



# Graduate College Communications Certification

**Congratulations to our incoming  
2020-2021 cohort**




# CATHERINE PRATT




**M.F.A. student,  
Department of Theatre  
Arts**


**Advisor:  
Brackley Frayer**



Catherine Pratt is a second-year M.F.A. student whose research focus on lighting design for theatrical productions along with color psychology and emotional response to color. She aims to discover what emotions are brought out with color choices and use this to help identify colors to use in design to elicit an emotional response from audiences.



While participating in the Communication Certificate Program, Catherine's goals are to strengthen her oral and written communications skills to clearly convey her artistic intentions as a lighting designer in the theater industry. As her passions also lie in education, Catherine feels that it is important to show strong communication inside classroom to better communicate with students while showing the level of communication necessary when working on a theatrical production.



**HARJIV  
SINGH**



**Ph.D. Student,  
Department of  
Kinesiology and  
Nutrition Sciences**

**Advisor:  
Dr. Gabriele Wulf**



The human motor system is one of the most unique and diversified conglomerates since the onset of our evolution. Its flexible and adaptive nature allows us to learn and develop motor skills, prevent injury, perform under pressure, and be creative in our coordination. However, what is the control structure for all this? The role of attentional focus is one that has been theorized and discussed in the literature, but offers avenues for further evidence. I'm interested in how the distance of attentional focus effects motor skill learning and performance as a function of expertise. Taken together, how can we optimize verbal instruction and feedback? By participating in the Graduate College Communication Certification, I will explore ways to disseminate knowledge that challenge traditional means. Further, I will use this insight into building better communication skills to produce more effective dialogue between colleagues, students, and other professionals alike.

**JAMES  
GREEN**



**Master of Education  
Candidate,  
Department of  
Education**

**Advisor: Nancy Brown**



James E. Green Graduated from Providence College with a Bachelor of Arts degree, *Magna Cum Laude*. Since moving to Las Vegas and commissioning as a Military Police Officer in the Nevada Army National Guard, he has earned an M.A. in Criminal Justice and a M.Ed. in curriculum and instruction, along with being awarded a Graduate College Teaching Certificate as part of the program's seminal cohort at UNLV. He has been inducted into the Alpha Phi Sigma and Phi Kappa Phi honor societies, and works for the UNLV Department of Public Safety. This academic year, he is seeking his 3rd Master's Degree, focusing on Special Education with an intellectual disabilities sub plan.



**SERENA  
SCALZI**



**M.Ed. student,  
Educational  
Technology**

**Advisor:  
Kendall Hartley**



I spent over fifteen years in the fields of Marketing, Graphic Design, and Web Development before returning to academia to earn my Master of Education degree in Educational Technology. I earned my Bachelor of Science degree in Marketing and International Business from the Kelley School of Business at Indiana University, along with certifications in Computer Graphics Design from Otis College of Art and Design and Full Stack Engineering from PunchCode. I am currently a member of the Instructional Design team in the Office of Online Education.

I am passionate about educational technology, as I believe that education is technology's highest and best use. My research focuses on the intersection of education, technology, and creativity. I believe that participating in the Graduate College Communication Certification program will complement my professional background and help me to hone the skills necessary to be an effective communicator.

I look forward to the year ahead.

# SERRINA NASROLLAHI

**MPH candidate,  
Epidemiology &  
Biostatistics**

**Advisor: Dr. Ann  
Vuong**



Serrina is a graduate student at UNLV, where she originally obtained her B.S. in Biology. As an undergraduate student, Serrina developed a passion for public health and recognized the importance of receiving a public health education. Her long-term career goal is to become a Las Vegas physician with quality education in community-based medicine, infection prevention, and chronic disease epidemiology.

Serrina is currently working on a research project that will demonstrate competency in epidemiology and biostatistics. She is hoping to perform a secondary analysis on data from the CDC's Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) database to identify a potential association between a pregnancy-related exposure and a specified fetal/maternal health outcome.

Serrina is eager to participate in the Graduate College Communication Certification program because she wants to become a more effective communicator. Communicating relevant health information and research is essential to having an impactful career as a public health physician.

**SHU  
ZHANG**



**MS student,  
Lee Business School**

**Advisor:  
Dr. Michael J. Lee**



Shu is pursuing her master's degree in Management Information Systems at UNLV. Her research interests lie in consumer behavior and big data technology. Under the advisement of Dr. Michael Lee, she is working on her thesis which investigates the social network influence on online review helpfulness.

Aiming to have her research result presented at the 2021 Winter Conference on Business Analytics (WCBA), she is hoping to hone her public speaking skills by participating in the Graduate College Communication Certification (GCCC). Benefiting from the program, Shu believes that she will become a better presenter to engage the audience fully, and convey ideas effectively on various occasions.



**TSION  
MELAKU**



**Master's student/  
Management  
Information Systems**

**Advisor: Dr. Greg  
Moody**



Born and raised in Ethiopia, TSION came to the US as an international student in 2016.

Passionate about data science and analytics, she joined UNLV soon after she completed her MBA at Texas A&M International University.

She is currently studying Master of Management Information Systems focusing on data analytics. Her Graduate Assistant role at the Graduate College with systems team has built her technical and professional capability towards data management.

Tsion joins the communication certification program believing such opportunity would strengthen her awareness about diversity and would develop her communication skill professionally at a higher level while staying as a student and in life after graduation.

As she explains, such program helps international students like her to integrate with the culture and custom of the US working environment for career after graduation. It will help her to gain competitive advantage as effective communication increases efficiency and builds confidence which are particularly important in today's competitive market.