

GRADUATE COLLEGE REBEL AMBASSADORS PROGRAM

Congratulations to
our incoming cohort
2017-2018

JANNA BERNSTEIN



Janna Bernstein is a doctoral student in the Department of Teaching and Learning, with an emphasis in Cultural Studies, International Education, and Multicultural Education (CSIEME). Born and raised in the suburbs of Los Angeles in the San Fernando Valley, Janna received her B.A. and M. Ed. from the University of Southern California. Janna's research interest is how religion and spirituality have an impact on college students' identity development. Additionally, Janna works on campus full-time as the Assistant Director of Leadership and Scholar Development within the Division of Student Affairs. As a lifelong learner, Janna is always looking for new ways to engage in professional development opportunities and is thrilled to continue her role as a Graduate Rebel Ambassador!

MICHAEL BIESIADA



Michael Biesiada is a fourth-year Ph.D. student in the School of Public Policy and Leadership, supervised by Dr. Helen Neill. His area of interest investigates the impact of legislation on firm value. His dissertation research focuses on the impact of the Dodd-Frank Act on the Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT) market.

BREE BOPPRE



Bree is a doctoral candidate in Criminology and Criminal Justice under Dr. Emily Salisbury.

Her research and teaching involves correctional rehabilitation with a focus on gender and race. Her prior research has been published in *The Journal of Ethnicity in Criminal Justice and Victims & Offenders*.

Using mixed methods, Bree's dissertation will examine women's experiences related to justice-involvement and reentry.

PATRICK DALEIDEN



Patrick Daleiden is in his fourth year as a Ph.D. student in the Department of Computer Science. He works as a graduate research assistant in the Software Engineering and Media Lab as well as a teaching assistant for Software Engineering and Programming classes. His dissertation research is in the area of parallelism and concurrency in programming and software development. He conducts studies on human factors impacts of programming language features and parallel paradigms with a goal of making complex programming techniques easier and more accessible for scientists. In particular, he is focusing on massively parallel architectures for high performance and scientific computing like the Cherry Creek supercomputing cluster.

KATE EUGENIS



Kate Eugenis is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Political Science. Most recently from Arizona, she completed bachelor's degrees in political science and journalism at Northern Arizona University before moving to Las Vegas and completing a master's degree at UNLV. Her research interests revolve around media influence of strategic actors in politics, and she is currently writing her dissertation on the role of the primary election as a critical juncture in judicial elections. This is her third year participating in the Graduate Rebel Ambassadors Program.

CHRISTINE HAYNES



Christine (Chris) Haynes is a second-year M.Ed. student in Higher Education. She is interested in how to best serve emerging student populations, including first-generation college students and returning learners, such as veterans and displaced workers. Chris serves as the graduate vice president for the university's chapter of Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society and is proud to serve as a Grad Rebel Ambassador.

JENNIFER HIGHTOWER



Jennifer Hightower is a third year student in the Master of Business Administration program. She is specializing in a marketing concentration within the program in order to continue her work in direct mail, email, and database marketing in the Las Vegas casino and hospitality industry. Jennifer completed her undergraduate Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree in southern Mississippi where she focused her degree in Casino and Resort Management. With her graduate education from UNLV, Jennifer plans to focus her marketing efforts on creating and developing new strategies to continue to drive tourism to Las Vegas.

ERIKA MASAKI



Erika Masaki is a PhD candidate in the Department of Political Science supervised by Dr. Jonathan Strand. She specializes in the study of regional and international cooperation on environmental issues, and is also interested in the study of political philosophy. She completed the Graduate College Teaching, Research, and Mentorship Certificates and has served as a Grad Rebel Ambassador for the past two years. She is looking forward to continuing the Ambassador program and engaging with members of the campus and Las Vegas community.

DANIEL MAST



Daniel Mast is a doctoral candidate in the Radiochemistry program and conducting research in the High Pressure Science and Engineering center. Daniel's work is focused on structural analysis of technetium containing systems under extreme conditions. Pressure and temperature are used to manipulate the atomic structure and chemical reactivity of materials. Systems of interest included technetium metal, dioxide and heptoxide as well as the related transition metal systems. This work has led to conducting experiments or internships at several DOE labs: ANL, LBNL, LLNL, INL, BNL, and ORNL. Daniel also provides service crystallography for UNLV researchers. He has participated in the Nuclear Fuel Cycle summer school as a Teaching Assistant, teaches at the biannual ANS Nuclear Science workshop and hope to pursue more teaching opportunities.