

Leslie M. Morales

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EDUCATION

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

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

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

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 ϵ 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. SDSS Collaboration ; Aghakhanloo, Mojgan ; Aguilar, David ; Aird, James ; Almeida, Andrés ; Sanabria Alonso, Bella Abigail ; [...] ; **Leslie M. Morales**, “ The Twentieth Data Release of the Sloan Digital Sky Survey: First All-Sky BOSS Spectra, eROSITA-SDSS-V Mapper Coordinated Observations, and a Preview of the Local Volume Mapper” 2026, *Submitted*
2. 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*
3. 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. Clayton; Amanda L. Ash; Susan Byrom; Kaili Cao; Vincent A. Smedile, “*The YREC Stellar Evolution Code: Public Data Release*” 2026, *ApJ*, 1006, 220
4. Artemis Theano Theodoridis; **Leslie M. Morales**; Jamie Tayar, “*Asteroseismically Inferred Ages of 132,000 Red Giants with TESS*” 2026, *ApJS*, 283, 4
5. Nicholas A. Barth; David Mendez; Rana Ezzeddine; Yuxi(Lucy) Lu; **Leslie M. Morales**; Zachary R. Clayton; 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

1. **Poster Presentation** - COOLSTARS 23, June 2026, Tokyo, JP
Title: A MESA Parameter Study: Red Giant Branch Evolution
2. **Poster Presentation** - COOLSTARS 22, June 2024, San Diego, CA
Title: Model Choice Matters for Red Giants
3. **iPoster Presentation** - AAS Annual Conference #241, Jan 2023, Seattle, WA
Title: Praesepe Age Determination Using Binary Masses: An Interferometric Analysis of HD 73619