



**CLASS OF 2025**

# **Commencement Celebration**

June 13, 2025 | 9:00 a.m.

Bren Hall Courtyard, UC Santa Barbara



**UC SANTA BARBARA**

**Bren School of Environmental  
Science & Management**



# PROGRAM

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## Prelude

**Brenggrass**

## Faculty Procession

We ask the that audience stand during the procession

**Brenggrass**

## Presiding

**Steve Gaines**, Dean, Bren School

## Greetings

**Henry T. Yang**, Chancellor, UCSB

## Commencement Address

**Lynn Scarlett**

Former Deputy Secretary, US  
Department of the Interior

## Presentation of Awards

Bren School Distinguished Teaching Award, presented by **Tulsi Mistry**, MESM 2025

Bren Staff Excellence in Service Award, presented by **Ruth Oliver**, Assistant Professor, Bren School

Student Teaching Award, presented by **Thuy-Tien Bui** , MESM 2025

MESM Academic Achievement Award, presented by **Ashley Larsen**, Associate Professor, Bren School



## PROGRAM

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### Awards (continued)

MEDS Academic Achievement Award, presented by **Max Czpanskiy**, Assistant Teaching Professor, Bren School

### Class Chairs Address

**Rence Balitaan**, MESM 2025 Class Co-chair, and **Eva Newby**, MEDS 2025 Class Co-Chair

### Student Address

*"Dream Big. Lead Boldly. Take Space."*

**Sabrina Molina Ramos**, MESM 2025

### Recognition of PhD Graduates

**Satie Airamé**, Assistant Dean, Bren School

### Recognition of MEDS Graduates

**Jamie Montgomery**, Master of Environmental Data Science Program Coordinator

### Recognition of MESM Graduates

**Sean Kerr**, Director of Academic Programs, Bren School

### Special Dedication

**Brenggrass**

### Recession

**Brenggrass**

# KEYNOTE SPEAKER

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## **Lynn Scarlett**

Former Deputy Secretary and Chief Operating Officer  
US Department of the Interior

Lynn Scarlett is the former Deputy Secretary and Chief Operating Officer of the U.S. Department of the Interior and former Chief External Affairs Officer at The Nature Conservancy. She serves on the Advisory Council of the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis, is Vice Chair of the National Wildlife Refuge Association, and serves on the Board of the Santa Barbara Foundation. She chaired the Science Advisory Board of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for six years and served on the Board of Advisors of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. She received her MA in political science from UC Santa Barbara, where she also completed her PhD coursework and exams in political science. She is currently chair of the Bren School's Dean's Council.

# IN MEMORIAM

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## **Distinguished Professor Emeritus and Founding Dean**

### **Jeff Dozier**

We were deeply saddened this year by the passing of Distinguished Professor Emeritus Jeff Dozier. In 1994, Chancellor Yang selected Professor Dozier as the founding dean of the Bren School. He was a pioneering researcher and scientist whose work crossed multiple disciplines, with a particular focus on snow hydrology, Earth system science, remote sensing, and information systems. A global leader in his field, Professor Dozier was also known as a devoted teacher and mentor, and an admired colleague who provided support, encouragement, and inspiration to all.

To honor his legacy, the Bren School has established the annual Jeff Dozier Memorial Seminar featuring prominent scientists who share his dedication to interdisciplinary environmental problem solving. The in person event includes a luncheon bringing together students, faculty, and partners. Just the kind of gathering Jeff would love! Make a gift to the seminar fund here:

<http://give.ucsb.edu/dozier-memorial-seminar>

# PHD GRADUATES

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## Doctorate of Environmental Science and Management

**Kaili Brande**

Faculty Advisors: Dr. Frank Davis and Dr. Bruce Kendall

*Fire Ecology and the Effects of Prescribed Fire in California Foothill Oak Woodlands*

**Patricia Faundez\***

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Ben Halpern

*An Empirical Assessment of the Role of Large-sized Phytoplankton, Sardine Predation, and Fishing on Anchovy Fluctuations During a Period of Changes in Productivity Regimes, in the Mid-High Humboldt Current System off Chile*

**Yifan (Flora) He**

Faculty Advisors: Dr. Mark Buntaine and Dr. Robert Heilmayr

*Governing Natural Resources in South America: Distributive Politics and Unequal Consequences*

**Brian Lee**

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Ashley Larsen

*From Forests to Farms: Quantifying Ecosystem Services in Working Landscapes using Remote Sensing Fusion and Machine Learning*

**Cori Lopazanski**

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Steve Gaines

*Conservation in Context: How Ecosystem Resilience, Habitat Structure, and Recovery Potential Shape Marine Protected Area Management and Performance*

**Flavio Malagutti\***

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Kelsey Jack

*Essays on Development Economics: The Anticipation of Cash Transfers and Policy Levers for Clean Energy Use*

*\*indicates not walking in today's ceremony*

# PHD GRADUATES (cont'd)

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## Doctorate of Environmental Science and Management

### **Rebecca Reynolds**

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Arturo Keller

*Plastics, Microplastics, and Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances Abundance and Composition Across Water Resources: Estimation, Uncertainty, and Transport*

### **Liliana Sierra Castillo**

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Steve Gaines and Dr. Jono Wilson

*The Blue Economy for Whom and by Whom? Exploring the Narratives, Realities, and Impacts on Small-Scale Fishing Communities Using an Interdisciplinary Approach*

### **Sandy Sum**

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Tamma Carleton

*The Economics of Inequality in Hydrological Systems*

### **Chen Xing**

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Samantha Stevenson-Karl

*Understanding Pacific Sea Surface Temperature Dynamics in a Forced Climate: Insights from Climate Model Large Ensembles*

# MESM GRADUATES

## MESM Specializations & Foci\*

Business and Sustainability (BAS)  
Coastal Resources Management (CRM)  
Conservation Planning (CP)  
Environmental Innovation and Entrepreneurship (EI&E)\*  
Environmental Policy (EP)  
Energy and Climate (EC)  
Pollution Prevention and Remediation (PPR)  
Strategic Environmental Communication and Media (SECM)\*  
Water Resources Management (WRM)

## Master of Environmental Science and Management

(in alphabetical order by last name)

Letty Aguilar	WRM	Taylor Cook	CP, BAS
Ryan Anderson	CRM	Jessica Copeland	CP, SECM, EI&E
Sadie Armstrong	BAS, CP	Jake Cosmo	BAS, EI&E
Lawrence Angelo	BAS, EP, SECM,	Manuela Díaz	CRM, BAS, EI&E
Hortinela Balitaan	EI&E	Dustin Duncan	BAS, CRM
Sophie Bartley	BAS, SECM, EI&E	Caroline Edmonds	CRM, SECM
Lilli Bennett	BAS, EI&E	Reeves Erickson	EC, SECM
Riley Black	WRM, CP	Julia Field	CP, WRM
Mara Booth	BAS, SECM	Michaela Galarza	EC, BAS
Thuy-Tien Bui	CP, SECM	Temesgen Gebreyesus	BAS
Kyle Burt	CRM, CP	Samson Grunwald	BAS, CRM
Madison Calbert	CP	Sofia Gutierrez	CP, CRM, SECM
Ivette Sumarni	CP	Jackson Hayes	BAS
Castañeda García		Olivia Hemond	CP, SECM
Dana Cohen-Kaplan	CP, BAS, SECM,	Akshaya Jagannathan	BAS, EC, EI&E
	EI&E	Shivank Jhanji	EP, SECM
Izzy Coiro	BAS, EI&E	Camille Kaczmar	PPR
Tali Cook	WRM	Madison Kilkenny	BAS

# MESM GRADUATES

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Abigail Kirk	EP	Chelsea Sanford	BAS, EC, EI&E
Roxana Lagunas	WRM	Matilde Saucedo	WRM, EP
Samantha Lance	WRM	Miranda Scalzo	CRM
Sophia Lecuona Manos	CRM, SECM	Natalie Smith	EC, SECM
Lauren Londoño	BAS, SECM, EI&E	Isabella Sofio	CP, SECM
Janiece Luu	WRM, PPR, SECM	Henry Strecker	EC
Wesley Martinez	EP, SECM	Anissa Stull	EC, BAS
Natalie Mayer	WRM	Tatianna Suriel	CRM, EP
Samantha Cole	CRM, EP	Priscilla Ta	CP, SECM
Mislinski		Emma Tao	CP, SECM
Tulsi Mistry	BAS, EC	Vrunda Tol	BAS, EC
Steven Mitchell	CP	Brenda Vuong	BAS, SECM, EI&E
Sabrina Molina Ramos	EP, SECM	Kelsey Warren	EC, SECM
Shane O'Brian	BAS, SECM	Madeleine Whitman	CRM
Andrew Palacios	CP, WRM	Zoe Zhou	CP
Maxwell Pepperdine	CP		
Anna Perko	PPR, SECM		
Daphne Prodis	BAS, SECM, EI&E		
Jacques Rebibo	BAS, EC		
Jessica Rodriguez	WRM, PPR, SECM		
Nicole Rosen	BAS, EI&E		
Michael Roysner	EP, EI&E, SECM		



# MEDS GRADUATES

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## Master of Environmental Data Science

(in alphabetical order by last name)

Josephine Cardelle  
Stephen Carroll  
Joshua Cohen  
Madison Enda  
Thomas Gibbens-Matsuyama  
Brooke Grazda  
Ryan Green  
Carmen Hoyt  
Bailey Jorgensen  
Marina Kochuten  
Katherine Le  
Emma Mitchell  
Naomi Moraes  
Kai Morquecho Rubalcava  
Ian Morris-Sibaja  
Joshua Mull  
Eva Newby  
Amanda Overbye  
Haylee Oyler  
Karol Paya  
Nicole Pepper  
Elizabeth Peterson  
Oksana Protsukha  
Yoselyn Ramirez  
Leilanie Rubinstein  
Takeen Shamloo  
Jordan Sibley  
Rachel Swick  
Matteo Torres  
Kimberlee Wong  
Michelle Yiv

# BRENGRASS

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We would like to express our sincere thanks to the musicians of Brengrass, an ever-evolving musical group of talented Bren students, faculty, and friends. Every year, some band members graduate and leave the group, and new Bren students step in to take their place.

## Brengrass Musicians

**Dana Cohen-Kaplan** (MESM 2025) – Keyboard, Harmonica, Banjo, Percussion

**Josh Cohen** (MEDS 2025) – Guitar

**Reeves Erickson** (MESM 2025) – Bass, Vocals

**Annette Hilton** (Bren PhD) – Vocals

**Elijah Khan** (MESM 2026) – Trumpet

**Anna Perko** (MESM 2025) – Vocals

**Ella Moore** (MESM 2026) – Percussion

**Andrew Plantinga** (Bren Professor) – Guitar

**Lauren Puffer** (MESM 2026) – Vocals

**James Salzman** (Bren Professor) – Guitar

**Chelsea Sanford** (MEMS 2025) – Vocals

**Natalie Smith** (MESM 2025) – Vocals

## Procession

*Wagon Wheel*

## Welcome

*Have You Ever Seen the Rain*

## Special Dedication

*Wide Open Spaces*

## Recession

*The Weight*

*Love Potion #9*

# SPECIAL HONORS & THANKS

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Many of our graduates received special awards in their first or second year. We are extremely grateful for these gifts and honored to be joined by many of our donors today!

## **AEP Channel Counties Chapter**

Temesgen Gebreyesus

## **Allen Construction**

Jacques Rebibo

## **Better World Group**

Janiece Luu

## **Bren Environmental Leadership Fellowship**

Cori Lopazanski

Kaili Brande

Karina Johnston

Lili Sierra Castillo

Madison Calbert

Miranda Scalzo

Sabrina Molina Ramos

Sofia Gutierrez

Shivank Jhanji

## **Brent & Dagny Dehlsen**

Callan Green

## **California Homebuilding Foundation**

## **Monica Florian Endowment**

Akshaya Jagannathan

Jackson Hayes

## **Caroline Cogan**

Michael Roysner

## **Catena Foundation**

Lili Sierra Castillo

Patricia Faundez

## **Clayton Heinrich Memorial Fund**

Sabrina Molina Ramos

## **Das Williams**

Jessica Rodriguez

Wesley Martinez

## **Denise & Dave Stillinger**

Izzy Coiro

## **Dennis Allen**

Sophie Bartley

## **Diane Boss**

Henry Strecker

Ivette Castaneda

Reeves Erickson

## **Direct Relief**

Jacques Rebibo

## **Donald Bren Foundation**

Abigail Kirk

Janiece Luu

Lawrence Balitaan

Thuy-Tien Bui

## **Eco-E Endowed Graduate Fellowship**

Lilli Bennett

## **Gary Hunt**

Tatianna Suriel

## **Irvine Ranch Conservancy**

Letty Aguilar

## **John Campanella**

Roxana Lagunas

## **John & Karen Jostes**

Sabrina Molina Ramos

## **John & Katrina Onderdonk**

Akshaya Jagannathan

## **John T. Gray Memorial Fund**

Maxwell Pepperdine

## **Jordan Christoff**

Emma Strong

# SPECIAL HONORS & THANKS

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(continued from previous page)

**Kim Kimbell**

Emma Tao

**Lynn Scarlett**

Kelsey Warren

Mara Booth

**Mary Yang**

Lili Sierra Castillo

**Mel and Dani Willis**

Wesley Martinez

**Michael J. Connell Memorial Trust**

Brian Lee

Jackson Hayes

Kelsey Warren

Olivia Hemond

Shivan Jhanji

Steven Mitchell

**Michael Mantell Fellowship**

Matilde Saucedo

**Mike & Betty Noling**

Izzy Coiro

Nicole Rosen

**OneBren Graduate Student**

**Fellowship for Diversity**

Temesgen Gebreyesus

**Pamela Harris**

Madison Calbert

**Patricia Williams**

Taylor Cook

**Robert L. Boughton, Jr.,  
Educational & Scholarship Fund**

Kelsey Warren

Sara Soroka

Tatianna Suriel

**Ryan & Sarah McMullan**

Lawrence Balitaan

Madison Kilkenny

**Sarah Argyropoulos**

Cori Lopazanski

**Sea Forward Fund**

Mara Booth

**Southern California Edison**

Wesley Martinez

**The Nature Conservancy**

Heather Luedke

Jaden Husser

Steven Mitchell

**Thomas Lindsey Peters Memorial  
Fund**

Caroline Edmonds

**Tim and Janey Cohen**

Tatianna Suriel

**William Kuni**

Sandy Sum

*And thank you to the Bren School's Corporate and Institutional Partners:*

**Bank of America, BlueDot Institute, Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck,  
California Homebuilding Foundation, Deckers Brands, Direct Relief, Donald  
Bren Foundation, Google, Latham & Watkins, Manitou Fund, Professional  
Environmental Managers Association (PEMA), Rincon Consultants, Santa  
Ynez Band of Chumash Indians Foundation, Southern California Edison, The  
Kirby-Jones Foundation, The Natalie Orfalea Foundation, The Nature  
Conservancy, Tillamook Creamery, Toad&Co.**

## Commencement Live-Streaming

The Bren School Commencement celebration taking place today will be live-streamed. The stream will be available at <https://bren.ucsb.edu/events/2025-bren-commencement-celebration> Share this link with those who may not be able to attend so they can watch the celebration.

## Follow the Buzz on Social Media

Share your social media posts with the greater community by using the hashtag **#UCSB2025** in addition to **#BrenGrad**.



### **NOTICE:**

***Public recording of this event is occurring on these premises.***

*By entering this space, you agree and grant irrevocable permission to have your likeness, image, voice, and appearance photographed and recorded for commercial purposes and used as embodied in Bren School of Environmental Science & Management Commencement, whether recorded on or transferred to videotape, film, slides, photographs, audio tapes or other media, now known or later developed, and to be included in a non-commercial promotional and news video.*

### **AVISO:**

***Grabación pública ocurre en éste lugar.***