



GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION

GPSA EXECUTIVE BOARD – DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY (APPLICATION)

MAY 2021 - MAY 2022

CANDIDATE INFORMATION:

Candidate Name: [Mary Underwood](#)

College/School: [College of Liberal Arts](#)

Department: [Sociology](#)

Elected Position of Interest: [Secretary](#)

The GPSA supports graduate and professional students' academic endeavors. Providing an environment conducive to student scholarship, research, and overall success is our primary goal. The GPSA strives to engender a sense of community among the graduate and professional students by offering financial support and fellowship.

The GPSA Council meets the first Monday of each month with the exception of January and holidays. All GPSA Council meetings are open to the public.

The Graduate & Professional Student Association is the student government for all currently enrolled graduate and professional students at UNLV. The GPSA is managed by the GPSA Council consisting of four elected officers and department-appointed representatives, and the GPSA Manager (administrative faculty). The four elected officers are the President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary which constitute the Executive Board. The GPSA represents UNLV graduate and professional students at meetings of the Board of Regents, Nevada Student Alliance, and on campus-wide committees.



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Voting will begin on April 5, 2021 at 3:30pm and close April 9, 2021 at 11:59pm.

Each candidate is expected to make a speech to the GPSA Council at the meeting on Monday, April 5, 2021 at 2:00pm. The meeting will take place virtually in the GPSA's WebEx Personal Meeting Room: <https://unlv.webex.com/meet/gpsa>. The voting results will be announced and posted by Wednesday, April 14, 2021. Contact the GPSA at gpsa@unlv.edu or 702-895-2261 with questions.

Please explain why you are interested in serving in this position:

I am interested in the position of secretary for GPSA because I love academia and want to be fully committed to helping others excel in their graduate and professional aspirations. I want to run for the position of secretary because of my attention to detail, my professionalism, and my research and advocacy work for marginalized individuals. I always want to make sure that all voices are heard. Due to my own research and advocacy interests, I am especially concerned for individuals who are traditionally excluded from mainstream conversations. Therefore, I aim build a safe and inclusive space for all. I believe that I can make a difference within the GPSA, and know that I can help build a strong foundation of support within this organization.



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Please list any relevant experience/qualifications for the position:
(GPSA experience, student government, extracurricular activities, or other interests)

I am a non-traditional student and have returned to school after raising my children. I have worked many jobs over the years as a single mother, and because of raising my children alone, I am extremely detail oriented. I have worked as a cocktail server, a customer service representative, a west coast sales manager for a manufacturing company, and I ran my own successful hairstylist business independently. As such, I have become skilled at prioritizing tasks, managing a busy schedule, and maintaining family commitments. I enjoy inspiring and being a voice of encouragement to others, and find great joy in helping people succeed. I genuinely care about the well-being of others and about doing my job well. I am an advocate for individuals who are LGBTQIA+, and devote my time to volunteering at both the LGBT Center in Los Angeles, and the Center in Las Vegas. I am also facilitating a new group at the center called “The Aces” for individuals who are asexual. I am a qualitative sociological researcher, and I am skilled at interviewing and keeping very detailed notes. I love research and writing, and feel that I would be a good candidate for secretary of GPSA due to my attention to detail, compassion for others, and desire to inspire my fellow students and peers.



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POSITION DESCRIPTIONS:

President

President is the chairperson of the GPSA Council and Executive Board. This position is responsible for guiding the organization on general issues such as goals of the Council. The President also represents the GPSA at the Board of Regents meetings and travels to other locations when the meetings are held outside Las Vegas (travel expenses paid by GPSA).

The President serves on the Graduate Council, the Executive Council, as well as on several campus-wide committees. The President speaks at various student orientations and campus engagements. Due to impromptu requests (speaking, serving on committees, etc.) from different entities on campus throughout the year, it is highly recommended that candidates for this position have a flexible schedule.

This position offers a graduate student tuition waiver of up to 9 credits a semester, a monthly stipend equal to that of a graduate assistant, a Graduate College Leadership Scholarship (academic year breakdown: Summer - \$5,000; Fall - \$2,000; Spring - \$2,000) and a GPSA \$550 stipend for each semester (Summer, Fall, Spring; paid monthly from May to April).

Candidates must be in good academic standing, admitted to a graduate and/or professional program at UNLV, and must have previous experience on the GPSA Council as a representative or as a previous executive board member



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Vice President

The VP chairs the Sponsorship Committee which evaluates applications and distributes GPSA funding allocations for students' research and conference travel and serves on several campus-wide committees. The Vice President establishes priorities for the sponsorship funding in conjunction with the Committee and Executive Board. This position also conducts Sponsorship Funding Workshops in order to assist students on how to successfully apply for GPSA Sponsorship funding.

The Vice President also chairs the GPSA Annual Student Research Forum held in the spring semester. The Vice President attends the Board of Regents meeting in the President's absence and acts as President if the office becomes vacant. The Vice President also sits on a Graduate College Committee and other campus-wide committees.

This position offers a Graduate College Leadership Scholarship (academic year breakdown: Summer - \$3,000; Fall - \$2,000; Spring - \$2,000) and a GPSA \$550 stipend for each semester (Summer, Fall, Spring; paid monthly from May to April).

In the absence of the President, the Vice President shall chair the Council.

Candidates must be in good academic standing, be admitted to a graduate and/or professional program at UNLV and must have previous experience on the GPSA Council.



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Treasurer

The Treasurer presents a financial report at every monthly GPSA Council meeting. This position chairs the Government Relations Committee, Awards Committee, and serves on several campus-wide committees. The Treasurer also sits on a Graduate College Committee. During a legislative year, it is expected that the Treasurer travel to Carson City one or two times to meet with the governor, state legislators, etc.

This position offers a Graduate College Leadership Scholarship (academic year breakdown: Summer - \$3,000; Fall - \$1,000; Spring - \$1,000) and a GPSA \$350 stipend for each semester (Summer, Fall, Spring; paid monthly from May to April).

The Treasurer will fill the Vice President's office in the event of its vacancy.

Candidates must be in good academic standing and admitted to a graduate and/or professional program at UNLV.



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Secretary

The Secretary is responsible for preparing and posting the agenda/minutes for each Council meeting, which is set by the Executive Board. The Secretary records the minutes of Council meetings and sends them to the Council Representatives. The Secretary is responsible for keeping roll call at the GPSA Council meetings, which determines the representative's eligibility for their semester stipend. This position also chairs the Publication Committee, sits on a Graduate College Committee and several campus-wide committees.

This position offers a Graduate College Leadership Scholarship (academic year breakdown: Summer - \$3,000; Fall - \$1,000; Spring - \$1,000) and a GPSA \$350 stipend for each semester (Summer, Fall, Spring; paid monthly from May to April).

The Secretary will fill the Treasurer's office in the event of its vacancy.

Candidates must be in good academic standing and admitted to a graduate and/or professional program at UNLV.

Mary Underwood

CURRICULUM VITAE

1705 Hassett Avenue

Las Vegas, NV 89104

underwo7@unlv.nevada.edu | 949-734-9700

maryunderwood07@yahoo.com

EDUCATION

University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, NV.

Current

PhD Student, Department of Sociology

Sociology Doctoral GPA: 4.0

California State University, Fullerton. Fullerton, CA.

May 2020

Master of Arts Candidate, Department of Sociology

Thesis: *“We Don’t Understand You – Just as Much as You Don’t Understand Us”: Navigating an Asexual Identity in Contemporary Society.*

Sociology Masters GPA: 4.0

California State University, Fullerton. Fullerton, CA.

May 2018

Bachelor of Arts in Sociology- Graduated with Honors – *Alpha Kappa Delta*

Concentration in Sociology of Deviance and Crime.

Sociology GPA: 3.68

Undergraduate Research: *“It’s Just Who I Am.” Experiences with Stigma amongst Asexual Individuals.*

Golden West College. Huntington Beach, CA.

December 2016

Associate in Arts for Transfer in Sociology

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Sociology | Sexualities, Deviance, Identity and Embodiment, Social Interaction, Sexualities, Symbolic Interactionism, Critical Theory, Qualitative Methods, and Religion.

MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

Underwood, Mary and Devon Thacker Thomas. *Stigmatized (a)sexuality: Navigating asexuality using stigma management strategies*. Submitted to Deviant Behavior 3-15-2021.

Underwood, Mary. *"I Just Don't Feel Any Pride in It:" The Politics of identifying as Asexual.*

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

The Law and Sex Work Project

Current

University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Research Assistant for Dr. Barb Brents.

Research team based in Canada, New Zealand, and Nevada. The goal of this research is to understand how the different laws and regulations used in these three locations affect the personal and professional lives of people working in the sex industry, with the objective to identify best practices in sex industry regulation to safeguard the human, civil, security, and labor rights of individuals working in the sex industry.

Thesis

2018

Sociology Department, California State University, Fullerton.

Thesis: *"We Don't Understand You – Just as Much as You Don't Understand Us:" Navigating an Asexual Identity in Contemporary Society.*

Committee Chair: Dr. Devon Thacker Thomas, Ph.D.

Research Applications in Sociology

2018

Sociology Department California State University, Fullerton.

Title of Research: *"It's Just Who I Am.": Experiences with Stigma Amongst Asexual Individuals.*

HONORS AND AWARDS

Recruitment Scholarship UNLV	Fall 2020
Phi Kappa Phi	Spring 2020
Distinguished Graduate Research	Spring 2020
Outstanding Graduate	Spring 2020
Alan Emery Scholarship Recipient	August 2019
Alpha Kappa Delta	May 2018
Dean's Honor List (all semesters at CSUF)	
Distinguished Undergraduate Research	May 2018

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant – Sociology 101. Working with Dr. Barb Brents at University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Responsible for all grading, engaging with students in all discussions, maintaining regular and effective communication with the students. Fall 2020 – Spring 2021

Guest Lecture: Sociology 354: Gender, Sex, and Society. California State University, Fullerton. *Navigating an Asexual Identity in Contemporary Society.* March 8, 2021

Teaching Internship for Introduction to Sociology – Soc 1.

Mt. San Antonio College in Walnut, CA. Development of all course materials, grading, development of all test materials, test administration and monitoring, holding office hours. Development of all curriculum for this course under the supervision of Professor Gallarde. Spring 2020

Teaching Symposium for Sociology 415: Mass Incarceration and Punishment. Working with Dr. LaTosha Traylor at California State University, Fullerton. Working towards developing course materials, grading, test monitoring, holding office hours, and teaching select classes with the intent of linking the course material to my research – stigma and reentry. Fall 2019

Guest Lectures: Sociology 415: Mass Incarceration and Punishment.

The Effects of Stigma on Individuals Reentering Society I and II.

November 5, 7 2019

Graduate Assistant for Sociology 485: Research Applications. Working with Dr. Devon Thacker Thomas at California State University, Fullerton. Assisting Dr. Thacker Thomas with grading, class exercises directed towards interviewing skills, invited talks with class regarding my experiences and interviewing. Fall 2019

Invited Talks: Sociology 485: Research Applications.

My Experience with Sociology 485

August 27, 2019

Interviewing Tips

October 2, 2019

Graduate Assistant for Sociology 366: Deviant Behavior. Working with Professor Cynthia Irvine at California State University, Fullerton. Working towards developing course materials, grading, test monitoring, and teaching select classes pertaining to my area of research – sexual deviancy and victims of stigma. Spring 2019

Guest Lecture: Sociology 366: Deviant Behavior.

Sexual Deviancy and Victims of Stigma.

March 12, 2019

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Pacific Sociological Association Annual Conference, Virtual. “I Just Don’t Feel Any Pride in It.” The Politics of identifying as Asexual. March 19, 2021

HSS Symposium 2019. Humanities and Social Sciences Student Showcase and Research Symposium. “Experiences with Stigma amongst Asexual Individuals.” California State University, Fullerton. April 11, 2019

Pacific Sociological Association Annual Conference, Oakland, CA. “It’s Just Who I Am”: Experiences with Stigma Amongst Asexual Individuals. March 30, 2019

SCAR 2019. Student Creative Activities and Research. “Experiences with Stigma amongst Asexual Individuals.” California State University, Fullerton. March 20, 2019

CONFERENCES ATTENDED

Pacific Sociological Association, Virtual	March 17-21, 2021
Pacific Sociological Association, Long Beach, CA.	March 28-31, 2018
California Sociological Association, Riverside, CA.	November 9-10, 2018
Pacific Sociological Association, Oakland CA.	March 28-31, 2019

COURSE FACILITATIONS

Simmel and Group Affiliation. Sociology 723: Classical Sociological Theory. University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

March 23, 2021

Feminist Epistemology. Sociology 748 Seminar: Gender, Sex, and Society. University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

March 8, 2021

Gender as an Axis of Oppression. Sociology 748 Seminar: Gender, Sex, and Society. University of Nevada Las Vegas.

March 1, 2021

Stigma Presentation of Self, and Symbolic Interaction. Sociology 763 Seminar: Symbolic Interaction. University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

October 15, 2020

Organ Transplants and the Privileges of Citizenship. Leo Chavez. Sociology 501T Seminar: Social Inequalities. California State University, Fullerton.

March 27, 2019

Erving Goffman and Symbolic Interactionism. Sociology 581: Advanced Theories of Social Behavior. California State University, Fullerton.

October 31, 2018

Immigrant Identity. Sociology 501T: Seminar-Topics of Societal Structure and Process.

California State University, Fullerton.

October 15, 2018

The Price We Pay. Sociology 501T: Seminar- Topics of Societal Structure and Process.

California State University, Fullerton.

October 2, 2018

Social Things. Charles Lemert. Sociology 585: The Practice of Sociology. California State

University, Fullerton.

September 6, 2018

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Canadian Institutes of Health Research- Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans

October 2020

FOMA Readiness (FOMAR) Training

August 2020

How the Changes With COVID Are Impacting Our Students - What You Should Know.

Mt. San Antonio College.

August 2020

Lights, Camera, Caption! Accessible Videos and Conferences.

Mt. San Antonio College.

August 2020

Online Teaching Essentials GA8

University of Nevada, Las Vegas

August 2020

“What Do the Blacks Think About That?” How Not to Talk about Race and Diversity.

Mt. San Antonio College.

February 2020

Graduate Student Teaching and Learning Certification

November 2019

Teaching Symposium Workshop

“Preparing a Lecture and Constructing Assignments”

April 2019

Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI Program)

January 2018

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction	2020-Present
American Sociological Association	2018-Present
Pacific Sociological Association	2018-Present
California Sociological Association	2018-Present

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The LGBTQ Center of Southern Nevada	2021-Present
Facilitator – The Aces Group	
Los Angeles LGBT Center. Los Angeles, CA	2018-Present
Volunteer	

REFERENCES

Barb Brents, Ph.D.

Professor of Sociology

Department of Sociology

University of Nevada, Las Vegas

barb.brents@unlv.edu

Devon Thacker Thomas, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Sociology/ Undergraduate Advisor

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LaTosha L. Traylor, Ph.D.
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22 March 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter of recommendation on behalf of Mary Underwood for her candidacy for GPSA Secretary. As the Graduate Coordinator in Sociology, I can attest that Ms. Underwood is in good standing as a PhD student and has quickly gotten involved in research projects in and outside of her required coursework. Her diligence and work ethic will make her an ideal candidate for the Secretary position.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at (702) 895-5219 or at michael.borer@unlv.edu.

Sincerely,



Michael Ian Borer
Associate Professor