



# Graduate Research Certification

**Congratulations to our incoming  
2021-2022 cohort**

# ANDREA CORRAL RODRÍGUEZ



**Master of Social Work Student**

**Advisor: Nicholas Barr, Ph.D.**

My goal is to earn a Ph.D. in Social Work with a focus on immigration upon completion of my M.S.W. and enact change for marginalized groups through advocacy and research.

I am delighted to participate in the Graduate Research Certification program to learn about the best approaches for applying and receiving competitive funding mechanisms; further identify growth opportunities as a researcher and assist me in compiling a research portfolio.



# ARLETTE RODRIGUEZ NAKATA

**Masters Degree/ Marriage and  
Family Therapy**

**Advisor: Dr. Katherine Hertlein**



My research capstone consists of working alongside Dr. Hertlein in the effects of viewing collaborative pornography on relationship quality in heterosexual couples. I will also be researching the presence of dating applications on investment and relationship satisfaction in long-term relationships with Dr. Hertlein. I want to be apart of the Graduate Research program because I want to acquire the skills and knowledge to initiate, conduct, and successfully conclude research projects. Acquiring these skills will be a huge advantage to me in my educational journey as I plan on pursuing a doctoral program post graduation.

# BEATRIZ ELIZABETH FLORES

**Master of Science – Couple and Family Therapy Degree**

**Advisor: Dr. Eddy, Brandon**



I am a first-gen Latinx student getting my masters in CFT at UNLV. My research is focused on how social media interacts with ideals of sexual health and of a healthy relationship. I want to be in the Graduate College Research Certification because I want to advance my scope of research. Hearing a podcast with Carole Hooven reminded me the importance of science and facts over sentiment. There is a place for both when having discussions, but it is important not to dilute the truth. With this certificate I know I can reach my goals of educating people which in turn will provide them greater power of their mind and bodies.



# BIANCA ISLAS

**Ph.D. student, Department of  
Clinical Psychology**

**Advisor: Stephen D. Benning,  
Ph.D.**



Bianca Islas is a first generation, U.S. Navy veteran, and native to the Las Vegas area. She is an interdisciplinary researcher and has researched and published findings on the way climate impacts biology. As a Clinical Psychology trainee, she has broad research interests in posttraumatic stress, moral injury, resilience, and externalizing psychopathologies.

Specifically, she is interested in transgenerational transmission of resilience and trauma to include the epigenetic and polygenic underpinnings. Her hopes are that research in the area of moral injury will expand the body of literature to include its impact on both internalizing and externalizing psychopathologies. She is currently working to publish research on moral decision making, gambling disorder, and psychopathy in interpersonal relationships.

She hopes to conduct this research to inform the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) of better practices and policies to help veterans achieve wellness.

# BRIAN CONWAY



**Doctor of Public Policy student,  
School of Public Policy and  
Leadership**

**Advisor: Dr. Christopher Stream**



Brian Conway earned his B.A. in Political Science and his M.A. in Urban Leadership from the University of Nevada Las Vegas.

My focus area of research is studying multi-modal transportation options to help mitigate the increasing traffic issues facing Clark County. I decided to participate in the Graduate Research Certification program to acquire the skills and knowledge necessary to initiate, conduct, and successfully conclude research projects.



# BRYSON CARRIER



**PhD Student, Interdisciplinary  
Health Sciences**

**Advisor: Dr. James Navalta**

I am a PhD student in the interdisciplinary health sciences program with an emphasis in exercise physiology. My research revolves around validating wearable technology (Garmin, Fitbit, Apple, etc. devices), sport performance, sports nutrition, and environmental physiology.

In my free time I enjoy watching movies and TV, exercising, playing fetch with my dogs, hiking, camping, and canyoneering. My current non-academic endeavor is to learn how to sail, and I hope to become competent in it over the next 1-2 years.

I teach exercise physiology courses for my graduate assistantship, as well as indoor soccer and spin classes.

I am excited to be a part of this research certification cohort and am eager to learn how to improve my research. I hope to meet other like-minded researchers and establish connections that will hopefully lead to future collaborations. I also hope to learn how to perform higher quality research through this certification, enabling me to become a better candidate for employment and promotion, and to make more meaningful contributions to my field.

# DANIEL PEREZ

Ph.D. candidate, Anthropology


Advisor: Karen G. Harry



As a doctoral candidate in the Department of Anthropology, my dissertation research focuses on the archaeology of the late precontact period of the North American Southwest. Specifically, my research focuses on understanding how painted design styles on pottery vessels communicate concepts of community identity and group affiliation among the Virgin Branch people—within a region spanning southern Nevada, southern Utah, and northwestern Arizona. My interest in wanting to participate in the Graduate College Research Certification program stems from a desire to form a more comprehensive understanding on how to conduct research during my time at UNLV and beyond, as a professional—applicable to my own research pursuits as well as those relating to others (e.g., students, colleagues).




# ELENA ANGELKOVA




**M.S Student, Department of  
Psychiatry and Behavioral  
Health, Couple and Family  
Therapy Program**


**Advisor: Dr. Lawrence Jackson**



My research interests are focused on how first-generation immigrant families adjust to a diagnosis of a chronic illness and what barriers impact family functioning. Specifically, I would like to focus on families that have moved from a collectivist to an individualistic culture, and how the culture impacts the changes of the roles in the couple and/or family system.



I am thrilled to be a part of the Graduate College Research Certification Program because I believe that intellectual curiosity is one of the most important attributes one can possess. Gaining skills and knowledge necessary to be an effective researcher will help me understand the entire process of research and how to conduct it. I want to learn how to become a proficient writer in order to establish educational credibility.



# ELIZABETH JOHNSON



**Ph.D. student, Anthropology**

**Advisor: Dr. Peter Gray**



Elizabeth Johnson is in her second year of pursuing her Ph.D. at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV). She advocates for interdisciplinary research, focusing on biocultural approaches to human behavior and anthrozoology. These approaches include human-animal kinship and attachment dynamics, stress response mediation, emotion regulation, and social engagement.

Elizabeth has investigated the physiological responses in human-cat interactions and interspecies attachment and worked with undergraduate students via the RAMP program. Additionally, she is currently examining the potential benefits of companion animal videos to invoke affective engagement in the education setting. She is interested in human-animal co-evolution, specifically in quantifying the effects of human-cat bonds, human parenting applications towards cats, and investigating companion animals' roles in media and human emotion.

As part of the Graduate College Research Certification program (GCRC), Elizabeth plans to build and strengthen her skills in conducting and collaborating in research.

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# EMILY CARTER



**Undergraduate Student**

**Class Standing: Senior**

**Department: School of Life Sciences**

**Major: Biological Sciences,  
concentration Integrative  
Physiology**

**Minor: Public Health**

**Advisor: Tina Vo Ph.D. (Science Education)**



Emily Carter is a life-long Las Vegan dedicated to serving her community. Emily is an aspiring physician majoring in Biology and minoring in Public Health. She is passionate about women's health and founded the American Medical Women's Association Premedical Branch on campus. She is also involved in a variety of volunteer initiatives that coincide with and support her research interests.

Emily's research in STEM education investigates the role of hands-on learning through student projects, mentorship, and engagement to encourage young girls to pursue STEM education. She also investigates common perceptions young girls have of STEM learning and innovative science curriculums. She hopes to help improve the representation of women in STEM fields.

Through this program, Emily plans to advance her research skills, and gain knowledge on creative ways to share her research with her community.

# EVANGELINE BULLA



My name is Evangeline Bulla and a M.S in ME graduate from UNLV in 2006. My research interests include renewable energy projects and thermofluids. I worked as a senior lecturer at Arba Minch University. I will be graduating with my second M.S.A.E degree from UNLV in 2021. I am excited to be in the Graduate Research Certification Program. I will be pursuing my Ph.D. in Engineering at Liberty University, Lynchburg, VA from Fall 2021.

**Degree student: Masters in  
Aerospace Engineering  
Department  
Advisor: Non-Thesis**



# HALEY S. DOUGHERTY



**Ph.D. Student, Anthropology –  
2<sup>nd</sup> year graduate student &  
pursuing M.A. at UNLV**

**Advisor: Dr. Karen Harry**

**If undergrad, provide the  
following:**

**Class Standing: N.A.**

**Department: N.A.**

**Major: N.A.**

I am a Ph.D. student intrigued by Southwestern archaeology and ceramic analysis in the Virgin Branch Puebloan region. My research interests include ceramic design styles, database curation software, exchange system modeling, technological innovations, and cultural identities in archaeological landscapes. In addition, I am a dedicated researcher focusing on the network of ceramic distribution in the Southwest, the regional impact of the Virgin Branch culture, and the influence of their behaviors throughout prehistory. More recently, I have analyzed sand tempered pottery vessel's remains for properties like angularity, color, and composition. This project is unique, and my interest in a Research Certification program is to build on what I have learned so far and improve my research technique.

# HEATHER FRIGIOLA



**Ph.D. student, Anthropology**

**Advisor: Dr. Iván Sandoval-Cervantes**



I am a third year PhD student in Anthropology specializing in cultural anthropology. My research focus is on human-animal interaction. I have two active research projects. The first is on the application of animal assisted therapy in a Christian ministry service, representing adaptations of the institution of religion to the increasing importance of pets in our society. The second is a case study shedding light on the ways in which communities may improve the culture of pet adoption and reduce the rate of animal euthanasia at animal shelters. In the future, I hope to create an interdisciplinary Animal Studies program at a university. There is so much to do – that is why I want to be in the Graduate College Research Certification!



# JAMES E. GREEN

**M.Ed Candidate,  
Special Education,  
Department of  
Education**

**Advisor: Heather Van  
Ness**



My name is James E. Green, and I am a master's student with an interest in educating the next generation of special education students. I originally hail from Rhode Island but have lived in Las Vegas for a more than a decade. I am an officer in the U.S. Army Nevada National Guard.

My research for this Graduate College Research Certification will focus on a special interest area of mine—the origins and evolution of Halloween. I would like to expand my academic research capabilities both to develop into a better researcher and to exemplify these skills when educating my future students.

# JASMINN FLOROZEEN CAROLINE GRAY



**Master's student  
Civil and Environmental  
Engineering and Construction**

**Advisor: Dr. Jacimaria Batista**



My name is Jasminn and I was born and raised in the Las Vegas valley. As a young girl and onward, I have always held an interest in science and often wondered how I could make my mark in the world of STEM. Eventually, my first degree, a bachelor of science degree in Biology with an emphasis in Evolution and Ecology, was the springboard for me to elevate my education by pursuing a master of science degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering! My current research considers the reduction of nitrogen and phosphorus species in storm water runoff with the use of a passive water treatment structure using zeolite and zerovalent iron. I am looking forward to participating in the UNLV Graduate College Research Certification because I hope to optimize my ability to competently and ethically initiate, conduct, and complete my current and future research projects.



# JOY VALLE

**Graduate Student**  
**EMBA Program – Cohort 20**  
**Lee Business School**

**Advisor: Nikkole Liesse**



My background is a combination of real estate, restaurants, large-scale trade show, and events, so the focus of UNLV and their undeniable thought leadership in the hospitality and business realms make it an exciting and dynamic campus to be a part of right now. Prior to my current role, I worked with Vornado Realty Trust and Merchandise Mart Properties. I also held previous sales and operational roles at Dell, The Patina Group and Sotheby's International Realty in Los Angeles, all of which have provided valuable experience and a perspective that pushed me towards my present role today as VP of Leasing for International Market Centers. I have benefitted a great deal by working for and alongside some truly exceptional leaders and innovators and am as proud of the leaders and individual colleagues I've worked with as I am of the companies themselves, most recently of the amazing team at IMC.

My research interests lie in the fields of neuroscience as it relates to leadership and community- more specifically how leaders can best navigate both their teams and client bases through crisis and build more resilient communities on a consistent basis. Thrilled to have discovered the Graduate College Research and Teacher Certification programs, I hope to refine my research and teaching interests, and pursue a Ph.D. focused on these areas of research.

# JUEER WANG

**Master student  
Management of Information  
System & Hospitality  
Management**

**Advisor: Dr. Rhonda McElroy**



I am an international master student of UNLV now. This is my second year of graduate study and my sixth-year study at UNLV. I graduate from UNLV with hospitality management major. I am glad that I participate this program and wish I can learn something from this program. My draft research topic would be hospitality technology and I want to get inspired within this program. I also want to pursue a Ph.D. degree after my graduation, and I need to explore my research topic during my master's and Ph.D. degree, so I want to learn some knowledge from the research certificate program.



# KATHARINE WOOLLEN



**Ph.D. student, Anthropology**

**Advisor: Dr. Jennifer Byrnes**

I am a biological/forensic anthropologist interested in studying how larger social and societal organizations directly affected the mismanagement of county poorhouses; thus, resulting in the perpetuation of violence to residents of these institutions. My current research focuses on the types of violence (traumatic injuries and pathological conditions) women and children were subject to while residing in county poorhouses during the 19<sup>th</sup>-early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

By joining the Graduate College Research Certification program, my goal is to develop the skills necessary to become an effective and proficient researcher. This program will allow me to foster new relationships with peers outside my own department, enhance my written and verbal communication skills, and prepare me for my future career goals.

# KENYA MCCAMPBELL

**M.A. student, Urban  
Leadership**

**Advisor: Shauna  
Guillen**



With a Bachelor of Arts in Broadcast Journalism from Howard University, I am currently a Graduate Student at the School of Public Policy and Leadership in the Urban Leadership Program.

Through the Urban Leadership Program I have gained valuable knowledge and learned that writing and research are integral parts of discovering the statistical data and reasoning behind some of the challenges with creating positive change in underserved communities.

As systemic inequality continues to occur in these less fortunate communities, the Graduate Research Certification will assist me in strengthening my leadership, research, and writing skills necessary to support and lobby for the policies I will eventually propose while also guiding me on how to create scholarly materials and publications.



# LEYA ZEWOOLDE

**Master's Student,  
Clinical Mental Health  
Counseling.**

**Advisor: Dr. Jared Lau**



Leya Zewolde is a first-year Master's student in the Clinical Mental Health Counseling program and has previously worked as an undergraduate research assistant in Psychology and advocate for survivors of interpersonal violence. Her research interests include the effects of intergenerational trauma on attachment styles, psychotherapeutic interventions for adolescents with anxiety disorders, and developing culturally responsive approaches to the counseling field.

Leya is interested in being a part of the Graduate Research Certification (GRC) to develop the knowledge and skills necessary to conduct and contribute relevant research to the counseling field. Being native to the Las Vegas community, her goal is to help address the shortage of mental health professionals in the valley in her future role as a Clinical Professional Counselor. She believes that building research literacy through the GRC will allow her to be a more effective counselor and thus better improve the lives of her future clients.

# MANDY MOUNTAIN

**M.S. student, School of Life Sciences**

**Advisor: Dr. Daniel Thompson**



In my research I study the ecology and evolution of Guiliani's dune scarab beetle, a vulnerable insect species endemic to Nevada. My main focus is on how conflict between the sexes impacts fitness, and if variations in population density contribute to plasticity of antagonistic behaviors associated with mating.

As a participant in the Graduate College Research Certification program, I hope to build on my strengths as well as identify and work on my weaknesses so that I can become a more confident researcher.



# MELISSA STREHLOW



**Masters student, Kinesiology**

**Advisor: James Navalta**



I am excited to be a part of the Graduate College Research Certification. After graduating from Oregon State University I wanted to come back to my hometown to begin my masters at UNLV where I was able to find this program that will help me begin my journey in research. I would like research to be the main focus in my career. This program offers seminars to successfully set up and conduct research projects and with that, I am hoping to work in the sports exercise field as well as the neurological field. I would like to work with them both side by side, helping improve sports performance and reduce head injuries. After working with athletes for numerous years I think this program will best allow me to conduct research that is beneficial to all aspects of the sport.

# MICHELLE NICOLE JANEO

**Master's Student, Couple and  
Family Therapy**

**Advisor: Dr. Brandon Eddy**



My research interests are centered around the mental health and wellness of healthcare professionals. Specifically, my thesis aims to identify individual, organizational, and social factors that influence burnout to analyze the functionality of social support from various networks as a resource to increase the well-being and quality of life for medical students.

The Graduate College Research Certification will allow me to develop my skills and knowledge about the research process. Being an effective researcher will allow me to discover meaningful and reliable information that will effectively implement positive systemic change for future generations. I hope to further my education by pursuing a Ph.D. to continue to research burnout, work-life integration, the well-being of healthcare professionals, mind-body medicine, and collaborative healthcare systems.



# MONICA HERNANDEZ- JOHNSON



**Ph.D. student, Educational  
Psychology**

**Advisor: Dr. Lisa Bendixen**

My research interests include the use of research methodologies, critical mixed methods research, epistemology, and Freirean Thought. My current research uses critical inquiry to develop the use and field of mixed methods research (MMR). Critical Mixed Methodology can be used to bring forth a more accurate portrayal and fuller picture, especially when conducting research with underrepresented and marginalized groups. The reason I want to be in the Graduate College Research Certificate Program is that the more I have evolved as a critical researcher, especially when merging my expertise in multicultural education and educational psychology, the greater my sense of conviction to become a responsible and culturally competent researcher. I believe this certification program will increase my versatility as a researcher, equipped to utilize various analytical approaches and methodologies.

# NAOMI OKADA

**Ph.D. student, Chemistry &  
Biochemistry**

**Advisor: Dr. Ernesto Abel-Santos**



I am in my third year of my PhD program here at UNLV. In my limited free time, I enjoy video games, D&D, and hanging out with my animal children. I have two cats named Tesla and Ed, a leopard gecko named Eggar, a bearded dragon named Snow, and an axolotl named Gimli. My love for reptiles and amphibians has inspired my current work studying a species of fungus called *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*, which is a major pathogen for frogs and other amphibians. My research involves characterizing the different life stages of this fungus and determining the nutritional and chemical requirements for it to grow and develop. I am thrilled to be participating in the Grad College Research Certification program because I hope to learn how to manage my data more efficiently and to communicate my research and its impacts more effectively to students, colleagues, and the public.



# RYAN BOND

**DMA Candidate**  
**UNLV School of Music**

**Advisor: Dr. Timothy Jones**



Ryan graduated from Snow College with his BMCM (Bachelors of Music in Commercial Music) with an emphasis in Percussion performance, business minor, and music education. He furthered his education by studying at UNLV where he graduated with his Masters in Music in percussion performance, and is continuing his schooling at UNLV as a Doctoral candidate in the Musical Arts.

A few topics Ryan would like to tackle would include, *Learning an Instrument and its effects on scholastic success*, and *Drumming: its effects on physical and mental health (Kinesiology)*. While each of these topics would tackle different sides of music, It is understood that we will only have enough time to work on one. It would be beneficial to allow my mentee to have a say in choosing one of these topics.

I want to be in the Graduate College Research Certification program because I know it will help me reach my Dream Career in becoming a Full-Time Percussion Professor with an opportunity to receive tenure. The Research Certification will help me hit all of the goals and marks along the way to my Dream Career.



# SAVANNA VACEK



**Undergraduate Student  
B.S. in Civil Engineering**

**Faculty Advisor: Dr. Erica Marti**

**Class Standing: Junior**

**Department: Howard R  
Hughes College of  
Engineering**

**Major: Civil Engineering**



Generally, I am interested in environmental engineering and water resources. My research and creative interests include water quality, water treatment, and water reuse.

Engineering is the most prominent goal in my life. I aim to first receive an undergraduate degree in civil engineering. I hope to cement my knowledge of Spanish and become fully bilingual while obtaining a minor in Spanish. I plan to earn a graduate degree in a field related to environmental engineering.

Participating in the Graduate Research College Certification will help me gain skills that will prepare me to be “research ready.” These skills will be useful to my future career goals and prepare me for graduate school. I aim to shadow, train for a specific task, learn how to better collect and analyze data, or conduct a research design. Ultimately, the GRC will allow me to gain valuable research skills, prepare me for my career in water resources, and prepare me for graduate school.



# SCARLETT IGLESIAS HOYOS



**M.S. student, Clinical Mental  
Health Counseling**

**Department of Counselor  
Education, School Psychology,  
and Human Services**

**Advisor: Dr. Jared Lau**



Scarlett is enrolled in the Clinical Mental Health Counseling program. She was born and raised in Mexico. Scarlett is a mental health advocate and is passionate about research in multicultural counseling and mentorship.

Her future educational goals include studying for a Ph.D., where she plans to apply her research interest to the Latinx/Hispanic population, multicultural counseling, and acculturation. This population holds a deep-rooted stigma about mental health, and, through research and educational skills, she intends to promote mental health awareness and provide quality services to this underserved population.

Part of her cultural background includes collectivism and giving a high value to groups and communities. As a future researcher, she hopes to enhance her skills, become a more competent and effective researcher, and increase her knowledge of data analysis and its different applications.

# SHEETAL SURVASE

**Ph.D. student, The School of  
Public Policy and Leadership)**

**Advisor: E. Lee Bernick**



Sheetal Survase is a first-year Ph.D. student in the Public Affairs program at UNLV's School of Public Policy and Leadership. Influenced by her higher education and non-profit experiences, she is interested in studying the effect of disparity in educational opportunities and outcomes on adult well-being and intends to apply this research to advocating for policy change. Her primary goal is to work with teachers and administrators in educational settings to build research-based training programs for continuous staff development and promote programs that effectively serve a wider range of positive social and educational outcomes. As part of the Graduate College Research Certification program (GCRC), Sheetal hopes to engage in learning and collaboration opportunities to ultimately help her become a better researcher.



# SILVIO ERNESTO MIRABAL TORRES



**Senior undergraduate McNair  
Scholar, Department of  
Anthropology**

**Advisor: Dr. Peter Gray**



I am an undergraduate student interested in health and disease, both in modern and ancient populations. I am specially focused on how cultural and biological evolution shape the human body as a response to disease, and how human behavior both influences and is influenced by evolution.

My project will analyze the steroid hormonal response in young Las Vegas females who play soccer. This work builds on a large body of research on adult hormone responses to competition that highlights changes in androgens and cortisol, including when playing individual and coalitional (team) sports.

The Graduate Research Certification is the perfect opportunity for me to engage with other students with research interests that may overlap with mine. Additionally, it will prepare me for graduate level research once I graduate.

# TALIBAH ABDUL-WAHID



**Master's of Public  
Administration Student  
(Nonprofit Concentration)/  
School of Public Policy and  
Leadership**

**Advisor: Dr. Jessica Word**



Talibah is a Master's Student in the School of Public Policy and Leadership, completing her final year of the Master's of Public Administration program with a Concentration in Nonprofit Management. She holds a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Psychology from Nevada State College and currently works as an independent business consultant.

Her research interest includes nonprofit and business management strategies, focusing on how community-based businesses and nonprofits can adapt new methods of operation to stay relevant in the technological age.

Talibah wishes to ultimately attain a Ph.D. in Public Affairs as well as a Law Degree. She hopes that by educating herself on the research process and the impact of law and policy, she will influence how public policy affects minority communities.



# TORISHA STONE



I research the intersections and constructions of race, gender, and the body. I am currently interested in contemporary experiences of parenthood, primarily focusing on how parents make sense of their body and embodiment before, during, and after becoming parents and in relation to interpersonal and institutional interactions.

I am excited to be part of the Graduate College Research Certification program to further enhance my understanding of methodology and expanding the research methods I use. I am looking forward to working with colleagues and further learning from them as well!

**PhD Student, Sociology  
Department**

**Advisor: Dr. Elizabeth Lawrence**

# TRACY FUENTES



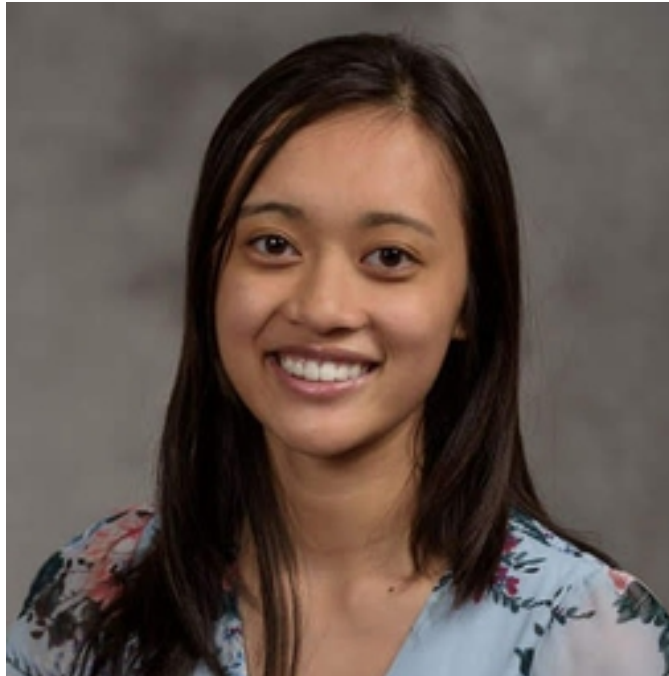
**Undergraduate student,  
Department of English and  
Political Science**

**Advisor: \*Please add their name  
here**

**Class Standing: Senior**

**Department: English**

**English and Political Science  
Major**



Tracy is entering her fourth year at UNLV, double majoring in English and Political Science. She is a member of the Honors College and Sigma Tau Delta here at UNLV. This past year, she created an online magazine called Kindergarten Mag with her best friend, and she serves as co-chief editor.



Her research interests include exploring storytelling methods that are not traditionally explored in academia, such as anime and manga, and studying how Asian Americans are represented in media, specifically in the young adult genre.



She currently aspires to become a librarian, and believes that the research skills that she will gain from the Graduate College Research Certification program will only help her to succeed in both graduate school and librarianship.



# TSION MELAKU

**Ph.D/Student, Public Affairs**

**Advisor: Dr. Jayce Farmer**



I have been UNLV Graduate Student since Fall 2018. I just graduated Master of Management Information Systems and I am continuing PhD in Public Affairs at UNLV as of Fall 2021.

My course of study will be focusing on the research track that assesses the education policy to bring social justice. Together with my data analytics knowledge and leadership skill, I will be able to apply advanced analytics techniques, like big data and artificial intelligence to better show correlation, hidden patterns or other insights in my academic research.

I would love to be part of the Graduate Research Certification (GRC) cohort in the upcoming academic year 2021/2022. This program will help me to acquire the necessary skills and knowledge make a successful research during my course of study. The curriculum the GRC holds would help me in every step of my research. As a first-year student in the program, this is a very helpful support system for my transition from Master to PHD.

# YUNXUAN "CARRIE" ZHANG



**Ph.D. student, Hospitality  
Management**

**Advisor: Dr. Cass Shum  
Dr. Amanda Belarmino**

Currently, I am a second-year Ph.D. student at Hospitality Management. I am very interested in hospitality workplace organizational behavior. As a female, specifically, my research focuses on gender differences and sexual harassment more. I hope, based on my research, I can contribute some to the work environment in the hospitality industry.

Although I have learned some research skills from the last year, there is still a high capacity for me to improve. I am passionate about pursuing high-quality research, and I try my best to grab any opportunity to enhance my research ability. Through this research program, I hope to get more conceptual information from various attractive workshops and then practice these skills through the presentation and future research.



# ZAHRA MOJTAHEDI



**Degree student/candidate,  
Department: PhD**

**Advisor: Professor Jay Shen**

**Class Standing: Freshman**

**Department: Healthcare  
Administration**

**Major HCA**



As long as I remember, I have been interested in learning new things and add to existing knowledge. Research is something that I am really passionate about and can give meaning and bring satisfaction to my life. I got my MD degree from Iran, and I was involved in research back there. However, I was always thinking about doing more. When I immigrated to the United States, I knew that it was a chance that I need to take. I was admitted to the PhD program at the School of Public Health. I am going to improve my research skills and abilities through attending in research training program at UNLV Graduate School