

Grad Rebel Writing Boot Camp

August 2021 Session

ADJOA MENSAH



**Ph.D.
student/Teaching and
Learning**

**Advisor: Dr. Kenny
Varner**



My research interest lies in Technology integration. Specifically how teachers utilize technology in the classroom. Using the SAMR model where do teachers lie on the continuum and how do they move forward from substitution to redefinition. If they are still in the substitution phase what are the barriers?



ANDREA CORRAL RODRÍGUEZ



**Master of Social Work
Student**

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



I am interested in earning 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.



Thus, by participating in this year's Grad Rebel Writing Boot Camp, I hope learn strategies to become a more effective writer and researcher to assist in my professional development.



AVERILL KELLEY



**Ph.D. student,
Teaching and Learning**

**Advisor: Dr. Norma
Marrun**

Averill Kelley is a doctoral student working on his PhD in Curriculum and Instruction with an emphasis in Cultural Studies, International Education, and Multicultural Education. Averill taught Social Studies for ten years in the Clark County School District. He has also served on a variety of leadership positions at the local, state, and national level. Mr. Kelley's research interests are on students of color, social studies education, civic engagement, and multiculturalism. By participating in the Writing Boot Camp, I want to improve my writing skills and learn more about the academic formal writing process in order to successfully complete my dissertation proposal, dissertation defense, and begin my future career as a teacher educator.

CECILIA A. TURMAN



**Doctoral Candidate
Teacher Education
College of Education**

**Advisor
Dr. Christine Clark**



My research interest is the environmental, multidisciplinary, and diverse aspects of personalization and experimental learning and delivery methods in non-traditional teaching spaces, real and situated contexts to apply in new teacher education programs. My research encompasses the impact of critical pedagogy and progressive theories to unfold new methods and approaches in program design empowered by technology to teach beyond the classroom.

I love the UNLV Grad Academy Programs! I never get enough of them and am always learning new trends in my field. The Grad Academy prompted me to start participating in conferences, when I started publishing some of my works. So, this Fall 2021 I am getting immersed in the Writing Boot Camp to get my work published by influential journals. I am looking forward to brushing up the various aspects of my writing process and learning how to manage the key steps to become an efficient professional writer.

UNLV is my Alma Mater where I earned a Bachelor in Multicultural Studies, a Master's in History and a Master's in Education.

CHRISTIE RA



**M.A. Student,
Department of
Criminal Justice**

**Advisor: Dr. Margaret
Kennedy**



Human-trafficking of children and adolescents is a major concern worldwide. It is a topic that is widely researched due to its impact on human exploitation. My research will specifically focus on runaway youths who have been sex-trafficked and the adversities they face in the welfare system in the United States. In order to examine this matter, we first have to look into the most vulnerable populations. Researching vulnerable populations will allow us to observe what traffickers are most looking for in their victims and consider how we can further support these groups.

Through this program, my goal is to gain valuable skill sets to strengthen my writing skills and learn how to manage writing time more effectively.

CHRISTINA BERKE



MFA student, Creative Writing

**Advisor:
Maile Chapman**



Christina Berke is currently working on an intergenerational memoir about her Chilean heritage, including the 1973 military coup, through the lens of body image, interpersonal violence, and self worth. Research methods include interviews, archives, and close readings of nonfiction books.



CLAUDIA SILVA RUBIO



**M.S. Integrative
Physiology, School of
Life Sciences**

**Advisor: Frank van
Breukelen, Ph.D.**



Common tenrecs are endemic to Madagascar and have been found to hibernate with as many as 13 other tenrecs during the Austral winter, possibly producing a hypoxic and hypercapnic environment within their burrow during their 8-9 month long hibernation season. My work involves subjecting active and hibernating tenrecs to increasingly hypoxic and hypercapnic environments in distinct ambient temperatures to elucidate effects on tenrec aerobic metabolism.



With the Grad Rebel Writing Boot Camp, I hope to achieve better time management skills for meeting writing deadlines in addition to learning strategies to minimize writing anxiety.



DANIEL PEREZ



**Ph.D. candidate,
Anthropology**

**Advisor: Dr. Karen G.
Harry**

● My dissertation research focuses on the Virgin Branch people, a prehistoric culture that spanned southern Nevada, southern Utah, and northwestern Arizona. Specifically, my research considers ways of discerning and better understanding Virgin Branch Puebloan community identity and group affiliation through the study of prehistoric pottery—namely, pottery technology and painted design styles.

● I want to participate in the Grad Rebel Writing Boot Camp program in order to both be held accountable to a like-minded writing community as I start to write aspects of my dissertation as well as learn how to better use my time and combat recurring impediments in the writing process in general.



GRACE GOODWIN



**Ph.D. student, Clinical
Psychology
Advisor: Dr. Daniel
Allen**

My research focuses on the neuropsychological correlates of sport-related concussion. Specifically, I am interested in prospectively examining the topology and interconnectedness of cognitive abilities in high school athletes with sport-related concussion, as this can provide unique insights into this complex injury. The Grad Rebel Writing Boot Camp will give me the protected writing time that I need to finish writing my thesis so that I may defend in the fall. I am looking forward to sharpening my scientific writing and developing skills that will help me meet my writing goals.

HALEY S. DOUGHERTY



**Ph.D. Student,
Anthropology – 2nd
year graduate student
& pursuing M.A. at
UNLV**

**Advisor: Dr. Karen
Harry**



I am a Ph.D. student intrigued by Southwestern archaeology and ceramic analysis in the Virgin Branch Puebloan region. My research interests include ceramic design styles, database curation software, exchange system modeling, technological innovations, and cultural identities in archaeological landscapes. In addition, I am a dedicated researcher focusing on the network of ceramic distribution in the Southwest, the regional impact of the Virgin Branch culture, and the influence of their behaviors throughout prehistory. More recently, I have analyzed sand tempered pottery vessel's remains for properties like angularity, color, and composition. This project is unique, and my interest in a Research Certification program is to build on what I have learned so far and improve my research technique.

HOSIA M. TOWERY III



**Post-Professional
Occupational Therapy
Doctorate Student
(PP-OTD)
School of Integrated
Health Sciences
Department of Brain
Health
Advisor: Dr. Donna
Costa, DHS, OTR/L**

Currently, I am preparing a paper for publication on the role and lack of activity as a social determinant of health. As society grows and evolves, it is crucial to identify the factors that impact the quality and availability of human performance in our social environment. Many of these factors, directly and indirectly, have a negative impact on our quality of health and well-being. Increased social awareness of these determinants of health, can provide an opportunity for the general public and community leaders to advocate for improvement and contribute changes that benefit the health of our citizens.

My Doctoral Capstone is in the developmental process and needs to be well written and communicated. I am exploring the need for community-based practice settings and the development of programs or instruments to facilitate their performance. There are many options well-positioned within my professional mission towards commitment to students and serving the community.

HUIYING ZHANG



**Degree Ph. D. Student
Hospitality
Administration**

**Advisor:
Dr. Billy Bai**

This study is aiming at understanding destination governance through a qualitative approach. The grounded theory method will be employed. Also, interviews with DMO leader, tourism officials, and industry leaders will provide insights on the governance structure in tourism destinations and how they involve local communities in their decision-making.

This topic is strictly linked with my dissertation topic, academic interests, and future career goal.

JAMES E. GREEN



**M.Ed Candidate,
Special Education,
Department of
Education**

**Advisor: Heather Van
Ness**

While studying to complete my Master's in special education, I am focusing on a separate field for this writing boot camp. I plan on publishing a scholarly paper on the genesis and development of Baggataway, a Native American game which eventually evolved into the sport we now call Lacrosse. I will be spending the week of writing to develop not only the finished paper, but also an outline and plan to grow the treatment into a full-size dissertation and/or novel within the next few years. I look forward to working with you all!

KATHERINE GADDIS



**Ph.D. Student,
Anthropology**

**Advisor: Dr. Jennifer
Byrnes**

I recently completed my first year as a Ph.D. student within the Department of Anthropology at UNLV. My area of interest within anthropology is bioarchaeology with a specific focus in paleopathology. My work takes a biocultural approach to understanding differential patterns of health and disease among past individuals and population groups. My intended dissertation research will focus on how we might better understand the lived experiences of elderly individuals in past societies. I have been working for the past few years at a bioarchaeological research site in Poland, which is where I plan to complete my Ph.D. research.

I applied for the Grad Rebel Writing Bootcamp to improve my writing skills. I plan to use this time to begin preparing my dissertation prospectus, which I need to submit at the end of the year. I look forward to learning more about all parts of the writing process!

KENYA MCCAMPBELL



M.A. student, Urban Leadership

Advisor: Shauna Guillen



With a Bachelor of Arts in Broadcast Journalism from Howard University, I am currently a Graduate Student at the School of Public Policy and Leadership in the Urban Leadership Program.



Through the Urban Leadership Program I have gained valuable knowledge and learned that writing and research are integral parts of discovering the statistical data and reasoning behind some of the challenges with creating positive change in underserved communities.



As systemic inequality continues to occur in these less fortunate communities, the Grad Rebel Writing Boot Camp will assist me in strengthening my leadership, research, and writing skills necessary to support and lobby for the policies I will eventually propose while also guiding me on how to create scholarly materials and publications.

KRISTEN TOVAR



**MS. student, Biology
Department
Advisor: Dr. Daniel
Thompson**

My name is Kristen, Fall 2021 will be my third semester as an EEB graduate student, I'm originally from Las Vegas and studied marine biology at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I am studying the endemic beetle *Pseudocotalpa giulianii* and part of my research involves population genetics. I am want to understand the dynamics of genes across populations and closely related species. I also hope to understand the fitness of the species to predict its survivability into the future given the potential for habitat loss. I want to join Grad Rebel Writing Bootcamp to prepare myself for writing my thesis.

MANDY MOUNTAIN



**M.S. student, School of
Life Sciences**

**Advisor: Dr. Daniel
Thompson**



In my research I study the ecology and evolution of Guiliani's dune scarab beetle, a vulnerable insect species endemic to Nevada. My main focus is on how conflict between the sexes impacts fitness, and if variations in population density contribute to plasticity of antagonistic behaviors associated with mating.

During the Grad Rebel Writing Boot Camp, I hope to develop habits that can help me to overcome writing anxiety by practicing techniques to become a more confident and efficient writer. I look forward to applying these skills as I work on the beginning phases of my thesis.

MARISSA TIEMANN



**Master's Student,
Criminal Justice**

**Advisor: Dr. Alexis
Kennedy**



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replace with
your
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picture does
not need to
be this large
but please
make sure
that it is
semi-
professional
in
appearance.



I want to conduct research on mental illness and how that impacts victimization and crime. I decided to apply to this program because to I wanted to get ahead on my thesis and wto develop my skills as a writer.



MARYAM HADI



Degree:
Ph.D. student,
Evolutionary Biology

Advisor: Dr. Elizabeth
Stacy



My master's degree was focused on differential gene expression of *Arabidopsis* mutants under abiotic stresses. This made me think about the origin of this differentiation and in a broader view how changes in gene expression increases the adaptation and diversification of the species in different environments. After joining the Stacy lab, I was acquainted with *Metrosideros* tree as an example of adaptive radiation through Hawaiian islands. This tree expanded across different environments and its taxa are morphologically, phenotypically and physiologically exceptionally diverse. For my dissertation, I study the differential gene expression of *Metrosideros* taxa in leaves, roots, and flower buds and aim to find the major genes involved in their adaptation to different abiotic stresses.

I want to participate in this program to improve my writing skill to write scientific papers.

MELANIE REDE



I am currently entering my fourth year of the clinical psychology program. Recently, I have been investigating into the subtypes of Selective Mutism, a psychological disorder described as the failure to speak in some situations while speaking comfortably in others. I hope to become a more successful writer by learning more about organization, building a comprehensive literature review, and creating and meeting writing goals.



**Clinical Psychology
Doctoral Student**

**Advisor: Dr.
Christopher Kearney**

**MICHELLE NICOLE
JANEAO**



**Master's Student,
Couple and Family
Therapy**

**Advisor: Dr. Brandon
Eddy**



My research interests are centered around the mental health and wellness of healthcare professionals. Specifically, my thesis aims to identify individual, organizational, and social factors that influence burnout to analyze the functionality of social support from various networks as a resource to increase the well-being and quality of life for medical students.

The Grad Rebel Writing Bootcamp will help me convey new ideas and elaborate on an ongoing conversation about important topics. This opportunity will help me become a better writer, which aligns with my overall goals to write books, publish articles, and conduct more research. This is meaningful because I hope that the language, ideas, and concepts I connect will inspire future research that will ultimately help scholars create a better world for individuals, organizations, and policymakers.

NASIM BINESH



**Ph.D. student,
Hospitality
Administration**

**Advisor: Dr. Amanda
Belarmino**



My research interests are revenue management, technology and corporate finance.

I work on multiple projects, including use of robots and AI in hospitality and human/machine interface. My dissertation topic is the use of forecasting methods and machine learning in hotel revenue management.



NIKKI KOVAL



Ph.D. student, Political Science

Advisor: Dr. Rebecca Gill



I am studying Political Science with a focus on the role gender plays in elections. Currently, I am writing my dissertation. I am looking at gender in primary elections for the U.S. House of Representatives by examining election rules, competition, and stereotypes women face during their run for office.



I want to participate in the program because I want to complete my dissertation within the next year. I have heard the best dissertation is a done dissertation.

I hope this will give me the opportunity to concentrate on my writing, overcome procrastination, and get tips to help me through the process.



SHEKHAR SINGH



**Ph.D. student,
Department of
Computer Science**

**Advisor: Dr. Fatma
Nasoz**

Emotions are a powerful tool in communication and one way that humans show their emotions is through their facial expressions. In the field of Artificial Intelligence, Facial Expression Recognition (FER) is an active research area. It is tough to classify images with multiple class labels and more problematic when the size of an image and dataset is small. Our research focusses on filling a gap between supervised and unsupervised learning by using Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs). GANs have been extensively used in multiple computer vision applications. We believe that GANs will also be helpful in the face dataset like FER2013 to generate synthetic images and will lead us to address the overfitting issue using data augmentation techniques.


By participating in Grad Rebel Writing Boot Camp, I will learn to write a publication or a conference paper. Subsequently, this will provide me an advantage in writing my dissertation research. Also, It will assist me in improving my writing skills which eventually guide me towards the completion of my program and achieving my career goals.

STACEY MOELLER JUTHAPAN




**PhD Student,
Department of
Psychology**

**Advisor:
Samantha John**



I am currently writing two manuscripts on biomarkers in Alzheimer's disease for Black/African American and Hispanic/Latinx individuals. The majority of our information on biomarkers comes from non-Hispanic white individuals and I am really passionate about looking at disparities in Alzheimer's disease diagnosis and treatment.



I am so excited to join the Writing Bootcamp because I struggle with writer's block and synthesizing information into manageable chunks. I look forward to receiving feedback from my peers and gaining tools to become a stronger scientific writer.



STEPHANIE HUFF



**Ph. D. Student,
Department of Early
Childhood,
Multilingual, and
Special Education**

**Advisor: Dr. Josh
Baker**



● My research evaluates the effectiveness of a group intervention package utilizing the teaching interaction procedure on the social skills of young adults with autism.

At this point, I am working on writing Chapters 1-3 of my dissertation in order to propose my study in the early fall.

● The writing bootcamp should be a great opportunity for me to learn skills and strategies to improve my writing and productivity. Additionally, I hope to build some writing routines and find some accountability partners. I am looking forward to connecting with others who are going through similar experiences!



TAMARA WYNNE



**PhD student,
Department of
Biology)**

Advisor: Dale Devitt



I research native plants and their relation to the soil and water. Currently the research is conducted inside a solar facility where native plants are growing next to the panels. I also research in North Las Vegas with native plants receiving different irrigation regimes.



TOMOKO SAKISHIMA



**Ph.D. student, School
of Life Sciences**

**Advisor: Dr. Elizabeth
Stacy**



● My research focuses on the nature of plant-plant interaction between early- and late-successional varieties of Hawaiian tree, *Metrosideros polymorpha* vars. *incana* and *glaberrima*, that differ in population density and the abundance of mycorrhizal fungi. Their response to a neighboring plant may be different depending on how genetically related with each other and it may vary between varieties.

● The UNLV Grad Rabel Writing Boot Camp will be an opportunity to focus on my prospectus and manuscript. I hope to develop skills in formulating my own thoughts and research into words and the systems that would work for me to write more efficiently. My ultimate goal is to discover my love for wiring.



TORISHA STONE



**PhD Student,
Sociology Department**

**Advisor: Dr. Elizabeth
Lawrence**



I research the intersections and constructions of race, gender, and the body. I am currently interested in contemporary experiences of parenthood, primarily focusing on how parents make sense of their body and embodiment before, during, and after becoming parents and in relation to interpersonal and institutional interactions.

I am excited to be part of the Grad Rebel Writing Bootcamp to have a dedicated space for writing and learning how to set aside time for independent writing in the future as I work on my first independent publication and my dissertation.

WEIWEI XU



**M.Ed. Student
Curriculum and
Instruction**

**Advisor: Dr. Micah
Stohlmann**



Weiwei Xu is currently enrolled in the ARL program of Curriculum and Instruction with an emphasis on Secondary English Teaching. She got her first Master's degree in English Language Learning in May 2020. She will start her doctoral program in English Education, Fall 2022. The focus of her research is incorporating literary theories and criticism into secondary English teaching.



Her goal during the Grad Rebel Writing Bootcamp is to improve her overall project management skills, ranging from literature review to publication. Meanwhile, she also hopes to meet more friends who share the same passion through this program.



WEN JIANG (HELENA)

**Ph.D. student,
Hospitality
Administration**

**Advisor: Dr. Cass
Shum**



Please provide a maximum 100-150 word description of your research/field of study and why you want to be in this program

My research field is Organizational behavior in the hospitality industry. Currently, I am really interested in abusive supervision and customer mistreatment in the hospitality industry. I believe that my research interests originated from my previous working experience in the hospitality industry. The reason why I would like to join this program is I want to improve my academic writing. I still remember that when I worked on my Master's thesis, my chair always criticized my writing style. Since I am working on my Ph.D. dissertation now, I need to improve my academic writing style.

WENJIA HAN



**Ph.D. student,
Hospitality
Management**

Advisor: Dr. Billy Bai



I have just completed my second year in the Hospitality Ph.D. program at UNLV, and I will be working on my dissertation starting this Fall. I take the Grad Rebel Writing Boot Camp as a great opportunity to improve my academic writing skill and better prepare for my research (dissertation) proposal. My research has been focusing on the marketing and consumer behavior aspects of the hospitality business. I am also interested in the interplay between hospitality firms' marketing strategy and their financial performance.



ZUSSETTE SANCHEZ



**Master of Science -
Emergency and Crisis
Management**

**Greenspun College of
Urban Affairs**

**Advisor: Dr.
Dory Mizrachi**

I am an ECM graduate with over five years of professional law enforcement and youth rehabilitation industry experience. My educational and work experience has given me the knowledge and skillset to pursue more excellent opportunities and willingness to share with others. I have exceptional planning, communication, and leadership skills. I am deeply knowledgeable in risk management and advanced in criminal justice with criminology emphasis and social justice. With all this experience and where I want to take my professional career, I would like to soon document in a book and share what I have learned very articulately to a broader audience.

This program is my first and only option to help build and rise my confidence to create and make my paper successful with the professional help I need. Thank you.