

# Graduate College Teaching Certificate Program

Congratulations to our  
incoming cohort

2015-2016

# AMBER OVERHOLSER



Amber Overholser is a PhD candidate in the School of Environmental and Public Affairs at UNLV. She specializes in the study of Western public land and resource policy. In her research, she examines the role of narratives in public land debates, and how coalition communications frame and ultimately change policy. In addition, she is also interested in the community led national monument designations, sage-grouse policy and the Old vs New West .

# CELESTE CALKINS



Celeste Calkins is a Doctoral student in the Department of Educational Psychology and Higher Education at UNLV. As part of her graduate assistant responsibilities, she teaches COE 202 – Second Year Seminar course for the College of Education. Her research interests are varied though she is currently focused on the topic of faculty motivation; specifically what motivates faculty to teach in higher education.

# CIRO J. AGNELLI



Ciro J Agnelli is a Graduate Student in the Department of Allied Health and Sciences at UNLV. He specializes in the study of biomechanics, human physiology and motor behavior. Much of his research examines the effect of wetsuit on triathletes, its impact on shoulder muscle activity, and how different size wetsuits may impact swimming performance during a triathlon event. In addition, he also has extensive clientele experience, designing and implementing fitness programs in Las Vegas and Henderson.

# KATELYN DIBENEDETTO



Katelyn DiBenedetto is a third-year Ph.D. student in the Department of Anthropology, supervised by Dr. Alan Simmons, with an emphasis in Near Eastern and Mediterranean island Archaeology. Her dissertation research will address human-animal relationships, animal management strategies, and issues surrounding land and water access during the Early Neolithic (around 10,000 years ago) on the Mediterranean island of Cyprus. She hopes that by studying past issues related to land and water access, it will provide some insight on how to manage these same issues that continue to afflict the modern global community.

# ERIKA MASAKI



Erika K. Masaki is a PhD student in the Department of Political Science at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. She specializes in the study of regional environmental cooperation with a special focus on the conditions that lead to cooperation in Southeast Asia as they differ from other regions. She is also interested in global environmental institutions, such as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Erika is also interested in political theory, both ancient and modern, and on researching theorists' stances on the relationship between humans and the environment.

# CHRISTIE GARDNER



Christie Gardner is in her second year of the PhD program in the Department of Educational Psychology & Higher Education at UNLV. Her research interests revolve around second language learning—focusing on acculturation, motivation and gesture development of second language learners. She most closely examines how the development of these factors both transpire and influence adults in the language learning process. Previously having worked within a sociocultural theory framework using a Vygotskian viewpoint for her studies, her theoretical perspective emphasizes a systems-oriented approach.

# JAMES EDWIN GREEN



James Green is a Master of Arts candidate in the Department of Criminal Justice at UNLV and the Executive Officer of the 72nd Military Police Company, Nevada Army National Guard. His research interests focus on the similarities and differences between civilian and military law enforcement agencies, contemporary police discretion issues, the role of the media in shaping law enforcement policy, and the specific challenges faced by patrol officers of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department. Upon completion of his Master's Degree in Criminal Justice, James plans to pursue a degree in Education, and ultimately a PhD in Criminology. When not studying or being a Soldier, James enjoys Lacrosse and New England in the Fall.

# JENNI KUMANCHIK



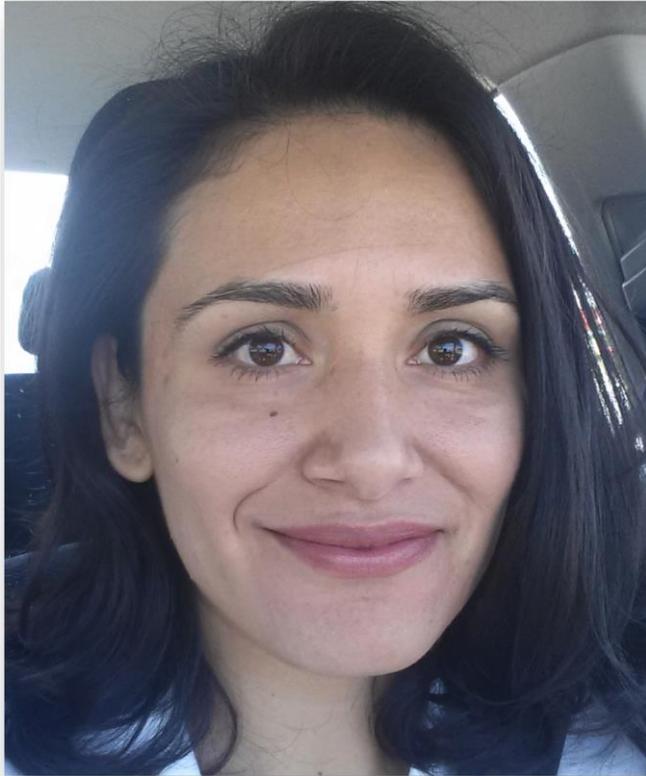
Jenni is a Doctoral student in the Department of Kinesiology and Nutrition Sciences at UNLV. She specializes in the study of Biomechanics, Statistics, in addition to Research Design & Execution. Much of her research examines the clinical biomechanics of the lumbar spine in athletics and activities of daily living among healthy and injured individuals, biomechanics of lower extremity injury involving the knee among female gymnasts, biomechanics of sport performance in gymnastics, in addition to heart rate variability and factors that influence it. Jenni is passionate about undergraduate education. Her ultimate goal is to enhance student learning through engaging and enjoyable experiences, involving: expanding undergraduate research opportunities as well as instituting a new hands-on, applicable lab curriculum.

# MICHAEL TREVATHAN



Michael W. Trevathan is a Ph.D. student in the Department of Political Science at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. His research interests include international political economy, global economic governance, and the economic and security implications of great power transitions.

# MÓNICA J HERNÁNDEZ-JOHNSON



Mónica J Hernández-Johnson is a Central-American PhD student in the Department of Teaching and Learning at UNLV in Curriculum and Instruction, with an emphasis on Multicultural, Cultural and International Studies. Her research primarily focuses on Latinas' experience in higher education using standpoint theory through the constructs of borderlands and minoritization. In addition, her research relies on the extensive use of *testimonios* as a way to offer new perspectives and to challenge Western epistemological frameworks which have ignored or silenced marginalized voices.

# CAITLIN J. SALADINO



Caitlin Saladino is pursuing a Ph.D. in Higher Education in the Department of Educational Psychology and Higher Education at UNLV. She received her Master's Degree in Communication Studies from UNLV in 2014. She served her department as GPSA representative for Communication Studies during the 2013-2014 academic year. Caitlin currently serves as a research assistant with The Lincy Institute Education Programs at UNLV. Her most recent projects center on education policy issues in Nevada, including community college transfer barriers and the college-going culture in the Las Vegas community. Caitlin is also an adjunct faculty member with the Department of Communication at CSN, where she teaches Oral Communication (COM 101). Caitlin completed the Graduate College Research Certificate in 2014.

# SANDRA BAILEY



Sandra Bailey is a masters student in the Department of Teaching and Learning at UNLV; specializing in Career & Technical and Post-secondary education. Sandra hopes to use her bachelors degree in business management and her business work experience to become a high school business and industry instructor for the Clark County School District. The masters in education degree and the teaching certificate program will allow her to meet the state licensing requirements and add to her resume the skills needed to successfully teach business, which is her area of specialization.

# SHAHLA FAYAZPOUR



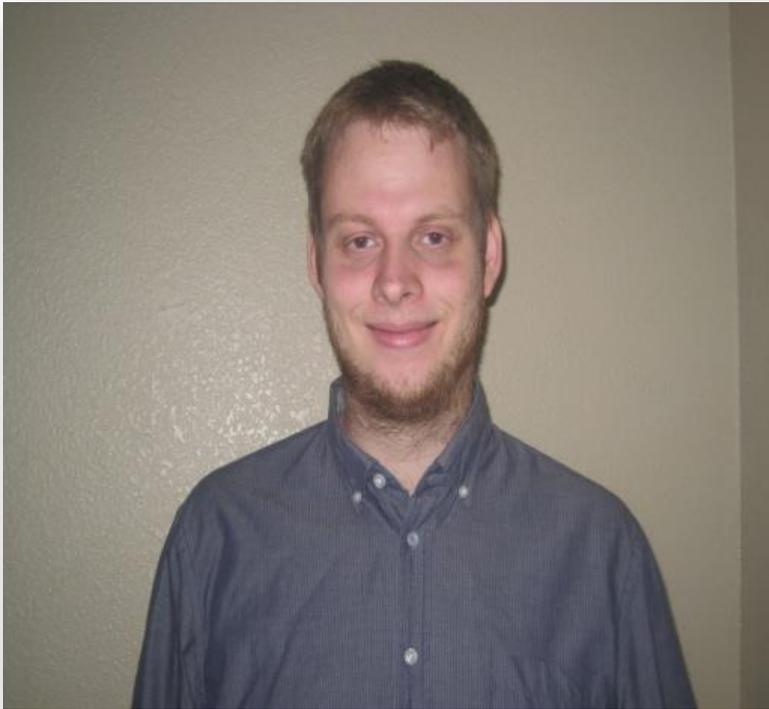
Shahla Fayazpour is a PhD candidate in the Department of Teaching and Learning at UNLV. She specializes in the study of multicultural, cultural, and International studies. Her research examines the role of parental Involvement emphasizing the way home, school, and community impact students' development through assimilated successive learning experiences. Her study focuses on how this process allow shift in the skills, cognitive progress, and emotional creative abilities through which the self is framed as a source of material value. In addition, she also has experience in teaching English as a second language in Las Vegas.

# KIMBERLY M. FLORENCE



Kimberly M. Florence is a doctoral student in the Department of Educational Psychology and Higher Education. She is currently studying to receive her PhD in Higher Education with an emphasis on teaching, college preparation/success, and first/second-year college students. Much of Kimberly's research has examined the motivation and self-regulatory learning of college students and how these components can be enhanced through classroom instruction and academic support. Presently, she works as a First-Year Seminar Instructor in the College of Education.

# HAFTHOR ERLINGSSON



Hafthor is a doctoral student in the Political Science Department at UNLV. He is interested in the relationship between emigrants and the government in their country-of-origin. His most recent research has looked at why countries adopt expatriate voting legislations which allow those living abroad the chance to vote. Furthermore, his research has focused on transnational political activity among migrants in Latin America.

To learn more about the  
program visit:

[www.unlv.edu/graduatecollege/gctcp](http://www.unlv.edu/graduatecollege/gctcp)