



# THE REBEL YELL

SERVING THE UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, LAS VEGAS SINCE 1955

- HOME
- NEWS
- OPINION
- SPORTS
- A+E
- REBELS UNFILTERED
- CONTACT ▾



Jacob Lasky / The Rebel Yell

### Online Newsletter

Get the latest news to your inbox by subscribing!

### Popular Articles

New housing floor to become available next school year

And the new name is....

UNLV math instructor faces outrage for Facebook comments

UNLV blasted for debate budget

UNLV Performance metrics

### Upcoming Events

There are no upcoming events.

[View Calendar](http://www.unlvrebelyell.com/calendar/) → (<http://www.unlvrebelyell.com/calendar/>)

From ongoing wars, natural disasters, social inequality and martial arts, there is no doubt the world is full of all sorts of extremities.

In the spirit of living in an extreme world, the day-long TEDxUNLV "Living In The Extreme!" event featured individuals with extreme traits on Friday.

The event, which was held in the Black Box Theatre, featured 16 speakers who discussed some extremes that they have dealt with in their lives.

"Many of [our speakers] have had extreme experiences, but it's really about how we as human beings navigate that world of being in the extreme," said Gael Hancock, manager of the graduate programs for the Harrah Hotel College, during the introduction.

Hancock played a fundamental role in organizing the TEDxUNLV event and said she often shows Technology, Education and Design (TED) Talk presentations in her classes.

Among one of the first speakers to present was Georgiann Davis, an intersex assistant sociology professor at UNLV.

An intersex individual is someone who does not fit the typical definitions of male or female.

While growing up as a girl, Davis was unaware that she was born with testicles.

She ultimately had them removed at age 17, but was not aware of the real purpose of the procedure until she had become much older.

"The doctors didn't tell me at any point what they were removing," David said. "They didn't tell me I'm intersex. Instead they told me I had cancer."

Davis acknowledged that some people might not consider it a big deal for her to have her testicles removed since she was assigned female at birth, but ultimately disagreed with the notion.

"Now I know what you might be thinking—'So what you're a girl, they took out your testes and there wasn't cancer. Why does that matter?'" Davis said. "Well, it matters because testes, like ovaries, produce sex hormones in the body."

Davis said that she felt ashamed and confused after discovering she was lied to about the procedure.

However, Davis eventually found comfort through interacting with others in intersex community groups.

Davis continues to focus her professional career on intersex advocacy.

"We are just like everybody else. With good days, with bad days- with good hairstyles, with bad hairstyles," said Davis to a laughing audience.

Besides featuring speakers, the event also featured numerous artwork including some that students from the Masters of Fine Arts program designed.

Social-political artist Recycled Propaganda designed the set, which resembled graffiti-covered slabs of the Berlin Wall.

Guests and volunteers could freely draw on another mural at the entrance to the Black Box Theatre.

The TEDx conference turned from art to physicality during Frank Curreri's talk about the art form of jiu-jitsu.

During his talk, UFC champion Miesha Tate and Analynn Molina grappled each other onstage as part of a jiu-jitsu demonstration.

Curreri discussed the impact that jiu-jitsu has had on his life as well as the world.

"I can say [jiu-jitsu is] chicken soup for the soul, [and a] chokehold for the soul," Curreri said.

Besides working as a journalist, Curreri is a Brazilian jiu-jitsu black-belt and has won three IBJJF World Championships.

He also expressed a desire for more community involvement devoted to the martial art and how it can be encouraging for youth.

Curreri also explained that jiu-jitsu is not limited to just men anymore.

"I intentionally picked...two women because I wanted people to see that you know it's not just...men, it's not just tough guys. This is an art that is empowering women," said Curreri after his speech.

While receiving general guidance from TED Talks, TEDx events are generally self-organized and localized.

According to Hancock, around 150 people attended the conference.

The conference was also comprised of about 70 volunteers, primarily UNLV students.

Hancock feels that TEDxUNLV is important for Vegas and plans on bringing it back to campus again next year.

"I see this as a real community builder," Hancock said.

Hancock also hinted at the possibility of having an emphasis on student community leaders featured in the next TEDx event at UNLV.

According to Hancock, money that was made during this TEDx conference will be used toward the next proposed conference.

---

Tags assigned to this article:

intersex motivation TEDxUNLV

---

No comments


Write a comment



### No Comments Yet!

You can be first to comment this post!

## Write a Comment

 Your e-mail address will not be published.  
Required fields are marked \*

Comment \*

Nickname \*

E-mail \*

Website

**Post a Comment**