

# GRADUATE REBEL WRITING BOOT CAMP

Congratulations to our  
incoming August 2017  
participants

# CASSANDRA BOYER



Cassandra is a first-year doctoral student in the Criminology and Criminal Justice Ph.D. program. Her advisor and mentor is Dr. Emily Troshynski. Cassandra will be working on publishing the results from her Master's thesis during the Grad Rebel Writing Boot Camp.

# PHILIP DANQUAH, MSW, ASW

Second Year Doctoral Student

Program: Public Health PhD

Research Interests: Health Disparities, Health Equity, Transitions In Care, Aging & HIV/AIDS, Global Health, and Social Behavioral Health Policy

Research Advisor/Chair: Melva Thompson-Robinson - Professor; Director, Center for Health Disparities Research; Social and Behavioral Health Program Coordinator

Current Research Project: Exploring Resilience, Experiences, Strengths, and Barriers of Family Caregivers Who Care for HIV/AIDS Patients in Clark County, Nevada and Exploring What Happens in the Absence of the Family Caregivers Who Care for HIV/AIDS Patients



# JESSICA DEBERARDINIS



**4<sup>th</sup> year Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering.**

**Supervisors:** Dr. Mohamed Trabia (Mechanical Engineering) & Dr. Janet Dufek (Kinesiology)

**Project:** Writing my dissertation on the development of a plantar tissue model. The model will be able to determine the stiffness and damping properties of the plantar tissue based on data collected from pressure-measuring insoles.

# KATELYN DIBENEDETTO

**Doctoral Candidate in the Department of Anthropology**

**Supervisor:** Dr. Alan Simmons



**Project:** Writing my dissertation which examines how Neolithic peoples on Cyprus found solutions to land and water management issues, particularly given the island's risky and marginal environment. Stable isotopic analyses of plant and animal remains from the archaeological site of Kretou Marottou 'Ais Yiorkis will be analyzed to better understand plant and animal management strategies. These strategies will, in turn, serve as proxies for land and water management strategies.



# HANNAH EDWARDS



Second Year Master student.

Kinesiology with an emphasis  
in Biomechanics.

Advisor: Dr. Dufek

I will be working on writing  
my thesis, which will focus on  
joint timing during the swing  
and stance phase of  
running.

# ANTOINETTE IZZO



Antoinette is a 2<sup>nd</sup>-year Ph.D. student (post-M.A. track) in the Department of Sociology, working with Dr. Kate Korgan. Her primary research interest is reproduction of toxic masculinity in military culture. During the Grad Rebel Writing Boot Camp, she will be working to prepare manuscripts from her M.A. research, "Identity as a Predictor of Affective Response in Monogamous and Polyamorous Individuals."

# ERDOGAN KAYA



Erdogan Kaya is a PhD student in science education. He is working as a graduate assistant and teaching science methods courses. Prior to beginning the PhD program, he received his MS degree in computer science and engineering and holds a BS degree in chemical engineering. He coached robotics teams and was awarded several grants that promote Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). He is also interested in improving STEM education for minorities. He has been volunteering in many education outreach programs including Science Fair and Robotics programs such as First Robotics competitions. Over the past four years, he published several journal papers and presented at national and international conferences. Areas of research interest include engineering and computer science education, STEM, 3D printing and robotics in K-12 education. More information can be found at <http://kaya571.wix.com/unlv>



# DAWN LIGHTHISER

I am a 2<sup>nd</sup> year Ph.D. Graduate Research Assistant for Dr. Batson in the Sociology Department.

I am currently collecting research and analyzing data from three collaborative projects with the Southern Nevada Regional Housing Authority, the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, and lastly a research project conducting textual analysis of the African American Oral History Project in the UNLV Libraries.

Through these projects, I have developed my own research questions and have begun data collection strategies.

I plan to attend the UNLV Writing Boot Camp with the objective to formulate my dissertation prospectus.



# ERICK B LÓPEZ



Erick is a sixth-year Ph.D. student in the Department of Sociology. During the Grad Rebel Writing Boot Camp, he will interpret the results of his data analyses and write the results section of his dissertation which examines the relationship among acculturation, socioeconomic status, and health behaviors among adult Latinos in the U.S.

This research is significant given that Latinos are the largest and one of the fastest growing ethnic groups in the U.S. and that Latinos experience higher rates of diabetes, obesity, and metabolic syndrome compared to non-Latino Whites in the U.S. Erick is advised by Dr. Takashi Yamashita.

# STEPHANIE KAPLAN



Doctoral student in Criminology/Criminal-Justice. The research project I have been working on with my advisor, Dr. Emily Troshynski, assesses societal opinion of government and private agencies surveillance capabilities after 9/11. Specifically, we are looking at socio-demographic differences between respondents in order to evaluate whether current legislation is adequately protecting individual privacy expectations.



# DALE E. KARAS



Dale E. Karas is a 3rd-year Mechanical Engineering PhD student, specializing in energy-efficient materials science fabrication and testing. His research includes optical analyses methods for energy-efficient nanomaterials characterization, computer-aided engineering, and advanced materials manufacturing. Prior to joining the UNLV Energy & Environmental Materials Laboratory in Fall 2015, he obtained his B.S. in Optical Sciences & Engineering and a B.M. in Music Composition from The University of Arizona, where his work experiences involved remote sensing, machine vision, nanophotonic materials fabrication, and illumination engineering/design. He is president of *Étendue: The UNLV Student Optics Chapter*, representing student members of SPIE and OSA.



# LINDA KYRIANNIS



College of Education  
graduate program, learning  
and technology emphasis  
and also currently pursuing  
Graduate Certificate of  
Online Teaching and  
Training

Supervisor/program advisor:  
Dr. Boone

Project working on during  
Grad Rebel Writing Boot  
Camp: dissertation proposal

# DANIEL MAST



Daniel Mast is a doctoral candidate in the Radiochemistry program. Daniel works collaboratively with the High Pressure Science and Engineering Center at UNLV. Daniel's work is focused on structural analysis of technetium containing systems under extreme conditions. Using pressure and temperature he measures the changes in the structure of materials including technetium metal and technetium oxides. During the writing bootcamp he will be working on writing his dissertation.

# MONIQUE MATUTE



My name is Monique Matute. I am a first-year doctoral student in the Department of Educational and Clinical Studies in the College of Education. My research interests are looking at the disproportionality of African American males identified with emotional behavioral disorders and the school to prison pipeline. My committee chair is Dr. Brown. During the Grad Rebel Writing Boot Camp, I will be working on my manuscript "Rap Music: Integrating Culturally Relevant Social Stories for African Americans."

# GENEVIEVE MINTER



I will be starting my 7th year in the sociology department, and my supervisor is Dr. Andrew L. Spivak. I will be working on my dissertation prospectus in this boot camp, and my research interests are breed specific legislation and moral panic.



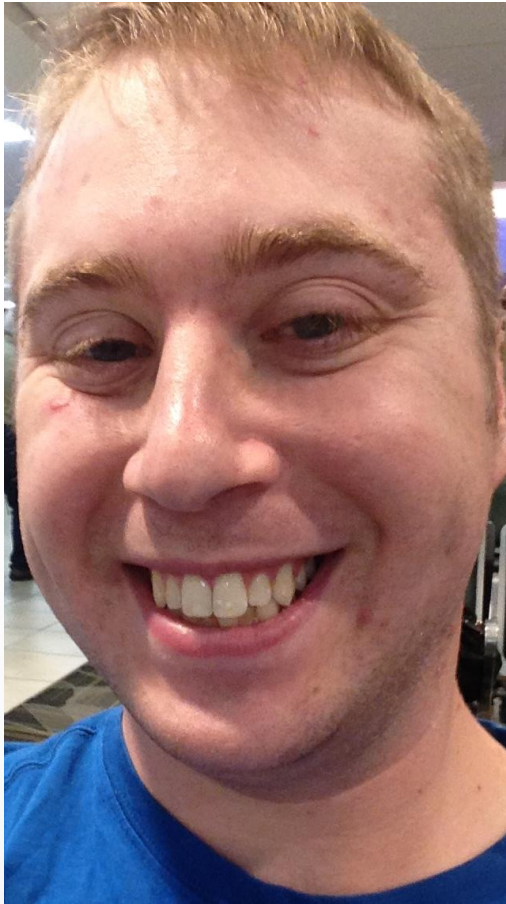
# JESSICA NAVE-BLODGETT



Jessica is a 4<sup>th</sup> year Experimental Psychology Ph.D. student in the Psychology Department of the College of Liberal Arts. She studies developmental auditory neuroscience under the supervision of Drs. Joel Snyder and Erin Hannon.

During the Grad Rebel Writing Boot Camp, Jessica will be working on her Qualifying Exam: a literature review of current and past research in temporal perception and beat perception in audition, vision, and touch.

# CALEB PICKER



I will be entering my 8<sup>th</sup> year as a Quantitative Psychology Doctor Student, and my mentor is Dr. Kimberly A. Barchard. I will be incorporating feedback on my multiple-article dissertation, which assesses how well scores intended to measure categorical knowledge of emotional experiences can explain and predict individual differences in various emotion abilities, such as perceiving, managing, understanding, and using emotions.

# JASON SCOTT



I am an ABD student in the Department of Sociology and supervised by Barbara Brents. My research is an ethnographic study of race, class and gender dynamics in female sex tourism. I investigate how women from the global North are contesting essentialist and traditional notions of femininity, gender roles and sexual scripts by engaging in behavior historically categorized as masculine. I also examine transnational people smuggling and how male sex workers from West Africa are migrating, willingly and otherwise, to fill niche voids in the female sex tourism industry currently burgeoning in Thailand.



# KRISTYNE WIEGAND



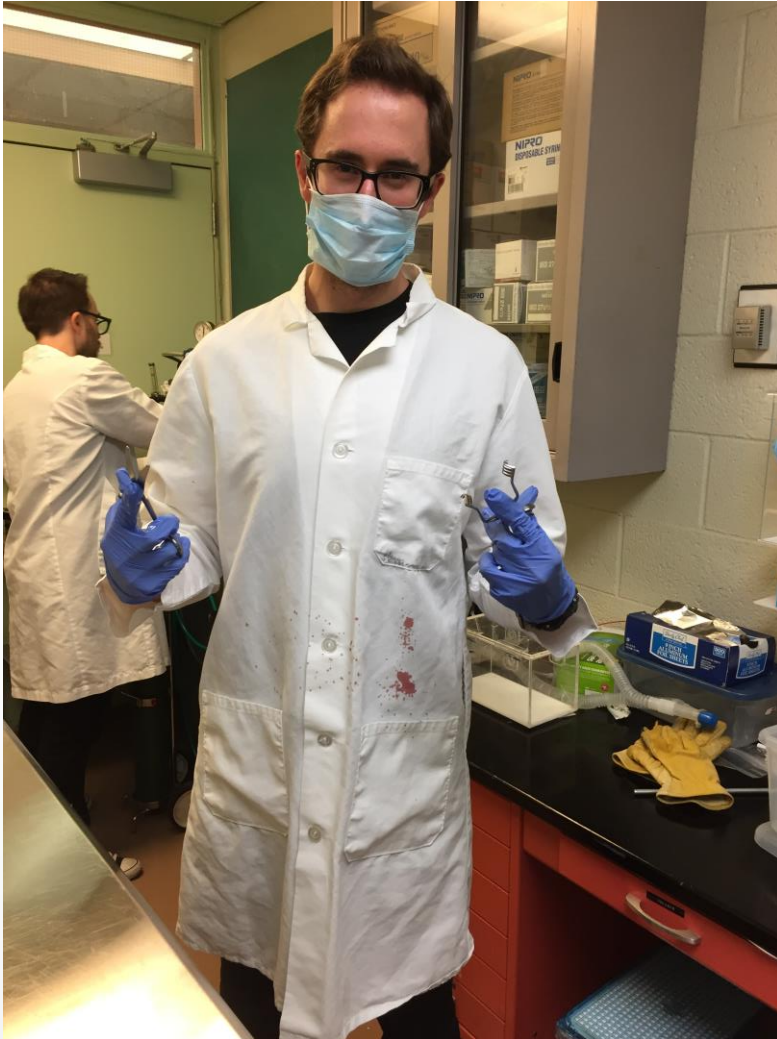
Third-year Kinesiology PhD  
student

Advisor: Dr. Julia Freedman  
Silvernail

Project: Examining  
motivational factors related  
to self-reported running  
injuries



# JARED WILSON



Year 2 PhD student

Program: Cell and Molecular  
Biology

Supervisor: Frank van Breukelen

Project title: Protein metabolism in  
*Tenrec ecaudatus*

What happens to protein blueprints (RNA) and proteins during hibernation in tenrecs? All other hibernators are able to suppress parts of their metabolism, but they recouple these processes periodically during hibernation. Tenrecs do not show signs of recoupling these processes. How is this possible?

# BREANNE YERKES

4<sup>th</sup> Year Experimental  
Psychology Ph.D. student –  
Cognitive emphasis

Advisor: Dr. Joel Snyder

I will be working on the  
completion of my qualifying  
activity. This includes an in  
depth literature review paper  
written on auditory processing  
abilities in individuals with and  
without autism across  
development.

