The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on all students at UNLV, but for an international student who hasn't seen his family in almost a year the impacts are even more profound. George Leigh is a sophomore on the UNLV Men's Golf team. He is from Padstow, England, which is located on the south-western side of the country in the county of Cornwall.

George is 5,000 miles away from home and living out his dream of being able to play golf at the NCAA Division I level, but he’s had to make significant adjustments along the way.

What has it been like for you to have to do all of your work online/remotely?

It’s been hard to adjust. It’s been a lot harder to actually learn the subject, as there’s just been so much homework. It’s the same for everyone, but personally I much prefer going into class.

How has your training schedule changed during the pandemic?

Training for Men’s Golf has completely changed. We only have 45 days of team practice with
coaches. It is a small percentage of our semester. Having practice nearly every day, we’ve had to plan our day by a few hours ahead. We have to get cleared on campus, then we have to drive to the course. A lot of money is spent on gas. Then, once we get to the course for practice, the golf courses themselves then have to clear us before we enter the property.

When was the last time you were home? Has it been difficult being stateside for this long?

The last time I was home was last Christmas. I do miss home and the family a lot but it was a family decision for me to stay in Las Vegas. England has had a complete shutdown and if I were to go back, I wouldn’t have been able to do anything. Staying out here, I at least get to play in golf tournaments safely. I haven’t found it difficult to be here for so long because I’ve surrounded myself with people I’d call my family now. My girlfriend’s family has treated me unbelievably well, and I’ve kept pretty busy. I talk to mum and dad nearly every day and they couldn’t be happier that I’m here, not home.

What are your plans for winter break?

My original plan was to go home for three weeks. However, with the new current situation going on back home, we came to the conclusion that it would be better off staying here. If I traveled home I risk not knowing if I could make it back to America or not in the Spring. I have a few friends staying in Vegas this winter and a friend that’s flying over from another college who was my best friend in England. So, I’ll be around friends that I’ve known for a long time.

POINTS OF PRIDE

Achievements:

- UNLV’s student-athletes tied their record-setting 79% Graduation Success Rate (GSR) for full-time student-athletes initially enrolled in the Fall 2013 cohort, the NCAA reported on Tuesday, 11/19/2020. The last time this rate was achieved was in 2005.

Appointments:

- Dr. Joe Ervin, Assistant Professor-in-Residence for the Academic Success Center, was selected as a 2020 - 2021 UNLV Faculty Center Fellow.

Recognition:

- UNLV’s First Generation Week, which included the ASC’s "First-Gen Connect: What is First?" event, was recognized by Diverse Issues in Higher Education. Part of the interactive workshop included creating a word cloud describing experiences and goals of first-gen students. The picture at the right is one example of the many creative takeaways from the annual event. The ASC would also like to
thank the many partners of the event, which are recognized in this video, created by The Intersection!

- ASC Senior Advisor Tiffany Schmier was recently interviewed for the November 16th edition of the Adventures in Advising Podcast, where she discussed setting attainable objectives.

**STUDENT & STAFF SPOTLIGHTS**

Hoffman Madzou
UNLV Freshman
Pre-Business, Accounting Major

**Why did you choose to come to UNLV?**

For me, that decision was based on two components. First, diversity. I really wanted to come to a place with different knowledge and backgrounds. It's like learning to live in another person's shoes. Second, my brother came to UNLV and I hope to do even better - I like to keep the competition on.

**What ASC services (advising, tutoring, coaching, supplemental instruction, etc.) have you used since being at UNLV? Describe that experience.**

I have used mainly Peer Mentors and Academic Success Coaching. My coach has been able to give me good feedback on maintaining school and balance with my outside activities. She's helped to elevate me to where I am today. That's been really helpful.

**What is the best piece of advice you have been given so far at UNLV?**

Probably my peer mentor, Sophia, who is a current Lee Business School student and gave me a piece of advice. She said to be active. That means networking with people and going to live events. She said to make sure that with everyone you meet somewhere, to use that connection. Make the contact valuable to both sides, you and the person you meet.

**Who is a person in your life that has been extremely influential? Why?**

My mother. There's no one more tough than her. She's faced challenges and was able to provide for her children. She's my motivator to be better than I am today and better than I'll be tomorrow.

**As a student, what have you found to be challenging as a result of the covid-19 pandemic?**

One of the challenges is being able to meet other freshmen. Mainly, I've met a few students, freshmen, sophomores, juniors, who have been calm and quiet. It's mainly building the connection. Hopefully, I'll find a way.
What's one good thing that you've learned or discovered as a result of the covid pandemic?

One thing that’s been good is that I’ve gained an appreciation of writing. I didn’t really like literature or writing before. I started to gain a love for literature during the pandemic.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

Honestly, becoming a senior accountant or IT manager. I also want to minor in information systems. A manager position would be even better - keeping me working hard for more. I’d mostly like to work in the audit field or IT audit at a Big 4 or a mid-tier firm.

What is on your personal bucket list?

To reach financial stability. That is a goal that is so cool, so beautiful. It gives you more to do than urgently taking care of finances. I dream of that, and overcoming that, and more.

Elizabeth Martinez

Front Desk Manager, Tutoring; Senior, Civil Engineering Major

What led you to attend school and work at UNLV?

I actually went to a different college at first, but there was a lack of diversity. I desired to be around people who were different, but similar to me at the same time. As a female engineering student, I was glad to see females in Stem majors, and other diverse students and staff. Also, everyone at UNLV and in the College of Engineering was so helpful, that I wanted to join this family.

Describe your job duties at the ASC.

I am a Front Desk Manager of Tutoring. I spend a few days in both the Engineering and Lied Library Lab. I serve two groups of people: students and the staff - tutors. For the students, I try to create a welcoming space, where students feel comfortable. Sometimes students feel intimidated to go to tutoring, but they shouldn’t feel that way. I’m the first face they see, or now, voice they hear. I give a lot of answers, try to help.

For the staff, I also give a lot of answers. With the tutoring being online, it’s a little more disconnected, so I try to make the tutors feel as if we still have a work family.

What has been challenging with tutoring virtually compared with in-person?

A lot of it is the disconnect. Humans learn from body language and looking at each other in the eye. Everyone should be aware of how this translates online -- especially when sometimes it’s only a voice. Showing that friendliness, not that we’re just here for a job, but how we can help is important. Even though it’s a challenge, we still want to let the students know we want to be there to help them.

What are your plans after graduation?

I’m looking to join the field of civil engineering, specifically the structural engineering industry. Within five years, I want to come back to school and get my masters. Hopefully things will be back to normal
by then. But I’d like to get work experience. I definitely can learn a lot from working in industry.

If you could give your younger self some advice, what would that be?

I think I can still take this presently, too -- recognize my skill set and accomplishments. Sometimes I have the feeling as if I don’t belong, a type of imposter syndrome, especially being in college and studying civil engineering. I would have told myself to be a little more confident. It would have opened more opportunities for me.

What was your greatest day on campus? And your toughest?

There’s so many days on campus...there was my toughest day that I actually remember as a great day. I didn’t plan ahead and had a lot of work to do for a lab. Two of my friends also had projects to work on so we sat in the library and stayed until it closed around midnight. Then we went and got some food and came back to the TBE lab until about five in the morning. We carpooled home and had class at 8 AM. But, it turned out to be such a great day, being with friends, having good discussions, although staying up late made us delirious by 4 am. It was kind of like, do you want coffee? And, then coming back with cookies.

Who is someone on campus that you would like to thank? Why?

Probably, my civil engineering classmates. I switched from mechanical engineering to civil engineering and everyone was so nice. When I switched, they were so welcoming. It made it easier to get through classes. I’ve made close friends.

What would you say is a silver lining of the Covid-19 pandemic?

It’s made people more willing to say thanks and that they appreciate you. Professors thank us for coming to class and working on assignments. People reach out so see how we’re doing -- employers, advisors, students. Students will ask “how are you,” not “how’s the assignment.” People are more aware of other people and more friendly and compassionate.

What is something on your bucket list?

I’d love to go to a movie festival - I don’t even know which one - but just be in a different city around people who love movies.

What are your upcoming plans for the holidays?

My immediate family will all be together. There will be 10 of us, but we’ll have a million dishes. I’m attempting my first pie!

NEWS AND UPDATES

Building and Winter Break Information

The ASC is abiding by the Nevada "Statewide Pause" due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As such, the ASC building will be closed until 1/11/2021.

ALL ASC services are available online at www.unlv.edu/asc.

Representatives are available to answer questions at 702-895-3177 during normal business hours.

Hours of Operation:
Monday - Friday
STUDENT SUCCESS TIPS

Don't Forget About Self-Care!
As study week, finals, papers, and holidays quickly approach (not to mention that we are in the midst of a global pandemic), don't forget to take care of yourself too.

UNLV's Wellness Wheel

The UNLV Student Wellness Center created the Wellness Wheel to demonstrate the interconnectedness of different aspects of our lives that, when working cohesively, produce a sense of overall well-being.

Keeping each of these dimensions in mind as you approach stressful times will help strive toward a healthy balance.

Click Here for Additional Information

Campus Resources:

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)
REBELS Support Team
The PRACTICE
Student Health Center
Student Recreation & Wellness Center (SRWC)
UNLV CARES Food Pantry
UNLV Coronavirus Website

The ASC will be featuring additional self-care tips on our social media platforms during the week of finals.

Be sure to follow the ASC on Social Media!

SCHOLARSHIPS

Hixson-Lied Success Scholarship Program:
Applications Open Now!

Thousands of students across Nevada may never have the opportunity to earn a college degree primarily because of economic and academic challenges, and there are very few programs in place to help these students. The UNLV Hixson-Lied Success Scholars Program helps make a difference in the lives of these students by providing both financial and academic support through the ASC.
The program provides students:
- A scholarship in the amount of $1,250 per semester ($2,500 per year) for up to eight semesters.
- Academic Success Coaching sessions.
- The ability to make a difference through serving peers and giving back to UNLV.
- Access to the Hixson-Lied Success Scholars Newsletter, a monthly newsletter created by the scholars.

Additional Information & Application

UNLV Academic Success Center [www.unlv.edu/asc]