



# ANNUAL SRSU STUDENT SYMPOSIUM



## 2024 KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

April 11th @ Noon - Olivia Enriquez  
SRSU 2018 Alumnus, McNair Scholar

April 12th @ Noon - Dr. Ryan Luna  
SRSU Department Chair of Natural Sciences



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

## APRIL 11th - VIRTUAL SESSIONS

ONLINE - SRSUSYMPOSIUM WEBSITE  
NOON - 6:00 PM

## APRIL 12th - IN-PERSON SESSIONS

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



[srinfo.sulross.edu/srsusymposium](http://srinfo.sulross.edu/srsusymposium)  
[SRSUSYMPOSIUM@SULROSS.EDU](mailto:SRSUSYMPOSIUM@SULROSS.EDU)



## OLIVIA ENRIQUEZ

Olivia Enriquez is a third-year Ph.D. student at the University of Texas–Austin’s LBJ School of Public Affairs and a research analyst at the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Olivia began her post-secondary education at Sul Ross State University, where she majored in geology, graduating in 2018 summa cum laude. During her time at Sul Ross, Olivia was actively involved across campus. She worked at the library and participated in the Geology Club, Texas Baptist Student Ministry, and the McNair Scholar’s Program.

As a McNair Scholar, Olivia conducted two studies from 2017–2018 under the mentorship of Dr. Kevin Urbanyk. Olivia investigated the mineralogical composition of Alamito Creek, a Rio Grande tributary, and the Wax Factory Laccolith, a magma intrusion in Big Bend Ranch State Park. Olivia presented her research at various conferences across the country with the McNair Scholars Program and the Geology Club. Olivia also completed geology field camp in the Big Bend region, spending about five weeks, in her words, “hiking, camping, mapping, and avoiding snakes.”

After completing her baccalaureate degree from Sul Ross, Olivia began her Master’s degree in Environmental Sustainability and Natural Resource Management from Texas Tech University. While taking classes, Olivia worked as an intern for the US Geological Survey in Mounds View, Minnesota, for three months. She then moved back to Texas to teach secondary science for McDade ISD from 2019–2021. For her graduate capstone, Olivia undertook an internship as a sustainability consultant, resulting in a 35-page report detailing ways for the local school district to improve sustainable practices.

Olivia transitioned from secondary education to begin her Ph.D. in Public Policy at the University of Texas at Austin. During this time, Olivia has contributed to the Planet Texas 2050 Initiative and the Austin Area Sustainability Indicators project. Her dissertation uses survey data to investigate the role of education in promoting environmental sustainability in Texas. Olivia’s interdisciplinary research draws from sociology, psychology, and science communication.

Upon completing the residential coursework for the degree, Olivia moved to Houston with her husband, Abraham, a fellow Sul Ross graduate. Olivia is working diligently to complete her dissertation while working remotely for the Coordinating Board. Olivia’s journey has been guided by her love for the planet and passion to make the world a little greener.



## DR. RYAN LUNA

Dr. Ryan S. Luna is the Department Chair of Natural Sciences and the Kelly R. Thompson Professor in Quail Research with Borderlands Research Institute. He teaches curriculum associated with the Natural Resource Management program, and is a faculty advisor to the Range and Wildlife Club and the Sul Ross Angler’s Club. Dr. Luna’s primary research pertains to upland game bird ecology and management, primarily focusing on the Gambel’s quail, Montezuma quail and the Scaled quail. Prior to joining SRSU, Dr. Luna obtained a PhD from Texas State University, an MS from the University of Texas at San Antonio, and a BS degree from Texas Tech University.

# VIRTUAL SRSU STUDENT SYMPOSIUM

THURSDAY, APRIL 11TH, 2024

VIA TEAMS/SESSION LINKS AVAILABLE ON SYMPOSIUM WEBSITE SCHEDULE

12:00 - 12:50 PM

## WELCOME AND KEYNOTE INTRODUCTION

12:00 - 12:05 PM

## WELCOME AND KEYNOTE INTRODUCTION

Dr. Laura Payne

Dean of College of Graduate Studies & Online Education

Dean of Case College of Literature, Arts & Social Sciences (LASS)

12:05 - 12:45 PM

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Olivia Enriquez

SRSU Alumnus, McNair Scholar

1:00 - 1:50 PM

## VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

### Virtual Room A: Education

**Alicia Davis**

**"Exploring the Impact of Artificial Intelligence on a Rural Hispanic Institution located on the Texas Mexico Border"**

Faculty Nominator: Dr. Jennifer Miller-Ray

Moderator: Dr. Jennifer Miller-Ray

1:00-1:20 pm

**Eloisa Flores**

**"Leveraging Educational Technology to Assist Emergent Bilingual Students in K-12 Schools on the Texas-Mexico Border"**

Faculty Nominator: Dr. Jennifer Miller-Ray

Moderator: Dr. Jennifer Miller-Ray

1:30-1:50 pm

### Virtual Room B: Political Science

**Marley Rokas, Caitlyn Peña, Luis Duran, & Dawson Beard**

**"Elect Her: Ideas for Increasing Women's Representation in Government"**

Faculty Nominator: Dr. Jessica Velasco

Moderator: Dr. Jessica Velasco

1:00-1:50 pm

2:00 - 2:50 PM

## VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

### Virtual Room A: Criminal Justice

**Hugo Flores**

**"Border Security and Human Trafficking"**

Faculty Nominator: Benjamin Barrientes

Moderator: Benjamin Barrientes

2:00-2:20 pm

### Virtual Room B: Communication

**Uriel Galindo & Zenaida Rodriguez**

**"Eagle Pass Business Incubator"**

**"Dump Apple"**

Faculty Nominator: Dr. Joseph Velasco

Moderator: Dr. Joseph Velasco

2:00-2:20 pm

2:00 - 2:50 PM

## VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

### Virtual Room A: Education

**Maria Tellez-Vasquez**

**"Online Learning: A Study on the Effectiveness of Remote Dual Enrollment in Rural Locations"**

Faculty Nominator: Dr. Melissa Wesney

Moderator: Dr. Melissa Wesney

2:30-2:50 pm

### Virtual Room B: Communication

**Zenaida Rodriguez**

**"'Can You Hear Me Now?': How Different Styles of Communication Generate Various Outcomes in the Workplace"**

Faculty Nominator: Dr. Joseph Velasco

Moderator: Dr. Joseph Velasco

2:30-2:50 pm

3:00 - 3:50 PM

## VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

### Virtual Room A: Literature

**Autumn McFadden, Brooke Manuel, & Robin Alvarez**

**"English, Sigma Tau Delta - Alpha Zeta Chapter"**

Faculty Nominator: Dr. Theron Francis

Moderator: Robin Alvarez

3:00-3:50 pm

### Virtual Room B : Geology & Social Sciences

**Carissa Chambers**

**"Structural Geology of the Lower Canyons, Texas"**

Faculty Nominator: Dr. Jesse Kelsch

Moderator: Dr. Jessica Velasco

3:00-3:20 pm

**David Brown**

**"Understanding Teacher Retention in Rural Charter Schools Through the Use of Surveys and Focus Groups"**

Faculty Nominator: Dr. Jessica Velasco

Moderator: Dr. Jessica Velasco

3:30-3:50 pm

4:00 - 4:50 PM

## VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

### Virtual Room A: Education

**Madeline Haas & John Agüero**

**"Implementing Universal Design for Learning through Artificial Intelligence"**

Faculty Nominator: Dr. Jennifer Miller-Ray

Moderator: Dr. Jennifer Miller-Ray

4:00-4:50 pm

### Virtual Room B: Journalism & Psychology

**Brooke Manuel**

**"Swift and Kelce: The New American 'It' Couple"**

Faculty Nominator: Sidney Balman

Moderator: Dr. Alicia Trotman

4:00-4:20 pm

**Brianna Berry**

**"How Can Those Behaviors Stymie Maladaptive Eating Amongst College Students?"**

Faculty Nominator: Dr. Alicia Trotman

Moderator: Dr. Alicia Trotman

4:30-4:50 pm

5:00 - 5:50 PM

VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

**Virtual Room A: Education**

**Paola Gutierrez**

**"Increasing Inclusion and Personalization Through Adaptive Learning and Artificial Intelligence"**

Faculty Nominator: Dr. Jennifer Miller-Ray

Moderator: Dr. Jennifer Miller-Ray

**5:00**-5:20 pm

**Virtual Room B: Literature**

**Ycela Ortiz**

**"Fallacies of the American Dream: Pragmatic Assimilation of Latinè\* and U.S. Migrant Workers within the United States"**

Faculty Nominator: Dr. Rosemary Briseño

Moderator: Dr. Alicia Trotman

**5:00**-5:20 pm

# SRSU STUDENT SYMPOSIUM

FRIDAY, APRIL 12TH, 2024

ALPINE CAMPUS- UNIVERSITY ESPINO CENTER

12:00 - 12:50 PM

**WELCOME AND KEYNOTE INTRODUCTION**

12:00 - 12:05 PM

**WELCOME AND KEYNOTE INTRODUCTION**

**Dr. Bernie Canteñs**

**Executive Vice President & Provost**

12:05 - 12:40 PM

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

**Dr. Ryan Luna**

**SRSU Department Chair of Natural Sciences**

1:00 - 1:50 PM

**SYMPOSIUM STUDENT ORAL PRESENTATIONS**

## **UC Espino A: Literature**

**Johanna Covington, Jonathan Galvan, Jakolby King, Sarah LeBlanc, Josiah Medlin, Gavin Mitchell, Justin Moon, Christopher Mott, Abby Morris, Samuel Perkins, David Wellborn, & Hessten Zack**

**"Writing in the Chihuahuan Desert"**

Faculty Nominator: Dr. Theron Francis

Moderator: Dr. Theron Francis

**1:00-1:50 pm**

## **UC Espino B: Education, Social Sciences & Criminal Justice**

Room Moderator: Dr. Jeanne Qvarnstrom & Dr. Alicia Trotman

**Gabriel Cervantes**

**"The Lone Wolf Mentality? Examining the Effects Between Loneliness, Social Connectedness, and Cognitive Reappraisal Among College Students"**

Faculty Nominator: Dr. Alicia Trotman

**1:00-1:15 pm**

**Sharon Barrett**

**"900,000 Boots on the Ground: Using Midwives to Implement the Sustainable Development Goals"**

Faculty Nominator: Dr. Jessica Velasco

**1:20-1:35 pm**

**Saul Jadon Baruch Barrientes**

**"The Case of Aaron Hernandez "**

Faculty Nominator: Benjamin Barrientes

**1:40-1:55 pm**

1:00 - 1:50 PM

## SYMPOSIUM STUDENT ORAL PRESENTATIONS

### UC Espino C/D: Literature & Communication

Room Moderator: Dr. Sally Roche & Dr. Joseph Velasco

#### **Kelsey Pavelick**

#### **"Milk and Wool: Identity of the Anglo-Saxon Wifman in Metrical Charm Six"**

Faculty Nominator: Dr. Theron Francis

1:00-1:15 pm

#### **Aria Duenez**

#### **"Reading Text Narratives in the Digital Age: Benefits for Cognitive Development and Second Language Learning"**

Faculty Nominator: Dr. Sally Roche

1:20-1:35 pm

#### **Kilian McDonald-Boyer & Madalyn Warren**

#### **"GMOs: Let's Save People"**

#### **"Regulating Your Social Media Intake is Beneficial"**

Faculty Nominator: Dr. Joseph Velasco

1:40-1:55 pm

### UC Espino 210: Exercise Science, Kinesiology, & Industrial Technology

Room Moderator: Dr. Julianna Dean & Dr. Eric Busby

#### **Anna Campos**

#### **"The Association of Muscle Oxygen Saturation in the Vastus Lateralis on Floor Performance in NCAA Division I Female Gymnasts"**

Faculty Nominator: Dr. Julianna M. Dean

1:00-1:15 pm

#### **Camryn Medina**

#### **"The Prevalence of Obesity in NCAA Collegiate Football Players: A Comparison Between Division I & Division II Players"**

Faculty Nominator: Dr. Billy Jack Ray

1:20-1:35 pm

#### **Garner Hancock**

#### **"Housing Market Analysis for Alpine, Texas"**

Faculty Nominator: Dr. Eric Busby

1:40-1:55 pm

2:00 - 2:50 PM

## SYMPOSIUM STUDENT ORAL PRESENTATIONS

### UC Espino A: Literature

Room Moderator: Dr. Theron Francis

#### **Autumn McFadden, Johanna Covington, Alayna Damm, & Kelsey Pavelick**

#### **"A Reading of Creative Writing by Sul Ross Poets and Fiction Writers"**

Faculty Nominator: Dr. Theron Francis

2:00-2:50 pm

### UC Espino B: Natural Sciences

Room Moderator: Dr. Chris Ritzi

#### **Sarah Jane Gilbert**

#### **"Development and Benefits of a STEM Curatorial Internship"**

Faculty Nominator: Dr. Chris Ritzi

2:00-2:15 pm

#### **Bruno de Batista Medeiros**

#### **"Analyzing the Population Structure of the Brazilian Campolina Horse"**

Faculty Nominator: Dr. Jaime Boyd

2:20-2:35 pm

**UC Espino B: Natural Sciences**

Room Moderator: Dr. Chris Ritzi

**Ariane Bardassi**

**"Establishing Grain-Based Modified Protocols For Refeeding Malnourished Horses"**

Faculty Nominator: Dr. Jaime Boyd

**2:40-2:55 pm**

**UC Espino C/D: Borderlands Research Institute**

Room Moderator: Dr. Carlos Gonzalez

**Aaron Ortega**

**"The Power of Rocks: Ecohydrology Improvements For Habitat Restoration"**

Faculty Nominator: Dr. Carlos Gonzalez

**2:00-2:15 pm**

**Ty Goodwin**

**"Evaluating The Effects of Grazing Practices on Forage Production, Nutrition, Species Composition, and Soil Moisture in the Marfa Grasslands, Texas"**

Faculty Nominator: Dr. Carlos Gonzalez

**2:20-2:35 pm**

**Asia Cornelius**

**"Exploring Mycorrhizal Dynamics: A Comparative Analysis of Rotational vs. Continuous Grazing Systems"**

Faculty Nominator: Dr. Carlos Gonzalez

**2:40-2:55 pm**

**UC Espino 210: Borderlands Research Institute**

Room Moderator: Dr. Justin French

**Elle Sutherland**

**"Space Use Behavior and Habitat Selection of Elk in the Trans-Pecos"**

Faculty Nominator: Dr. Justin T. French

**2:00-2:15 pm**

**Andrew Dotray**

**"Space Use of Sympatric Aoudad and Mule Deer in The Trans-Pecos"**

Faculty Nominator: Dr. Justin T. French

**2:20-2:35 pm**

**Matthew Hewitt**

**"Assessing Temporal Space Use Stability in The Trans-Pecos Black Bear Population"**

Faculty Nominator: Dr. Amanda Dutt

**2:40-2:55 pm**



**Syndilyn Maguglin****"Occurrence of Cryptic and Low-Density Owl Species in the Davis Mountains"**

Faculty Nominator: Dr. Maureen Frank

**Audrey Taulli****"Avian Community Response to Removal of Encroaching Woody Vegetation in Trans-Pecos Grasslands"**

Faculty Nominator: Dr. Maureen Frank

**Emily Blumentritt****"Livestock Tanks for Migratory and Wintering Grassland Birds in The Trans-Pecos"**

Faculty Nominator: Dr. Maureen Frank

**Nathan Thompson****"Curation and Display of Rock and Mineral Sample"**

Faculty Nominator: Dr. Kesse Kelsch

**Sarah Jane Gilbert****"Abundance And Diversity Of Anurans Between Two Anthropogenic Wetland Habitats On Sul Ross Property"**

Faculty Nominator: Dr. Thor Larson

**Alfredo Nunez****"Hydration Status of NCAA Division III Female Basketball Athletes"**

Faculty Nominator: Dr. Hugh Morrissey

**Jimena Proana****"Nutrition And The Menstrual Cycle And How Women Are Using Specific Nutrient Planning To Better Navigate Their Menstrual Cycle"**

Faculty Nominator: Mary Powers

**Yolanda Rey Carlos****"Using Photovoice to Investigate Sources of Failure Among High-Achieving Mexican-American Female Undergraduate Students"**

Faculty Nominator: Kathleen Rivers

**Ryan Smith****"Preparing and Cataloguing Vertebrate Fossil Bones"**

Faculty Nominator: Dr. Thomas Shiller

**Garner Hancock & Hunter Montes****"Housing Market Analysis for Alpine, TX"**

Faculty Nominator: Keith Nixon

**Amber Adams****"Capturing the Diverse Voices of College Students of Divorced Parents Relationships with Peers and Partners"**

Faculty Nominator: Dr. Alicia Trotman

**Cassandra Espinoza****"Why Are You Not Playing? The Relationship Dynamics Between Female Athletes, Their Coaches, And Families"**

Faculty Nominator: Dr. Alicia Trotman

**Paloma Mancha****"Exploring The Needs Of The People Diagnosed With Borderline Personality Disorder And Their Family Members "**

Faculty Nominator: Dr. Alicia Trotman

**Karla Ramos****"Observing The Effects Of Zumba Dance On Emotional Expression And Internalizing Problems Among Female Participants"**

Faculty Nominator: Dr. Alicia Trotman

**Estrella Escobedo****"The Correlation Between Friends And Emerging Young Latino Couple's Romantic Conflict In Relationship Work"**

Faculty Nominator: Dr. Alicia Trotman

**Sydney Bauer****"Compiling The John Olson Library, A Collection Of Hydrogeologic History Of The Trans-Pecos"**

Faculty Nominator: Dr. Kevin Urbanczyk

**Jacob Spurlock****"Breaking Down the Barriers: Using Relational Dialectics Theory to Better Understand How Male Victims of Sexual Violence Communicate Experiences and Behaviors"**

Faculty Nominator: Dr. Joseph Velasco

**Kilian McDonald-Boyer****"Investigating a Drought-Tolerant Model Organism"**

Faculty Nominator: Kelsey Wogan

**John Polster****"Why Digitizing the Herbarium is Important"**

Faculty Nominator: Kelsey Wogan

**UC Espino A: Communication**

Room Moderator: Dr. Joseph Velasco

**Cameron Doulthitt, Jailyn Moore,  
Celeste De La Rosa, Dalan Hunter, Eric Loy,  
Caitlyn Peña, & Hanna Vidal**

**"Public Speaking Persuasive Speeches"**

Faculty Nominator: Dr. Joseph Velasco

4:00-4:50 pm

**UC Espino B: Borderlands Research Institute**

Room Moderator: Dr. Ryan Luna

**David Tonnessen**

**"Passive Acoustic Techniques to Monitor  
Montezuma Quail Populations"**

Faculty Nominator: Dr. Ryan Luna

4:00-4:15 pm

**Andres Solorio**

**"Restoration of Native Vegetation in Areas  
Invaded by Lehmann's Love Grass"**

Faculty Nominator: Dr. Carlos Gonzalez

4:20-4:35 pm

**Gray Hancock**

**"New and Old Technologies For Soil Erosion  
Control: Using Remote Sensing To Monitor The  
Effectiveness of Trincheras"**

Faculty Nominator: Dr. Carlos Gonzalez

4:40-4:55 pm

**UC Espino C/D: Borderlands Research Institute**

Room Moderator: Dr. Carlos Gonzalez

**Hailey Barton**

**"Seasonality of Competition Potential Between  
Desert Bighorn and Mule Deer on Elephant Mountain  
Wildlife Management Area "**

Faculty Nominator: Dr. Carlos Gonzalez

4:00-4:15 pm

**Chris Mott**

**"Arid Ecosystem Health Through Livestock Grazing  
Systems: The Effects on Dung Beetles"**

Faculty Nominator: Dr. Carlos Gonzalez

4:20-4:35 pm

**Caleb Hughes**

**"Winter Habitat Selection and Movement Behavior of  
Scaled Quail in the Trans-Pecos, Texas"**

Faculty Nominator: Dr. Carlos Gonzalez

4:40-4:55 pm

**UC Espino 210: Biology, Geology, Wildlife Management & Natural Sciences**

Room Moderator: Dr. Kevin Urbanczyk

**Payton White**

**"Equine Industry Professionals Attitudinal Differences  
Toward Horse Gender"**

Faculty Nominator: Dr. Carl Igo

4:00-4:15 pm

**Chris Wright**

**"An Assessment of Water Chemistry in Springs in  
the Lower Canyons, Rio Grande Wild and Scenic  
River"**

Faculty Nominator: Dr. Kevin Urbanczyk

4:20-4:35 pm

**Andres Gomez**

**"Impacts of Sublethal Pesticides on Fruit Flies"**

Faculty Nominator: Dr. Chris Ritzi

4:40-4:55 pm

5:00 - 5:50 PM

**SYMPOSIUM STUDENT ORAL PRESENTATIONS**

**UC Espino A: Communication**

Room Moderator: Dr. Joseph Velasco

**Dawson Beard, Caitlyn Peña, & Jacob Spurlock**  
**"Gender Communication Literature Reviews"**

Faculty Nominator: Dr. Joseph Velasco

**5:00**-5:50 pm

**UC Espino B: Borderlands Research  
Institute**

Room Moderator: Dr. Joseph Velasco

**Nicole Dickan**

**"Fine-scale Behavioral Patterns Of Newly  
Recolonizing Black Bears In West Texas"**

Faculty Nominator: Dr. Justin French

**5:00**-5:15 pm

**UC Espino C/D: Borderlands Research  
Institute**

Room Moderator: Dr. Carlos Gonzalez

**Eliana Dykehouse**

**"An Assessment of the Impact of Aoudad on  
Palatable Shrubs at the Fort Davis National Historic  
Site, TX"**

Faculty Nominator: Dr. Carlos Gonzalez

**5:00**-5:15 pm

# THANK YOU

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## **President**

DR. CARLOS HERNANDEZ

## **Executive Vice President & Provost**

DR. BERNIE CANTEÑS

## **Dean of Research & Sponsored Programs**

DR. ERIC FUNASAKI, DEAN

## **College of Graduate Studies**

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## **SRSU Symposium Planning Committee**

STAFF & FACULTY

## **Aramark Catering Services**

## **SRSU Student Presenters**

## **Attendees**

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