

# The Luminary

*A Newsletter for UNLV Graduate & Professional Students*

August 2016



Volume 11 Issue 1

**Inside this issue:**

Message from GPSA President	1
In appreciation: GPSA Summer Council	1
Free Bagels & Coffee in the Graduate Student Commons	1
Diversity Research and Mentorship Reception	2
GPSA Book Scholarship	2
UNLV Writes: Night Owls and Early Birds	2
GPSA Executive Board	3
GPSA Funding Opportunities	4
Parking Tips for the Fall Semester	4
NY Times available on Campus	4
Professional Development Workshops	5
Graduation Dates	5
GPSA Funding Recipients	6-7
Calendar of Events	8
GPSA—Student Government	8
UNLV Toastmasters	8

## Welcome message from GPSA President Meghan Pierce

Welcome new and returning graduate and professional students! After a productive (and hot!) summer, the Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA) is ready to kick off an exciting fall semester. The GPSA is the student government for all UNLV graduate and professional students. We represent around 4,800 students and serve three main purposes. First, we advocate on behalf of graduate and professional students on a campus and systems level. We participate in campus-wide committee and Board of Regents meetings to ensure that graduate and professional issues are heard. Next, we foster scholarship by supporting students' research endeavors and conference travel through a competitive sponsorship program. Lastly, we aim to create a sense of community within our student body by hosting social and community service events.

### Graduate & Professional Student Association Fall 2016 Council Meetings

UNLV Student Union Rooms 208 A, B & C  
@ 2:00 – 3:30pm

Monday, September 12, 2016

Monday, October 3, 2016

Monday, November 7, 2016

Monday, December 5, 2016



*2016—2017 GPSA Executive Board.  
Read more about the E-Board on page 3*

Much of what we do involves working with each other, assisting others, and having fun along the way. We have a lot of exciting social events planned for this semester, beginning with the annual GPSA/ Graduate College Welcome Mixer!

*Welcome message continues on page 3*

## In appreciation: GPSA 2016 Summer Council

One of the main charges of the GPSA Summer Council each year is to set the goals for the upcoming year. The 2016—2017 GPSA goals are located on the [GPSA website](#). A special thank you for the service and active involvement of the GPSA E-Board and Council members: President Meghan Pierce, Vice President Patrick Daleiden, GPSA Secretary Kirk Talib-deen, GPSA Treasurer Kimberly Florence, GPSA School of Allied Health representative Kristyne Wiegand, College of Business representative Brittany Stuck, Community Health Sciences representative Saruna Ghimire, College of Education representative Rebecca Gates, College of Fine Arts representative Thaddeus Zoellner, College of Hotel Administration representative Lenna Shulga, College of Liberal Arts representative Lauren Galloway, Law School representative Adrian Viesca, School of Nursing representative Maria Pogio, College of Sciences representative Amanda Kidman, College of Urban Affairs representative Milia Heen; GPSA Faculty Advisors: Graduate College Dean Kate Hausbeck Korgan, Dr. Peter Gray and GPSA Manager Becky Boulton.



## COFFEE & BAGELS

Graduate Student Commons  
Lied Library room 2141



from 7:30am – 10:00am  
and 4:00pm – 6:30pm

during first week of instruction:  
August 29<sup>th</sup> – September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016

*(Available until refreshments are exhausted)*

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Diversity, Research and Mentorship Reception

This October 6, 2016 in the Student Union Ballroom C, the GPSA (Graduate & Professional Student Association), BGSA (Black Graduate Student Association), Graduate College and the Office of Diversity Initiatives will host the Diversity Research and Mentorship Reception. This event encourages students to:

- Learn about faculty of color research interests, publications, & courses taught
- Discuss research and mentor opportunities among faculty and students
- Learn about an opportunity to serve on the BGSA (Black Graduate Student Association) Officer Board.

**Call for posters presentations:** Students can also present their research at this event. This event offers students an opportunity to

share their research while connecting with faculty, staff and students of diverse backgrounds and similar research interests in order to discuss and encourage mentorship opportunities. As the most diverse university in the country, it is essential that UNLV utilizes the diverse resources, backgrounds, interests and networks to enhance our campus community. We invite you to join us in an invigorating discussion about diversity on campus and how to embrace diversity to advance future academic and professional goals. Present your research poster to diverse faculty, staff, and students at the October 6, event. Register @ [www.bit.do/DRM2016](http://www.bit.do/DRM2016)



## GPSA Fall and Spring Semester Book Scholarship

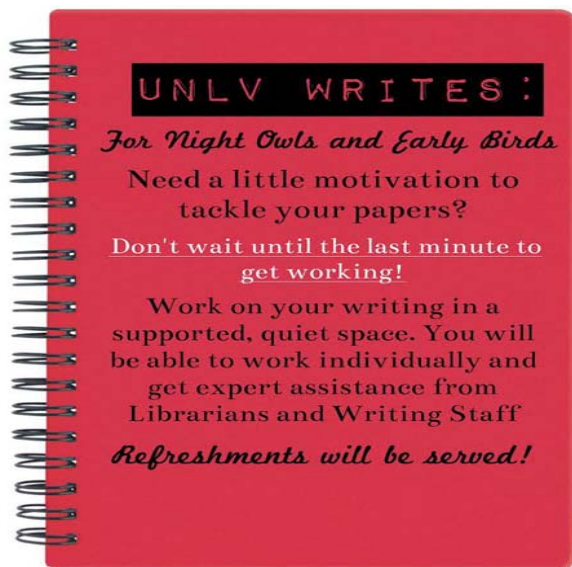
*Need help paying for your textbooks?? Each semester the GPSA offers fifteen (15) book scholarships @ \$100 each to be used at the UNLV Bookstore*



To qualify for the GPSA Book Scholarship, graduate / professional students must be admitted in a degree program and enrolled in a minimum of 6 credits. Students must also have and maintained a minimum 3.0 GPA, be in good academic standing, and have at the time of application submission taken and completed at least 6 graduate and/or professional credit hours. Students are permitted to receive no more than one GPSA Book Scholarship during their graduate/professional studies at UNLV. Information about the GPSA Book Scholarship is available on the GPSA website.

Information about the GPSA Book Scholarship is available on the GPSA website.

**APPLICATION DEADLINES: Fall semester – April 30<sup>th</sup> and Spring semester – October 30<sup>th</sup>**



**PLEASE RSVP**

<https://goo.gl/Ood983>

*Library Amargosa Room*

*Thursday, October 20, 2016*

*5:00pm-9:00pm*

*Friday, October 21, 2016*

*8:00am-12:00pm*



*Welcome message continued from page 1*

This year will be an important and exciting year in national and local politics. UNLV will host the last Presidential Debate on October 19<sup>th</sup>. UNLV will be hosting several events and notable speakers throughout the fall semester. Please visit [www.unlv.edu/2016debate](http://www.unlv.edu/2016debate) for a calendar of events! Lastly, this February 2017 begins the 79<sup>th</sup> Nevada Legislative Session, which promises to be an important year for higher education in our great state. The GPSA plans to be involved and vocal in support of legislative goals that support our student body. If you have any input or want to become involved, please do not hesitate to contact me!

Best of luck for the upcoming academic semester! We can't wait to see you at one of our Fall 2016 events!!

Go Rebels!

*Meghan Pierce*

GPSA 2016—2017 President

## Meet the GPSA 2016 – 2017 Executive Board

GPSA E-Board elections are held in April each year with the new officers assuming their new roles at the May Council meeting. The terms for the Executive Board are from May to May.



**GPSA President Meghan Pierce** began her studies at UNLV in 2003, after completing a B.A. in psychology, she then went on to complete a M.S. in Clinical Mental Health Counseling and a M.A. in Psychology. Currently, Meghan is working on her Ph.D. in Experimental Psychology with an emphasis in neuroscience and quantitative psychology. Her research examines the neuroendocrine and genetic correlates of stress, specifically markers of the HPA axis in various populations of veterans, females, and psychopathology. Meghan has held past positions as the GPSA Secretary, Treasurer and Vice President.



**GPSA Vice President Patrick Daleiden** is a Ph.D. student working in Dr. Andreas Stefik's Software Engineering and Media Lab in the Department of Computer Science. He works on programming language research, developing the compiler and libraries for the Quorum programming language and serving as a teaching assistant and lab monitor for two Software Engineering courses. Patrick's dissertation research is focused on parallel programming in high performance and scientific computing. He has been at UNLV since 2014 and has served as a GPSA Representative and member of the Sponsorship Committee for the past two years.



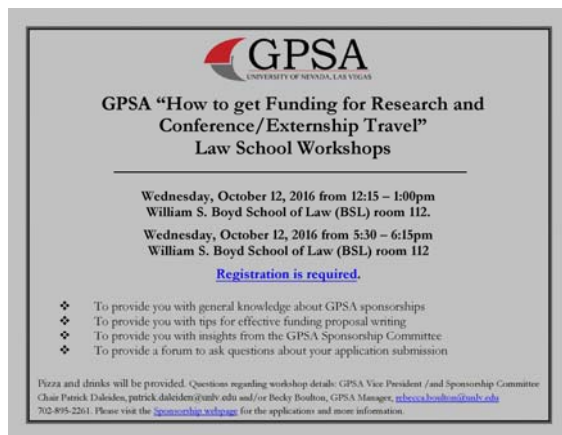
**GPSA Treasurer Kimberly Florence** is a third-year Higher Education, Ph.D. student in the department of Educational Psychology and Higher Education; holding both a Bachelors and Masters degree from UNLV. This native Nevadan has spent many years at UNLV expanding her knowledge base both within and outside of the classroom by participating in various academic/ professional opportunities. Some of the more recent opportunities include: First and Second-Year Instructor for the College of Education, President of the Black Graduate Student Association Fall 2015-Spring 2016 and Ambassador for the Graduate Rebel Ambassadors Program. In terms of research, Kimberly is interested in college access and success at both the undergraduate and graduate-level. This interest has been exhibited in her most recent publication regarding first-year/first-generation college students and the promotion of self-regulated learning through academic success coaching.



**GPSA Secretary Kirk Askia Talib-deen** received both his B.A. and M.A. in English with an emphasis in British Literature. He is an alumnus of UNLV and recently has been admitted into the Curriculum & Instruction Ph.D. program, in the area of Cultural Studies, International Education, and Multicultural Education. Kirk's focus will be praxis-oriented on the Intersectionality of Blacks, Orthodox Islam, and Education.

## Don't miss out on GPSA Research and Conference Travel Funding Opportunities

Need funding for your research project or to attend a conference during the spring 2017 semester? GPSA sponsorship information and the application are available at <http://www.unlv.edu/gpsa/sponsorship-awards>. For the academic year 2016—2017, the GPSA has \$150,000 for student research and conference travel. For scholarly activities that take place in the Spring 2017 semester, the sponsorship deadline is **November 15, 2016**. The Summer 2017 semester sponsorship deadline is **March 15, 2017**. Emergency travel funding is also available (for conference presentation or research travel only). The application deadline is the 20th of each month. Applications must be submitted prior to your travel. Check the GPSA website to see if you qualify. Please see the adjacent flyer for more information on the 2 workshops at the William S. Boyd School of Law on October 12th: 12:15—1:00pm and 5:30—6:15pm, BSL 112, there will also be a Campus-wide Funding Workshop which will take place October 7th, and another workshop at the Dental School on October 22nd from noon—1:00pm in SLC B-1. Pizza and drinks will be served at all of the workshops. For more information, please visit the [GPSA website](http://www.unlv.edu/gpsa). **Registration is required.**



*Graduate & professional student recipients of GPSA funding are highlighted on pages 6—7.*

### Parking Tips for the Fall Semester

- There is a free parking lot on campus located in [Lot S](#) (corner of Harmon and Swenson, west of the tennis courts by the track). No permit is required to park in this lot. *However, you do need to arrive early in the day to ensure a space.*
- Avoid Maryland Parkway during the day. There is very limited parking between Cottage Grove (northern end of campus) to University Road (southern end of campus, Greenspun Hall next to In and Out Burger). Traffic gets very congested on Maryland Parkway with the speed limit set at 30 mph to keep traffic slow for the several pedestrian walkways in that stretch of road.
- Arrive early so that if do run into trouble finding a parking space and you don't use up your valuable time and energy getting frustrated.
- Read the RAVE (<http://oit.unlv.edu/rave/>) messages. If there is going to be an event on campus that will impact parking ,messages usually go out the week prior to the parking impact.
- Open parking on Saturday.
- The two most likely areas that you will be able to find parking at any given time are the Thomas & Mack Center parking lot on the southwest side of campus and the Cottage Grove parking garage.
- Parking & Transportation Services provides assistance with battery jumps and tire inflation. Call 702-895-1300.



### The New York Times is Available on Campus and Online



*Start out your day catching up on the daily news with the New York Times newspaper*

The GPSA provides hard copies of *The New York Times* in the main lobby of the William S. Boyd Law School and the Graduate Student Commons, LLB 2141. The GPSA also belongs to *The New York Times* Readership program. UNLV log-ins are limited to 200 daily e-passes, [NYTimes.com/Passes](http://NYTimes.com/Passes). These passes provide full, complimentary access for 24 hours to *The New York Times* website and *The NY Times* smartphone apps. This does not include e-reader editions, premium crosswords or *The New York Times* crosswords apps. *The NY Times* apps are not supported on all devices. Other restrictions may apply. For more information: <http://www.gpsa.edu>.

## Fall 2016 Professional Development Workshops

Each semester, the GPSA / Graduate College provide a series of professional development workshops. Visit the GPSA website to register and for further workshop details.

### Developing an Effective Online Profile, Starting with LinkedIn

Friday, September 2, 10:00-11:30am; Graduate Student Commons, LLB 2141

### Graduate Successes: Tips and Experiences for Obtaining External Funding

Wednesday, September 7, 1:00-2:30pm; Graduate Student Commons, LLB 2141

### Balancing Wellness and Academic: Effective Time Management

Wednesday, September 13, 1:00-2:30pm; Graduate Student Commons, LLB 2141

### Advising and Mentoring Graduate Students

Friday, September 16, 10:00-11:30am; Graduate Student Commons, LLB 2141

### Problem-based Learning

Friday, September 23, 10:00-11:30 am; Graduate Student Commons, LLB 2141

### Teaching and Research Statements

Wednesday, September 28, 1pm-2:30pm; Graduate Student Commons, LLB 2141

### Designing Effective Research Assignments

Wednesday, October 5, 1:00-2:30pm; Graduate Student Commons, LLB 2141

### Evaluation/Assessment

Wednesday, October 26, 10am-11:30am; Graduate Student Commons, LLB 2141

### Applying to Academic Jobs: Application Letters, Resumes, and the Job Market

Wednesday, October 26, 1:00-2:30pm; Graduate Student Commons, LLB 2141

### Title IX Training

Wednesday, November 9, 10:00-11:30am; Graduate Student Commons, LLB 2141



## Graduate College - Graduation Deadlines for Fall 2016

### Saturday, October 1, 2016

Final day to apply and submit application for graduation through MyUNLV account. *Please note: A \$75 graduation and commencement fee will be placed on your student account (one fee per degree/certificate) beginning the first day of registration for the semester in which you have applied to graduate, or, if registration has already opened, your fee will be applied within two business days.*

### Saturday, November 19, 2016

Last day to take comprehensive exam, or to defend your thesis or dissertation.

### Monday, November 28, 2016

Last day to submit the final, properly formatted hard copy of your thesis or dissertation to the Graduate College for final format review; all final exam results and final documents must be submitted to the Graduate College by this date.

### Friday, December 9, 2016

Last day for electronic submission of final thesis/dissertation to the Graduate College. All final, properly formatted hard-copies of theses, dissertations and doctoral projects are due by this date.

### Monday, December 12, 2016

Last day for electronic submission of final thesis/dissertation (with formatting pre-approved by the Graduate College) to ProQuest.

### Tuesday, December 17, 2016

UNLV Commencement at the Thomas and Mack Center—4:00pm. Commencement hotline: 702-895-3229.

A flyer for a workshop titled "Thesis / Dissertation Guidelines and Formatting (Part I): 'All You Need to Know!'". The flyer is dated Thursday, September 29, 2016, from 1:00pm to 2:30pm at Graduate Student Commons, Lied Library room 2141. The flyer includes a starburst graphic that says "Part I". At the bottom, it states "Seats are limited. Registration is required."

For more information on thesis and dissertation formatting visit: <http://www.unlv.edu/graduatecollege/thesis>

## Highlighting GPSA Funding Recipients

**College of Liberal Arts Ph.D. student Stephany Molina:** I am currently a fourth year graduate student in the Clinical Psychology Ph.D. program. Clinically, I am interested in working with forensic populations, particularly conducting psychological assessments. My research focuses on psychopathy and empathy; specifically, I am interested in how empathy deficits contribute to the social and interpersonal impairments commonly associated with psychopathy. To this end, I use a variety of different tools, including self-report and psychophysiological measures. GPSA funding enabled me to attend three premier academic conferences to present my research findings. There, I was able to network and receive feedback on my research in order to improve my skills as a scientist. These experiences have allowed me to grow tremendously in a short period of time, which will help me become a well-rounded clinician and researcher. In addition to GPSA funding, I have also received funding through the Graduate College to support my career by alleviating financial burdens during the summer and academic school year.



*PhD Student  
Stephany Molina*



*Law Student  
Stephen Davis*

**William S. Boyd School of Law students Stephen Davis and Gil Kahn:** We conducted legal research regarding the applicability of the Fair Labor Standards Act's (FLSA) overtime exemption in regards to automotive service managers. This legal research affected an estimated 18,000 dealerships and 45,000 service managers. While interning in federal court last year, we had the opportunity to brief their judge on the case's numerous legal issues before he sat on a panel for the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. *Navarro v. Encino Motorcars, LLC*, 780 F.3d 1267 (9th Cir. 2015). The losing party appealed the case to the United States Supreme Court, and as recipients of GPSA Emergency funding that we both received, this assisted us in our expenses to travel to Washington

D.C. to attend oral arguments. The opportunity to observe some of the best appellate attorneys in the country---including former U.S. Solicitor General Paul Clement---and see how they tackled difficult questions from the Justices was an unparalleled professional development experience for both us soon-to-be attorneys.



*Law Student Gil Kahn*



*Ph.D. student Bree Boppre  
w/“Orange is the New Black”  
author, Piper Kerman*

**College of Urban Affairs Ph.D. student Breanna Boppre:** GPSA has played a major role in making me feel welcome in the graduate community and to fulfill my academic goals. Because of GPSA's sponsorship funding along with financial support from the Criminal Justice Department and the School of Environmental and Public Affairs, I was able to attend three academic conferences in Washington D.C., Vancouver, B.C., and San Francisco, CA over the past two years. Attending each conference provided me with valuable networking experiences as well as exposure to new research techniques. In fact, I am now serving as a student representative for the Western Society of Criminology because I was able to attend the 2016 meeting. I also served as the GPSA representative for the Criminal Justice Department during the 2015-2016 academic year. I felt that I had an impact on policies, practices, and issues facing our graduate student community by serving as a representative and obtaining feedback from my constituents. Overall, GPSA has been instrumental in my graduate career, not only towards completing my degree, but also by helping me develop a competitive curriculum vitae. There are numerous ways graduate students can become involved—from winning sponsorship funding and awards to volunteering or serving on the GPSA council.

***GPSA Sponsorship funding information is available on the GPSA website.***

***Attend one of the GPSA Funding workshops to get tips on how to submit a successful application.***

## Highlighting GPSA Funding Recipients



*Ph.D. Candidate  
Scott C. Thomas*

**College of Sciences Ph.D. candidate Scott C. Thomas:** GPSA has contributed toward the completion of my Ph.D. in microbiology by providing partial funding for two important international conferences in my field, the 2015 General Meeting of the American Society of Microbiology in New Orleans, and the 2016 Goldschmidt conference in Yokohama, Japan. An important part of being a scientist is sharing the importance of my research within and outside my field. I was able to share my research endeavors in the Hedlund lab, concerning novel ways of understanding the metabolic needs of microorganisms, at these two conferences. These presentations facilitated several valuable discussions with many experts in my field and beyond. Their comments and criticisms have undoubtedly strengthened my research and dissertation chapters. In addition, these meetings have allowed me to expand my professional network by providing opportunities to build new collaborations with non-UNLV scientists. My experience at these conferences has undoubtedly advanced my research at UNLV and will have a lasting impact on my future career as a microbiologist.

**School of Dental Medicine D.M.D. student Kristi Agari:** I currently attending the UNLV School of Dental Medicine where I am pursuing my D.M.D. degree. While my dental education is majorly based in didactic classes, simulation courses to develop hand skills, and patient care, I have been fortunate enough through the assistance of the GPSA with supplementing my instruction with biomedical research. Research has been an influential component of my education through its exhibition of the empirical nature of dentistry. While we learn techniques and theory in our classes, research has shown me the evidence based nature of our field. It is through research that dentistry is able to progress to produce the utmost beneficial procedures to eliminate disease and establish the standard of care for our patients. This year, I was able to attend the American Association of Dental Research (AADR) in Los Angeles, CA and the International Association of Dental Research (IADR) in Seoul, South Korea. At these conferences, I was able to present my findings in stem cell research while also meeting other individuals who are making advancements in my area as well as other areas of dental research. It is with recognition to the GPSA for furthering my participating in the dental research community and supplementing my education to ultimately be a better clinician for my patients.



*Dental Student  
Kristi Agari*

**College of Fine Arts DMA student Monique Arar:** I received both my Master of Music in Piano Performance and my Graduate Certificate in Non-Profit Management at UNLV while enhancing the campus community by serving as the Hillel Director, president of the Interfaith Council, PTI class piano instructor, and member of several other UNLV clubs. However, it wasn't until my Doctoral studies, that I became aware of the many opportunities the GPSA offered. I'm on the tail-end of my Doctor of Musical Arts studies in Applied Music (Piano) and am hoping to attain candidacy this fall. The GPSA travel research funding has been paramount in helping me explore research opportunities outside of UNLV and in helping me focus on my culminating degree research. In Spring 2014, I received GPSA funding to attend the Music Teacher National Association annual conference along with the Performing Arts Medical Association conference. That summer, I received funds, helped to support my attendance at a baroque music workshop, where my love for early music blossomed. This experience changed me, and then I went on to attend several more workshops on harpsichord performance. This past summer, I received GPSA funding to attend a workshop synthesizing my interests of piano pedagogy and early music, and I am in hopes to further the research of that week in my document and lecture recital this fall.



*D.M.A. Student Monique Arar receiving  
a master class coaching with Jacques  
Ogg at the fortepiano*

# Noteworthy UNLV Dates

Graduate & Professional  
Student Association  
University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
4505 S. Maryland Parkway  
Las Vegas, NV 89154-1007

Phone: 702-895-2261  
Fax: 702-895-2158  
gpsa@unlv.edu

Visit the GPSA at:  
<http://gpsa.unlv.edu/>

Information and dates of  
UNLV student activities can  
be found at:  
<http://activities.unlv.edu/>

Attend UNLV athletic events  
for free, more information:  
[http://www.unlvtickets.com/  
students/](http://www.unlvtickets.com/students/)



GPSA newsletter archives are available: <http://gpsa.unlv.edu/newsletter/>

**August 29** Instruction Begins

**August 26** Outdoor Movie Night at the Student Recreation and Wellness Center Lawn from 8:00pm—10:30pm

**September 2** NV Conservatory Theatre: “Bomb-itty of Errors”, Judy Baley Theatre. 7:30pm—Discounted student tickets w/ID

**September 5** Labor Day Recess

**September 12** GPSA Council meeting. 2:00pm—3:00pm, Student Union rooms 208 A, B & C

**September 12** Presidential Debate and Lecture Series: The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly of Social Media Use and Debate Viewing. 4:00pm—5pm; Greenspun Hall Auditorium

**September 15** President Jessup’s State of the University Address. Judy Baley Theater @ 2:30—4:00pm

**September 30** Exhibition: Edward Burtynsky—Oil. Majorie Barrick Museum/Harry Reid Center Main Gallery. 9:00am-5:00pm. Admission is free—donations welcomed.

**October 3** GPSA Council meeting. 2:00pm—3:00pm, Student Union rooms 208 A, B & C

**October 22** UNLV Football vs. Colorado State. Sam Boyd Stadium @ 2:30pm. Student tickets are available the week of the game starting online at [unlvtickets.com/students](http://unlvtickets.com/students) on Sunday at 10:00 a.m. or in person at the Thomas & Mack Center Box Office at 10:00 a.m. on Monday morning prior to the game. The RTC has two separate bus routes that offer convenient and fast service to Sam Boyd Stadium on gamedays! For information on Transit Fares and Passes through RTC go [here](#).

## Polish your Presentation Skills— Join UNLV Toastmasters

Are you interested in developing your public speaking, presentation, and/or leadership skills? UNLV Toastmasters provides that opportunity in a supportive, feedback-friendly environment. Our members range from UNLV students to seasoned professionals who share a collective interest in enhancing personal communication skills.



Since 1924, Toastmasters International has helped millions of people become more confident in front of an audience. At \$45 every six months and a \$20 one-time payment for member materials, Toastmasters is an investment in a skill set that can serve you for a lifetime.

**Meeting Day and Time:** Every Wednesday at 4:00 PM

**Meeting Location:** Student Union - Second Floor (check the monitor for the room number)

**Visit our Website:** [www.unlv.toastmastersclubs.org/](http://www.unlv.toastmastersclubs.org/)  
For additional information, please contact Vice President of Public Relations Robert Brooks, [brooksr@unlv.nevada.edu](mailto:brooksr@unlv.nevada.edu) or Club President Marissa Nichols [maris-sanichols23@gmail.com](mailto:maris-sanichols23@gmail.com).

**Cheer the Rebels to Victory!!**

**Join with the Graduate & Professional Student Association**

**At the November 12th Rebel Football vs Wyoming Game!**

Student ticket information is available at:  
<http://www.unlvtickets.com/students/>

**Date:** Thursday, November 12th  
**Where:** Sam Boyd Stadium—Meet on the westside of the Stadium by the Ticket office @ 12:10pm. Game starts 12:30pm. Text GPSA President Meghan Pierce if you need directions 702-595-9025. **Go Rebels!!**