



GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION

GPSA EXECUTIVE BOARD – DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY (APPLICATION)

MAY 2021 - MAY 2022

CANDIDATE INFORMATION:

Candidate Name: Nicole Thomas

College/School: Education

Department: Teaching & Learning

Elected Position of Interest: President

The GPSA supports graduate and professional students' academic endeavors. Providing an environment conducive to student scholarship, research, and overall success is our primary goal. The GPSA strives to engender a sense of community among the graduate and professional students by offering financial support and fellowship.

The GPSA Council meets the first Monday of each month with the exception of January and holidays. All GPSA Council meetings are open to the public.

The Graduate & Professional Student Association is the student government for all currently enrolled graduate and professional students at UNLV. The GPSA is managed by the GPSA Council consisting of four elected officers and department-appointed representatives, and the GPSA Manager (administrative faculty). The four elected officers are the President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary which constitute the Executive Board. The GPSA represents UNLV graduate and professional students at meetings of the Board of Regents, Nevada Student Alliance, and on campus-wide committees.



GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION

GPSA EXECUTIVE BOARD – DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY (APPLICATION)

MAY 2021 - MAY 2022

Voting will begin on April 5, 2021 at 3:30pm and close April 9, 2021 at 11:59pm.

Each candidate is expected to make a speech to the GPSA Council at the meeting on Monday, April 5, 2021 at 2:00pm. The meeting will take place virtually in the GPSA's WebEx Personal Meeting Room: <https://unlv.webex.com/meet/gpsa>. The voting results will be announced and posted by Wednesday, April 14, 2021. Contact the GPSA at gpsa@unlv.edu or 702-895-2261 with questions.

Please explain why you are interested in serving in this position:

While I have enjoyed my experience serving as Secretary, the portions of my position that weren't necessarily required were my favorite— I am fulfilled by student and community service, and I want to expand the role that GPSA can play in helping students progress in their lives and careers.

I'm interested in this position because I genuinely believe that students are entitled to more services than what we're currently offering. As graduate and professional students, we each pay money into the GPSA fee, entitling all of us to a voice and a say in our student government. We can use this power to affect positive and equitable change—both at the student level and at the legislative level. The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed the areas of desperate need at our university—many of our students are struggling with basic needs and caring for their families, while constantly juggling research and teaching obligations. While we still have many improvements to make and a long journey ahead, I want to reflect on the tenacity, drive, and determination that each of you have in order to keep going. My hope for this student government is that we can alleviate some of the pressures or stressors that you are facing.

My plan is as follows:

For our graduate and professional student body, I plan to expand access to Emergency Grant Funding for our students who need it the most, as well as increasing funding for affiliate student governments and graduate/ professional student groups and organizations. I plan to increase our lobbying efforts at the legislature in order to effectively advocate for increased funding for GA stipends and health insurance. I plan on increasing support for our professional student community, where we can establish lines of funding to support qualifying exams or other research or career-related expenses.

Internally within GPSA, I plan on providing a much-needed update to our Constitution & Bylaws, which haven't seen a full revision in over fifteen years. I want to expand access to our student government to



GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION

GPSA EXECUTIVE BOARD – DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY (APPLICATION)

MAY 2021 - MAY 2022

allow students to become more involved in our committee work, thus providing our students with leadership, service, and mentorship experience, laying the groundwork for the next generation of students. All of this can be done through increased orientation and training processes for students interested in getting involved with GPSA, and this can be executed by leveraging my experience as a Graduate Assistant for our undergraduate student government, CSUN (which has been fully functioning for over 50 years!)

Finally, I want to begin recording metrics for where our money is going, and what population of students we are helping. Are our funds being distributed equitably, and, if not, where is the area of greatest need? By gathering data on our impact, we can hopefully reassess where our funding is needed the most. Whether that is related to increasing travel sponsorships, assisting with research materials, or even providing more workshops for development, we can work to understand and reassess the best way for GPSA to positively impact a student's career.

I understand that this is an ambitious undertaking to complete in one year, which is why I'm working with an absolutely wonderful and dedicated team that can make it happen. **Please consider voting for myself (Nicole Thomas) for President, Brandon Monson for Vice President, Drue Sahuc for Treasurer, and Rosedaveia Howell for Secretary.** Together, we hope to increase the role that GPSA can play in making your graduate school career more fulfilling!



GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION

GPSA EXECUTIVE BOARD – DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY (APPLICATION)

MAY 2021 - MAY 2022

**Please list any relevant experience/qualifications for the position:
(GPSA experience, student government, extracurricular activities, or other interests)**

As a second year M.S. student in the Department of Teaching and Learning, I've spent the last year and a half involved in GPSA. I have served as the Executive Board Secretary for the last year, attending all meetings, recording minutes, enforcing parliamentary procedure, and following Nevada Open Meeting Law. Prior to that, I was a member-at-large serving on various graduate student committees.

My experience in student government began with our undergraduate student government, CSUN, over seven years ago. I participated extensively during my undergraduate career at UNLV, serving as Committee Chair or Vice Chair for committees such as Ways & Means, Constitution and Bylaws, and Oversight. These experiences transferred incredibly well to our graduate student government, where I have been working the last year to expand our student services and programming. An example of this is my recently founded student mentorship program, which was in partnership with the undergraduate student government, CSUN. To date, we have paired over 300 undergraduate mentees with over 120 graduate student mentors. These experiences make me an ideal candidate to continue (and expand) this work.

Outside of student government, I conduct research on student's misconceptions in STEM, previously receiving a NV NASA fellowship for my work with space, scale, and scope. I love talking about research and getting students involved wherever possible, so if you'd ever like to chat about research I'm happy to do so! My personal hobbies include trying to keep over 30 houseplants alive, and I also enjoy spending time with my three snakes, leopard geckos, and roommates.



GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION

GPSA EXECUTIVE BOARD – DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY (APPLICATION)

MAY 2021 - MAY 2022

POSITION DESCRIPTIONS:

President

President is the chairperson of the GPSA Council and Executive Board. This position is responsible for guiding the organization on general issues such as goals of the Council. The President also represents the GPSA at the Board of Regents meetings and travels to other locations when the meetings are held outside Las Vegas (travel expenses paid by GPSA).

The President serves on the Graduate Council, the Executive Council, as well as on several campus-wide committees. The President speaks at various student orientations and campus engagements. Due to impromptu requests (speaking, serving on committees, etc.) from different entities on campus throughout the year, it is highly recommended that candidates for this position have a flexible schedule.

This position offers a graduate student tuition waiver of up to 9 credits a semester, a monthly stipend equal to that of a graduate assistant, a Graduate College Leadership Scholarship (academic year breakdown: Summer - \$5,000; Fall - \$2,000; Spring - \$2,000) and a GPSA \$550 stipend for each semester (Summer, Fall, Spring; paid monthly from May to April).

Candidates must be in good academic standing, admitted to a graduate and/or professional program at UNLV, and must have previous experience on the GPSA Council as a representative or as a previous executive board member



GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION

GPSA EXECUTIVE BOARD – DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY (APPLICATION)

MAY 2021 - MAY 2022

Vice President

The VP chairs the Sponsorship Committee which evaluates applications and distributes GPSA funding allocations for students' research and conference travel and serves on several campus-wide committees. The Vice President establishes priorities for the sponsorship funding in conjunction with the Committee and Executive Board. This position also conducts Sponsorship Funding Workshops in order to assist students on how to successfully apply for GPSA Sponsorship funding.

The Vice President also chairs the GPSA Annual Student Research Forum held in the spring semester. The Vice President attends the Board of Regents meeting in the President's absence and acts as President if the office becomes vacant. The Vice President also sits on a Graduate College Committee and other campus-wide committees.

This position offers a Graduate College Leadership Scholarship (academic year breakdown: Summer - \$3,000; Fall - \$2,000; Spring - \$2,000) and a GPSA \$550 stipend for each semester (Summer, Fall, Spring; paid monthly from May to April).

In the absence of the President, the Vice President shall chair the Council.

Candidates must be in good academic standing, be admitted to a graduate and/or professional program at UNLV and must have previous experience on the GPSA Council.



GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION

GPSA EXECUTIVE BOARD – DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY (APPLICATION)

MAY 2021 - MAY 2022

Treasurer

The Treasurer presents a financial report at every monthly GPSA Council meeting. This position chairs the Government Relations Committee, Awards Committee, and serves on several campus-wide committees. The Treasurer also sits on a Graduate College Committee. During a legislative year, it is expected that the Treasurer travel to Carson City one or two times to meet with the governor, state legislators, etc.

This position offers a Graduate College Leadership Scholarship (academic year breakdown: Summer - \$3,000; Fall - \$1,000; Spring - \$1,000) and a GPSA \$350 stipend for each semester (Summer, Fall, Spring; paid monthly from May to April).

The Treasurer will fill the Vice President's office in the event of its vacancy.

Candidates must be in good academic standing and admitted to a graduate and/or professional program at UNLV.



GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION

GPSA EXECUTIVE BOARD – DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY (APPLICATION)

MAY 2021 - MAY 2022

Secretary

The Secretary is responsible for preparing and posting the agenda/minutes for each Council meeting, which is set by the Executive Board. The Secretary records the minutes of Council meetings and sends them to the Council Representatives. The Secretary is responsible for keeping roll call at the GPSA Council meetings, which determines the representative's eligibility for their semester stipend. This position also chairs the Publication Committee, sits on a Graduate College Committee and several campus-wide committees.

This position offers a Graduate College Leadership Scholarship (academic year breakdown: Summer - \$3,000; Fall - \$1,000; Spring - \$1,000) and a GPSA \$350 stipend for each semester (Summer, Fall, Spring; paid monthly from May to April).

The Secretary will fill the Treasurer's office in the event of its vacancy.

Candidates must be in good academic standing and admitted to a graduate and/or professional program at UNLV.

Nicole Juliana Thomas

Curriculum Vitae

University of Nevada, Las Vegas
4505 S. Maryland Parkway
Las Vegas, NV 89154-5016
Office: 702-895-5912
Email: Nicole.Thomas1@unlv.edu
<https://www.unlv.edu/people/nicole-thomas-0>

EDUCATION

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>January 2019 to Present</i> | Master of Science , Curriculum & Instruction, Science Education
University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), Las Vegas, NV
Cumulative GPA: 3.92 |
| <i>December 2017</i> | Bachelor of Science , Biology, Concentration in Ecology and Evolution
Minor: Psychology
University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), Las Vegas, NV
Cumulative GPA: 3.53 |

GRANTS & AWARDS

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>April 2020</i> | Outstanding Graduate Student
Awarded "Outstanding Graduate Student" at the 2020 annual Rebel Awards at UNLV. |
| <i>February 2020</i> | 1st Place, UNLV Graduate and Professional Student Research Forum
Awarded \$200 for placing 1 st in the College of Education session of the UNLV Research Forum. |
| <i>January 2020</i> | Nevada Woman in STEM Award
Recognized by the Office of U.S. Senator Jacky Rosen as January's Woman in STEM. |
| <i>June 2019</i> | NV NASA Space Grant Consortium Graduate Research Opportunity Fellowship
\$17,000 Fellowship, award period 2019-2020 academic year
Project: Space, Scale, and Scope (S ³): Enhancing Understanding and Decreasing Misconceptions in STEM Education. |
| <i>April 2019</i> | UNLV Impact Award for Community Engagement
Presented to UNLV Saturday STEM School for 24-49 hours of community engagement and demonstrating an outstanding commitment to advancing learning, justice, and social change with the community. |
| <i>April 2017</i> | OUR-UNLV Travel Grant
\$500 awarded for conference travel and accommodations. |

- April 2017* **Stanford Research Conference Funding**
SRC Conference stay and accommodations fully funded by the Stanford Undergraduate Research Association (SURA); estimated value of \$1,500.00
- February 2015* **UNLV College of Sciences Dean's Grant**
\$1300 awarded for independent research conducted within the Physics & Astronomy Department

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- September 2019 to Present* **Research Fellow**, Nevada NASA Space Grant Consortium
Project: Space, Scale, and Scope (S³): Enhancing Understanding and Decreasing Misconceptions in STEM Education
Description: Identifying and addressing misconceptions surrounding the scientific standards space, scale, and scope within a population of preservice elementary science teachers. The objective of this research is to create research-based activities in order to address common misconceptions found in physics and astronomy. Funded by the NVSGC Graduate Research Opportunity Fellowship.
- November 2017 to January 2020* **Research Assistant**, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Description: Assists with advising and mentoring a cohort of undergraduate students conducting research on maternal health practices from a biological and anthropological standpoint. Researches the practice of placentophagy, as well as assists with oral interviews and data collection.
- June 2015 to November 2017* **Undergraduate Research Assistant**, Department of Earth and Ecosystem Sciences (DEES Lab), Desert Research Institute
Supervisor: Duane Moser, Ph.D. & Brittany Kruger, Ph.D.
Description: Cultivation of anaerobic bacterial species and attempted isolation. Assists and trains other undergraduates to execute proper lab techniques. Conducts lab work in relation to ancient DNA studies involving analysis of mitochondrial DNA lineages. Performs DNA extractions and sequencing of various bacterial and archaeal genomes.
- November 2015 to January 2017* **Undergraduate Research Assistant**
Environmental Microbiology Lab, UNLV
Supervisor: Brian Hedlund, Ph.D.
Description: Assessment of various spring systems and generation of clone libraries. Specific focus on microbial seasonal change in regards to ecosystem effects, as well as classification of novel organisms.
- December 2014 to November 2015* **Undergraduate Research Assistant**
Independent Research, UNLV
Supervisors: Daniel Proga, Ph.D., & Michael Pravica, Ph.D.
Description: Irradiation of various carbon structures at differing energies of X-Rays and assessing the conformational changes. Analysis of structures via Raman Spectroscopy. Application of these carbon structures to everyday life. Grant and budget proposal writing

*January 2015 to
May 2015*

Undergraduate Research Assistant

Independent Research, UNLV

Supervisor: Steven Rowland, Ph.D.

Description: Semester-long project including collection and assessment of the micropaleontology of Tule Springs fauna dating back to the Late Pleistocene Era. Reconstruction of the ecology within this time interval. Microscopic analysis of collected samples.

PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

Publications

Thomas, N.J., Vo, T. (*Accepted with Revisions*). “Examining Undergraduate Elementary Preservice Teachers’ Biological Understanding of Natural Selection Through Technology.” *Bioscene*.

Thomas, N.J., Vo, T., Sabel, J. (*In Review*). “Non-Majors Students’ Use of Reflection to Enhance Biology Understanding and Relevance.” *Journal of College Science Teaching*.

Academic Reports

Moser, D., Kruger, B., **Thomas, N.J.**, Sackett, J. (2018). “Analog Study to Constrain Potential Microbial Degradation of Diesel Range Organics from Amchitka Site Drilling Mud Pits.” Publication number 41273, prepared for the U.S. Department of Energy.

Moser, D., Hamilton-Brehm, S., **Thomas, N.J.**, Dagher, R. (2016). “Cultivation and Isolation of *Candidatus Desulfurudis audaxviator*.” Grant number 50647. Prepared for the Marine Biology Lab/Deep Carbon Observatory.

Conference Presentations

Chambers, B., Sherwood, C., Vo, T., **Thomas, N.J.**, Mehta, A., Fick, S., Chiu, J.L., Arias, A., Callah, B., Dias, M., Kuhel, K., Hanuscin, D. (*Accepted*). “The Roles and Uses of Crosscutting Concepts in Elementary Teaching.” Paper submitted for presentation at the 2021 National Association for Research in Science Teaching (NARST) International Conference, Orlando, FL.

Vo, T., **Thomas, N.J.** (March 2020, Accepted). “Investigating Elementary Pre-service Teachers’ Implicit use of CCC’s Overtime through Lesson Planning.” Paper accepted for presentation at the 2020 National Association for Research in Science Teaching (NARST) International Conference, Portland, OR. *Cancelled due to COVID-19

Thomas, N.J., Vo, T. (March 2020, Accepted). “Examining Elementary Preservice Teachers’ Understanding of Natural Selection Through Technology.” Poster accepted for presentation at the 2020 National Association for Research in Science Teaching (NARST) International Conference, Portland, OR. *Cancelled due to COVID-19

Thomas, N.J. (Feb 2020). “Space, Scale, And Scope: Enhancing Understanding and Decreasing Misconceptions in STEM Education.” Podium presentation at the 2020 Graduate and Professional Student Research Forum, Las Vegas, NV.

Thomas, N.J., Vo, T. (Feb 2020). “Addressing Misconceptions Regarding Space, Scale, and Scope within a Population of Preservice Elementary Science Educators.” Poster presented at the 2020 Conference on Academic Research in Education (CARE), Las Vegas, NV.

Thomas, N.J. (Feb 2020). “Space, Scale, and Scope: Three activities engaging in the NGSS Cross-Cutting Concepts.” Workshop presented at the 2020 Nevada State Science Teachers Association Conference, Las Vegas, NV.

Thomas, N.J., Vo, T., Sabel, J. (Nov 2019). “Science in the News: Engaging Non-Biology Majors in the World of STEM.” Poster presented at the 2019 Professional Development Conference of the National Association of Biology Teachers (NABT), Chicago, IL.

Thomas, N.J., Vo, T. (Nov 2019). “Birds of a Feather: Using Simulations to Enhance Science Learning in Preservice Teachers.” Workshop presented at the 2019 School Science and Math Association (SSMA) Convention, Salt Lake City, UT.

Vo, T., **Thomas, N.J.,** Higgins, C. (Nov 2019). “Natural Disasters as Inroads to Elementary Student Learning and Graduate Student Engagement.” Workshop presented at the 2019 School Science and Math Association (SSMA) Convention, Salt Lake City, UT.

Cheng, A., Carter, E., Grotjohn, K., **Thomas, N.J.,** Young, S.M. (April 2018). “Nutritional Composition of Placenta Supplements Compared to Other Meat.” Poster presented at the 2018 UNLV Undergraduate Research Symposium, Las Vegas, NV.

Carter, E., Cheng, A., Grotjohn, K., **Thomas, N.J.,** Young, S.M. (April 2018). “An Investigation of Alternative Maternal Health Care Practices and Beliefs.” Poster presented at the 2018 UNLV Undergraduate Research Symposium, Las Vegas, NV.

Grotjohn, K., Carter, E., Cheng, A., **Thomas, N.J.,** Young, Sharon M. (April 2018). “Processing Methods of the Human Placenta and Effect on Potentially Harmful Substances.” Poster presented at the 2018 UNLV Undergraduate Research Symposium, Las Vegas, NV.

Thomas, N.J. (April 2017). “Sexism in the STEM Fields: The New Age of Microaggressions.” Poster presented at the 2017 Stanford Research Conference, hosted at Stanford University, CA

Thomas, N.J. (Nov 2016). “Sexism in the STEM Fields: The New Age of Microaggressions.” Poster presented at the 2016 UNLV Office of Undergraduate Research Symposium, Las Vegas, NV.

Thomas, N.J. & Phung, R. (March 2015). “Irradiation of Various Structures of Graphene.” Poster presented at the 2015 UNLV Academic Affairs & Office of Undergraduate Research Poster Conference, Las Vegas, NV.

Woodsworth, J., Armstrong, J., **Thomas, N.J.,** Del Rosario, A.L., & Rowland, S. (April 2014). “Micropaleontology of Late Pleistocene ‘Unit D’ of the Tule Springs Fossil Beds.” Poster presented at the 2015 UNLV Geosymposium, Las Vegas, NV.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Professional Development Graduate Research Assistant, Student Involvement and Activities, UNLV

Supervisor: Savannah Baltera, M.A.

Description: Fully-funded competitive Graduate Assistantship position with the UNLV CSUN Undergraduate Student Government. Assists in advisory role, student engagement and advocacy, and legislative affairs.

Graduate Research Assistant, Department of Research & Economic Development, UNLV

Supervisor: Sharon Young, Ph.D. & Colt Kraus, M.A.

Description: Fully-funded competitive Graduate Assistantship position with the Office of Undergraduate Research. Focused in classroom and organization outreach, research consultations for undergraduates, and data analysis of research impact on undergraduate careers.

Senior Research Consultant, Office of Undergraduate Research, UNLV

Supervisors: Sharon Young, Ph.D. & Rebecca Boulton, M.A.

Description: Leads training of office staff and students in conducting undergraduate research consultations. Connects students to faculty research mentors and assists in developing research proposals, CV editing, and professional development.

Undergraduate Research Consultant, Office of Undergraduate Research, UNLV

Supervisors: Liam Frink, Ph.D. & Sharon Young, Ph.D.

Description: Serves as a consultant to undergraduates in assisting them with finding potential research opportunities. Assists with event programming and development of research fairs and poster conferences.

Research Ambassador, Office of Undergraduate Research, UNLV

Supervisor: Sharon Young, Ph.D.

Description: Serves as an undergraduate representative on the Research Advisory Board. Assists undergraduates in finding research opportunities and preparing for professional school.

Undergraduate Teaching Assistant

Biology 197 General Biology II Lab, UNLV

Supervisor: Tim Duffy, Teaching Assistant

Description: Assists in the Biology 197 lab in regards to lab set up, presentations, student assistance, and detailed explanations of various topics.

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Professional and Academic Workshops & Invited Talks

Antiracism & Equity Listening Sessions

Invited co-facilitator for the UNLV College of Education, August 2020

“Nuts and Bolts of Getting Involved with Research at UNLV”

Invited workshop presenter at the OUR Summer Research Skills Academy, Aug 2019

STEMpowerment for Women Workshop

Invited speaker at the 500 Women in Science Nevada Chapter workshop, May 2019

“Getting Connected to Research at UNLV”

Invited presentation at the UNLV Honors & Research Symposium, Oct 2018.

“Get Connected: An Introduction to the World of Research Consultations”

Invited speaker at OUR Summer Research Skills Academy, August 2018.

“Experience as an Undergraduate Researcher”

Invited speaker at OUR Summer Research Skills Academy, July 2017.

“Relationship with your Research Mentor”

Invited speaker at Summer Research EXperience (REX) for Undergraduates, July 2017.

“Professionalism in the Workplace”

Invited presentation at the OUR Research as Professional Development Workshop, Oct 2015.

Grad Rebel Advantage

*August 2019 to
May 2020*

Grad Rebel Advantage Mentor

Description: Graduate mentor to a cohort of undergraduate students interested in pursuing graduate school. Assists with advising, research advice, and holds cohort meetings.

Special Committees

<i>September 2020 to Present</i>	Vice President for Research Search Committee <i>Description:</i> Serves as the graduate student representative and voting member in the UNLV Vice President for Research Search Committee.
<i>September 2020 to Present</i>	Graduate Top Tier Initiatives Committee Member <i>Description:</i> Graduate member representing the Graduate & Professional Student Association. Meets monthly to review and make recommendations for interdisciplinary programs and initiatives to continue the Top Tier trajectory of UNLV.
<i>February 2019 to September 2019</i>	Graduate Course Review Committee Member <i>Description:</i> Member at Large representing the Graduate & Professional Student Association. Meets monthly to review and make recommendations for all proposals regarding the creation or elimination of graduate courses.
<i>February 2019 to September 2019</i>	Graduate Programs Committee Member <i>Description:</i> Member at Large representing the Graduate and Professional Student Association. Meets monthly to review and make recommendations for all proposals regarding the creation, changes, or elimination of graduate programs and certificates.
<i>July 2017</i>	OUR SURF Application Review Committee Member <i>Description:</i> Reviews scholarship applications for the Office of Undergraduate Research Summer Undergraduate Research Funding (OUR SURF) Scholarship.
<i>May 2017</i>	CSUN Scholarships Application Review Committee Member <i>Description:</i> Reviews scholarship applications for the CSUN Research & Development and CSUN Research Stipend awards.
<i>August 2016 to March 2017</i>	College of Sciences Dean Search Committee <i>Description:</i> Serves as the undergraduate representative and voting member in the UNLV College of Sciences Dean Search.
<i>September 2016 to May 2017</i>	Vice President for Research and Economic Development Search Committee <i>Description:</i> Serves as the undergraduate representative and voting member in the UNLV VPRED Search.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

UNLV College of Education Saturday STEM School

March 2019 **STEM Saturday Volunteer**
Description: Cofacilitates weekly lessons to students in grades 3-5 surrounding the topic of natural disasters and how to effectively prepare for them.

Coral Academy Science Fair

February 2019 **Coral Academy Science Fair Judge**
Description: Judges science projects and experiments from grades 7 through 12.

UNLV Club Science

January 2015 to January 2017 Position: **Founder and Member**
Description: Founder of the inaugural “Club Science;” UNLV students present science projects twice a month to the kids at the Boys and Girls Club. This ongoing program provides viable career options for younger students while keeping them interested in the world of science.

LEADERSHIP SERVICE

UNLV Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA)

May 2020 to Present Position: **Student Body Secretary**
Description: Serves on the Executive Council for the Graduate & Professional Student Government at UNLV. Chair of the Service & Activities Committee, as well as Chair of the Publications Committee. Records all meetings in compliance with Nevada Open Meeting Law.

UNLV Consolidated Students of the University of Nevada (CSUN) Student Government

July 2014 to November 2017 Position: **College of Sciences Senator**
Description: Representing the 3,000 students within the College of Sciences at UNLV. Assists in managing a 1.4 million-dollar CSUN budget, assist science organizations in receiving funding, and planning science-related events. Acted as liaison between the College of Sciences and Student Government.

- August 2017 to November 2017* Position: **Oversight Committee Chair**
Description: Chairwoman of the Oversight Committee. Processed all complaints or possible violations of the CSUN Code of Conduct, the Constitution, and the Bylaws.
- August 2015 to October 2016* Position: **Senate President Pro Tempore**
Description: Serves as the head of the Senate and the liaison between the Executive and Legislative branches. Trains incoming Senators in regards to proper Parliamentary Procedure. Created the Legislative Intern program, where freshmen and transfer students have the opportunity to become involved in the legislative process.
- July 2015 to September 2015* Position: **Ways and Means Committee Chair**
Description: Manages a \$250,000 budget and assists various undergraduate student organizations in receiving funding.
- December 2014 to October 2015* Position: **Oversight Committee Vice Chair**
Description: Co-founder of UNLV CSUN's first Oversight Committee, which acts as a checks-and-balances between the Legislative and Executive branches.
- April 2014 to February 2015* Position: **Camp CSUN Coordinator**
Description: Co-founder of UNLV's first Camp CSUN, which allows high school students across the valley to attend UNLV for two days and participate in CSUN events, as well as allowing them to attend classes, meet professors, and receive information on various research options.
- May 2015* Position: **Elections Board Member**
Description: Assists with the Student Body Elections and acts as a liaison between the Legislative and Executive branches.

UNLV Scientista Foundation

- February 2017 to Present* Position: **Member**
Description: Serves on the Communications Committee, and assists with the planning of various events related to STEMM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math, and Medicine) education and communication.
- February 2017 to December 2017* Position: **Recruitment Chairwoman**
Description: Assists in the Chartering of the UNLV Scientista Foundation, the Nevada branch of the National Scientista Foundation. Head of the Recruitment Committee, which exists to encourage passionate women to join this organization that empowers women in the STEM fields.

UNLV American Society for Microbiology (ASM)

- April 2015 to Present* Position: **Member**
Description: Member of UNLV ASM; assists in leading presentations for elementary-aged students in regards to microbiology, conducts fundraising and participates in science awareness efforts.

Gamma Phi Beta Sorority International

<i>June 2017 to December 2017</i>	Position: President <i>Description:</i> Serves as the head of the Executive Council. Leads all Chapter meetings as well as events. Effectively manages an organization of 90 members and a budget of \$40,000.
<i>October 2016 to June 2017</i>	Position: Administrative Vice President <i>Description:</i> Serves as the chairwoman of the Bylaws and Standing Rules Committee and the head of the Administrative Department. Duties include maintaining records of meetings, facilitating programming of events, and maintaining roster and calendar. Serves as one of the seven members of the Executive Council.
<i>March 2016 to October 2016</i>	Position: Standards Chairwoman <i>Description:</i> Serves as the Chairwoman of the Standards Committee; maintains attendance records and upholds general membership requirements and standards of Gamma Phi Beta.

LAB TECHNIQUES

<i>Biology</i>	Anaerobic culturing, correct aseptic technique, DNA extraction, microbial streak plating, chromatogram DNA sequence analysis, PCR technique, NanoDrop, collection of fossilized samples, microscopic analysis of both fossilized and living organisms, basic plasmid mini-prep technique, wet mount slide preparation
<i>Chemistry</i>	IR spectroscopy, sample preparation, reagent preparation, media preparation

RELEVANT COURSEWORK

BIOL 301 Fossil Records	BIOL 461 Prokaryotic Diversity
BIOL 304 Molecular Genetics	CHEM 474 Biochemistry I
BIOL 341 Ecology	PSY 303 Physiological Psychology
BIOL 351 Microbiology	EPY 702 Research Methods
BIOL 409 Virology	EPY 718 Qualitative Research
BIOL 464 Bacterial Pathogenesis	EPY 721 Inferential Statistics
BIOL 486 Animal Behavior	CIS 638 Applications of Tech. in K-12
BIOL 447 Adv. Comp. Animal Physiology	CIG 761 Theoretical Frameworks of Sci. Ed.
BIOL 415 Evolution	BIOL 701 Research Ethics
BIOL 444 Plant Ecology	CME 600 Multicultural Education

MEDIA COVERAGE

UNLV Creates Guest Speaker

Representing the Graduate & Professional Students at UNLV, August 2020

“Nevada Woman in STEM”

Office of Senator Jacky Rosen, January 2020

“Getting Ahead of the Curve”

UNLV News Center Article, July 2017

“The Starting ‘Block’”

UNLV Magazine, Fall 2015 Issue

REFERENCES

References available upon request.



To whom it may concern,

I am writing to strongly recommend that Nicole Thomas be considered for the position of President on the GPSA Executive Board. I have known Nicole for four years and she is, by far, one of the best graduate student leaders with which I have had the pleasure to work. She always has a 'go-get-em' attitude, brings unique points of view to the table, works extremely well with others, and shows a genuine care for the affairs of all levels of UNLV.

I have worked with Nicole for the past year and a half in a supervisory capacity. Initially we both worked together in the Office of Undergraduate Research and then both migrated over to CSUN. In both areas, I have supervised the outstanding work that she does which includes managing large campus-wide events, advising undergraduate students, and assisting UNLV students in planning their future careers. Prior to being her GA supervisor – I advised Nicole in her role as a student senator in CSUN.

In her current role, Nicole assists me in advising, in fact, she is more knowledgeable than myself on many CSUN topics, thanks to her historical knowledge of the organization. The CSUN students love her and not only does she advise them on student government concerns, but she takes it a step further and even meets with many of them to craft their schedules and even work with them on graduate entrance tests and what schools would be good to consider for graduate school. Nicole functions at the level of a tenured administrator - it always eases my mind to know that Nicole is in charge of something because I know things will get done and be done well!

Nicole puts 100% into everything she does, and she does a lot! She spends a good deal of time in the student government offices, but I cannot keep this woman busy.... She is so efficient and such a hard worker that tasks I assign are done before I can ask her to do them. She is extremely perceptive and just knows what needs to be done and does it! Nicole has so many passions – anything she puts her mind to, she can do. Her positive attitude, amazing work ethic, and overall demeanor have helped to transform CSUN, not only physically but the whole mentality has become more positive as a direct result of her influence. On top of the work she does with her GA-ship with us, she has been an excellent member of the Graduate and Professional Student Association, serving in the capacity of Secretary over the course of the last year. She keeps up with her studies and maintains excellent grades, and is also extremely involved in the Vegas community through her work with political campaigns. Honestly – I don't know how she does everything she does and still finds time to eat and sleep!

Nicole has made a profound impact on my life. She inspires me and everyone around her to work towards a better, more cooperative world. Nicole is an experienced communicator and understands what it means to be a leader in the sense that she instills leadership qualities in others. UNLV would not be as inviting without the knowledge and charisma that she has infused into it. With her great attitude and amazing work ethic, I highly recommend Nicole Thomas for this position, and I verify that she meets all enrollment requirements set forth in the application. Please feel free to call if you would like more information.

Sincerely,

Colt D. Kraus
Assistant Director of Student Government and Activities
University of Nevada Las Vegas

Student Involvement & Activities

◆ Campus Activities ◆ Fraternity & Sorority Life ◆ Student Organizations ◆ Student Government

4505 Maryland Parkway

Box 452008 Las Vegas, NV 89154-2008

Main (702) 895-5631 Fax (702) 895-5700