by the community of Catalina Island Conservancy is something that I have brought back with me to our Las Vegas Valley. I have been inspired to continue making positive changes to the environment around us through current conservation efforts. UNLV Ecology, Conservation, and Evolution Club (ECEC) is a great way to do so. The club participates in clean-ups around areas such as Mount Charleston and the Wetlands Park. We will also be helping in milkweed planting to help Monarch Butterfly populations in the following weeks. We as humans play a large role, often unknowingly, in causing problems to wildlife around us. Without our help, many species may not be able to combat such problems on their own.

I am grateful to have had the chance to participate and learn about important issues in the UNLVolunteers Alt Break Program, and urge every student to look into what they have to offer. Students have the chance to gain new experiences by travelling to different locations. Each alt break focuses on various topics, such as homelessness in San Francisco, or women’s issues in Los Angeles. You do not need to be an expert in the topic to attend, only willing to learn about issues and to volunteer with an open-mind. For more information about Alternative Break Trips, visit [http://www.unlv.edu/service/ab](http://www.unlv.edu/service/ab).
The Barrick Museum Brings Community Art to UNLV

By Brenna Spector, Hixson-Lied Success Scholar

The Marjorie Barrick Museum is a place where art meets the community. The goal of the museum is to provide students, members of the university community, and the public in general with a learning experience connected directly to interacting and experiencing works of art. Their goal is to “enhance visitors’ understanding of art as an enduring human endeavor and to promote visual literacy for all patrons.” To achieve this, the museum acquires, exhibits, interprets, and preserves works of art representative of past and present cultures, as well as artistic creativity.

This month they are featuring work by Elena Wherry, titled “Neon Playground,” a community art effort focused on bringing awareness to Las Vegas culture and history. “Neon Playground” was the featured art installation at the Las Vegas Neon Museum during the weekend of March 19-20. The piece itself was created in conjunction with Las Vegas Families. Local children and parents were invited to come and create quilt-like pieces that Wherry would combine to create a larger quilt piece. She provided hand-made linoleum stencils featuring iconic neon images, which she describes as “easy and fun to use” for younger participating artists. Wherry’s intention with the installation is to “increase awareness of Las Vegas’ history, as well as create an aesthetically pleasing work of art that will spark conversation and cultural appreciation in our community.” Wherry adds, “I’m especially delighted to have the chance to engage children and families by providing them an opportunity to join in the creative process” (Neon Museum Website, 2016).

Experiencing “Neon Playground” was pleasant and enlightening. It is nice to see people from all stages of life coming together to create one work of art. The piece ultimately was comprised of three panels that were hung separately. Each panel had different patterns created with the unique quilt pieces. This connects to the undergraduate learning outcome of communication and cultural awareness because of how Wherry integrated families and children in the artistic process. Children were able to learn about Las Vegas’ history and the old neon signs that are such an interesting part of our historical culture. Community centered artwork is a learning experience for all involved and a pleasure for the community.
Get Ahead During Summer!

By Robert Vargas, Hixson-Lied Success Scholar

Summer Term is an opportunity for many students to catch up, stay on track, or get ahead in obtaining their degree by providing a wide variety of class options. This allows students to have more flexibility when planning their schedules for future semesters. For students who may want to take fewer credits during their fall or spring semester, it may be advantageous to take summer courses to still remain on track for graduation.

Through my experiences, I have found it beneficial to take more rigorous courses during the summer. This allows for students to only focus on one or two courses rather than the normal four to five courses during the semester. Registering for summer term is done through MyUNLV and is currently open. Course listings can be viewed for any of the three summer terms that UNLV offers. Summer session I runs from May 16th-June 3rd, session II runs from June 6th-July 8th, and summer session 3 runs from July 11th-August 12th. Due to the time constraints, there is a limit of 4 credits for Session I and 7 credits for both Sessions II and III. In addition, it is also important to remember drop dates are set sooner compared to the typical fall or spring dates. Financial aid is also different during summer term, so it is important to work with the Financial Aid office to see how students can pay for their summer term.

Luckily, there is a website dedicated solely to understanding all policies regarding UNLV summer term: [http://summerterm.unlv.edu](http://summerterm.unlv.edu). UNLV summer term gives students the ability to maintain their progress in getting their degrees. No matter the reason, students can benefit from summer terms such as taking prerequisite courses, retaking courses, or working ahead on their degree. Personally, summer term allowed me to work ahead on my degree and allowed me to have more flexibility during later semesters. It also gave me the opportunity to devote more time into a challenging course rather than taking it over the course of a semester. In the long run, Summer Term gives students a world of opportunity to continue their education beyond the fall and spring semesters.
Strengthen Your Skills Through the ASC’s Success Series Workshops

By Sarah Mirjavadi, Hixson-Lied Success Scholar

Students assume that all they need in order to succeed at a university is to attend lectures and learn the material. However, there is much more to succeeding besides learning the material. How do you schedule time outside of lecture to study what you need? How do you study and is it working for you? Do you know effective test taking skills? Knowing the facts is one thing, but being able to answer questions relating to them with a constricted time frame can be rather challenging and stressful without a few tips and tricks. What about goals? How you approach mastering these extra skills can help you not only through your years as an undergraduate, but further in your professional career. While professors may not be able to teach you these skills, fortunately, the Academic Success Center (ASC) has a series of free workshops that can help you master all of them and more!

The workshops, also known as the Success Series, run for an hour. They are normally located on the second floor of the Student Union. Locations do vary for some. Workshops range from goal setting, getting organized, reading for success, procrastination help, conquering tests, and improving studying skills. Coaches from the ASC facilitate these workshops. If you decide to attend a workshop, plan on bringing a pen or pencil and paper for notes. Different workshops require you to bring different items such as a planner, course notes, or textbooks. To get more information on the workshops, you can visit https://www.unlv.edu/asc/coaching/workshops or pick up a workshop schedule at the ASC.

I highly recommend attending these workshops. I recently attended the Reading for Success workshop. During the workshop, I learned an effective reading method called SQ3R which stands for Survey, Question, Read, Recite, and Review. I also learned the difference between active and passive reading and realized how often I read textbooks passively. When I got home that same day, I picked up one of my textbooks and tested out the new method. I noticed that I read much faster than usual and was able to retain more information. Participating in these workshops has prepared me to accomplish things in an organized, timely, and effective manner. All of these qualities are well-needed skills, especially if you are like me, a pre-professional Biology major.

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*All photos used are original, can be found at unlv.edu or have references indicated*