

**UNLV 2017 Regents' Scholar, Undergraduate Nominee: Mr. Nemanja Novakovic**

Nemanja Novakovic is an Honor's College student and double major in Biochemistry and Biological Sciences with an emphasis in Cell and Molecular Biology. Nemanja is an extraordinary student who has demonstrated excellence in research, academics, and leadership, as well as service both within and outside of UNLV. His research activities as an undergraduate student are unparalleled; as a member of the Schiller Laboratory and the Nevada Institute of Personalized Medicine, he has been at the front-lines of research dedicated to efforts to solve problems related to HIV. His work on this research has resulted in co-authorship on three peer-reviewed publications in *PLOS One*. Now a senior, Nemanja has maintained a 4.0 GPA throughout his undergraduate studies and has received several prestigious Honor's College and University scholarships and awards. In addition to his extensive research activities and academic achievements, Nemanja has been a campus leader and mentor to other students. As an Honor's College Bennet Mentor he provides support and guidance to incoming undergraduate students as they transition from high school into the Honors College. He is also a senior member of the Schiller laboratory where he has worked since 2013, and has served as an undergraduate Teaching Assistant and Lab Instructor for courses in biology. Outside of UNLV, Nemanja is also involved in several programs that benefit the Las Vegas community such as the Relay for Life, the Las Vegas Rescue Mission, the Heaven Can Wait Feral Cat Clinic, and other charitable organizations where he volunteers his time and skills, and assists in fundraising efforts. Given Nemanja's record of distinguished academic accomplishments, and contributions in leadership and service, we are confident that he will continue his scholarly and leadership contributions in the field of medicine, and we are pleased to recommend him as the recipient of this award.

[Nominated by Dr. Andrew Hanson, Associate Dean, UNLV Honors College, and Associate Professor, Department of Geoscience]



**UNLV 2017 Regent Scholar, Graduate Nominee: Mr. Tyler Stalbaum**

Tyler Stalbaum was born in Henderson, NV. He achieved his B.S. in Mechanical Engineering in December 2010 from UNLV and his M.S. in Industrial Engineering from Purdue University in May 2013. He returned to UNLV and is currently a Ph.D. candidate in the Mechanical Engineering program scheduled to graduate in December 2016. Early in his undergraduate work, he participated in several research projects with faculty of the Department of Mechanical Engineering at UNLV. Additionally, he was well-respected by his peers and was named the Class of 2010 Mechanical Engineering Outstanding Graduating Senior. His research interests have included a range of topics from materials science and manufacturing processing to biomedical research, robotics, dynamics and controls. His latest and current research work specializes in soft-robotics and finite element modeling at the Active Materials and Smart Living Laboratory under the supervision of Dr. Kwang J. Kim. He has contributed to six papers in refereed journals with a seventh in preparation, two book chapters, three conference papers, and numerous posters and presentations. Dr. Kim states that Tyler has made significant contributions to the field and sees him as one of the most talented students he has worked with in over 20 years.

In addition to Tyler's dedication to research, he has a strong ambition for teaching and has been eager to teach courses in mechanical engineering. He has taught courses at both the undergraduate and graduate levels and has done so with very positive student evaluations. After graduation, he plans to work as a postdoctoral researcher with Dr. Kim while continuing teaching and simultaneously, he will be applying for faculty positions at U.S. universities. Tyler plans to pursue a career in research and academia to continue to contribute to technological and scientific advancement while also working to benefit society through the education and mentoring of students. He aspires to one day earn the rank of professor. Tyler is a true scholar that UNLV is proud to put forward for this recognition.

[Nominated by Kwang J. Kim, Ph.D., NV Energy Professor of Energy and Matter, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Howard R. Hughes College of Engineering]

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**Short Biography: Kirsten Casey, Undergraduate Student (Senior)**

Kirsten was born in Reno and attended Spanish Springs High School. During high school she received the Gold Award in Girl Scouts and participated in the marching band, the swim team, and academic pursuits such as Academic Olympiad. She received the AP Scholar with Distinction Award, and graduated as the Salutatorian with an Advanced Honors Diploma. At UNR, she decided to study physics because she is passionate about astronomy and the many mysteries of the universe. Some of her most memorable experiences at UNR are related to her time as an officer of the Astronomy Club: learning how to use the Physics Department's telescopes and teaching members of the club and the community about the wonders of the night sky. She has also enjoyed her research experience exploring the details of the gravitational force in Dr. Andrew Geraci's laboratory, and developing teaching and tutoring skills as a Learning Assistant in the NevadaTeach program. She is currently sending graduate school applications for admission to Ph.D. programs in Astrophysics. Her professional goals are to complete her graduate studies, and to continue teaching and mentoring students, and leading her own research program as a university professor.



College of Agriculture, Biotechnology  
and Natural Resources  
University of Nevada, Reno

**Angela Hornsby**  
biography

Angela Hornsby is a Ph.D. candidate in the program in Ecology, Evolution, and Conservation Biology (EECB) at UNR. The unifying theme of her research is determining how species react and adapt to different environments, including across geographic space and through major climate changes in the late Quaternary. Focusing on woodrats (genus *Neotoma*) in western North America, her dissertation addresses a broad array of topics including demographic reconstruction from paleoecological deposits, identification of species and intraspecific groups using ancient DNA up to 30,000 years old, and determining the developmental mechanisms and morphological consequences of adaptation to different environments.

As a Ph.D. student, Angela has published two first-authored papers and one co-authored paper. She has secured numerous fellowships and awards totaling >\$100,000, including a 4-year NSF EPSCoR Nevada Climate Change Program fellowship, the Shadle Fellowship from the American Society of Mammalogists, first place in the STEM section of UNR's inaugural Three Minute Thesis competition, an EECB program Director's Award, and two Outstanding Graduate Student awards from the UNR Graduate Student Association. In addition, Angela has secured nearly \$17,000 in support of her research. She is a student member of five national and international professional societies, has made 12 presentations at conferences, and has served as a reviewer for ten manuscripts for various peer-reviewed journals. She has served as guest instructor in a number of classes, including Mammalogy, Intro to Natural Resources, How Science Works, and graduate-level Molecular Ecology, in addition to serving as a teaching assistant in Conservation Biology and Evolution. As a Graduate Curatorial Assistant in the burgeoning UNR Museum of Natural History, Angela has overseen organization and digitization of the vertebrate collections, helped construct museum displays throughout the UNR Fleischmann Agriculture building, and mentored over 40 undergraduate students in museum research and curation. She has also served on numerous EECB student committees, including the Website Committee through which she worked with UNR Integrated Marketing on a complete rebuild of the EECB program website.

In addition to these academic activities, Angela has also been heavily involved in several major outreach activities. In her first year as a Ph.D. student, she independently began an event called Science Day, in which up to 100 participants from Northern Nevada Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) visit campus for hands-on science activities with graduate students. This event has occurred annually since 2010, and is a popular option for BBBS participants. She also worked for five years as the primary volunteer outreach teacher and technician for Molecules on the Road, a high school genetics outreach program funded by a NSF award to Dr. Marjorie Matocq. This program focuses on bringing hands-on science to some of Reno's challenged urban high schools (e.g., Wooster High, Hug High, Sparks High). Finally, Angela serves on the Board of Directors for the education non-profit Nevada Bugs and Butterflies 501(c)(3), which runs a free native butterfly each summer and offers a number of educational programs throughout the Reno-Tahoe area.

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11-17-16

Amber Consul Biosketch

NSHE Regent's Award Scholar Application

Being born and raised in Las Vegas can have an impact on a young and developing mind. Amber Consul grew up here amidst the lights and perceived glitz and glamour. Despite the tempting paths presented to her, she had an intrinsic passion for learning about science. Her senior year of high school she had flexibility in her schedule and rather than taking only the necessary classes with a reduced school day she chose to take 3 science classes "because they seemed interesting". After graduation Amber worked as a dance instructor and model while she took a break to figure out what she wanted to do with her life. At age 19 she had her son Ashton. Something about this experience prompted her to change from her college ballet classes to EMS classes. By Spring of 2003 Amber was a licensed EMT, and her entire perspective on life and the world had change. She had found a new calling in medicine. She enjoyed helping people, almost as much as she enjoyed the science behind it. After working on the ambulance for a few years Amber resumed classes, this time with the aim of becoming a doctor. Fast forward to Spring of 2016. After working on the ambulance for 10 years and slowly completing courses, Amber was approaching graduation. That is when she met Dr. Amber Howerton, and once again her path was changed. Dr. Howerton introduced Amber to the world of research and she was completely taken with it. Despite having completed her MCAT and courses for medical school Amber realized that research would allow her to work on the science side of medicine which was what had initially sparked her interest. With the support of her husband, their children, and her mentor, Amber jumped into the world of research. Proposing her own research topic she was able to secure two grants to fund her studies. Participation in the Inbre and EPSCoR programs led her to give an oral presentation at an ACS conference, as well as multiple poster presentations. With graduate school on the horizon Amber is working to complete her research so that she can submit a manuscript for publication. In addition to her research goals and classes, Amber still finds time to join her husband for the charitable work he does with his employer the Henderson Fire Department. This has led to participation in events like Fill the Fire Truck, which collects Christmas gifts for needy children, as well as Rebuilding Together, an organization that helps needy individuals repair and rebuild their homes. Amber's hope is that with her family, and the other amazing individuals in her life that she will be able to accomplish things she had never thought were possible.

November 10, 2016

**JOHN NAPA BIO – CONDENSED VERSION - AS WRITTEN TO PROFESSOR JET MITCHELL**

(Full bio information is attached)

**MILITARY SERVICE**

United States Air Force (Operations Intelligence Specialist) Aug 2000 - Dec 2003

**CIVILIAN EMPLOYMENT**

1. The Martial Arts Center (Owner)  
Jan 2015 - Jan 2016  
Managed administrative and business aspect of self-owed company.
2. American Landscape Service (Arbor and Administration Specialist) Sep 2010-Dec 2012  
Provide gardening maintenance of client's horticulture.
3. Westin Hotel and Resort Guam (Banquet Wait staff)  
Jul 1998 - Jul 2000  
Responsible for guest hospitality and dining setting preparation.

**EDUCATION**

**College of Southern Nevada:** Associate of Applied Science Degrees (AAS)  
Automotive Technology AUTO-AAS, Diesel Heavy Equipment Master Technician DLS  
Marketing/Merchandising/Retail Management MKT-AAS

**Leadership and Volunteer Roles**

USAF JROTC Group Commander (Top Echelon Leadership Role)  
U.S. Naval Sea Cadets Corps (Platoon Leader)

**COMMUNITY SERVICE**

1. Wounded Warrior Project (Veterans' Benefactor and Volunteer) 2010 - Present
2. Disabled American Veterans (Veterans' Charity Volunteer)  
2010 - Present
3. The Animal Foundation (Animal Rescue Shelter Volunteer)  
2014 - Present (Volunteered Approximately 1,000 HRS)

**AWARDS AND RECOGNITION**

1. National Defense Service Medal, U.S. Military
2. Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, U.S. Military
3. Air Force Achievement Medal, USAF
4. USAF Basic Military Training Honor Graduate Ribbon, USAF
5. USAF Operations Intelligence Specialist Training MVP Award
6. USAF Operations Intelligence Specialist, Senior Airman Below-The-Zone, Advanced Promotion
7. College of Southern Nevada, CSN Serves Volunteer of the Year Award 2014-2015
8. College of Southern Nevada Dean's List
9. The Animal Foundation, TOP DOG Volunteer Award 2014
10. The Animal Foundation, Certificate of Achievement, Most Shelter Involvement 2014
11. The Animal Foundation, Certificate of Recognition, Outstanding Multifaceted Service 2015
12. College of Southern Nevada, CSN Serves Volunteer of the Year Award 2015-2016

**Biography for Shiara Holmes**  
**Regents Scholar Award Nomination**  
**November 15, 2016**

Shiara Holmes is a current GBC student. She is pursuing a Bachelor's of Arts degree in Elementary Education with an Early Childhood Endorsement. Shiara is an enrolled member of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation where she has lived all of her life. She spends much of her time working on her grandparents' ranch learning about the cattle industry. She also donates time to community gatherings and events including the Veteran's Day powwow, youth basketball tournaments, community fun-run walks/runs, the Annual Fourth of July Rodeo, and summer educational presentations targeted for elementary and high school students. For the past three years, during the summer months, Shiara worked for the Tribe's Summer Recreation and Summer Foods Program sponsored by Barrick Gold. She volunteers her time, outside of her working hours, to encourage elementary and secondary students to pursue a higher education as a means to better their lives and the lives of others within their Tribe.

Shiara stated the following, "My Native American heritage influences every aspect of my life, which is one reason why I have attained a degree in Early Child Education and am currently pursuing an AAS in Infant Toddler Education as well as a BA in Elementary Education. I attended the Owyhee Combined Schools, which is a public school located on the reservation. Throughout that time, my student peers and I experienced a high teacher turnover. Many teachers were non-Native and not from Owyhee, thus did not remain for more than a year or two. I believe the high teacher turnover rate has had a detrimental effect on the students. Inconsistency can make it difficult for a student to reach their full potential. To be a positive influence and enrich the lives of children is my greatest passion. To be able to utilize my education for something that will provide a service, as well as make a difference for my Tribe and community is my long-term goal. I will be the teacher who **stays** for the duration of my career. I will give the children of Owyhee hope and purpose."

Shiara has a 3.96 grade point average and continues to serve as a student leader at GBC. She has vowed to be a life-long advocate for continuing education, family engagement and healthy living in her community.

### Spencer Schultz Biography:

Spencer Earl Schultz was born at Saint Mary's Regional Medical Center in Reno, Nevada in November of 1992 and has been a community member for twenty-four years. He was educated within the Washoe County School system, graduated from Truckee Meadows Community College, and now attends the University of Nevada, Reno in pursuit of a Double-Major in International Affairs and Political Science. In the future he hopes to attend and graduate with a Juris Doctorate from the William S. Boyd School of Law and serve the Nevada community as an attorney and public servant.

After graduating from high school Spencer worked within a local casino for three years to earn money for college and help support his family during the recession. The experiences he gained gave him an intimate knowledge of the community and has inspired him to pursue a better future for the Northern Nevada community. He was President of the Student Body of TMCC from 2015-2016, is a member on the College of Liberal Arts Student Advisory Board, works in the Office of the President of TMCC, and helps teach English to International students within the Intensive English Language Center of Northern Nevada. His dream is to one day create a better and more sustainable future for Nevada in partnership with citizens who seek a brighter future.



## OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT OF ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS

### Biography of Pa Jeremiah Kang

My name is Pa Kang. I have been a Korean Chinese by June 2014 before I got my American citizenship. I lived most my life in China next to North Korean border. My family used to help North Koreans even though they are not rich enough. They gave them free food, medicines, clothes and money. I remember one of my relative from North Korea who came to China. We gave them a lot of life supplies. There is some unknown sympathy lingers in my mind for the poor people in North Korea. I visited my relatives in South Korea back to 2001 and 2015. I have been to North Korea twice in 1995 and 2007 as an tourist. There was a huge difference in education, social life, information access between two Koreas. What I thought what can I bridge them to help each other not to be enemies anymore? I could be an American Nurse to reach that. I used to work in Shenzhen, China as a software engineer for User Interface design for automotive and home theater DVD for 3 years. I made my first six figure salary in six months after starting the work. Back to my university life, I was lacking discipline so that I got lots of Cs in my computer engineering; however I was the graduate with the highest salary among 1,800 students in 2003. The salary was six times more than a regular Chinese student's annual income. The reason I got so much is that I had a better English education. All of my English instructors were educated from university in America: for example NYU (Hannah, P.), Stanford (Jung, L), Cornell (James, K), Columbia (Hannah L) and Harvard (K, Oh). After I worked the engineering job for 3 years, I felt bored and came to the United State of Ameirca and unexpected sufferings started. My life hit the bottom. I have been living in New York and Boston for 2 years. I used to be a busboy, waiter, sushi helper, sushi chef, construction site supervisor, court interpreter and restaurant manager, church cleaner, Korean teacher, Sunday school teacher.

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I took any job that is available. I am still in the phase of fitting in America which is a tough but also interesting. I take the challenge as eustress. I have a cousin in New York and he is the closest relatives. I suddenly felt my mother is getting old, there is unspeakable thankfulness from her made my tears. I want to give her a good life in America. RN jobs for me could be the rainbow bridge for that thought. I quit my last job as a Lab Tech in Medical school in UNR. I am so blessed to have awesome instructors in WNC nursing program.

In summary, all of my life experience weaved me into be a registered nurse: help the poor and sick North Korean residents, did not enjoy my computer jobs, had hard life in America, my aunt who lost her daughter and my parents to take care of, one of my 26 year old cousin in

Infection control hospital in Shanghai, China in 2015. I took the moment of loss is my very moment to response to the calling to be a nurse, an American Registered Nurse. When I applied the nursing school there were two episodes triggered me: one is from CNN I saw over 3000 RNs volunteered to Haiti in 2010, it gives me the thrill and set me the role models, second is a Korean Chinese women who were under a hypovolemic shock I translated her crying husband's call to 911 from Korean to English, it gives me the touch of caring. I still dream big as my professor encouraged in WNC after the triage drill in the Carson Tahoe Hospital. Dream big, I want to build hospital, schools in North Korea for the residents one day. I want to help the poor of the poor and bring the best education to that poor nation one day. I will stand with them, cry with them because what I learned in the nursing school is be humble and be strong. Still I dream 3300 hospitals and nursing schools in near future to be built on that dark land.

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