

# ED

# EXCHANGE

UNLV College of Education Student & Alumni Newsletter

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## Editorial staff

Caitlyn Medrano, *Editor*  
Ashley Diggins, *Assistant*  
Haven Neiman, *Assistant*

**UNLV** COLLEGE OF  
EDUCATION

4505 S. Maryland Pkwy  
Box 453001  
Las Vegas, NV 89154  
education@unlv.edu  
unlv.edu/education  
@unlvcoe

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more information.

## WELCOME TO THE FALL SEMESTER!

On behalf of our faculty and staff, I welcome you to the fall semester, and the premier issue of the *Ed Exchange*!

At the College of Education, we realize this academic year is not beginning as any of us planned. Many of the parts of college life and ways we connect are happening virtually. And, we continue to face inequities within education and society in general.

We are in this together! You are part of a strong community of almost 2,500 enrolled undergraduate and graduate students- as well as many high school students active in our dual enrollment programs. In addition, we have about 22,000 College of Education alumni who serve as educators and mental health professionals throughout the world. We are here to help you navigate your path(s) and support you along your journey at UNLV.

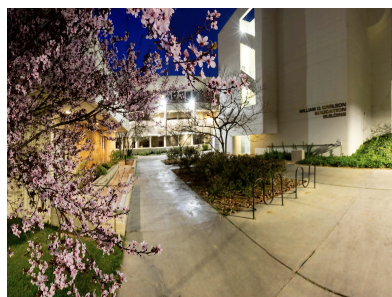
*Ed Exchange* is a monthly publication designed to keep you updated on current events and resources. Within each issue you will find important updates, events, research and scholarship opportunities, volunteer opportunities, as well as highlights of your fellow peers' achievements. I want to thank our editorial team for their hard work for bringing this newsletter to fruition: Caitlyn Medrano, Ashley Diggins, and Haven Neiman.

We hope you have an amazing semester. Reach out to us at [education@unlv.edu](mailto:education@unlv.edu) if you need further support.

You've got this, Rebels!

*Danica G. Hays*

Danica G. Hays, PhD  
Interim Dean and Professor



# COE UPDATES

**Academic Advising-** Advising will occur remotely until early 2021. To contact the office, please call 702-895-1537 or 702-895-1489 or email your advisor directly:

- Freshmen (0-29 cr): [amber.davis@unlv.edu](mailto:amber.davis@unlv.edu)
- Sophomores (30-59 cr): [nancy.esposito@unlv.edu](mailto:nancy.esposito@unlv.edu)
- Juniors (60-89 cr): [jessica.ogens@unlv.edu](mailto:jessica.ogens@unlv.edu)
- Seniors (90+ cr): [lauren.layton@unlv.edu](mailto:lauren.layton@unlv.edu), [monica.moreno@unlv.edu](mailto:monica.moreno@unlv.edu), and [edmund.ronca@unlv.edu](mailto:edmund.ronca@unlv.edu)

Class standing is based on credits earned.

**SOS Funding-** The Support our Students fund provides one-time funding (per academic year) to assist with unexpected emergency situations. Staff facilitates budgetary literacy skills. More information can be found at <https://www.unlv.edu/education/sosfund>

**COVID Updates-** UNLV is committed to your health and safety, especially during the pandemic. Masks are required on campus, and please practice social distancing. Tobacco use is also prohibited on campus. Questions? Check out the latest COVID updates, which may be found at <https://www.unlv.edu/coronavirus/students>

**UNLV Student Organizations-** Student Involvement and Activities (SIA) has compiled a page of COVID-19 policies and guidance for registered student organization (RSO) operations for the fall semester. More information may be found at <https://www.unlv.edu/sia/coronavirus-guidance>

**Student Services-** The Teacher Development and Resources Library is open Monday-Thursday from 9am-6pm and Friday from 9am- 5pm. Hours of operation for other libraries may be found at <https://www.library.unlv.edu/about/hours>.

The Counseling and Psychological Services, the Student Health Center, and other mental health resources continue to be offered remotely.

## Research Opportunities

Office of Research & Sponsored Projects  
[orsp.sites.unlv.edu](http://orsp.sites.unlv.edu)

The Motivation-Planning Lessons to Activate Engagement in Science (M-PLANS) Project: M-PLANS seeks undergraduate or graduate student volunteers (remote work only). Activities can include data cleaning, quantitative data analysis of student and teacher surveys, qualitative data analysis of classroom video and interview transcripts, or digitizing project materials for a future interactive web interface. To learn more, please contact Dr. David McKinney at [david.mckinney@unlv.edu](mailto:david.mckinney@unlv.edu).

### NSF International Research Experiences for Students (IRES) 20-598:

- Track - I: IRES Sites - Up to \$300,000. Proposal Deadline: 11/12/2020
- Track - II: Advanced Studies Institutes - \$150,000 per institute NTE \$400,000. Proposal Deadline: 11/09/2020

IRES focuses on active research participation by undergraduate and/or graduate students in high quality international research, education, and professional development experiences in NSF-funded research areas.

Learn more at the National Science Foundation webpage ([nsf.gov](http://nsf.gov))





## IN THE SPOTLIGHT



*Pictured: Chant Kazandjian*

**Chant Kazandjian**, a National Certified Counselor, never expected that his expertise as a mental health counselor would be so highly sought after the explosion in Beirut, Lebanon, on August 4 that killed at least 180 people, injured more than 6,000 others, and left as many as 300,000 homeless. Kazandjian got right to work on delivering psychological first aid with his team as the current head of the counseling center of the Lebanese American University of Beirut.

Kazandjian received his nursing degree from Lebanese American University and has long held a passion for serving as a health professional in Lebanon. While the Fulbright scholar was pursuing a graduate program, he discovered UNLV and was attracted to the diversity, location, and faculty expertise it provides. "Overall, the program fit my educational interests, and the faculty's expertise and research were the right fit," says Kazandjian. He was then admitted to the clinical mental health counseling graduate program at UNLV, offered by the Department of Counselor Education, School

Psychology, and Human Services.

After graduation, and before transitioning into his current position at Lebanese American University, Kazandjian returned to Lebanon and launched the first suicide helpline in Lebanon and the region, and then moved to develop and strengthen community mental health services through a prominent non-governmental organization. In his current position, he leads the counseling center in its efforts to provide counseling services to university students, while engaging in advocacy, awareness, and research.

Kazandjian's favorite memories while attending UNLV include attending Runnin' Rebels basketball games, relaxing after long days, and connecting with the entire campus community. Within the halls of the William D. Carlson Education Building, he values his time spent with the Counselor Education faculty and his supervisors and colleagues at The PRACTICE, the outpatient mental health clinic at UNLV. "They were truly inspirational and helped me build my career as a counseling professional. I owe a lot to their support and service," says Kazandjian.

Kazandjian offers this advice to students considering UNLV: "College is a big step. It requires a lot of dedication, commitment, and effort. However, it is also one of the liveliest and most exciting times in life. You get to see yourself building your future one brick at a time. College also opens so many doors. Be alert and take advantage of every opportunity it brings you. Talk to others, network, and connect—you never know what opportunities are ahead. For those entering careers in mental health settings, I thank you in advance for your service. Mental health needs have been on the rise in the last decade and these needs will continue to grow. This is an exciting time for you to make a positive difference in people's lives. Remember, one drop in the ocean can cause a ripple effect."

Although he has returned to Lebanon, Kazandjian remains an active member of the American Counseling Association, the National Board for Certified Counselors, and Chi Sigma Iota, the International Honor Society for Counselors. In addition to his full-time clinical work, he is active in mental health research and topics pertaining to adolescent health, wellness, education, and leadership.

Kazandjian intends to remain in higher education, potentially entering a doctoral program to fulfill his other aspirations in academia through teaching and research.

**Deborah Britton** didn't always aspire to be an early childhood special educator. Deborah chose to change her career path from art and design to special education after her son, Demario, was diagnosed with Autism. Britton earned her associate's degree in Early Childhood Education from the College of Southern Nevada. She chose to pursue a bachelor's degree at UNLV after she found that it offered a unique degree program, the Early Childhood Special Education (ESCE) program, that blended educating young children with intellectual and developmental disabilities with her passion for art.



*Pictured: Deborah Britton (Right), with her son Demario Britton (Left)*

Britton knew that obtaining her bachelor's degree would be challenging, but not impossible. She says that meeting with her study group at Lied Library has helped support and encourage her while attending UNLV. Those classmates have since morphed to life-long friendships.

In addition to a future career as an early childhood special educator, Britton plans to self-publish several children's stories that she shared with early childhood classrooms during her many years working as a staff member within the Clark County School District.

Britton provides this advice to students and those considering UNLV: "Surround yourself with people who encourage and help you through your academic career. Also, be resilient. Show how much you want something, despite the obstacles in your way to achieve it, even when you have to make changes in your life and you feel the odds are stacked up against you. Continue to strive and pursue your dreams. Be resilient and just know that you will be making a difference in a child's life!"

## VOLUNTEER

### Check out these volunteer opportunities:

#### **CCSD Stay in School Mentoring Project**

The Stay in School Mentoring Project matches community volunteers with CCSD K -12 students who are at risk of dropping out of school and need a positive role model, guidance, and support to help them be successful. Learn more and apply at <https://ccsd.net/community/partnership/programs>

#### **The Rape Crisis Center**

The focus of The Rape Crisis Center is to support victims in the immediate aftermath and long-term recovery following sexual abuse and assault. Volunteers must be 21 years of age or older and assist with:

- advocacy to callers on the hotline
- crisis intervention to individuals at University Medical Center (UMC).
- informing clients of medical and criminal justice procedures
- community resource referrals
- making reports to Child Protective Services and/or Law Enforcement as required by Mandated Reporting Laws and Procedures

Learn more and apply at <https://rcclv.org/volunteer/>



# SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS

Visit [unlv.edu/education/scholarships](http://unlv.edu/education/scholarships) for information on College of Education scholarships.

## *External Opportunities:*

**Ayn Rand Institute Essay Contest: ATLAS SHRUGGED** (Deadline: Sept 21). Winning essays must demonstrate a grasp of the philosophical meaning of the novel, *Atlas Shrugged*. Learn more at <https://aynrand.org/>

**The Unigo.com Shout It Out Scholarship Contest** (Deadline: Sept 30). Submit an online written response to the question: "If you could say one thing to the entire world at once, what would it be and why?" (250 words or less). Learn more at <https://www.unigo.com/scholarships>

**disABLEDperson, Inc. Fall 2020 National Scholarship for College Students with Disabilities** (Deadline: Oct 14). Participants will submit an essay. Essay prompts can be found at <https://www.disabledperson.com/>

**Paul & Daisy Soros Fellowship for New American** (Deadline: Oct 29). For New Americans, immigrants, or the children of immigrants who are pursuing graduate school in the US. Must be a college senior or early in the graduate programs. Learn more at <https://www.pdsoros.org/apply>

**The Unigo.com Zombie Apocalypse Scholarship Contest** (Deadline: Oct 31). Short essay contest (250 words or less), where applicants respond to this prompt: "Flesh out a plan to avoid the zombies, including where you'd hide and the top-five things you'd bring to stay alive." Learn more at <https://www.unigo.com/scholarships>

**Commercial Travelers of America: UCT Charities Scholarship** (Deadline: Nov 15). For students and teachers seeking college degrees to work with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Learn more at <https://www.uct.org/uct-in-action/scholarship-programs/>

**James Alan Cox Foundation** (Deadline: Nov 15). Fun scholarship for photo enthusiasts. Must be a sophomore or higher who has taken courses in photography or photojournalism. Learn more at <https://www.jamesalancoxfoundation.org/apply/>

**Soroptimist: Live Your Dream: Education & Training Awards for Women** (Deadline: Nov 15). For women who provide the primary source of financial support for their families. Rewards should help offset tuition costs, purchase books, get transportation, or find reliable childcare. Learn more and apply at <https://www.liveyourdream.org/>

**Peter Kong-Ming New Award** (Deadline: Nov 30). Essay/research submission which reports on applied social/behavioral sciences. One's topic should review health care or human services. Learn more at <https://www.appliedanthro.org/about/awards-prizes/peter-kong-ming-new-award>

**Comedy Defensive Driving: PSA Scholarship Contest** (Deadline: Dec 31). No GPA/financial requirement. All forms of ads accepted including: PSA, commercial, music, billboards, media, graphics, etc. Must demonstrate a clear call to action. Learn more at <https://comedydefensivedriving.com/scholarships/>

**AERA-NSF Grant Program Proposal** (Deadline: Nov 2). The AERA-NSF Grants Program is currently accepting proposals for both its Dissertation and Research Grants. With support from the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Program provides dissertation grants to graduate students and small research grants to doctoral level scholars using large-scale data sets in their research. Learn more at <https://www.aera.net/Professional-Opportunities-Funding>



# STUDENT ACCOLADES

**Kendra O'Connell** successfully completed and defended her master's thesis entitled, "Awareness of Apprenticeships Among College Students at a Research University in Western United States: A Fixed Convergent Mixed Methods Study."

**Emily Carter** received an Office of Undergraduate Research Summer Undergraduate Research Funding Scholarship (OUR SURF) in the amount of \$1000. Emily's faculty research supervisor is Dr. Tina Vo (T&L)

**Astha Mentha** received the Nevada Space Grant Scholarship in the amount of \$3000 from the Nevada NASA Space Grant Consortium. The grant spans the 2020-2021 academic year. Astha's faculty supervisor is Dr. Tina Vo (T&L)

**Nicole Thomas** was the graduate poster symposium-Runner Up for Nevada NASA 2020 Virtual Poster Competition. Her faculty supervisor is Dr. Tina Vo (T&L).

**Dr. Christie Higgins-Gardner**, visiting assistant professor-in-residence and recent alumni of EPHE, presented her doctoral work in the presidential poster session for Division 15 at the virtual convention of the American Psychological Association in August 2020.

Have an accomplishment to share? Submit at <https://www.unlv.edu/education/student-resources>.

## IN FOCUS: Rebel Educators

In preparation for an exciting school year ahead, please welcome the 2020-2021 Rebel Educators Leadership Board: Justine Villa as Presidents, Bailee Walker as Vice President, Chanelle Salomon as Secretary, Stephanie Aguilar-Garcia as Historian, and DeOndra Caruthers as Treasurer.

To get involved with Rebel Educators, please visit the Involvement Center to get a list of our upcoming events. We will be having our first General Member Meeting on Tuesday, September 8th, via Google Hangouts starting at 4:00 pm. All COE students are welcome to join us for an introduction into what it means to be a Rebel Educator and learn about our many exciting opportunities! RSVP [HERE](#) or email us for more information: [rebel.educators@unlv.edu](mailto:rebel.educators@unlv.edu)

Visit <https://www.unlv.edu/education/organizations/> to learn about COE student organizations.



# EVENTS & WORKSHOPS

## College of Education Events

RSVP required for College events. For ESSC events, visit <https://www.unlv.edu/education/essc> for more information and registration details.

9/1: E-Notes of Encouragement- hosted by Rebel Educators- 2:30 PM-3 PM via Google Meet (target audience: undergraduate students)

9/2: PALS Peer Mentoring Program Orientation/Social- 3 PM-4:30 PM via Google Meet (target audience: PALS mentors/mentees)

9/3: Back to School Bingo- hosted by Rebel Educators- 6 PM-8 PM via Google Meet (target audience: undergraduate students)

9/4: CBEST & Praxis Overview Info Session- 11 AM-12 PM via Zoom (target audience: undergraduate students)

9/8: Rebel Educators General Member Meeting- 4 PM-5 PM via Google Meet (target audience: undergraduate students)

9/9: ARL Information Session- 10 AM via Zoom- RSVP (target audience: prospective or current students interested in teacher licensure)

9/11: CBEST/ Praxis Writing Workshop- 9 AM-12 PM via Zoom (target audience: undergraduate students)

9/18: Field Experience Workshop- 1 PM-2:30 PM via Zoom - RSVP (target audience: undergraduate students)

9/21: Graduation Plan Workshop #1- 12 PM-1:30 PM Via Zoom (target audience: freshmen)

9/22: ARL Information Session- 5:30 PM via Zoom- RSVP (target audience: prospective or current students interested in teacher licensure)

9/25: Volunteer & Service Opportunities Info Session- 11 AM-12 PM via Zoom (target audience: undergraduate students)

TBA: COE Grad School Night- 5 PM- 7 PM via Zoom (target audience: juniors/seniors)

Visit [unlv.edu/education](https://unlv.edu/education) to view the College calendar.

## Graduate College Events

9/1: MBA Information Session and Application Workshop- 5 pm to 7 pm. More Information at <https://www.unlv.edu/event/mba-information-session-and-application-workshop-2?delta=0>

9/2: UNLV Graduate School Application 201- 1 pm to 3 pm. More Information at <https://www.unlv.edu/event/unlv-graduate-school-applications-201-0?delta=0>

9/8: Grad School 101 & Paying for Grad School- 5 pm to 7 pm. More Information at <https://www.unlv.edu/event/grad-school-101-paying-grad-school-1?delta=0>

9/14: Virtual Drop-In Session: 5 pm to 6 pm. More Information at <https://www.unlv.edu/event/virtual-drop-session-10?delta=0>

# EVENTS & WORKSHOPS continued

9/16: Virtual Drop-In Session: 5 pm to 6 pm. More Information at <https://www.unlv.edu/event/virtual-drop-session-10?delta=0>

9/22: Grad School 101 & Paying for Grad School- 5 am to 7 am. More Information at <https://www.unlv.edu/event/grad-school-101-paying-grad-school-2?delta=0>

9/23: MBA Information Session and Workshop- 12 pm to 2 pm. More Information at <https://www.unlv.edu/event/mba-information-session-and-application-workshop-3?delta=0>

9/24: UNLV Graduate School Applications 201- 5 pm to 7 pm. More Information at <https://www.unlv.edu/event/unlv-graduate-school-applications-201-2?delta=0>

Visit [unlv.edu/graduatecollege](https://unlv.edu/graduatecollege) to view the Graduate College calendar.

## The Intersection Events

9/9: Woke Wednesday- 11:30 am. More Information at <https://www.unlv.edu/event/woke-wednesdays-0?delta=0>

9/9: The More You Know- Navigating S/U Grades- 11 am. More Information at <https://www.unlv.edu/event/more-you-know-navigating-su-grades?delta=0>

9/17: The WRITE Corner: Writing InTo Excellence- 3pm to 4pm. More Information at <https://www.unlv.edu/event/write-corner-writing-excellence?delta=0>

9/18: The More You Know-Financial Aid 101- 1 pm. More Information at <https://www.unlv.edu/event/more-you-know-financial-aid-101?delta=0>

9/23: The More You Know-TiPS Mentor Spotlight- 2:30 pm. More Information at <https://www.unlv.edu/event/more-you-know-tips-mentor-spotlight?delta=0>

Visit [unlv.edu/intersection/events](https://unlv.edu/intersection/events) to view events put on by The Intersection.

## Additional University Events

9/1: UNLV On-Campus Virtual Student Job Fair -11 am to 2 pm. More Information at <https://www.unlv.edu/event/unlv-campus-student-job-fair?delta=0>

9/2: Fall 2020 Virtual Involvement Fair- 9am to 4 pm. More Information at <https://www.unlv.edu/event/fall-2020-virtual-involvement-fair>

9/9: Rising Toward Success: Balancing Time- 10 am to 11 am. More Information at <https://www.unlv.edu/event/rising-toward-success-balancing-time-0?delta=0>

Visit [unlv.edu/calendar](https://unlv.edu/calendar) to view workshops and events put on by the University.