

9th ANNUAL SRSU STUDENT SYMPOSIUM



2026 KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
April 10th @ Noon - Dr. Martin Urbina
SRSU Outstanding Scholar Award Winner
Distinguished Professor of Criminal Justice



JOIN US TO SUPPORT OUR SRSU STUDENTS FROM ALL CAMPUSES AS THEY SHOW THEIR PROJECTS IN PRESENTATIONS & POSTERS BOTH IN-PERSON AND VIRTUALLY!

APRIL 10th - IN-PERSON SESSIONS

ALPINE CAMPUS - UC ESPINO CENTER
NOON - 6:00 PM

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SRSU STUDENT SYMPOSIUM

Friday, April 10, 2026

Sul Ross State University, Espino Center, Second Floor

12:00PM - 12:50PM

WELCOME AND KEYNOTE INTRODUCTION

Dr. Bernie Canteñas- Vice President and Provost

Dr. Oguzhan Basibuyuk- Chair/Professor of Homeland Security and Criminal Justice

9TH ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Dr. Martin Urbina Professor of Criminal Justice



DR. MARTIN URBINA

Martin Guevara Urbina, PhD, a native of San Miguel de Allende, Guanajuato, Mexico, is a Mexican American author, writer, researcher, professor, and speaker. As a sociologist and criminologist, he has engaged in an intensive academic research, publication, and discourse agenda designed to provide readers with evidence-based information on ethnic and racial minorities in the United States. His emphasis is on the exploration of the Latino experience, in particular, the Mexican American experience.

Professor Urbina is a Distinguished Professor of Criminal Justice at Sul Ross State University International where he has received the President's Distinguished Faculty Achievement Award in 2019 and the Outstanding Scholar Award in 2024.

Professor Urbina is the author, coauthor, or editor of over 90 scholarly publications on a wide range of topics, including 14 academic books as well as a poetry book, a children's book, and a spiritual book. His work has been published in national and international academic journals. His work has been cited in popular media and he has made numerous appearances on radio and television.

Two of Professor Urbina's academic books are included in "100 Best Immigration Law Books of All Time" by BookAuthority.org. On this list, his book *Hispanics in the U.S. Criminal Justice System* was ranked #1 and his book *Immigration and the Law* was ranked in the top 20. Also, his book *Latino Access to Higher Education* was reviewed and designated a Choice Outstanding Academic Title. His books, commentary, and reviews of his books can be found at <http://amazon.com/author/martin.guevara.urbina>.

Recently Professor Urbina was named as one of the most influential criminologists of the last decade by Academic Influence in "Top Influential Criminologists Today."

1:00PM - 1:50PM

SYMPOSIUM STUDENT ORAL PRESENTATIONS

UC Espino A

Room Moderator: Dr. Devin Pettigrew

1:00PM - 1:15PM

Honors Program Panel Discussion
Kalavati Caulfield, Jackson Bussey

1:20PM - 1:35PM

Mock Trial Program: Cross Examination
Michelle Olivas, Saul Hernandez

UC Espino B

Room Moderator: Dr. Jessica Velasco and
Dr. Joseph Velasco

1:00PM - 1:15PM

Independence in Practice?
Alonzo Martinez **P**

1:20PM - 1:35PM

A Bone of a Different Stripe: Using ZooMS
to Identify Ivory
Bailey Larremore **M**

1:40PM - 1:55PM

Reforming the Federal Reserve: Why
America Needs More Transparency and
Accountability
Isaiah Olayinka **M**

UC Espino C

Room Moderator: Dr. Ryan Luna

1:00PM - 1:15PM

Distribution of High-Elevation Owls in the
Davis Mountains, Texas
Shelby duPerier **B P**

1:20PM - 1:35PM

Comparing Presence and Absence Methods
for Detecting Montezuma Quail
Curtis Martin **B**

1:40PM - 1:55PM

Mule Deer in the Trans-Pecos: Using Satellite
Technology for Habitat Monitoring
Kevin LeGrow **B**

UC Espino 210

Room Moderator: Dr. Justin French

1:00PM - 1:15PM

Movement and Social Responses of Aoudad
and Mule Deer to Population Management
Efforts
Andrew Dotray **B**

1:20PM - 1:35PM

Structural Geology of the Upper Cretaceous
Boquillas Formation in Javelina Draw, Big
Bend National Park, Texas
Amanda Piper **P**

1:40PM - 1:55PM

The Role of Soil Type and Grazing Systems
in Shaping Desert Grassland Ecosystems
Ty Goodwin **B**

2:00PM - 2:50PM

SYMPOSIUM STUDENT ORAL PRESENTATIONS

UC Espino A

Room Moderator: Dr. Kendra DeHart

2:00PM - 2:55PM

Commemorating the 250th Anniversary of the Birth of the United States

Landon Velasco, Mateo Miranda, Tyler Stanton

UC Espino C

Room Moderator: Dr. Ryan Luna

2:00PM - 2:15PM

Assessment of Wetland Dynamics in the Chihuahuan Desert as Habitats for Migratory Birds

Bryce Mann **B**

2:20PM - 2:35PM

Grassland Habitat for Pollinators Under Various Mowing Regimes at Fort Davis National Historic Site, Texas

Eliana Goodwin **B P**

2:40PM - 2:55PM

Grazing Across Time: Evaluating Long-Term Vegetation Changes in Desert Grasslands Under Continuous and Rotational Livestock Systems

Sarah Jane "SJ" Gilbert **B P**

UC Espino B

Room Moderator: Sid Balman

2:00PM - 2:15PM

Impact of Moving *The Skyline* Student Newspaper from Print to Digital

Maya Tinajero

2:20PM - 2:35PM

The Effects of Ecotourism on Groundwater Resources in Brewster County, Texas

Tina Neufeld **B P**

2:40PM - 2:55PM

The Gluten Gamble: Difficulties Dining Out with Gluten Free Needs

Sadie Cardwell

UC Espino 210

Room Moderator: Dr. Jesse Kelsch

2:00PM - 2:15PM

Lesser-Known Cretaceous Dinosaur Tracks in West Texas

Ryan Frederick Smith **B P**

2:20PM - 2:35PM

Digital Outcrop Analysis of the Grotto Fault: Integrating Structure from Motion Photogrammetry Studio for Fracture Analysis

Carissa Chambers

Affiliated Programs Legend

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- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| B Borderland Research Institute | M McNair Scholar |
| P PPOHA Fellow | N Noyce Scholar |

Victoria Aguayo (M)

Morphological Differences Between Urban and Rural Populations of the Rio Grande Leopard Frog (*Lithobates Berlandieri*)

Daisy Barraza (M)

Phylogenetic Analysis and Species Diversity of the Frog Genus, *Leptobranchella* Smith 1925 (Anura: Megophryidae) in South Asia

Emilie Brochon (B)

Using Autonomous Recording Units to Investigate Montezuma Quail Occupancy Across the Trans-Pecos, Texas

Luke Christensen (B)

UAV and GPA Applications for Understanding Scaled Quail Habitat in the Chihuahuan Desert

Austin Drews

Preliminary Findings from a New Eocene Fossil Site in the Pruett Formation, Brewster County, TX

Ariana Escalante (M)

Sleep Quality, Daytime Functioning, and Academic Success in College Students: The Role of Athletic Participation, Housing Context, and Sex Differences

Adrian Estrada (M)

Sul Ross State University K-12 AI Capacity Building: STEM Teacher Leadership for High-Need Rural Communities

Victoria Filz (M)

Pedigree and Genomic Analysis in Caspian Horses Across the United States Breed Stock

Erick Herrera (M)

Remediation of Rodent Damaged Paleontological Samples

Christian Lewis (B)

Using Drones to Compare Differences in Spatial Arrangement of Vegetation Under Continuous and Rotational Grazing

Yamilet Martinez (M)

Crossing Divisions in College Athletics: Examining the Tie Between Burnout and Early Sport Specialization Among Female Athletes

Christopher Mott (B)

Dung Beetle Diversity in Grazing Regimes of Desert Grasslands

Cameron Ochoa (M N)

Exploring Innovation STEM Camp Influences on Middle School Student Attitudes Toward Science Careers

Nathan Setser (M)

Application of Three-Dimensional Modelling on Cretaceous Vertebrate Fossil Bones from the Big Bend of Texas

Kimberly Lara, Kyndell Garcia

Frontier(s) of Health: The Rural West Texas Study- A Community of Sharing

Johnette Zapalac-Janecka (M)

Land Owners Perceptions of Western Cattle-egrets

UC Espino A

Room Moderator: Dr. Alicia Trotman

4:00PM - 4:15PM

Behind the Badge: The Role of Personality Traits and the Effectiveness of Law Enforcement Officers

Candes Ramon, Diana Becerra, Gysel Serna, Ajanae Lowery, Victoria Owens, Loren Loveless

4:20PM - 4:35PM

Navigating Athletic Identity, Acculturative Stress, and Psychological Well-Being: International Athletes' Transitions into U.S. Collegiate Sport

Ernesto Locmelis

UC Espino C

Room Moderator: Dr. Ryan Luna

4:00PM - 4:15PM

Impacts on Wildlife Community Assemblage in the Borderlands of Southwest Texas from Anthropogenic Influences

Jesse Ellgren **B P**

4:20PM - 4:35PM

Identifying Scalable Algorithms for Measuring Brush Impacts on Pronghorn Habitat at Ecoregion Scales

Halli Lovell **B**

4:40PM - 4:55PM

Year-Round Seasonal Variation Effects on Scaled Quail Movement in the Trans-Pecos

Hayley Shultz **B P**

UC Espino B

Room Moderator: Dr. Chris Herrera

4:00PM - 4:15PM

Sleep Quality, Daytime Functioning, and Academic Success in College Students: The Role of Athletic Participation, Housing Context, and Sex Differences

Ariana Escalante **M**

4:20PM - 4:35PM

Optimizing IT Operations by Using SOPs to Enhance Student and Faculty Experience

Andrey Dubovik **P**

UC Espino 210

Room Moderator: Dr. Justin French

4:00PM - 4:15PM

Friends Forever: A Short Story, by Salisa Wellenreuther

Salisa Wellenreuther

4:20PM - 4:35PM

Exploring Police Cadets' Ethical Perceptions in Hypothetical Misconduct Scenarios Continued

Humberto Moreno **P**

4:40PM - 4:55PM

Comparison of Remote Monitoring Methods for Ducks in the Trans-Pecos

Jack Bussey **B**

5:00PM - 5:55PM

SYMPOSIUM STUDENT ORAL PRESENTATIONS

UC Espino A

Room Moderator: Dr. Thornton Larson

5:00PM - 5:15PM

An Analysis of the Making and Unmaking of Mary Shelley's Frankenstein

Salisa Wellenreuther

5:20PM - 5:35PM

Microhabitat Patterns of the Crevice Spiny Lizard Across the Trans-Pecos Region

Thomas Levrie **P**

5:40PM - 5:55PM

Below Ground Processes Shaping Arid Rangelands

Asia Cornelius **B P**

UC Espino B

Room Moderator: Dr. Clifton Albrecht

5:00PM - 5:15PM

Ancient Squash in the American Southwest: A SEM-Based Comparative Guide for Identifying Archaeological Cucurbita

Diana Flores **M**

5:20PM - 5:35PM

Live Forward: Rethinking Ability, Identity, and Adaptation

Kerry Laird

UC Espino C

Room Moderator: Dr. Ryan Luna

5:00PM - 5:15PM

How do Mule Deer Cope with Drought and Competition in the Trans-Pecos Region, TX?

Maggie Rector **B**

5:20PM - 5:35PM

Moisture Retention Strategies Facilitate Native Perennial Communities on Oil and Gas Pad Restoration Sites

Kendall Christensen **B**

Affiliated Programs Legend

B Borderland Research Institute

M McNair Scholar

P PPOHA Fellow

N Noyce Scholar

2026

SCHOLARSHIP & GRANT PROGRAMS

Borderlands Research Institute

As a unit of Sul Ross State University, it is inherent that education is a key element in the mission of the Borderlands Research Institute. The research projects that we conduct, not only advance our ability to manage the natural resources of the Chihuahuan Desert, but they allow us to train and educate the next generation of wildlife biologists, range conservationists, and ranch managers—an important component of our mission. Both undergraduate and graduate students are an integral part of our research team. The practical experiences gained by our students allow them to succeed as future resource managers. Our students frequently gain employment with state and federal resource agencies or with private consultants and ranches. <https://bri.sulross.edu/>

McNair Scholars Program

The McNair Scholars Program is a federal TRIO program funded at 206 institutions across the United States and Puerto Rico by the U.S. Department of Education. It is designed to prepare undergraduate students for doctoral studies through involvement in research and other scholarly activities. McNair participants are either, and have, demonstrated strong academic potential. The goal of the McNair Scholars Program is to increase graduate degree awards for students from first-generation low-income families. www.sulross.edu/mcnair-scholars-program/

Noyce Scholars en la Frontera

The Noyce Scholars en la Frontera aims to increase the pipeline of highly-qualified STEM teachers by 10% to serve in high need school districts located on the Texas-Mexico border. The SRSU Noyce Scholars Program Provides: Noyce Scholarships: 16 preservice teachers will be provided with a scholarship of up to \$24,002 a year for two years, mentoring, professional development workshops, high school and middle school STEM club support. Noyce Scholars must commit to teach in a high need public school for 2 years within a 6 year period following graduation. sites.google.com/view/srsunoyce/home

SRSU Title V PPOHA AGP & AAO Graduate Fellowships

Fellowships are provided by Title V PPOHA: Advancing Graduate Programs en la Frontera, which is funded in full by a United States Department of Education Title V Promoting Post-Baccalaureate Opportunities for Hispanic Americans (PPOHA) grant. Fellowship awards will be administered by Sul Ross State University, a member of the Texas State University System, located in Alpine, Texas. Fellowships offer monetary awards ranging from \$1,000 to \$3,000 per Fellow and are intended to forward opportunities for graduate students. www.sulross.edu/graduate-student-support-center/

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUOUS SUPPORT

President

DR. CARLOS HERNANDEZ

Executive Vice President & Provost

DR. BERNIE CANTEÑS

College of Graduate Studies

DR. LAURA PAYNE, DEAN

Office of Research & Sponsored Programs

DR. ERIC FUNASAKI, DEAN

PPOHA Grants

IDA HOELSCHER, DIRECTOR, ADVANCING GRADUATE PROGRAMS EN LA FRONTERA
ESTELLA VEGA, DIRECTOR, ACCELERATING ACCESS AND OPPORTUNITY IN WEST TEXAS

McNair Scholars Program

KATHLEEN RIVERS, DIRECTOR

SRSU Symposium Planning Committee

TIM PARSONS, CHAIR

Borderlands Research Institute

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The contents of this is developed under a grant from the Department of Education. However, they do not necessarily represent the policy of the Department of Education and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government.

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