

San Jose State University
presents

GRAD SLAM

Tuesday, April 22nd, 2025
2pm-4pm
Hammer Theatre Center

Event Program

Welcome - *Dr. Marc d'Alarcao*

Land Acknowledgement - *Dr. Marc d'Alarcao*

Introduction of Judges and Emcee - *Dr. Marc d'Alarcao*

Finalist Presentations - *Jaedyn (Rollins) Grin, Former Slam Finalist*

Explanation of Voting - *Dr. Marc d'Alarcao*

Audience Choice Voting - *Audience!*

Choral Interlude - *SJSU Choraliers*

Winner Announcement - *Dr. Marc d'Alarcao*

Closing Remarks - *Dr. Marc d'Alarcao*

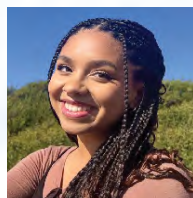
Curtain Call Cafe Reception

Masters Of Ceremonies



Dr. Marc d'Alarcao

Dean
College of Graduate
Studies
Interim VP of Research
and Innovation



Jaedyn (Rollins) Grin

Emcee
SJSU Alumnus

2025 Grad Slam Finalists



Aries Chu

No Sound, No Problem: Designing Safer Automated Vehicle Takeover Systems for Hearing-Impaired Drivers
Human Factors and Ergonomics, MS



Aruna Gomathinayagam

Survival Impossible: Viruses in Extreme Environments
Biological Sciences (Microbiology), MS



Serena Starr

A Sweet Surprise: Using VR Environment to Change Sweetness Perception
Nutritional Science (Dietetics), MS



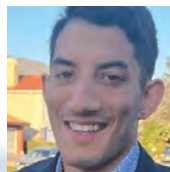
Anusha Kukreja

Classifying Human Activities as Simple or Complex Using Hybrid Machine Learning Models
Computer Science, MS



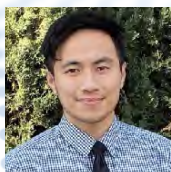
Aditi Prabhu

AI meets Wellness: Going beyond just steps
Public Health, MPH



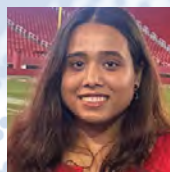
Naman Ghumman

Traffic Control in the Immune System
Biological Sciences (Microbiology), MS



Tomy Tran

Charge Backwards: EVs Powering Our Homes
Mechanical Engineering, MSME



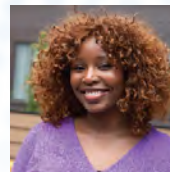
Anjali Sharma

Leftovers to Lightbulbs: Rethinking Campus Food Waste
Environmental Studies, MS



Jyothi Vaidyanathan

Cancer Survival Analysis Using Retrieval Augmented Generation
Computer Science, MS



Lydia Durunguma

Economic Empowerment: A Lifeline Against Femicide
Applied Economics, MA

Meet The Judges



Jennifer Benbow

First Place Winner Grad Slam 2024
San Jose State University



Aaron Chan

Scouting Manager at State Farm
Insurance



Marie Haverfield

Associate Professor of
Communication Studies
San Jose State University



Keith Hertzberg

Budget and Innovation Advisor to San
Jose Mayor

Judging Criteria

Presenters are allowed three minutes and one static slide for their presentation and are judged on the following criteria on a scale of 1 (needs improvement) to 6 (excellent):

CONTENT ACCESSIBILITY

Does the presenter translate their outcomes and significance in an understandable and interesting way to a non-specialized audience? Do you want to learn more? Does their slide enhance the presentation's message?

DEPTH AND MASTERY OF TOPIC

Does the presenter demonstrate depth of mastery of their topic with a clear and logical structure? Do they spend adequate time for each section of their presentation?

DELIVERY

Does the speaker demonstrate strong public speaking skills—eye contact, stage confidence, comfortable pacing, body language, use of gestures, and vocal techniques (power, pause, pitch, etc.)—to engage the audience's interest and attention throughout the presentation?

INTELLECTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

Does the presenter clearly explain how/why their project advances (or matters to) their discipline AND/OR benefits (or matters to) other interested groups without trivializing or generalizing their project?

Prizes

First Place Winner: \$1,200

Second Place Winner: \$800

Audience Choice Winner: \$500

Acknowledgements

The Grad Slam Team

Cheryl Cowan | Sr Associate for Graduate Project Development (co-chair)
Emily Chan | Director, Research Engagement (co-chair)
Ching Ching Tan | Lecturer, Communication Studies (trainer)
Erika Lara | Graduate Enrollment Support Specialist (Marketing and Communications)
Jennifer Nathan | Graduate Studies Analyst
Emily Li | Graduate Studies Coordinator

Special Thanks



Anthony Sutton | Director of Production, Hammer Theatre
Maria Bones | Director of Patron Services, Hammer Theatre
Kristin Dicken | General Manager, The Party Helpers
Kevin Lowe | Manager, A.S. Print Shop
Teri Graziani | Multimedia Production Specialist, Center for Faculty Excellence and Teaching Innovation
Wallis Alviar | Producer/Editor, Walcon Media
Jessica Trask | Interim AVP Research, Division of Research & Innovation
Amy Leisenring | Associate Dean, College of Graduate Studies
Jeffrey Benson | Director of Choral Activities, Department of Music and Dance
SJSU Division of Research and Innovation

Feedback Reviewers

Ryan Skinnell, Bernd Becker, Kim Yee, Seher Vora, Michelle Hager, Amy Russo

CSU Grad Slam

[Tune into this year's](#) CSU-Wide Grad Slam competition on Friday, May 9
where you can cheer on and vote for our 2025 SJSU campus champion.