7th ANNUAL SRSU STUDENT SYMPOSIUM

2024 KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:
April 11th @ Noon - Olivia Enríquez
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
SRSUSYMPOSIUM@SULROSS.EDU
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 Urbanzyk. 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 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

## 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

## Virtual Symposium Student Presentations

### Virtual Room A: Education

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Presenter</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Faculty Nominator</th>
<th>Moderator</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alicia Davis</td>
<td>&quot;Exploring the Impact of Artificial Intelligence on a Rural Hispanic Institution located on the Texas Mexico Border&quot;</td>
<td>Dr. Jennifer Miller-Ray</td>
<td>Dr. Jennifer Miller-Ray</td>
<td>1:00-1:20 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eloisa Flores</td>
<td>&quot;Leveraging Educational Technology to Assist Emergent Bilingual Students in K-12 Schools on the Texas-Mexico Border&quot;</td>
<td>Dr. Jennifer Miller-Ray</td>
<td>Dr. Jennifer Miller-Ray</td>
<td>1:30-1:50 pm</td>
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### Virtual Room B: Political Science

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Presenter</th>
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<th>Moderator</th>
<th>Time</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marley Rokas, Caitlyn Peña, Luis Duran, &amp; Dawson Beard</td>
<td>&quot;Elect Her: Ideas for Increasing Women's Representation in Government&quot;</td>
<td>Dr. Jessica Velasco</td>
<td>Dr. Jessica Velasco</td>
<td>1:00-1:50 pm</td>
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## Virtual Symposium Student Presentations

### Virtual Room A: Criminal Justice

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Presenter</th>
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<th>Faculty Nominator</th>
<th>Moderator</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hugo Flores</td>
<td>&quot;Border Security and Human Trafficking&quot;</td>
<td>Benjamin Barrientes</td>
<td>Benjamin Barrientes</td>
<td>2:00-2:20 pm</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Virtual Room B: Communication

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Presenter</th>
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<th>Faculty Nominator</th>
<th>Moderator</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Uriel Galindo &amp; Zenaida Rodriguez</td>
<td>&quot;Eagle Pass Business Incubator&quot; &quot;Dump Apple&quot;</td>
<td>Dr. Joseph Velasco</td>
<td>Dr. Joseph Velasco</td>
<td>2:00-2:20 pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2:00 - 2:50 PM
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 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 Room A: Education

Madeline Haas & John Aguero
"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
### 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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>12:00 - 12:50 PM</td>
<td><strong>Welcome and Keynote Introduction</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 12:00 - 12:05 PM | 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
- 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**

- 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**

- Saul Jadon Baruch Barrientes

  "The Case of Aaron Hernandez"

  Faculty Nominator: Benjamin Barrientes  
  **1:40 - 1:55 pm**
1:00 - 1:50 PM

**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

2:00 - 2:50 PM

**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
**2:00 - 2:50 PM**

**SYMPOSIUM STUDENT ORAL PRESENTATIONS**

**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
3:00 - 3:50 PM
SYMPOSIUM POSTERS PRESENTATIONS (UC FOYER)

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. Maureen Frank

Sarah Jane Gilbert
"Abundance And Diversity Of Anurans Between Two Anthropogenic Wetland Habitats On Sul Ross Property"
Faculty Nominator: Dr. Maureen Frank

Alfredo Nunez
"Hydration Status of NCAA Division III Female Basketball Athletes"
Faculty Nominator: Dr. Maureen Frank

Jimena Proana
"Nutrition And The Menstrual Cycle And How Women Are Using Specific Nutrient Planning To Better Navigate Their Menstrual Cycle"
Faculty Nominator: Dr. Maureen Frank

Yolanda Rey Carlos
"Using Photovoice to Investigate Sources of Failure Among High-Achieving Mexican-American Female Undergraduate Students"
Faculty Nominator: Dr. Maureen Frank

Ryan Smith
"Preparing and Cataloguing Vertebrate Fossil Bones"
Faculty Nominator: Dr. Maureen Frank

Garner Hancock & Hunter Montes
“Housing Market Analysis for Alpine, TX”
Faculty Nominator: Dr. Maureen Frank

Amber Adams
"Capturing the Diverse Voices of College Students of Divorced Parents Relationships with Peers and Partners"
Faculty Nominator: Dr. Dr. Alicia Trotman

Cassandra Espinoza
"'Why Are You Not Playing?' The Relationship Dynamics Between Female Athletes, Their Coaches, And Families"
Faculty Nominator: Dr. Dr. Alicia Trotman

Paloma Mancha
"Exploring The Needs Of The People Diagnosed With Borderline Personality Disorder And Their Family Members"
Faculty Nominator: Dr. Dr. Alicia Trotman

Karla Ramos
"Observing The Effects Of Zumba Dance On Emotional Expression And Internalizing Problems Among Female Participants"
Faculty Nominator: Dr. Dr. Alicia Trotman

Estrella Escobedo
"The Correlation Between Friends And Emerging Young Latino Couple’s Romantic Conflict In Relationship Work"
Faculty Nominator: Dr. Dr. Alicia Trotman

Sydney Bauer
"Compiling The John Olson Library, A Collection Of Hydrogeologic History Of The Trans-Pecos"
Faculty Nominator: Dr. Dr. Alicia Trotman

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. Dr. Alicia Trotman

Kilian McDonald-Boyer
"Investigating a Drought-Tolerant Model Organism"
Faculty Nominator: Dr. Dr. Alicia Trotman

John Polster
"Why Digitizing the Herbarium is Important"
Faculty Nominator: Dr. Dr. Alicia Trotman
4:00 - 4:50 PM

**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

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**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

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**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

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**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
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

President
DR. CARLOS HERNANDEZ

Executive Vice President & Provost
DR. BERNIE CANTÉNS

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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUOUS SUPPORT
ALPINE. DEL RIO. EAGLE PASS. UVALDE

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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