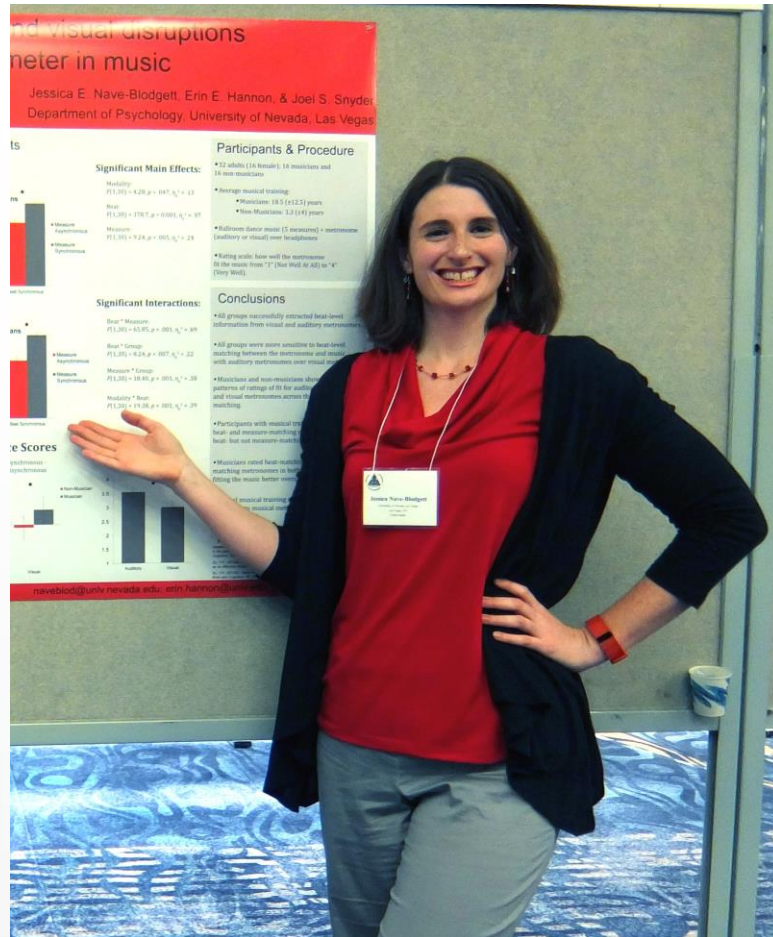# GRADUATE COLLEGE REBEL RESEARCH AND MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

Congratulations to
our incoming cohort
2017-2018

# College of Liberal Arts

# Jessica Nave-Blodgett

Jessica Nave-Blodgett is a 5th year student in the Experimental Psychology Ph.D. Program, working with Dr. Joel Snyder and Dr. Erin Hannon. Jessica's dissertation research will focus on the perception of timing and rhythm information in speech in children, adolescents, and adults. She is working to develop a test that measures listeners' sensitivity to speech rhythm. With this test, we hope to uncover not only the relationships between musical ability and speech and language ability, but also to screen for early signs of specific language impairments and other speech or timing disorders.
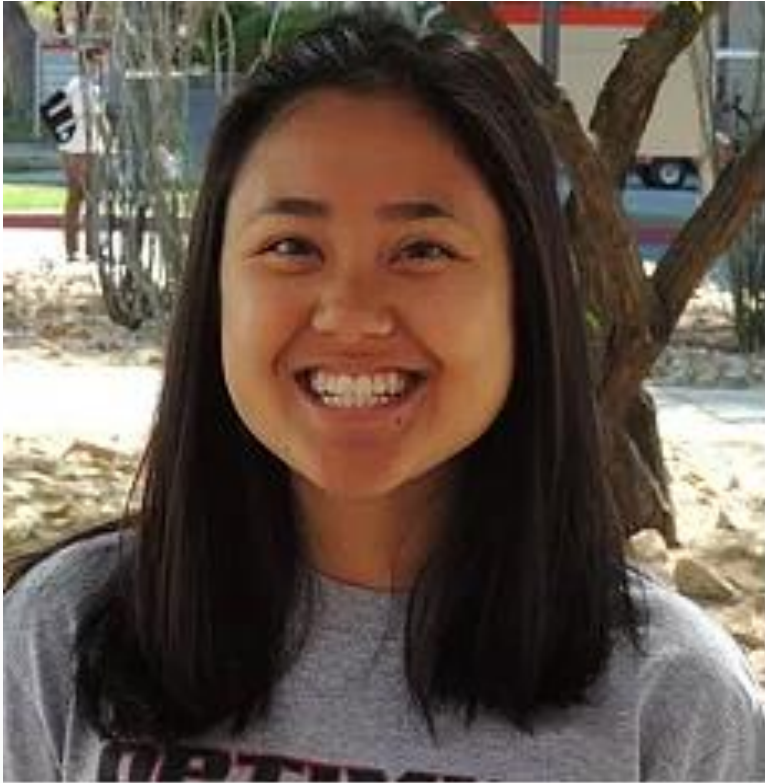
# Leah oswinn



Leah Oswinn is a junior undergraduate studying psychology. Her research interests include cognitive development and how malleable factors such as learning environment can enhance productivity and performance in children and adolescents. She will be mentored by Jessica Nave-Blodgett whose research focuses on the perception of timing and rhythm information in speech in children, adolescents, and adults.

# Marina Galante

Marina Galante is a second year doctoral student in the Clinical Psychology Program; she is currently mentored by Dr. Bradley Donohue. Interested in establishing empirically-based treatments for vulnerable populations, Marina will work with a RAMP mentee to build skills related to maintaining a research-based mental health clinic, as well as dissemination of evidence-based treatments.

# Alexandra Danlag



Alexandra Danlag is a 3rd year undergraduate student in the Psychology Department. She is building a strong scientific research background in preparation for graduate school in Clinical Psychology.

She is eager to work with her mentor, Marina Galante, on the dissemination of evidence-based treatments and develop skills related to maintaining a research-based mental health clinic.

# Yulia Gavrilova



Yulia Gavrilova is a fifth-year Clinical Psychology Ph.D. student, supervised by Dr. Brad Donohue. She is Program Coordinator at UNLV's Family Research & Services, which focuses on the development and evaluation of behavioral interventions to assist performance optimization.

Yulia's dissertation research focuses on examining the efficacy of two interventions to improve motivation for lifestyle behaviors that are low in motivation, such as exercising, healthy eating, and avoiding smoking or alcohol.

# Karolyne Stucki



Karolyne Stucki is a senior seeking her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. Karolyne's mentor is Yulia Gavrilova, a Clinical Psychology Ph.D. student under the supervision of Dr. Bradley Donohue.

The duo will work on Yulia's dissertation which involves a controlled evaluation of two interventions designed to enhance motivation for lifestyle behaviors that are low in motivation (e.g., exercising, studying). In anticipation of future graduate work, this collaborative experience will help prepare Karolyne for the rigors of doctoral work and assist Yulia in furthering her invaluable contributions to the field of Psychology.

# VALARIE BURKE

Valarie is a doctoral candidate in Sociology and supervised by Dr. Simon Gottschalk. Her dissertation focuses on the various communication methods used to connect with graduate students.

Her project for RAMP will use both quantitative and qualitative research to ascertain the preferred method of communicating with graduate students regarding deadlines and events.

# Bree Boppre

Bree is currently a third-year doctoral student in Criminology and Criminal Justice studying under Dr. Emily Salisbury.

Her research focuses on correctional rehabilitation as well as feminist and intersectional criminology.

Her project for RAMP will examine women's pathways in and out of crime with a particular focus on how intersectional experiences, shaped by gender, race, class, and sexuality, relate to justice-involvement.
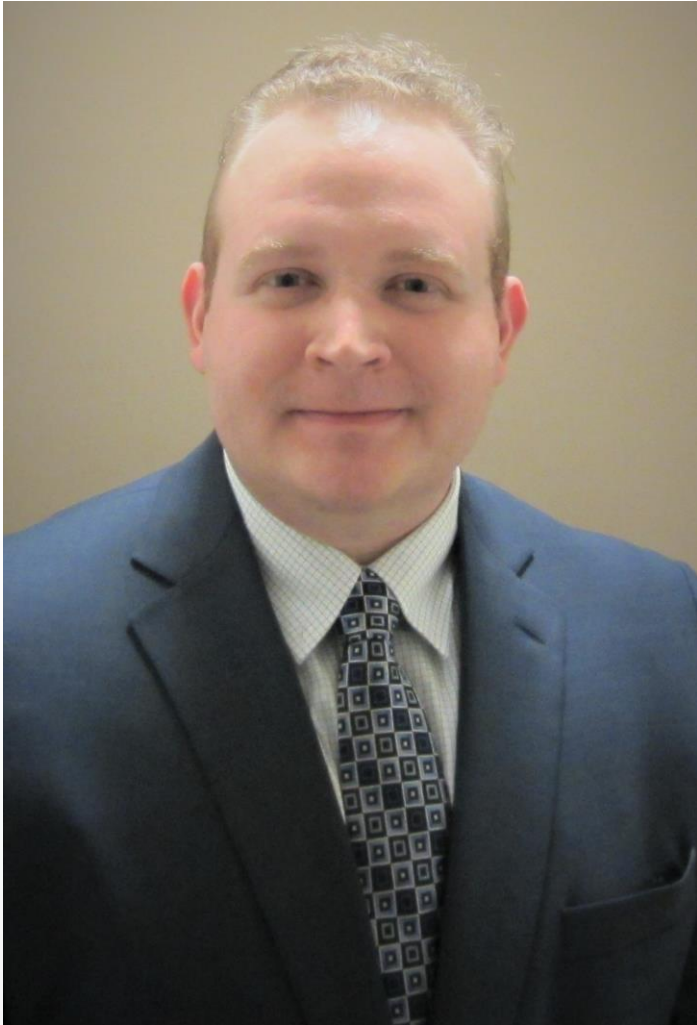
# Saleena Alvarez



Saleena is a fourth-year undergraduate student in the Department of Criminal Justice. Her research interests include adverse childhood experiences and their impact on justice-involved women. She is currently working under her mentor, Bree Boppre. Together they will identify common themes in women's childhood experiences that may influence women's involvement into the criminal justice system. Ultimately, Saleena hopes that her research will be useful for early intervention, rehabilitation, and reentry programs offered by the criminal justice system.

# Howard R. Hughes College of Engineering

# Dale E. Karas

Dale E. Karas is a 3rd-year Mechanical Engineering PhD student, specializing in energy-efficient materials science fabrication and testing. His research efforts include optical analyses methods for energy-efficient nanomaterials characterization, computer-aided engineering, and advanced materials manufacturing. Prior to joining the Energy & Environmental Materials Laboratory (EEML) in Fall 2015, he obtained his B.S. in Optical Sciences & Engineering and a B.M. in Music Composition from The University of Arizona, where his work experiences involved remote sensing, machine vision, nanophotonic materials fabrication, and illumination engineering/design. He is president of *Etendue: The UNLV Student Optics Chapter*, representing student members of SPIE and OSA.

# Astrid Miller

Astrid Miller is a fourth year undergraduate student in the College of Science. Astrid will be graduating in spring with a Bachelor of Science degrees in Applied Physics and Mathematics. She is interested in renewable energy, the environment, and sustainable living. She will be assisting graduate student Dale Karas with the fabrication and testing of bimetallic inorganic oxides for the feasibility as high – temperature absorber coatings in concentrated solar applications.

# LINA CHATO



Lina Chato is a second year Ph.D. student in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, working under the supervision Dr. Shahram Latifi on machine learning techniques in classifications and regressions.

Currently, she is working on detecting abnormalities in medical images by extracting meaningful information to improve early detection and diagnosis of deadly diseases. Her research focuses on studying the effects of using multi-modalities medical images registration to improve detection results.
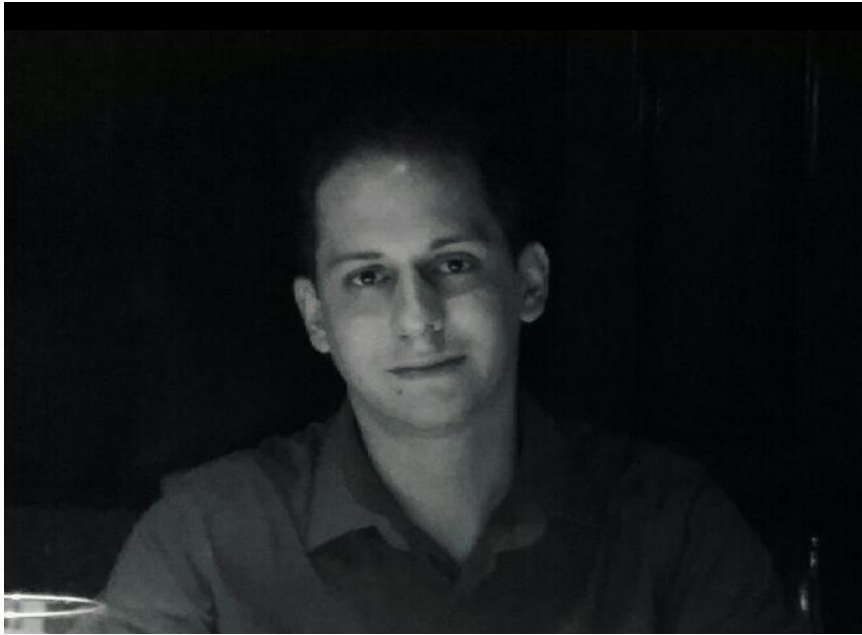
# ERIK CHOW



Erik Chow is a second year undergraduate student in the Department of Computer Science. He will be working with Ph.D. student Lina Chato on her work developing techniques to analyze medical images. He hopes to use this experience to learn more about image processing and deep learning methods.

# Matthew Pusko

Matthew Pusko is a 2nd year mechanical engineering student working towards his PhD under the supervision and leadership of Dr. Jaeyun Moon. His background is a BS and MS in physics from Stephen F Austin State University in Texas with an emphasis in nano-materials and solar energy. He is currently focusing on engineering flexible thermoelectric materials to be used as a wearable energy harvesting devices. Matt enjoys mentoring and teaching greatly, winning first prize at a poster contest with his last mentoree. Much of his time is spent in the laboratory creating new materials and testing their properties. Mentorees will learn these procedures and assist in these processes.
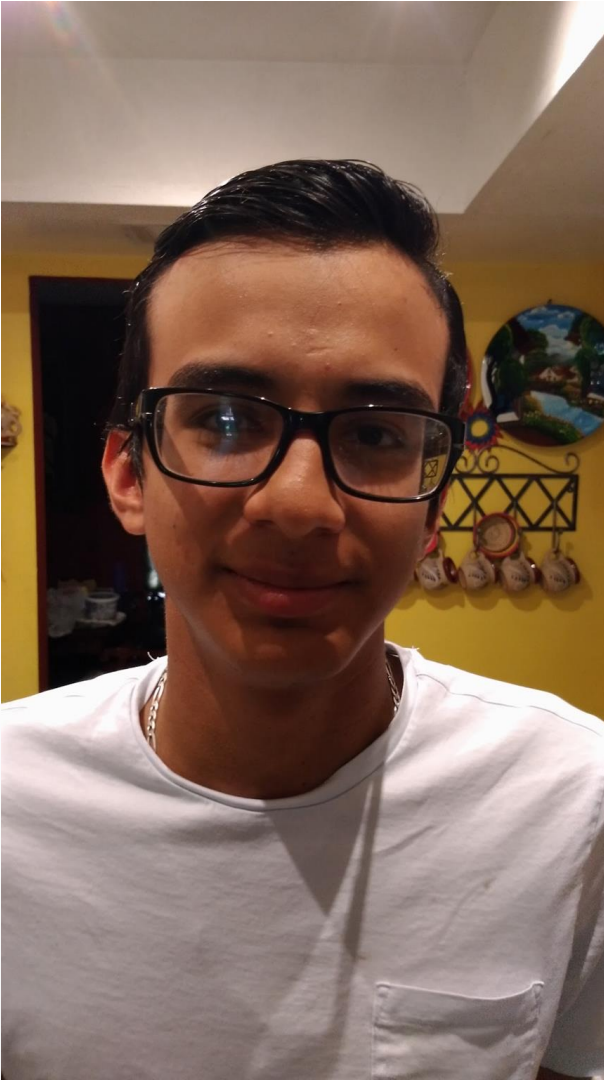
# David zagaceta



David Zagaceta is a third year physics undergraduate researching thermoelectric materials with the guidance of Matthew Pusko under the supervision of Dr. Jaeyun Moon. David's interests lie within solid state and semiconductor physics, particularly their applications to electronics and energy harvesting.

# Shahab Tayeb



Shahab Tayeb is a third year Ph.D. student in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, conducting research under Dr. Shahram Latifi's supervision on Cyber Physical Systems' security. His specific research interests include development, modelling, and analysis of communication networks and security of the Internet of Things (IoT) sensors using System-on-Chips. He is a member of IEEE, ACM, ISOC, Teachers without Borders, and NSPE and hold several industry certifications such as CCIE, CCDP, CCNP, and CCAI from Cisco; CNSS4011 Recognition from NSA; TKT from Cambridge; and VMCA from VMware.

# Adrian Ruiz

Adrian Ruiz is a junior in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. He will be mentored by the Ph.D. candidate, Shahab Tayeb, to do research on analyzing device to device (D2D) communications and applying game theory to the Internet of Things. Adrian hopes this experience will better prepare him for graduate school.