Grad Rebel Advantage Mentees

Congratulations to our incoming 2022-2023 cohort
EDDEY A. TORRES

Class Standing: Junior
Department: Geoscience
Major: Earth and Environmental Science

Academic Bio
Eddey is a first-generation college student born and raised in the city of Las Vegas. Eddey attended the College of Southern Nevada and earned his Associate of Science degree with honors. Eddey is currently attending the University of Nevada Las Vegas as a full-time student.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
Eddey plans on pursuing the Master of Science Geoscience program. He plans on pursuing this program as a result of his passion for nature and the promising growth this sector is likely to experience.
EMILY HUERTA

Class Standing: Senior

Department: Physics and Astronomy, Mathematics

Major: Physics BS, Mathematics BS

Academic Bio

Emily lives here in Las Vegas, originally from Denver, Colorado. She is currently majoring in both physics and mathematics. When she is not doing coursework, she is conducting research under Dr. Bing Zhang of the Physics and Astronomy Department. Their work focuses on high-energy astrophysics, specifically Fast Radio Bursts (FRBs).

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

After completing her undergraduate degrees, she will attend graduate school to receive her Ph.D. in astrophysics. Since she has always had a fascination with the universe and space, she is going to work in academia as a physics professor while she leads her own research group.
Academic Bio

Erica was born and raised in Las Vegas, NV. She transferred from UNR in Spring 2022. She is currently working at CVS Pharmacy as a pharmacy technician trainee. Erica has always been interested in the medical field and while advancing in her major, she has found her passion for biology and problem solving.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Erica plans to continue her education in medicine by going to medical school. She is interested in becoming a doctor, either in dermatology or pediatrics. She has seen many people in the medical field change the lives of others and one day, she hopes to do the same.
Gia is a first-generation student who moved here from the Philippines. She is involved in HOSA, Alpha Phi Omega, Psi Chi, and is in various research labs across campus. She pursued Psychology to pursue her passion of impelling the importance of brain and mental health!

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

She plans to pursue the Clinical Psychology PhD program as a path to reach her career goals. She is inspired and dedicated in continuing her education and dive into bigger research projects to increase awareness in the community and beyond.
Hannah Giberti

Class Standing: Junior

Department: College of Liberal Arts

Major: Anthropology

Academic Bio

Born and raised in Las Vegas, Hannah Giberti is a transfer student to UNLV from CSN. She served as the president of the CSN Anthropology Club from 2021-2022 and was nominated for the 2021-2022 Outstanding Student Award for the Department of Human Behavior. Hannah chose anthropology as a major because she is fascinated by human evolution and the diversity in human experience.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Hannah Giberti is interested in pursuing UNLV’s graduate anthropology program, although she is open to looking into other anthropology programs whose curriculum cater to the physical, mental, and emotional evolution of the human lineage.
Academic Bio

Hannah is a first-generation college student who transferred to UNLV from her hometown of Bloomington, Illinois. When Hannah is not at school or working at Target, she is involved with S-STEM scholars, AANAPISI, CAEO SRI, McNair, AMWA Premedical Branch, and Dr. Van Breukelen’s research lab. Hannah chose a degree in Biology for future hopes of running a biotechnology company one day.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Hannah has chosen to pursue a Masters in Business Administration so that she can apply her biological background to the management of a successful biotechnology company.
Karen is a first generation and DACA student. She was born in El Salvador and raised in Las Vegas. She has been part of Circle K International, Public Health Student Association, and is also a member of the Delta Omega Public Health Honor Society Delta Theta Chapter at UNLV. She chose Public Health because it gives her the opportunity to learn and help others through prevention and intervention.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
Karen currently doesn’t have a specific graduate program in mind to pursue but is considering either epidemiology or environmental and occupational health in the future. Reasons for choosing either one is because she wants to improve the quality of life for minority populations and those most prevalent of disease.
Nguyễn Trí Hiếu (Hiếu)

Class Standing:
Sophomore/Junior

Department: William F. Harrah College of Hospitality & Lee Business School

Academic Bio
A proud first-generation non-traditional Vietnamese double-minoring in global entrepreneurship & management. Hiếu has immersed himself in and practiced hospitality religiously since 2010 through mentoring and service-related works. Known as The Hospitable Hanoian, Hiếu loves the opportunity to create a smile on someone's day and generate positive impacts on the community.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
Hiếu plans to pursue a Master of Management in Hospitality as he aspires to become a well-rounded professional & empower the underprivileged to become wholesome, ethical & impactful leaders with his social enterprise; consists of an institution & a teaching restaurant as he advocates for meaningful education & quality work.
Academic Bio

Transferred to UNLV Fall 2021 from University of Kansas. Jacob is a USAF veteran and also the current Vice President for the LEE Transfer Student Club that was recently founded by Jacob and his colleague. Jacob’s major was chosen due to the fact that every business requires marketing in order to generate sales.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Jacob is planning on enrolling in an MBA program immediately following his graduation of his undergraduate degree.
JADE POOLE

Class Standing: Senior

Department: College Of Science

Major: Earth and Environmental Science

Academic Bio

Originally from Japan, Jade moved to Las Vegas about 5 years ago. She’s been working at Nike for a year now and interns at the Geotechnical and Environmental Services as well. Jade chose this major because she has always been interested in learning how to better our planet.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Influenced by her recycling-filled childhood in Japan, she wants to pursue an educational career in earth science that impacts world opinions on sustainability. With a focus on greener initiatives for the planet, sustainable efforts towards a cleaner, healthier planet is what she is interested in doing after graduation.
Jaedis Harrison

Class Standing: Junior
Department: Psychology; College of Liberal Arts
Major: Psychology

Academic Bio
Jaedis moved to Las Vegas from Los Angeles, California. She is a psychology major who is part of the Psychology Club, Crochet Club, and CAEO program.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
Jaedis plans on pursing the Couple and Family Therapy graduate program. She wants to pursue this program because she hopes to one day become a Couple and Family Therapist.
James T. Eftimoff

Class Standing: Senior

Department: Engineering

Major: Mechanical Engineering

Academic Bio

James (JT) Eftimoff is from Reno, Nevada. He has participated in clubs such as American Institute of Astronautics and Aeronautics (AIAA), and social fraternities. He was a representative in Student Government and is on track to commission in the USAF through Air Force ROTC. He loves aviation and mechanics and chose engineering as his major.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

JT intends to pursue a technical masters in aerospace or environmental engineering. His love for aviation and desire to continue green practices have prompted both decisions.
Jennifer Bell Ajouaoud

Class Standing: Senior

Department: Geoscience

Major: Geology

Academic Bio
Jennifer moved to Las Vegas from a small town in South Carolina in 2018. She became fascinated by the rock formations of the Southwest and decided to pursue a degree in geology. She is a member of the UNLV Mountain Club, Society of Economic Geologists Student Chapter, and a first-generation student.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
Jennifer plans to pursue a Geoscience MS degree and specialize in economic geology. This program will allow her to realize her goal of becoming an exploration geologist.
Jenna Cobb is a local Las Vegas, member of Rebel Reads YA Book Club, and former CSUN Intern from Spring 2021-Fall 2022. She chose to study Film because she has always had an artistic drive, and chose to pursue a Global Entrepreneurship Experience minor because she believes that there is a helpful overlap between building a business and building a personal brand.

Jenna plans to study Intellectual Property or Entertainment Law. As well as being a creative person, she has also always been very analytical and academically oriented. While she hopes to use her film education for personal fulfillment, she wants to be able to help other artists make their art.
JILLIAN SANALILA

Class Standing: Senior
Department: Department of Kinesiology and Nutrition Sciences
Major: Kinesiology

Academic Bio
I was born and raised in Manila, Philippines. I moved to Guam for 5 years and then I moved here to Las Vegas, Nevada since 2015. I am majoring in Kinesiology and I am pursuing to be an Occupational Therapist. I was part of the RISE Scholars program in UNLV my sophomore year. I am currently a part of the Grad Rebel Advantage program at UNLV. The clubs that I attend are the POTS (Pre-Occupational Therapy Society) and the Kinesiology club at UNLV. I am currently working as a certified licensed pharmacy technician while going to school full-time.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
The graduate program that I am planning to pursue is the Occupational Therapy Doctorate Program. I am very passionate about the work that Occupational Therapist’s do. I believe that this is the line of work or field that I want to work in and do for the rest of my life. I want to be able to help and inspire people to become more independent on their own.
Jocelyn is a first-generation college student and a local Las Vegas resident. She participated in the UNLV’s NSF REU Site: Mechanisms of Evolution and is continuing undergraduate research work in Dr. Eduardo Robleto’s laboratory on campus. She is also part of the UNLV Symphony Orchestra. Jocelyn selected Biochemistry as her major because she loves both subjects.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

In the future, Jocelyn wishes to apply and enroll in a Ph.D. in Human Genetics and Master of Genetic Counseling dual degree program. Her original goal was to pursue a Master of Genetic Counseling, but recent experience in undergraduate research has pushed her to consider otherwise.
JOSE ANGEL AGUILAR

Class Standing: Senior

Department: Department of Educational & Clinical Studies

Major: Human Services

Academic Bio

Jose is a first-generation college student from Hidalgo, Texas. After serving in the military, Jose settled in Las Vegas, focusing on furthering his education. His desire to help others motivated him to pursue his current major. Jose volunteers with The Cupcake Girls, an organization supporting those affected by sex trafficking.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Jose is pursuing a Master of Science in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. In the military, many battles are fought, but the ones against mental health are the most difficult. Inspired by helping professionals in the service, Jose aims to get involved and help communities needing mental health resources and support.
Julia Edwards

Class Standing: Senior
Department: College of Sciences
Major: BS Chemistry

Academic Bio

Julia was born in Texas but has lived in Las Vegas for most of her life. She graduated in Spring 2022 with a BS in Biology and is currently pursuing a second bachelor's in Chemistry. She is an active member in several student organizations on campus, including the American Medical School Association, American Medical Women's Association, and Medical Telebrigades. She is also a medical scribe and spends her weekends volunteering at Sunrise Hospital and Medical Center.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Julia plans to attend medical school after obtaining her degree to serve the Las Vegas population as an emergency medicine physician. She is passionate about the healthcare field and dedicates much of her free time to helping the community. She hopes to encourage young women to pursue careers in STEM and become a role model for others.
Julianna Jovillar

Class Standing: Senior
Department: Greenspun College of Urban Affairs
Major: Communications
Brooking’s Public Policy minor

Academic Bio

Julianna is a second-generation college student from San Diego who calls Las Vegas her home. Initially, a business major, the openness and creativity within communication drew her to the subject. Now seeking a bachelor’s degree in communication and a minor in public policy, Julianna hopes to further her understanding of both subjects and utilize her knowledge creatively and towards law school.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Julianna plans on pursuing a graduate degree in Communications, as she believes its components fit her goals and aspirations. She is passionate about creative media outlets, as well as communication within policy. She plans to explore these options in grad school and utilize them in law school.
Academic Bio

As a native to Las Vegas, Kalen is majoring in Biology at UNLV and Deaf Studies at CSN. She works as a Supplemental Instruction Leader with the Academic Success Center and serves on the executive board of UNLV Latino Pre-Medical Student Association.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Kalen is interested in attending medical school and aims to bridge the gap in communication as a medical provider, especially for Spanish-speaking and deaf communities.
Kalina Tatarева

Class Standing: Senior
Department: Lee Business School
Major: Accounting & International Business

Kalina moved to Las Vegas from Bulgaria when she was six. She will be studying abroad in the Netherlands during the fall but looks forward to continuing her involvement at UNLV when she returns. She is double-majoring because she enjoys seeing the technical sides of business in an international setting.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
Kalina plans to pursue a Masters in Accounting because it will allow her to get a deeper understanding of accounting and pass her CPA exams before beginning work full time. A master’s degree can also open additional opportunities, such as teaching and research, which she is interested in.
Karina Rose Carrillo-Juarez

Class Standing: Senior
Department: Liberal Arts
Major: Psychology

Academic Bio

Karina is a first generation college student, born and raised in Las Vegas. Growing up, Karina was exposed to a lot of mental health struggle. Continuing to college, she focused on her passions, and has been attending the UNLV Honors college to work towards her bachelors of arts in psychology.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Karina plans to pursue clinical psychology, to use her skills and knowledge towards helping youth and young adolescents with mental health. She wants to continue to advocate, and educate, the hispanic community on mental health, and to focus on creating a more accepting environment while enriching lives.
Kashmira Rodrigues

Class Standing: Junior
Department: College of Liberal Arts
Major: Psychology

Academic Bio
Born in New Delhi, India but raised in Las Vegas, Kashmira Rodrigues is pursuing a degree in psychology at UNLV. She serves as an executive board member of UNLV Scientista and also works for UNLV’s Academic Success center as an SI leader.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
Being shaped by the unique community she grew up in, Kashmira plans on attending medical school to become a physician and give back to the Las Vegas Valley.
Academic Bio

Kesha Westbrooks is a senior Social Work student at UNLV. Kesha is very active on campus and in the community. She is a member of the Minority Serving Institution Student Council, BSW Representative for University Association of Social Work Students and Phi Alpha Delta Social Work Honor Society. She also works with the Rebel Rebound Program and the Alliance of Non-Traditional Students. Kesha is doing an internship with Mass Liberation, a community organization. Kesha is a proud winner of UNLV’S Dr. Thomas E. Wilson Outstanding Scholarship and Community Service Award. She was recently accepted to the Rebel Grad Advantage program in preparation for applying to grad school. She plans to use her education along with the lessons she learned from overcoming many personal challenges to make a positive impact in the lives of others and the community she loves. Kesha aspires to continue her academic journey, becoming a woman and leader that UNLV, her community, parents, mentors, friends, and especially her two beautiful daughters can be proud of.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

I plan to get my Master’s in Social Work. I am also thinking of THE dual enrollment JD/DPP P.
KRISTEN DANCHIK

Class Standing: Junior
Department: Psychology
Major: Psychology

Academic Bio
Kristen Danchik was born and raised in Las Vegas, Nevada. She currently participates in Occupational Therapy club at UNLV. Kristen chose Psychology as her major because it opens many doors and is very fulfilling.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
Kristen plans to pursue either Occupational Therapy or Speech Pathology Graduate School. She finds both careers rewarding because they help people overcome challenges they may face in their everyday tasks.
KRISTINE CHO

Class Standing: Junior

Department: College Of Education

Major: Secondary Education with a Concentration in Social Studies

Academic Bio
Kristine Cho is a third-year student majoring in Secondary Education with a concentration in Social Studies. She was born in Illinois and raised in Las Vegas. Kristine is a first-generation college student who plans to use her bachelor’s degree to become a high school history and government teacher.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
Kristine plans on pursuing either a Juris Doctorate or a Master's in Individualized study focusing on politics and multimedia. Kristine wants to use her degree to become an attorney or enter fields that will allow her to work on political media strategy and more.
**KYLE SUK**

Class Standing: Junior

Department: Health Science

Major: Kinesiology

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**Academic Bio**

Kyle is a junior pursuing a Bachelor’s Degree in Kinesiology at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He is a second-generation South Korean student from Riverside, California, and has recently moved to Las Vegas. He is involved in the Honors College, UNLV Buddies, Alpha Epsilon Delta, AMWA, and Alpha Phi Omega.

**What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?**

Kyle plans on pursuing medical school because of his passion for helping others through medicine. As a career, he wishes to become a physician and provide medical relief for families of vast socioeconomic and age demographics just like other physicians have for hi.
Leonard Brattoli is an English student in his Junior year at UNLV. A Nevada native, he is passionate about writing. Currently, he is the Blog Manager at the Beyond Thought Creative Arts Journal located here at UNLV. He chose his major to professionally write after graduation.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Leonard Brattoli is interested in attending either grad school or law school after graduation to further his career as a professional writer.
LESLY MONTES

Class Standing: Senior

Department: Liberal Arts

Major: Psychology

Academic Bio
Lesly is a first-generation college student. She was born in Las Vegas. She is passionate in advocating for mental health which inspired her to major in Psychology and minor in Human Services. She works on campus for the Communications Department and as a financial coordinator for the OUMP club at UNLV.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
Lesly plans in applying for the Clinical Mental Health Counseling Masters program. She understands the lack of people of color in the field and wants to change that. She knows what it’s like to struggle with mental health and believes it is as important as physical health.
His name is Luis Acevedo, and he moved here from Peru six years ago. He is also a first-generation college student who is currently a senior for Psychology Major at UNLV. He works for CSN. He chose Psychology because he believes that everyone deserves a holistic approach in mental health.

**What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?**

He is planning to pursue the graduate program in Clinical Mental Health Counseling at UNLV. His aspiration is to become a Clinical Professional Counselor. He will contribute to his community by advocating for mental health awareness and maximizing opportunities for the underrepresented population.