FIFTH ANNUAL
INSPIRATION
INNOVATION
IMPACT
A CELEBRATION OF GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH

FEB. 2, 2018 | STUDEFN UNION BALROOM
OPENING RECEPTION FOR THE 2018 GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL
STUDENT RESEARCH FORUM
Beth Ok Kyung Wi is originally from South Korea. She graduated with a bachelor’s degree in hospitality from UNLV. Upon graduation, she spent 5,000 hours in the air as a flight attendant at Cathay Pacific Airways, where she learned the importance of quality service delivery and cultural sensitivity. In fall 2017, she began pursuing a dual MBA/M.S. in Hotel Administration at UNLV. Following her passion for making an impact in the hospitality industry, the focus of her research is examining the influence of patron and employee relationships on the acceptance of robotics in the workforce.

Kristyne Wiegand, Vice President, Graduate & Professional Student Association
Dr. Mary Croughan, Vice President, Research and Economic Development
Dr. Carl Reiber, Senior Vice Provost, UNLV
Dr. Kate Korgan, Dean, Graduate College

DAFNE ZENICE GUEVARA is a Panamanian flute player pursuing her doctoral degree in flute performance at UNLV. Guevara was a recipient of the Graduate College’s Doctoral Research Fellowship last summer, which helped her start the first Panamanian International Flute Festival. This social project targeted 67 students from all over Latin America living under social risk. During this festival, Dafne also gathered 17 flute professionals from all over the world as well as UNLV faculty, students and alumni. Her innovative idea is the primary research focus of her thesis titled “History and Development of Flute Festivals in Central America.”

Maria Ramos Gonzalez is a Ph.D. student in mechanical engineering. Her interdisciplinary dissertation focuses on manufacturing and testing a novel knee implant design for alleviating knee arthritis pain. She is collaborating with the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Department of Kinesiology, and local orthopedic surgeons to ensure the patented knee implant concept adheres to testing standards for durability and FDA standards for human implants and prosthetics. She recognizes the knowledge gained from following standards for human implants will lead her in the direction of creating her own smart prosthetics someday.
**Nick MacMurray** was born in New Hampshire and raised in Minnesota. He is a fifth-year Ph.D. student in the Department of Sociology. He enjoys both teaching and researching various aspects of death and dying in American life. His dissertation considers individuals and groups who are bringing social change efforts to the end of life, such as the green burial movement. In pursuing this research, Nick travels around the country to speak with death reform advocates at the forefront of these projects, supported by the UNLV Summer Doctoral Research Fellowship.

**Brenda Tena** expects to graduate with a master’s degree in architecture in spring 2018. She works as an architectural designer at Atlas Design. She earned a bachelor’s degree in interior architecture and design from UNLV in 2016 with high honors. Brenda managed the interior architecture and visual brand identity of the UNLV entry in the 2017 U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon. Brenda was born and raised in Las Vegas and aspires to continue working in the architecture and design industry after graduation.

**Shon Reed** is a second-year master’s student in the Department of Criminal Justice. His thesis assesses the relationship between early childhood abuse, masculinity, and the decisions to engage in criminal behavior within male populations. The goal of his research is to change the societal ideas of what it means to be a survivor of abuse and to create resources for those who are affected by violence in their youth. After obtaining his master’s degree in the spring of 2018, Shon plans to pursue a Ph.D. in criminology and continue his research into gender and crime.

**Dr. Jeremy Ashton Houska** (‘10, Ph.D., Experimental Psychology; ’07-’08 GPSA President) is the Director of Institutional Research and Assessment at Centenary University in New Jersey. In addition to data support for the executive team, he oversees institutional assessment initiatives and strategic planning. While his work is predominantly focused on performance indicators and outcomes, he studies positive organizational leadership and design thinking. Prior to this administrative role, he served as an Associate Professor of Psychology and is co-author of the forthcoming textbook – *Success for Psychology Majors*. 
Performers

The UNLV “Ragtime Rebels” Marimba Band is an internationally renowned ensemble that carries the ragtime and novelty band tradition through the talented students of the program. In addition to playing the ragtime classics, the Ragtime Rebels perform classical works, traditional Mexican and Guatemalan tunes, arrangements and compositions by band members, Christmas and holiday music, and fun top 40 style music. The band was formed in 1989 by Dean Gronemeier, has been directed by Timothy Jones since 1999, and has been co-directed by Lucas Brust since 2017. The Ragtime Rebels perform frequently and have been featured artists in concerts throughout the United States, Mexico, and Australia.
Congratulations to the Spring 2018 recipients of the Graduate College Medallion, which recognizes exceptionally involved and high-achieving students.

Moinak Bhaduri, Mathematical Sciences
Breanna Boppre, Criminology and Criminal Justice
Sanjana Das, Electrical Engineering
Katelyn DiBenedetto, Anthropology
Jeffrey Eggleston, Interdisciplinary Health Sciences – Biomechanics
Jessica Hartman, Mechanical Engineering
Anthony Jordan, Political Science
Eshani Lee, Chemistry
Sarah Macintosh, Anthropology
Matthew Martinez, Anthropology
Erika Masaki, Political Science
Daniel Mast, Radiochemistry
Michael Moncrieff, Anthropology
Matin Pirouz Nia, Computer Science
Shahab Taregh Tayeb, Electrical Engineering
Michael Trevathan, Political Science

SUPPORT GRADUATE STUDENTS

Graduate assistantships, scholarships, and fellowships support graduate students and make possible their innovative and impactful research. For more information on how you can support graduate education at UNLV, contact:

Elizabeth Kahane, Associate Director of Development
702-895-3429 | elizabeth.kahane@unlv.edu
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