

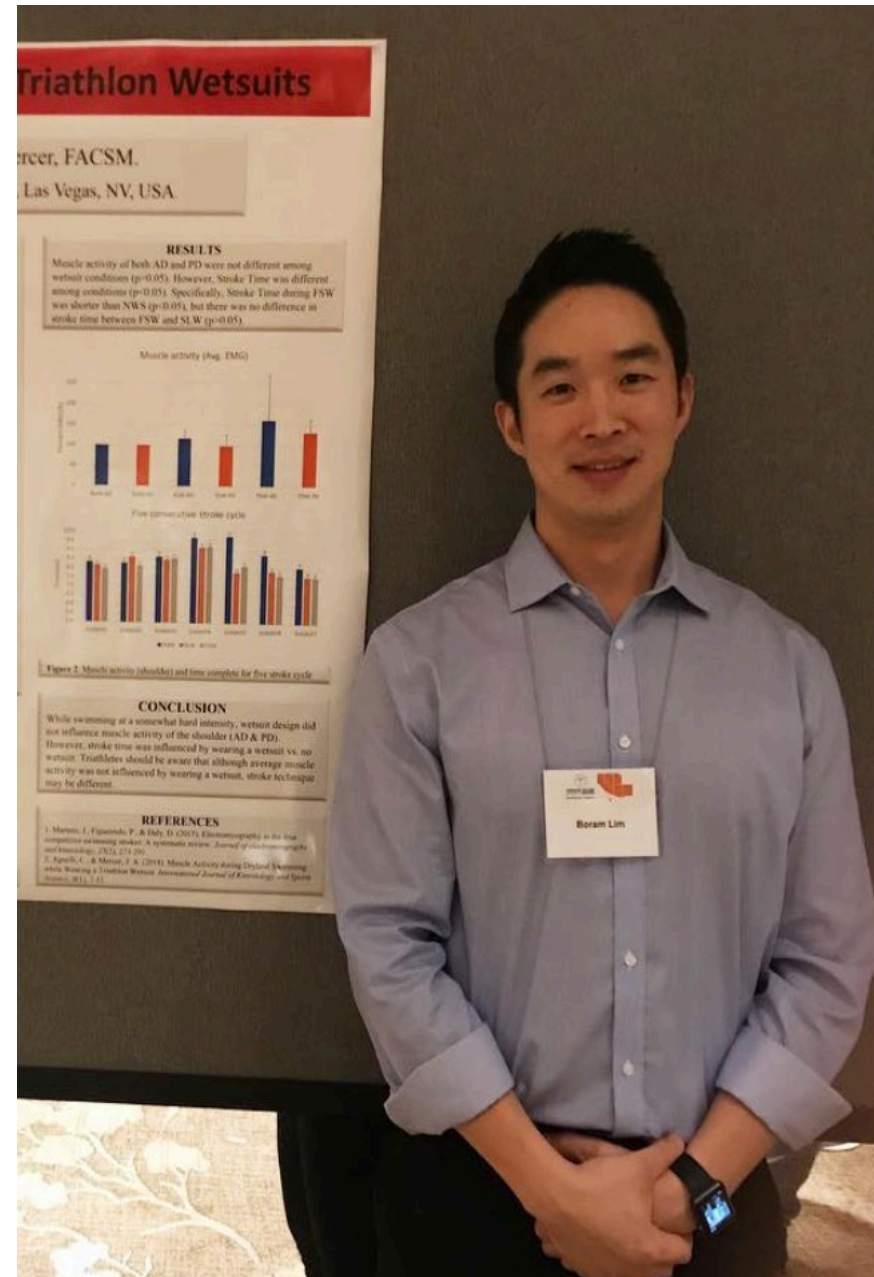
# Grad Rebel Writing Boot Camp

Congratulations to our  
2020-2021 cohort

**BORAM  
LIM**

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

**Advisor:  
Dr. John Mercer**



I'm a second-year doctoral student in Interdisciplinary Health Sciences (IHS) with a concentration of Kinesiology (Biomechanics).

My research areas lie in human performance (i.e., endurance performance and resistance training) in physiological and biomechanical responses. My dissertation studies are that bridging the gap between lab-based research and application about triathlon (swim, bike, and run) performance. In particular, which intervention will allow triathletes to perform better in terms of time to completion of triathlon race.

I would like to improve my writing skills in general as well as stay motivated to get move forward. Hopefully, I will boost up the quality of my dissertation through the Grad Rebel Writing Bootcamp.

# BROOKE WOLFE



**M.A. Student,  
Communication**

**Advisor:  
Dr. Jennifer Guthrie**



Brooke Wolfe is her second year in the Communication Department. Her research focuses on societal messages that discipline action and how narratives influence women in romantic relationships.

From this program she hopes to gain experience in time management for long term projects.

# CAMILLE MORRIS



**M.A. Student,  
Communication  
Department**

**Advisor: Jennifer  
Guthrie**



For my culminating research project, I am exploring dialectical tensions that formulate layers of the Black woman's identity. Using a content analysis, I will unpack the contradictions and parse out the discourses surrounding them. I also enjoy doing work in class that centers around media and the way voice can illuminate the marginalized.

I hope that by participating in this program I can gain a more consistent ritual surrounding academic writing that helps in overcoming writers block and writing anxiety. I also want to learn the best practices for writing effectively toward specific expectations and wants of publications. Finally, I believe this program can show me more general strategies for being a better student.

# CHRISTINA NISHIYAMA



**PhD Student,  
Department of  
Education**

**Advisor: Dr. Michael  
Nussbaum**



My research is focused on group collaboration and exchanges of power. The effect of individual differences in social perceptiveness and gender on collaborative success and power dynamics are also considered.

I look forward to learning effective writing tips and carving out time to finish writing my study. I am also excited to engage with other students in this program and be part of a UNLV community.

**CINDY  
KHA**



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

**Advisor:  
Dr. Kelly Ai-Sun Tseng**



Eye injury can lead to vision loss and decrease quality of life. Therefore, there is a need to develop regenerative therapies. However, we need to understand how regeneration occurs in some organisms as this ability is limited in humans. To pursue this goal, we use the African clawed frog tadpole, *Xenopus laevis*, as our model organism since it is a highly regenerative species. We established a new model for understanding eye regeneration and this model will serve as a foundation for isolating eye stem cells and identifying genes that can help to repair an injured eye.

My expectation is to learn how to better organize my writing process into manageable blocks of goals that can be accomplished. Writing is often an isolating task so I hope this program will provide a quiet place to write with others so we can share writing resources and provide encouragements.

# CARLOS CISNEROS



**Master's student,  
Department of Social  
Work**

**Advisor: Dr. Mary-Ann  
Overcamp-Martini**



My research is to understand the transitional phase from active to inactive duty for military members and how it impacts suicide rates. I would like to understand if a less than perfect transition plays a vital role in suicide attempts or ideation for our service members. The main reason I am interested in this research is to help identify any drawbacks for current programs in place to help with the transitional period as active-duty members complete their service contracts and assimilate back into the civilian world.

I am hopeful that the Graduate College Rebel Writing Boot Camp program will provide me with a sense of structure for my writing skills. I am also looking forward to acquiring a scope of techniques and strategies to improve upon my academic writing.

# CLAIRA RALSTON



**PhD student,  
Department of  
Anthropology**

**Advisor:  
Dr. Debra Martin**



Male and female disparities in experiences of physiological stress and trauma have significant time depth and variable manifestations across time and space, as documented by cross-cultural bioarchaeological research on precontact human remains from archaeological contexts. Epidemiological and bioarchaeological researchers have begun to recognize the significant role social institutions play in constraining choices and access to resources along sex and gender lines, which create, maintain, and exacerbate underlying biological differences to produce differential experiences of health, disease, and trauma. My dissertation research explores how social institutions shaped gendered inequalities in the experiences of disease and trauma in small-scale societies in the prehistoric American Southwest.

By participating in this program, I hope to develop more effective writing strategies to combat perfectionism and procrastination that I can utilize when writing my dissertation monograph and academic publications.



# DIANA SIMPSON



**PhD Student,  
Department of  
Anthropology**

**Advisor: Debra Martin**



For my research I utilize skeletal analysis, along with archaeological and archival data, to examine ritualized violence, life, and death among prehistoric Southeastern Native American groups. In particular, how the complex meaning and performance of different “violent” behaviors transcend the assumed binary of total peace or agonistic conflict in the past.

During this workshop, I plan to take advantage of the focused work environment to complete a first draft of my dissertation research proposal/prospectus. I am also very interested in the resources and support provided through this opportunity, and believe the experience will lend answers and guidance relating to the formal professional publication process within my field. These insights will be extremely beneficial for achieving my immediate and long-term academic aspirations and goals at UNLV and beyond.

# DUSTIN DAVIS



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

**Advisor: Dr. Arpita  
Basu**



I am interested in discovering which dietary changes and exercises provide the greatest benefit to patients with the metabolic syndrome and type 2 diabetes. I focus on the level of sugar and fats in the blood during the postprandial period, which is the 2-4 hours after eating. A cardinal sign of the metabolic syndrome and type 2 diabetes is an abnormally high elevation in blood sugar or fats after a meal.

Polyphenols, a type of dietary antioxidant found in fruits, and physical activity may prove useful in helping the condition. My first study will evaluate if eating strawberries with a fast-food meal or if walking afterward suppresses the postprandial rise in blood sugar or fats.

I wish to improve the clarity of my writing by learning to succinctly paraphrase literature and to structure paragraphs in a manner that is easy for the reader to understand.

# HANANEH DERAKHSHAN



**PhD in Public Health-  
Healthcare  
Administration and  
management,  
School of Public**

**Advisor:  
Dr.Chris Cochran**



The research study that I have been working on for my dissertation intends to improve hospitality in different elements of healthcare and improve the patient's overall experience. Thus improving their satisfaction and quality of care.

I intend to improve my writing skills and work in a group to reach my goals towards my dissertation prospectus.

# HEATHER GILMORE

Ph.D. student,  
Criminology &  
Criminal Justice

Advisor:  
Dr. Gillian Pinchevsky



My research area focuses on school safety and crimes in schools. My current research projects address safety measures used in schools, geographical analysis of school shootings in relationship to local political affiliation, school shooting contagion effects, public perceptions of school crimes, and student reporting of crimes in schools.

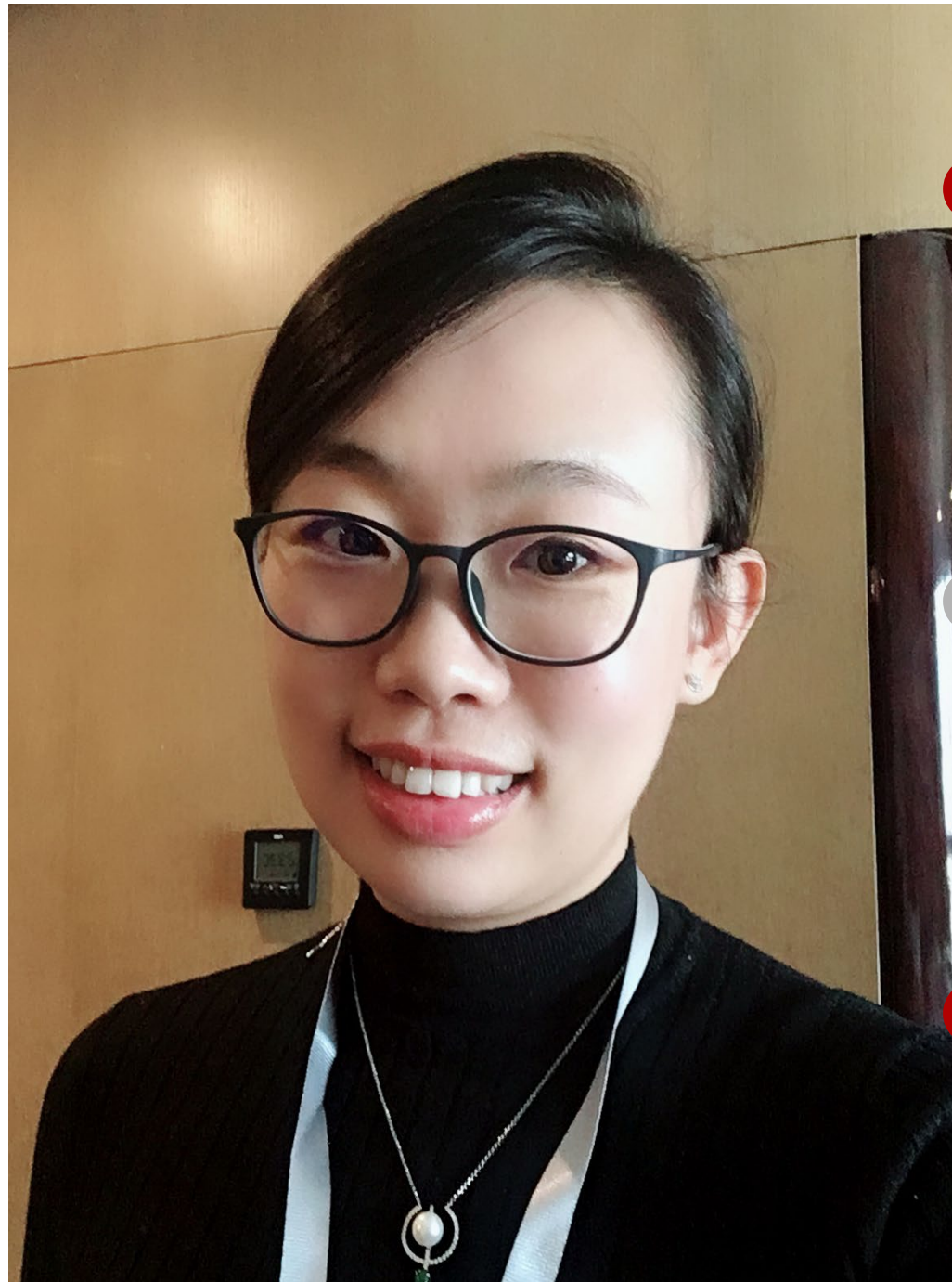
With the writing bootcamp, I will be able to complete the independent research study that I am working on, as well as to learn skills and techniques that will benefit my comp and dissertation projects.

**HUIYING  
ZHANG**



**Ph. D. Student  
Hospitality  
Administration**

**Advisor: Billy Bai**



This study attempts to develop a conceptual model of value co-creation and profit sharing for destinations. It furthers the value co-creation research and provides guidance to policymakers to support such innovation for long-term sustainability in destination development and resident-tourist relationship.

I hope that I could improve my academic writing skills through this camp and publish a journal paper in this coming semester.

# JAMES LARSEN

PhD Student, Harrah  
College of Hospitality

Advisor: Prof. Amanda  
Belarmino



My research is primarily concerned with the development of a Theory of Hospitality, i.e. the to-be-discovered principle that unites Hospitality as a discipline.

Currently, my work focuses on emotional engagement in casino settings between hosts and guests. Engagement in this setting will likely underpin theory development and future research.

I wanted to take part in the Boot Camp to improve my research proposal and to find interdisciplinary crossover between my field and other students' fields. I'm particularly interested in hearing from students working in areas that are largely theory-based with scant empirical data.

# JASON CICCOTELLI



**Interdisciplinary  
Health Sciences,  
Physical Therapy  
Department**

**Advisor: Szu-Ping Lee,  
PT, PhD**



My research focuses on the biomechanical and muscular changes that people undergo after a lower extremity amputation and how those changes can lead to lower back pain. I want to find out why there is such a high prevalence of low back pain after an amputation and focus on ways to decrease or prevent back pain from occurring in the first place.

This workshop will help me organize the work that I have already done and help me to start writing so I will be able to publish what we have found. I'm excited to work with people who know what I need to do and who have the tools I will need to be successful.

# JEANNETTE HERNANDEZ



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

**Advisor: Ranita Ray**



My current research is an ethnography in Las Vegas that explores youth soccer participation as a pathway to college. I want to further explore my previous finding of the impact sports have on youths' educational trajectories. My research questions are: 1.) How is soccer a pathway to college (or not)? 2.) How do youth make sense of their soccer participation? 3.) How do families manage this extracurricular activity in terms of time and resources? I plan to interview youth who play soccer in Las Vegas, their parents, and their coaches as well as student athletes at UNLV to further understand the role of sports in both secondary and higher education. I want to be in this writing boot camp program because I want to polish my writing skills and develop writing accountability to submit my master's paper and future papers to journals for publication.




# KAROLYNE STUCKI




**Ph.D. Student,  
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 under-served populations in receiving culturally-adapted, evidence-based, and optimization-focused treatments within the United States and abroad.



She is interested in joining the program to develop her thesis draft, time management skills, setting and meeting writing goals, and building citation/literature review resources.

**LARA  
TURELLO**



**M.S. Biochemistry,  
Department of  
Chemistry and  
Biochemistry**

**Advisor:  
Dr. Ernesto Abel-  
Santos**



I study the bacterium *Clostridioides difficile*, colloquially known as C. diff. C. diff can cause a severe gastrointestinal infection called *Clostridioides difficile* infection, or CDI. This infection is one of the most common hospital-acquired infections, largely due to C. diff's ability to grow in the gut of patients under antibiotic treatment. I am interested in studying the genes and possible mechanisms involved in C. diff's resistance to certain antibiotics. This could shed light onto novel drug targets within C. diff in hopes of re-sensitizing the pathogen to select antibiotics.

I am interested in being a part of this program because I am currently writing my master's thesis. I hope to gain insight on how to write efficiently, as well as how to stick to a reasonable writing schedule.

**LILI  
EQUIHUA**



**Couple & Family  
Therapy, M.S.**

**Advisor:  
Dr. Jordan**

I am grateful for the opportunity to be in the UNLV Writing Bootcamp. I think this will improve my writing skills so I may become a strong, credible, and effective researcher. My future ambition for my career is to find and develop an effective and efficient resilience therapy program for veterans in our nation. My goal is to find a nationwide therapeutic practice that would be most effective and beneficial for our veterans with posttraumatic stress disorder. I am very passionate about research and through this program, I hope to learn how to convey my findings in writing.

# MARYAM MOHIEDDIN RAD

Ph.D. Student  
Multicultural  
Education  
Department of  
Teaching and Learning

Advisor:  
Dr. Christine Clark




Maryam's research is focused on Muslim Iranian women's challenges in higher education in the United States. 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.

# MY DIEM NGUYEN




**MSW, Greenspun  
College of Urban  
Affairs: Social Work  
Department**

**Advisor: Kathleen  
Leilani Ja Sook  
Bergquist, LCSW, JD,  
PhD**



Mydiem is working on their thesis in order to complete their Master's in Social Work. They will be conducting research around intergenerational trauma among 1<sup>st</sup> and 1.5 generation Cham Youth. This information will be innovative and crucial in helping to better support indigenous Vietnamese communities to heal and build resilience.



They are looking forward to joining the 3<sup>rd</sup> Grad Rebel Boot Camp cohort to complete their thesis proposal in order to begin interviewing focus groups in Summer 2020. This program will provide invaluable structure and resources to help them stay on track to complete their research in a timely manner.



# SARA CRAWFORD



**M.S. student  
Department of  
Kinesiology and  
Nutrition Sciences**

**Advisor:  
Dr. John Mercer**






My research is focused on how show mass affects preferred running speed. I intended to make progress on my thesis during the semester, but my course workload was higher than I anticipated. I feel this week can help me get back on schedule. I'd like to become a more efficient writer. I feel like I spend a lot of time in front of the computer with very little progress. I think this week of intensive writing will help focus my efforts.

# TARYN TRAYLOR



**M.S. student  
Department of  
Geosciences**

**Advisor:  
Dr. Pamela Burnley**



My research investigates the properties of minerals found in the deeper Earth, specifically how applied stress affects seismic wave propagation. I hope that with my involvement in this program, I will be able to focus solely on writing my thesis and obtaining tools to aid in this process.

**TIMOTHY  
RAFALSKI**



**PhD student  
Howard Hughes  
College of Engineering**

**Advisor:  
Dr. Andreas Stefik**



Computer Science has been a discipline that is largely an engineering, rather than a scientific, discipline in practice. My research uses empirical evidence and a mixed method analysis to better organize scientific computing. The goal is to develop a testable method of writing, reading, and reproducing scientific coding. The methodology presented will be used as a guide for all students and professionals, especially those who lack expertise with developing code.

My reason for joining this group is twofold. The first reason is to further develop my writing skills as I seek to write my dissertation proposal. The second reason is to network with other students to establish interdisciplinary connections that may prove to be mutually beneficial.