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## 31st Chicano Commencement, 2001

San Jose State University, Associated Students

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APRECIANDO EL PASADO y CAMBIANDO EL FUTURO



31ST ANNUAL

# CHICANO COMMENCEMENT

SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY



APPRECIATING THE PAST AND CHANGING THE FUTURE



**SUNDAY, MAY 27<sup>th</sup>, 2001**

**SANTA CLARA  
CONVENTION CENTER**

## Welcome! • ¡Bienvenidos!

Welcome to our 31st Annual Chicano Commencement. Today is a celebration of success, triumphs, and life. We stand before you as the 31st Annual Graduating Class of San Jose State University. Our theme this year is Appreciating the Past and Changing the Future. All of us have taken different paths to get to where we are today. We all have different stories, different struggles. Yet, our life experiences and rich culture unite us, with our brothers and sisters of past graduating classes, and with those that have yet to stand next to us. We understand that there is no future without a past. The future lies within our hands and it is up to us to make positive changes. So we reflect on those that have come before us: parents, grandparents, mentors, and community members. For it is from them that we have learned the lessons of life that are not taught in textbooks. There will always be obstacles to overcome. However, we must not forget who we are or what we are capable of. We should not be afraid of realizing our dreams because we will never be alone in our struggles; we have each other, in body and spirit.

Our ancestors' souls and energy remain with us as ours will remain with those to come. Let us take what we have learned so far--through our parents and family, our professors, our peers, and community leaders--and apply it to make a positive, conscious, difference in our community and in our familia. Accept the challenge and continue to be the role model you are today. Be the voice for the unheard and the hands of those that are not strong enough to take on the challenge alone. Let us never forget to see with both eyes, listen with both ears, respect our heart--and have others do the same--and keep at least one foot firmly on the ground while reaching for the stars.

Appreciate the past. Reflect on the present. Change the future. We have the ability. We have the heart. We have the soul. We have the strong mind and blood of courage, of our ancestors, running through our veins.

Let us go out and continue the struggle and enjoy the beauty that comes from knowing you've made a difference in the world-- that comes from appreciating the past and changing the future.

Con respeto,  
Chicano Commencement  
Class of 2001

San Jose State University • 31st Annual  
Chicano Commencement Officers

**CHAIR: DAVID RUIZ**  
**VICE-CHAIR: GABRIELA CARRANZA**

• **FUNDRAISING & FINANCE** •

Chair: Patricia Rocha  
Vice-Chair: Adriana Duran

• **TREASURY** •

Chair: Anna Maria Gutierrez  
Vice-Chair: Margarita Bravo

• **SPEAKERS** •

Chair: Marco Antonio Diaz  
Vice-Chair: Alouette Cervantes

• **CORRESPONDENCE** •

Chair: Marisela Moreno  
Vice-Chair: Hortencia Jimenez

• **PUBLIC RELATIONS** •

Chair: Irlanda Lua  
Vice-Chair: Ivonne Martinez

• **PLAQUE/DANCE** •

Francisco Javier Lopez  
Carlos I. Gutierrez

• **ENTERTAINMENT/DECORATIONS** •

Chair: Danielle Contreras  
Vice-Chair: Gloria Valenzuela

• **CINCO DE MAYO** •

Mary Lou Gonzalez  
Gustavo Vega

• **ADVERTISING & PROGRAM** •

Fall Chair: Ivonne Gutierrez  
Spring Chair: Ivan Juarez  
Vice-Chair: Herlinda Garcia

• **FILM FESTIVAL** •

Roberto Regalado, Jr.

• **FACILITIES** •

Chair: Alma Garcia  
Vice-Chair: Carlos I. Gutierrez

• **T-SHIRTS** •

Ricardo Peinado Carrera, Jr.

• **POWER POINT PRESENTATION** •

Hugo Ramirez

## Master of Ceremonies



**Damien  
Trujillo**

Damian Trujillo is a general assignment reporter for NewsChannel 11. He joined the KNTV news team in June 1996 and covers a wide variety of stories for all of NewsChannel 11's daily newscasts. In 1997 he won the RTNDA Award for Best Feature Reporting. He is also the producer and host of *Comunidad Del Valle*, a public affairs show impacting the Hispanic Community in Silicon Valley. It airs Sunday mornings at 10:00.

Before joining KNTV, Damian was a news reporter and assignment editor for KSTS-TV 48 Telemundo. He began his broadcasting career on San Jose State University's airwaves, KSJS-FM. He was a radio personality and the news director and producer for *Radio Aztlan*, a KSJS public affairs show.

A California native, Damian was born in King City and grew up in Greenfield, California. He graduated from San Jose State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Broadcast Journalism and a minor in Political Science.

He would also like to return to school and earn a master's degree in Political Science. After graduating high school, Damian almost became an auto mechanic until he was accepted to San Jose State University. He believes he did not receive proper counseling in high school with regards to college and likes to help high school students learn more about college and its opportunities. He is currently a mentor in the California Puente Project which helps "build a bridge" by providing information and counseling for high school students who want to go to college.

Damian is a Board Member of the Hispanic Task Force for the American Heart Association. He is also a member of the KSJS Advisory Board and a mentor of Enlace, a mentoring program at Evergreen College. Damian has six brothers and one sister.

E-mail Damian at: [damian@kntv.com](mailto:damian@kntv.com)

*Madrina*

**Maria Luisa  
Alaniz, Ph.D.**

Maria Luisa Alaniz, Ph.D. is a native of Stockton, California. She was raised in a single parent family of all women. Her mother was a migrant farmworker. She did not have an opportunity to go to school because of her migrant lifestyle. Based on her experience, she made school a priority in her household. She taught her daughters that, as mujeres, economic independence is necessary for survival. She did not adhere to traditional gender roles. She encouraged her daughters to read and perform well in school. She served as a role model of strength and self – sufficiency.

Maria Luisa's older sister, Consuelo Martinez, also served as a role model. She re-entered college as a single parent. A War on Poverty teacher training program gave her the opportunity to attend college. She worked full-time and went to school full-time to complete her BA, teaching credential, and MA, all with honors. Her tenacity and desire to become a teacher served as an inspiration.

Another major influence in Maria Luisa's life was the social and political context of the 1970's in the Central Valley. Maria Luisa participated in United Farmworkers Union marches and rallies. During high school, she worked at the Stockton UFW headquarters. In college, she was active in MECHA and teatro. These experiences were critical in developing her social and political ideology: Maria Luisa believes that it is our social and moral responsibility to give back to the community.

Maria Luisa has worked as a migrant education teacher and counselor throughout the state of California. She has directed two national level programs, one with the U.S. Department of Education and the other with the Ford Foundation. These programs dealt with leadership training for women and college students. For the past ten years, she has conducted research on substance abuse and violence in the Chicano community. The object of the research is to develop policies that will improve our communities. Her goal as a professor at San Jose State University is to train teachers to work more effectively with the growing numbers of children of color in our schools. To that end, her courses focus on educational issues related to inequality, race, class and gender.

She also contributes to the community's causes and organizations. She has served on the City of San Jose Human Rights Commission. She currently serves on the board of the Mexican American Community Service Association (MACSA). MACSA was recently authorized to start two charter schools: one in San Jose and the other in Gilroy. Maria Luisa is an active participant in the MACSA charter school initiative.

Maria Luisa attended San Jose State University where she completed a BA and MA. After several years teaching, counseling, & directing various programs, she attended Stanford University, completing an Ed.S. and Ph.D.

Maria Luisa is proud to be a product of the Central Valley and to come from a farmworker family of all women. She feels blessed to have had strong and supportive role models in her life. She also feels fortunate to have come of age in an era of social and political activism.

*Madrina*

- Position:** Assistant Director, Student Outreach and Recruitment
- Educational Background:** Master of Arts Degree, Counselor Education  
San Jose State University, 1996
- Organizations:** Vice-President, Chicano Latino Faculty and Staff Association.
- Involvement:** Chair, CSU Scholarship Program for Future Scholars, Chicano Commencement Advisor  
Advisor, Sigma Lambda Beta Fraternity  
Advisor, Lambda Theta Alpha Sorority  
Ernesto Galarza Scholarship Committee  
Chair, Western Association for College Admission  
Counseling College Fair Planning Committee  
President Scholar Scholarship Committee

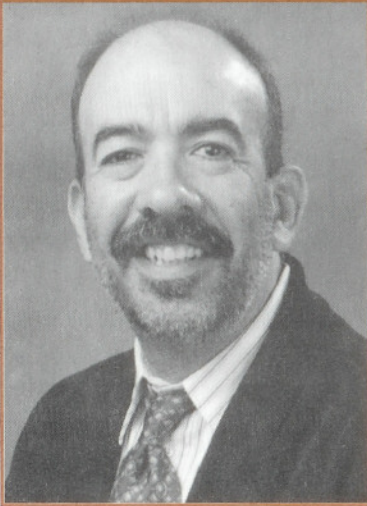


**Linda  
Pascual  
Ortega**

I began my career in 1979 as an Outreach Counselor for the Educational Opportunity Program at SJSU where I formulated recruitment programs for disadvantaged students. Currently, I am the Assistant Director of Student Outreach and Recruitment and I am responsible for the development and implementation of outreach programs and policies. I received my BA in Sociology in 1977 and MA in counselor Education in 1996 from San Jose State University. As an undergraduate, I was co-chair to three Chicano Commencements. In addition, I was active in MECHA, Semana Chicana, and helped to organize the Chicano Educational Pilgrimage to Sacramento in 1975.

More recently, I have been active as an advisor to several Latino student organizations (officially and unofficially) at San Jose State University, I am the Vice-President for the Chicano Latino Faculty and staff Association; and sit on several scholarship committees.

Padrino



**Henry J.  
Gutierrez**

Henry J. Gutierrez is Associate Professor and Acting Department Chair of Social Science at San Jose State University. He received his A.B. degree in Political Science from Occidental College, and his Ph.D. in Comparative Culture from the University of California, Irvine. In addition to San Jose State University, he has held positions in American Studies at Occidental College and History at Stanford University. During the 1970s he participated as an instructor and project director at the Hispanic Urban Center, a community-based non-profit educational organization, in a path-breaking effort to deliver cultural in-service education to public school teachers of Mexican American children. From 1993 to 1995 he was the Resident Scholar for the San Jose State University History-Social Science Teacher Education Project. His involvement in the education of Mexican Americans dates from his participation in the Educational Issues Coordinating Committee in East Los Angeles Board of Education in 1969. He is the co-editor of *Latinos and Education: A Critical Reader* published by Routledge in 1997.

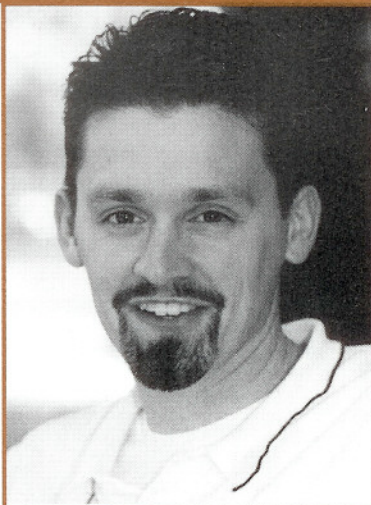


## Padrino

Marcos Pizarro teaches Mexican American Studies at San José State University. He is the son of Leonard and Helena Pizarro, the husband of Maria Esther Fernandez, and the father of Xóchitl and Citlali. He wanted to share the following thoughts:

“In the last 2 years I have been fortunate to work with and learn from an amazing, intelligent, and powerful group of Raza students at San José State. I would like to thank parents of the graduates for doing such a wonderful job raising these future leaders of our communities. We owe all of you parents so much! ¡Felicidades!

“As Raza we also owe so much to so many others, so I want to ask us to thank all those who made our success possible. As Jose Antonio Burciaga’s mural for our Chicana and Chicano heroes says, we owe thanks to ‘all the people who died, scrubbed floors, wept and fought’ so that we could be here. Let us keep all of them with us today; and especially those who walked out of the university commencement ceremonies in 1968 to focus attention on the overwhelming but ignored educational needs of Raza. The struggle, which continues today, is what Chicana/o Commencement is all about.



**Marcos  
Pizarro**

## Keynote Speaker

**Elizabeth  
(Betita)  
Martinez**

A Chicana activist, author and educator, she has published six books and many articles on social movements in the Americas. Her best known work is *500 Years of Chicano History in Pictures*, a bilingual history which became the basis for the video she co-directed. Her latest work is a collection of her essays entitled *De Colores Means All of Us: Latina Views for a Multi-Colored Century* (South End Press). Other books include *Letters from Mississippi* and *The Youngest Revolution: A Personal Report on Cuba*. After graduating from Swarthmore College, which awarded her an honorary doctorate in May, 2000, she worked in the United Nations Secretariat as a researcher on colonialism in Africa; as an editor at Simon & Schuster; and as Books and Arts Editor of *The Nation* magazine. During the 1960s she served fulltime in the Black civil rights movement with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) in the South and as coordinator of its New York office. Later she joined the Chicano movement in New Mexico where she founded the bilingual movement newspaper *El Grito del Norte* (1968-73) and co-founded the Chicano Communications Center, a barrio-based organizing and educational project.

Since moving to the Bay Area in 1976, she has organized on Latino community issues, taught Women's Studies part-time, conducted anti-racist training workshops, and worked with youth groups. She ran for Governor of California on the Peace & Freedom Party ticket in 1982 and has received many awards from student, community and academic organizations. She founded and is chair of the Institute for MultiRacial Justice, a resource center to help build alliances among peoples of color. Her daughter, Tessa, is an actress and co-founder of San Francisco's Latina Theater Lab.

• **AWARDS 1990-2001** •

- New California Media, for best Online Article, 2000
- Scholar in Residence, Applied Research Center, 2000-2001
- Honorary Doctor of Law degree,  
Swarthmore College, May 2000
- Scholar of the Year, National Association of  
Chicana & Chicano Studies 2000
- Urban Habitat Program, San Francisco,  
10th Anniversary "Courage Award," 1999
- La Raza Centro Legal, San Francisco, 1999,
- Lifetime Achievement Award Center for the Study of  
Political Graphics, Los Angeles, 1998
- Historian of the Lions Award Alumni Resources, Inc., 1996
- Wave Award for Women of Achievement,  
Vision and Excellence Center for the Arts,  
Yerba Buena Gardens, San Francisco,  
for "Outstanding Leadership", 1996
- Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan (MEChA), 1995
- National Conference, Lifetime Achievement Award, 1995
- Hispanic Heritage Month 1993 honoree, KQED, San Francisco
- National Association for Chicano Studies, Community  
Service Award, San Jose, 1993
- Chicana Foundation, Honoree for Outstanding Latina  
Achievement, San Francisco, CA., 1992