



UNLV 2016 Regent Scholar, Undergraduate Nominee: Ms. Casey Barber

Casey Barber is a student in the Honors College pursuing a major in Public Health and a minor in Biology. Casey has a lengthy record of research and academic activities. As a research assistant in the lab of Dr. Shawn Gerstenberger, Casey assisted in an in-depth investigation of lead hazards in homes. This project increased her interest in Public Health. Last spring, she studied public health in Ireland as part of her study abroad experience. She is now working in the UNLV Global Health and Implementation Science lab with Drs. Ezeanolue and Pharr at the start of a complex and important project which will constitute her Research Honors Thesis. She plans to research programs that prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV. An impressive project for any student but especially one at the undergraduate level. But Casey doesn't spend all of her time in the lab. Casey spearheaded an initiative between Southwest Gas and Rebuilding Together of Southern Nevada and UNLV to assist elderly homeowners with minor home repairs and fixes. To do this she integrated community need, volunteer agreements and legal issues and found a way to use groups of UNLV students to perform tasks in elderly individual's homes that otherwise might never be fixed. For the elderly, simple tasks such as changing a light bulb or securing rugs and fixing sliding doors can be challenging and even life threatening. This is just one example of Casey's leadership abilities, and how she can perform translational research that identifies (and meets) a community need, while simultaneously providing service learning opportunities for our students. This enterprising student has now conducted research at UNLV in four different labs, has studied abroad in her chosen area of interest and she has a senior standing GPA of 3.98. Impressive, indeed! We have no doubt that Casey will go far and be very successful in any endeavor. UNLV is proud to put forward her name to be recognized for this award.

[Nominated by Dr. Marta Meana, Dean, UNLV Honors College and Professor, Department of Psychology, College of Liberal Arts]

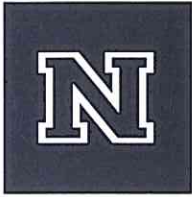


UNLV 2016 Regent Scholar, Graduate Nominee: Ms. Erica Marti

Erica Marti holds a B.S. in Chemistry from the University of Illinois, an M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction: Secondary Science, and an M.S.E. in Civil and Environmental Engineering from UNLV and is currently a Ph.D. candidate in UNLV's Civil and Environmental Engineering program specializing in water treatment and supply where she stands out as a truly exceptional student. Her doctoral advisor, Dr. Jaci Batista, rates her in the top 5% of the 50+ graduate students she has supervised in the last 18 years. Erica's research focuses on process engineering of water reuse, an area that will receive considerable attention as pristine water sources become scarcer. Some of the current water disinfection processes leave behind NDMA (nitrosodimethylamine), a potential carcinogenic material. Erica is investigating how we can engineer systems to minimize or eliminate its formation. To date, she has published three peer-reviewed papers in high impact journals which is an exemplary accomplishment for a third-year doctoral student performing laboratory based research. Erica has been recognized by many other organizations for her work including a Ph.D. scholarship from the Society of Women Engineers and 2012 College of Engineering Best Thesis Award. Erica's interest in the environment goes beyond the classroom as she began a recycling program in the lab and rides her bike to and from the campus each day. She also coaches soccer and volunteers with Habitat for Humanity and the Engineers without Borders local chapter, to name a few of her community activities. After receiving her M.Ed. Erica taught high school science at Clark High School for five years which contributed to her goal of becoming a future faculty member. Erica is an inspiration to her peers and women engineers. She is a true scholar that UNLV is proud to put forward for this recognition.

[Nominated by Dr. Jacimaria Batista, P.E., Professor, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Construction, Howard R. Hughes College of Engineering]

Office of the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs
Box 451099 • 4505 South Maryland Parkway
Las Vegas, Nevada 89154-1099
(702) 895-1267 • FAX (702) 895-3670
<http://provost.unlv.edu/vpaa/>



College of Liberal Arts
University of Nevada, Reno

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Dean

Jane Detweiler
Associate Dean

Darrell B. Lockhart
Associate Dean

Biosketch-Allison Blair

My name is Allison Monterey Blair. I am an Honors Student, an Anthropology major, and an English, Writing major here at the University of Nevada, Reno. Today I am breaking new ground with original research, while also volunteering to improve my community.

As part of my archaeological field school in Ireland this past summer, I conducted a research project utilizing medical records from the Brunswick Emigrant Ship. I solved a 200 year old diagnostic mystery regarding the death of 18 month old Mary Leahy. She was said to have died from Marasmus (a lack of calories); however, I discovered that she had been misdiagnosed. Her symptoms matched Kwashiorkor, which means that she was getting enough calories but not enough protein. Despite eating plenty, Mary consistently became more emaciated. The surgeon expressed confusion regarding this phenomenon. This is understandable because Kwashiorkor wasn't discovered and diagnosed until a hundred years later. My intense analysis of these documents revealed the actual cause of death, thereby solving this mystery.

In addition, my art history essay "The Roles of the Dollhouse throughout History: An Art, A Craft, A Toy" was published last semester in Volume IV of The Montag: The College of Liberal Arts Journal of Undergraduate Research. This essay explores dollhouse symbolism in noteworthy 1970's feminist art, contrasting these symbolic pieces with the continued use of the dollhouse in crafting and play. No one had previously analyzed this relationship.

My current UNR outreach activities include the Liberal Arts Student Advisory Board and the Honors Ambassadors. In both of these organizations, I serve as an Ambassador to potential new students and as a liaison between the campus administrators and the student body. I am also the President of the Art of Living Club and a member of the Outdoor Adventure Club. Both of these clubs complete service projects aimed towards improving the campus and community. For instance, the Art of Living Club teaches breathing techniques to help reduce stress.

In regards to volunteer work, this year was my third year volunteering for UNR's Lincoln Haunted Basement and Ghost Tours event, which donates all proceeds to charity. I have also volunteered for the UNR Creative Outreach Program; a program which helped homeless women improve their writing skills in a fun, enjoyable manner. I assisted the faculty presenters during the program and once even developed and presented a program of my own.

All these research and service projects are not just resume items. They each have helped me grow as an individual, give back to my community, and gather experience in relevant fields.

Dean's Office
University of Nevada, Reno/0086
Reno, Nevada 89557-0086
(775) 784-6155 office
(775) 784-1478 fax
www.unr.edu/liberal-arts



Ruchi Gakhar

Ms. Ruchi Gakhar has a BS in Chemistry (2004), a MS in Chemistry (2006) and a MS in Nanotechnology (2009). She joined the Doctoral program in Materials Science and Engineering in Fall 2012 under the guidance of Dr. Dev Chidambaram. She is expected to graduate with her doctoral degree in Fall 2015. Her GPA is 3.93. Her doctoral research is focused on improving the efficiency of harvesting solar energy and converting to carbon-free fuel. She has established herself as a mature scientist by publishing **11 peer-reviewed journal articles**. Further, 2 more articles are currently under review. She also has several proceedings articles, oral and poster presentations to her credit. She has been the Secretary of the UNR chapter of the Electrochemical Society since inception. She was profiled in the Nevada Silver and Blue winter 2015 issue with focus on graduate research. In March 2014, she gave birth to a beautiful little girl named Aanya who keeps Ruchi very busy when Ruchi is not trying to solve the world's energy issues.



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Juan Garcia's Biography

Juana Garcia is a senior at Nevada State College and will be receiving a B.A in Biology with a minor degree in chemistry in spring of 2016. After graduation, she aspires to be a researcher in medicinal chemistry. Although her application process into graduate school has just begun, she has received notification of being a top Ph. D. candidate at the University of Minnesota Medicinal Chemistry's program. During the past two years, Juana participated in undergraduate research opportunity programs, Nevada Idea Network of Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE) and Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR). She worked on two projects including a new procedure for the addition of hindered amines via nucleophilic aromatic substitution and synthesis of novel xanthogluows. Juana has first authored an article in Synthetic Communications detailing her work for the nucleophilic aromatic substitution project. In addition to the publication, Juana has presented her research in numerous local and national conferences: 249th ACS National Meeting and Exposition, ACS Southern Nevada Local Section (SNS) the 3rd Annual Research Poster Competition (She received 2nd place), NIH IDeA Western Regional Conference, UNLV Fall Undergraduate Research Showcase, PaLS Undergraduate Research Poster Symposium for INBRE and EPSCoR Recipients, and ACS Southern Nevada Local Section (SNS) 4rd Annual Research Poster Competition. She has also received several academic scholarships including: Adelson Scholarship, Millennium Scholarship, American Legion Judge Taylor Scholarship, Latin Chamber of Commerce Scholarship, and Ronald McDonald House of Charities Scholarship.

Juana Garcia

Biography

I am Christel Marie San Diego, and I was born and raised in the Philippines before moving here to Las Vegas. I am currently a business major at the College of Southern Nevada. I plan to obtain my Bachelor's and Master's degree at the University of Texas-Austin when I graduate from CSN to become a Certified Public Accountant and Chartered Financial Analyst. I firmly believe that being a part of Phi Theta Kappa and Student Government is a stepping stone for me to become a brilliant, fearless, and effective leader. Both gives me the opportunity to enhance, not only my leadership skills, but also my communication and networking skills.

Scholarship Biography: Alicia Leon

Alicia Leon is a first year Associate's Degree Nursing (ADN) student at Great Basin College and has future ambitions in furthering her education by obtaining her Master's Degree in Nursing. Being a Native American, Alicia recognizes the need for improving accessible health care for the Native American community and plans to dedicate her time and effort in this area upon graduating from Great Basin's Nursing Program. Also, Alicia looks forwards to working closely with the Board of Regents in their campaign in building of higher education and in the enhancement of cultural awareness and diversity for the "New Nevada".

Alicia lives in Winnemucca and participates in class through Great Basin's Interactive Video program and has shown outstanding academic performance with a current GPA of 3.93. This Fall 2015 semester, she is taking 9 units in the nursing program and has plans to enroll in 12 units for Spring 2016. Alicia brings much experience to the nursing program currently working as a certified nursing assistant in a community hospital located in Winnemucca.

In regards to Alicia's leadership qualities and her community involvement, she is active in the Great Basin College Indigenous Student Organization which represents the Native American culture by reaching out to individuals who are interested in learning about the Native American heritage. Recently, on November 9, 2015 at Great Basin College (GBC), the organization hosted a social gathering which Alicia participated to teach about Native American traditions and skills. In addition, Alicia is an active member of GBC Student Nursing Organization (SNO) the Honor Society Phi Theta Kappa, and the National Student Nursing Association (NSNA). In her community of Winnemucca, Nevada, Alicia has served as a team leader in the A.P.P.L.E program which stands for Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Leadership Enhancement. The program's intent is to educate young females on abstinence and safe sex practices. Alicia was selected to speak at the Women's health Summit held at the University of California, Los Angeles to represent the young women of Nevada and speak on their behalf.

Dedicating herself to academic success and being a good role model to her two young children, this single mother still manages to perform with a local community theatrical group called White Sage. The theatre company recently finished their performance of the play, Bus Stop, which helped to raise money for the local museum and the Northern Nevada Art Council (NoNAC) to keep the arts thriving in Winnemucca.

The financial support awarded by this scholarship would afford Alicia to focus on her education and relieve some of the financial stress in pursuing her professional educational goals. It is with utmost sincerity that our nursing faculty would like to recommend Alicia Leon for the Nevada Regent's Scholarship Award and are hopeful that she be considered for this honor.



Michelle L. Husbands, MSN, FNP-BC
GBC Nursing faculty

Felipe Gutierrez Bio

Felipe Gutierrez graduated in 2005 from North Valleys High School. After high school Felipe enrolled at Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC) for two semesters when he decided to enlist in United States Marine Corps. He has served in Anbar Province Iraq, Rio De Janeiro, Brazil, Cape Town, South Africa and 29 Palms, California. Upon completing his service to his country he returned to TMCC to complete an Associate of Arts degree in Business. While attending TMCC he continued to serve his college and community by becoming a founding member of Truckee Meadows Veterans Club. His dedication and active participation led him to become the President. As president, he has been involved in many veteran and community outreach programs. He has organized numerous student veteran barbecues to continue an atmosphere filled with comradery and is responsible for coordinating a memorial for a fellow student veteran who passed away. Also, he is a founding member of the Engage Veteran Professionals Network. Felipe has been chosen for TMCC's first Veterans Leadership Academy where he is working on a project to help the community. After graduating in fall 15 he plans on continuing his education at the University of Nevada, Reno where he will pursue a Bachelor of Science in International Business.



November 6, 2015

Diana Meza Cabrera – Bibliography

Diana was born in Mexicali, Baja California and is a long time resident of the South Lake Tahoe area. She is the first member of her family to attend college.

After graduation from high school, Diana worked as an intern at Barton Health and confirmed that nursing was her chosen profession. She received a BA in Spanish Education from Humboldt State University and received a certification in phlebotomy.

Diana balances work, school, and family as the mother of a small child. Diana is passionate about helping others and making the world a better place.