

Title V PPOHA Spring 2023 Fellows



Name: Sharon Barrett

Program/Level: M.A. Political Science - Thesis

Home Town: Midland, Texas

Prior Education: M.Ed, Sul Ross State University, 2015 M.A. Liberal Arts, Sul Ross State University, 2015 B.A. American Studies, with departmental honors, Hillsdale College, 2012 B.A. Music, Hillsdale College, 2012

Professional Certifications & Organizations: National College Reading and Learning Association Level I certification, 2014

Fun Facts - Hobbies/Interests (things to know about me): I'm fascinated with the lost skills of our ancestors, like preserving homegrown food and foraging for wild medicines. I love culturing raw milk kefir and fermented salsa! I'm also a women's herbalist and a spiritual director

Short Bio: I'm a storyteller. Growing up, I dreamed of writing books and plays. I sang competitively in high school and was selected for TMEA All-State Choir three years in a row. I went to Hillsdale College planning to become a choir teacher. My love for politics and history, though, led me to add a major in American studies—even though it meant staying a fifth year in brutal Michigan winter! Returning to Texas after Hillsdale, I relocated to Alpine to be near family. I couldn't resist taking one or two graduate history classes at Sul Ross. With the help of amazing faculty who invested in me, I obtained a Graduate Fellowship and went on to complete the M.A. in Liberal Arts. In the process I discovered my talent for telling stories through ethnography. My capstone project explored the interplay between history and memory in the formation of religious faith, weaving my original songs and poetry into a dialogue with ancient and modern authors as well as real-life ethnographic research participants. While in Alpine, I also discovered my calling to serve women across borders as a midwife. I worked in Midland ISD schools for a few years, then returned to Sul Ross to pursue the M.A. in political science, combining ethnographic writing with political analysis to examine how midwives fight legislative and structural barriers to midwifery. For my thesis, I plan to interview international midwives about their political advocacy, interweaving their stories with the story of women's wisdom carried by el rebozo (the ancestral garment used by Mexican parteras to assist women in childbirth). I'm excited to begin midwifery training in 2024.

Title V PPOHA Spring 2023 Fellows



Name: Brooke Bowman

Program/Level: Range &
Wildlife Management /
Borderlands Research Institute /
Graduate Research Assistant

Home Town: Baytown, Texas

Prior Education: B.S. in Environmental Science, University of Texas at Austin, 2019

Academic Achievements:

- Current 4.0 GPA at Sul Ross State University in my M.S. program
- Mentored an undergraduate technician through the Borderlands Undergraduate Mentorship Program with Borderlands Research Institute
- Biostatistics Teaching Assistant for Sul Ross State University
- Graduated from my B.S. degree with High Honors from UT Austin with a 3.9 GPA
- Completed an undergraduate independent research project that I was able to acquire \$7,853 for through the Texas EcoLab Research Grant, UT's Undergraduate Research Fellowship Award, and UT's Environmental Science Capstone Research Grant

Fun Facts – Hobbies/Interests (things to know about me): I love hiking, birding, camping, reading, music, cooking, and listening to true crime podcasts.

Short Bio: My name is Brooke Bowman, and I grew up on the Texas Gulf Coast in Baytown, Texas. I did not grow up in the outdoors but always had a love for animals. After visiting Yellowstone National Park with my family in middle school, my love for the natural world was sparked. My interest in conservation led me to obtain my B.S. in Environmental Science from the University of Texas at Austin. After graduation, I realized that I wanted to pursue a career in wildlife biology. This passion drove me to take seasonal wildlife positions across the country. I conducted plant community surveys across the state of Arkansas with The Nature Conservancy, taught the public about Texas wildlife through an array of outreach activities at Bamberger Ranch Preserve in Central Texas, traversed the Nevada sagebrush steppe in search of collared Greater Sage-grouse, performed vegetation surveys in southern Idaho on a separate Greater Sage-grouse project, and trapped Northern Bobwhite quail in Oklahoma. I am grateful to continue my education in Sul Ross State University's Range & Wildlife Management Master's program studying the effects of oil & gas development on Scaled Quail movement and behavior!

Title V PPOHA Spring 2023 Fellows



Name: Nicole Dickan
Program/Level: M.S. in Range
 & Wildlife Management /
 Graduate Research Assistant at
 Borderlands Research Institute
Home Town: Katonah, New
 York

Prior Education: B.S. in Animal Behavior, Ecology, and Conservation, Canisius College NY

B.A. in Psychology, Canisius College NY

Academic Achievements:

Wes and Victoria Bannister Scholarship Recipient (2023) - Borderlands Research Institute

Summa Cum Laude, Canisius College

Excellence in Research Award (2020), Canisius College

Canisius Science Scholars member and grant recipient (2017-2020)

Professional Certifications & Organizations:

Member of the International Association for Bear Research and Management (IBA)

Member of the Wildlife Society (TWS)

Interesting Facts - Hobbies / Interests (things to know about me):

I enjoy rock climbing, backpacking, hiking, traveling, riding motorcycles, swimming, and birding. I also like trying new restaurants, especially Japanese restaurants since sushi is my absolute favorite food.

Short Bio: I was born and raised in NY where I fell in love with outdoor activities and exploring nature. I learned early on that I wanted a career focused on animals in some capacity. Before I discovered wildlife as a career option, I worked at a kennel, interned at the local SPCA, and at the Buffalo Zoo working with polar bears. I went to Canisius College in Buffalo NY to study Animal Behavior, Ecology, and Conservation where I initially focused my studies on animal cognition. After completing a field course and conducting research in Belize, I developed a passion for wildlife biology and fieldwork in general. After graduating, I went on to work as a wildlife technician in South Dakota, Oklahoma, and Idaho studying bobcats, black bears, grizzlies, bighorn sheep, and various nongame species. While I enjoyed working with all these species, I felt a particular connection to the bears. I gained a deep appreciation and respect for both the species and the work that goes into managing their populations. This led me to my current master's position at Sul Ross where I am studying the behavior and ecology of black bears in the Trans-Pecos.

Title V PPOHA Spring 2023 Fellows



Name: Hugo Flores

Program/Level: Criminal Justice, Graduate Studies.

Home Town: Laredo, Texas.

Prior Education: Associates of Arts, Laredo College. Bachelors of Science in Criminal Justice, Sul Ross State University.

Academic Achievements: Dean's list Spring 2022. I currently have a 3.7 GPA in the Master's program.

Professional Certifications & Organizations: I am currently a Door-Dash driver. Member of Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. Member of SRSU New Man Club.

Interesting Facts - Hobbies / Interests (things to know about me): I enjoy swimming, watching Mexican League baseball games, and playing tennis.

Short Bio: My name is Hugo Flores, and I am from Laredo, Texas. I was fortunate to be able to get an Associate's degree while in high school, which made it possible for me to graduate at 19 years old with a bachelor's degree. I played tennis throughout High School, and while looking for college tennis opportunities, I found Sul Ross State University and decided to come to Alpine, Texas. I have since fallen in love with the town and the professors' passion for teaching all classes. I am working to become a criminal justice professional as soon as I complete my degree requirements.

Title V PPOHA Spring 2023 Fellows



Name: Kiahna S. García
Program/Level: Master of English
Home Town: Del Rio, TX

Prior Education: B.A., English, Sul Ross State University, 2020

University of Texas at San Antonio, 2017-2018

Associate of Arts, Southwest Texas Junior College, 2017

Academic Achievements: SRSU, Sigma Tau Delta Spring Poetry Contest, 1st place for the poem “Voices of Lineage,” 2022

“Chat with a Stranger,” published in The Sage, 2022

“The Mexican-Imposter,” published in The Sage, 2021

Outstanding English Graduate Student, Spring 2021

Dean’s List, Sul Ross State University, Fall 2018, Fall 2019

SWTJC, Creative Arts Contest Award, 1st place for the story “A Chat with A Stranger,” 2019

International Good Neighbor Council Scholarship, 2019

Middle Rio Grande College, Student Service Fee Scholarship, 2019

Middle Rio Grande College, Student Deposit Scholarship, 2019

The Bank & Trust Scholarship, 2019

President’s List, University of Texas at San Antonio, Spring 2018

President’s Honor Roll and Dean’s Honor Roll, Southwest Texas Junior College, Spring 2017

SWTJC, Halloween Short Story Contest Award, 1st place for the story “Rose Creek,” 2017

Professional Certifications & Organizations: Graduate Student Council, Fall 2022

Sigma Tau Delta, 2020

National Honors Society of Leadership and Success, 2017

National Honors Society, 2014


Phi Theta Kappa, 2014

Fun Facts - Hobbies/Interests (things to know about me): An interesting fact about me is that I once grew a tooth on the roof of my mouth. I was entertained by my body’s decision to grow a tooth in a location that was not my gums, but my poor mother was petrified as my oral surgeon told her his clinic gets 12 cases like mine every year.

My hobbies/ interests include gardening, reading, baking, traveling, playing video games, and learning Spanish and Japanese! I am learning Spanish to perfect my speaking and writing abilities and I am learning Japanese as I would like to read Japanese literature in Japanese.

Short Bio: I am 1st generation American from my mother’s side and 4th generation American from my father’s side. My love for reading and writing began when I was little as my mother, who wanted to make sure that we would not struggle with English as she did when moved here from Mexico, would take my sisters and me to the library every day. I would eagerly read the books at the library and check out the ones I did not finish so that I could read them at home. Since then, my love for literature grew (my love for writing soon followed after). By the time I graduated high school at 16, I knew that I wanted to major in English so that I can teach the wondrous world of English literature to others. Eight years later, that desire has not gone away as I am still happily shoving books in my face. The only thing that has changed is that I grew to love literature from other countries as well. Which is why my master’s thesis does not focus on English literature, but on Japanese literature—specifically manga. In the future, my ultimate goal is to obtain my Ph.D. in English and teach English and/or Mexican literature at a university outside of the United States.

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	<p>Name: Caleb Hughes Program/Level: M. S. in Range and Wildlife Management Home Town: Grandview, Texas</p>
<p>Prior Education:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Associate of Arts, McLennan Community College -Bachelor of Science, Sul Ross State University <p>Academic Achievements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Title V PPOHA Fellowship, Summer and Fall 2022 - John B. Poindexter Endowed Fellowship in Quail Research - Magna Cum Laude, Bachelor of Science, Sul Ross State University - Outstanding Underclassman Student in Natural Resource Management, 2020 <p>Professional Certifications & Organizations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Member of The Wildlife Society - 2020-21 Wildlife Vice President of the Sul Ross Range and Wildlife Club - Member of the Mule Deer Foundation - Member of the Teddy Roosevelt Conservation Partnership - Youth Protection Certification, Boy Scouts of America - S-130 Firefighter Training Online Certification, National Wildfire Coordinating Group - S-190 Wildland Fire Behavior Online Certification, National Wildlife Coordinating Group CIO – American Train Dispatchers Association <p>Interesting Facts: I enjoy hunting, fishing, hiking and doing field work for range and wildlife research. I am blessed to partake in Christian ministry as the Campus Minister at the Alpine Church of Christ. I also enjoy railfanning, taxidermy, playing guitar, and spending time with my lovely fiancé, Cali.</p> <p>Short Bio: I was born in Fort Worth, Texas and raised in the small outlying town of Grandview. Being raised in a rural environment, activities such as hunting and fishing developed a strong love for wildlife and wild places. This upbringing cultivated my interest in making a career out of studying and conserving natural resources. I transferred to Sul Ross from McLennan Community College and earned my Bachelor's degree in Wildlife Management, during which I received ample exposure to both the field itself and stunning landscape of the Big Bend region. Knowledge gained through the classroom, projects, volunteer work and networking continually stoked my passion for wildlife and prompted me to continue my education. I was fortunate to remain at Sul Ross and begin my Master's degree working for Borderlands Research Institute studying habitat selection, movement and survival of scaled quail.</p>	

Title V PPOHA Spring 2023 Fellows



Name: Christina Ketring

Academic Achievements: Independent Study: Calf Helper© Trial 2004 2005
Animal Science Student of the Year Graduated in 3.5 years for my
undergraduate degree Co-author on abstracts and conference proceedings
Publications

Professional Certifications & Organizations: Beef Quality Assurance Certified in Artificial
Insemination on Farm Milk Testing Technician, Centralstar Cooperative

Interesting Facts - Hobbies / Interests (things to know about me): My friends and family call me
Christie. As a new homeowner, I enjoy hanging out at home with my dog. I shoot film photography;
when I can find the time. I enjoy western art and viewing galleries across the country. I frequent
antique stores and estate sales.

Short Bio: I grew up in a small farming town but was the transplant of a grandfather in the Air Force.
With no agriculture experience I pursued a degree in Animal Science initially looking at vet school. I
came to really enjoy livestock management and was hired out of college as an analyst at the University
of the Virgin Islands, Agriculture Experiment Station. I worked in St. Croix for two years managing
the universities sheep and cattle. I moved to WI in 2008 wanting to apply to grad school; immediately
feeling intimidated by the competitive programs. I also still didn't know what I wanted to focus on and
I had no connections at any institutions. Instead, I became a livestock operations manager for a family
dairy. At the dairy I managed a thriving dairy herd as well as a small sheep flock and a beef herd.
When my sister moved to Texas in 2018, I started to Caption plan a move to Texas as well. I was
sidetracked with a ranch foreman job in South Dakota, but finally made the move to Texas in 2020.
Finding Alpine and Sul Ross State University has been wonderful; my time here will definitely add to
the serendipity that has shaped my life so far! As random as my path has been I have been graced with
good mentors and industry connections that still aid me today.

Ulices Alouy Martinez was born in Hobbs, New Mexico but has lived most of his life in Ojinaga,
Chihuahua and Presidio, Texas. At the age of twenty he self-published The Shadows: The Return Has
Begun the first book in The Shadows Saga along with several publications throughout the following
years. Now at the age of 24, he has a BA in English with a minor in Art, and is currently attending Sul
Ross State University, in order to obtain his masters in Liberal Arts with focus on Art, English and
Communication.

Title V PPOHA Spring 2023 Fellows



Name: Leanna (“Lilly”) Morin

Program/Level: Natural Resources Science/Graduate Research Assistant in Range and Wildlife Management

Home Town: Hondo, Texas

Prior Education: B.S. in Agriculture, Range and Wildlife Management, Texas A&M University-Kingsville

Associates of Arts, Southwest Texas Junior College

Academic Achievements: PPOHA Graduate Student Fellow, Summer 2022/Fall 2022

- Recipient of the Women in Conservation Science Scholarship, Fall 2021
- Recipient of the Franklin and Virginia Law Scholarship, Fall 2021/Fall 2022
- Recipient of the C.R. and Rebecca Palmer Undergraduate Student Scholarship in Wildlife Management, Spring 2020
- Recipient of the Texas A&M University-Kingsville Wildlife Society Scholarship, Fall 2019

Professional Certifications & Organizations: Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society

- Range and Wildlife Club, Sul Ross State University
- Wildlife Society, Texas A&M University-Kingsville
- Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, Eta Beta Chapter

Interesting Facts: I once was a fashion merchandising major.

I have attended four colleges.

I lived in Oregon for three months for an internship with OSU.

I love to hangout with my pets – a dachshund mix named Sophia, a pit-bull mix named Opal, a bearded dragon named Leo, and a beta fish named Mermaid Man.

I enjoy working out, especially running, and eating good food!

Short Bio:

I am from the small town of Hondo, Texas where I studied nearby in Uvalde for several years at Southwest Texas Junior College. After some degree changes/searching and mentoring, I found my passion in natural resource sciences. I pursued that fascination by then attending Texas A&M University-Kingsville, graduating in 2020 with a B.S. in Range and Wildlife Management. Now, I am entering my last year of graduate school at Sul Ross State University to earn an M.S. in Range and Wildlife Management studying pronghorn (*Antilocapra americana*) diet and vegetation community response to different cattle grazing systems. I am a first-generation college student and graduate, and my family has been very supportive throughout my long enrolled collegiate career. I am the coolest aunt to two nieces and two nephews, so some of my favorite things to do to share my love for nature is by taking them to parks, walking nature trails, and catching bugs together.

Title V PPOHA Spring 2023 Fellows



Name: Melissa Zapata Montoya

Program/Level: College of Literature, Arts, and Social Sciences. Graduate English Student

Fellowship Mentor: Ian Peddie

Hometown: Fort Stockton, Texas

Prior Education: AA in General Studies, BA in English with a minor in Mexican American Studies

Academic Achievements:

- 2022 Graduate Fellow
- 2nd place in 2022 Sigma Tau Delta Poetry Contest for “Sangre Que Hierve”
- “The Call of the Tlapitzalli” published in 2022 Edition of The Sage
- “Sangre Que Hierve” published in 2022 Edition of The Sage
- Research Panelist in 2022 SRSU Research Symposium “ ‘The Third Space’: How Sul Ross State University’s Writing Center can Accommodate the International and English Language Learner Students”

Professional Certifications & Organizations:

- 2021- current: Fort Stockton BarrioFest Committee
- A committee researching and highlighting Mexican roots in the different Barrios of Fort Stockton, Texas
- 2020-2022 Sigma Tau Delta English Honor Society (SGA representative, co-social media coordinator)
- 2021-2022 Student Representative for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee at SRSU
- 2021-2022 Graduate Assistantship at SRSU
- 2021-2022 English Writing Tutor for SRSU Writing Center
- 2020-2021 RGC English Club
- 2019-2020 Sigma Kappa Delta English Honor Society at Midland College

Interesting Facts - Hobbies / Interests: I love to sing specifically Mariachi and traditional Chorale music. I love writing poetry and short stories. I have four kids who are my best creation yet! My hobbies include reading Chicano Literature and researching the History of Mexican Americans. Outside of school, I am currently studying the indigenous language of Nahuatl.

Short Bio: I am a mother to four beautiful children who drive me crazy and melt my heart every single day. They are a huge part of my drive to complete my higher education. I am also a first generation American who is extremely grateful for my parents’ and grandparents’ sacrifices in providing everything they didn’t have growing up. I hope to complete my educational journey so that I may become an educator at the community college level as I believe those institutions open up a world of opportunities for lower income families to complete their post-secondary education. I also hope to become a Chicana writer and travel all over the world with my husband and children. I am currently researching theory and literature from the voices of the borderlands in the Southwestern United States.

Title V PPOHA Spring 2023



Name: Maya Ressler

Program/Level: Natural Resource Management /Master's

Fellowship Mentor: Ryan Luna

Hometown: Grapevine, Texas

Prior Education: Bachelor of Science in Wildlife Biology,

Academic Achievements:

(Awards) Outstanding Graduate Student in Wildlife Management Award – Sul Ross State University, 2022

(Presentations) Purple Martin Day, Texas Tech's Llano River Field Station, Junction, Texas. M.A. Ressler,

J. French, F. Hernandez, R. Luna. Current Research on Montezuma quail: Correlation Among

Demographic Rates and The Influence of Catastrophic Weather Events on Montezuma quail in the Trans-

Pecos of Texas // Montezuma quail Habitat Preference as an Indicator for Feral Hog Disturbance and

Presence. (July 2022). Open Day, Davis Mountains Preserve, The Nature Conservancy. M.A. Ressler.

Educational Program: "What's That Sound" & Current Research on Montezuma quail. (June 2022). SRSU

Undergraduate and Graduate Research Symposium, Alpine, Texas. M.A. Ressler, J. French, F. Hernandez,

R. Luna. Correlation Among Demographic Rates and The Influence of Catastrophic Weather Events on

Montezuma quail in the Trans-Pecos of Texas. (April 2022). The Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society

Meeting, Marble Falls, Texas. M.A. Ressler, J. French, F. Hernandez, R. Luna. Correlation Among

Demographic Rates and The Influence of Catastrophic Weather Events on Montezuma quail in the Trans-

Pecos of Texas. (February 2022).

Professional Certifications & Organizations: Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society at Sul Ross

State University Texas Bighorn Society The Wildlife Society The Southwestern Chapter of The Wildlife

Society Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society

Interesting Facts - Hobbies / Interests (things to know about me): I love backpacking and traveling. I'm currently learning about film photography and working on my birding skills!

Short Bio: I grew up immersed in the outdoors. Through my time spent hiking, camping, and traveling, I built an incredible respect for conservation and wildlife. I was drawn to the West Texas high deserts after I backpacked the Chisos Mountains at 16 years old. After that, I was hooked on the conservation of the natural world. I attended Texas State University to study wildlife biology. During the summer of my junior year, I was given the opportunity to work as a summer intern at Davis Mountains State Park. After completing my B.S. in Wildlife Biology in 2020, I moved to Alpine and am now pursuing my master's degree at Sul Ross State University studying Montezuma Quail in the Davis Mountains.