



A group of people are gathered around a table, looking at a laptop screen. One person is pointing at the screen, and another is holding a pen over some papers. The scene is dimly lit, suggesting an indoor setting like a classroom or office.

Graduate College Teaching Certification

Congratulations to our incoming
2018-2019 cohort

MARIA ALADJOVA



**MS student, Clinical
Mental Health
Counseling
(College of
Education)**

**Advisor:
Dr. Katrina Harris**

Maria Aladjova is an International Graduate Student pursuing a Master's degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. She is also a Graduate Student Academic Advisor at the Academic Success Center.

Her research areas include mental health in first-generation college students and in student-athletes. Following graduation, Maria hopes to be a college professor as well as continue working on research.

Claudia Chiang-Lopez



Master's student,
Department of
Communication
Studies

Advisor:
Dr. Jennifer Guthrie



Claudia Chiang-Lopez is a first-generation immigrant and college student. She has presented her research at national and regional conferences.

Her current research interests include enacting multicultural education, examining community and meaning making around fear of victimization, and narratives around love and violence.

Now in her second year, she has taught speech and interpersonal communication courses. She strives to create an environment that meets students diverse needs, so that students feel cared about, and are challenged by the material.

DAVID GOLDBERGER



Master's student,
Department of
Physics and
Astronomy

Advisor:
Dr. Michael Pravica



David Goldberger is pursuing a Master's degree in physics under advisor Michael Pravica. David conducts research in useful hard x-ray photochemistry and teaches introductory physics lab courses. He is eager to hone his teaching skills through the GCTC program to better prepare for a career in academia after he finishes his Ph.D. at UNLV.

David believes that current standards of teaching physics need to be improved at all levels, and it is his goal as an educator to be able to teach physics to any student at any level. He is confident that the GCTC program will help him reach this goal!

NICK LEPP



I research queer theory, critical theory, and how they both relate to the public sphere and ways to communicate about them. I am excited to be a part of this program so I can better learn how to convey ideas and arguments to students in a fun and effective manner.



**Master's student,
Department of
Communication
Studies**

**Advisor:
Dr. Michael Bruner**

JOHN LESCENSKI

Master's student,
Department of
Economics



John is a second year master's student in the Economics department. His research focus is based on the economics of renewable energy. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Southern California, an MBA from UNLV and a Graduate Certificate from UNR in renewable energy. For the past six years, John has been mentoring high school students through STEM internships and is a Promise Scholar Mentor at the College of Southern Nevada. John's mentoring and teaching opportunities will continue to draw on his 30 years of practical experience in the electric utility industry, on his past and future experiences of helping to build new renewable energy projects, and on his current duties as manager of power plant engineering and technology at NV Energy, which is Nevada's largest energy company.

VICTORIA PINE



**Master's student.
Department of World
Languages and
Cultures**

**Advisor:
Dr. Margarita Jara**



Since beginning the Master's Program in the Fall of 2016, I have been teaching entry level Spanish courses, specifically SPAN 113. Not only has this experience improved my Spanish language skills, but it has ignited in me a passion to teach and share with students my enthusiasm for languages. In the following semesters, I would like to expand the course levels I am permitted to teach, as well as acquire specific teaching strategies to help improve my current skill set. My ultimate goal is to teach Spanish on a full-time basis.

I believe the Graduate College Training Certification Program will help me understand more clearly how to better manage the classroom experience, not only for myself but for the students. I hope to expand my skills concerning time-management, communication, maintaining student interest, encouraging participation and enforcing accountability. I look forward to an opportunity in furthering my education.

ALECIA SCHRENK



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

**Advisor:
Dr. Debra Martin**



I am a doctoral candidate in the Department of Anthropology with a focus on bioarchaeology under Debra Martin. Bioarchaeology situates data collected from ancient human skeletal remains in a rich web of cultural context and social theory to gain a better understanding of human behaviors. My research focuses on disease, disability, and healthcare provisioning in prehistoric communities.

I have several years of experience teaching undergraduate courses in both English and Anthropology at the University of North Florida and UNLV. My responsibilities included designing lectures, grading assignments, and creating exams for both traditional and online courses. My interest in this course is to add to my teaching skillset by learning how to create my own courses, syllabus and teaching philosophy to further my future career.

AMBER STEPHENS



**M.A. student,
Department of
Communication
Studies**

**Advisor:
Dr. Tara Emma-
Sommer**

Amber Stephens is a first generation college student, with a background in psychology and sociology. She has presented her research at several national and regional conferences. Her research interests revolve around issues of identity. She is interested in how identity is developed and expressed both interpersonally, i.e., within romantic relationships, and in broader public/social spaces. Additionally, she is interested in how marginalized identities choose to express themselves, communicate with others, and actualize their goals. She is going into her second year as a GTA and is excited to increase her pedagogical knowledge and become a more influential and effective educator.

TEREZA TREJBALOVÁ



**Ph.D. student ,
Department of
Criminal Justice**

**Advisor:
Dr. M. Alexis Kennedy**



Tereza is a fourth-year Ph.D. student of Criminology and Criminal Justice at University of Nevada, Las Vegas. She obtained her Master's Degree in Political Science from University of Nevada, Reno.

Her research interests include the death penalty in the US, Africa, and Asia, male victimization and trauma, women in corrections, and human rights. Upon graduation, she hopes to pursue a career in academia.

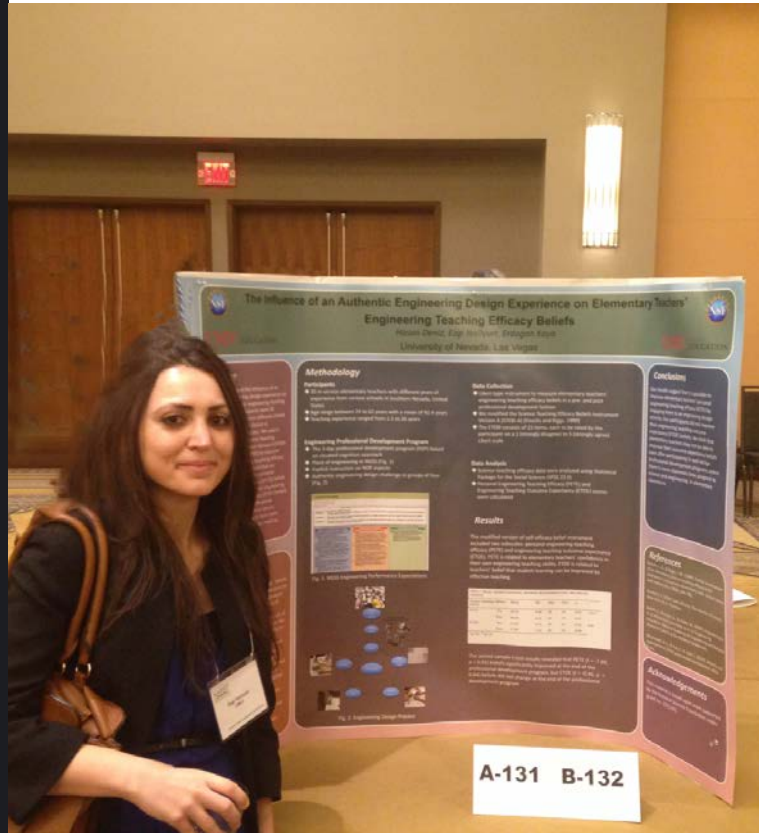
She would especially like to work on improving her public speaking skills, and furthering her knowledge on how to effectively structure undergraduate and graduate-level classes. Since her field of study presents many controversial topics, she is also hoping to learn how to lead a discussion that remains within professional boundaries but provides students with thorough understanding of the topic.

EZGI YESILYURT



Ph.D. student,
Department of
Teaching & Learning

Advisor:
Dr. Hasan Deniz



I have a particular interest in evolution education. Other area that interests me is K-12 engineering education because significant number of elementary teachers feel unprepared and uncomfortable integrating engineering in their science instructions. As a research assistant in a project funded by National Science Foundation, I closely worked with my advisor to develop integrated science and engineering curricula and provided professional development programs for elementary teachers and STEM workshops for elementary students around these curricula.

As a teaching assistant, I have been teaching undergraduate and master level science method course for 2 years. I am confident that my academic training and my experiences in the field of education qualify me to be a candidate for this program. I would like to reach my full potential in my future academic life and promote my personal and professional development. I believe that this program would significantly help my professional development as an educator.