



Grad Rebel Writing Boot Camp

January 2021 Session

**ALEXANDER
CHAN**



**M.B.A. student, New
Venture Management**

**Advisor: Anjala
Krishen**



My research relates to the polling that I conducted for my independent study during the 2020 presidential election in Nevada. My goal is to publish an article about how non-white voters represented the true “swing” voters in the 2020 presidential election.

I want to participate in the grad rebel boot camp because I want to learn how to write an article that would be suitable for publication in an academic journal. Most of the support for my hypothesis comes from regressions and modeling of the data collected from the polling. I am hopeful that the boot camp will help me develop the optimal way to communicate statistical arguments to a political science audience.

**ANA
REYES**



**Doctoral student in
the College of
Education**

**Advisor: Dr. Harsha
Perera**



I have varied interests: scale construction and validation studies; student motivation, engagement, and achievement; and the role that cultural differences plays in these constructs and achievement related beliefs and behaviors. As such, I aim to utilize a preexisting international large scale, publicly available dataset to a) test the a priori factor structure of motivational constructs (expectancies, value, engagement) across multiple culture groups; b) test expectancy-value theory's (EVTs) predictions about achievement-related behaviors (engagement, performance) in three academic domains (English, math, science), given student expectancies (domain-specific self-concept) and subjective value in the respective domains across the same groups of students (Arab/Middle Easter, East Asian, Western or Anglo Saxon, post-communist); c) from a person-centered approach, test modern EVT's central tenet of intraindividual hierarchies of domain-specific expectancies and value beliefs.

AXENYA KACHEN, MPH



**Ph.D. student,
School of Public
Health**

**Advisor:
Dr. Jennifer Pharr**



I am a published interdisciplinary researcher and have extensive research experience in fields including: public health, gender studies, queer theory, marketing and advertising, biology, and computer science. In my Ph.D., I work in biostatistics and social and behavioral health. I specifically focus on health disparities in access and utilization in marginalized communities with an emphasis on intersectionality (e.g., the LGBTQ+ community).

Throughout my career, I plan to promote health equity through research on culturally competent healthcare and health education. I aim to fight for healthcare access within an intersectional social justice framework in my research and community work, while pursuing a medical education and public health graduate education.

I applied to the Grad Rebel Writing Bootcamp to become a more proficient writer and to work towards achieving my goals.

CHRISTIAN ISON



**Doctor of Philosophy –
Interdisciplinary
Health Sciences**

**Advisor: Dr. Janet
Dufek & Dr. Mohamed
Trabia**



My research focuses primarily on clinical gait analysis, specifically the examination of static and dynamic balance of those with varying complications of diabetes and diabetic peripheral neuropathy. Our overall research aim is to develop an instrument that detects early diabetic foot ulcerations, and thus prevent issues like injurious falls and eventual lower-limb amputations.

My goal is to improve my writing skills in preparation for my literature review. In addition, I hope to gain the writing skills necessary to become a proficient researcher.

DANIEL PEREZ



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

**Adviser: Karen G. Harry,
Ph.D.**



My dissertation research focuses on the Virgin Branch Puebloan 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.

**DEBBIE
NGAI**



**MHA Student,
William F. Harrah
College of Hospitality**

**Advisor:
Dr. Anthony Gatling**



My culminating project will consist of a comprehensive proposal outlining three meeting options for meeting planners and stakeholders to review and decide what option is best for their meetings and attendees. The three meeting options are a traditional in-person meeting, a hybrid style of in-person and virtual meeting, and an all-virtual meeting. Each option will describe the marketing perspective, safety and security precautions, technology requirements, operational logistics and protocols, food and beverage experience, attendee experience with value proposition, revenue stream, and cost factors.

I am excited to be part of this program, as my project topic is very current, and I want to know the best approach in researching information, requesting information, or asking for interviews from companies and industry professionals. I also want assistance in refining my timeline and proposal outline so I can keep on track with my deadlines.

**ERICK
WAKAYU**



**M.S. Computer
Science, Department
of Computer Science**

Advisor: Dr. Nasoz



Examining single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) of African Americans in regard to osteoporosis and bone mass density (BMD)



**HARJIV
SINGH**

**Ph.D. student,
Department of
Kinesiology and
Nutrition Sciences
Advisor: (Advisor's
Name)**



An individual's focus of attention, induced by characteristics of instructions or feedback, plays a significant role in optimizing motor skill learning and performance. From learning how to play the piano, teaching an exercise class, to serving a game winning ace in a gold medal match, we are constantly required to orient our attentional focus. However, is there an optimal attentional focus? What does level of expertise tell us? My research closely examines the role of distance in structuring attention and its added affective component. Being part of the Rebel Writing Boot Camp gives me the resources necessary to thrive in the final stages of my doctoral journey. During a time where writer's block, fear of writing, thought organization, and procrastination are at their full fruition, the motivation to continue and the tips and tricks to do it more efficiently is why I want to be part of this program.

**HUIYING
ZHANG**



**Ph. D. Student
Hospitality
Administration**

**Advisor:
Dr. Billy Bai**



This study is aiming at installing a cultural attractive index through a qualitative approach. The Delphi method will be employed. Also, interviews with DMO leader amid COVID-19 will supplement and verify the CAI installed, providing practical significance.

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

**JAMIE
NAM**



**Master's student of
Business
Administration and
Management
Information Systems**

**Advisor: Dr. Han-fen
Hu**



Organizations spend millions of dollars on information technology (IT) to improve productivity and competitiveness; however, employees must use these technologies to improve the organization's productivity. Under the guidance of my faculty mentor, Dr. Hu, our research primarily focuses on unraveling the predictors and their effects on user resistance. We specifically examine healthcare professionals' perception and reactions to Electronic Health Records (EHR) systems.

Through the Grad Rebel Writing Boot Camp, my goal is to streamline my process on how I tackle literature reviews. I hope to also connect with other students that share the same passion of improving and becoming a better researcher.



**M.S. in Quantitative
Finance**

Advisor: Daniel Chi



There are a lot of analytic work in the finance domain. However, explaining the research methodologies in a succinct and interesting way is always challenging. I hope to sharpen my writing skills in this Writing Bootcamp to produce high quality research papers.

I am currently conducting a research analysis to identify the factors that caused certain publicly listed companies to be priced much differently than their peers in the same industry.

JONGYUN JUNG



**Ph.D. student,
Department of
Epidemiology and
Biostatistics**

Advisor: Dr. Qing Wu



Broadly, my research focus on the precision medicine, which uses the individual's genomic information to make a decision about person's disease or treatment. In the specific research area, I'm interested in the intersection of machine learning with genomic data and statistics.

I hope to find the new skillset of writing techniques during the Grad Rebel Writing Boot camp and meet other Rebel fellow from a different department.

**JOO-HEE
HAN**



PhD student, Nursing)

**Advisor: Dr. Hyunhwa
Lee**



The purpose of this study is to examine the association between babywearing, mother-infant emotional connection, and maternal HRV using Calming Cycle Theory as the conceptual framework. Babywearing can enhance the mother-infant relationship, which can be described and measured by emotional connection. Emotional communication influences emotional connection and autonomic co-regulation, which could give insight into the dyad's psychological health by examining the heart rate variability (HRV) of the mother per Calming Cycle Theory.

I want to be part of the Grad Rebel Writing Boot Camp because it allows me to focus on one of my three articles required for my dissertation. I am looking forward to having a set time each day where I can write with other peers and learn different writing techniques and strategies to write efficiently and in a timely matter.

**KATHRYN R.
HENRY, M.A.**



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

**Advisor: Dr. Tamara
Herold**



My academic, personal, and professional life have not taken the linear path that I envisioned for myself. My unusual circumstances of being thrust into the legal system as a crime survivor changed me forever. I have found a way to deal with my new normal and rebuild every aspect of my life. While earning my Master of Arts in Management with an Emphasis in Leadership at Doane University, I discovered I have a passion for research. As I have discovered my new normal and the new me, I have been drawn into the study of criminology. My research focuses on the impact of the criminal justice system on survivors of domestic violence. My goals for this program are to enhance my skills and use them as I prepare to write my thesis.

LUCAS GALLUP



**PhD, Mechanical
Engineering**

**Advisor: Dr. Brendan
O'Toole, Dr. Mohamed
Trabia**



I got my Undergraduate here at UNLV in spring of 2019 in mechanical engineering, and started my graduate studies fall 2019. I started researching with Dr. O'Toole and Dr. Trabia that summer with the Robohand group, pursuing my interest in prostheses.

In my time as a graduate student, I have helped complete one prosthetic hand and worked on a shoulder replacement research project. I hope my research will help bring a world of better prostheses that improve the lives of those who need them. I joined this program to work on my writing skills for my own dissertation and to learn how to write for publication.

**LUIS
ORTEGA**



**In Progress, Ph.D. in
Higher Education,
Department of Higher
Education and
Educational
Psychology**

**Advisor: Dr. Federick
Ngo**



My research explores the reasons why First Generation Latino Community College Students are not completing their educational goals. Thus, the purpose of this phenomenological study will be able to explore the retention issues such as cognitive (motivation), social, and institutional factors that first generation freshman Latinx college (FGFLC) students experience in community colleges. This single case will be a holistic design, and it is bounded by one semester of students who enrolled and non-completed a first year experience class. The overarching research question is what were the perceived issues students experienced in non-completing.

My hope is to continue writing my literature review and redefine the theoretical framework. Again, I am exciting to participate in this Boot Writing Camp.

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 individual 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 my literature review as well as future writing projects.

MARIA HERMOSILLO

PhD Student,
Department of
Sociology

Advisor: Simon
Gottschalk



My research interests include examining the phenomena of classic rock tribute bands. Looking at the tributes, first, I will conduct a visual analysis of the musicians' strategies to present themselves to note how far they imitate to seem "real." Second, analyzing the audience's comments to understand the nostalgia and desire to see this type of entertainment.

The UNLV Grad Rebel Writing Boot Camp will be an opportunity to focus on my prospectus and thesis paper. Through this program, I hope to gain skills in organization, concept development, and reflexivity. My leading goal is to discover motivation and a love for writing.

MARYAM MOHIEDDIN RAD



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

**Advisor:
Dr. Christine Clark**



Maryam's research is dedicated to explore the campus life challenges and needs of the racial and religious minorities of Muslim female students in U.S. campuses.

Conducting a multiple case study maryam seeks to identify and address the existing challenges and needs associated with minorities on campus to amplify their voice and help to mitigate their needs.

Maryam's research is an attempt in helping the campus officials in facilitating diversity and inclusion initiatives on U.S. campuses.

MATHEW SUNIL VARRE

Degree: Interdisciplinary
PhD in Health Sciences

Department: Kinesiology
and Nutrition Sciences

Advisors: Janet S. Dufek
& Mohamed B. Trabia



In individuals with type-2 diabetes, neuropathy, a common complication, leads to breakdown of skin underneath the foot and may lead to abnormal high loads on the foot putting them at greater risk for foot ulcers and amputations. The goal of my research is to predict the progression of diabetes and thereby the risk for foot ulcers using machine learning algorithms. The model could be used as a screening tool to diagnose peripheral neuropathy and monitor changes in the foot surface in individuals with type-2 diabetes.

The writing bootcamp would allow me to have a dedicated time and organization/structure to focus on writing a good first draft of a manuscript as part of three project dissertation.

MATTHEW GINOVSKY



**M.F.A student,
Department of Theatre**

Advisor: David Shouse



I am currently a third-year M.F.A. student and am researching for my Creative Project, "The History of Stage Automation: Cirque du Soleil." The goal of this research and project is to examine how the stage automation has evolved over time.

Through the Grad Rebel Boot Camp I hope to improve my writing skills, learn how to work through writer's block, and develop the structure for my Creative Project. This will not only be useful for my current project, but will improve my overall communication skills as well.

**MEENA
EJJADA**



**Ph.D. , Department of
Civil & Environmental
Engineering**

**Advisor: Dr. Erica J.
Marti**



Meena Ejjada is a second-year PhD student. Currently, I am working on assessing different sources of disinfection byproduct (DBP) precursors in reclaimed waters. I have been able to establish the DBP formation potential resulting from various sources including unsheltered populations. My research findings will help stakeholders, regulators, and decision-makers to design strategies to manage stormwater, especially from unsheltered communities.

I applied for the Grad Rebel writing boot camp to develop effective ways to communicate complex ideas more clearly and efficiently. I am also excited to enhance my writing skills related to technical grant proposals, journal manuscripts, and doctoral dissertation.

NANETTE RASBAND HILTON



PhD, English

Advisor: John Hay



Nanette Rasband Hilton's work is published in travel and trade magazines, literary and scholarly journals, and as instructional manuals digitally and in print. She holds a bachelor's degree in Writing from BYU and a master's degree in Language and Composition from UNLV where she teaches English Composition and World literature. Nanette is a Ph.D. candidate studying nineteenth century American literature with a focus on rhetoric and composition pedagogy. She is particularly interested in addressing diversity issues relating to feminist rhetorics, multiple Englishes, multi-language writers, and cross-curriculum agendas. When she's not creating, Nanette may be found cycling the Mojave or enjoying time with her husband and their five children.

**Naoka
Foreman**



**M.A. student,
Department of
Journalism and Media
Studies**

**Advisor: Dr. Kevin
Stoker**



My research investigates how Black female humor is performed on social media, Instagram specifically, and the consequences that Black women face as comediennees due to interlocking systems of race, gender, and class.

This research will define Black female humor and put it into context to allow readers to understand the methods used by female comedians and why. This research will also position five Insta-comediennes as the Queens of Black female humor on Instagram and why.

This project will also define moments of inauthenticity, appropriation, and exploitation of Black female humor along with exposing its own elements of inauthenticity.

NEIL DODGE

Ph.D. Candidate,
History Department

Advisor: William Bauer



My research focuses on the Indigenous nations of North America, specifically the Diné. The key to my research is to explain how and why Diné forms their identities across time, ethnic, and racial lines. Developing an understanding of this inquiry is crucial to defining how the modern Diné nation forms the basis for its sovereignty claims. The writing boot camp will help me complete my dissertation by completing a chapter and learning strategies to use my time in writing effectively.

**RACHEL
ALI RODRIGUEZ**



**PhD student,
Neuroscience**

**Faculty Advisor:
Rochelle Hines**



Epilepsy results from excessive firing of neurons. A key site in the control of neuronal activity patterns is the axon initial segment (AIS). It remains to be determined how the morphology and composition of the AIS is affected in epilepsy.

I am analyzing AIS morphology including length, width, tortuosity, and periodicity through development. This project will give us understanding of the functional implications of AIS morphology and organization, providing new insight needed to develop therapies to control neuronal signaling.

This program will allow me to become more proficient in writing about my research and results making it easier to publish my work.

SAEED VAYGHAN



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

**Advisor: Dr. Mehmet
Erdem**



My research interest is hospitality technology and consumer behavior. I am currently working on social interaction between hotel guests and AI and how AI's human characteristics influence hotel guests' perceptions of service quality. I am also writing my dissertation proposal and that is the reason why I want to be in this program

**Sapir
Angel**

**M.S. Kinesiology,
Integrated Health
Sciences**

**Advisor: Dr. Brach
Poston**



My research will entail the reviewing recent use of Transcranial Direct-Current Stimulation (TDCS) to improve motor performance in the aging and Parkinson's Disease populations.

I am hoping this program will provide me with the tools I need to write a literature review that is professional while still incorporating my writing style/voice.

Since this paper will determine my graduation status, I think it will be helpful to learn how to get over the fear of writing and use my writing time more efficiently.

The ultimate aim is to use this paper to assist in any future grant proposals and research development on this topic.

**Sarah
Zvonar**



PhD, School of Nursing

**Advisor: Reimund
Serafica**



Fear as a Mediator of Illness
Perception and Perceived Stress
in Acute Myocardial Infarction
Survivors

Acute myocardial infarctions (AMI) are often accompanied by psychological sequela that may interfere with the physical, cognitive, and emotional recovery. Post myocardial infarction patients are taught to take proactive measures toward preventing future cardiac events, including decreasing overall stress. Models suggest that negative illness perceptions can predict perceived stress in an individual. In other theoretical models, fear of recurrence can also generate psychological stress. The purpose of this study is to identify if fear of recurrence is a mediator of illness perceptions and perceived stress in AMI survivors.

I want to be in this Writing Boot Camp to strengthen my writing skills, specifically the organization and structure of expressing my own thoughts and research.

**SERENA
SCALZI**



**M.Ed. student,
Educational
Technology**

**Advisor:
Kendall Hartley**



I earned my Bachelor of Science degree in Marketing and International Business from the Kelley School of Business at Indiana University, along with certificates in Full Stack Engineering from PunchCode and Computer Graphics Design from Otis College of Art and Design. I am currently a member of the Instructional Design team in the Office of Online Education.

I am passionate about educational technology, as I believe that education is technology's highest and best use. My research focuses on the intersection of education, technology, and creativity. I believe that participating in the Graduate College Rebel Writing Boot Camp will complement my professional background and help me to hone the skills necessary to be an effective communicator.

I look forward to the week ahead.

SERRINA NASROLLAHI



**MPH Candidate,
Department of
Epidemiology &
Biostatistics**

**Advisor: Dr. Ann
Vuong**



Serrina is a graduate student at UNLV, where she originally obtained her B.S. in Biology. As an undergraduate student, Serrina developed a passion for public health and recognized the importance of receiving a public health education. Her long-term career goal is to become a Las Vegas physician with quality education in community-based medicine, infection prevention, and chronic disease epidemiology.

Serrina is currently working on a secondary analysis on data from the CDC's Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) database to identify the relationship between changes in physical activity frequency during pregnancy and maternal depression in the postpartum period. She is eager to participate in the Writing Bootcamp program because she wants to learn how to (a) communicate effectively to her audience and (b) outline and modify her writing.

**SHU
ZHANG**



**MS student,
Lee Business School**

**Advisor:
Dr. Michael J. Lee**

Shu's research interests lie in consumer behavior and big data technology. Under the advisement of Dr. Michael Lee, she is working on her thesis which investigates the social network influence on online review helpfulness.

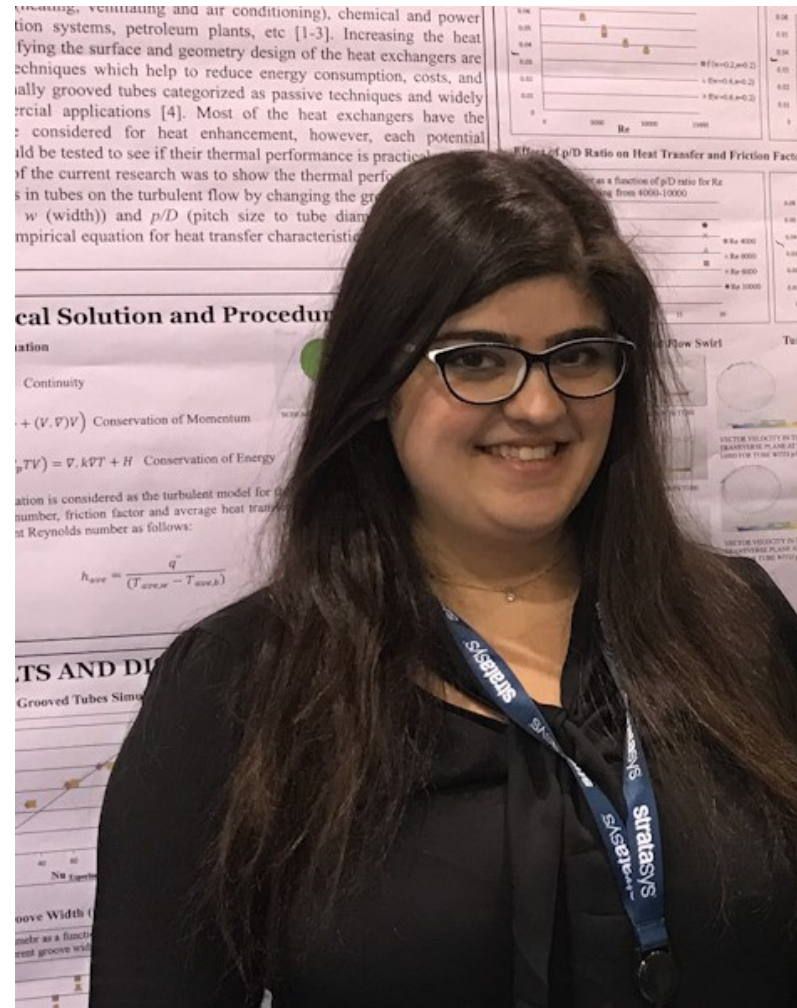
Aiming to have her research result published in an academic journal, she is hoping to hone her writing skills by participating in the Grad Rebel Writing Boot Camp.

SOGOL PIRBASTAMI



Ph.D. Department
Of Mechanical
Engineering

Advisor: Dr. Darrell
Pepper



Hypersonic research has gained renewed interest over the past few years. Research varies from the NASA projects with SpaceX to carry astronauts and ferry cargo to the international space station and future hypersonic commercial flights. Design and operation of hypersonic air vehicle involve different disciplines and state of the art researches. My research is focused on understanding the physical and topological properties of flow with detailed computational turbulence modeling to accurately predict the flow field and shock wave developments to improve the designs and increase the safety of hypersonic vehicles.

The Bootcamp will help me to focus on comprehensive literature review and writing my dissertation.

**SUNNY
SUN**



**PhD Student
Harrah College of
Hospitality**

**Advisor:
Dr Tony Henthorne**



I am planning to come up with a research purported to investigate the efficiency of hotel investment decisions on major hotel physical amenities (PHA). The measures of the “investment efficiency” be based on the perceived values and level of customer satisfaction brought about by a set of selected costliest PHA, which have been commonly conceived and applied to new luxury hotel projects.

I truly believe that my writing has plenty of room to improve, given my GRE score of the analytical writing section was below average. Additionally, I suppose I ought to be better trained for tackling the more frequently anticipated academic writing tasks in the future.

TALIBAH ABDUL-WAHID



**Master of Public
Administration (MPA),
Student**

Advisor: Jayce Farmer



I currently work part-time at a nonprofit and a part of my job description is to draft and create reports based on our services as well as developing programs and writing programs and I feel like improving my writing is crucial to continued growth within any organization.

**TAMMY
BOLL**



**DNP student, School of
Nursing**

Advisor: Dr. Henna Lee

My research is going to focus on utilizing simulation to teach the process of medication reconciliation. Medication reconciliation is an important role of the nurse, yet it isn't always taught at the undergraduate level. Errors can and do often occur in the process which lead to patient readmissions and even adverse events.

I am hoping to learn about time management, and overcoming writers block in this workshop. I'm sure I will learn much more as well!

**TSION
MELAKU**



**MS- MIS,
Management,
Entrepreneur and
Technology**

**Advisor: Dr. Han-Fen
Hu**



I am currently in the non-thesis track of Management Information Systems.

However, I would like to learn about dissertation writing for my next journey of doctoral program. I am in the process of joining the doctoral public policy program in the Fall 2021 Semester, and I believe this boot camp will prepare me for this journey.

In my view, this boot camp will shape me up with the required skills and knowledge for a higher level proposal and dissertation writing in the doctoral program. It will help me to become a more productive writer to meet my goals and deadlines for completing my proposal, and dissertation.

VICTOR QUINTANILLA



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

Advisor: Yi-Tung Chen

My research is in Supercritical Carbon Dioxide (SCO₂) Turbomachinery which has the potential to enhance the ways we produce energy and can be used for future efficient renewable power generation. I am researching ways to improve the aero-thermodynamic efficiency of compressors used in SCO₂ power cycles.

I wanted to join the writing boot camp to prepare my writing and presentation skills so I can efficiently publish my work in top academic journals.

**YICHEN
YANG**



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

Advisor: Dr. Katrina Liu



My research's topic is about the computational thinking and teacher's preparation in elementary level. In digital era, young students' computational thinking catches growing attention word widely, however, their teachers' preparation is lacking behind. The potential obstacles on how to teach computational thinking are due to many factors. My research will focus on dealing with one or two factors, such as teachers' perspectives and understandings. I passed my qualifying exam last semester. I am preparing my dissertation proposal. Therefore, I plan to focus on my dissertation and other research papers for future publish in this winter break.

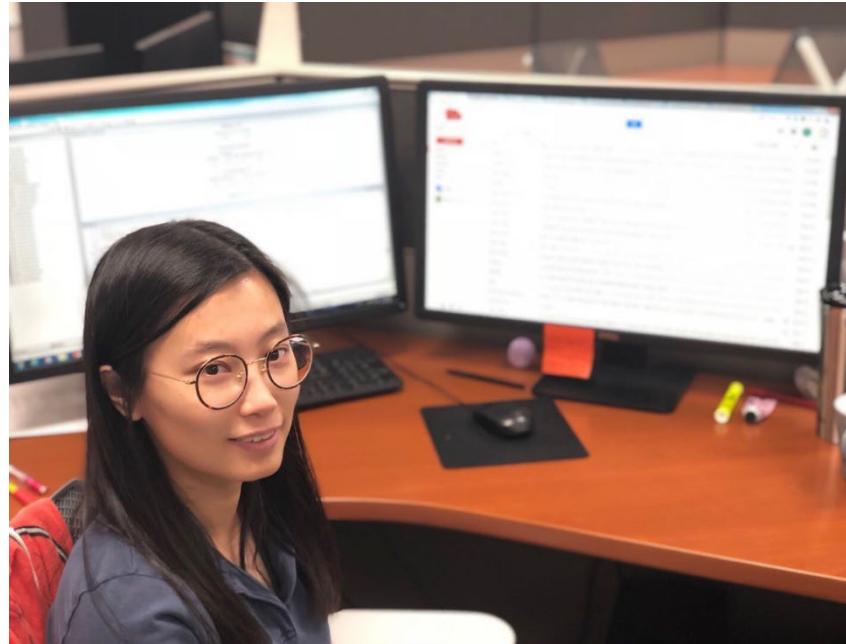
With Writing Boot Camp's help, I hope to obtain more suggestions on writing from the instructors and other students. Meanwhile, writing in a group can be very excited. I am looking forward to join this program.

**YINGKE
XU**



**Ph.D. student
Department of
Epidemiology and
Biostatistics**

Advisor: Dr. Qing Wu



My research interests include predictive model development, model selection and validation, personalized medicine, and health disparities. Currently, I am focusing on developing statistical models with physical characteristics, clinical history, and genetic information for bone mineral density and osteoporotic fracture prediction.

The Grad Rebel Writing Boot Camp will be a good opportunity for me to develop my writing skills. My goal is to learn related techniques and strategies that will make my writing process more efficient.

YUNYING XU



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

**Advisor: Dr. Chyllis
Scott & Dr. Kenneth
Varner**



My research focuses on children's literature, community-based family literacy programs, and visual literacy practices for diverse populations. I hope to learn more writing strategies that can keep me motivated, engaged, accountable, and efficient during my dissertation journey.

