UNLV | GRADUATE COLLEGE

Grad Rebel Advantage Mentees

Congratulations to the 2023-2024 cohort!

CHLOE THOMAS

Class Standing: Senior

Department: Liberal Arts

Major: Anthropology

Minor: Theatre

Academic Bio

Chloe is a Dallas, TX native and moved to Las Vegas to pursue her academic and athletic career. She has not only excelled on the court, winning 2 championships with the UNLV Volleyball team, but has also been a winner in the classroom. After graduating with her degrees, she plans to pursue a career in ethnography and museum curation.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Chloe plans to pursue a Master's of Arts in Anthropology in order to further her understanding of the world around her. Anthropology provides the opportunity to understand the diversity, change, and cultures of our world.

Izzy Tollefson

Class Standing: Senior

Department: Interdisciplinary

Major: Spanish and Latin American Studies

Minor: Political Science

Academic Bio

Izzy is a transfer student from George Washington University who is looking forward to enjoying her second year at UNLV. She has been studying Spanish for ten years, and learning about the Spanish-speaking world has sparked an interest in Latin American politics. Izzy has also found her community on campus in UNLV Model United Nations.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

After graduating from UNLV in May 2024, Izzy plans on pursuing an MA in Latin American studies. The interdisciplinary nature of Latin American Studies holds great appeal to Izzy, as she enjoys studying political science, language, history, and other relevant disciplines.

CAMELIA TORRES

Class Standing: Senior

Department: College of Liberal Arts

Major: Psychology

Academic Bio

Camelia Torres has lived in Las Vegas 20 years, having moved here from San Francisco, California. She has been a Life Coach for 46 years. She also works with rescue groups helping special needs animals. Camelia has chosen the field of psychology to be able to better serve her community.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Camelia is currently planning on pursuing a Master's degree in educational psychology. She hopes to apply the knowledge that she has acquired through her career and life experiences to continuing to help others live happy, balanced, productive lives.

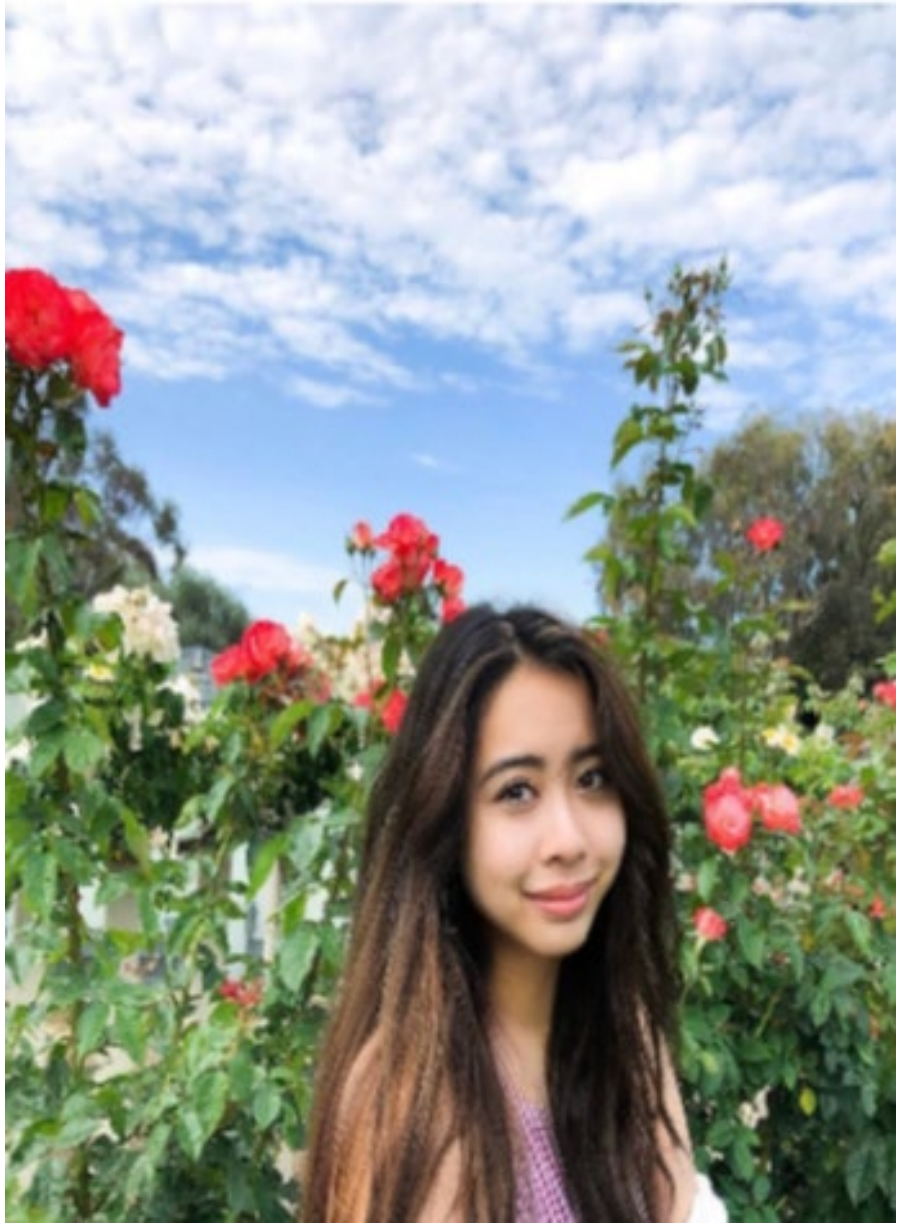
SHANDELL UY

Class Standing: Senior

Department: Liberal Arts

Major: Sociology

Minor: Psychology



Academic Bio

Originally from Oahu, Hawaii, Shandell moved to Las Vegas to pursue her education to the next level. She is a proud member of Alpha Kappa Delta, an international honor society dedicated for sociology students. Shandell is an intern for the cupcake girls and volunteers at local shelters and museums in her free time.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Shandell plans on pursuing a Master's in Social work in hopes of becoming an LCSW (Licensed Clinical Social Worker). She plans to use her skills and knowledge in hopes of advocating for the mental health of others. Her ultimate goal is to be able to be there for those in need and speak out for those in marginalized communiities.

JAZZ WATERS

Class Standing: Junior

Department: Art

Major: Graphic Design & Media

Academic Bio

Born in Los Angeles but a proud Las Vegan since 2008, Jazz Waters is a graphic design student whose dream is to pursue a lucrative career in visual arts and technology. She is an Engelstad Scholar, a cover dancer, and a member of A4 Zine Club.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Jazz plans to pursue a Dual M.S. in Cybersecurity and Management Information Systems. Besides making visual art, she is particularly knowledgeable about informational technology and project management. She hopes to learn numerous skills in all of these areas to find a rewarding profession in any field she’s passionate about.

MCKENNA J. WEBB

Class Standing: Senior

Department: Psychology

Major: Psychology

Academic Bio

As a local, first-generation Nevadan that came from a troubled childhood, McKenna has always felt an interest in human behavior and though processes. Her personal experiences with those struggling with mental illness caused McKenna to develop a deep fondness for mental health awareness and ultimately led her to pursue a degree in psychology. McKenna is the President for the UNLV Chapter of Psi Chi, where she continues to advocate for mental health alongside the Psychology Club.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

As someone who desires to have the privilege of providing diagnostic clarity and therapeutic aids towards those in desperate need in the future, McKenna aims to go to graduate school and earn her Ph.D. in clinical psychology with an emphasis in neuropsychology.

Through the utilization of McKenna's current experience in clinical and research based settings, she has exposed herself to the nature of psychological graduate programs and has continued to fall in love with the field of clinical psychology!

DEVON CHARAE WILLIAMS

Class Standing: Senior

Department: Theatre

Major: Theatre-Stage & Screen Acting Concentration

Academic Bio

Devon Charae Williams is a first-generation college student born and raised in Las Vegas, Nevada. As a native to Las Vegas, Devon is majoring in Theatre with concentration in stage & screen acting, her minor is political science. She works as a per diem admission representative at UMC Hospital. You might have seen her in NCT's *Crumbs from the Table of Joy* or *Little Shop of Horrors.* She has achieved all the requirements for the Great Works Academics certification and recently got accepted into the Rebel Grad Advantage program in preparation for applying to grad school. She plans to use her love of performance art & politics to inspire others to not only go after their goals and dreams but to advocate for those who can't defend themselves. She plans to use her education as a leading platform to inspire and encourage others.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Devon plans to pursue either political science or acting graduate school. She finds both careers rewarding because they are both equal and yet distinct from each other and encourage others to bring their stories to light.

YORDANOS YEMANE

Class Standing: Senior

Department: Early Childhood, Multicultural, and Special Education

Major: Special Education

Academic Bio

Yordanos Yemane is a first-year generation college student. She is a local student, born and raised in Las Vegas, and a Sunday school teacher at her church. She grew a passion for this major taking the time to work with students in a special education classroom since elementary school.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Yordanos Yemane plans to pursue her Master of Education- Special Education. She wants to gain a strong education for her future career of working with students in the special education program. This also provides her an opportunity to grow her knowledge in a specific field with this program

TSZ TING CHRISTY YIP

Class Standing: Senior

Department: Hank Greenspun School

Major: Journalism and Media Studies

Academic Bio

Moved from Hong Kong, Christy is thrilled to be a part of the Grad Rebel Advantage Program. She chose to major in Journalism and Media Studies because she believed that being a journalist can help people in need, unravel truths, and change the world in a positive way.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Christy is interested in pursuing the Marriage and Family Therapy master program. Aside from being a journalist, Christy is also devoted to spreading love and care through counseling service. Stepping into the MFT program can prepare her to be a professional therapist with both empirical and practical knowledge.

CARLENE YUP

Class Standing:

SENIOR

Department:

DIVISION OF HEALTH SCIENCES

Major:

KINESIOLOGY

Academic Bio

Carlene is a Las Vegas local who switched from computer science to kinesiology because they wanted a profession where they could connect and help people in person. They also have an interest in anatomy. This year they are the president of kinesiology club and a lead peer mentor for the DHS.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Carlene wishes to pursue a Doctorate in Occupational Therapy because she wants to work in a rehab hospital. She wants to help patients and improve their quality of life. Making a positive impact on the world is Carlene’s goal and this is how she wants to do it.

VICTORIA ZIMMER

Class Standing: Senior

Department: Education

Major: Secondary Education - English

Academic Bio

Victoria is a local Las Vegan, Latinx college student. Throughout her time at UNLV, she has participated in an educational leadership program and UNLV's book club. As she works towards becoming an educator, she substitutes at schools throughout CCSD. She hopes to become an educator to encourage her future students to be their best.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Victoria hopes to pursue a graduate program in either English or Education, most likely staying at UNLV. Victoria's main goal in the Grad Rebel Advantage Program is to learn which graduate program would be most beneficial to her future career and students.