

CARISSA CHAMBERS

MS GEOLOGY, THESIS

"I'm a baker and decorate sugar cookies professionally. I love to paint when I have the time. I enjoy camping and hiking. I have a goal to visit all the National Parks in the U.S. by 2026, I've been to 25 so far! "



Originally from Alpine, Texas



Academic Achievement: NAGT /USGS Cooperative Summer Fellowship Program intern 2015



Professional Certifications & Organizations: Member of SRSU Geology Club; Geological Society of America; West Texas Geological Society; Association for Women Geoscientists

Bachelors of Science in Geology Sul Ross State University

BIOGRAPHY

"I was born in Alpine, TX and grew up on a ranch along the border near Presidio, TX. Spending much of my childhood roaming around the desert fostered a love for nature and the outdoors, as well as the beginnings of what has become an impressive rock collection. I decided to take a geology class after pursuing another major for a few years and realized that geology was my true passion. As an undergraduate, I was nominated for the NAGT /USGS Cooperative Summer Fellowship Program and was accepted for an internship with the USGS in Reston, Virginia after graduating. I was fortunate to work with some great scientists from different disciplines, researching floodplain geomorphology and water quality in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. After a few years out in the real world, I chose to return to Sul Ross to work towards a master's degree in geology, specifically studying structural geology in the Lower Canyons."



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MBA-SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT

"An interesting fact about me most people may not know is I love to travel. More specifically I'm addicted to cruising. I recently went on the biggest cruise ship in the world ICON of the Seas, and it was absolutely magnificent. I love going to other countries and learning about their cultures and trying new foods and seeing how other live through their perspective. It's always eye opening and keeps me humble and heals my soul."



Originally from Dallas, Texas



Academic Achievement: Dean's List, Alpha Lobo



Professional Certifications & Organizations: Black Student Association, FCA. Sul Ross State University **Football Team**



Bachelors in Business Administration, Sul Ross State University

BIOGRAPHY

"DayIn was born and raised in Texas where he grew up playing every sport imaginable. He loved to be outdoors and go fishing, play basketball and football, and was very active as a child. He continued to play sports Ithrough high school where he earned the opportunity to play at Sul Ross while getting his undergraduate degree. He became a 2X all Conference player *1st & 3rd team* and tied for 1st in sacks in the 2023 season. DayIn will pursue his master's degree while also playing his last year of football and preparing for life after college where he dreams to make an impact within his designated field."



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PAOLA GUTIERREZ MED EDUCATIONAL INSTRUCTIONAL

TECHNOLOGY

"I was a cheerleader at Sul Ross throughout my undergraduate career. A couple of more interesting facts would be that Spanish is my first language and I am left-handed! "



Originally from El Paso, Texas



Academic Achievement: Sul Ross Honors Graduate Dean's List 2019-2022 TSTA-AE District 6 Vice President Cum Laude



Professional Certifications &



Bachelor of Science in





BIOGRAPHY

My name is Paola Gutierrez, and I was born and raised in El Paso, Tx. I moved to Alpine to attend Sul Ross in Fall Of 2019. I chose Sul Ross because my high school principal strongly recommended its education program to me. I truly believe that I made the best choice attending this University because of the amazing community and the constant I on 1 support. I am now a Kindergarten teacher. Being a teacher is something I always knew I wanted to be, but I aspire to one day help the education system from outside of the classroom. I am constantly trying to learn new things which I think goes hand in hand with education since it is constantly changing. I am excited to be a part of this fellowship and continue to expand my knowledge amongst my peers!



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JIMENA PROAÑO

MS HEALTH & HUMAN PERFORMANCE

"I spent most of my childhood in Mexico, attending school there until the 5th grade. As a result, Spanish is my first language, and I take pride in being bilingual because it has helped me connect with people from diverse backgrounds. Being fluent in both Spanish and English allows me to bridge communication gaps and alleviate concerns about language barriers, helping others feel understood and supported. I truly value the time spent with my friends and family. Also, I enjoy playing with my dog or just hanging out with her because she is an older shih tzu so she gets tired quickly. I am passionate about maintain a healthy and active lifestyle. That is why I enjoyed things like going to the gym, walks and hikes. These outdoor activities help me connect with nature. Additionally, I love reading, particularly self-help books and romance novels. I strive to balance my reading between these genres to gain both personal growth and enjoyment."



Originally from Ojinaga, Mexico



Academic Achievement: Dean's List Undergraduate Symposium



Professional Certifications & Organizations: McNair Scholar

AED Certification CPR Certification



Bachelors of Science Kinesiology & Human Performance, Sul Ross State University

BIOGRAPHY

"My name is Jimena Proaño and I come from Ojinaga, chihuahua, but I went to school in Presidio High School. I'm a first-generation student, both of my parents and my older sister went to college, but I'm the first one to graduate from a University in the U.S. I moved to Alpine in 2020, that was also my first year here at Sul Ross. I was a student Athletic Trainer for 2 years because I found that something that I wanted to do is Physical Therapy, my goal is to work with senior citizens because I love helping people and make their quality of life overall better for them. I was also a McNair scholar were I did my research on "Nutrition and the menstrual cycle and how women are using specific nutrient planning to better navigate their menstrual cycle." I graduated may 2024 with a Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology with a concentration in allied health. I am currently working on my Master's in health & Human Performances at Sul Ross State University. I am happy to have been chosen as a PPOHA fellow this semester and continue to expand my knowledge."



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Accelerating Access and Opportunity in West Texas



DAVID TØNNESSEN

MS- RANGE & WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT, THESIS

"My personal interests include bird evolution, bioacoustics, bird migration, photography, black licorice, and Mexico."



Originally from Oslo, Norway



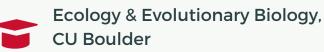
Professional Certifications & Organizations: Member of Colorado Rare Bird Records Committee, SRSU Bio Club Treasurer, Former Board Member for Colorado Field Ornithologists



Academic Achievement: Colorado Field Ornithologists Scholarship Borderlands Research Institute Scholarship

Bachelor of Arts in





BIOGRAPHY

"I grew up in a large family as a first-generation American, with current strongest ties to the US state of Colorado. Discovering birding changed my life and drove me towards spreading a love for nature and conservation, and also generated a passion for research. Now, I'm on a mission of making birding and science accessible and educational, and driving towards my eventual PhD. One step in this process is through a cool project at the Borderlands Research Institute to survey for Montezuma Quail and earn an M.S. in the process."



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ANDREW DOTRAY

MS RANGE & WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT, THESIS

"I enjoy outdoor activities such as camping, hiking, and fishing. I love playing and watching sports such as football, basketball, baseball, and countless others. I also enjoy spending my free time observing and appreciating different forms of art, including paintings/drawings, music, and cinematography. "



Originally from Lubbock, Texas



Professional Certifications & Organizations:

The Wildlife Society; Student



Academic Achievement:

Magna Cum Laude, TTU; Overall Outstanding Undergraduate Researcher, TTU; 1st Place Undergraduate Research Poster, TIU NRM Research Day; Presidential Scholarship (2018-2022), TIU

Association of Fire Ecology, TIU; Soil Science Society of America

Bachelor of Science in Natural
Resource Management,
Texas Tech University

BIOGRAPHY

"I was born and raised in Lubbock, Texas. I grew up with a family always outdoors, finding my true love of nature while camping every year in Minnesota and all throughout Texas. With my parents and extended family all hailing from Minnesota, I adore the annual roadtrips to the state and gaining an appreciation of the ecological diversity of this country. Raised a Red Raider, I followed my passion to study wildlife biology and got my bachelor's degree from Texas Tech University. As an undergrad, I assisted in the research of coyote population dynamics in the Mojave Desert in southern California. Following graduation, I remained in Texas working with an endangered bird species off the gulf coast and in the panhandle with a variety of big game species. I am excited and extremely grateful to further my passion for wildlife research at Sul Ross State University and the Borderlands Research Institute. "



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ELIANA DYKEHOUSE

MS-RANGE & WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT, THESIS

"Growing up, it seemed like me and my brother were raised in the water. Whether it was practicing with our swim team at the public pool, ducking under waves at the beach, or swinging from rope swings during family vacations to the Frio River, we were happiest while swimming. That feeling has never gone away, even here in the desert. Now I coach swim lessons for kids to share that joy with them. In the evenings and on weekends, I enjoy working on puzzles, listening to music, crocheting, going to the gym, riding my bike, and watching shows and movies to unwind. When we have a little bit more free time, my fiancé and I love to hike, camp, backpack, and travel together."

Originally from Portland, Texas



Professional Certifications &



Academic Achievement:

Summa Cum Laude: Dean's List 2021-2024: **Outstanding Underclassman in Natural** Resource Management 2021-22; Outstanding Upperclassman in Natural Resource Management 2022-23; Outstanding Range Management Student 2022, 2023 - Texas

Organizations:

SRSU Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society and SRSU Honors Club, Member & President; **SRSU Plant ID Team; Texas Chapter of the Wildlife** Society; Texas Section Society for Range Management

- Section Society for Range Management; 2nd Place Undergraduate Research Poster 2022 -**Texas Section Society for Range** Management; 3rd Place Plant ID Team 2023 -Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society; Sul **Ross Honors Program Graduate**

Bachelors of Science Natural Resource Management, Sul Ross State University

BIOGRAPHY

"I grew up in Texas's Coastal Bend, and as a kid, I enjoyed spending time with my family outside and learning about birds and plants from my grandfather. As I got older, that curiosity for living things only grew, and it became large enough for me to pursue it as a career. During my undergraduate at Sul Ross State University, I was involved in volunteer organizations like the Range and Wildlife Club, the Honors Club, and the Nature Conservancy, and I enjoyed helping graduate students with their fieldand lab work. Both were great ways to get outside and learn. I was introduced to the world of insects through a research project during my senior year of college, and I've delighted in the challenge of learning about them. I graduated with my Bachelor in Conservation Biology in Spring 2024, and I am excited to stay in Alpine to start this new endeavor."



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MARK ESPARZA

MA- HISTORY

"I once met the great Unionizer and Civil Rights Icon Dolores Huerta for 4 hours and was able to get a hug and kiss from Maya Angelou. I love music and have been a volunteer for the Grammy Award winning Los Palominos for 24 years. I am the son of the leader of the 500-mile 1966 Starr County Melon strike that went from Rio Grande City, Texas to Austin. Texas."



Originally from Sabinal. Texas



Professional Certifications &



Organizations:

Head Coach U9/U11 Hondo Youth Soccer: BLS certified



BIOGRAPHY

"I was born and raised in Sabinal, Texas and moved to Hondo, Texas during my middle school and high school years. I joined the United States Air Force, and I worked on F-16's, F-15's, A-10's, and F-111's. During these years after my service, I learned that my father was one of the most influential civil rights leaders of the 1960's. This led me to investigate all his stories and has taken me on a journey that I still travel today. It has given me the passion and drive to tell the Mexican American story and the intricacies of the Chicano movement. It is the reason why I am pursuing my master'sand eventually a doctorate in Mexican American civil rights."



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TY GOODWIN

MS- RANGE & WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

"I like to sing and play music when I have free time or am enjoying time with family and friends. I like to garden where I can fit pots on my small apartment porch and also enjoy learning the native vegetation of the area. In most of my free time I like to tinker on my 1967 Scout and other mechanical items."

Originally from Gatesville, Texas



Academic Achievement:

Summa Cum Laude, SRSU; **Outstanding Underclassmen in Natural** Resource Management 2020-2021; **Outstanding Upperclassmen in Natural** Resource Management 2021-2022; **Outstanding Student in Range** Management from Sul Ross at TSSRM 2022; 1st in Poster Presentation at TCTWS 2022 2nd Individual in both TSSRM and TCTWS Plant ID 2022; Sul Ross Man of the Year 2023;



Professional Certifications & Organizations:

Sul Ross Range & Wildlife Club; Worship leader of the Sul Ross Baptist Student Ministry; Coach of the Sul Ross Plant ID Team



Bachelor of Science in Range and Wildlife Management, Sul Ross State University

BIOGRAPHY

"I grew up in Gatesville Texas of the hill country and decided to go to school at Sul Ross State University in Alpine after falling in love with the area on a summer motorcycle trip with my grandfather. After graduating from high school in 2020, and armed with 8 years of plant identification know-how, I decided to study natural resource management with an emphasis in range and wildlife management. I graduated with a bachelors in 2023 and decided to pursue a Masters degree at Sul Ross in the same field. I was heavily involved with the Borderlands Undergraduate Mentorship Program as an undergrad and am excited to be leading a range centered grazing project. In my free time, I enjoy the Big Bend region with friends and family."



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SAMMY HANCOCK

MS- RANGE & WILDLIFE MANAGMENT, THESIS

"I like to play baseball, fish, hike, kayak down rivers, and explore new places! "



Originally from Nacogdoches, Texas



Academic Achievement: Magna Cum Laude, SRSU; Sul Ross Honors Graduate: Dean's List 2019-2023



Professional Certifications & Organizations:

Bachelor of Science in Natural Resource Management, Sul Ross State University

BIOGRAPHY

"My name is Gray Hancock, and I was born and raised in Nacogdoches, Tx. I grew up on a small family ranch and spent my childhood exploring the natural world. Growing up, we would travel to Big Bend National Park and the surrounding Trans-Pecos region of Texas. I fell in love with West Texas and decided to pursue a degree in Natural Resource Management at Sul Ross State University. Throughout my time at Sul Ross, I spent the weekends traveling the area and kayaking stretches of the Rio Grande. This fueled my interests in hydrology and studying how water interacts with surrounding ecosystems, spurring interest in furthering education at the graduate level. When the opportunity to pursue a graduate degree studying hydrologic interactions at Sul Ross through Borderlands Research Institute presented itself, I was eager to join and started my master's degree in June 2023! I am excited and look forward to my time here at Sul Ross!"



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THOMAS LEVRIE

MS- BIOLOGY, THESIS

" I sing, play guitar, piano, love astronomy, water sports, scuba diving, and solving rubix cubes. "



Originally from Del Rio, Texas



Professional Certifications & Organizations: McNair Scholar and Phi Theta Kappa



Academic Achievement: Magna Cum Laude; L for Leadership Award, Who's Who Award.



Bachelor of Science in Biology, Sul Ross State University

BIOGRAPHY

"My interest is focusing on answering the "Origin of Life" question. I love microbiology, with a focus in astrobiology. I hope to fly for a space program one day. I'm also devout Christian, so my faith is everything to me. Hope to get my Ph.D. in cellular sciences, before pursuing my major research."



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CAMRYN MEDINA

MS- HEALTH & HUMAN PERFORMANCE

"I have a passion for fitness, health, & wellness. Growing up I stayed active by participating in a multitude of different sports (basketball, volleyball, competitive swimming, karate, golf, baseball, soccer, weight lifting). I love to cook and bake for myself, my family, and friends. I enjoy spending time in nature and also tending to my many plants that I take care of in my dorm. When I'm not spending time with friends or studying I love to be in the weight room! I enjoy painting and also have a passion for fashion. I can play the violin and have recently been learning to play the guitar.

Outside of my hobbies and interests I'm also a team captain for the Sul Ross State University Women's Basketball Team. Being a part of the team has been one of the groups of people who have turned into family and I wouldn't trade the experience for the world! "



Originally from El Paso Texas



Academic Achievement:

Dean's List, SRSU; Summa Cum Laude Honors, SRSU; J. Pat Evans Honor Award; W.H Perryman Outstanding Kinesiology Undergraduate Student



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Professional Certifications & Organizations:

McNair Scholar; AED & CPR Certified (American Red Cross); Seeking National Strength & Conditioning Association (CSCS) Certification Award; American Southwest Conference All Academic Team;

 Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology,
Sul Ross State University

BIOGRAPHY

"My name is Camryn Medina and I am a proud El Paso, Texas native. Growing up I had always been surrounded by sports and was always pushed by my parents to participate in something to stay busy. After trying out a variety of sports I decided to focus on basketball so much to the point where a couple of my teammates and myself enrolled to attend a strength & conditioning facility to improve our strength, power, and speed. I didn't know what to expect when it came to the type of training we would be partaking in, but upon walking in that first day of training I instantly fell I love with everything I was seeing. Our trainer and the facility that he ran was so amazing that I continued to train year after year. In addition to finding a new passion, I also found a field of work that I immediately new I wanted to be apart of. I sought guidance from my trainer and he helped ensure that I would be on the right path towards becoming a strength & conditioning coach. With my goals in mind, I excelled in my undergraduate courses and graduated with a B.S in Kinesiology (Exercise Science) in the Fall of 2023 and with the honors of summa cum laude. I am currently working on my Master's in Health & Human Performance at Sul Ross State University and hope to graduate in the Spring of 2025. Additionally I have been studying to become a Certified Strength & Conditioning Specialist by the NSCA which serves as the gold standard in the field of strength & conditioning. My goals are to become a strength & conditioning coach for a Division I NCAA team, preferable in women's basketball or for football. I also desire to get my PhD in the future as well. I have served in two internships and am also a graduate/teaching assistant for the Department of Kinesiology here at Sul Ross State University. With that, I hope to keep building my resume and gaining knowledge in the field so I can help aspiring athletes like myself reach their sport goals."



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JACOB MORALES

MBA-BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

"I spend lots of my time studying and training for Football. When I have free time I try to hit the lake to fish, or I'm spending time with the family. "



Originally from El Paso, Texas



Professional Certifications & Organizations: Delta Mu Delta Honors Society;



Academic Achievement: Cum Laude, SRSU; Sul Ross State Man of the Year; SRSU Outstanding BBA Student

Bachelor of Business Ad

Business Administration,

Sul Ross State University Football Team



Sul Ross State University

BIOGRAPHY

"Hello, My name is Jacob Morales and I am from El, Paso TX. I graduated Highschool in 2022 With my Associates degree. While In high school I played Football and Threw shot put. I decided to get my Bachelors Degree while Playing football at Sul Ross State. This year I am working on my Masters in Business Administration and playing another season with the Lobos. I am also a First Generation student trying to Create a new Standard for the family."



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HUMBERTO MORENO

MS- HOMELAND SECURITY

"Fishing, lifting weights, and football" is what Moreno enjoys doing.



Originally from El Paso, Texas



Academic Achievement: Dean's List, SRSU



Professional Certifications & Organizations:



Bachelors in of Science in Criminal Justice. Sul Ross State University

BIOGRAPHY

"Hello! My name is Humberto Moreno, but you can call me Beto. I am from El Paso Texas, and I am a student-athlete at Sul Ross State University, I am part of the football team! I am a first-generation grad, as well as an early college student, I attended El Paso Community College while still in high school, and got my associate degree in science in 2022, before committing to Sul Ross and finishing my bachelor's degree in 2024. I am currently a grad student, studying cybercrime, and as a PPOHA fellow, I am also conducting research that I will present at the end of the semester! I am excited for the opportunities this semester will bring! And if I am not studying or training, you can catch me at the lake!"



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ALMA RODRIGUEZ

MED-EDUCATIONAL INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY

"I enjoy reading self - development books and last year committed to reading one book a month. On my downtime I enjoy taking nature walks and journaling."



Originally from Eagle Pass, Texas





Academic Achievement: Dean's List, SRSU



Bachelors of Applied Science in Organizational Leadership, Sul Ross State University



Hispanic Women's Network of Texas-San Antonio

BIOGRAPHY

"I Results driven Talent Development Specialist with over 16 years of diverse experience in the banking industry. Last year, I transitioned into the corporate training and development, leveraging my extensive banking background knowledge to facilitate engaging and impactful training to new hires. I am currently pursuing a master's degree in Instructional Technology to gain additional skills and knowledge to drive employee growth and add even greater value in my corporate learning and development career. I am passionate about delivering talent and fostering a positive organizational culture of continuous learning. "



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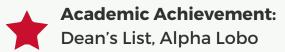
PAUL STADELMAN

MBA-BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

"I live in San Antonio with my best friend and wife Lauren. We have two beautiful girls and a big white dog named Luna. I've worked in faith based sector for 10+ years and I'm interested in the intersection of organizational management and the non profit sector, specifically Church organizations. I'm a social worker by training and have found that social work case management has played a significant role in my project management process. Seeking common professional practices across various disciplines has given me a unique perspective in the non profit sector, which has become more the case the further along I am in the MBA program at Sul Ross. I love the outdoors, going to the park with my kids, and cooking. I currently work in marketing and communications for the Archdiocese of San Antonio and the San Antonio Mission Church Communities."









Organizations: **Black Student Association**, FCA, Sul Ross State University Football Team

Professional Certifications &



Bachelor of Science in Social Work, Franciscan University of Steubenville

BIOGRAPHY

"Paul Stadelman is an MBA student at Sul Ross, a PPOHA Fellow, and the Marketing and Community Manager at El Camino de San Antonio Missions, an organization run by the Archdiocese of San Antonio. He has worked in faith based sector for 10+ years and has is interested in the intersection of organizational management in the non profit sector. A native Texan, Paul currently resides in San Antonio with his wife Lauren and their two girls."



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ELLE SUTHERLAND

MS- RANGE & WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT, THESIS

"I love hunting, fishing, trail running and just about anything outdoors. I also enjoy baking and playing with my dog."



Originally from Moscow, Idaho



Professional Certifications & Organizations:

The Wildlife Society; University of Idaho Student Chapters, The American Fisheries Society: Palouse Unit and The Wild Sheep Foundation; Swift Water Rescue Training Certification; Wilderness First Aid and CPRNAUI; Open Water Scuba Diver; A Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC); Safe Capture ChemicalImmobilization Training Certification ,San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance Academy



Academic Achievement:

Suma cum Laude, UI; Xi Sigma Pi National Honors Society; Desert Bighorn Council Memorial Research Grant Recipient; Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute Scholarship Recipient



Bachelor of Science in Wildlife Resources, University of Idaho

BIOGRAPHY

"I grew up in northern Idaho where my experiences hunting, fishing and backpacking in the outdoors ignited my love of natural resources and led me to pursue a degree in Wildlife Management from the University of Idaho. While an undergraduate I worked as a technician on forestry, fisheries, range and wildlife projects. Following graduation, I began seasonal work on a bighorn sheep project and was hooked by the charismatic species, leading me to spend the next two years as a bighorn research technician in Montana and Wyoming. I also spent some time working as a veterinary technician and studying nursing before I decide to continue on for my masters in wildlife. I am grateful for the opportunity to continue pursuing my passion for wildlife management as a graduate student at Sul Ross and the Borderlands Research Institute."



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PAYTON WHITE

MS-ANIMAL SCIENCE, THESIS

"My hobbies/interests include hiking and hunting around the big state of Texas. As well as drawing, baking, riding/grooming horses, and yoga. If I am not in class, in my office or outside, you can find me snuggling with my two cats."



Originally from San Angelo, Texas



Professional Certifications & Organizations:

Equine Certificate, Tarleton State University; TREAT Volunteer, Tarleton State University 2019-2021; Rifle Team, Tarleton State University 2019-2021; Undergraduate Research Assistant, Tarleton State University 2020-2021; Block and Bridle Advisor, Sul Ross State University;



Academic Achievement: Title V PPOHA Fellowship, Spring 2024; Deans List, TSU



Bachelor of Science, Animal Science, Tarleton State University

BIOGRAPHY

"I grew up in the relatively small town of San Angelo TX and have loved horses as long as I can remember. I got my first horse when I was eleven years old, which onlysolidified my passion and interest in them. Throughout grade school and high school, I was actively involved in the local 4-H competing in horse judging, hippology, horse quiz bowl, rifle, and food challenge. During my undergraduate Name: Payton White Program/Level: M.S. in Animal Science Hometown: San Angelo, Texas degree my knowledge of horses grew, and my first equine certificate class made medicine I wanted to teach equine classes. Unfortunately, right when I started on the university horse judging team COVID-19 hit. During my junior and senior year, I participated as an undergraduate research assistant to help the graduate students with their thesis projects. Following graduation, I went to work as an assistant horse trainer for a performance ranch, during which I decided to learn more about the equine veterinary field. I then spent the next year and a half at three veterinary clinics varying from an equine vet tech, equine rehab tech, and receptionist. After which I decided to continue my education with a Master in Animal Science at Sul Ross, with possibly a second Master or PhD in my future.



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