

GRADUATE COLLEGE TEACHING CERTIFICATION

Congratulations to
our incoming cohort
2017-2018

HEATHER ASHLEY-HENDERSON



Heather Ashley-Henderson is a second-year graduate student in the School of Public Policy and Leadership. She is working to pursue a Ph.D. in Public Affairs. She plans to utilize her degrees to teach and to engage in research activities. She plans to contribute scholarly research while focusing her study in Urban Reform and Implementation Gaps. As a previous classroom teacher and student advocate, Heather has always wanted to build a legacy of not just engaging the students who are self-motivated scholars and learners, but also engaging and motivating the students who are disinclined to learning. Her research will focus on the political, economic, and cultural framework that surrounds the crippling and invariable effects of low-income minorities and the income gaps for minorities. She decided to enter the field of Public Administration so that she can analyze a correlation between public policy and poverty.

While many would argue that poverty is insoluble, Heather believes that it is our problem as a nation. She states, "Politics affects the schools we attend, the way we learn, the jobs we have, the communities we live in, the taxes we pay, and the quality of air we breathe. The decisions surrounding these principles affect every aspect of our lives, thus, encouraging me to want to become more actively involved in the laws and decisions surrounding these issues within our society."

Her course of research and study will provide her the knowledge and skills needed to address these concerns and will help her achieve her goals by bridging the gaps through education, public speaking, and classroom instruction. She believes that expanding her knowledge on federal, state, and local environments, will help her understand the infrastructure that these issues were built upon, thus translating them to her students, the community, and through her research. Her hope is to change the effects of these policies that affect lives today and will ultimately affect their futures.

ALEXA BEJINARIU



Alexa Bejinariu is a second-year Ph.D. student in the Department of Criminal Justice, supervised by Dr. Emily Troshynski, with an emphasis in domestic violence. Her thesis research analyzed domestic violence protection order outcomes in a local civil court. Since her acceptance into the program, she has been part of several research projects dealing with domestic violence protection orders, victims of crime act (VOCA), and prisoner reentry program evaluation. She has also presented her research at several national academic conferences (i.e., American Society of Criminology) and local conferences.

LINSEY BELILSE



Linsey Belilse is a first year doctoral student in the department of Criminal Justice. She earned her bachelor's degree in Psychology and her master's degree in Criminal Justice. Her master's thesis examined the effectiveness of juvenile drug courts on adulthood criminality. Her research interests include corrections, special populations within corrections, substance use, and evidence based practices. Linsey hopes to become a professor in the field of Criminal Justice.

MICHAEL BIESIADA



Michael Biesiada is a fourth-year Ph.D. student in the School of Public Policy and Leadership, supervised by Dr. Helen Neill. His area of interest investigates the impact of legislation on firm value. His dissertation research focuses on the impact of the Dodd-Frank Act on the Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT) market.

PATRICE BISBEE



Patrice Bisbee is a second-year Master's student in the Communication Studies Department. Her capstone research will focus on political environmental rhetoric as it relates to public lands and natural resources.

Following graduation, Patrice hopes to teach communication and continue her research. She also hopes to someday work for a non-profit environmental organization as a communication director.

KIRSTEN DINICOLA



Kirsten DiNicola is a Master's student in the School of Public Policy and Leadership. She is completing her final year in the Public Administration Program with a concentration in Nonprofit Management. Along with her concentration, her interests have focused on organizational behavior and workforce retention. Following her Masters, she plans to pursue her PhD in Public Affairs, with the continued research in those areas. She is also a member of the board of directors for the Young Nonprofit Professionals Network (YNPN) of Southern Nevada, where she supports emerging nonprofit professionals in the community in networking and professional development.

MARK DRACH-MEINEL



Mark is a first year graduate student in the Department of Mathematics, supervised by Dr. Salehi, pursuing a Pure Mathematics degree. He specializes in analysis, particularly Topology and seeks to learn more about the foundations of mathematics which can be used to build a stronger fundamental basis for all of mathematics.

CHRISTINE HAYNES



Christine (Chris) Haynes is a second-year M.Ed. student in Higher Education. She is interested in how to best serve emerging student populations, including first-generation college students and returning learners, such as veterans and displaced workers. Chris serves as the graduate vice president for the university's chapter of Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society and as a Graduate Rebel Ambassador for the 2017-2018 academic year.

TAKEHIRO IWATSUKI



Takehiro Iwatsuki is a third-year Ph.D. student in the Department of Kinesiology and Nutrition Sciences, with specialization in Motor Learning and Control under supervision of Dr. Gabriele Wulf.

He currently works as a research assistant and teaches a Kinesiology course. His dissertation research will address the effect of autonomy support on motor performance.

He hopes to be a college professor teaching motor learning and sport psychology as well as doing research in these areas.

ANTHONY JORDAN



Anthony Jordan is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Political Science, supervised by Dr. John Tuman, with an emphasis on diplomacy. His dissertation research examines the role of political party and populism on the likelihood of diplomatic expulsion. He is studying the effects of New Left presidents on the expulsion of U.S. diplomats, ambassadors, and other personnel. The practical implications of this research would be the changing of norms that surround expulsion. Instead of viewing expulsion as an act of hostility between countries, expulsion could be a political tool used by presidents to appeal to their base.

JACLYN PARKER KEEN



Jaclyn Parker Keen is currently a second-year Ph.D. student in the department of Criminology and Criminal Justice. She received her Bachelor's degree in Psychology from The University of Toledo and her Master's degree in Criminal Justice from The University of Cincinnati. Her research interests include correctional rehabilitation, female criminality, risk assessments, and program evaluations. She is currently working with the women in the therapeutic community (STARS program) at Florence McClure Women's Correctional Center and with the Division of Probation and Parole to implement effective practices (EPICS) in Las Vegas, Nevada.

KIMBERLY KOHL



Kimberly Kohl is a third-year MFA student in the Department of Film, supervised by Professor Sean Clark, with an emphasis in Writing for Dramatic Media. Her final creative project will be a feature-length screenplay. The focus of her studies is writing screenplays for film and TV with an emphasis on writing comedy. She believes comedy in film and TV is important because it provides society with moments of joy and happiness that counterbalance the stressors of life. She has an MA in English from Northern Arizona University and hopes to write and teach professionally after completing her MFA studies.

LINDA KYRIANNIS



Linda is a graduate student in the College of Education - Learning and Technology emphasis. She is also pursuing a Graduate Certificate of Online Teaching and Training and enjoys teaching and learning about research.

EMILY MAJOR



Emily Major is a second year master's student in the Communication department. Her research interest focuses on looking at community identity and narratives following natural disasters. She hopes that her applied research will help communities who have endured a natural disaster. After she graduates, Emily plans on pursuing her Ph.D. in crisis communication, but not before taking a much needed vacation.

JOSEPH MCKAY



My name is Joseph McKay and I am a Ph.D. student in the College of Hotel Administration. My research focus areas are Employment Law and Gaming Regulations.

FERESHTEH REZAEIAN



Fereshteh Rezaeian is a second-year Ph.D. student in UNLV Department of Teaching and Learning. Her emphasis area is Cultural Studies, International Education, and Multicultural Education (CSIEME). She is supervised by Dr. Christine Clark and is interested in U.S. immigrants' acculturation patterns. She hopes that her study will help educational policy makers to better inform policies on immigrants' education and will amplify the voices of immigrant students regarding barriers they face when accomplishing their educational goals.

TAYLOR SIMPSON



Taylor Simpson is a first year Graduate Student working towards a Masters Degree in Education with an emphasis in Secondary Social Studies. Taylor is working to develop the skills to create critical and analytical thinking classroom. He hopes to develop students beyond the academic realm and make them more civic minded individuals. Taylor also looks forward to continuing to serve as an advocate for his students not just in the classroom but in their lives as well. He brings 8 years of experience as a United States Marine serving as an Infantry Squad leader as well as a Senior Instructor at the prestigious Basic School.

MARISELA THOMPSON



Marisela Thompson, is a second year graduate student pursuing a Master's Degree in Healthcare Interior Design. She is currently an Interior Architecture Team Lead on the University of Nevada Las Vegas's Solar Decathlon Team entry for the Department of Energy's Solar Decathlon competition which focuses on conceptualizing and constructing a sustainable home which addresses the needs of senior citizens who are aging in place, focusing on a home design tailored towards active aging. Her interests focus on the concept that design is a powerful tool, which through evidence-based research, can help with addressing human conditions that can affect how individuals interact and effectively function within a given space.

CECILIA A. TURMAN



Cecilia loves to travel and find out about people and cultures. She is a NV licensed teacher in secondary education. Her endorsement areas are Social Studies, Computer Literacy, ESL, and Foreign Languages. One of the first UNLV students to graduate with a Bachelor's in Interdisciplinary Studies, Cecilia soon earned her first Master's degree in Latin American, Chicano, and Public History and her second Master's in Education all from her Alma Matter, UNLV. Currently a doctoral candidate for the Teaching and Learning Department, advised by Dr. Linda Quinn, Cecilia taught Classroom Management and is developing research about teaching methods empowered by technology. Her mission is to share with teachers and students the vision of a better future in a challenging world.

"Learning is interactive with cultures, locally and globally. Understanding its medium is becoming responsible for this fascinating human village: bridging the past to the future!"

EZGI YESILYURT



Ezgi Yesilyurt is a second-year Ph.D. student in the Department of Teaching and Learning, supervised by Dr. Hasan Deniz, with an emphasis in Science Education. She is working as a graduate assistant and teaching science methods courses. She received her MS and BS degree in elementary science education. She participated in European Union Projects in which she conducted series of professional development programs for in-service science teachers. Her research areas of interest include STEM and evolution education.

PATRICIA ZAVALA



Patricia Zavala is a second-year M.A. student under the tutelage of Dr. Susan Byrne in the Department of World Languages and Cultures with an emphasis in Hispanic Studies. She believes that learning a foreign language helps open minds to new ideas and different ways of looking at the world. At the professional level she hopes to teach Spanish after graduate school and encourage effective bilingualism in society.