

The background image shows a group of students in a meeting. One student is pointing at a laptop screen displaying a dashboard with charts and graphs. Another student is looking at a document with handwritten notes. The scene is dimly lit, suggesting an indoor setting like a library or study area.

# GRAD REBEL AMBASSADOR, 2024

# OLUWATOBI ADENIJI

**DOCTOR OF MEDICAL PHYSICS,  
HEALTH PHYSICS DEPARTMENT**

My program at the University of Nevada Las Vegas is Doctor of Medical Physics. I have interest in researching about cancer curative and how we can use radiation to cure diseases. Most of the radiation given to patients are too much and the problem can be dated back to the phantom we used as a Quality Assurance (QA). A phantom is a tissue equivalent material that can be used to mimic human organ. During the monthly QA, it is not possible to use human being as a quality check. We need a substitute to carry out our monthly QA. Since human being is 70-80% water. Hence, water is generally acceptable as a universal phantom. From my own perspective, other component made up our organ which is different from water. We should be able to use a material that has this components like carbohydrate, fat, ashes etc. I am planning to check the tissue equivalent of some fruits which I believe they can be used to mimic human organ. Water melon, Pineapple, Pawpaw, beets are the fruits I am trying to look at and get their physical properties like electron density, physical density, effective atomic number, linear and mass attenuation coefficient. After this, I can now proceed to the clinic to see if it can be used for our Linear Accelerator monthly QA. Compare my values to the corrected data with water phantom.



**THE GRAD ACADEMY**

# Gabson Baguma

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

I'm a first-year PhD student and teaching assistant in the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department at UNLV. My research focuses on disinfection byproducts (DBPs) in water treatment systems, environmental remediation, and sustainable water management. I investigate how various treatment processes can minimize the health risks associated with DBP's formation.

I'm excited to become a Grad Rebel Ambassador to represent and support UNLV's graduate community, advocate for student needs, and share my experiences. This role will allow me to foster connections and contribute to student success while enhancing my leadership skills.



**THE GRAD ACADEMY**



# GRACE ADU BUABENG

**MASTERS IN PUBLIC HEALTH  
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

I am currently Pursuing a Masters Degree in Public Health with a research focus on food insecurity among breastfeeding low-standard working mothers. My broader research interests lie in reproductive and maternal health. As a public health professional, I am compassionate, and reaching out to a whole population rather than focusing on one individual means a lot to me than a job.

I find it a great feather in my cup to serve as a Grad Rebel Ambassador to impact the a larger population, especially to UNLV and the Las Vegas Community.



**THE GRAD ACADEMY**

# SUSAN G. DAKWA

**Master's Student, School of Public Health**

**Advisor: Dr. Gabriella Buccini**

**Susan G. Dakwa** is pursuing a master's degree in Public Health with a concentration in Social and Behavioral Health. A first-generation graduate student from Ghana, she worked extensively in healthcare facilities and developed a deep passion for addressing health disparities.

Her research focuses on maternal anxiety, depression, and food insecurity, particularly among caregivers and pregnant women in the West Las Vegas Promise Neighborhood in Clark County, Nevada. She is dedicated to exploring the connections between food insecurity and mental health and how these challenges disproportionately affect underserved populations.

As a Grad Rebel Ambassador, she is eager to create meaningful connections within the vibrant local and graduate student communities. Susan also loves helping others, always looking for ways to support those around her.



**THE GRAD ACADEMY**

# Ana Daniela Gonzalez

**Ph.D. student, Department of Social and Behavioral Health, School of Public Health**

Ana Daniela is an international student from Guatemala. She is currently a second-year Ph.D. student in Social and Behavioral Health. Her research focuses on developing and implementing theory-based health behavior change interventions to prevent chronic diseases. Other research interests include improving all forms of malnutrition, especially in minority communities, and studying the effects of nutrition on mental health.

Becoming a Grad Ambassador is an excellent opportunity to give back to the UNLV community and strengthen the relationships between the International Grad Rebels and the Graduate College. In addition, this program offers a chance to network and improve our leadership skills.



**THE GRAD ACADEMY**



# Blessing Imade

**Masters Student,  
School of Public Health**

Blessing Imade is a second-year master's student majoring in the Social & Behavioral Health track in the School of Public Health. Originally from Nigeria, she earned her bachelor's degree in Clinical Laboratory Science and is currently the event coordinator of the African Student Alliance at UNLV.

Her research interests focus on mental health, specifically the use of complementary therapies in treating Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

As a Grad Rebel Ambassador, Blessing is driven by a deep passion to strengthen the graduate community by spreading awareness of the incredible resources UNLV offers to graduate students and advocating for graduate education in Las Vegas and beyond. She is thrilled to embrace this opportunity to refine her networking and leadership skills, knowing that this role will help her grow both personally and professionally while making a lasting impact on the graduate experience.



**THE GRAD ACADEMY**

# Miles A. Mercer

## PhD (c)

**PhD in Kinesiology**

**Department: Interdisciplinary Health Sciences**

Miles is a fourth year Ph.D. candidate studying preventative techniques to reduce running injuries in recreational and sedentary populations. Currently, Miles is focusing on bodyweight support interventions for sedentary walkers.

In terms of long-term goals, Miles seeks to promote education among undergraduate and master's students within an academic and research context. Miles has been teaching exercise physiology and biomechanics to kinesiology students and expresses his passions for these subjects in both the classroom and lab. Miles approaches his students from a position of empathy, understanding that life exists outside of the classes he teaches.

In his free time, Miles enjoys running, weightlifting, hiking, reading, and spending time with his friends and family.



**THE GRAD ACADEMY**



# Katalin Dian

**Bachelor of Arts in Psychology &  
Minor in Philosophy**

**College of Liberal Arts**

I am in my senior year here at UNLV, completing my bachelor degree in psychology, while also pursuing a minor degree in philosophy. I would like to work in the field of addiction, possibly with juveniles. I would like to earn my LDAC and I know for that I need a master degree, however I really don't know which route to go, as there are so many options, and I definitely could use some help. This is why I believe that this program could be of tremendous benefit to me, and I am grateful to be a part of this mentorship.



**THE GRAD ACADEMY**

# ABENA G. OWUSU-ANSAH

**Ph.D. student, School of Public  
Health Advisor: Dr. Gabriella Buccini**

Abena Gyawu Owusu-Ansah is a second-year PhD student in the Department of Social and Behavioral Health at the School of Public Health. Originally from Ghana, she has a strong background in medicine and has held various leadership roles in healthcare settings. Her research focuses on child health, infant development indicators, and global health.

As an ambassador, Abena is excited to expand her network within the academic and professional public health communities, particularly with students from African and underrepresented backgrounds. She hopes to use this platform to inspire and mentor other graduate students, fostering a community of collaboration and support. Through the ambassador program, Abena is eager to strengthen her leadership and professional skills, and she looks forward to giving back to the university by contributing to the advancement of global health research and initiatives.



**THE GRAD ACADEMY**



# Refat Rasul Srejon

**PhD, Social and Behavioral Health**

My research interest focuses on substance use, specifically smoking cessation, while I remain open to exploring other areas in public health. As a doctoral student, I believe that preventive medicine is the future of healthcare and can effectively address the complex global health challenges of the 21st century. My commitment to this field is rooted in my desire to contribute to solutions that prioritize prevention over cure.

I want to participate in the Graduate Rebel Ambassador program because it resonates with my values of inclusivity and service. Having an international background and a diverse academic experience, I aim to offer peer support and foster connections among students and community members from varied backgrounds. I believe my leadership skill and academic journey equip me to advocate for the needs of graduate students and help create a supportive academic environment at UNLV. Through this role, I hope to contribute to UNLV's mission of promoting academic excellence, leadership, and diversity.



**THE GRAD ACADEMY**



# Jennifer Tidwell

**Master of Hospitality Administration & Gaming**

**William F. Harrah College of Hospitality**

As a second-year graduate student in Hospitality and Gaming, I am thrilled to be part of the UNLV Grad Rebel Ambassador Program. The MGM College Opportunity Program has allowed me to balance my employment with MGM while pursuing my academic goals at UNLV. As an ambassador, I bring a unique perspective as a working student, which I believe will contribute to fostering an inclusive environment. This opportunity in the ambassador program will enable me to connect with fellow students and share my passion for UNLV and the hospitality industry. This experience will further enhance my leadership skills and prepare me for a successful career in hospitality and gaming.



**THE GRAD ACADEMY**