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# Graduate College Communications Certification

**Congratulations to our incoming  
2019-2020 cohort**

# ALEX GONCALVES



My research is currently focused on diverse aspects of student learning and the learning sciences, as well as the use of data and analytics within the research and academic administrative environments.

The GCCC program will help me better project the results of my work and also become a more resourceful team member when working on communicating collective projects.

**Ph.D. student,  
Department of  
Teaching and  
Learning**

# AMANDA ANNAN

**Master's student,  
Department of Health  
Care Administration  
and Policy**

**Advisor:  
Dr. Cochran**



Amanda Annan is an Executive Master of Health Care Administration (EMHA) graduate student in the Health Care Administration program at University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV). She holds a certificate in Health Care Management and Leadership from University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), a Master of Public Health (MPH), Health Education & Promotion from Loma Linda University (LLU), and a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in English Literature from University of California, Riverside (UCR).

Amanda's research interests include program evaluation and health outcomes research, maternal health, quality management and improvement, organizational management and behavior, health disparities, health equity, public health law, patient safety, and most recently traffic safety and injury prevention.

As a program evaluator, I believe the Graduate College Communication Certification (GCCC) will help me further build effective leadership capacity as well as enhance my communication skills which will help drive solid collaborations, partnerships, and better solutions to better health outcomes.

# BROOKE WOLFE

**M.A. student,  
Department of  
Communication  
Studies**

**Advisor:  
Dr. Jennifer Guthrie**



Brooke Wolfe is a first-generation college student entering her second year in the Communication Department. Her research focuses on societal narratives that discipline action and how those narratives influence women in romantic relationships.

From this program she hopes to gain experience condensing complex academic studies into accessible scholarly documents that work to improve the lives of women and disrupt problematic narratives. Additionally, she hopes to build community across disciplines to better understand the research of peers in other departments.



# HEATHER GILMORE



**Ph.D. student,  
Department of  
Criminology &  
Criminal Justice**

**Advisor:  
Dr. Gillian Pinchevsky**



My research focuses on school safety and crimes in schools. My current research projects address safety measures used in schools, geographical analysis of school shootings in relationship to local political affiliation, and student reporting of crimes in schools.

With the Communications Certification, I will be able to communicate my research more efficiently, allowing for the transfer of research findings to other scholars. In addition, I will be able to better network with professionals in my field.

# YING (JOANN) ZHAO



**M.S. student,  
Department of  
Management,  
Entrepreneurship, &  
Technology**

**Advisor:  
Dr. Greg Moody**



Joann Zhao works on her second graduate program in Data Analytics & Applied Economics. She earned dual masters of MBA & MS of Hotel Administration from UNLV back to 2010. She is planning to apply PhD program with a research interest in technology and data field of hospitality industry.

As an industry practitioner previously and a graduate student working on her academic goal currently, Joann does believe that communication is one of the most important personal skills for success in today's world full of competitions.

She desires to take advantage of the valuable opportunity of GCCC offered by graduate college to strength her communication skills on public speaking and professional writing, and get herself prepared to be an effective communicator in both academic and business world for next stage.

# JOHANNA ANDREWS



**Ph.D. student,  
Department of  
Environmental and  
Occupational Health**

**Advisor:  
Dr. Melva Thompson-  
Robinson**



Johanna Andrews is a Ph.D. student in Public Health with a concentration in Social and Behavioral Health, advised by Dr. Melva Thompson-Robinson. Her research focuses on stress and coping in food-insecure African Americans in Southern Nevada. With her research, Ms. Andrews would like to evaluate processes of coping with food insecurity and determine its impact on emotional well-being for African Americans. This population has a unique experience with food insecurity and an examination of their coping processes with this phenomenon will offer profound insight for a culturally relevant and tailored intervention.

Ms. Andrews would like to be in this Communication Certificate program because as a future independent researcher, gaining the skills and knowledge to become an effective communicator is paramount for her career goals as she will need to communicate her research findings to diverse audiences in various ways.

# MARYAM MOHIEDDIN RAD

**PhD student,  
Department of  
Education, Teaching,  
and Learning  
Christine Clark**



Maryam's research is focused on Muslim women's problems in education. She is now collecting preliminary data and performing a literature review for her Ph.D. dissertation research. Being a Muslim woman, she hopes her research can contribute to increasing the quality of education for Muslim women in higher educational institutes of the United States by identifying the existing issues and finding possible solutions to mitigate them.



# MICHELLE CHARISMA PERALES



**Candidate for Juris  
Doctorate, Boyd  
School of Law**

**Advisor:  
Frank Durand**



Communication is essential to both the study and practice of law. The mastery of verbal and non-verbal communication is vital to one's success as a law student and a practicing attorney. Licensed attorneys engaged in daily legal practice are required to gather, synthesize and convey large quantities of information to a diversity of people with varied lenses. More importantly, lawyers must know how to listen to clients.

For these reasons, I believe that learning communication skills will supplement my legal education and help me be a more effective attorney in practice. Behind every case is a person with a unique perspective and distinct emotions and motivations.

Through this certification program, I hope to enhance my communication skills around relationship-building, empathy and listening in order to be a greater resource to my clients and improve my professional legal practice.