Grad Rebel Advantage Mentees

Congratulations to our incoming 2022-2023 cohort
TAM NGUYEN

Academic Bio
Tam is currently a Finance Senior, with a keen interest in business operation and entrepreneurship. He spends much of his time reading books and developing his technical skills. As a Vietnamese, international student, he also enjoys traveling and learning about different cultures.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
After graduating, Tam hopes to attend the Master of Science in Quantitative Finance (MSQF) Program here at UNLV to equip him the advanced knowledge and gain a competitive edge in the job market. He believes that this program will immensely support his dream of becoming a CFA.
TYJANAE PETERSON

Class Standing: Senior
Department: College of Fine Arts
Major: Architecture

Academic Bio
She is originally born and raised in California. She moved to Las Vegas a few years ago to attend UNLV. She has been involved in UNLV Alternative Breaks and has also worked for Student Involvement and Activities. She chose to major in architecture because of her desire to design intentional spaces for people to occupy.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
She plans to pursue a Master of Architecture degree. This is her next step in the process of officially becoming a licensed architect. She aims to have the opportunity to travel the world while further developing as an architect. Eventually she plans to start her own architectural firm.
TANNER RICHARDSON

Class Standing: Senior
Department: Engineering
Major: Civil and Environmental Engineering
Minor: Mathematical Sciences

Academic Bio
Tanner has been a Las Vegas local for 22 years. He is a part of the UNLV Honors College and the American Society of Civil Engineering (ASCE) Club. He is the captain of the ASCE Concrete Canoe team and works as a structures intern at Horrocks Engineers.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
Tanner plans on pursuing a structural engineering graduate program in order to help build his understanding of building and bridge design against wind and seismic forces. This will help him with his future career goals of becoming a Professional Engineer (PE) and a Structural Engineer (SE).
TRISTAN BENALLY

Class Standing: Junior

Department: Physics & Astronomy, Mathematical Sciences, and Music
Major: B.S. in Physics and Mathematics with minor in Music

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Academic Bio
Tristan is a first generation, native American student who is studying physics and math. He is currently doing research in planetary interiors modeling under the guidance of David Rice and Jason Steffen. He is studying physics and math to understand more of the philosophical and open questions that both topics have.

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What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
Tristan plans to pursue a master’s degree in physics. His goal is to use computation as a means of visualization for communicating to a bigger audience of a wide array of physical phenomenon.
Tzitlalli (Tizzy) Rivero

Class Standing: Junior

Department: Management, Entrepreneurship, and Technology

Major: Information Systems

Academic Bio

Tizzy is a first-generation college student who was born in California but raised here in Las Vegas. She graduated from Del Sol High school and soon after joined the US Navy. Her choice in major, she wants to contribute to a field that is rapidly growing.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Tizzy plans on pursing the MS MIS program. She chose that program because it will allow her to maximize her learning experience and better prepare for a field that she is unpracticed in. She has experience with people, and this would give her the technological experience that would help her succeed.
VALERIE CROSWHITE

Class Standing: Senior

Department: Geoscience and Hospitality Management

Major: Earth and Environmental Science, and Hospitality Management

Academic Bio

Valerie is a local Las Vegan and first-generation college student. She is a member of UNLV’s Mountain Club and Association for Women Geoscientists. Valerie works as a Naturalist at Shark Reef Aquarium. She chose her dual baccalaureate majors due to her love for nature and guest service.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Valerie is still exploring graduate programs. She is planning to pursue a master's program in either a science discipline or hospitality/business discipline. Valerie’s goal behind this is to combine science and hospitality to help best serve guests and make operations more sustainable.
VENUS CRUZ

Senior
Geoscience Department
Geology Major

Academic Bio
Venus is a first-generation Latinx-Filipinx student working to expand her interdisciplinary career in Geology. She is passionate about aqueous hydrogeology and for the past two years, has worked as geochemical research assistant for the Soil Science Lab. To finish her final undergraduate year, she is working on a senior thesis.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
To pursue her aqueous hydrogeochemistry endeavors, Venus will pursue a master’s in Geology with a concentration in hydrology. Currently, she is investigating potential advisors and subsequent programs to prepare her for a career involving water resources and related groundwater disciplines.
Viviana Bautista-Flores

Class Standing: Senior
Department: School of Integrated Health Sciences
Major: Kinesiology

Academic Bio
Viviana moved to Las Vegas, Nevada from Los Angeles, California when she was 5 years old. She is a first-generation college student and the oldest of four daughters. She is also President of the Association of Pre-Health Professionals organization and Chair of Philanthropy for The Physical Therapy Honor Society for the academic year of 2022-2023. She also graduated high school with an emphasis in Sports Medicine and her interest in the movement of the human body enabled her to choose Kinesiology as her major.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
Viviana plans on applying to the Physical Therapy program at UNLV. She loves the flexibility of the profession and how diverse the specialties are within the Physical Therapy field. She also wants to help fill in the gap between minorities especially the Latinx community through better communication and understanding.
VIVIANA HERNANDEZ

Class Standing: Junior

Department: College of Liberal Arts

Major: Psychology

Academic Bio

Viviana is a Las Vegas Local and a first-generation student. She works part time as the Programming Assistant for COLA. Viviana is also the President for the 1st Generation Club and a member of Sigma Theta Psi Sorority. She chose her major because she is always fascinated learning and understanding the brain/emotions of people.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Viviana would like to pursue a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology. She would like to work with children and adolescents to provide them resources relating to PTSD. Viviana would also like to be involved in research relating to anxiety and depression among the youth.
YAJAIRA RODRIGUEZ

Class Standing: Junior

Department: Psychology

Major: Psychology

Academic Bio

First generation college student from Reno who was inspired from personal experience to pursue a degree in psychology. She hopes to find her niche in couples therapy with an emphasis on healthy sex practices. With compassion and understanding her goal is to help others activate growth within themselves.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

She plans on pursuing a clinical psychology graduate program, with the possibility of it being abroad. Studying in another country would be valuable in itself because of the experience. Upon her return to the US, furthering her education to become a Doctor of Psychology would be taken into consideration. These are steps she wishes to take before her ultimate goal of opening her own practice.
YeonJi grew up in Florida, worked in Texas, and moved to Nevada to call Las Vegas home. She is a first generation college student returning to finish her undergraduate degree after eight years in the workforce. Through her studies, she hopes to make mental health resources more accessible.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

YeonJi will pursue a graduate degree in clinical psychology. She notices how often people are unable to prioritize mental health, whether it is due to financial or societal reasons. YeonJi wants to work on removing barriers and researching new methods to deliver mental health resources to a wider audience.
Yu-tung Chiu

Class Standing: Senior
Department: College of Hospitality
Major: Hospitality

Academic Bio
Yu-tung is a second-generation college student who was born and raised in Taiwan. Yu-tung moved to Las Vegas from Taiwan during their sophomore year of high school. She is a Hospitality major student because she has full of passion and enthusiasm of heart in dealing with everything and everyone.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
Yu-tung is planning on pursuing a Master degree in marketing since she think the marketing major can be the most related to the hospitality major. She is interested in researching, learning, and gathering how different market around the world operate.
Academic Bio

Yvonne was originally born and raised in Taiwan. She came to Las Vegas during her sophomore year of high school. She’s majoring in Computer Science and minoring in Biology and Mathematics. She’s passionate about exploring new technology skills.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Yvonne plans on pursuing a Master’s degree in Data Science. She believes data can bring valuable insights that can influence different companies and organization needs.