



Grad Rebel Writing Boot Camp

Congratulations to our incoming August 2018 cohort

SHAIMAA ABDELHALEM



Ph.D. student,
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. Communication is a critical aspect of everyday life.

Joining the Grad Rebel Writing Boot camp will provide a collaborative and motivating environment that will help me focus on getting my papers well written and on time. It will also help learn how to organize my time and use the skills I learned in the boot camp to complete future writing assignments.

AMANDA ANNAN



Master's student,
Healthcare
Administration and
Policy

Advisor:
Dr. Jennifer C. Bonilla



Research Interests:

Program Administration, Program Evaluation, Healthcare Access, Quality of Care, Quality Assurance, Quality Management, Patient Safety, Chronic Organizational Stress, Healthcare Staff Wellbeing, Physician Burnout, Healthcare Ethics, Readmissions, Healthcare Finance, and Healthcare Policy

Writing Project:

I will work on my professional paper during the Grad Rebel Writing Boot Camp in exploring how trust in the healthcare environment can negatively or positively impact health outcomes and quality of care. My expectation is that the workshops will strengthen and enhance my writing and research skills.

JENNIFER CLARK



Ph.D. Candidate,
School of Life Sciences

Advisor:
Dr. Andrew Andres



I'm Jen the fly geneticist. In humans, diet and lifestyle choices lead to insulin resistance, which contributes to obesity and risk for diabetes. I use fruit flies as a model organism to study the molecular mechanisms of these diseases. I use a special population of fruit flies that have been experimentally evolved to be genetically obese, carrying three times more fat than normal flies. I want to understand how and why these flies become fat so that we can understand some of the causes of human insulin resistance, obesity and diabetes.

Publishing a peer-reviewed academic paper and writing a dissertation is just the first step to disseminating this new information. For this information to be relevant to the public, we, as scientists, must promote science literacy by communicating our work effectively. I want to use my improved writing skills to help people live healthier lives!

STACEY CLOUSE



**Doctoral student,
Department of
Criminology and
Criminal Justice**

**Advisor:
Dr. Tamara Herold**

Stacey is a first year PhD student in the department of criminology and criminal justice. Her areas of research focus on police legitimacy and perceptions of police use of force, medical response to mass casualty incidents and de-escalation practices for law enforcement.

Stacey's Masters thesis focused on the RDFC Interaction model to explore citizen acceptance of specific police-citizen encounters. The study also focused on identifying individual characteristics that may have accounted for variation in perceptions with the aim of developing community outreach programs for police departments.

During the writing boot camp, Stacey will be focused on finalizing her publication "A new metric: Applying CACC to study police legitimacy perceptions."

TEVFIK DEMIRCIFTCI



Ph.D. student,
Hospitality

Advisor:
Dr. Mehmet Erdem



Although, many studies related with progression of RM has been published, there are no studies which only focuses on overall progression of RM technology studies. Therefore, the purpose of this study seeks to present an overview of RM related technology papers published in hospitality and tourism journals between 2007 and 2017, specify popular topics / issues about RM technologies and recommend directions for future research.

BHAGYA DE SILVA

PhD student,
Biochemistry

Advisor:
Dr. Ronald Gary



Bhagya De Silva is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, supervised by Dr. Ronald Gary. Her research group emphasizes in applying biophysical approaches to study protein interactions with small molecules. In her dissertation research she will study the binding properties for the interaction between GSK3 β kinase and its inhibitor beryllium ion. She believes this study would enable to understand the properties of novel inhibitory sites on GSK3 β , helping to design specific inhibitors targeting this protein, whose deregulation is linked with many human disorders like Alzheimer's and bipolar disorder.

Bhagya is joining the Grad Rebel Boot camp to practice writing concise research statements and receive help in drafting a research article she hopes to prepare for publication during Fall 2018.

DEUVALL DORSEY



Master's student,
Journalism and
Media Studies

Advisor:
Dr. Burroughs



I'm researching media coverage of the recent uptick in cannabis classes, scholarships, conferences, degrees and research in higher education, to find out how media influence is shifting students perspective of cannabis opportunities, in order to better understand how media and academia are destigmatizing cannabis.

I'm in the process of producing a visual/written hybrid creative thesis. I want to use the UNLV writing bootcamp to help me sharpen my skills for the written portion of the project. The research topic above is loosely related to my final project.

Danielle Fazio

Master's Student,
Community Health Sciences

Advisor: Dr. Thompson-
Robinson



I am a second year MPH student. My research is on how those within the sex and gender diverse community are affected by the boundaries to health care and services. In this program I hope to gain more clarity and focus on one specific group, as well as one health disparity. I want to be in this program because I think any help starting a thesis or a professional paper is good help. This program will be a unique experience that will guide my research and the writing process in a productive way. I am still learning and look forward to gaining the skills required to write a wholesome and successful document. Not only would I like to refresh my knowledge of constructing a literature review, but also understand how to structure my writing in a way that is inclusive for both fellow academics and for the populations that it is written about.

Danielle Fazio



**Masters of Public
Health/School of
Community Health Sciences
Advisor: Dr.Thompson-
Robinson**



Hi, my name is Danielle Fazio and I am a second year MPH student. My research is on how those within the sex and gender diverse community are affected by the boundaries to health care and services. In this program I hope to gain more clarity and focus on one specific group, as well as one health disparity. I want to be in this program because I think any help starting a thesis or a professional paper is good help. This program will be a unique experience that will guide my research and the writing process in a productive way. I am still learning and look forward to gaining the skills required to write a wholesome and successful document. Not only would I like to refresh my knowledge of constructing a literature review, but also understand how to structure my writing in a way that is inclusive for both fellow academics and for the populations that it is written about.

DANE GENTRY



**Master's student,
Electrical
Engineering**

**Advisor:
Dr. Baker**



My research involves the design and testing of avalanche photodiodes (APDs) which are becoming increasingly useful in today's industry, especially for applications requiring high precision sensitivity to low light conditions such as in radiation detection, medical imaging, and light detection and ranging (LiDAR). Throughout the program, I plan to work on the organization of my thesis paper as well as ensure my paper is easy to follow despite being on such a technical engineering topic. I would like to work on integrating all the research I have done into my paper by properly referencing various research papers that are relevant to my thesis topic. I would also like to discover new ways of forming generic sentences that I find I often overuse and ensure I use sentence structure that efficiently presents the information to the reader.

SARUNA GHIMIRE

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

Advisor:
Dr. Francisco S. Sy



I am a third-year doctoral student in Public Health, with a concentration in Epidemiology and Biostatistics. Under the supervision of Dr. Francisco S. Sy and Dr. Rachele Rodriguez, I aim, through my doctoral research, to examine the relationships and pathways between nutritional adequacy, telomere length (a biomarker of aging), and chronic diseases. My long-term research goal is to provide new insights and directions for aging research to promote healthy aging and longevity worldwide. I am hoping to work on my dissertation writing during the Grad Rebel Writing Boot Camp.

Kristen Herlosky



**PhD student,
Department of
Anthropology**

**Advisor:
Dr. Alyssa N.
Crittenden**

Kristen Herlosky is a first-year PhD student in the Department of Anthropology under advisement of Dr. Alyssa Crittenden. She recently graduated with her Masters in Anthropology from UNLV. Her research interests are postpartum maternal health and associated infant health outcomes in the disciplines of bio-cultural and medical anthropology. Her PhD research will be a continuation of her pilot work completed in Tanzania, East Africa among the Hadza foragers.

Kristen seeks the Grad Rebel Writing Bootcamp to finalize her thesis data for publication. She will be practicing clear and concise writing for the peer-review process.

KINDY INSOUVANH



Kindy is a 2nd year experimental psychology Ph.D. student. She studies the development of face processing and social biases under the supervision of Dr. Jennifer Rennels. During the Grad Rebel writing boot camp, Kindy will be working on her thesis. Broadly speaking, this project will examine the role that cognitive ability plays in the acquisition and development of stereotypes.

Ph.D., Experimental
Psychology

Advisor:
Dr. Jennifer Rennels

MOHSEN JAHANDARDOOST



Ph.D. student,
Mechanical
Engineering

Advisor:
Dr. Shubhra Bansal

I work on a DOE-funded project on degradation in thin film solar cells. My interest is in developing new test methods for Potential-induced degradation of CIGS cells and understanding effect of alkali post-deposition treatment.

My goal will be publishing some papers in scientific journals and conferences after my training at Grad Rebel Writing Boot Camp.

This project is part of a joint group of other researchers in the US and Germany and I like to be a good representative of my team and UNLV when I write a report or communicate with them.

NICOLE JENKINS

M.A. student,
Sociology

Advisor:
Dr. Ranita Ray



My research is based on 24 months of ethnography, participant observation, and content analysis in an African Braiding and Weaving Salon. I examine the unique labor required in the salon, supporting natural hair styling agendas and the promotion of black beauty. Additionally, I examine the various ways in which Black identities are contested within the space at a time when both Black and immigrant folks live within the margins of American society. I am very excited to participate in the 2018 writing boot camp cohort because I will be working on my first publication and dissertation chapter. I hope to develop habits that can assist me with developing a writing routine as well as a writing voice.

LOGAN KENNEDY



**Doctoral student,
Department of
Criminal Justice**

**Advisor:
Dr. Tamara Herold**



Logan's research involves law enforcement and the practices employed to manage crowds during special events. He is specifically interested in the types of policing strategies that are effective in preventing violence.

During the Writing Boot Camp, he will be expanding upon his Comp paper to publish a literature review of how theories of collective behavior can be used to inform law enforcement practices when managing crowds. The foundations of this paper will also be used to inform his prospectus. He will use his time during the Boot Camp to improve upon his writing skills and become more structured in his approach to writing.

KIRSTY KULHANEK



Ph.D. student,
Experimental Psychology

Advisor:
Dr. Jennifer Rennels

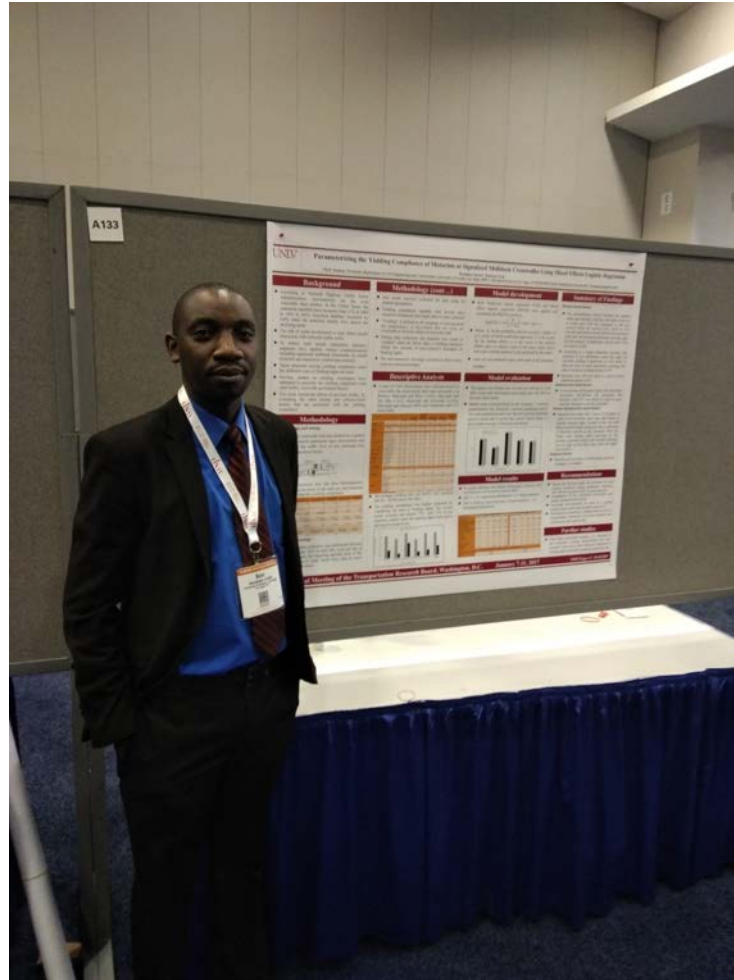


I am interested in the effects of experience with faces on perceptual narrowing processes. For example, infants typically spend the majority of their time with individuals that are the same race as their primary caregivers, and thus become better at processing own-race than other-race faces during the first year of life. What I hope to investigate in my research is how experience with diverse face types during the first year of life impacts the development of face-processing in infancy and across the lifespan. I applied to writing boot camp in hopes of increasing my productivity and to get advice on making more consistent writing progress.

BONIPHACE KUTELA

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

Advisor:
Dr. Hualiang (Harry)
Teng



My research is about analysis of driver-pedestrian-infrastructure interactions at signalized midblock crosswalks under interrupted traffic flow. It aims at

- Evaluating the driver-pedestrian-infrastructure interaction whereby the existence of heterogenous yielding as a result of driver-pedestrian interactions are evaluated, and hazard-based model for yielding compliance assessment are developed.
- Evaluating pedestrian-infrastructure interactions for safely utilization of signalized crosswalks

Engineers, city planners, and researchers may use the developed models and findings to evaluate the drivers' yielding compliance and pedestrian behaviors at signalized crosswalks, for different crosswalk treatments or for the before-and-after study.

As I am aiming at preparing dissertation report and publishing my research results, joining this program would not only improve my report writing capabilities but also expand my research paper preparation skills so that my papers can be published in reputable journals

DENISE HOLLY MOLINTAS

Ph.D. student,
Hospitality
Administration

Advisor:
Dr. James Busser



To hone my writing skills through the completion of the research below:

There exists a symbiotic relationship between academic institutions and business organizations in the global hospitality industry, with its nexus relevant in two strata: hospitality education and academic research. The role of universities in this symbiotic relationship is to generate new knowledge that supports the industry to address current challenges. But does it? A critical number of scholars have identified a gap between academic research and industry needs. “Bridging the artificial rigor-relevance divide through problem-oriented research grounded in theory” (Gulati, 2007, p. 775), this proposed study aims to collaboratively converge rigor and relevance. Interviews with Hospitality Vice Presidents will identify the overreaching problems, a current content analysis of the literature will provide the baseline for academic research and these amalgamated results will be the basis for an academic-practitioner collaborative Delphi study with the leadership of academe and industry.

KARLI NAVE

Ph.D. student,
Department of
Psychology

Advisors:
Drs. Erin Hannon &
Joel Snyder



I conduct research on auditory neuroscience and music perception. Specifically, my research projects focuses on the following:

- How do humans perceive *rhythm* in music?
- When does the ability to perceive and produce musical rhythm develop?
- What neural mechanisms underly musical rhythm processing?

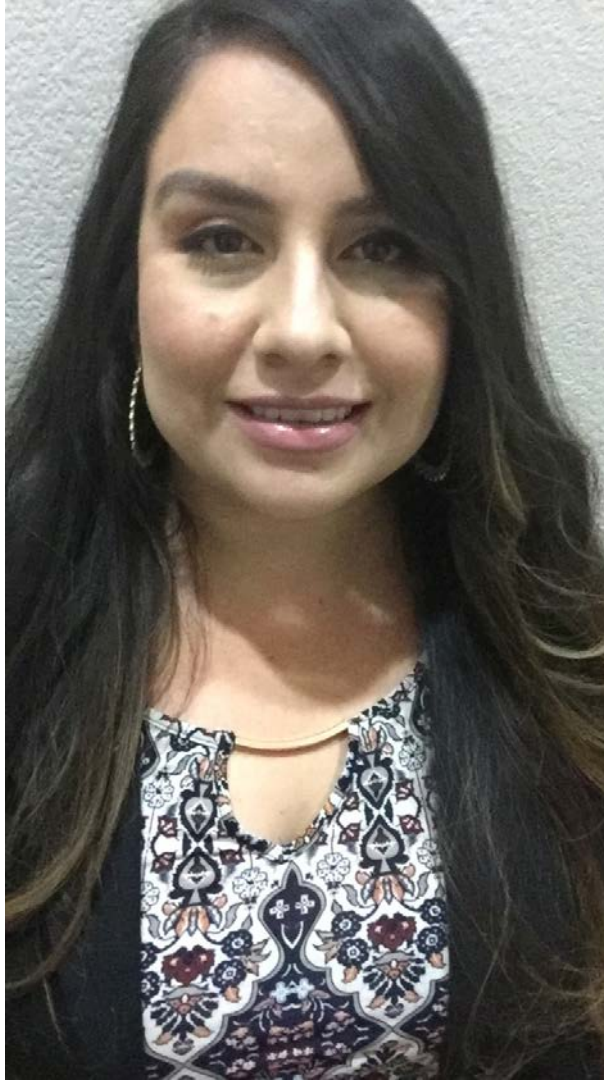
I am excited to be a part of the Grad Rebel Writing Bootcamp not only because I aim to improve my writing skills and strategies, but also because this environment provides the opportunity to work with like-minded graduate students with similar (and different!) writing goals as myself. Happy writing everyone! 🥰

VANESSA NÚÑEZ



**Ph.D. student,
Sociology**

**Advisor:
Dr. Robert Futrell**



My research focuses on the accessibility of higher education for undocumented and DACAmented students in Southern Nevada. For my dissertation I am planning on exploring how faculty and staff play a role on the impact of effecting change and support for undocu/DACAmented students at the institutional level. I will be looking at literature in social movement theories, critical theories of race, as well as institutional activism within higher education to frame my work and will be using qualitative methods.

I am excited and pleased to be participating in the grad rebel writing boot camp as I feel it will help me set deadlines, tasks, and give me tips on how to write throughout such a daunting project. I think it will also allow me to be in a space with folks who are also working on large projects.

TIFFANY PEREIRA

Master's student,
Biological Sciences

Advisor:
Dr. Scott Abella



A key problem facing scientists is communication. How can scientific data be presented in a way that engages and impacts an audience, especially hard-to-reach individuals?

Clear, concise and impactful written communication is just one of the avenues scientists must use to convey their findings to fellow researchers in the field and to the public.

As part of the UNLV Graduate College Rebel Writing Boot Camp, I look forward to improving and learning new skills in order to be an engaging written communicator! These skills will not only prove invaluable in my graduate program, but in every aspect of my career and personal life moving forward.

MARIA RAMOS GONZALEZ



Ph.D. student,
Mechanical
Engineering

Advisors:
Dr. Brendan O'Toole
& Dr. Zhiyong Wang



Experimental Study of a Patient-Tailored Polycarbonate Urethane Knee Implant Using Custom-Designed Test Machine

According to the American Joint Replacement Registry 2017 Annual Report, osteoarthritis was the primary diagnosis in 97 percent of primary knee surgeries. A total knee replacement procedure can alleviate knee pain but at an invasive cost of the knee joint ligaments and bones. This research takes a magnetic resonance image (MRI) of a patient's knee joint, converts it to 3D computer graphics, and models a thin, flexible, biocompatible knee implant shaped to fit the distal end of the femur. The aim of the implant is to cushion the area of cartilage wear and alleviate the knee pain. The manufactured knee implant will be tested in vitro for wear and fatigue from one million to five million walking cycles using a custom-designed knee implant test machine.

The Graduate College Rebel Writing Boot Camp will enable me to focus on analyzing my results and writing the discussion portion of my findings far away from the confines of my lab space. I will be able to better concentrate on writing and less on running that one extra test. It is just what I need.

SHON REED



**Doctoral student,
Department of
Criminology and
Criminal Justice**

**Advisor:
Dr. Alexis Kennedy**



Shon is a first year PhD student in the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice. His research area focuses on the relationship between gender, victimization, and the perpetration of criminal behavior. His master's thesis focused on the impact of childhood victimization on masculinity and subsequent criminal offending.

During the Writing Boot Camp, Shon will be working on two academic papers. The first paper details the routes that lead to commercial sexual exploitation in female juvenile populations, while the second paper assesses gender differences in the Cycle of Violence.

HUI-TING SHIH



**Ph.D. student,
Interdisciplinary
Health Sciences**

**Advisor:
Dr. Szu-Ping Lee**



My research focuses on the training to people with lower limb loss, as well as the sensory and brain changes after the loss. I hope to learn research related skills especially scientific writing from the Writing Boot Camp. Taking English as my second language, I look forward to polishing the logic flow of my writing through the help of this program as well as from the peers.

**POUYA
SHOJAEI SHAHMI RZADI**



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

**Advisor:
Dr. Mohamed Trabia**

My research includes investigating the shock propagation in bolted joint steel structures due to medium velocity impact. Predicting the non-linear dynamic response of such structures under impact loading is of interest.

To this end, computational modeling associated with experimental tests are done for comparison between the results.

During the Grad Rebel Writing Boot Camp, I will be working on a literature review in my field of research.

MATHEW SUNIL VARRE

Ph.D. student,
Interdisciplinary
Health Sciences

Advisor:
Dr. Janet S. Dufek



Research Project: The aim of the research project was to demonstrate a novel and reliable approach to determine self-selected walking speed using a single camera aligned with the plane of progression of walking. The technique described will be beneficial to measure walking speed in clinical settings with constrained spaces.

At the writing boot camp, I plan to work on a manuscript to publish this research work.

RC Wonderly



Master's student,
English

Advisor:
Dr. Jessica Teague



My interest in the visual arts has led to my research into color as a descriptive element in literature and as a theory in itself. I am currently working through Johann Wolfgang von Goethe's early 19th century color theory, while simultaneously looking at more contemporary works on individual colors—Maggie Nelson's *Bluets*; and Frances Guerin's *The Truth is Always Grey*.

Writing is a process and this Boot Camp will provide me with the opportunity to focus on writing towards the beginning of my research, which in turn will help in developing a framework to carry me through my final year of study. I am also looking forward to the dialogue between peers, instructors, and myself as part of this process.