

# **Leslie M. Morales**

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## **EDUCATION**

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University of Florida, *Gainesville, FL*, Expected: 2028, Ph.D. in Astronomy  
Field: Stellar Evolution - Computational Modelling, Age Determination, Cluster Age-Dating,  
Binary Star Modelling  
Awarded Grinter Merit Fellowship Aug 2023  
Cumulative GPA: 3.88

San Diego State University, *San Diego, CA*, 2019 - 2021, B.S. in Astronomy  
Field: Open Cluster Age Determination - Binary Star Modelling  
Spring 2021 - Semester Honors  
Minor in Mathematics

Mira Costa College, *Oceanside, CA* Aug 2017 - May 2019, Community College  
Major: General Studies

Palomar College, *San Marcos, CA* Aug 2013 - May 2019, Community College  
Major: Astronomy

## **TEACHING & WORK EXPERIENCE**

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**Graduate Research Assistant** Jan 2024 – present University of Florida, *FL*  
Thesis advisor: Dr. Jamie Tayar

**Graduate Teaching Assistant** Aug 2023 - Dec 2023 Department of Astronomy, University of  
Florida *Gainesville, FL* Course Title: Discovering the Universe

**Undergraduate Research Assistant** Aug 2020 - June 2023 SDSU Research Foundation *San  
Diego, CA*  
Thesis advisor: Dr. Eric Sandquist

**Salon Business Manager & Training Coordinator** Oct 2013 - Aug 2019 Great Clips, *Lake  
Elsinore, CA*

## **MENTORING, VOLUNTEERING, & OUTREACH**

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**Graduate Mentoring Committee Member**, Aug 2024 - present, University of Florida

**Telescope Operation Volunteer**, Campus Teaching Observatory Public Nights, Aug 2023 - Aug  
2025

**Lab Demonstration Volunteer**, Undergraduate Welcoming Event, Aug 2024

Telescope Operation Volunteer, Solar Eclipse Public Event, April 2024

Telescope Operation Volunteer, Rosemary Hill Observatory Public Outreach Event, Feb 2024

## PUBLICATIONS

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### First Author Publications:

1. **Model Choice Matters for Age Inference on the Red Giant Branch** - University of Florida  
Publication: The Astrophysical Journal 2025-06-20 | Journal article  
DOI: 10.3847/1538-4357/add2f5
2. **The Interferometric Binary  $\epsilon$  Cnc in Praesepe: Precise Masses and Age** - San Diego State University  
Publication: The Astronomical Journal 2022-08-01 | Journal article  
DOI: 10.3847/1538-3881/ac7329

### Contributing Author Publications:

1. Madeline Howell; Jennifer A. Johnson; Marc H. Pinsonneault; **Leslie M. Morales**; Jamie Tayar; John D. Roberts; Dennis Stello; Madeleine McKenzie, “*TESS Asteroseismology of Red Giants in the Old Metal-Rich Open Clusters NGC 188 & NGC 6791*”, 2026, Submitted
2. Marc H. Pinsonneault; Jennifer L. van Saders; Lyra Cao; Jamie Tayar; Franck Delahaye; **Leslie M. Morales**; Rachel A. Patton; Matthew C. Rendina; Joel C. Zinn; Zachary R. Claytor; Amanda L. Ash; Susan Byrom; Kaili Cao; Vincent A. Smedile, “*The YREC Stellar Evolution Code: Public Data Release*” 2026, Submitted
3. Artemis Theano Theodoridis; **Leslie M. Morales**; Jamie Tayar, “*Asteroseismically Inferred Ages of 132,000 Red Giants with TESS*” 2026, ApJS, 283, 4
4. Nicholas A. Barth; David Mendez; Rana Ezzeddine; Yuxi(Lucy) Lu; **Leslie M. Morales**; Zachary R. Claytor; Jamie Tayar, “*Trials and Tribulations of Chemodynamical Tagging: Investigating the Recovery of Open Clusters in the Gaia Data Release 3 and GALAH Data Release 4 Catalogs*” 2025, ApJ, 985, 129

## PRESENTATIONS

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1. **Poster Presentation** - COOLSTARS 22, June 2024, San Diego, CA  
Title: Model Choice Matters for Red Giants
2. **iPoster Presentation** - AAS Annual Conference #241, Jan 2023, Seattle, WA  
Title: Praesepe Age Determination Using Binary Masses: An Interferometric Analysis of HD 73619