Grad Rebel Advantage Program

Congratulations to our incoming 2018-2019 cohort
College of Education
Abigail Isacoff

At the age of 18, Abigail moved to Las Vegas to attend UNLV on her own from Colorado. She currently works for the UNLV School of Dental Medicine as a student worker for the Admissions office. Abigail is part of the National Society of Leadership and Success, as well as the Historian for Rebel Educators.

Class Standing: Junior
Department: College of Education
Major: Elementary Education

Academic Bio

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Abigail has the ambitious goals of starting the Educational Psychology Masters Program at UNLV, and then attending the Doctorate Program for Educational Psychology right after. Her hopes are to become a child therapist and help the youth of America.
Caroline Farah moved from Alexandria, Egypt at the age of 10, and ever since, she has been residing in Las Vegas. She is currently majoring in Secondary Education and minoring in Entrepreneurship. She works as the Logistic Program Assistant for the SDSJ office. She chose her major as she would one day like to teach at the university level.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

She plans on pursuing a Masters in Higher Education or a Masters in Business Administration (MBA). She would still like to explore more Graduate programs before making a decision.
Courtney Jones

Class Standing: Junior
Department: College of Education, Department of Counselor Education, School Psychology, and Human Services
Major: Human Services

Academic Bio
Courtney is from Las Vegas, NV and Los Angeles, CA. She is currently employed as the Building Manager at UNLV’s Center for Social Justice and is a Campus Organizer for Advocates for Youth. She is a Human Services major, pursuing a career in macro level work within human rights and social justice.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
Courtney would like to pursue a Masters Degree in Global Health, Public Health, or Sociology. She hopes to gain skills that can advance personal and societal social consciousness, allowing her education and activism to transcend into radical social justice techniques. As well, she’d like to further explore social inequality and frameworks for global liberation.
Linda Arlene Quevedo

Class Standing: Senior
Department: College of Education
Major: Early Childhood Education

Academic Bio
Linda Arlene was born and raised in San Diego, CA. She relocated to Nevada in 2005. She is a first generation college student and an Early Childhood Education major. She is currently a Preschool Director and has been in the Early Childhood Education field for 12 years.

Linda earned the Dean’s List Honors in the Spring 2018 semester.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
Linda Arlene will pursue a Master of Education in Special Education. Her goal is to obtain her Teaching License and work in the Special Education field. She wants to make a difference in children’s lives, see them thrive, reach their fullest potential and be a part of the change.
Megan Willson

Academic Bio
Megan grew up in New Jersey and moved to Las Vegas in 2015 to begin her undergraduate journey at UNLV. She is a first-generation college student and currently works as a teacher’s aide. She chose her major because of a life-long passion and dream to become a teacher.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
She plans to pursue a Master’s degree in Curriculum and Instruction; Elementary Education to further her own knowledge to create a better learning environment and opportunity for her future students.

Class Standing: Senior
Department: College of Education
Major: Elementary Education
Menyaun Miller

Menyaun is a homeschooling mother of three that maintains an allergy-friendly household. Between managing home and school she spends her time advocating for populations that have been directly or indirectly impacted by addiction. Menyaun aspires to develop a self-sustaining transitional community for displaced women and children with hopes to successfully replicate the model for veterans and other disenfranchised populations.

Class Standing: Senior
Department: Education
Major: Human Services

Academic Bio
Menyaun intends to pursue a Masters of Science in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from, with the desire to become a Licensed Professional Counselor that specializes in addiction, trauma and women’s issues. Due to the immense need of helping professionals in Nevada, Menyaun is determined to remain in Las Vegas and open a practice within the city.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
Menyaun intends to pursue a Masters of Science in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from, with the desire to become a Licensed Professional Counselor that specializes in addiction, trauma and women’s issues. Due to the immense need of helping professionals in Nevada, Menyaun is determined to remain in Las Vegas and open a practice within the city.
Mina Raeisi

Class Standing: Junior
Department: College of Education
Major: Secondary Education, Area of Study: English

A first generation college student, Filipino-Persian, graduated from Laughlin High School at 16, passionate about technology and education, as I work for Apple Inc. right now, I hope to work for Apple’s education team.

Academic Bio

Right now, I’m in between attending graduate school at UNLV or WGU. UNLV for Master of Education/Master of Science - Curriculum & Instruction; Technology Leadership, or WGU for M.Ed. Learning and Technology. I want to have an Education background.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Right now, I’m in between attending graduate school at UNLV or WGU. UNLV for Master of Education/Master of Science - Curriculum & Instruction; Technology Leadership, or WGU for M.Ed. Learning and Technology. I want to have an Education background.
Valerie Ann Lujan

Class Standing: Junior

Department: College of Education

Major/Minor: Human Services/Addictions Treatment

Academic Bio
Valerie is a transfer student from El Monte, Ca. (SoCal). On campus, Valerie represents RHA as Complex President and is active in many programs within the Office of Service Learning and Leadership. She chose her major of Human Services/Addictions Treatment because she deeply cares about the wellness of others and hopes to inspire change regarding the stigmas and stereotypes associated with addiction.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
Upon graduation from UNLV, Valerie is eager to pursue a Master’s Degree in City Planning with a concentration in Housing, Community, and Economic Development (HCED). She is passionate about obtaining this degree so that she can assist communities to flourish and develop while maintaining their culture and unique identities.
Wendy Murillo has been a resident of Las Vegas, Nevada for the past 23 years. Wendy was the first person in her family to pursue a higher education. She attended College of Southern Nevada from 2014 to 2016 and is currently pursuing a Bachelors in Secondary Education with an emphasis in Social Studies and a minor in Political Science. Wendy is also a Guest Teacher at the CCSD.

Class Standing: Senior
Department: College of Education
Major: Secondary Education with emphasis on Social Studies

Academic Bio
Wendy Murillo has been a resident of Las Vegas, Nevada for the past 23 years. Wendy was the first person in her family to pursue a higher education. She attended College of Southern Nevada from 2014 to 2016 and is currently pursuing a Bachelors in Secondary Education with an emphasis in Social Studies and a minor in Political Science. Wendy is also a Guest Teacher at the CCSD.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
My goal is to pursue a Master of Science - Curriculum & Instruction in Secondary Social Studies. It will get me one step closer to my goal of one day becoming a professor at a University.
College of Fine Arts
Cambria Del Castillo

Class Standing: Senior
Department: Fine Arts
Major: Theatre Studies

Academic Bio
Cambria is a Vegas native in her fourth year at UNLV. She currently works as a Resident Assistant and Diversity Advocate on campus. She is also a Program Assistant in the Student Diversity and Social Justice office. She is currently majoring in her passion; Theatre Studies, and has decided to pursue a career in Entertainment Business.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
Cambria is planning on pursuing a Masters in Business Administration. She eventually wants to manage a live entertainment/production company. As she has spent her last four years in undergrad learning the rope of live production, she hopes to now fine tune her skills in Business and Management through an MBA.
A Californian by birth but a Nevadan by choice. After moving here in 2008, Dakota Polk, after attending the College of Southern Nevada, transferred to UNLV. Having always been interested in the arts, upon taking a performance class she was introduced to the idea of playwriting by a professor. Since then she has worked on several Nevada Conservatory Theatre Productions. As of Fall of 2018 she is also the Secretary/Treasurer of AASTAF, or the African American Society of Theatre and Film.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Dakota is currently in the process of applying to several playwrighting programs across the country. Having just completed her first full length play, she is working hard on editing it and staging a reading in the Spring of 2019.
Miranda Sage Barnard

Class Standing: Senior

Department: College of Fine Arts

Major: Art History

Academic Bio

She is a Las Vegas local currently working on attaining her B.A. in Art History. She has an interest in pursuing a career amongst museums, galleries, and archives, furthering the research on the Migratory Period in Northern Europe.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Miranda is planning to further her education with a Masters in Art History, and eventually a Doctorate. Currently she is considering the M.A. of Art History with an emphasis on Ancient Art program at University of Texas, Austin.
Amanda Roth

Amanda Roth is a Las Vegas local with a passion for the social sciences who is currently in her fourth year at UNLV as a Psychology and Sociology double major and Anthropology minor. Amanda works at the UNLV Lied Library and is a member of the Interactive Measurements Group.

Class Standing: Senior
Department: Psychology
Major: Psychology/Sociology

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Amanda plans on pursuing a graduate degree in Psychology at the University of Washington. She is excited for the opportunity to earn the most well rounded possible education, to work under experts in the field, and to pursue her own research questions.
Amira Blake is a local Las Vegan who was born here but has also lived in many different states. For work, she is a private tutor and belongs to the Neuropsychology Research Lab as an RA. She chose her major because neuropsychology is something that she is passionate about.

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

Academic Bio

Amira Blake plans on pursuing a graduate program in neuropsychology. She is interested in this program because the biology of the human brain is fascinating and the study of the brain and behavior is fundamental to the development of humans.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Amira Blake plans on pursuing a graduate program in neuropsychology. She is interested in this program because the biology of the human brain is fascinating and the study of the brain and behavior is fundamental to the development of humans.
Ms. Reyes is a first-generation college student originally from Los Angeles, CA. She chose Anthropology as her major at UNLV because she believes that cultural perspectives are vital to achieve unity and respect within societies. She hopes to contribute to the ongoing conversation of what it means to be a human.

Ms. Reyes will pursue a PhD in Anthropology and an MBA to fulfill two life goals. The first goal is to help societies understand misunderstood and misrepresented communities. The second, is to be a social entrepreneur and partner with an international community to create an ethical and sustainable tea company.
Camisha Fagan

Class Standing: Senior
Department: College of Liberal Arts
Major: Sociology and English

Academic Bio
Camisha Fagan is an undergraduate student attending the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Currently, she is striving to obtain her Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and English. Her research interests are centered on race and ethnicity. Being the second eldest of eight children and a first generation college student, one of Camisha's personal goals is to ensure that her siblings are afforded the opportunity to attend college with little-to-no financial strain.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
Camisha's professional goals include obtaining her PhD in Sociology and having a career within social research.
Cherokee Conley

Class Standing: Senior
Department: Liberal Arts
Major: Psychology

Academic Bio

Cherokee is originally from Louisiana but during high school years lived in San Diego, California. She loves volunteering to help individuals become U.S. citizens. Cherokee chose her major because not only does she have family with major psychological issues such as schizophrenia but is also interested in educating larger minority communities on mental illness such as prison populations.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Cherokee plans on pursuing either a masters degree in forensic psychology or a PsyD. Cherokee would pursue these programs because she has a strong interest in diagnosing and treating patients in a jail or prison setting, aiding the police, FBI and federal government or diagnosing and treating children.
Cody Quinn

Class Standing: Senior
Department: Psychology
Major: Psychology

Cody will receive his B.A. in Psychology this Fall. He moved to Las Vegas from San Antonio, Texas. His involvements are in Psi Chi Honors Society, and being a Founding Father of Alpha Sigma Phi, Las Vegas. He chose psychology because of how compelling and diverse its uses are.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

He plans on pursuing a Clinical Psychology graduate program. His reasoning for this pursuit is because he has learned and studied the foundations of psychology, and now wants to go further in learning advanced principles and methods. In both research and clinical settings, he believes he will make an impact.
Erik Diaz was born and raised in Las Vegas, NV. Born to Latino immigrant parents, he is a proud first generation college student. Erik’s passions are travel and design, which led him to study Interior Design and Landscape Architecture as an undergrad at UNLV. Erik also has professional experience in Architecture, having previously worked for Wynn Design & Development.

Class Standing: Senior

Department: Liberal Arts

Major: Multidisciplinary Studies

Academic Bio

I plan on pursuing a Master of Science in Management Information Systems. I chose this graduate program because of the exciting opportunities presented to emerging professionals in the field. In exploring paths to an alternate career, Management Information Systems offered a way to integrate my past design, technical, and organizational skills into a growing and in-demand profession.
Esmeralda Cruz Lopez was born and raised in D.F, Mexico and came to the U.S at nine years old. She is a first generation college student and the co-chair of the student organization called UndocuNetwork. Currently, she is conducting research that examines the resiliency and joys of undocumented students in a hyper anti-immigrant era.

Class Standing: Senior
Department: Interdisciplinary, Gender and Ethnic Studies & Sociology Department
Major: Gender and Sexuality studies & Sociology Major

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Ms. Cruz Lopez plans to pursue a Ph.D in Sociology as she aspires to become a transformative educator. She aims to produce critical academic scholarship that will inspire those who encounter and read her work. Finally, she also aspires to produce academic scholarship that continues to speak to the experiences of underrepresented communities.

Academic Bio
Hannah Godfrey

Class Standing: Junior
Department: Liberal Arts
Major: Psychology

Academic Bio
Hannah was born and raised in Las Vegas, Nevada. She works as a math tutor, which is enjoyable because she likes working with children and wants the experience doing such. She chose her major in psychology because she wants to assist individuals in improving mental health.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
Hannah plans on pursuing a PhD or PsyD program in psychology to grant her the credentials needed to be a practicing psychologist and eventually a professor in psychology.
Academic Bio

Helena is a first generation college student from Southern California. She is an active member of OUMP and UNLV Greek life. She is a Research Assistant in two psychology labs and presented at the Undergraduate Research Symposium Spring 2018. She became a psychology major to research neurological and psychological disorders.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Helena plans on pursuing a behavioral neuroscience or neuropsychology graduate program. She is interested in abnormal behaviors, and how neurological function and trauma influences behaviors and relationships. Her goal is to make influential discoveries in the field of neuroscience through research.
Jayson Dagher

Jayson Dagher is a first-generation college student born in Beirut, Lebanon. He is currently a local Las Vegan and a proud rebel, double majoring in Psychology and Political Science. He is currently the National Society of Leadership and Success (NSLS) Chapter President and the former Student Body Vice President. He chose his major due to his love for politics, specifically international politics.

Class Standing: Senior
Department: College of Liberal Arts
Major: Psychology, Political Science

Academic Bio

Jayson plans on pursuing a Masters of Science degree in Forced Migration and a Ph.D. in International Relations. His love for international organizations and politics, along with his background on interning for the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and being a Fellow for Young People For (YP4), gave Jayson the motivation to find his passion in migration and refugee work.
Joan M. Silva

Class Standing: Junior
Department: Psychology
Major: Psychology
Minor: Neuroscience

Academic Bio
Joan is a non-traditional student originally from Hawaii and is returning to help her daughter who is diagnosed with ADHD. She is affiliated with OUMP, German Club, and is a Research Assistant in Dr. Parks’ Human Memory Lab. Joan chose the Psychology major to investigate brain structures and connections to developmental disorders.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
Joan will pursue the Clinical Psychology graduate program with an emphasis on Neuropsychology. Her main interests are seeking different treatment methods specific to ADHD. By merging genetics and neuropsychology, Joan’s goal is to correlate relationships between gene associations and its impact on cognition, emotions, and behavior.
Joy Y. Hill

Class Standing: Senior
Department: Psychology
Major: Psychology

Joy is a local Las Vegan. She works as a Research Assistant and Community Outreach Coordinator at the Family Research & Services lab at UNLV. Joy chose Psychology as a major because she is dedicated to understanding the intricate workings of the mind.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Joy plans on pursuing a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology. She intends to treat veterans and civilians with evidence-based treatments to help improve their lives. Giving back to the community has been her passion and she will continue to work with diverse charities to make a positive difference in our world.

Academic Bio
Kaelyn Griffin

Kaelyn is originally from Illinois, but moved to Las Vegas in July 2017 transferring to UNLV from a university in Chicago. She is a member of Psi Chi, German club, OUMP, and works on campus at the SRWC pool. Kaelyn chose psychology as a fascinating field and path to a counseling career.

Class Standing: Senior
Department: College of Liberal Arts, Psychology
Major: Psychology

Academic Bio

Kaelyn plans to pursue a graduate counseling program with the goal of licensure on completion. She is interested in working with military or young adult populations and will be applying to MSW, MFT, and PhD programs.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Kaelyn plans to pursue a graduate counseling program with the goal of licensure on completion. She is interested in working with military or young adult populations and will be applying to MSW, MFT, and PhD programs.
Kayla Millette

Class Standing: Senior
Department: Liberal Arts
Major: Psychology, Spanish

Kayla is a Las Vegas local. She studied abroad last year at the University of Alicante in Spain. She is a mentor for the Honors College and a member of Alpha Gamma Delta Sorority. She works in the UNLV Child School Refusal and Anxiety Disorders Clinic and the ACT Lab on campus.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

She plans on pursuing a doctoral program in clinical psychology. She is passionate about learning and doing research in abnormal psychology. She wants to eventually be able to evaluate and diagnose patients, helping to find the cause and most effective treatment method.
I grew up in Los Angeles, CA with six sisters, my mom and me. I joined the Army to get away from the rough neighborhood I grew up in. Served six years with two combat tours to Afghanistan, I was also the first to ever join the military in my family. I was medically retired February 2015, when I relocated to Las Vegas, NV and started my college journey. I was hired on with the City Marshall’s, but the politics became overwhelming so I put in my two weeks notice to resign and continued my education.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

The graduate program I would like to pursue is Public Health. I choose this particular field to help cure family and friends of diseases that can be easily avoided. A lot of the diseases comes from the foods we put into our body, so I wanted to further my education about health and give it to the people who need guidance and support on how to live a healthier life.
Maribel Estrada Calderón

Class Standing: Senior

Department: History

Major: U.S. and Latin American History

Academic Bio

Maribel is a first generation college student who moved to Las Vegas from Chihuahua, Mexico at the age of 7. A 7th grade history teacher inspired her to pursue a degree in U.S. History. She currently collects the oral histories of the Latinx Community in the Las Vegas valley.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

She will pursue a Master’s Degree in U.S. History. Besides wanting to continue to research the diversity of experiences of Indigenous Nations and Latinos in the U.S., she wants to become a professor of the subject.
Marlena Gatlin

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

Academic Bio
Marlena is a Psychology major with interests in Couples & Family Therapy. Although, she is undecided in what she wants to do with her Psychology degree she knows she wants to attend Graduate school and earn her PhD. As a current undergraduate student, Marlena works for the UNLV Graduate College as a student worker.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
Marlena plans on attending Graduate College to earn her PhD. Marlena is still deciding whether she wants to focus on Educational Psychology or Clinical Psychology.
Maya Cohen

Local Las Vegan, first generation college student, Vice President of Psi Chi: National Honor Society for Psychology, paid Research Assistant at The Optimum Performance Program supervised by Dr. Donohue, chose major because of its help to people that don’t necessary seem like they need it but do immensely

Class Standing: Senior

Department: College of Liberal Arts

Major: Psychology

Academic Bio

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Maya is interesting in pursuing a doctoral program in Clinical Psychology. This program will not only give her the ability to work with patients but also have the opportunity to profess at the University level.
Mercie Davis

Mercie Davis is a Las Vegas local and first-generation college student. She is a part of the Honors College. Also, has been working at UNLV Reprographics Print Shop for the last three years. Mercie is involved in the Black Student Organization, Phi Kappa Phi and Alpha Kappa Delta.

Class Standing: Senior
Department: Liberal Arts
Major: Sociology

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Mercie is planning to further her knowledge in Sociology with a focus on race and gender studies. To either become a Sociologist or Market Analysis Reacher.
Pamela Green is a senior at UNLV and is a Research Assistant in the Child School Refusal and Anxiety Disorders Clinic and the Social Development Laboratory. Additionally, Pamela is involved with various student organizations such as Psi Chi and OUMP. Ultimately, her passion is in mental health care and mindfulness.

Class Standing: Senior
Department: Liberal Arts
Major: Psychology

Academic Bio
Pamela plans to pursue a masters degree in school psychology. During her experience working with research it is clear that promoting the education and wellness of students is what is important and that all students are able to succeed.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Pamela plans to pursue a masters degree in school psychology. During her experience working with research it is clear that promoting the education and wellness of students is what is important and that all students are able to succeed.
Phillip Edwards

He is a local from Las Vegas who works on campus as a Mathematics tutor. A first generation college student who chose two majors due to his passion for learning, math, and science.

Class Standing: Senior
Department: Liberal Arts
Major: Psychology and Mathematics

Academic Bio
He plans on pursuing a Neuroscience PhD in hopes of better understanding how the mechanisms of the mind impact human memory.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
He plans on pursuing a Neuroscience PhD in hopes of better understanding how the mechanisms of the mind impact human memory.
Rachael Randolph

Class Standing: Senior
Department: World Languages
Major: Romance Languages

Academic Bio
Rachael is a native Las Vegan who is a first-generation student at UNLV. She chose her Romance Languages major due to a passion for learning foreign languages. Additionally, Rachael has minors in Women's Studies and Afro-American Studies because she is an ardent supporter of social justice.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
Rachael would like to pursue a graduate program in criminal justice because she is passionate about helping create criminal justice reform in the United States. Ultimately, Rachael would like to have a career with the American Civil Liberties Union.
Robert Evans

Robert Evans is from the Las Vegas Community. He is heavily involved in Housing and Residential Life as a Resident Assistant and previously as the Residence Hall Association President. Alongside his work as a Resident Assistant, he is the Director of Engagement for CSUN Student Government. Robert chose Sociology as his major to better understand the world around him and to provide support for his pursuit of Student...

Class Standing: Senior
Department: Campus Life
Major: Sociology

Academic Bio
Robert Evans plans on pursuing a Student Affairs/Higher Education program. He is also considering a Masters in Counseling or a Masters in Public Administration.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
Robert Evans plans on pursuing a Student Affairs/Higher Education program. He is also considering a Masters in Counseling or a Masters in Public Administration.
Rodrigo Vazquez hails from a small town in Michoacán and has been living in Las Vegas with his family for over 20 years. His various interests led him to major in Economics and English, with a concentration in Creative Writing. He is interested in storytelling, analysis, and the human condition.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Rodrigo Vazquez plans to pursue a Masters in Economics after graduation before applying to Law School, where he hopes to specialize in international law and human rights. He is also interested in pursuing a Ph.D. in English where he hopes to contribute to the field of Postcolonial Theory.
Class Standing: Senior

Department: Liberal Arts College

Major: Gender and Sexuality

Minor (s): Human Services & Couples and Family Therapy

Rosalie Romeo

Academic Bio
Rosalie is a local Las Vegan, first generation college student, Italian club member, and Electronic Entertainment Sales person at Fry’s Electronics. Rosalie chose her major because she is passionate about advocacy and social justice issues. She is passionate about learning more about cultural competency, how to better help her community, and how to become a better advocate.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
Rosalie plans on pursuing the Marriage and Family Therapy graduate program. She is passionate about becoming a sex therapist and being a helper/therapist for those that need it. She wants to learn how to effectively become a good listener and a more empathetic person in order to help people who feel as if they have no one who can help them and the Marriage and Family Therapy graduate program is the best option for her.
Rosalina Trinidad

Rosalina Trinidad is a local Las Vegan, and first generation Filipino-American college student. Currently, she is conducting research and developing intersectional methods derived from art, theater, cultural expression, and education in the Interdisciplinary, Gender and Ethnic Studies department.

Class Standing: Senior
Department: Interdisciplinary, Gender and Ethnic Studies
Major: Interdisciplinary Studies

Academic Bio
Rosalina Trinidad is a local Las Vegan, and first generation Filipino-American college student. Currently, she is conducting research and developing intersectional methods derived from art, theater, cultural expression, and education in the Interdisciplinary, Gender and Ethnic Studies department.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
Rosalina is planning to pursue a Masters in Theater, Dance and Performative Studies. By pursuing a program that uses intersectional methods of research and artistic expression, she firmly believes that this will help her in contributing to, advancing, and developing the Asian American identity and community.
Sarah Flood is a Las Vegas local who is passionate about her academic pursuits and graduated high school with an Associate's Degree. She is now an 18-year-old Junior at UNLV and is majoring in psychology. Sarah chose this because of her interest in understanding human behavior; her goal is to become a clinical psychologist.

Class Standing: Junior
Department: Liberal Arts
Major: Psychology

Academic Bio
Sarah plans to pursue a Clinical Psychology graduate program. These doctoral programs place an emphasis on both research and clinical work. Sarah aspires to be a successful and well-rounded clinical psychologist; she feels pursuing a graduate program that emphasises these areas will help her achieve this goal.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
Sarah plans to pursue a Clinical Psychology graduate program. These doctoral programs place an emphasis on both research and clinical work. Sarah aspires to be a successful and well-rounded clinical psychologist; she feels pursuing a graduate program that emphasises these areas will help her achieve this goal.
Tamara was born in Lebanon and raised in Las Vegas. She participates in AMSA and is the Psychology Club Coordinator. She works as a behavior interventionist and volunteers at a children’s hospital. She chose psychology as her major because she enjoys learning about the human mind behavior.

Class Standing: Senior
Department: Liberal Arts
Major: Psychology

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

Tamara plans on pursuing the clinical psychology graduate program and becoming a clinical psychologist. She wants to be a clinical psychologist because it would bring her great joy to provide a positive influence in the lives of others by improving their mental health, so that they can live a happier life.
Tamorie Hargro is a local Las Vegan who has been attending UNLV since Fall 2015. As an avid reader, writer, and thinker, it was inevitable that her major would include both reading and creative writing in some way. With ambitions overflowing, Tamorie wants to try a little bit of everything.

Class Standing: Senior
Department: College of Liberal Arts
Major: English, Creative Writing Concentration

**Academic Bio**

Tamorie Hargro wishes to pursue a Creative Writing MFA, desiring to significantly improve her craft for a future in fiction writing. She also thinks trying new styles of writing might help broaden her horizons. Finally, the Creative Writing program will be advantageous for her continuous battle with procrastination.

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

Tamorie wishes to pursue a Creative Writing MFA, desiring to significantly improve her craft for a future in fiction writing. She also thinks trying new styles of writing might help broaden her horizons. Finally, the Creative Writing program will be advantageous for her continuous battle with procrastination.
Anna-Lena Vigil

Class Standing: Junior

Department: College of Life Sciences

Major: Biological Sciences - Cell and Molecular Concentration

Academic Bio
Anna was born in California and moved to Las Vegas in 2002. She is currently the Vice President of the Life Science Student Association, an organization catered to help biology majors and minors acquire beneficial study habits. Anna is interested in the underlying mechanisms of life and seeks to spend her life in service to humanity.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
Anna plans on pursuing University of Washington: Molecular and Cellular Biology Ph. D. UW is partnered with the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center, the Institute for Systems Biology, and the Center for Infectious Disease Research, which are all institutions Anna would like to pursue professional careers with.
Chelsea Tran

Class Standing: Senior
Department: Life Sciences
Major: Biology, Pre-professional

Chelsea is currently a senior pursuing a degree in biology. She volunteers her time as a senior research assistant for the UNLV Neurobiology of Disease and Behavior Laboratory. Chelsea chose biology to further pursue her passion for learning about disorders of the human body.

Academic Bio

Chelsea is currently a senior pursuing a degree in biology. She volunteers her time as a senior research assistant for the UNLV Neurobiology of Disease and Behavior Laboratory. Chelsea chose biology to further pursue her passion for learning about disorders of the human body.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

After completion of her undergraduate studies, Chelsea would like to pursue a Ph.D. in Neuroscience. She has always been fascinated by disorders of the human brain and would like to contribute to the growing field of research in this area.
Cody Cris

Class Standing: Senior
Department: School of Life Sciences
Major: Biological Sciences

Academic Bio
Cody is a native of Las Vegas and first generation college student pursuing a degree in Biology. His interest in biology was sparked after taking Introductory Biology with Dr. Jaeger.

Cody is a scholar of the Summer Research Institute, and recently conducted summer research funded through the McNair Scholars Institute.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
Cody is interested in microbiological research. As such, he would like to matriculate into a MS or PhD program in Microbiology.

He has begun this journey by developing a strong undergraduate science background and participating in a laboratory studying springsnails.
David Zagaceta

Class Standing: Junior
Department: Physics
Major: Physics and Mathematics

Academic Bio
David Zagaceta is a third year student in physics, he is currently involved in research under the guidance of Dr. Qiang Zhu of the physics department. David is particularly interested in applying machine learning methods to problems in condensed matter physics and material science.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
David plans to pursue a PhD in condensed matter physics as he is particularly interested in developing novel materials for energy technologies next generation electronics.
Felipe is a true Las Vegan, he was born and raised here. He is a first generation student and will be the first in his entire family to receive a bachelor’s degree. He is a part time pharmacy technician at CVS. He is a biology major because he loves learning about how the mind, different cells, and organisms function and how they work together within the human body.

Class Standing: Senior
Department: College of Life Sciences
Major: Biology (Pre-professional)

Academic Bio
Felipe plans on pursuing medical school in 2020 after his gap year. Since Felipe was a child he’s always wanted to become a doctor to help others in his community.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
Felipe plans on pursuing medical school in 2020 after his gap year. Since Felipe was a child he’s always wanted to become a doctor to help others in his community.
Jordan Wachholtz

Class Standing: Senior

Department: Geoscience

Major: Geology

Academic Bio

Jordan is a first-generation student from up-state New York. He is an undergraduate researcher looking at water quality in the Grand Canyon and works in the Nevada Rock Deformation lab. He has been active in service as a part of UNLVolunteers, and served as president in 2017-2018. He chose geology because he loves science and being outdoors.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Jordan is looking to complete a Master’s degree in Geology. He will use that as a stepping stone to a Ph.D. with the ultimate goal of being a research geologist for the US Geological Survey.
The student of interest is a native Nevadan, local to Las Vegas. The student is a first-generation college student that chose to pursue Biochemistry because of an interest in the Biomedical sector that the student gained during their time in high school.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

The student of interest is planning to pursue a graduate program geared towards the subset of medical microbiology, with a goal to work under virology to develop treatments and anti-viral therapy towards patients.
Richard is a first generation college student originally from Reno, NV. He has a previous Bachelor’s in Computer Science and has industry experience as a software engineer. He is fascinated by the health sciences and wanted to enhance his career so he is currently furthering his education by pursuing another Bachelor’s in Biology.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
Richard has a love for animals because of the positive impact his dogs have had on his life. He plans on exploring graduate programs in veterinary science.
Serrina Nasrollahi

Class Standing: Super Senior

Department: Life Sciences

Major: Biology

Serrina, an Honors student and aspiring physician, majors in Biology and minors in Public Health and Psychology. She is a member of AMSA UNLV, works as a medical scribe, and is the founding Director of Nevada's first non-profit Camp Kesem chapter that supports Vegas children coping with their parent's cancer.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Serrina wishes to pursue UNLV's Public Health Graduate Program with a concentration in Epidemiology and Biostatistics. She is passionate about bridging the gap between preventative medicine and medical care and aims to further understand the origins and long-term effects of chronic disease on populations in America, specifically in Las Vegas.
Christie J.W Ra

Class Standing: Junior
Department: Criminal Justice
Major: Criminal Justice

Academic Bio

Christie Ra is a local Las Vegan and a proud first generation college student. She is involved with AANAPISI and Alpha Phi Sigma National Honors Society of Criminal Justice. Additionally, she works as a receptionist at a music academy. She gravitated towards CRJ because of the diverse career opportunities available.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Christie plans to pursue her graduate degree in Criminology. Her passion for the field helped her realize that she wanted to seek an extensive comprehension of the subject. She continues to be devoted and dedicated to learning more about crime and the criminal mind.
Guadalupe Ortiz

Originally from Long Beach, California but moved here 12 years ago. A first generation college student involved in Alpha Phi Sigma which is the Criminal Justice Honor Society and a mentor in Trailblazers, where we mentor incoming first generation Criminal Justice majors. By having a Criminal Justice degree, I am going to be one step closer in working for the FBI.

Class Standing: Senior

Department: Greenspun College of Urban Affairs

Major: Criminal Justice/Psychology

Academic Bio

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

The Criminal Justice Graduate Program is another goal to pursue. This program is going to show how it might be working for a federal agency like the FBI and the steps needed to get there. Some of the research done in this department is fascinating and very crucial to the criminal justice field.
Jillian Grinnell

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Jillian plans to pursue her MSW at UNLV. She will apply to the Advanced Standing Program, as she completes her BSW in Spring 2019. Getting her MSW will provide her broadened knowledge and experience in the field to better prepare for her future career in social work.

Class Standing: Senior
Department: Greenspun College of Urban Affairs
Major: Social Work
Minor: Family Studies

Academic Bio
Jillian moved from SLC, UT to LV her senior year. After discovering her passion for helping others, Jillian knew she wanted to be a social worker. Jillian is currently the Office Manager for a private practice, where she puts her knowledge of social work & strong work ethic to practice.
Johansen Pico

Class Standing: Senior
Department: Communication Studies
Major: Communication Studies

Academic Bio

Johansen is a senior majoring in Communication Studies. He is originally from Honolulu, HI, but has lived in Las Vegas for 18 years. Johansen engaged with service organizations throughout his years on campus, and currently is the President of the Multicultural Greek Council. He is excited to graduate this semester!

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

I am applying for the graduate certificate program in Social Justice as well as the M.A. program in Communication Studies to pursue my desire to broaden the field of critical, intercultural communication research. Pursuing graduate studies will help with pursuing my goal of contributing meaningful knowledge to the world.
Mayra Arzate

Mayra studies Urban Studies and Anthropology at the University of Las Vegas, Nevada. She is a first generation college student originally from El Paso, Texas and native to Cd. Juarez, Chihuahua, Mex. She currently serves as President of the UNLV Student Sustainability Council and chose her major to become an activist.

Class Standing: Senior
Department: School of Public Policy and Leadership
Major: Urban Studies

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Mayra is interested in the Anthropology M.A. program, as her passion lies learning about people and their behaviors. From an early age, she was fascinated with ancient civilizations and therefore loves to learn all about peoples cultures and their ways of living with nature, their knowledge, and healing practices.
Miranda Barrie

A NUMTOT with a sweet tooth who graduated from the Clark County School District, Miranda is a Nevada convert who loves to explore the world but will always call the Las Vegas Valley home. She has worked on several political campaigns, most recently as a Deputy Digital Director in Colorado during the 2016 cycle. Her passion for experiencing new places has led her to live, work and study in Spain, Chile and most recently the United Kingdom.

Class Standing: Senior

Department: Urban Affairs

Major: Urban Studies

Minors: Brookings Public Policy, Spanish

Academic Bio

After graduation, Miranda plans to work on the 2020 campaign cycle. She will be pursuing a Master’s degree in Public Policy following the November election in order to better prepare herself to help create the sustainable, resilient cities of tomorrow.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

After graduation, Miranda plans to work on the 2020 campaign cycle. She will be pursuing a Master’s degree in Public Policy following the November election in order to better prepare herself to help create the sustainable, resilient cities of tomorrow.
Nathaniel Waugh

Class Standing: Senior (e.g., Junior, Senior)

Department: School of Public Policy and Leadership

Major: Urban Studies

Academic Bio
Nate has lived in Las Vegas for 23 years. He is completed his Associate of Arts degree from the College of Southern Nevada, where he previously served as Student Body President, in 2016 and joined UNLV in Spring 2017 in the Urban Studies program. He is in his second term as Chief of Staff of the UNLV CSUN Student Government. He is also a substitute teacher for the Clark County School District.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
Nate plans on joining the Master of Arts in Urban Leadership program within the Greenspun College of Urban Affairs. He wants to build on his Urban Studies undergraduate to continue to pursue his passion for public service and making a difference in his community.
Stacey G. Williams

Class Standing: Senior
Department: Communication Studies
Major: Communication Studies

I am a first generation college student that moved to Las Vegas from Houston Texas. I returned to school after a long hiatus in order to complete my quest for higher learning. I’m happy and proud to attend UNLV and call the Las Vegas community home.

Academic Bio

I am a first generation college student that moved to Las Vegas from Houston Texas. I returned to school after a long hiatus in order to complete my quest for higher learning. I’m happy and proud to attend UNLV and call the Las Vegas community home.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Stacey is ultimately pursuing a PhD in Public Affairs so that he may make the most impact within his community through teaching and community development.
Annita Martinelli Becker

Local Las Vegan for the past four years, moved here from Brazil to pursue higher education, first generation college student, gave first research symposium presentation this past summer and it confirmed her passion for research, science, and engineering.

Class Standing: Senior
Department: Engineering
Major: Mechanical Engineering

Academic Bio

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Plans on going to graduate school with the objective to pursue a degree in the field of materials engineering, has a profound interest in the behavior, structure, and application of materials.
Bernie Espinoza

Class Standing: Senior
Department: Engineering
Major: Civil Engineering

Bernie is a first generation college student, a Las Vegas local, and a member of student organizations such as ASCE, SHPE, and Engineers Without Borders. He enjoys the diversity that UNLV offers. With ASCE, he has had the opportunity to participate in innovative engineering projects. He wants to make a difference in the world using his skills of civil engineering.

“ You only live once, so do what you feel passionate about.”

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Bernie plans to pursue a PhD in Structural or Environmental Engineering. He wants to transform concepts into reality to achieve better ways of building a more sustainable infrastructure. Through his studies, Bernie hopes to learn more about how to design buildings that are energy efficient with materials that do not harm earth. There needs to be more sustainability for the benefit of future generations.

Academic Bio

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Brandon Fallon is native to the Las Vegas Valley and has been working as an undergraduate research assistant in the Radiochemistry department since May of last year. Brandon possesses an ardent passion for building and designing which led him to pursue mechanical engineering as a major.

Class Standing: Senior
Department: Engineering
Major: Mechanical Engineering

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Brandon plans to pursue a graduate program in aerospace or nuclear engineering. He wants to work on technologies for advancing space exploration, which overlaps well with both nuclear and aerospace. He has found that he can blend the two majors by pursuing aerospace with a focus on plasma-based propulsion systems.
Fatemeh Azari

Class Standing: Junior
Department: Engineering
Major: Mechanical Engineering

I had passion for engineering, as engineers turn ideas to a reality. I had chosen Mechanical Engineering (ME) as it gives me a broad spectrum of career opportunities. It is also been said that ME is the mother of engineering. Among different branches of ME, I have been enormously involved in American Society of Heating Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning engineers (ASHRAE). I have participated in 2 ASHRAE national conference and 1 regional conference. Having a great enthusiasm for ASHRAE, I have been the student chapter president for close to 2 years. I had the privilege of growing up in an engineering family with both of my parents completing their PH.Ds in civil and mechanical Engineering. I am also a local.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

I have been thinking of programs that involves intelligent building or ASHRAE related. However, I am still exploring.
Grant D. Runion

Class Standing: Senior
Department: Mechanical Engineering
Major: Mechanical Engineering

Academic Bio
Grant was born in Las Vegas and is a second-generation student at UNLV. He serves as the Treasurer for ASHRAE, in addition to being a member of ASME, Phi Kappa Phi, and Tau Beta Pi. Grant works for LVVWD as an intern in the Maintenance Engineering Controls department.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
Grant plans to attend graduate school in order to obtain a Master’s Degree in Mechanical Engineering to further his education and expand his knowledge of the field.
Lucas Gallup was born and raised in the Las Vegas Valley. His grade school design competition participation led him to UNLV, where he started as with Mechanical Engineering major.

Class Standing: Senior
Department: Engineering
Major: Mechanical Engineering

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
Lucas has always had a passion for robotics, and plans on pursuing a Graduate degree in Robotics or a closely related field.

Academic Bio
Rozzele Villadelrey Cruz

Class Standing: Senior
Department: Howard Hughes College of Engineering
Major: Mechanical Engineering

Academic Bio
Rozzele is a Las Vegas local and a first-generation college student, majoring in Mechanical Engineering. She is a part of the TRiO Program here at UNLV and is involved in engineering student organizations such as ASHRAE, ASME and Tau Beta Pi.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
Rozzele’s passion is in problem solving and some of the greatest challenges are in the medical field. Rozzele plans on pursuing a master’s degree in biomedical engineering, and wants to work on nanobots for minimal invasive surgery.
Tyler Joseph Topham

Class Standing: Junior
Department: College of Engineering & Honors College
Major: Mechanical Engineering

Academic Bio
Tyler was born and raised in Las Vegas and graduated in 2013 as valedictorian from Green Valley High School. When people ask why he studies engineering he responds with, “Having a math teacher as my mom meant I had to be good at math. Problem solved!”

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
In the future, Tyler plans to pursue a Ph.D. in either aerospace or nuclear engineering. He is undecided where to go, but hopes to make that choice based upon his plans to pursue research in nuclear propulsion for air and space vehicles.
Alex Durham

Class Standing: Junior
Department: Business
Major: Accounting

Alex was born and raised in California, and transferred to UNLV to try out for the swim team. He now works at the Boys and Girls Club as an Education Director. He wants to major in accounting because he loves numbers and wants to help businesses in the community.

Academic Bio

After receiving his bachelor's degree in accounting he plans to prepare to take the CPA exam by earning his doctorate in accounting.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

After receiving his bachelor's degree in accounting he plans to prepare to take the CPA exam by earning his doctorate in accounting.
Araceli (Rose) Adkins

Class Standing: Senior
Department: Management, Entrepreneurship, and Technology
Major: Business Management

Academic Bio
Rose is a Las Vegas local. She is very passionate about fitness, personal development, and traveling. Rose studied abroad in Spain during the fall of 2017. Her favorite job is teaching her Tone It Up class at the UNLV gym. She is also part of UNLV’s Phi Kappa Phi.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
Rose plans on pursuing a degree in Business Administration with a focus on Entrepreneurship. She wants to learn the skills to be able to start her own business one day.
Ariana Munoz

Ariana is involved on campus and has upheld various positions in different organizations. Her proudest position, thus far, is being appointed as CSUN’s Director Campus of Life. This summer, Ariana had the opportunity to intern at Boyd Gaming with the Senior VP of Operations. Ariana chose this major to develop a broad knowledge of business operations.

Class Standing: Senior
Department: Management
Major: Business Management with a Concentration of HR

Academic Bio
Ariana is involved on campus and has upheld various positions in different organizations. Her proudest position, thus far, is being appointed as CSUN’s Director Campus of Life. This summer, Ariana had the opportunity to intern at Boyd Gaming with the Senior VP of Operations. Ariana chose this major to develop a broad knowledge of business operations.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

I would like to be admitted to UNLV’s MBA: Management Concentration: Management Information Systems Program. I am a rebel at heart and would love to continue my education here.
Berenice Vazquez

Class Standing: Senior
Department: Economics
Major: Economics BA

Academic Bio
Berenice is a native Las Vegan, and a first generation college student. She transferred from CSN, where she participated in Phi Theta Kappa. Currently, she is pursuing an Economics BA degree, and is involved in the UNLV Economics Club. She chose Economics because she was fascinated with the 2008 Great Recession and wanted to dig deeper.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
Berenice plans pursue a graduate degree of Data Analytics and Applied Economics MS. She plans to further develop her programming and analytical skills, in order to add her own economic research to the community. She also wants to use this degree as a stepping stone to her ultimate goal of becoming an economist.
Caren Abourjeily

Class Standing: Junior
Department: Economics
Major: Economics

Caren is a Junior pursuing an Economics degree. She was born in California and moved to Vegas at six years old. Caren is a member of the University’s Honors College and serves as the Humanitarian Coordinator for the Honors Student Council. She works part-time at the University’s Disability Resource Center.

Academic Bio

Caren plans on pursuing law school after receiving her Bachelor’s. She is pursuing a law degree because she is passionate about the law and making a difference in people’s lives. She believes that attending law school will assist her in achieving her life goal of becoming a judge.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Caren plans on pursuing law school after receiving her Bachelor’s. She is pursuing a law degree because she is passionate about the law and making a difference in people’s lives. She believes that attending law school will assist her in achieving her life goal of becoming a judge.
Charles Vo Edwards

Class Standing: Senior
Department: Economics
Major: Economics

Academic Bio
Charles was born and raised in California. He is part of the Economics Club at UNLV and he enjoys learning, experiencing and helping others. Charles chose to major in Economics because he is curious by nature and he believes Economics helps explain how the world works.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
Charles will pursue a Master’s in Business Administration because he is a great motivator and wants to be a business leader. He also wants to help provide something to people that truly enriches their lives while doing so in a socially and globally friendly way.
Ei Thandar Myint

Class Standing: Senior
Department: Department of Economics; Department of Mathematics; Department of Psychology
Major: Economics and Mathematics, Minor in Psychology

Ei was born and raised in Myanmar and she is a first generation college student. She currently works on campus as an Supplemental Instructor (SI) and as a tutor. Ei chose Economics and Mathematics because their theories, logic, and complexity fascinate her.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
Ei plans to pursue a Ph.D. in Economics to better understand social and economic issues the world is currently facing. She enjoys how Economics uses theories and mathematical concepts to problem-solve. She wants to find solutions for global problems and make the world a better place.

Academic Bio
Graciel Angelica Obena

Class Standing: Senior
Department: Business
Major: Information Management

Academic Bio
She is an Information Management major with minors in Global Entrepreneurship and German. She has studied abroad in Germany and is current president of the German Club, as well as a board member of MIS Society. Her passion lies in data structure with an aim to better communication between multiple parties.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
She is interested in pursuing a data science Master's Degree in order to not only establish more technical skills for future business use, but also conduct research in an attempt to establish a place in academia.
Ingrid Zarate Albarran

Class Standing: Junior
Department: Accounting
Major: Accounting

Ingrid is currently majoring in Accounting with a minor in Global Entrepreneurship. Ingrid wants to take her love of business and service into her future profession as a lawyer. Ingrid is honored to be the first in her family to graduate from a University in the U.S.

Academic Bio
Ingrid wants to attend Law School and is planning to invest some of her time and knowledge to legally represent children in the foster care system.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
Ingrid wants to attend Law School and is planning to invest some of her time and knowledge to legally represent children in the foster care system.
Isaiah Cardenas

Isaiah is originally from Los Angeles, California and moved to Las Vegas in 2009. He is pursuing a major in Business Management. The reason for him choosing this major is he wishes to run a professional sports team and needs to learn how to run a successful business.

Class Standing: Senior
Department: Business
Major: Management

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Isaiah wishes to pursue a Master’s in Business Administration. He wishes to meet more business and sports professionals to explore the sports industry further. Lastly, he plans on combining his sports experience and business degree and leaving a positive impact in the Las Vegas Sports Industry.

Academic Bio
Jason Griffin

Class Standing: Senior
Department: Business
Major: Information Management

Academic Bio
Jason and his wife moved to Las Vegas three years ago from Sioux Falls, South Dakota. He is a first generation, non-traditional student in the Information Management program. He chose the major because he loves learning new things, and thinks that the IT field will continue to expand for generations to come.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
Jason plans on enrolling into the MIS program in the fall. He is also considering the MBA/MIS dual degree. He feels that these programs will teach him the necessary skills to prepare him for the IT business world.
Jimmy Vuong

Class Standing: Senior
Department: Business
Major: Economics

Academic Bio

He is a Las Vegas Local, and is a first generation college student. He has been involved with academic research with the department of Anthropology since his freshman year. He has coauthor two research articles in the journal of Computer and Human Behavior and American Journal of Men’s Health.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

He plan on getting his masters in Data Analytics and Applied Economics because he wants to work as a data scientist. His goals is to work with big data to help create algorithms to improve predictive modeling. He also wants to be able to work with artificial intelligent.
Martin Beck

Class Standing: Senior
Department: Lee Business School
Major: Information Management

Academic Bio
A local Las Vegas. He was first found interest within the business school hoping to at first pursue a major in Management. However, over his first two years he had realized his passion stood more in technology and decided to apply to the Information Management major.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
Planning to pursue an MIS (Masters in Information Systems) degree or possibly a MBAn (Masters in Business Analytics). With the hopes of utilizing the knowledge and skills gained in those programs to possibly become a data scientist in the future and helping shape how the industry utilizes data and technology.
Niema Beckford

Class Standing: Junior
Department: Business
Major: Economics

Academic Bio
Atlanta native, Niema Beckford, studies economics and minors in public health in hope to create her own health economics degree. She’s associated with various organizations on campus such as SODA, Fintech, and the Public Health Student Association, while also holding position as Executive Vice President in the Financial Management Association. Her work life includes several internships and presently as a program assistant for a non-profit organization.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
Niema plans to pursue a Master of Public Health (MPH) for her graduate studies. She wants to apply her undergraduate studies in economics to better assess public health issues and health disparities as she strongly feels that they are intersected in order to develop more substantial public health policies.
Riva Lantaya

Before her freshman year of high school, she moved here from Honolulu, Hawaii. She is a full-time first generation college student and works part-time at Silverton Casino and Hotel. Other than school and work, she is a taekwondo athlete. She chose accounting because balancing debits and credits is extremely satisfying.

Class Standing: Sophomore
Department: Lee Business
Major: Accounting

Academic Bio

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

She has two choices in mind: Master of Science – Accounting or Master of Arts – Economics. She would pursue a M.S. in Accounting because she wants to be a CPA. She would pursue a M.A. in Economics because she also enjoys economics and analyzing data.
Selena Sanchez-Giancola is a local Las Vegan and first-generation college student. She is a dual Business Administration and Biological major in order to prepare for medical school. Outside of school, she volunteers at a local hospice, Sunrise Children’s Hospital and sings in the choir at St. Joseph Husband of Mary Roman Catholic Church.

Class Standing: Junior  
Department: Business Administration  
Biological Sciences  
Major: Business - Management  
Biology - Pre-Professional

Academic Bio
Selena Sanchez-Giancola is a local Las Vegan and first-generation college student. She is a dual Business Administration and Biological major in order to prepare for medical school. Outside of school, she volunteers at a local hospice, Sunrise Children’s Hospital and sings in the choir at St. Joseph Husband of Mary Roman Catholic Church.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
She plans on becoming an M.D. at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas School of Medicine. She is following her passion and nurturing nature by becoming a pediatrician. She hopes to make a difference and improve the healthcare system in Las Vegas.
Tanja Josipovic

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

Academic Bio
Tanja was born in Serbia but raised in Las Vegas for all of her life. She is a first generation college student who is vice president of publicity of her Planned Parenthood organization on campus. As well as a member of Beta Alpha Psi and The 1st Generation club.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
Tanja plans on pursuing a Masters of Science in Accounting. And while doing so, also studying to take her Certified Public Accounting exams. She is pursuing accounting because it has been her favorite subject in school.
Zachary Sablan

Class Standing: Junior

Department: Management, Entrepreneurship, Technology (MET) and Economics

Major: Information Management/Business Economics

Commonly known as Zach, this student is an Information Management and Business Economics major. Additionally, Zach is also a current Beta Alpha Psi member, former UNLV Alternative Breaks volunteer, and member of other organizations. Through an education and enriching experiences, Zach hopes to better contribute to his community.

Academic Bio

I would like to pursue a MBA. Being that businesses come in many shapes and sizes, a graduate degree in business would be my preferred path. With an advanced understanding of business and their relation to current issues, I believe that I could help make the world a better place.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

I would like to pursue a MBA. Being that businesses come in many shapes and sizes, a graduate degree in business would be my preferred path. With an advanced understanding of business and their relation to current issues, I believe that I could help make the world a better place.
School of Allied Health Sciences
Brandon Lee

Class Standing: Senior
Department: Kinesiology and Nutrition Sciences
Major: Athletic Training

Academic Bio
A first generation college student who moved to Las Vegas from the Bay Area in northern California, Brandon is a member of the Rebel Athletic Training Association and Alpha Psi Rho. He chose Athletic Training in order to provide everyday people to professional athletes the tools to perform their best.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
Brandon plans to pursue a Master’s in Kinesiology with a focus in Exercise Physiology. He chose this route to further understand the human body and how it reacts to physical activity in different ways. He hopes to apply this knowledge through conducting research and clinically as an athletic trainer.
Brittany Rose Fallin

Class Standing: Junior

Department: Kinesiology

Major: Kinesiological Sciences BS

Academic Bio

Brittany is a first generation college student of her family, she moved here from Elko, Nevada for college in 2013. Brittany participated in track and cross country all throughout high school and still stays pretty active. Brittany is a part of the Pre-Physical Therapy Honor society, Lambda Kappa Delta at UNLV. Brittany chose her career path in kinesiology and physical therapy because of her love of sports and passion to help athletes and people alike to prevent and recover from their injuries.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Brittany plans on pursuing the graduate program of Physical Therapy after she completes her degree in kinesiology. Brittany wants to pursue this graduate program because she would like to further her education and achieve her ultimate goal of becoming a Doctor of Physical Therapy.
Ennah Lynne Cabading

Class Standing: Senior
Department: Allied Health Science
Major: Kinesiology

Academic Bio
Ennah is an island girl from Maui, Hawaii and the clubs that she is currently in are the American Medical Student Association and Alpha Phi Omega, a National Co-ed Service Fraternity. Majoring in Kinesiology because growing up as an athlete, everything about the human body amazes her.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
The graduate program that she plans to pursue is Occupational Therapy. She was inspired going into this practice because of her grandparents. Growing up and taking care of them because of their health problems, made her gain a passion of caring for people to help them get better.
Jennifer Montes

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

Montes, a first generation college student, was born and raised in Las Vegas, Nevada. In preparation for physical therapy school, she is pursuing a degree in kinesiology. In addition, she is a board member of Lambda Kappa Delta, the Pre-Physical Therapy Honor Society, and works as a physical therapy technician.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
Due to her passion for health care and helping others, she plans to pursue a professional doctoral degree in physical therapy.
Joshua Ubungen

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

Academic Bio
Joshua Ubungen is a first-generation college student born in the Philippines. He is pursuing a degree in Nutrition, as well as a minor in Kinesiology. He hopes to work in the field of Pediatric Nutrition, and also wishes to conduct research on various cultural diets.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
Joshua is seeking to pursue a Masters of Science in Nutrition Sciences here at UNLV. He wishes to further his learning of the field to progress his research and further contribute to the community.
Kristen-Celeste Melendez

Class Standing: Senior

Department: Allied Health Sciences

Major: Kinesiology

I am born and raised in Los Angeles. I moved out at 18 YOA and transferred here 3 years ago. I am a first generation student and involved in a few groups on campus including an honor society, a community service based Latina sorority, a professional development club, and am involved in research with AANAPISI on campus. I work as an Undergraduate Teaching Fellow at the math learning center on campus and serve as a mentor at the Intersection on campus for students with multicultural backgrounds.

Academic Bio

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

I am a Kinesiology major but I am pre-physical therapy. I plan on applying to the Physical Therapy program because my end goal is to focus on pediatrics to help children with neuromuscular disorders have a better quality of life. I want to focus on practicing and continue my research in motivating children to follow through with their therapies and exercises.
Mary Angela M. Terencio

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

Originally born in Manila, Philippines, Angela moved to Las Vegas at 10 years old. She is currently the president of the Kinesiology Club where she hopes to cultivate a support system within her major and help educate students about the importance of physical and mental wellness.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
Angela plans to pursue a Doctorate in Occupational Therapy. As the health field moves toward an interdisciplinary approach, Angela wants to work in an environment that integrates collaboration and where patients are viewed holistically. This program includes her passions of helping others, educating, creative problem solving, and policy advocacy.
Brianna Vesch

Class Standing: Senior
Department: Community Health Sciences
Major: Health Care Administration and Policy

Academic Bio
Brianna moved from Florida to Las Vegas to pursue a degree at UNLV. She chose her major because of her interest in management, leadership, and finance in relation to health care. She discovered her interests through her work, in various roles, at her on-campus jobs in the Office of Admissions and Athletics.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
Brianna is considering a Masters in Business Administration. She plans to attend an information session soon, to gain more insight into this degree. As of right now, she knows that this graduate program caters to her interests in business, management, and finance.
Zulma Arceo

Class Standing: Junior
Department: Community Health Sciences
Major: Public Health

Academic Bio
Born and raised in Las Vegas, Zulma has chosen Public Health as her degree, for she would like to eventually bring about awareness and education surrounding key issues in health. Apart from her studies, she is a member of Healthy Rebels and is a Rebel Ambassador.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
Zulma’s ultimate goal would be to complete her Master’s in Health Education and Promotion in the Netherlands, hoping to specialize in sexual education and health. She plans on pursuing this because she would like to bring attention to family planning methods and STI preventions to underserved communities locally and globally.
Haley Roser

Class Standing: Junior
Department: School of Nursing
Major: Bachelor of Science, Nursing

Haley moved to Las Vegas from her hometown of Loomis, California. She is 19 years old, a first generation college student, and a Resident Assistant on campus. She chose to major in nursing because Haley is passionate about helping and caring for others.

Academic Bio
Haley plans on pursuing the graduate program of a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist to get her doctorate in Nurse Practicing. Anesthesia is very interesting to her and she can relieve patients in pain through this specialized profession.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
Haley plans on pursuing the graduate program of a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist to get her doctorate in Nurse Practicing. Anesthesia is very interesting to her and she can relieve patients in pain through this specialized profession.
William F. Harrah College of Hospitality
Clarissa Otoo

Class Standing: (e.g., Junior, Senior) Senior

Department: Hotel College

Major: Hospitality Management with a Concentration in Meetings and Events

Clarissa moved from Orange County California to Las Vegas to attend school. Her family is from Accra, Ghana. Clarissa started as a Psychology major but after realizing her passion for events decided to change her major to Hospitality Management. Clarissa is a Global Chair for Students Organizing Diversity Activities (SODA).

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Event Management and Festival Management. Would like to own an Event Management company and establish a brand in the Event industry.
I am a local Las Vegan with my family originating from England and Italia. I have a passion for caring for others and learning about different cultures. After finishing up my undergraduate degree this year in hospitality, I plan to continue my studies at the graduate level and work within the local hospitality industry in a financial role.

Class Standing: Senior
Department: William F. Harrah Hotel School
Major: Hospitality

Academic Bio

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

I plan on pursuing a MBA degree and deciding my concentration by the end of this program. My career aspirations are to work within the corporate setting of a large hotel company and one day hold an executive role.
Salvador Almanza

Class Standing: Senior
Department: Hospitality
Major: Hospitality Management

Academic Bio
Salvador is a first generation student currently completing his last year at UNLV. During his time here he has completed internships with Four Seasons Las Vegas and Expedia. He has also worked full-time throughout college, while still making time to volunteer weekly at a local non-profit, Opportunity Village.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
Salvador is interested in pursuing a Master of Business Administration / Hotel Administration dual degree. Having been fascinated by the research published by his professors, Salvador is pursuing these degrees because he would like to someday contribute to the hospitality discipline in the same way that many of his professors have done.
Sawyer Spackman

Class Standing: Senior

Department: Harrah College of Hospitality

Major: Hospitality Management

Academic Bio
Sawyer is a first generation college student originally from Boise, ID. While he came here to pursue Professional Golf Management, he is now completing his major in hospitality and wants to continue working in Housing and Residential Life in graduate school.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
Sawyer plans on pursuing a graduate degree in Student Affairs and Higher Education. Through his work as a Resident Assistant on campus, Sawyer has developed a passion for assisting college students in their journeys to becoming well rounded adults.