

GRADUATE COLLEGE RESEARCH CERTIFICATION

Congratulations to
our incoming cohort
2017-2018

LIZETTE ARELLANO



Lizette Arellano is in her final year as an M.A. student in Hispanic Studies in the Department of World Languages. Her area of interest is primarily Golden Age Spanish literature. During the course of the program, her project will focus on the character "Cardenio" in Miguel de Cervantes' *Don Quixote*, as compared to Shakespeare's tragic heroes. This comparative analysis could give some insight into Shakespeare's lost play entitled *History of Cardenio* and based on the Cervantine character of the same name. Upon graduation from UNLV, Lizette hopes to continue her education by pursuing a doctoral degree.

HEATHER ASHLEY-HENDERSON



Heather Ashley-Henderson is a second-year graduate student in the School of Public Policy and Leadership. She is working to pursue a Ph.D. in Public Affairs. She plans to utilize her degrees to teach and to engage in research activities. She plans to contribute scholarly research while focusing her study in Urban Reform, Implementation Gaps, and Urban Regeneration. Her research will focus on the political, economic, and cultural framework that surrounds the crippling and invariable effects of low-income minorities and the income gaps for minorities. She decided to enter the field of Public Administration so that she can analyze a correlation between public policy. Heather's ambition is geared towards learning if poverty is from a community's own deficiencies or from wide-ranging political strengths such as segregation and isolation, racial boundaries, lack of economic opportunity, and/or inadequate education. Heather believes that it is our problem as a nation. She states, "My major focus is to understand if these effects are from racial isolation and chronic economic subordination or if there is a culture of being poor, that prevents the poor regardless of race, from escaping poverty. While many would argue that poverty is insoluble, I believe that it is our problem as a nation: poverty deprives people of opportunities to develop their potential, it forces them to become dependent citizens, and it exposes them to criminality. Politics affects the schools we attend, the way we learn, the jobs we have, the communities we live in, the taxes we pay, and the quality of air we breathe. The decisions surrounding these principles affect every aspect of our lives, thus, encouraging me to want to become more actively involved in the laws and decisions surrounding these issues within our society."

Heather's course of research and study will provide her the knowledge and skills needed to address these concerns and will help her achieve her goals by bridging the gaps through education, public speaking, and classroom instruction. She believes that through her research she will understand the infrastructure that these issues were built upon, thus translating them to the community that she will serve politically. Her hope is to change the effects of these policies that affect lives today and will ultimately affect their futures. Heather will use her degree to work in politics and higher learning. Heather also plans to become an entrepreneur and business owner.

PRISCILLA ARGUELLO



Priscilla Arguello is a second-year Master's student in the Marriage and Family Therapy Department. Her Capstone research will focus on effectively educating parents and guardians on the importance of proper sexual education amongst children and young adolescents. She is optimistic that her research will help reduce sexually transmitted STDs, teen pregnancies, sexual violence crimes and the stigma that is normally associated with sexual education. She also hopes that her research will eventually increase high school completion rates, higher education graduation rates, and will improve relationships amongst parents and their children.

ANGELA BROWN

DARRIAN CARROLL



Darrian Carroll is a second year Masters of Arts candidate in the Communication Studies department. Darrian's areas of focus are rhetorical criticism and theory. Darrian's areas of emphasis are race, politics and media. Darrian is at the beginning stages of his thesis which will engage with William J. (Bill) Clinton's rhetoric surrounding the 1994 crime bill.

JENNA CHANG



Jenna Chang is a second-year Masters student in the Department of Marriage and Family Therapy. She is supervised by Dr. Katherine Hertlein with research interests in technology in romantic relationships and infidelity, family satisfaction and quality of life in families with disabilities, stressors and coping methods in married or long-term couples, and common factors in partner surveilling and forgiveness. She hopes to help improve individuals, couples and families way of being and satisfaction after experiencing the many different hurdles life keeps throwing.

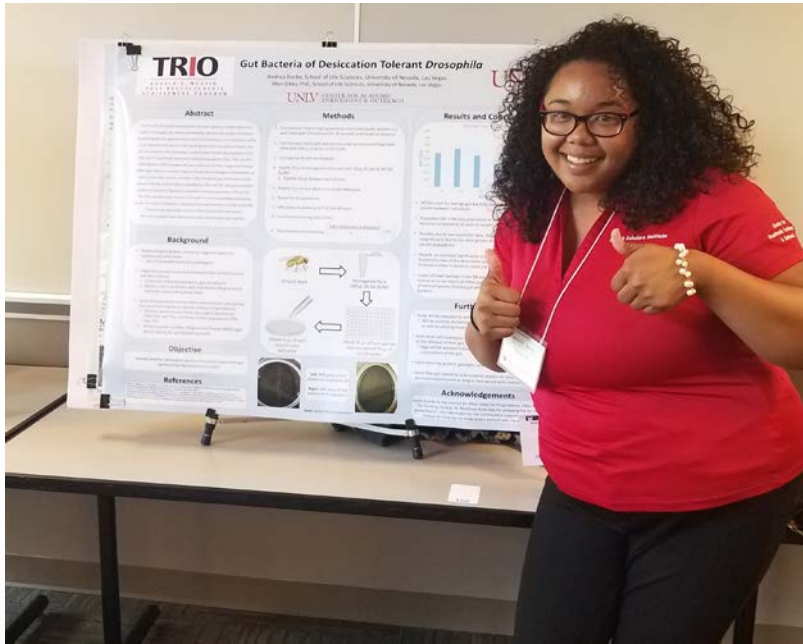
CLAUDIA CHIANG-LOPEZ



Claudia Chiang-Lopez is a first-generation immigrant and college student. She is a first-year Master's student in the Communication Studies department and has presented her prior research at national and regional conferences.

Her current research interests include cultural competency for victim's advocates, community and meaning making around fear of victimization, and media messages on love and anxiety.

ANDREA DARBY



Andrea Darby is an undergraduate senior in the School of Life Sciences with an emphasis of study on Ecology and Evolution. She does undergraduate research with her mentor Dr. Allen Gibbs in his integrative physiology lab. Her undergraduate research investigates the gut microbiome of both starvation selected and desiccation selected *Drosophila melanogaster*. With her research, she hopes to better understand the symbiotic relationship between hosts and their commensal gut flora and the implications it has for research with the human gut microbiome.

BHAGYA DE SILVA



Bhagya De Silva is a third-year Ph.D. student in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, supervised by Dr. Ronald Gary, with an emphasis in biophysical approaches to study protein interactions with small molecules. In her dissertation research she will study the binding properties for the interaction between GSK3 β kinase and its inhibitor beryllium ion. She believes this study would enable to understand the properties of a novel inhibitory site on GSK3 β , helping to design specific inhibitors targeting this protein, whose deregulation is linked with many human disorders like Alzheimer's and bipolar disorder.

JOSHUA DONNELLY



Josh is a second year masters student in the department of Criminal Justice/Criminology, supervised by Dr. Tamara Madensen and Dr. William Sousa. His research interests include; Environmental Criminology (Crime Science), with an emphasis in crime prevention, as well as studying the repeat victimization effects across different crimes. He hopes to move on to his Ph.D at UNLV to continue his studies in this discipline.

JEFF EGGLESTON



Jeff Eggleston is a third-year PhD student in the Department of Kinesiology and Nutrition Sciences, supervised by Dr. Janet Dufek. His research interest focuses on movement dysfunction in children with Autism Spectrum Disorder. The goal of his work is to provide evidence supporting the incorporation of movement abilities into diagnostic criteria for the disorder.

JESÚS GALINDO



Jesús Galindo is a second year Master of Arts student in Hispanic Studies. He graduated from UNLV with a bachelor's degree in Spanish and a minor in Italian. His area of research is in Spanish and Latin American literature and culture. He is interested in concepts of art and aesthetics that are depicted in the Spanish Golden Age literature. He believes that many contemporary authors have been inspired by those concepts from the past in order to create their own works.

JOSÉ F. GALINDO



José F. Galindo graduated from the University of Nevada Las Vegas with a bachelor's degree in Spanish and a minor in French. He is currently enrolled in the Hispanic Studies M.A. program in the Department of World Languages and Cultures. His area of interest is the study of the role women play in the Spanish and Latin American literature. His main goal is to analyze the novels written by many Spanish and Latin American authors that portray women's oppression in society.

CECELIA GONZALEZ



Cecelia is a second-year masters student in the department of Criminal Justice. Her research interests include intergenerational trauma, violence against women, reentry, mass incarceration, and campus sexual assault. She hopes her research will impact social change around these important issues in the future.

ANTHONY JORDAN



Anthony Jordan is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Political Science, supervised by Dr. John Tuman, with an emphasis on diplomacy. His dissertation research examines the role of political party and populism on the likelihood of diplomatic expulsion. He is studying the effects of New Left presidents on the expulsion of U.S. diplomats, ambassadors, and other personnel. The practical implications of this research would be the changing of norms that surround expulsion. Instead of viewing expulsion as an act of hostility between countries, expulsion could be a political tool used by presidents to appeal to their base.

LINDA KYRIANNIS



Linda is a graduate student in the College of Education - Learning and Technology emphasis. She is also pursuing a Graduate Certificate of Online Teaching and Training and enjoys teaching and learning about research.

KARA LANGIN



Kara Langin is a second-year Masters student in the Marriage and Family Therapy Program, supervised by Dr. Katherine Hertlein. Kara works on a research team that focuses on sex and technology research, more specifically on sexual dysfunction and technology, infidelity and technology, and the presence of dating apps within romantic relationships. She hopes her research will help couples and individuals adapt to growing technology and possible sexual issues that may arise from the use of technology.

DANIELA LEON



Daniela Leon is a second year Master student in Marriage and Family Therapy program. She is involved in research capstone supervised by Dr. Hertlein and is researching sex therapy and technology. Daniela will also be researching therapy treatments for sexual offenders in hopes of providing better treatment and outcomes for the offenders.

LYDIA MAAS



Lydia Maas is a graduate student of the Hispanic Studies Masters Program which she will complete in the Fall of 2017. Her areas of concentration are Spanish Literature, Spanish Culture, and Latin American Culture. Her main interests pertain to the Catalan region of Spain, mainly language, arts, and culture. She hopes that by studying these themes she can bring awareness to this region's linguistic varieties and cultural diversity within its borders.

STEPHANIE MOLINA



Stephanie is pursuing her Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Health Sciences within the Department of Health Physics, with an emphasis on medical/laser biophysics, under the direction of Dr. Steen Madsen. Her research is investigating the development of a cell-based drug delivery approach for the treatment of cancers by photochemical internalization, a photonic technique. Her goal is that studying the *in vitro* efficacy of drug-carrying delivery vehicles will translate to an effective treatment protocol for diffuse brain tumors.

SHELBY NAKAMURA



Shelby Nakamura is a second year Masters student in the Department of Marriage and Family Therapy, supervised by Dr. Katherine Hertlein. Her research interests include the effects the technology has on long term relationships, regarding infidelity and relational satisfaction. She hopes that she will be able to help both couples and families increase overall relational satisfaction, by better understanding how to coexist with technology in relationships as it is a growing part of society.

MANUEL RODRIGUEZ-PEREZ



Manuel Rodriguez-Perez is a second year Master's student in the department of World Languages and Cultures, supervised by Dr. Margarita Jara, he focuses on the literature and linguistics of the Spanish language. His research and interest is in analyzing and comparing the realism movement of the Iberian peninsula with that of the Yucatan peninsula to show the affects on the social and political structures of each region. This movement, that takes a "snapshot" of life and provides a commentary of it, shaped the people and governments of each society and he hopes that by studying it he can provide a perspective into how the Spanish literature of today, in these countries, is still associated with this narrative.

SHON REED



Shon Reed is a second-year master's student in the Department of Criminal Justice, mentored by Dr. M. Alexis Kennedy. His research interests include male victimization and human trafficking. His mixed-methods thesis research will focus on victim-to-offender pathways that perpetuate criminal behavior among male populations. Shon hopes that his research will assist in the creation of policies that improve the treatment of victims within the criminal justice system.

EZGI YESILYURT



Ezgi Yesilyurt is a second-year Ph.D. student in the Department of Teaching and Learning, supervised by Dr. Hasan Deniz, with an emphasis in Science Education. She is working as a graduate assistant and teaching science methods courses. She received her MS and BS degree in elementary science education. She participated in European Union Projects in which she conducted series of professional development programs for in-service science teachers. Her research areas of interest include STEM and evolution education.