



Grad Rebel Advantage Program

Congratulations to our incoming
2019-2020 Mentors



**Alex
Goncalves**

**Ph.D. Student,
Learning Sciences**



My research is currently focused on diverse aspects of student learning and the learning sciences, as well as the use of data and analytics within the research and academic administrative environments.

Being a Grad Rebel Advantage Mentor is an honor, and a chance to help my undergrad. colleagues on their path to an even higher degree. My experience as a grad. student is life-changing, and I am sure that aspects of it will greatly help and potentially inspire those who are preparing themselves to become a graduate student as well.

ALINA SWAFFORD

**Ph.D. student,
Department of
Kinesiology and
Nutrition Sciences**

Adviser: Dr. John Mercer



Academic Bio

Alina's background is in Sports and Exercise Science. She is currently a second-year doctoral student in the Interdisciplinary Health Sciences program with an area of study in biomechanics. Her interests are in improving sports performance and injury prevention. Alina's specific academic and research interests are what drew her to UNLV.

Why did you choose to be a Grad Rebel Advantage Mentor?

Alina choose to be a Grad Rebel Advantage Mentor because she is passionate about helping others. She believes that being able to share experiences can be extremely beneficial. Alina hopes to ease the stress of the graduate process and help her mentees gain confidence toward picking their future path.

BRIDGET COWAN LONGORIA

**Doctoral Candidate,
Department of Sociology**

**Adviser: Dr. Simon
Gottschalk**



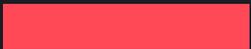
Academic Bio

Bridget is a sociologist focusing on culture and social psychology. She currently studies poverty and identity, concentrating on how discourses and organizations influence, impact, and inspire our perceptions, beliefs, and interactions. She came to UNLV to further her graduate studies in one of the most diverse and unique cities in the world.

Why did you choose to be a Grad Rebel Advantage Mentor?

As a first-generation graduate student, mentorship has been instrumental in Bridget's academic success. As a mentor, she hopes to be able to support other students' in their academic journey by demystifying the academy and equipping them with a firm foundation for graduate study.

CHARLI D. AGUILAR



**Ph.D. student,
Department of
Integrated Health
Sciences**

**Adviser: Dr. Graham R.
McGinnis**



Academic Bio

Charli is a Rebel alum who completed both a Bachelors and a Master's degree at UNLV. She is now beginning her second year of her PhD program in integrated health sciences with a focus in exercise physiology. She loves exercise sciences and her academic interests trend around disease prevention and longevity.

Why did you choose to be a Grad Rebel Advantage Mentor?

After graduation Charli hopes to continue to work in the field of academia. It is important to her to be a well-rounded professional in all areas of her career. Developing mentorship skills through participation in this excellent program will assist her in achieving her goals. She wishes to pass on her knowledge and experience. She would like to support others in accomplishing their goals and hopes those who learn from her feel respected and appreciated.

CHIN CHAI HUAN

Ph.D. student, Department
of Geoscience

Adviser: Dr. Ganqing Jiang



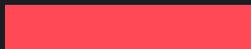
Academic Bio

I am a PhD candidate and my research project focuses on understanding the relationship between the change of global carbon perturbation and life evolutionary history in the late Cambrian period (501-488 Ma). I chose to do my PhD at UNLV because UNLV has a complete laboratory for the geochemical analysis.

Why did you choose to be a Grad Rebel Advantage Mentor?

Being the first generation in my family to attend college and to earn my PhD, I understand the application process for graduate schools can be mentally exhausting and financially burdening. I want to share my experiences and the information I have acquired over the years with the motivated students to succeed in the process.

CHENGCHENG LI



**Ph.D. student,
College of Education,
Department of Teaching
and Learning**

**Adviser:
Dr. Shaoan Zhang**



Academic Bio

Chengcheng is a doctoral student in the Department of Teaching and Learning. Her research focuses on in-service teachers' self-efficacy and their constructive teaching practice. She is also interested in the research on engineering undergraduates' academic success. She loves and enjoys the diverse community of UNLV.

Why did you choose to be a Grad Rebel Advantage Mentor?

Chengcheng is willing to share her experience of application for graduate college and her research experience with undergraduates and hopes they can gain a sense of direction for future endeavors and successfully navigate the path to continue their education.

DHIRAJ SAIN CHAVVA

**Master's student,
Management
Entrepreneurship &
Technology**

**Adviser: Dr. Gregory
Moody**



Academic Bio

Dhiraj earned his BS in Zoology, and Environmental Science from St. Joseph College in Bangalore, India. He earned his first Msc in Environmental Science from the University College Dublin in Ireland. He is currently working on his MS in Management Information Systems and hopes to enroll in the dual MBA/MIS program in the spring of 2020.

Why did you choose to be a Grad Rebel Advantage Mentor?

Dhiraj chose to be a Grad Rebel Advantage Mentor because he knew how important having a mentor is because he has had multiple mentors that have shaped who he is and helped him develop his passions. Mentors truly make a difference in the lives of their mentees and because he has been extremely privileged to attend UNLV- he would love to give back to the institution by helping some of our undergraduates succeed in their educational goals.

Daniel Perez

**Ph.D. student,
Department of
Anthropology**

**Adviser: Karen G. Harry,
Ph.D.**



Academic Bio

Daniel is a fourth-year anthropology doctoral student with an emphasis in archaeology. His research focuses on anthropological approaches to understanding identity through prehistoric ceramics in the American Southwest. Daniel chose UNLV because of the strong research emphasis the Department of Anthropology has placed in the prehistory of the Grand Canyon.

Why did you choose to be a Grad Rebel Advantage Mentor?

Daniel chose to be a Grad Rebel Advantage Mentor to provide guidance to students who have been provided an opportunity previously unavailable to himself. Furthermore, he is interested in providing undergraduate students the insights he has gained in preparing for and succeeding in graduate school.

JANNA BERNSTEIN



**Ph.D. student,
Teaching and
Learning with an
emphasis in Cultural
Studies, International
Education, and
Multicultural
Education**

**Advisor:
Dr. Christine Clark**



Academic Bio



Janna is a 5th year doctoral student and chose UNLV because of the amazing CSIEME faculty, colleagues, and focus of the program. Her research utilizes critical race theory and intersectional analysis to investigate the leadership roles of women in higher education administration.

Why did you choose to be a Grad Rebel Advantage Mentor?



As an individual that has received mentorship from a variety of arenas, Janna knows firsthand the impact a mentor can have on an undergraduate's career trajectory. Finding ways to help students, taking them under her wing, and advocating for them to succeed is one of her greatest passions.



LINSEY BELISLE

**PhD. Student,
Department of Criminal
Justice**

**Adviser: Dr. Emily
Salisbury**



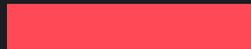
Academic Bio

Linsey is a third year PhD student in Criminal Justice and Criminology. Her research interests include correctional reform, gender responsive practices, teaching pedagogy, and harm reduction. Her master's thesis examined the long term outcomes of juvenile drug courts in the Midwest.

Why did you choose to be a Grad Rebel Advantage Mentor?

During her first year as a mentor, Linsey realized how much she enjoyed working with students and sharing her experiences of grad school with them. This year, she hopes to act as a resource for students, and help them understand and navigate the processes of applying to graduate school.

NICOLE THOMAS



**M.S. Student,
Department of Teaching
& Learning**

Adviser: Dr. Tina Vo

Academic Bio

Nicole received her Bachelor's in Biology from UNLV. She is an avid researcher, previously conducting work in physics, geology, and microbiology. She is currently pursuing her Master's in Curriculum & Instruction with a focus in Science Education. Her research interests include addressing misconceptions in science and diversifying STEM. Nicole chose UNLV for this particular program as it allowed her flexibility to use her science background while also working with the Clark County community.

Why did you choose to be a Grad Rebel Advantage Mentor?

As a first-generation college student, navigating the system was a difficult task. Nicole received guidance from both professors and graduate students alike, and she intends to pass along those opportunities to undergraduates as well. She is excited to work with and assist students in getting involved with research, furthering their professional development, and attending graduate school.

Serena Hicks

**Master's student,
Department of
Communication
Studies
Adviser: Dr. Donovan
Conley**



Academic Bio

Serena Hicks earned her B.A in Communication Studies at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. She continued her education by going into the Master's Program for the Department of Communication Studies. She attained a graduate assistantship and teaches Com 101: Oral Communication. Her research interests include algorithmic rhetoric, privacy issues, social media, and how it affects the public sphere. She chose to attend UNLV due to the diversity, opportunities for academic growth, and her amazing support system from the communication studies professors.

Why did you choose to be a Grad Rebel Advantage Mentor?

Serena has a passion for helping people as well as a knack for relating to them. She has firsthand experience and knowledge with the stress and uncertainty of post-graduation. Her decision to continue her education was challenging, but she couldn't be happier with her decision. Through working with UNLV undergraduate students, she hopes to provide a support system, give them advice on how to prepare for grad school, and give them the proper resources to ensure their success.

Shon M. Reed, M.A.

**Doctoral Student
Department of
Criminology and
Criminal Justice**

**Adviser: Dr. Melissa
Rorie**



Academic Bio

Shon Reed is a second-year doctoral student in the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice. His primary areas of research focus on gender identity and crime, male victimization, childhood abuse, and white nationalism. He chose UNLV due to the university's supportive faculty and heavy focus on research.

Why did you choose to be a Grad Rebel Advantage Mentor?

Shon chose to become a Mentor as a way of passing along the knowledge given to him by his advisers. His success can be attributed to the dedication of those who guided him through his studies. Shon hopes to play this same role for upcoming scholars participating in the program.