

5-30-2004

34th Chicano Commencement, 2004

San Jose State University, Associated Students

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El Fruto De Nuestro Esfuerzo
The Outcome of Our Struggle



34TH ANNUAL | CHICANO COMMENCEMENT | 2004



SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY



CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2004

Commencement is not only the culmination of your college career, but also the beginning of your life as alumni of San José State University. Today, you join the ranks of leaders and professionals who have graduated from this institution. Like them, your role will be to help shape our society's development. You, as well as your family and friends, should be proud of the accomplishments and contributions that you have made as students at San José State University. Education is a life-long process, and I wish you well as you continue your intellectual accomplishments and personal growth.

*On behalf of the entire San José State University community,
Felicidades!*

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Joseph N. Crowley".

Joseph N. Crowley
Interim President

CHICANO COMMENCEMENT HISTORY

It was the spring of 1969 and two perfect strangers, Chris Jimenez and Mauro Chavez, were waiting in line to register for classes at San José State College. Standing in the line that wrapped itself around the campus like a snake — a typical sight in those days — the two men crossed paths. “Mauro was \$10 short for registration and I lent him the money,” Jimenez recalls, of the day he met Chavez. Incidentally, Mauro, of National City and Chris, originally of San José were both sociology majors. In their classes, they would meet again eventually becoming compadres.

By the spring of 1971, graduation was approaching for the two compadres and with it the thought of commencement. “Mauro called me up one night and he told me we should have our own commencement,” says Jimenez, a retired teacher, counselor and dean of Mission College. Jimenez said his compadre wanted to have a family oriented event where the graduate’s accomplishments could shine in the eyes of a younger generation. On June 5, 1971, the first official Chicano Commencement was held at Our Lady of Guadalupe church in San José, Jimenez said.

Others say the first Chicano Commencement at San José State College was held in 1968. Dr. Juan Olivérez in “Chicano student activism at San José State College” cites that on June 14, 1968, MASC (Mexican American Student Confederation), an organization with the goal of working toward Chicano “self determination”, directed a walkout of graduation ceremonies at San José State College.

According to Olivérez, 200 graduates and faculty and about 500 people from the community participated in the Chicano Commencement ceremony in a field adjacent to Spartan Stadium where regular ceremonies are held. A Chicano conjunto played music and speakers proclaimed “the beginning” of the movement for Chicano Liberation. The walkout was held when college president Robert Clark did not meet MASC’s demand to postpone Commencement ceremonies.

Jimenez said the 1968 walkout was unrelated to the formal 1971 ceremony he and his compadre Mauro organized. “We were the first to do it as our own entity,” Jimenez said. Rather than disrupting someone else’s graduation, Jimenez said he and his compadre planned their own celebration over a period of five months.

In 1971, Mauro Chavez, now deceased, spoke about the ceremony he helped organize. “The time for a Chicano Commencement is near. No more walkouts, no more protests of the Gabacho graduation commencement at San José State College. Instead, this June 5th 1971, we will have our OWN. This will be a RAZA commencement, and probably the first separate, independent, Chicano administered commencement ever held anywhere in the Southwest. But hopefully this will not be the first and only! Out of this one, other commencements will arise. This is only the beginning,” Chavez said. Jimenez said graduates from all over California attended the first ceremony, some from as far away as UCLA. Some are said to have come from as far as Harvard University. Collectively nearly 60 graduates took part in the ceremony.

Gabe Reyes, a 1972 graduate of San José State College, currently the assistant to the president for campus climate, attended the first ceremony. “Mauro wanted to do a celebration that was more family oriented, more traditional,” says Reyes. The ceremony was held in that fashion. Reyes recalls that some graduates dressed in robes while others wore traditional dress. Following the ceremony, which recognized the individual accomplishments of each graduate and awarded them a diploma, a pot luck was held. “We had rice, beans and mole and it was all free,” Jimenez says.

Now in its thirty-fourth year of celebration, the tradition of Chicano Commencement is carried on. Though changes have taken place, most notably in the scale and cost, the fundamentals of Chicano Commencement remain the same: To hold a ceremony where the achievements of individual graduates are recognized and the contributions of family honored while providing a positive example to younger generations.

BY DANIEL ANGEL LÓPEZ
Graduating Student

Linda began her career in 1979 as an Outreach Counselor for the Educational Opportunity Program at SJSU where she formulated recruitment programs for disadvantaged students. Currently, Linda is the Assistant Director of Student Outreach and Recruitment and is responsible for the development and implementation of outreach programs and policies. She received both her BA in Sociology in 1977 and MA in Counselor Education in 1996 from San José State University. As an undergraduate, Linda was co-chair to three Chicano Commencements. In addition, she was active in MEChA, Semana Chicana, and helped to organize the Chicano Educational Pilgrimage to Sacramento in 1975 protesting the cutbacks in education.

Linda currently serves on the executive board for the Chicano/Latino faculty and Staff Association and serves on the Ernesto Galarza Scholarship Committee and the President Scholars Scholarship Committee. In addition, she chairs the Western Association for College Admission Counseling, College Fair Planning Committee and she is an advisor to Sigma Lambda Beta, Chicano Commencement, Lambda Theta Alpha and MEChA at San José State University



LINDA ORTEGA – ADVISOR



JULIA E. CURRY RODRÍGUEZ

Julia E. Curry Rodríguez earned her doctorate in Sociology in 1988 from the Department of Sociology at the University of Texas at Austin. Her research examines immigrant women and children, immigration, language minority educational experiences, racial and sexual stratification, and a variety of issues pertaining to Chicanos and Latinos in the United States. Currently she is an Assistant Professor in the College of Social Work, Department of Mexican American Studies at San José State University.

Dr. Curry Rodríguez came to the United States with her mother and sister in the early sixties as immigrants from Mexico. She lived in Southern California through her early childhood. After graduating from Bassett High School in La Puente, California she attended the University of California, Santa Barbara as an Educational Opportunity Student. After graduating from UCSB she worked for Migrant Education, the Educational Opportunity Program and the Departments of Religious Studies and English as a Second Language at UCSB. In 1980 she began her doctoral training at the University of Texas at Austin where she specialized in the study of immigration, race and women's studies. Curry has taught at UCLA, Arizona State University, UC Berkeley, Holy Names College and York University in Toronto, Canada.

She has published in *Re-Emerging Native Women* (2003), *Bilingual Research Journal* (2001), *The Power of Language* (2001), *Colorlines* (May 1999), *Americanos: Latino Life in the United States* (1999), *Mexicanas at Work* (1988), *Chicano Politics after the Eighties* (1988), and *The Use of Social Services by Undocumented Aliens in Texas* (1984). She is currently revising a book-length manuscript, *Making One's Path*, based on her dissertation (*Reconceptualizing Undocumented Labor Immigration: The Causes, Impact and Consequences in Mexican Women's Lives*) and an oral history tentatively called *I'm Nico: Summoned to Memory*. For 2003-2005 she is the recipient of a Ford Foundation Grant to document services for Binational Students with

Liz Deleon was born and raised in San José, California. In her early childhood years her family experienced what many of our families have gone through. Coming from a low income family she knows what it is to work in the fields to help support her family. As a youngster she would pick prunes, grapes and apricots every summer until she was old enough to obtain a part time job. She graduated from Mt. Pleasant High School and attended Evergreen College right after. Due to life circumstances she left school and dedicated herself to her career. Today she is a mentor to other students and she emphasizes the importance of education. She reminds us everyday that money should never take precedence over education. She strongly believes that knowledge is power and education is the future.



LIZ DE LEON

Roberto González is Assistant Professor of Anthropology at San José State University. He received his B.A. degree from the University of Texas at Austin and his M.A. and Ph.D. degree from the University of California, Berkeley. He was born and raised in McAllen, Texas along the U.S.-Mexico border. As a cultural anthropologist, he spent more than two years living and working in Zapotec communities in Oaxaca, Mexico from 1994 to 2001. His doctoral research, which focuses on the agricultural systems of campesino farmers, was published in 2001 as a book, "Zapotec Science: Farming and Food in the Northern Sierra of Oaxaca." Earlier this year his second book was published, an edited volume titled, "Anthropologists in the Public Sphere: Speaking Out on War, Peace, and American Power." Since completing his graduate studies, Professor González has taught courses on corporate globalization, the history of anthropological theory, economic and political systems, Latino health issues, and the anthropology of Mexico at San José State University and the University of California, Berkeley. He is currently faculty adviser of the SJSU chapters of MEChA and Pi of California anthropology honors society.



ROBERTO GONZALEZ



SCOTT MYERS-LIPTON

Scott Myers-Lipton is an Associate Professor of Sociology at San José State University. His research has focused on how to reduce racism, increase civic engagement, and to develop global awareness. Over the past two summers, he has sent a group of SJSU students to El Salvador to do community work and to understand the social, political, and economic issues facing this Central American nation. His current book is exploring social solutions to poverty and inequality.

Two of his academic highpoints have been when he was awarded the Manuel Vega Latino Empowerment Award by the graduating Latino class at Saint Mary's College for being the professor who had most empowered them; and when he facilitated a dialogue at SJSU on racism with Tommy Smith and John Carlos, the two former SJSU students who transformed the 1968 Summer Olympic Games in Mexico City into a cry for freedom and justice by bowing their heads and raising their fists for human rights.

Dr. Myers-Lipton received his teaching credential from Mills College, his masters degree in the Humanities from San Francisco State University, and his doctorate in the Department of Sociology at the University of Colorado at Boulder. He lives with his wife and two children a few blocks from SJSU.

Marcos Pizarro is the son of Leonard and Helena Pizarro, the husband of Maria Esther Fernandez, and the father of Xóchitl and Citlali. He was born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area and received his BA from Stanford University in 1989 and his Ph.D. from UCLA's Graduate School of Education in 1993. He is an Associate Professor and the Coordinator of the Master's Program in Mexican American Studies at San José State University.

Pizarro does work with Chicana/o students at various stages in their schooling and tries to understand how interventions can help these students develop strategies that might aid them in their efforts to succeed in school. Currently, he is working closely with a few Latina/o-based Charter Schools and coordinates an Institute for Teachers who work with Chicana/o Youth to help teachers develop innovative teaching strategies for educationally empowering these youth.

Pizarro, a former elementary school teacher, has taught in the Chicana/o Studies programs at UC Berkeley and Washington State University and been a Postdoctoral Fellow at UCLA's Chicano Studies Research Center and UC Berkeley's Graduate School of Education (through the Ford Postdoctoral Fellowship for Minorities)



MARCOS PIZARRO

A G E N D A

The Outcome of Our Struggle

SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY

CHICANO COMMENCEMENT

34TH ANNUAL | 2004

34TH ANNUAL CHICANO COMMENCEMENT

SUNDAY, MAY 30TH, 2004

SANTA CLARA CONVENTION CENTER

A G E N D A

| | |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| 3:00 - 4:30 pm | Registration and Social Hour |
| 4:30 - 6:00 pm | Dinner |
| 4:30 - 5:30 pm | Grupo Invasión Norteño |
| 5:30 - 6:00 pm | Mariachi San José |
| 6:00 - 6:30 pm | Grupo Folklorico Luna y Sol and Itotiani Pro Latino |
| 6:30 pm | Graduates Enter |
| 6:45 - 7:15 pm | Keynote speaker |
| 7:15 - 8:00 pm | Ceremony and Graduates |
| 8:00 - 11:30 pm | Dance (DJ Nick and Grupo Jerez) |



MASTER OF CEREMONY

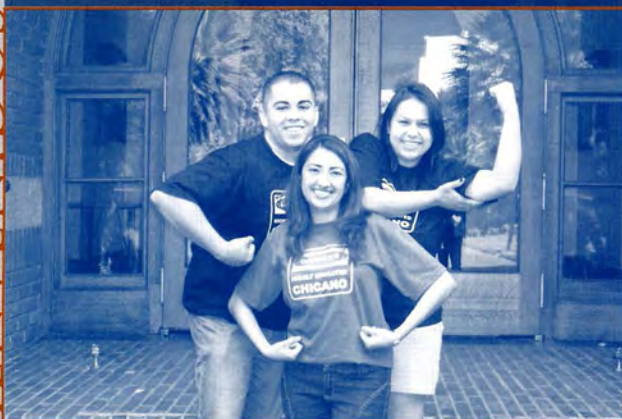


ABEL ARALLMIO
KSTS Telemundo TV48



My name is Abel Alamillo, Jr. I am 27 years old and a resident of San José, CA. I currently work as a general assignment reporter at KSTS-TV Channel 48 Telemundo. I've been a Telemundo employee for the past 4 1/2 years. Prior to this, I was an Associate Producer at KOVR-TV 13 in Sacramento, CA. Before arriving at the state capitol, I was an anchor/reporter at a community television station in Santa Ana, CA and a researcher for a nationally syndicated radio show in Los Angeles. I received my bachelors' degree in broadcast journalism from Boston University in Massachusetts in 1998. I was born and raised in Los Angeles. My parents and four of my siblings were born in Zatecas, Mexico. I'm second to the youngest out of six kids in my family. I was the first member of my family to attend a four-year university. In college I received a reporting and producing award and a few years ago, I received the "Silicon Valley Latino Professional Award" as a recognition to my contributions to the community. I like helping out members of the community and when I'm not working, I enjoy exercising, listening to music, visiting family and friends and spending time with my girlfriend.





CO-CHAIRS

HONORABLE CLASS OF 2004
AND GUESTS!

Les extendemos una cordial bienvenida a todos los presentes en especial a los que hoy en este día vienen a celebrar sus logros académicos. En esta trigésima cuarta graduación chicana de la Universidad Estatal de San José, les agradecemos su presencia y apoyo a través del reto que significó nuestra lucha académica.

A pesar del trabajo y dificultades que enfrentamos para llegar a este punto, nuestra perseverancia, convicción y el apoyo de nuestros familiares y amigos han hecho posible esta celebración. Bien tenemos en mente que nuestros logros se han dado en gran parte gracias a la ayuda y respaldo de nuestras familias y comunidad. Por lo tanto el logro celebrado esta noche nos pertenece a todos; hoy aplaudimos "el fruto de nuestro esfuerzo"

Welcome graduates, family, and friends to the thirty fourth annual Chicano Commencement. Today we come together to celebrate the academic achievements of the graduating class of 2004.

It has taken hard work, perseverance, and strong convictions to get to this point. Although our struggles have been many, our resulting success has made the journey all the more rewarding.

We realize that this journey has not been ours alone. Our families and community have guided our way, giving us continued encouragement. So, on this day we share our accomplishments with our family, our community, and our culture. This day we celebrate "the outcome of our struggles".

ANTONIO MUNGUÍA, JR.

KARINA ALVAREZ
BARRAGÁN

MARIA INES CARRILLO

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



DAMIAN TRUJILLO
NBC11 news reporter

Damian Trujillo is a NBC11 news reporter, host and producer of Comunidad Del Valle. He joined the NBC11 family 7 1/2 years ago in June 1996. Damian's favorite part of his job is - waking up in the morning not knowing what he'll be doing that day, who he'll be talking to or where he'll be going.

Damian has been honored with awards from the Associated Press, as the 2003 "Reporter of the Year" for the California-Nevada region. He's also been nominated twice for the prestigious Emmy Award. Damian has also earned an award from The Radio and Television News Director's Association (RTNDA), and the National Association of Hispanic Journalists. He is a member of the Board of Governors for the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences (NATAS). In his spare time, he enjoys golf and volunteering with school children.

A native of the South Bay, Damian grew up in Greenfield, about 2 hours south of San Francisco on Highway 101. While in high school, Damian worked in the agricultural fields of the Salinas Valley, with his family, to help make ends meet. He is recently married and now lives in the Bay Area. Damian holds a bachelor's degree from San Jose State University.



TERESA E. DOMINGUEZ
MA Mexican American Studies
Concentration in Education

I was born in San Francisco, CA. I am a second generation Mexican-American/Chicana. I am also the oldest of seven, first to go to college and to graduate. I share my successes with the most beautiful people I will ever come to know in this life; my parents, and family. All this has been done in the name of God and with the hopes of making my father proud and making my mother smile.



HORTENCIA JIMÉNEZ
MA in Sociology

Papá Dios, te doy gracias por el amor tan grande que le tienes a mi vida. Gracias Diosito por darme la fortaleza y sabiduría en terminar mi maestría en Sociología. Te doy gracias por darme una familia tan hermosa que con su sacrificio, apoyo y amor soy la persona de hoy día. Gracias Diosito por manifestarte en mis amistades y comunidad que me an brindado su cariño y apoyo. Papá Dios, mi vida es tuya y a mi familia, amistades les dedico mi maestría.



NATALIE JULIE RODRÍGUEZ
MA in Counselor Education

Today I have accomplished another mile stone in my life, however, I couldn't have accomplished anything if it weren't for God and my loved ones to help me. My gratitude for the sacrifices my parents made for me goes beyond what words can describe. I also wouldn't be the person I am today with out my siblings to help straighten me out. My family has always been my rock and I am grateful for that.



Master



**OLGA FABIANA
MARTÍNEZ-CASILLAS**
*MA: Education, Administration
and Supervision*

Cierto, a mis lozanías va a seguir el invierno: ¡mas tú no me dijiste que mayo fuese eterno! hallé sin duda largas las noches de mis penas; mas no me prometiste tú sólo noches buenas; y en cambio tuve algunas sá-tamente serenas... Amé, fui amado, el sol acarició mi faz. ¡Vida, nada me debes! ¡Vida, estamos en paz!

Amado Nervo
Gracias, Andrés, mi familia y a mi madre querida, que solo me demuestra amor.

DIANA RAZO

*MA Mexican-American Studies with an emphasis
in Comparative Ethnic Studies*

My journey in education began at ASU where I received my BA in Spanish. After that I headed to SJSU for a MA in Mexican-American Studies. This journey has been difficult away from immediate family; however my extended family has graciously opened their hearts and homes to support my success in higher education. I am eternally devoted to my family for their never-ending encouragement and endless supply of love that has made this voyage possible.



ELBA VALDIVIA-PINOCO
MSW in Social Work

Thank you Guillermo for your unconditional support. I love you and I will be forever grateful. Gery and Paul, thanks a million for all your support and for being willing to spell check my papers even at the last minute. Carlos, I could have not done it without your technical support and babysitting, thank you. Kiara, Guillermo and Ashley, thank you for being so patient with you mom. I love you very much. Thank you to all my family and friends for their support.



CESAR TORRES

*MA in Education with
Administrative Credential*

Para las-personas mas-importantes en mi-vida, mi-familia, mama, papa, hermanos que siempre me han apoyado desde el principio. Quiero darle las gracias por todo lo que han hecho para que yo pueda cumplir mis metas. Gracias-Ama-Apa-Nico-Gustavo, y Sergio. En una manera o otra me han ayudado a que hoy este aqui. Mi hermano Sergio, que se va a su primer año de la Universidad, siempre has lo mejor que puedas y recuerda que el que persevera alcanza. Nico-Gustavo todo se puede lograr con esfuerzo y empeño. Gracias a todos mis-amigos los que siempre me han apoyado. Mi-compa Saul. SI-SE-PUEDE!



SANDRA AGUIRRE

Major: Administration of Justice

Minor: Sociology

Mom Dad, quiero dar les las gracias por ser los mejores padres. Sin su amor y apoyo no seria lo que soy. A mis hermanas Gabby, Lucy, Cathy, Diana, y Daisy, gracias por dar me su cariño, no lo cambiaria por nada en el mundo. Beatriz, gracias por tu apoyo y amistad. To my boyfriend, thank you for making me do my homework. ΛΘΑ, gracias por su amistad y Gracias a todos que han contribuido a mi educacion.



PATRICIA AHUMADA

Major: Sociology

Minor: Spanish

Todo lo que soy o espero ser, se lo debo a mi familia. A mis padres, Jesús y Vicenta Ahumada por siempre confiar en mi. Gracias por su amor, apoyo y comprensión. Ustedes son mi inspiración y mi fuerza para salir adelante. To my brothers and sisters I want to say I love you for always believing in me. You guys bring truth to the expression, "One for all and all for one." Finally, to my sisters of Sigma Omega Phi, Thank you. College would not have been the same without you.



WENDY ALCÁNTAR RODRÍGUEZ

Major: Child and Adolescent

Development

Gracias a mis padres quienes son mi motivación para dar lo mejor de mi. Por ustedes sé de donde vengo y a donde voy. Gracias por todos los días que han trabajado bajo el sol y la lluvia para darme una educación universitaria. Sus consejos, confianza y comprensión han sido esenciales en mi vida. A Nelly le agradezco el hacerme reír y enseñarme que lo mejor de tener una hermana es tener una amiga incondicional.



ADRIANA ALVAREZ

Major: Psychology

Minor: Child Development

Primero que nada quiero agradecer a Dios por ayudarme a realizar mis metas. A mis padres no tengo las palabras suficientes para agradecerles todos los sacrificios que hicieron por me. Los adoro. Baby, thank you very much for always being there for me, dropping me and picking me up and for all the times you waited for me, it was worth it, right? Love you. To the Luna,s, Leon,s and my Teresita thank you what you did for me, I mean ALL. Love you all.



KARINA ALVAREZ BARRAGÁN

Major: Natural Science

concentration in Biology

Primeramente, Gracias a Dios e lo- grado obtener una educación universi- taria. Les doy gracias a mis padres por apoyarme siempre. Me siento muy or- gulloza de tener unos padres ejemplares y muy afortunada de tenerlos como amigos. To my sister and best friend Eti, words can't express how thankful I am to have you by my side. To my fam- ily and friends, thank you for believing in me. Lastly, to the lovely ladies of ΛΘΑ, siempre estarán en mi Corazón.



EDGAR AVILA

Major: Business Administration

concentration Operation Management

Quiero darle las gracias a mi familia por todo el apoyo que me han brindado durante cada momento de mi vida. Es- pecialmente a mi Madre y a mis Abue- los que fueron mi motivacion en mo- mentos dificiles. I also want to thank my brothers of Gamma Zeta Alpha for making college the best four years of my life and becoming the brothers I never had. Go Gammas!



AIDA BARAJAS
Major: Sociology
Minor: Social Work

Gracias a mis padres por sus consejos, esfuerzos, cariño, comprensión, y apoyo. Este día se lo dedico a mis padres porque ellos han hecho este sueño realidad.

To Maria, Patty and Nestor I love you and remember don't ever give up your dreams because anything is possible. Manny, I love you and thanks for always being by my side. To the rest of my family and friends thank you for all your support.



ROSA ANA BECERRA
Major: Business Management
French

"Quiero darle las gracias a mi mamá y a mi papá por darme su apoyo. A mi mama por darme un poco de su caracter y a mi papá por enseñarme que lo que se siembra se cosecha. A mis hermanos Manuel, Emilio, Pepé, y Raul por sus consejos y por echarme la mano cuando lo necesite. Tambien les agradezco a todos en La Baguette, mi segunda casa, por ser tan flexibles conmigo. Adrian...TQM".



AUGUSTINE ROBERT BUELNA
Major: Chican@ Studies

I want to give BIG-UPPS to "Mamma Nor" for never leaving my corner and pushing me to do the impossible. Thanks to the "Joven" for knocking out that rent every month, you are truly the quintessential father. Big Lex, you have always been the man I have aspired to be. Mr. Manuel Salazar, thanks for giving me the opportunity to succeed, fall, get-up, fall down again, and rise. Robert "Black Rob" Boykin, thanks for being the older brother and role model that I needed...and I'm out this peace!



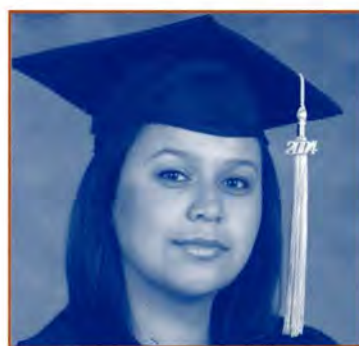
TENISHA NICOL CAÑAS
Major: Child and Adolescent Development

Mom...my heart...my soul...my strength...my love...my life...my rock. You love me unconditionally. There aren't enough words to say thank you for everything. This is for you. I love my family. I love my friends. I thank God for each and every person who has contributed to the person I am today. It took me so long, but I'm so glad to be here today. Thank you Jesus!! Peace and Blessings!



JUDITH CARLOS
Major: Nutrition and Food Science
concentration Packaging Technology

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have helped me through this long journey. To my parents who have always supported me in every way. To my sisters and brother, you will always be my best of friends. Last but not least, to the one who always brought sunshine on my gloomiest days, my nephew, Oscar. I love you all.



MARIA INES CARRILLO
Major: Child and Adolescent Development
Minor: Mexican American Studies

Mama y Papa: Esta noche es por ustedes y para ustedes. Sister: You have become a great influence in my life. Brother: your next, learn all that you can. Baby Beluga: you are my escape from the real world. Taddy: You are my friend, my cousin, and my sister. Andy and Vina: I consider you my second parents. I'm eternally grateful for all of your support. You will never know just how special you all are to me. I love you all.



ALICIA ELENA CASAS
Major: Social Work
Minor: Spanish Sociology

Gracias al Creador por esta vida llena de familia, amistades y aventuras! I could not have made it this far without all of these support systems. Mari and Adrian thanks for all of your love and laughs! Los quiero mucho mom & dad! Mucho amor para M.E.Ch. A., mi familia @ SJSU, el movimiento sigue! Y que vivan las mujeres!



ANNICA CASTAÑEDA
Major: Art concentration in Studio Practice
Minor: Mexican American Studies

This is a very special day for me, it's a day to celebrate and to share with my family and friends my accomplishments and my hard work in getting here. To my loving mother, you're an inspiration to me, and with your unconditional love, and support, everything seems possible. Dad, I love you, and I appreciate everything you've done for me, I know I've made you proud. Manuel, te amo, and thanks for being there.



KARLA CASTILLO
Major: Broadcast Journalism
Minor: Political Science

Gracias Diosito! A mis padres Elva y Rafael: gracias por hacer una vida buena para nosotros en este pais. Sus sacrificios me han dado la oportunidad de llenar mi vida con experiencias maravillosas. Son mis heroes y los quiero tanto! Rafy and Evelyn: I'd be nothing without you guys. I love you so much! Erik: Your support means more than you know. I always want to be your glass of milk. I love you cutie!



NANCY CASTRO
Major: Advertising
Minor: Sociology

Gracias a Dios por dar me otro dia mas, a mis padres por su apoyo desde bebà, Felix y Ed los quiero muchisimo, una de mis mejores amigas...Bribri...kiss, kiss love u! A la vida por la ira de seguir adelante...Chucha mil gracias por siempre sonreir, guys & gurlz... high five, los que me quieren y han creido en mi los amò. Pàz, amòr, libertad, besitos, abrazos, y sobre todo sonrisas...



SELENA CERMEÑO
Major: Biology
Minor: Business Management
Chemistry

My family, I am eternally grateful for your love and support. To my Sanz, Kari, and Starfish, thanks for true friendship. To the ladies of SOP, thanks for unforgettable memories and everlasting sisterhood. Most importantly, my parents, the foundation of my success, words could never express the great appreciation I have for you. Finally, I dedicate my degree to my nieces and two sisters, and thank my papa, nana, and grandpa for watching over me.



MELINDA CHACÓN-ROMAYOR
Major: Hospitality Management
Minor: Business Administration

Today, I celebrate the honor of receiving my Bachelor's Degree in Hospitality Management, by accepting it in gratitude of my family and friends, who have walked with me through the years. To my Mom, without whom, for a million and one reasons, I would not be standing here tonight. To my best friend, my brother Gibbie. Para Grandpa and Grandma, con todo mi corazón. To Alfred, our Rock. To my family and my wonderful friends. Above all, to my God.



DARRELL RAY CORTEZ
Major: Criminal Justice
Minor: Sociology

Finally! This day arrived. It has been a very long journey. I want to thank my family and three wonderful children who have inspired me to continue with my education. I always knew that with perseverance and support, I would one day receive that degree that I so desired. I want to especially thank my beautiful wife who encouraged me to "not give up." Thank you Licha for helping me with my homework assignments and for being my constant support. Te amo para siempre. "Sí se puede."



CYNTHIA COTA
Major: Speech Communication
Minor: Business Management
concentration in Human Resources

Thanks Mom, Dad & John I love you all. Mom I am grateful that you had faith in me that I would reach my goals. I appreciate you being there for me, and understanding why I left the light on. Dad I want to say thanks for all the encouragement and motivation you gave me to get the job done. You were very helpful by inspiring me. John thanks for your support. Love Cynthia Cota



JUDITH COVARRUBIAS
Major: Business Administration
concentration in International Business
Minor: Latin American Studies

Papi y Mami, Este titulo se los dedico a ustedes, que junto a mis hermanas me han demostrado el amor de familia. Su apoyo y dedicación me han dado siempre un motivo para proponerme metas y seguir adelante. Sus consejos me han convertido en una mejor persona y en un reflejo de ustedes. Espero que todos los sacrificios y el esfuerzo que han hecho para ofrecerme una vida mejor, hoy sean recompensados. Los quiero, Judy.



MARISELA CRUZ
Major: Social Science concentration in Race, Class & Ethnicity
Minor: Health Science

Nuca me imagine que llegara este dia, pues aqui estoy feliz y orgullosa. Con tanto sacrificio he logrado mi meta.

Muchas gracias mama por la rica comida, el techo sobre mi cabeza, y mas importante el amor y Apollo incondicionalmente.

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ANGELA DE LEÓN
Major: Political Science

I would like to thank my entire family, without your support I wouldn't of been able to realize this journey. Most of those thank you's go to my mother whom without I definitely wouldn't be here. Thank you babe.

Quisiera darle las gracias a mi familia entera, sin su apoyo no viera podido terminar este largo camino. La mayor parte de mis gracias son hacia ti Mama sin tus esfuerzos yo no estuveria aqui.



JESUS G. DIAZ
Major: Mechanical Engineering,
Concentration in Thermodynamics

I want to dedicate my degree to ALL my nieces and nephews, to Santiago, to my sons Christina, Laura, and Eduardo, I know they will earn their own someday, a mis padres Maria and Jesus Diaz. Quiero agradecer a todos mis hermanos, especialmente a Martin y Elena, a la familia de mi esposa, y muy en especial a la mejor esposa del mundo, Silvia Diaz. Silvia, este titulo es tuyo!



DOMENICA ANNA GIL ESCATEL
*Major: Studio Art, concentration
in Photography & Art Education*

Thanks to my family and friends for all their support and guidance. Special thanks goes to all the novelas that helped alleviate the stress life threw my way. Also, another special, thanks goes to my home girls in room 11, you know who you are! Thanks to the creators of my camera, Kodak for the film, and the little people (my favorite models, Erica, Victoria & Amia) who helped the development process of my photography.



GUILLERMO FERNANDEZ
Major: Interior Design

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ARGELIA FLORES
*Major: International Business
Minor: Latin American Studies*

Papi y Mami,

Esta licenciatura se las dedico a ustedes por la paciencia, dedicación y amor incondicional que me han demostrado a través de los años, Ustedes me inculcaron que podría lograr cualquier cosa que quisiera y eso me da animo para seguir adelante y luchar cada día. Me inculcaron la importancia de la educación y esto me ha preparado para el futuro. Gracias por ser parte de mí. Los quiere, Argelia.



CRISTINA A. FLORES
*Major: Communication
Minor: Business*

Dios me dio la sabiduría, mis padres la oportunidad, y con mi esfuerzo e podido alcanzar mi meta. Gracias a mis padres por creer en mí, y apoyarme en mi educación. Este día es para celebrar en familia el fin de una carrera académica y el comienzo de una carrera profesional. To those that could not be here, your in my heart, and thanks to all for sharing this day with me. Karina your next!!



ANGELICA NEGRETE GARCIA
*Major: Behavioral Science
Psychology*

I would like to thank my parents for their encouragement and constant support throughout my college years. Although I came across many uncertainties, the both of you were confident that I would succeed no matter what. Thank you for always believing in me. I love you! To my sisters of Sigma Alpha Zeta, every one of you ladies has helped create many beautiful memories and a college experience that I will never forget. Hey! Hey!



ROBERT OCTAVIO GARDUÑO
*Major: Business Administration,
concentration in Human Resource
Management*

I would like to thank my family for all their support. Special thanks to my mother and father, thank you guys for your support, I love you. Thanks to Phil Dog and Blanca for being there for me. Thanks to my Girlfriend for her love and support in pushing with my education. May God bless my family and friends. Time to make that cash!!



**ELIZABETH MARIE
CALVETTI-GARZA**

Major: Occupational Therapy

I cannot thank everyone enough. Life is hard. Not to sound pompous, but mine felt like the worst. Yet I lived. Tears, sweat, headaches and all. The sun rose again (dad). And the bills got paid when I got the money (mom). Everyone had something to contribute and therefore an influence in today, tomorrow and thus the future. I love my family and friends so much. Tori, Mom, Dad, Grandmas, Grandpas, Aunts, Uncles, Cousins... Thanks



LAURICE RENEE GONZALEZ

Major: Behavioral Science

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VALERIE PAULINE GONZALES

*Major: Sociology concentration
Minor: Speech Communication in
Criminology*

To my parents, and sisters, one with whom I am proud to be graduating with, and my partner, Heath, and our kids, who have all often come in second to homework, I thank you for bearing with me these last seven years. I know you're all proud of me and I appreciate and love you for it. My best advice to young adults is: don't wait, but if you have to, it's never too late!



JIMMY GORDILLO

*Major: Psychology
Spanish*

In honor of my parents, Pedro Gordillo, for teaching me to be a man and fighting for what you believe in, you're the star I pray to every night; most importantly, mi mamacita linda, Catalina, my hero and strongest woman I know, I LOVE YOU. My brothers, Chuy, Chequin, and Edgar for your unconditional love and acceptance. And my sis-in-laws, nieces, stepfamily, cousins, aunts, uncles, abuelita(o) and best friends, Maira, Gabby, Jesse, Abraham, Lorraine, Ricky, Libby, and Oscar. LOVE ALL!



MAGDALENA GURROLA

*Major: Administration of Justice
Minor: Child and Adolescent Development*

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ALDA GUTIÉRREZ

Major: Political Science

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LUPE GUTIÉRREZ
Major: Liberal Studies
Minor: Spanish

This year has been filled with exciting new things for me. I thank Diosito, and the people who love me for all their support and understanding. Thanks to my Mom, papi, y Beto for understanding why I needed time alone during college! Thanks to my fiancé Jose "Chuy" Salas, who has supported me emotionally and has helped me survive all the stresses during these last months. Gracias de todo corazón. Los quiero mucho. Lupita Gutierrez



MIRIAM HERNÁNDEZ
Major: Child and Adolescent Development

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PAULO SERGIO HERNANDEZ
Major: Journalism
Minor: Political Science

This is not a journey that I have completed alone, in fact I could not have done it alone. Tonight is the culmination of the work of several people. On this special day I would like to thank my parents, Jorge and Martha. Without their support and guidance, my graduation wouldn't be possible. I also want to give a special thank you to my brother Carlos and my sister Liliana, just for being themselves.



YOLANDA HERNANDEZ NAMBO
Major: Sociology
Minor: Mexican American Studies

Este logro no es tan solo mio..esto se lo otorgo a mis tres pilares, mis tres amores. Papá y Mamá, faltan palabras para expresar el amor y respeto que les tengo. Dios me bendicio al tenerlos a ustedes. Gracias por sus palabras, por su valentia, por su sonrisa. Rica, tu eres mi inspiración. Thanks carnal for raising me. Noemí, you are here with me. SAZ, it's not just memories, but the experiences. Sigma for life, HEY, HEY!!



MAIRA ORTEGA IBARRA
Major: Business Administration
concentration in Human Resources
Minor: Psychology

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XOCHITL IBARRA
Major: Creative Arts
Minor: Deaf Education

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MONICA C. IPONG
Major: Business Administration
concentration in Human Resources
Minor: Communication

To my whole Ipong family, I love you all! Tía, I love you for trusting your heart to raise me. To my brothers David and Manuel and acting sister Jennifer, thank you for our childhood memories, we have shared many laughs and cries together. Uncle Eddie and Aunt Dino, I appreciate all the guidance you both have given me. Roommates and friends, thank you for all the laughs, support, and wild memories we have shared!



ERIKA M. JACKSON
Major: Anthropology
Behavioral Science
Minor: Women Studies

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DAVID HERNANDEZ LEÓN
Major: Administration of Justice
Minor: Studio Art

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DANIEL ÁNGEL LOPEZ
Major: Journalism, concentration in
Reporting and Editing
Minor: Spanish

On this special day I give thanks to my mother and sister for their encouragement. I am especially grateful to my mother for being my first teacher and educating me. She has taught me that accomplishments are made through perseverance and sacrifice. As I close a chapter on my life I know my family is proud. With the new chapter comes a promising future. Without you I wouldn't be here. Thank you for this steppingstone.



JESSICA M. LÓPEZ
Major: Behavioral Science
Sociology

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JOSÉ R. LÓPEZ
Major: Sociology
Social Science
Minor: Chican@ Studies

"I have tried to be a man of letter in love with ideas in order to be a wiser and more loving person, hoping to leave the world just a little better than I found it... In the end, I place compassion far above smartness and wisdom light-years ahead of cleverness. The quest for wisdom is rooted in an erotic relation to the world—a deep desire to love and passion to know before one dies." ~ Cornel West



KENYA EDITH LÓPEZ

Major: Anthropology, concentration in Contemporary Mexico and Physical Anthropology

Dedico mi diploma para mi Madre y Hermano. Gracias Mom por todos tus esfuerzos y tu apoyo por seguir adelante. Eder, thanks respecting my decisions and your unconditional support, los quiero mucho!!! I want to also thank my old roommates for the wonderful memories and to my Dazzling Ladies of Sigma Alpha Zeta for being part of the BEST!!! To Cande, my honey bunny (he!he!) for keeping me realistic at all times love you babes.



MARISA CELINA MACIAS

*Major: Liberal Studies
Minor: Social Science*

I would like to say thank you SO much to all of my family and my friends who have been so supportive and encouraging to me while I was in college. Your support and prayers have sustained me through it all, and I am truly blessed by you. To all of you in the House on Whirlaway Lane, I love you so much and thank God for blessing me each and every one of you.



ALICIA RIOS MARQUEZ

Major: Child Development

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PRISCILLA AMADA MARQUEZ

*Major: Psychology
Minor: Sociology*

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ANGELA MARIE MARTINEZ

*Major: Sociology concentration in Criminology
Administration of Justice*

To my little sisters, Christina and Elaina you are my shining stars. Dad, thank you for all your encouragement and for always pushing me to succeed. Mom, you have always been my "Hero." Thanks for teaching me to be strong and independent. To Nana, Papa, Grandma and Grandpa thanks for all of the support throughout the years. Sigma Alpha Zeta, you have touched my life in a way that will forever live in my heart.



GLORIA JEANETTE MEDINA

Major: Advertising

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ANGELICA MEJIA
Major: Child Development
Minor: Spanish

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JESSIFER MEJIA
Major: Business Administration
concentration in Marketing

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VERONICA PEREZ MENDOZA
Major: Journalism concentration in Magazine Writing
Minor: Spanish

I have finally realized my goal in attaining a college degree! This goal would not have been possible without my parents who taught me about the value of an education. I hope I have made you proud. I also want to thank my grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins and friends who have been my support. In addition, I would like to thank my boyfriend Daniel who has always been there when I needed him.



RODOLFO CARLOS MONTIEL
Major: Communication
Administration of Justice

En este día le doy gracias a Dios y a mi familia por estar conmigo en los tiempos mas difíciles de mi vida. Gracias a mi familia por todo el apoyo que me dan para continuar con mis sueños. Le doy las gracias a mi madre que siempre me enseñó a ser fuerte y pelear contra cualquier obstáculo que se me pusiera enfrente y a mis abuelitos que me dieron todo su cariño.



ANTONIO MUNGUIA JR.
Major Business Administration,
Concentration in Marketing/Management
Information Systems

Primeramente me gustaría agradecer a Dios por todo lo que me ha dado. También quiero agradecer a mis padres por su esfuerzo y su apoyo durante mis estudios. Mis padres me han dado el amor, cariño y animo para poder seguir adelante, este Diploma se lo dedico a ellos.

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DELMA NAVARRO
Major: Cultural Anthropology
Minor: Sociology

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MICHELLE JENNIFER NAVARRO
Major: Administration of Justice
Minor: Psychology

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MITSY ÁVILA OVALLES
Major: Art, concentration in painting
Minor: Mexican American Studies

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HORACIO PADILLA
Major: Electrical Engineering

I would like to thank my family especially my mother and father for supporting me through the years. When I thought I would not make it my family was always there to help me get through all of my classes and always do my best. I am ready to begin anew now in the real world, prepared to lead a proactive life, not only at a job but also in my community.



OLIVIA LETICIA PELAYO
Major: Social Work
Minor: Spanish
Mexican American Studies

I have been accompanied by many wonderful people on my path towards graduation. I thank my classmates and educators for sharing their knowledge with me for I have learned so much from them.

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CLAUDIA IVETTE PLASCENCIA
Major: Journalism concentration in Reporting & Editing
Minor: Sociology

I dedicate the degree I am receiving to the memory of my father Jorge Plascencia. Without his guidance and encouragement throughout my life, I wouldn't be who I am today. To my mom, who is the strongest person I know, I want to thank her for helping me stay strong when I felt weak. Thanks to my family for their support and love. To Efrain, I love you, thank you for being my prince.



CLAUDIA ENGRACIA RAMIREZ JIMENEZ
Major: Political Science
Minor: Sociology

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JEREMY JAMIN RAMIREZ
*Major: Sociology
 Communication*

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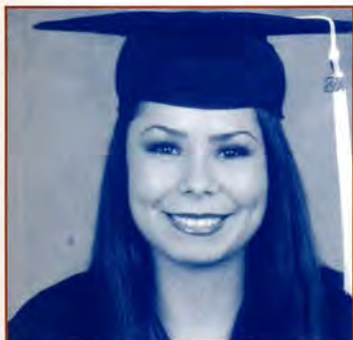
VENITA ELIZABETH RAMIREZ
*Major: Journalism
 concentration in Broadcast*

You've never been stuck with out a scantron on finals day. You've never run to class carrying your whole room. YOU, never had the OPPORTUNITY. Dad, this is for YOU...and everyone, denied the opportunity by life. Thank you for sacrificing, so I could fly. EV, Thank you for helping me achieve my dream, I Love You. Mom, your "Little Star" did it! Thank You LORD for giving me the strength not to give up. The Journey Continues... Just Me, V!



ALEJANDRA GUADALUPE RAMOS
*Major: Communication
 Minor: Business*

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DENISE RIVERA
*Major: Spanish
 Minor: Administration of Justice*

"Primeramente le quería dar las gracias a mis hermanos Jorge, Iván y Cesar, por darme la inspiración de seguir adelante y alcanzar esta meta. **I LOVE YOU BROTHERS.** A mi madre, por enseñarme a ser una mujer independiente y fuerte. A mi padre, por todos los consejos y apoyo que me ha brindado. To my ΣΘΨ sisters, thank you for your sisterhood and loyalty. Lastly, "Goober" thanks for keeping me grounded!"



CLAUDIA ISABEL ROBLES
*Major: Behavioral Science Sociology
 Minor: Spanish*

On this day that has finally come, I would like to thank my mother. Thank you mom for being my strength and letting me know that today would eventually come. Thanks for being the strong woman that you were; your struggles have become my motivation for success. Gracias a mi abuelita, que con su apoyo he logrado mi sueño. Thanks to my whole family. To my brother and sister, I love you so much.



AILEEN URANY RODRIGUEZ
*Major: Administration of Justice
 Minor: Spanish*

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ALMA DELIA RODRÍGUEZ
Major: Child and Adolescent Development

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AMELIA GOMEZ RODRÍGUEZ
Major: Criminal of Justice

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CYNTHIA VERONICA RUELAS
Major: Chemical Engineering

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KARINA SÁNCHEZ
Major: Accounting
Management Information Systems

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LIZETH SÁNCHEZ
Major: Spanish
Minor: Recreation and Leisure Studies

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NUBIA ELIZABETH SÁNCHEZ
Major: Child and Adolescent Development
Minor: Spanish

Hoy les quiero dedicar este logro a mis padres. Fueron sus consejos, ese amor y sobre todo ese apoyo interminable que me ayudo a seguir adelante. Este diploma es suyo. Los amo! A mis hermanas, cada una de ustedes a sido mi motivación en los momentos más dificiles. A mis amigas, gracias por los recuerdos y por hacer esta etapa de mi vida inolvidable. Efraín, you are my soul mate, I love you!



SILVIANA G. SÁNCHEZ

*Major: Child and Adolescent Development
Minor: Spanish*

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ROBERTO CARLOS TORRES RODRÍGUEZ

*Major: Industrial Systems Engineering
Minor: Math*

Durante los momentos más difíciles de mí vida, mí familia siempre ha estado ahí! Cuando sentía que ya no podia más, el ver la foto de todos juntos, me daba suficiente fuerza para continuar nuestro sueño, el sueño de recibirme! Gracias a ellos; hoy me recibo! Gracias a ellos; hoy soy el hombre que soy! Gracias a ellos; continuare ser fuerte. GRACIAS!

GZA, the aid/support/encouragement/motivation I received, will always be appreciated! **Gooo Gammas... TU SABES!!!**



CARLOS A. TRUJILLO

*Major: Political Science
Minor: Business*

Le doy gracias a dios por la capacidad a seguir adelante. Gracias a mis padres y hermanos Adrian, Sal y Jovany por su apoyo en mis metas y por ser buen ejemplos. Melissa, babe thanks for your endless support in my endeavors. To my family away from home, brothers of Gamma Zeta Alpha for the endless memories which I will always cherish. Ultimamente, en honor de mi hermanita Joanna por ser mi angel.



PACO VALLEJO

Major: Sociology



SONIA VARGAS CORONA

*Major: Sociology concentration
in Criminology*

Quiero darle gracias a Dios y la Virginita por darme la fortaleza para lograr esta meta. Ah sido una experiencia muy difícil pero venturosa. Esta diploma se la dedico a mi familia. Gracias ama y papi por no perder la fe en mi y por enseñarme lo que es trabagar duro. Gracias, Alfonso, Aurelio y Jose, por todo el apoyo. Eva, thanks miija, you're the best little sister. Much love to my SJSU MEChA homies.



KARINA VILLAGÓMEZ-MOLINA

Major: Bio-Chemical Engineering

Muchisimas Gracias a mi Familia Querida, que sin su Sabiduria y Ayuda no tendria este privilegio. Gracias a mis Tios y Tias por dar el ejemplo. Siempre los tengo en mi mente, y deseando regresar a casa. Pero que consta que esto es solo el comienzo, todavia hay mas metas por corretear. Los quiero mucho Papi, Mami, y Laure!!! Amore, gracias por escucharme, y guiarme, je t'aime beaucoup!!!



MALEND A MARICELA WALLIN

*Major: Psychology
Minor: Spanish*

Gracias a Dios por mi familia, I wouldn't be "me" without your endless love and support. Mamacita and Papcito: words CANNOT express my gratitude! I love you more than you'll ever know! Mis hermanas, you are my angels! Thanks Cristal for paving the way and thanks Elisa for pushing me to see outside the box. To my bestest friend Man, thank you for holding me up when I couldn't. Thanks Cin for making the days bearable! Much love to Luna Y Sol! Los queRo mucho! Knaw mean, knaw mean?! Love Mal



FABIOLA ZENDEJAS SOLORIO

*Major: Business Administration
concentration in Management
Minor: Spanish*

Primeramente le quiero dar Gracias a Dios por este momento tan importante de mi vida. Mis padres Maria y Ricardo Gracias por su apollo y buenos-consejos este diploma es de ustedes. "Papa-Chuche" Gracias-por-sus sabios-consejos. Saul Thanks for being a-role model. Janet-Julie and the-girls thanks for all those crazy times. RicardoJr. Thanks for being a loving little brother. Tia Cata-Edgar- Daniel Gracias por su apollo and my little-angelito DanielJr. thanks-for the cute-kisses. George Thanks for always-being-there y ser mas-que mi novio sino un mejor amigo. I-LOVE-YOU-ALL!!!!

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The faculty and staff of the Mexican American Studies Department wish you the best of luck on this wonderful day. We are very proud of you, and know that your families feel the same way.

¡Buena Suerte!

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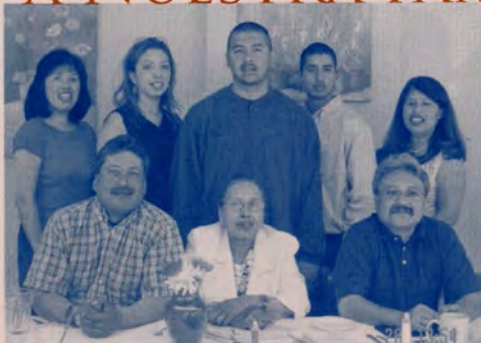
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GRACIAS A NUESTRA FAMILIA,



Con el esfuerzo y apoyo de todos, nuestros sueños se han realizado. Special thanks to our family and friends for always believing in us. All the hard work, desveladas, y largas horas en las juntas al fin han terminado. Hoy, cerramos un capítulo mas en nuestras vidas. As one door closes, another one opens.



THANKS TO OUR FAMILY,



As we move forward into the next chapter of our lives, we will remember all the tools handed down to us through our family, friends and professors. Profesores, you have given us some of the fundamental keys to success!

*Thank you y
felicidades to
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GRACIAS THANK YOU

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