



# Grad Rebel Ambassadors

Congratulations to our incoming  
2022-2023 cohort

**ANDREA  
CORRAL RODRÍGUEZ**



**Master of Social Work  
Student**

**Advisor: Nicholas Barr,  
Ph.D.**



My goal is to earn a Ph.D. in Social Work with a focus on immigration upon completion of my M.S.W. and enact change for marginalized groups through advocacy and research.

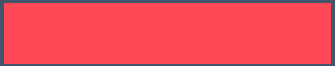


I strongly believe that effective change happens as a result of community work. As a Grad Rebel Ambassador, I would like to use my voice to advocate for accessible and equitable graduate education—particularly for the immigrant communities on campus.





# ANDRES J RODRIGUEZ



**Ph.D. student, Public Affairs**

**Advisor: Dr. Jessica Word**



I'm 27 years old and I'm currently a third-year Ph.D. student in Public Affairs at UNLV. I completed a Master of Business Administration and a Master of Science in Management Information Systems at UNLV.

My research is focused on the Hispanic population in the United States. Apart from being interested in academic research and teaching, I'm also interested in getting involved in state politics.

UNLV has supported me throughout my academic career, and without its support I wouldn't be where I am today. I am honored to be a Grad Rebel Ambassador to share the positive experiences and the opportunities I have had at UNLV with other students, alumni, and community members.

# CECÍLIA A. TURMAN



**Ph.D. Candidate,  
Teacher Education  
COE**

**Advisor: Dr. Peter  
Wiens**

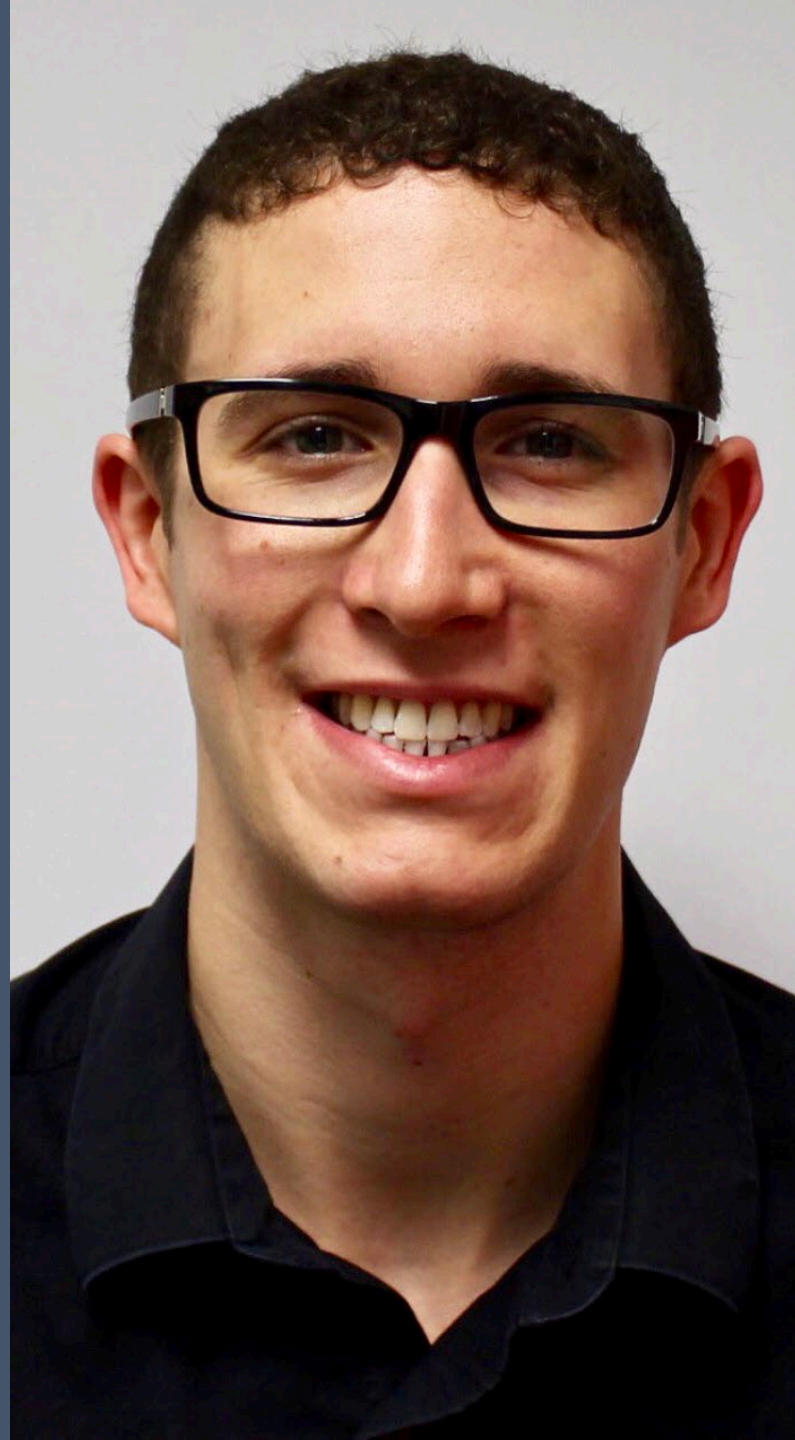


Since my first study abroad to the last conference I attended, I felt invested as an ambassador by promoting and representing my Alma Mater with respect for diversity and high standards. On campus, I have developed valuable relationships with colleagues, faculty, and staff through the years. As a local resident of Las Vegas for thirty years, I am an active participant in the arts and community projects that benefit the underprivileged, residents, and enable sustainability. My hobby is to restore midcentury americana to inspire, innovate and positively impact generational concepts.

**UNLV is my Alma Mater, I am a B.A. in Multicultural Studies, a M.A. in Latino, Chicano, and Public History, and a M.Ed. pursuing a Ph.D. in Teacher Ed.**



**DUSTIN DAVIS**



**Interdisciplinary  
Health Sciences Ph.D.  
candidate, Kinesiology  
& Nutrition Sciences  
Advisor: Dr. James  
Navalta**

Dustin is a fourth-year Ph.D. candidate studying mindful walking in nature. Mindful walking is a blend of mindfulness meditation and walking. Currently, Dustin focuses on learning how to measure mindfulness accurately and meaningfully. Long term, he hopes to bring mindful walking programs to college campuses to help students alleviate their stress, anxiety, and depression. Beyond his research, Dustin mentors his colleagues in academic writing and teaches anatomy and physiology to undergraduate kinesiology students. As a teacher, he invests in his students as people first and students second. Dustin embraces each student's unique background, abilities, and mindset to co-create valuable and memorable learning experiences. For leisure, he enjoys running, reading, watching movies, and spending time with his family. Dustin is a Grad Rebel Ambassador because he loves cultivating stronger relationships among the Graduate College, Grad Rebels, and community stakeholders. These relationships spark innovative and life-changing experiences and solutions for everyone involved.

# GODSON EBENEZER ADJOVU



**Ph.D. student,  
Department of Civil  
and Environmental  
Engineering and  
Construction**

**Advisor: Dr. Sajjad  
Ahmad and Dr. Haroon  
Stephen**

Godson Ebenezer Adjovu is a Ph.D. student majoring in Civil and Environmental Engineering.

He received his bachelor's and master's degree in Civil Engineering. His research focuses on remote sensing applications in water quality monitoring.

He is the current Vice President of the Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA) and the president of the African Student Alliance here at UNLV.

He is excited to be accepted into the Graduate Rebel Ambassadors program for the 2022/2023 year.

As a Grad Rebel Ambassador, Godson Ebenezer hopes to help strengthen the ties between the graduate college and the Las Vegas community. He believes the program will enhance his leadership and professional skills.

# JORGE REYES



**Ph.D. Candidate,  
Mathematical Sciences**

**Advisor: Dr. Monika  
Neda**

Jorge Reyes is a fourth year Ph.D. student in Computational Mathematics. As a first-generation Hispanic student, he has earned his undergraduate and M.S. in Applied Mathematics at University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and an Associates of General Studies from the College of Southern Nevada. Jorge's research focuses on Partial Differential Equations (PDE's) and those related to computational fluid dynamics.

As a Grad Rebel Ambassador, Jorge would like some way to give back and be more involved. During Jorge's time at UNLV he has learned so much particularly on how diversity and excellence are not mutually exclusive and that we can be excellent through diversity. By participating in program like these Jorge hope to be able to reach people like him and encourage them with there goals.



# NICOLE TANGUAY



**Master's student –  
Clinical Mental Health  
Counseling**

**Advisor: Dr. Wendy  
Hoskins**

After ten years working in the hospitality industry, I chose to go back to school at 32-years-old and pursue a career in counseling. This career change came after a life-altering event that caused me to re-evaluate my life and what was truly important to me. What I love most about the University of Nevada, Las Vegas is the diversity of our students and faculty. We come from all walks of life, backgrounds, and cultures. As a non-traditional student, I've overcome many barriers to get to the place where I am today.

My research is based on my first-hand experience of incarceration and the effects it has particularly on women. The effects of trauma on women before and during incarceration has a substantial impact on their ability to cope with life beyond incarceration and I seek to understand this further and propose to implement specific programming to help this population before and after incarceration.

As a Grad Rebel Ambassador, I want to be a representative of student diversity on-campus. I am currently involved with Rebel Rebound, a program on campus that assists justice-impacted students and their families. I believe that expanding my reach as a Grad Rebel Ambassador representing this population would be an honor and help raise awareness and inspire others in this diverse community.



# PRIYAMBDA KUMRA



Priyambda is a Master's Student in the School of Public Health in the Environment and Occupational Health Track. She earned her Bachelor's degree from UNLV as well in Biological Science in 2020.

She is a first-generation graduate student and hopes to inspire students from similar background like hers. Her research interest is to determine hospital acquired infections. Her future research will focus in detecting the biofilms of bacteria developed on medical devices surfaces which can lead to significant risk of infection in patients.

Priyambda is eager to be a part of this program to build a stronger graduate community at UNLV. Being an Ambassador helps her inform others of UNLV's outstanding resources for graduate students.

**Masters  
Student/School of  
Public Health**

**Advisor: Dr. Patricia  
Cruz**

# TAYLOR FLAHERTY



**Doctoral Student,  
Department of  
Anthropology**

**Advisor: Dr. Jennifer  
Byrnes**

Taylor is a third-year doctoral student in the Department of Anthropology. Their research focuses on anti-transgender violence in the United States, and the identification of transgender and gender non-conforming individuals in forensic cases. For their dissertation, Taylor is examining how hormone replacement therapy used by transgender individuals affects skeletal sex indicators assessed by forensic anthropologists. Taylor is also enrolled in the UNLV Nonprofit Management Certificate Program, as they are interested in pursuing a career in the nonprofit sector following graduation.

As a Grad Rebel Ambassador, Taylor is excited to help strengthen the graduate community at UNLV. They are excited to engage with new peers at UNLV and in the greater Las Vegas area, build their leadership skills, and be an advocate for others.



# TORISHA KHONACH



**Ph.D Candidate,  
Sociology**

**Advisor: Dr. Elizabeth  
Lawrence**

I am a PhD Candidate in Sociology whose research focuses broadly on the social constructions of the body, exploring how the meanings of bodies change over time. I use parents as a case study to investigate how parents' bodies shift from "private" to "public" through the constructions of health and assumed normality.

I am excited to serve as a Grad Rebel Ambassador to represent UNLV and make broader connections between the university and surrounding community. I want to continue developing the skills that mark me as an academic and active community member, creating meaningful bridges to connect us all together.

# JOSEPH YOON SUB KIM



**Dual Master's student  
in Hotel  
Administration and  
Management  
Information Science**



UNLV's Hospitality program is one of the best in the world and I decided to continue my academic journey with UNLV in Master's after graduating with my bachelor's degree in Hospitality. I am proud to be a UNLV student and the Grad Rebel Ambassador program is the best opportunity to represent the school.

Being in the hospitality industry, it is in my DNA to meet, serve, and assist people. I truly enjoy working with people and learn from their various life experiences. This Ambassador role will give me an opportunity to meet more people and share my experiences as both an undergraduate and graduate student at UNLV.

I look forward to representing the university as a Grad Rebel Ambassador and be an advocate for higher education in UNLV.