



Graduate College Mentorship Certification

**Congratulations to our incoming 2019-
2020 cohort**

AILEEN LOVITT



Aileen's research will investigate ingroup bias in perceptions of stereotypes. Specifically, the study aims to provide insight into whether or not individuals favor the stereotypes of their own racial ingroup more than the stereotypes of other racial groups. The study will also determine if the favoring of ingroup stereotypes is due to racial group saliency or differences in trait preferences.

Aileen's RAMP mentee will have the opportunity to manage the dataset and run statistical analyses for the project. They will also be able to assist in developing a poster for presentation at a national conference and writing a manuscript for publication.

**Ph.D. student,
Department of
Psychology**

**Advisor:
Dr. Murray Millar**

ALEXA BEJINARIU



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

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



This research project explores the facilitators, barriers, and readiness of domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST) victims to leave commercial sexual exploitation. The research project titled, *Failure to Appear: Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking Victims' Experiences with the Juvenile Justice System and their Readiness to Change*, will increase our knowledge about victims' experiences while trading or selling sex.

The undergraduate student mentee will learn how to navigate and use SPSS in order to run several data analyses, familiarize himself/herself with the literature surrounding sex trafficking, as well as create and submit a poster presentation to the Western Society of Criminology (WSC) during the Spring 2020 academic semester.

BABAYEMI OLAKUNDE

**Ph.D. student,
Department of
Environmental and
Occupational Health**

**Advisor: Dr. Jennifer
Pharr**



I have research interest in maternal and child health, particularly in developing countries. Currently, I am looking at factors affecting uptake of permanent contraception among women seeking to limit childbearing in Africa.

As a researcher, one of my career goals is to transfer skills and knowledge to improve research capacity in my country. To achieve this, it is imperative that I have the skills to effectively communicate with and guide potential mentees. These skills are not only crucial to improving my ability to mentor and supervise, but to my overall leadership skills. Since I enrolled at UNLV, I have seen the impact of good mentoring skills on the relationships between mentors and mentees. And I hope to acquire these skills in the GCMC program.

BETH WI



**Master's student in
Business and
Hospitality**

**Chair:
Dr. Mehmet Erdem**

Following my passion for making an impact in the hospitality industry, the focus of my research is to explore hotel employees' perceptions of service robots in the hospitality workplace. Through analysis of human attitudes toward robots, the outcome of the proposed research may help offer smart deployment strategies for hotels and reduce potential employee anxiety and increase employee engagement.

I have had great mentors who guided me through at the different stages of my life. As I grow academically and professionally, it is time for me to acquire skills and knowledge to be an effective mentor.

I am confident the Mentorship Certification Program can help me equip with competencies that will well translate well into developing the next generation.

CURTIS CHAMBLEE



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

**Advisor: Dr. Natalie
Pennington**



I am a second year Masters student in the Communication Studies department. My research areas are health communication messaging and where people look for social support. I am also interested in popular culture, race and political rhetoric.

I am thankful for the many mentors that have helped to inspire me to get to this point in my academic career. Without those who took time to mentor me, finding your way as a college undergraduate student can be really difficult. This is also something that as a graduate teaching assistant I have noticed as well. It is now time for me to pay it forward by mentoring an undergraduate student by mentoring them through their academic career.

It is an honor to be a part of of this year's GCMC program can not wait to get started this fall.

EUN JOO (EJ) KIM



Ph.D. student, William F. Harrah College of Hospitality

Dr. Sarah Tanford



Eun Joo Kim is a third year PhD student in hospitality administration in the Hotel College. Her area of interest is discovering customer decision-making process by understanding consumer behaviors in the hospitality industry. She has ten years of work experience in the food and beverage industry as a marketer and the experience directly tie into her research interests. Through the acquisition of active research focusing on the relationship between hospitality brands and consumer behaviors, she aims to build research and teaching skills to deliver a quality of knowledge to the hospitality industry and students who will be future leaders of the industry. She believes that a good educator is not only performing a good teacher but also being a good mentor. Through the program, she hopes to learn interpersonal skills and develop emotional intelligence for understanding students' concerns.

HANA KUWABARA



**Ph.D. student,
Department of
Psychology**

**Advisor:
Dr. Daniel Allen**



Investigation of ImPACT and Sport Concussion, involves a dataset of over 50,000 high school athletes in Nevada from 2008 - 2017 who have taken pre- and post-concussion assessments using the ImPACT neurocognitive testing battery. This longitudinal, state-wide database will be used to shed light on various related research topics such as the psychometric properties of the ImPACT, multicultural assessment, the clinical utility of the ImPACT, sandbagging, and more.

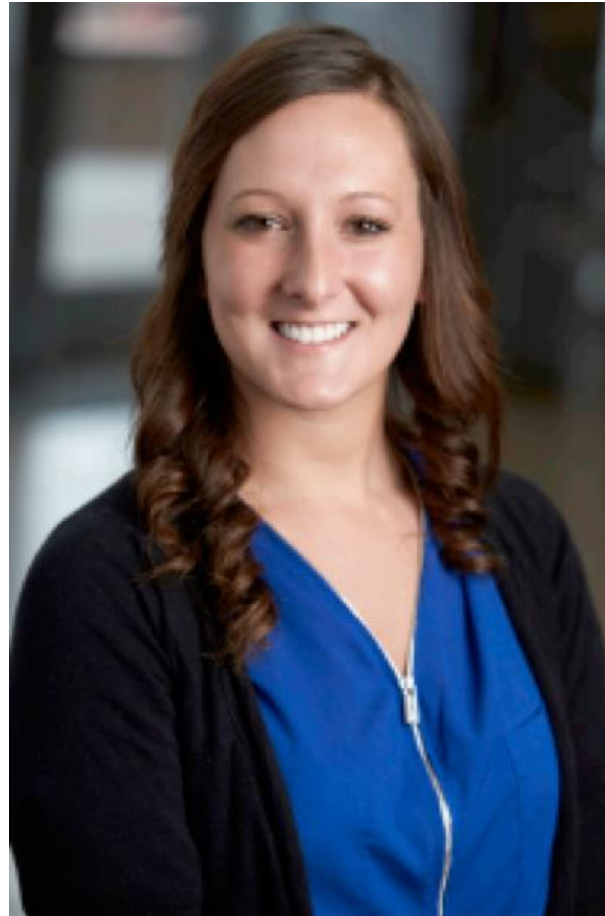
Mentorship is present at every stage of pursuing a career in clinical psychology. By participating in the Graduate College Mentorship Certification program, I hope to gain knowledge, insight, and experience in effective mentorship. By fostering these integral skills, I hope to grow as a mentor, researcher, and as a psychologist.

JACLYN PARKER KEEN



**Ph.D. candidate,
Department of
Criminology and
Criminal Justice**

**Advisor:
Dr. Emily J. Salisbury**



Mentorship has consistently demonstrated to be a crucial component to learning for me throughout my time in graduate school and as an instructor. Through excellent mentorship from my advisor, I have found my passion in research of enhancing treatment programs within our prison systems and also have learned how to effectively implement change within the Department of Corrections. As a future mentor to students, I hope to be able to guide students in their efforts to pursue what they are passionate about. Working with- and mentoring students with diverse experience, knowledge, and skills, will help me grow both professionally and personally. Through the mentorship program, I hope to encourage students not to hesitate when contributing their unique ideas in difficult conversations and to pursue opportunities that present themselves. Through this, we can find solutions and have the greatest impact in our community.

JACQUELINE PHAN

Ph.D. student,
Department of
Chemistry &
Biochemistry

Advisor: Dr. Ernesto
Abel Santos



My research project will explore the effects of biological variables, such as sex, on *Clostridioides* [*Clostridium*] *difficile* infection (CDI). CDI is responsible for the majority of antibiotic-associated diarrhea. Since other gastrointestinal diseases have shown that sex hormones can affect disease outcomes, our goal is to determine whether sex also affects CDI severity and disease progression. The implications of this study can be used to help refine future CDI treatment.

My academic journey has been heavily influenced by the guidance of my mentors. Through the GCMC program, I hope to gain valuable knowledge on how to be an effective and impactful mentor myself. I want to learn how to communicate and interact with mentees of all different backgrounds, ambitions, and disciplines. My mentorship goal is to help my mentees learn to become mentors to others, while also developing into independent thinkers who can formulate their own hypotheses and research questions.

JASON M. AVEDESIAN

**Ph.D. student,
Department of
Kinesiology and
Nutrition Sciences**

**Advisor:
Dr. Janet Dufek**



Athletes across all levels of sport are at greater risk for lower extremity (LE) injury following a sport-related concussion (SRC).

However, the biomechanical movement patterns, and their relationship to LE injury risk, following a SRC have not been elucidated. The purpose of my research is to examine jump-landing biomechanics in adolescent and collegiate athletes with a history of SRC.

I hope to gain valuable mentorship abilities, such as best communication practices and leadership development, through the Graduate College Mentorship Certification to be an effective mentor for current and future students.

JOHN OLAWEPO



**Ph.D. Candidate,
Department of
Environmental and
Occupational Health**

**Advisor:
Dr. Jennifer Pharr**



My research focuses on the intersection between HIV and obesity.

I am using a mixed methods design to study the prevalence and trends of obesity and overweight among people living with HIV (PLHIV) in Africa (using Nigeria as a case study) and the perceptions of healthcare workers about this double epidemic. My research uses both a quantitative and a qualitative approach to further understand this emergent phenomenon of obesity among PLHIV.

The Graduate College Mentorship Certificate (GCMC) program provides an opportunity to develop my capacity in mentorship and research collaboration, which are key skills towards becoming an independent scientist.

KAROLYNE STUCKI



**Ph.D. student,
Department of
Psychology**

**Advisor:
Dr. Bradley Donohue**

Karolyne Stucki is a doctoral student in the Clinical Psychology Program; she is currently mentored by Dr. Bradley Donohue. She aspires to be a licensed clinical psychologist, university professor, and researcher.

Her research focuses on developing new programs to assist underserved populations in receiving culturally-adapted, evidence-based, and optimization-focused treatments within the United States and abroad.

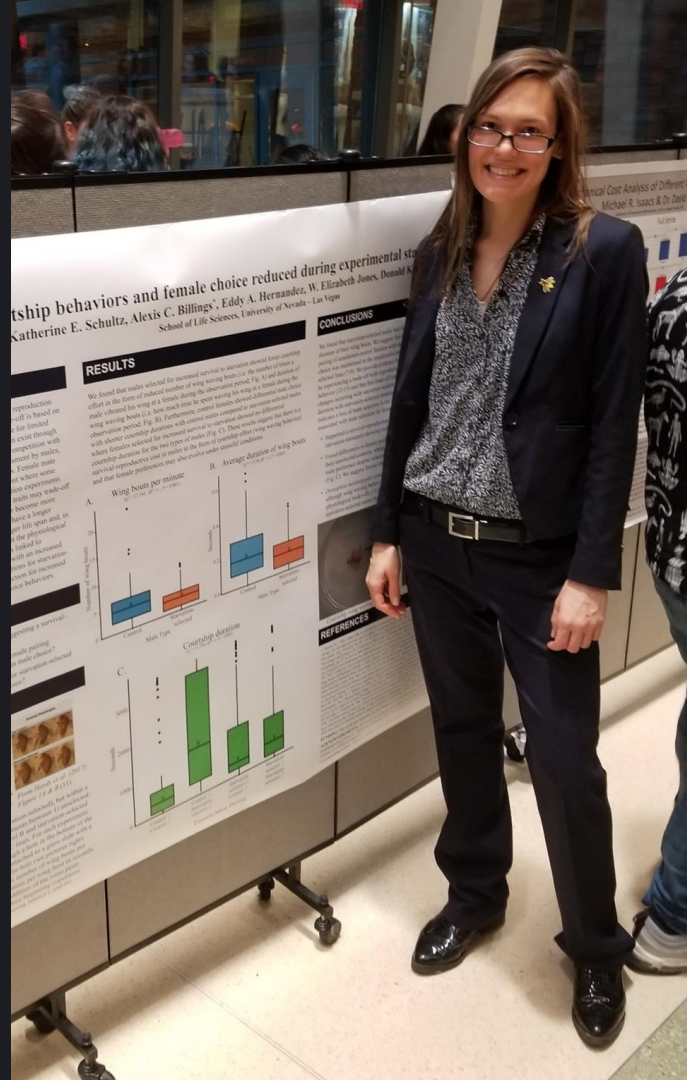
Karolyne will work with a RAMP mentee to build skills related to development and dissemination of evidence-based treatments.

KATHERINE SCHULTZ



Ph.D. student, School of Life Sciences

Advisor:
Dr. Don Price



My research investigates the underpinnings of host-plant choice in specialist and generalist fruit fly species of Hawaiian *Drosophila*. I use chemosensory, behavioral, and genetic assays to look into a novel system. The genetic and ecological implications of this research can have impacts on conservation and understanding plant-insect-microbe interactions.



The GCMC program will help me cultivate skills and develop tools to help me pursue my dream of being a professional educator and mentor. Over the last 12 years, mentoring students from Kindergarten to college has been humbling and rewarding. I recognize the importance of good mentorship and having positive role models. I have always had a passion people and helping them become who they want to be, and this program will help me guide our up and coming professionals.



KAVITA BATRA



My research focus is directed towards improving the quality of life of high risk infants. I am particularly interested in determining the health care utilization of preterm neonates (babies born prior to 37 weeks of gestation) and drug exposed neonates with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome, NAS. The latter presents as a group of health conditions in babies experiencing withdrawal from certain drugs such as opioids used during pregnancy.

I am pleased to be a part of Graduate College Mentorship Certificate Program. I hope to strengthen my teaching skills to be able to effectively transfer knowledge to my undergraduate mentee during RAMP collaboration.

**Ph.D. student,
Department of
Environmental and
Occupational Health**

**Advisor:
Dr. Patricia Cruz**

KRISTEN HERLOSKY

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

**Advisor:
Dr. Alyssa Crittenden**



In the Department of Anthropology at UNLV, my lab has research interests broadly on the topics of nutrition, maternal health, hunter-gathering/ foraging populations, and reproduction. In the Nutrition and Reproduction (NAR) Lab, I gathered data in Northern Tanzania, East Africa, among the Hadza foragers in 2016 and 2017 for my master's research project and pilot work for my PhD.

The project, "Postnatal Maternal Health among the Hadza" has ceased data collection and is undergoing data analysis. The project sought to interview Hadza mothers on their birth experience, social support, and rituals associated with pregnancy, labor and delivery, and childbirth as a whole.

The RAMP and GCMC programs are an excellent opportunity for graduate and undergraduate students to work together in the scientific process and build professional experience that will be invaluable for success.

LORENA SAMANTAR

**PhD candidate,
School of Life
Sciences**


**Advisor:
Dr. Nora B. Caberoy**



My research is focused on developing a novel therapy for Alzheimer's disease, the world's leading cause of dementia that has no cure.


Through the years, I have been blessed with mentors who had been, and who continue to influence me positively. As a way of paying forward, I also dream of becoming an effective mentor who will be instrumental in bringing out the best in my mentees and in making a positive impact in their lives. Through the mentorship certification, I hope to learn how to mentor more effectively through the insights and trainings on best mentoring practices and the discussions of ethical issues in mentoring. Ultimately, I hope that by joining the mentorship certification program I will not only become a better mentor to the next generation of scientists I will work with, but also a better mentee for my mentor/s as well.

LYNDSEY CRAIG




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


**Advisor:
Dr. Peter Gray**



Stepped in an evolutionary framework, this cross-cultural project will examine men and women's perceptions of male facial hair patterns in three employment environments. Jorge and I will be collecting data in the United States as well as collaborating with faculty and student colleagues at Christ (Deemed to be University) in Bangalore, India in the Summer of 2019.



Through the GCMC program, I hope to make steps toward becoming a productive mentor to undergraduate students. I wish to support undergraduates in their research throughout my academic career as a graduate student and later as faculty, so I hope to gain more experience in mentorship communication, support, and time-management.



MARYAM MOHIEDDIN RAD

**PhD student,
Department of
Education, Teaching,
and Learning
Christine Clark**



Maryam's research is focused on Muslim women's challenges in education. She is now collecting preliminary data and performing a literature review for her Ph.D. dissertation research. Being a Muslim woman, she hopes her research can contribute to increasing the quality of education for Muslim women in higher educational institutes of the United States by identifying the existing issues and finding possible solutions to mitigate them. GCMC program will help her having better overview of her research and help her mentee to conduct a holistic research.

MATHEW SUNIL VARRE

Ph.D. student,
Department of
Kinesiology and
Nutrition Sciences

Advisors: Drs. Janet S.
Dufek & Mohamed B.
Trabia



Balance during quiet standing and dynamic tasks such as walking is an essential skill required for motor development and skillful performance of tasks. Children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) exhibit greater instability compared to typically developing children during various static and dynamic postural conditions. However, the contribution of the muscular activity to these balance deficits in children with ASD is unknown.

Purpose: To identify differences in muscle function and balance in children with ASD compared to children with typical neurodevelopment during static and dynamic conditions.

Through the graduate college mentorship certification program, I would like to receive training on the best practices and ethical issues of mentoring in higher education settings.

Michelle Strong



**Ph.D. student,
Department of
Psychology**

**Advisor:
Dr. Bradley Donohue**



Evidence-supported, culturally sensitive, psychological services for collegiate athletes is limited. To contribute to this literature the current research project, "The Investigation of Differences Ratings, and Rankings of Problems and Importance of Culture in Student Athletes as compared to Non-Student Athletes" aims to (1) Examine potential differences between student athletes' experience of sport problems, importance of sport, offensive remarks toward their choice culture, and the importance of culture across different sport types (i.e., NCAA, Club, Intramural athletes), (2) Examine the correlations between experience of sport problems, importance of sport, experience of offensive remarks toward their choice culture, and importance of culture and mental health, and (3) Analyze potential differences between student athletes and non-athlete college students' experience of offensive remarks toward their choice culture, and importance of culture.

POUYA SHOJAEI



**Ph.D. student,
Department of
Mechanical
Engineering**

**Advisor:
Dr. Mohamed Trabia**

The topic of research is: "Study on approaches leading to development of innovation and creativity in engineering students by team working".

This collaboration works on:

- Team building techniques
- How to set and establish the purpose of the team
- The meaningful results the team is being asked to maximize the creativity of the group.

Participation in GCMC provides me with the skills and knowledge necessary to effectively serve as a mentor in higher education settings and to provide insight and training on best mentoring practices. For instance, it will increase my self-esteem, confidence and self-awareness. It also provides me with the satisfaction of enabling people to make positive changes and informed choices.

RUBAIYA MURSHED



**Ph.D. student,
Department of
Mechanical
Engineering**

**Advisor:
Dr. Shubhra Bansal**



In the quest to improve the efficiency of thin film solar cells, organic-inorganic perovskites have emerged with rapidly increasing efficiency of over 23% over 9 years. Thermal stability and high absorption coefficient make A_2BX_6 a promising perovskite material for photovoltaic application. To avoid toxicity issue of lead, analyzing alternatives of lead-free perovskite photovoltaic material is my research concern. In a continuation of my previous research on Cs_2SnI_6 perovskite, my future work will include Cs_2GeI_6 . Ge as a candidate element for replacing Pb in halide perovskite compounds is suitable for light harvesting due to its higher photocurrent. Limited available literature on Cs_2GeI_6 requires more extensive research on this material. I expect my future work will lead to some great findings on this novel material.

I hope to enrich my mentorship and leadership skills throughout GCMC program. Hopefully my enthusiasm to interact with people and sharing opinion will help me get engaged in GCMC program.

SHAIMAA ABDELHALEM



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

**Advisor:
Dr. Wanda J. Taylor**

My research is focused on studying the earthquake potentiality in the city of Las Vegas and its effect on the 2 million lives that live in it and the much more people who visit it each year. At UNLV, I could develop my leadership skills through volunteering, joining leadership training, and participating in student organizations. I learned about myself, my passion for personal development, and how privileged I am by getting great experiences. That made me develop a desire for help to provide younger students with the resources and guidance that will help them achieve their graduate collage goals. I believe it is a duty that we, Grad Students, should pass on our experiences, help, and resources we were provided to incoming prominent students who need them. For this, I aim to learn and develop the required skills to pass on my experiences to my mentees.

SHON REED



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

**Advisor:
Dr. Melissa Rorie**



● Shon's research is focused primarily on victimization; in particular, male victimization and the way that early abuse impacts masculine identity and subsequent decisions to engage in criminal behavior. In addition, some of his more recent work has focused on trends in white nationalism within the United States.

● Through the Mentorship Certification program, Shon hopes to gain a better understanding of the tools and techniques that allow students to succeed in academia. Great mentors are the key to any young academic's success, and through the information gathered from the Certification Program, Shon hopes to mentor and inspire students in the same way this his mentors did for him.

STACEY CLOUSE



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

**Advisor:
Dr. Tamara Herold**



My research focuses on Place-based Investigations of Violent Offender Territories (P.I.V.O.T). This investigative policing strategy assists in identifying criminal infrastructures in persistently violent locations with the aim of dismantling criminal networks of places and people. Departing from traditional arrest-based policing, this strategy focuses on (1) reducing arrest disparities while obtaining substantial crime reduction in traditionally violent communities, and (2) reducing violent victimization.

As a first-generation college student, I have had the pleasure of working with amazing mentors in UNLV's department of criminal justice. Their guidance and mentorship inspired me to do the same for undergraduate students. I have worked in a mentorship capacity for three years while conducting research for our Crowd Management Research Council. During this time, I have successfully lead teams of undergraduate students through research on various projects. Given my background and experience, I hope to help students both academically and professionally.