

5-25-2008

## 38th Chicano Commencement, 2008

San Jose State University, Associated Students

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CURRY

38th Annual

SJSU

Santa Clara Convention Center  
May 25, 2008

# CHICANO COMMENCEMENT

Recognizing those before us, holding the door for those who follow.  
Reconociendo nuestros anteriores, y manteniendo la puerta abierta a los que siguen.





**Congratulations Class of 2008.** 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 and have become a part of history. 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!**



Don W. Kassing  
San José State University President



38th Annual

# CHICANO SJSU

Santa Clara Convention Center  
May 25, 2008

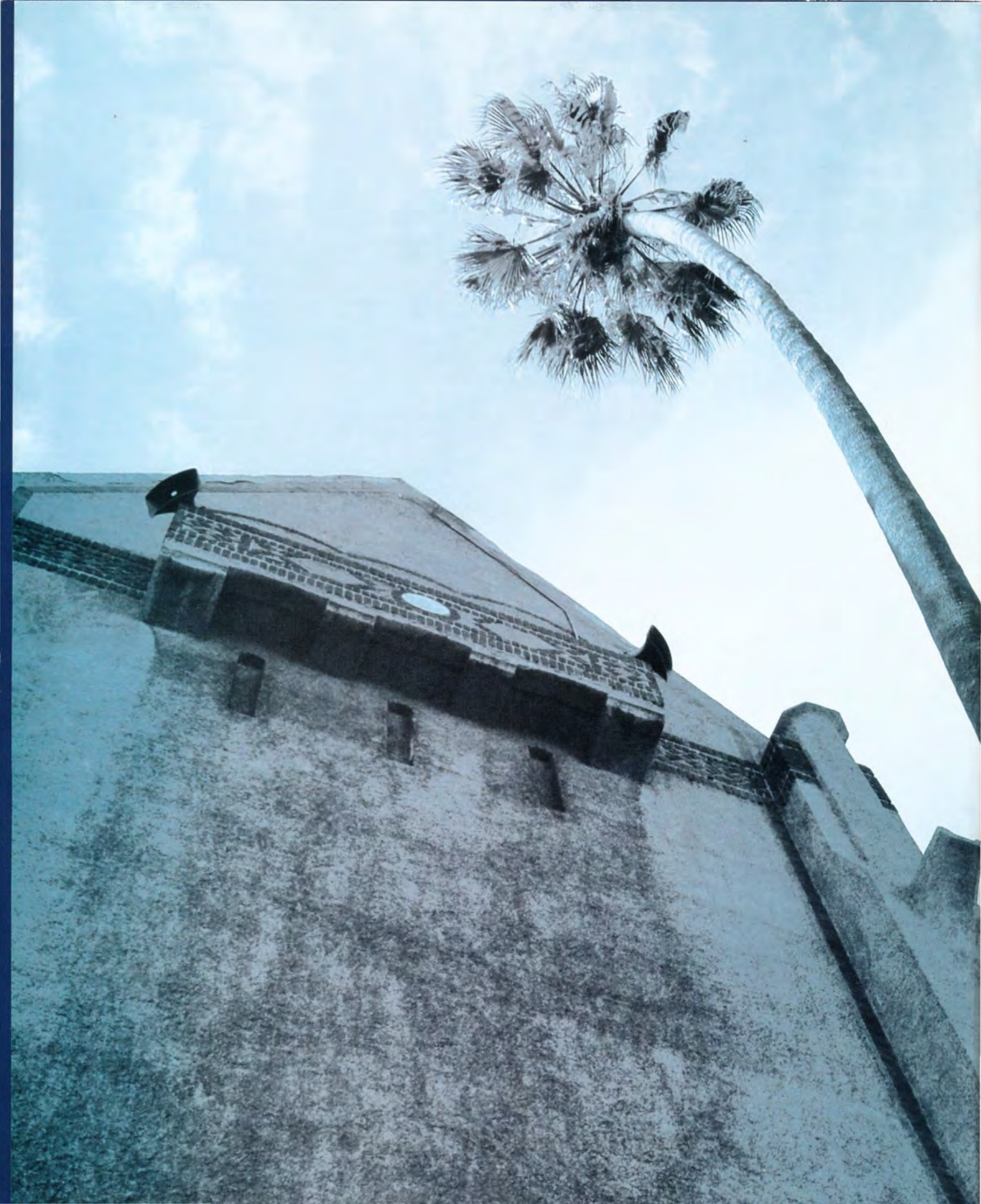
# COMMENCEMENT

Recognizing those before us, holding the door for those who follow.

Reconociendo nuestros anteriores, y manteniendo la puerta abierta a los que siguen.







# EVENTS

- 2:30 - 3:30      Registration
- 3:30 - 5:00      **Dinner**  
Mariachi Azteca San José  
Baile Folklórico / Tonatiuh Danzantes del Quinto Sol
- 5:00 - 8:30      **Ceremony**  
Blessing Ceremony by Calpulli Tonalehqueh  
Graduate Procession  
Introduction  
Master of Ceremony / Jose Jesus Ramirez  
Mistress of Ceremony / Adriana Diaz  
Guest Speaker / Dr. Gilberto Conchas  
Keynote Speaker / Don Victor Villaseñor  
Graduates' Ceremony
- 8:30 -11:30      **Dance**



## THEN AND NOW

FRANCISCO ALCANTAR JR. and ANDREA VERONICA QUINTATA  
CLASS OF 2007

The first Chicano Commencement was established in 1970 as a celebration for Chicanos graduating from San José State College. Its roots can be traced from the 1968 and 1969 walkouts and protests by Chicano students and Chicano community members against San José State administration. At that time, during the era of the Civil Rights Movement, Chicano students felt misrepresented by the College and that the Chicano community's needs were not being met. When demands for change were refused, Chicano students and community members walked out of the College's annual commencement ceremony held at Spartan Stadium and as a result, decided to hold their own commencement, a Chicano Commencement. After thirty-seven years, the days of the walkouts have long since passed and the name of the institution has changed to San Jose Staté University. As the first public institution of higher learning on the west coast, we continue to move forward to new goals and accomplishments. This year we celebrate a milestone achievement as San Jose Staté University reaches its 150th anniversary. Filled with rich diversity and culture working in harmony, our campus exemplifies what a first-rate institution should be. We are not the best because we are the first; we are the first because we are the best. In this tradition, Chicano Commencement continues to be held as a ceremony that recognizes Chicanos who have achieved their personal dreams, and those of their families. This annual event has grown in the numbers and has seen an increase of students who represent the diversity of Latin America. For many of these students they are the first in their families to graduate from a university and pursue a professional career. These graduates are future researchers, doctors, engineers, social workers, lawyers, teachers, politicians, and many other important individuals that currently do a service to the communities they work for. Year after year the graduates are impassioned and dedicate countless hours towards this commemorative event, and while each year brings a new set of graduates, the principals of Chicano Commencement remain the same. Chicano Commencement is not only a day of triumph, but a celebration of cultural togetherness in an act of love and community spirit.

We are proud to say that through unity, education, dedication, and motivation, this is the culmination of all our hard work. Thanks to those who have fought before us, there will never be another one like it.

## DR. MARIA LUISA ALANIZ

### MADRINA

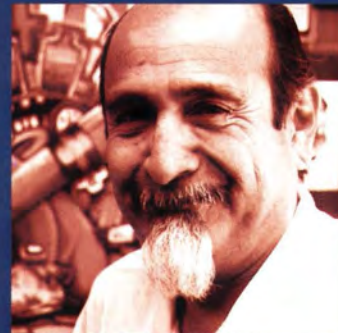
Professor and Chair, is most enthusiastic about her role teaching and advising students in the Teacher Education program. The diversity of students brings rich life experiences into the classroom, she says. "They bring a passion for teaching, a love for children...they make teaching an enriching experience." Professor Alaniz is proud to play a role in a Teacher Education program that puts diversity at the center of its training of future teachers and leaders of education. "We're not just about teaching content, but engaging in public policy, training advocates, focusing on social justice issues," says Alaniz. "We're producing teachers who really care about kids." She enjoys challenging her students, asking "What kind of teacher are you going to be? Are you going to teach in a microcosm, or will you strive to be an agent of change?" Professor Alaniz' research background makes her especially well-suited to such a complete program. She has worked in various capacities to promote public health advocacy in communities of color. As a Study Director and Co-Principal Investigator at the Prevention Research Center in Berkeley, she published extensively on issues of alcohol availability and social problems in urban communities. Professor Alaniz has also served in numerous local community organizations including the Mexican American Community Service Agency, the California Latinos United for a Healthy California Board, the Praxis Project/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation funded initiative, the Santa Clara County Child Advocate Board, and the Santa Clara County Violence Prevention Planning Council. Her more recent work reflects on her own journey from migrant farmworker family to university professor, and also on the healing power of "stories as spiritual medicine." Her hobbies include hiking, travel and reading.



## PHILLIP GAVINO TABERA

### PADRINO

Phillip Tabera has been on the school board for six years, running unopposed for an additional term until 2009. He has been a faculty member with the Mexican American Studies Department at San Jose State University for the past ten years and with World Languages and Cultures at California State University, Monterey Bay for six years, and Adjunct Faculty member with Pacific Oaks College, Pasadena, California. Board Member Tabera was born and raised in Salinas California. He attended Hartnell Community College, the University of California Santa Cruz and San Jose State University for undergraduate and graduate degrees in Education, Psychology, Urban Planning and Mexican American Studies. Phillip Tabera is married to Hermelinda Rocha Tabera, who is an instructor in Early Childhood Education at Hartnell Community College in Salinas. They have four children, Felipe 27, Gregorio 19, Joaquin 15 and Lorena 12.







## **JESUS RAMIREZ**

### **MASTER OF CEREMONY**

Jose Jesus Ramirez was born in the state of Guanajuato, Mexico and now lives in Marina, California. Jesus obtained a Bachelors of Science in Telecommunications, Multimedia, and Applied Computing from California State University, Monterey Bay. He has been working in the radio industry for over a decade. Jesus is the producer and radio program host of "Rockin Da House" an education talk show geared for Latino youth. "Rockin Da House" is broadcasted in Radio Bilingue's network. Radio Bilingüe is the only national distributor of Spanish-language programming in public radio. Jesus has been the host of the state wide known Radio Bilingue's Viva El Mariachi Festival in Fresno, California for two consecutive years. Jesus has been the master of ceremony for various educational and entertainment events at CSU Monterey Bay. He has also had the honor of presenting many Latin Rock bands such as Fobia, Plastilina Mosh, Lucybell, Orix, and many more. He has also done many of voice-overs for Univision Channel 67 and La Preciosa radio station promoting local business.



## **ADRIANA DIAZ**

### **MISTRESS OF CEREMONY**

Adriana Diaz has a BA in Radio, Television and Film (1995) and an MS in Mass Communications (2006) and she is currently a professor at National Hispanic University teaching classes in Public Speaking. Her past experience includes being a community service marketing director at San Rafael Fire Department (2000 to 2002), being a Kindergarten Teacher in the San Jose Unified School District (1996 to 1998) and being the Residential Advisor and Academic Advisor of Upward Bound at SJSU (1993 to 1996).



## **DR. GILBERTO CONCHAS**

### **GUEST SPEAKER**

Dr. Conchas is a Senior Program Officer, U.S. Special Initiatives, with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. He received his Ph.D. in sociology in 1999 from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. From 1999 to 2004, he served as an assistant professor at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. In 2004, he joined the faculty at the University of California, Irvine as an associate professor of education and Chancellor's Fellow with joint appointments in Chicano/Latino Studies and Sociology. Dr. Conchas has pursued three broad areas of study in the sociology of education that include urban education, immigration and education, and social policy and reform. His work has appeared in numerous academic journals that include the Harvard Education Review, Teachers College Record, New Directions for Youth Development, the Journal of Education for Students Placed at Risk, and Research in Sociology of Education. He most recently published *The Color of Success: Race and High-Achieving Urban Youth* (2006) and *Small School and Urban Youth: Size, Culture and Personalization* (2008).



## VICTOR VILLASEÑOR

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Born in the barrio of Carlsbad, California in 1940, Victor Villaseñor was raised on a ranch four miles north in Oceanside. Since his parents were born in Mexico, Villaseñor spoke only Spanish until beginning school. After years of facing language and cultural barriers, heavy discrimination and a reading problem, later diagnosed as dyslexia, Victor dropped out of high school his junior year and moved to Mexico. There he discovered a wealth of Mexican art, literature, music, that helped him recapture and understand the dignity and richness of his heritage.

Victor returned to the U.S. at the age of 20. He began to feel the old frustration and rage return as he witnessed again the disregard toward poor and uneducated people and especially toward the Mexicans. Then a chance encounter with James Joyce's *Portrait Of An Artist As A Young Man*, changed Victor's life. It awakened a desire to confront through literature the problems associated with his cultural heritage that continued to plague him.

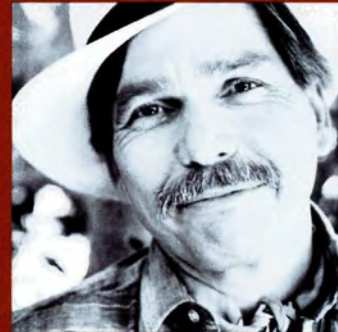
After producing nine novels, 65 short stories, and receiving 265 rejections Villaseñor sold his first novel, *Macho!*, which the *Los Angeles Times* compared to the best of Steinbeck. This began a journey that would eventually lead to the publication of the national bestseller, *Rain of Gold*. Published in seven languages and used by thousands of teachers and school systems across the nation as required reading, *Rain Of Gold* tells the story of Victor's family, taking the reader from war-torn Mexico during the Revolution to the present day.

Villaseñor's body of works include a number of nonfiction books which are all used in schools throughout the country: The trilogy *Wild Steps Of Heaven*, *Rain of Gold*, and *Thirteen Senses*, *Jury: The People vs Juan Corona*, *Macho!*, and *Walking Stars*, a collection of short stories written especially to inspire young people. *Burro Genius*, the first book of the second trilogy, released July 2004, is a national bestseller, and a Pulitzer Prize finalist. Victor also wrote the screenplay for *The Ballad of Gregorio Cortez*, starring Edward James Olmos. Villaseñor's acclaimed written works, as well as his inspiring lectures, have earned him numerous awards and endorsements, including the Founding John Steinbeck Chair appointment.

A gifted and accomplished speaker, Victor Villaseñor, in his candid and heartfelt manner, brings a fresh perspective to a number of universal themes, including pride in heritage, the strength of family, world peace, the power of the written word, and dedication to education and personal achievement.

Villaseñor's commitment to world peace and harmony is demonstrated through "Snow Goose Global Thanksgiving", his non-profit organization established to promote peace throughout the world. His self-published book, *Snow Goose Global Thanksgiving*, describes a simple philosophy toward that eventuality.

Victor Villaseñor continues to live on the ranch where he was raised.







## WELCOME FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

Esteemed family, friends, and colleagues,

We are honored to welcome you to San José State University's 38th Annual Chicano Commencement, a celebration that we are honored to say is the longest running Chicano/Latino graduation in California. The first Chicano Commencement was held on June 5, 1971 as a commemoration for Chicanos graduating from San José State College. We are proud to announce that it is an astonishing tradition that is growing strong with each new graduating class. The culmination of our educational endeavors has led to this momentous day. A day of celebration in which we can share in our accomplishments and challenges, both of which have helped to shape our work ethic and appreciation for the opportunity we obtained in pursuing a higher education.



As a graduating class, we have worked hard to stay cohesive during the most challenging times. As a community, we are united by a common bond of family, friends, and cultura. It is these distinct characteristics that make us proud to be educated Chicanos/Latinos, and even more proud that we were able to experience the wonderful tradition that Chicano Commencement is. Thank you to our families, friends, classmates, mentors, and those who have supported us throughout this journey. It is because of you that we stand here proud, as a reflection of the continuous love and encouragement that you bestow upon us.

Class of 2008-Congratulations! Each and every one of you remembers that individual that inspired us, that wouldn't give up on us, and that was there for us. Many of us are the first in our families to obtain college degrees. There had been no path set for us, and yet we succeeded. Take pride in that and everything you do, you deserve it! Please remember that with that, comes responsibility. You are now mentors and role models for your brothers, sisters, cousins, nieces, nephews, and youth. Go forth and set the path for them. Please remember to give back, however you see fit. We leave you with this quote, which we have embraced ourselves, and that exemplifies our sentiment as Chicanos/Latinos towards family, community, and cultura:

"We are not self made, we do not owe what we have to individualistic self made success but to the sweat, struggle and tears of our parents." - Jose Antonio Burciaga

In Community Spirit,  
**En Espiritu Comunitario,**

Handwritten signatures of Alejandra Hermosillo and Lizette Berrospe in black ink.

Alejandra Hermosillo and Lizette Berrospe  
2008 Chicano Commencement Committee Chairs

Co-written by Adrian Espinosa





## 2008 CHICANO COMMENCEMENT EXECUTIVE BOARD

CHAIRS: LIZETTE BERROSPE AND ALEJANDRA HERMOSILLO  
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JUNIOR REPRESENTATIVE: EZEQUIEL DENIZ





## PERLA M. ARELLANO

MA / Education / Concentration in Counseling and Student Personnel

Gracias a mi Mami y Dedi por todo su amor, apoyo y ánimo todos estos años. Con mucho amor y cariño les dedico esta maestría. Thanks to my beautiful and talented Seesters, Rojana and Brissa, for always believing in me as well as the laughs and memories we've shared. I hope you follow in my footsteps by following your dreams and never giving up. To my adorable nephew Ekimae Moises, I love you so much and always enjoyed your "interruptions" while I studied. I hope to instill in you a passion for reading and education. Gracias también al resto de mi familia. To my EDCO friends, you have made this program meaningful. Amigas/os old and new, I appreciate your friendship and am thankful for all the good times we've shared. CC Eboard and Committee, we made this a successful event! Gracias Dios por ayudarme lograr esta meta. --Phil 4:13.

## YOLANDA GABRIELA BERNAL

MA / Education / Concentration in Counseling and Student Personnel

Le doy gracias a Dios y a mi angel en el cielo, mi abuelita, Felipa Del Carmen, por ayudarme llegar a este día. Quiero agradecerles a mis padres, Arturo y Guadalupe, por darme los medios para superarme y ser exitosa. Las alas de ser independiente, la libertad a fallar y a tener éxito. Gracias por sacrificar día tras día y darme la oportunidad de la educación. Thank you- Melissa & Mike-for pushing me beyond my limits, allowing me to see my true potential. For being my role models in life. Ed/My Zion-for being my strength, for constantly motivating and not allowing me to give up. Este título es para mi familia por darme su apoyo y siempre estar a mi lado. For always supporting and loving me unconditionally. Lambda Sigma Gamma-for giving me the best college years of my life, full of irreplaceable memories. IPSE!



## SYLVIA DE LA GARZA

MA / Education / Concentration in Counseling and Student Personnel

I am deeply grateful to all my family and friends who were determined and very supportive to see me succeed in my studies. To my baby girl "Lyndzi Love" the inspiration of my life, I love you so much. Thi swas a long haul but we made it, I dedicate this accomplishment to you. To my parents, Hortencia & Jose thank you for your love and support. To my lovely sisters, Katya, Sandra & Lorena I appreciate your positive influence and family loyalty. To my EDCO friends, you truly made this program meaningful. I will always remember all the laughs and memories we shared. Gracias a mi Mami Quica, que me enseñó que empeño, dedicación y perseverancia es la llave a éxito. Y a mi mama, siempre fue mi apoyo, una gran ayuda y me enseñó la importancia de seguir mis sueños.



## OSWALD PATRICK ESPINOZA

MSW / Social Work / PPS Credential

Foremost, I would like to thank my family and friends for their utmost support for this personal and professional goal. Without their support, this chapter of my life would have been one difficult chapter to complete. I also would like to state how very appreciative I am of this country to have given me the opportunity to complete a professional education wherein I can give back to my community. Lastly, I would like to share a quote by Herbert Spencer that has been a guiding principle in my life: "Education has for its object the formation of character". To this, I would like to add that from character the next object of an educated person is to live an ethical life.

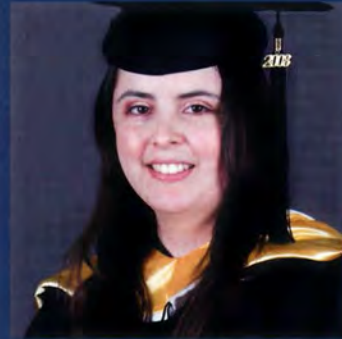




## SANDRA GONZÁLEZ

MA / Counseling Education / PPS Credential

Primeramente, le doy gracias a Dios. A mi mamá, Raquel quien adoro y admiro. Gracias por la comprensión y todo el apoyo, no estuviera aquí sin ti. Quiero agradecerle también a toda mi familia quienes siempre han querido lo mejor para mi y a mis primas quienes aprecio muchísimo. A mis profesores y a todos mis amigos/os quienes fueron muy comprensivos. Gracias a todos por siempre creer en mí, los quiero mucho.



## ALEJANDRA HERMOSILLO

MSW / Social Work / PPS Credential

A mi Papi y Mami, Ramon y Rosa, les dedico este momento a ustedes. Gracias por su apoyo y por los sacrificios que hicieron. Sin su amor y ánimo nunca hubiera llegado a este lugar. Tal y Miguelito, I love you two to death. Be happy in whatever you do and never forget where you came from. A mi Abuelita, te quiero mucho. To the lovely ladies of Lambda Sigma Gamma, thank you for giving me the best stories and memories of my life. IPSE! Oso, no words can describe the gratitude and appreciation I have for all of your support and encouragement. Love you, mor. To Juan Cruz, Minerva Chamorro, Richard Regua, Elizabeth Nava, Frank Espinoza, Tamika Brown, Ana Maria Pineda, Juan Velasco: your influence and encouragement has not been forgotten, Mil Gracias. MSW Cohort 3, I couldn't have made it through this journey without you. Friends and loved ones, thank you for everything, Next stop, PhD!

## MARIA MOMIN

MA / Speech Therapy

Gracias Dios por haberme permitido llegar a este día. A mis padres Bertha y Benjamin, gracias por el apoyo y el cariño que siempre me han brindado. Agradesco los consejos y motivación que me brindaron mis hermanas Martha, Magy y Gloria y mi hermano Isidro. A mis abuelitos que son amor y inspiración, muchas gracias. A mis sobrinos, Veronica, Giselle, Karina, Eduardo, Marcoantonio, Alfredo, Ysidro Alberto, y Dominic gracias por su ternura. A mis maestros, les agradezco su apoyo y su confianza. Reconozco el compromiso de ayudar a nuestra comunidad. To the love of my love, my husband Avis, I am forever grateful for your love, support and motivation. I would not be here without the love and support of my entire family. Yo no hubiera logrado este triunfo sin el apoyo de mi familia.



## ANGÉLICA OCHOA

MA / Counseling Education / PPS Credential

Primero que nada, quiero darle las gracias a mi madre que siempre ha sido mi fuente de inspiración y apoyo. Siempre me inculco buenos valores y me enseño que todo en esta vida se puede alcanzar con un poco de trabajo. Es por ella que aspiro ser alguien en la vida y poder ayudar a mi comunidad. I would also like to thank my family, mis hermanos; Javier, Freddy, José y a todos aquellos que siempre me dieron la mano y buenos consejos para poder echarle mas ganas al estudio. To my friends that have been there for me through the good and bad times, Diane, Crunchy, and Debbie, you taught me the meaning of true friendship and I would be lost without you guys, I love you! To all my EDCO friends I have made along the way, thanks for the good memories, Sylvia you made Africa rock! To Duy, thank you for being who you are and teaching me that the biggest satisfaction in life comes from helping others without expecting anything in return, I love you!





## MARIANA VARELA

MA / Counseling Education / PPS Credentials

Primeramente que nada, le quiero dar gracias a Dios por darme la vida y la fortaleza para seguir luchando por mis sueños. También le quiero dar gracias a mi mamá que es mi angelito que me cuida y me guía a donde quiera que voy. A mi hermanito Ruben, a mi pedazito de luz Marianita, a papa. Mil gracias a la Familia Alvarez: Rena, Claus, Florecita, Jesse, Luis, Miguel, Aida, Karo, Maye, sin su apoyo y sin su amor, hoy no estaría aquí. A mis amigos: Alvaro, Ceci, Erikas, Felipe, Francisco, Iris, Jenn, Manuel, Mrs. Garcia, Paty, Rosa y a mis amigos de SJSU. Se los agradezco de corazón, a todos los que están conmigo hoy celebrando un sueño más. Los quiero mucho.

## MARIA ZAVALA

MS / Occupational Therapy

¡Gracias! a toda mi familia por todas sus oraciones y cariño que me llenaron de esperanza y valor. Mi graduación es el fruto de su apoyo incondicional. Hoy que nuestro sueño se convierte en realidad, comparto mi orgullo con todos los que me quieren. Mañana tendré nuevas metas que alcanzar que me lleven a logros ahora inimaginables. Gracias por todo su amor.



## LILIAN PATRICIA ZELAYA TALERO

MSW / Social Work / PPS Credential

Primordialmente agradezco a mis padres, William y Claudia Zelaya, por su amor incondicional, paciencia, y por sincero apoyo durante el transcurso de mi vida académica y personal. Con sus constantes esfuerzos y sacrificios hoy logro un sueño; Mi Maestría. ¡Gracias papi y mamá! También les doy las gracias a mis hermanas Janice y Vicky por su amor todos estos años y apoyarme en momentos alegres y retos de mi vida. Finalmente, estoy agradecida con Alfredo por apoyarme, motivarme, y ayudarme desde el inicio de la Maestría de Trabajo Social. Gracias familia por creer en mí y por ser mis fuerzas y ánimo para continuar mis estudios. ¡Lo logre, los quiero a todos!







## ME ENCANTA SER LATINA

Melva Reyes

Nosotros los latinos somos pachangueros, inteligentes y trabajadores. Todos nosotros nos caracterizamos por trabajar innumerables horas para tener una vida estable. La inteligencia de nosotros los latinos se demuestra en la oportunidad de nuestra gente que celebran hoy el de sacar una carrera universitaria; Y para hacerle gala a nuestros dotes de pachangueros este es un motivo especial para celebrar por lo alto.

Hace nueve años, yo era una Salvadoreña mas recién llegada a este país, con muchas ilusiones esperanzas y proyectos. Con el transcurso del tiempo mi nacionalidad empecé a identificarme con mi étnico Latino. Este país me dio la oportunidad de conocer muchas personas de distintas nacionalidades de Latino-América. Y es así como yo aprendí de otras culturas que yo no conocía antes de mi llegada a este país. Me imagino que muchos como yo llegaron a este país con una nacionalidad pero luego ya estando aquí nos identificamos con una sola raza, la raza Latina. De la cual yo me siento muy orgullosa de pertenecer.

Es lindo ser considerada una mujer latina ya que nos identifica como una mujer luchadora. Una mujer Latina no se da por vencida, al contrario cuando se propone logra sus objetivos, no descansa hasta lograrlos. La mujer Latina es bella, inteligente, hogareña, y sobretodo se caracteriza por dar amor a su familia. Por eso es lindo ser considerada Latina. Nuestro coraje por salir adelante nos ayuda a sobrepasar los obstáculos y salimos adelante no tomando en cuenta cuanto cueste obtener nuestras metas. Así que mis queridas Latinas muchas felicidades por coronar una carrera universitaria, les deseo lo mejor y espero que sigan triunfando. Como dice nuestra querida Cristina "para adelante a como puedan porque para atrás ni para agarrar impulso."

Queridos latinos hay veces que la vida nos reta con cosas muy difíciles pero cuando hay amor, fortaleza, fé, y esperanza, eso nos mantiene vivos para seguir adelante enfrentando el miedo y el temor. Unámonos todos, lo necesitamos, dejemos la competencia y hagamos de nuestra raza Latina una alianza muy fuerte. Nosotros podemos y juntos todos triunfaremos. Felicidades a todos los Latinos que hoy se gradúan.

Que Dios los bendiga por su gran valentía y dedicación.





## KARINA AGUILAR

**BS / Justice Studies Minor / Mexican American Studies**

Antes que nada quisiera dar gracias a Dios por haberme permitido llegar a esta etapa de mi vida. Tambien quiero agradecer a mis padres Rigoberto Aguilar y Guillermina Galvez de Aguilar, que con su apoyo incondicional, consejos y valores me impulsaron a seguir adelante. A mi hermana Alejandra que hasta el dia de hoy a puesto un buen ejemplo como hermana mayor. A mi hermana Sandra que siempre me motiva a seguir adelante y ser un buen ejemplo para ella. A mi prima Gaby que considero como una hermana ya que siempre hemos estado juntas desde kindergarden. Los quiero mucho! Finalmente a mi angelito, gracias por cuidar de mi y estar siempre a mi lado.

## ULYSES ALEMAN

**BA / Behavioral Science and Sociology  
Minors / Business and Political Science**

Primero, quiero agradecer a DIOS y a mis padres por haberme ayudado alcanzar esta meta. Muchas gracias a mi familia por apoyarme en hacer este sueño una realidad. I really thank my girlfriend Lucy for helping me in my ups and downs these last four years. This is just the first of many steps. I have yet to encounter and experience many things that God and life bring forth to me. Arriva Las CHIVAS y MICHOACAN!!!



## CARMINA ALVARADO

**BA / Child and Adolescent Development**

Me gustaria agradecer a mis maravillosos padres, Armando y Carmen Alvarado, por su amor y su apoyo incondicional. A mis hermanos y hermanas, gracias por cuidarme. A mis sobrinas y sobrinos, recuerden que "la educacion es la clave del exito". Por ultimo, a Robert Valdivia, gracias por siempre creer en mi.



## FRANCISCO J. ALVARADO

**BS / Justice Studies**

Quiero agradecer a mi familia por todo el apoyo que me han brindado. Thanks to my girlfriend for her support, patience and love. I love you Normal! I want to thank my fraternity brothers for making school exiting. Also, thank you SAHISTAS for believing in my radical ideas. With your help, the student movement will survive. LONG LIVE THE STUDENT MOVEMENT! QUE VIVA EL MOVIMIENTO ESTUDIANTIL "Como dijo el Che Guevara, "HASTA LA VICTORIA SIEMPRE"





## MANUEL GUERRA ANDRADE

BS / Justice Studies Minor / Mexican American Studies

Ahora que ha terminado este capitulo en mi vida, quiero dar las gracias a mi familia Guerra y Andrade por haberme influido positivamente hacia mi educación, cultura y valores. Y agradecer a mi abuelita mom y mi mamá Rosa por todos sus sacrificios que han hecho por mi y nuestra familia. Gracias a Mónica por haberme soportado en mis decisiones y estar en mi vida tantos años con amor y paciencia. Finalmente, Gracias a mis amigos y a mis hermanos de por vida Gamma Zeta Alpha por tantas memorias inolvidables.



## MARIA ISABEL ANDRADE

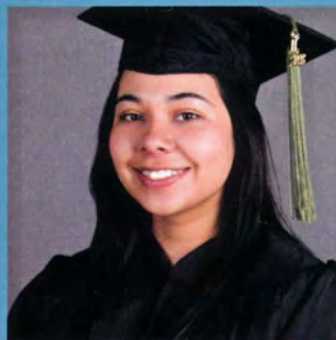
BS / Business Administration, Concentration in Management  
Minor / Spanish

Primero que nada le quiero dar gracias a Dios por haberme permitido llegar a esta etapa de mi vida. A mis padres: Rodolfo y Rosario, gracias por el amor y el apoyo que siempre me han brindado. Gracias a mis hermanos: Juan, Roberto, Mayra, y Alma porque cuando casi me daba por vencida ellos fueron mi motivación y inspiración para seguir adelante. A toda mi familia y amigas gracias por el apoyo. Finalmente lo logramos!!

## AMERICA BAILON

BS / Justice Studies

I did it! Thank you, mommy and daddy for your love and support. Big sis, Edith, because of you I wasn't scared to get out and grow up. Efrain, thank you for teaching me to BE and for always pushing me to succeed. Big bro, Felipe, stay focused and keep going to school. Frances, thank you for making me into a strong and confident woman. Sunny, Ivy, and Jaime, always remember that anything is possible.



## LIZETTE BERROSPE

BS / Health Science Administration Minor / Biological Science

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my parents for raising me with high values towards life, relationships, family and my education. Thank you to my beautiful sisters Maria, Sara and Adeline -you girls always have been there for me and bring me such happiness! I want to thank all my friends and family -for all the totally awesome memories! I would like to also thank all my buddies from CHE, SAL, ASPIRE and Health Science! I feel truly blessed to have reached a point in my life that I am so happy and excited for what is to come!





## MARÍA BUELTRÓN

**BS / Justice Studies BA / Sociology Minor / Spanish**

Le doy gracias a Dios por haberme dado la dicha de cumplir uno de mis sueños. Gracias a mis padres, Salvador y Lourdes, por haberme apoyado día a día. Yury y Sol, gracias por haberme soportado todo este tiempo. Agradecimiento especial a Edgar, mi prometido, por haber estado conmigo en las buenas y malas. Finalmente, muchas gracias Ari y Mimi... ¡Sí se pudo!

## LILY CARDENAS

**BA / Psychology Minor / Spanish**

Agradezco de todo corazón que Dios me haya dado una familia donde el amor y el apoyo es incondicional. Papi, gracias a usted, hoy camino por esta nueva etapa de mi vida. Mom, thank you por tu cariño, consejos, y amistad. To my brother and all my sisters- I love you guys! Richard, love you amor and thanks for believing in me. Con mucho orgullo, I dedicate this accomplishment to my family and friends.



## NANCY CASTAÑEDA

**BS / Human Resources Minor / Justice Studies**

Le quiero dar las gracias a mis padres, Juan y Ofelia, por siempre darme el apoyo que e necesitado para estudiar. Les quiero decir a mis padres que no solamente yo me e recibido de SJSU, si no, ellos se han recibido conmigo. Ustedes son los mejores padres del mundo y juntos lucharemos! Juan, Gloria & Antonio thank you for your patience! Jorge, gracias por tu ayuda y apoyo en estos años! Los quiero muchísimo.



## HENRY CATALAN

**BS / Business Administration / Concentration in Management**

Primero quero decirles gracias a dios y a mis padres que sacrificaron tanto para mí en mi camino para una educación más alta. Ver sus fuerzas me ha dado la voluntad para tener éxito y para alcanzar mas metas para muchos años que seguín. Deseo agradecer a mi hermano Walter que me ayudó siempre y mi hermana Jessica que siempre me recordaba guardar mi sentido del humor. Doy gracias a mi familia siempre que está allí motivandome y aconsejandome hacia la dirección del éxito. A todos mis hermanos de Gamma Zeta Alpha que me han levantado cuando estaba luchando con mis estudios e inspirado me para alcanzar a las tapas de pirámides que no podría imaginar solo. Debo muchos de mis experiencias e aprendizaje de la vida a San Jose junto con cada uno que estaba allí pasando lo conmigo.





## TIMOTHY CHAPARRO

BA / Design Studies / Graphic Design Minor / Photography

Well, for starters I just want to thank my family, even if they don't show it they have been inspiration throughout all the years. I just hope I can be that one to make them proud and be the role model for all the rest. As far as all those I met in my college career, thank you for all the memories and a once in a lifetime experience.



## JULIE CORTEZ

BS / Justice Studies Minors / Sociology and Spanish

Primeramente quiero darle gracias a Dios por permitirme llegar a este punto de mi vida, a mi madre Catalina Cortez por su apoyo, consejos y amor incondicional. A mi padre que desde el cielo me ha cuidado y guiado por el buen camino. Edgar thanks for your support I love you brother. Fabiola thank you for being a great role model in my life. To all my girls you know who you are thank you for all the fun memories. To my boyfriend Cruz thank you for your love and support I couldn't have done it without you I love you baby. Finalmente gracias a toda mi familia que me apoyo durante mi carrera. Los quiero mucho!

## LEONARDO CORTEZ

BS / Justice Studies Minors / Business Accounting and Sociology

Primeramente le doy gracias a mis padres Ortencia y Leonardo Cortez por el apoyo que me han brindado durante esta etapa de mi vida. Espero que este logro se refleje en los esfuerzos y sacrificios que han echo por mi. Alma gracias por tener a la familia como prioridad. Antonio y Lupita se que cuento con ustedes siempre. Ariana, Thank you for your unconditional support. Thanks to all the homies for believing in me.



## MAYRA CORTEZ

BA / Sociology Minors / Spanish and Justice Studies

De todo Corazón les quiero agradecer a mis padres José y Beatriz Cortez por todo su apoyo y amor incondicional. Los quiero muchísimo, son los mejores padres del mundo. Mil gracias a todas mis hermanas y hermanos por estar ahí en todo momento de mi vida apoyándome. Mario thank you for all your love and care, you are the best. To my friends, thanks for all those fun times.





## STEVE CORTEZ

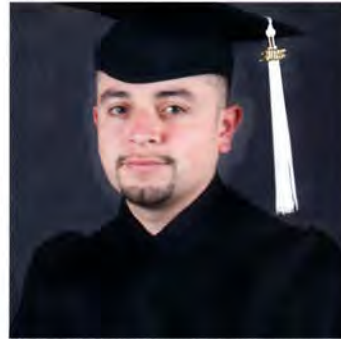
BA / Design Studies / Graphic Design Minor / Business

My thanks to Steve Jacob Cortez, Ariana Michelle Cortez, David Christian Cortez, Sara, Miguel, Mom and Dad, all the rest of my friends, family, teachers, Foothill, SJSU Film Production Society, Entrepreneurial Society, and The Music Room. You have all helped me get to where I am one way or another. "...encourage me, and I will not forget you." Thank you God for everything I've been through -S nevEr Odd Or eveN --steveco

## JOSE ANTONIO DELGADO BELTRAN

BA / Liberal Studies

Queridos padres, Irma y Jose Delgado, como puedo agradecerles por to do el apoyo, sacrificios, y mas importante el amor incondicional dado siempre. Me gustaria agradecerle a mis hermanas Veronica, Laura, Cecilia, y Mia, yo amo a mi familia por siempre estando alli por mi. I would also like to thank my friends who I think of as brothers, Lionel, Armando, Cruz, and my cousin Albert. Sin mi familia y mis amigos no se si estaria aqui graduando.



## ARIANA DUARTE

BS / Justice Studies BA / Sociology

Primeramente le doy gracias a mis padres Josefina y Jacobo Duarte por su amor y apoyo incondicional. I also want to thank my other-half my sister Mirna for always being there, my sister Daisy who has always been my role model and my brother Jacob, thank you guys. Thanks to Mary, Mimi and Vivi for being such good friends and a special thanks to Leonardo for being my backbone and always always believing in me. -ARI-

## MIRNA DUARTE

BFA / Interior Design

Agradeciendo a Dios por darme la oportunidad de dedicar este gran logro a mis padres Jacobo y Josefina Duarte por siempre apoyarme, los adoro. Thank you to both of my sisters Ana and Daisy for always being beside me. To all my friends especially Annabel for being my design buddy. A special thank you to my boyfriend Juan Manuel who has helped me throughout these years. Finalmente gracias a toda mi familia por siempre tener fe en mi.





## ERICA ELIAS

BA / Sociology Minor / Justice Studies

Graduation! I can't believe the past four years have gone by so fast, with many memories and good times I will never forget. Thank you, Mom and Dad for all your love and support throughout the years and for pushing me to do my best. To my Family, Gramps, Granny Goose, Andres and Popi thank you for always being there, believing in me, and putting a smile on my face. Janky Jingles, D-Money, Lluvia, #s 1, 6, 8, Ali, Gigi, Victoria, Sandra and Amoson thanks for all you've brought to my life, making my college experience AWESOME!! Amor y Paz!! :)



## DANIEL GALVEZ

BS / Justice Studies Minors / Social Work

My name is Daniel Galvez, I was born in Indio, California on February 8th 1983. Through hard work and dedication, our parents later migrated to Bakersfield, California during the 1980's. During the last seven years I have dedicated myself to hold a full-time job and full-time student status. Everything I have accomplished would not have been possible without the support of my family. I just want to say thanks to my family for being there for me when I most needed them and being here for me now on this important day.

## ARTURO JAVIER GONZALEZ JR.

BS / Business Administration / Management

I am 23 years old, born and raised in Northern California from South San Francisco. I come from a close Mexican family of four, my parents Arturo and Maria, and my sister Vanessa. I am the first one in my family to graduate college and very proud to do so. Being where I am today has come with many triumphs and failures, but throughout everything my family has been there so this is for them.



## CARLOS MARTINEZ GONZALEZ

BA / Design Studies / Graphic Design Minor / Sociology

Primero, gracias a Dios por todas sus bendiciones. Gracias a mis padres por sus sacrificios, su apoyo y amor. No hay suficiente tiempo para agradecerles por todo lo que han hecho por mi. Gracias a mis hermanos y mi familia por todo su apoyo. Gracias a todas las otras personas que me han ayudado. Thank you to my San Jose friends and my brothers of Alpha Kappa Omega for being my family away from home.



## WE ARE THE LEADERS WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR, REFLECTIONS ON THE DREAM

Corinna Reyes

For us, all woman and men, to obtain an undergraduate or graduate degree, the dream came true because it was ours.

Climbing our way through college did not always come easy because of certain paths of resistance. Some of us had to work, had to raise children, or had fewer support than others to pursue a degree, did not work and had mothers who would tell us to "just get a job," but we all agree it was worth the wait. Even though, some of us were poor and fought for our education as we struggled to make ends meet and went to Subway for lunch because they accepted the EBT card. Some of us were well-off, "got cash" or rich and wanted an education to prove that we can be a better person. What ever the intention was, we made it through together.

While San Jose lost their title of the "safest city" within the past year, we knew we did not have a part in the increase of crime, violence, and gang activity because it took some of us six years instead of four to graduate with a BA or BS and we were in school at that time.

Today, within this vast number of people, us with native traditions graduate and reflect the intelligence and potential of our people. Some of us will go on to obtain a doctorate degree from Law school, Medical school, or another University, while others will go back to their jobs or learn a new career. Although our pasts do remain the same from this day forth, our futures have been infiltrated, and affected. We leave proud to have graduated from this stepping stone, called San Jose State University, and start our future today. As intelligent and accomplished individuals that we are, we leave here today showing this world what our beautiful people are capable of. Each and every one of us is a rising star in our people and in our community.

We can say we are all winners and our dreams do not fail us because we are a people who never quit dreaming. We are a success.







1968  
JUEGOS DE LA XIX OLIMPIADA MEXICO 68





## ROBERT GRIGGS

**BS / Aviation Operations Minor / Business**

First of all, I want to thank my mother and the rest of my family for being my biggest supporters in receiving my higher education. Times like these make me appreciate all the times they were hard on me to make me a well educated gentleman. All the time and effort they have taken in order to make sure I headed in the right direction now pays off. Tambien le quiero dar gracias a Mama Dorita porque tomo su tiempo y paciensa para educarme y crear un hombre con buenos morales. Hay tantos miembros de familia que me gustaria mensionar por el impacto que han echo en mi vida. I also want to thank all my friends who created a fun environment and many memories through out my college career.

## LIZA M HERRERA

**BA / Broadcast Journalism**

Primeramente a mis Padres, nunca podre repagarles lo que han hecho por mi en esta vida, el diploma que les entrego hoy es solamente el principio. To my inspiring siblings, I knew I could do it because you guys did it first. You two are the best role models a little sister could ask for. To Danny, You had your life cut short months before your own graduation, but I walk the stage today for the both of us. You motivated me in more ways than I thought possible. I love you primo, que descanses en paz.



## NOEMÍ HUITRÓN

**BA / Behavioral Science BA / Sociology Minor / Spanish**

Gracias Dios mió por haberme permitido terminar una etapa muy importante de mi vida. A mis padres, Evaristo y Rosa, gracias por el apoyo y el cariño que me han brindado. Le doy gracias a toda mi familia en especial a mis hermanas: Xochitl, Esmeralda, y Alejandra. Gracias a mis abuelos que son una inspiración inmensa para mi. Los quiero a todos! Special thanks to all my friends that helped me keep my head up. I did it!



## JAZMINE TELLEZ HURTADO

**BA / Sociology Minor / Spanish**

WOW! No puedo creer que mi sueño se haya realizado! Estoy muy agradecida con Dios, mi familia y especialmente con mis padres; que han sido las figuras mas importantes en mi vida. Con su ejemplo. me enseñaron que no hay barreras en el mundo que no se puedan romper para lograr lo que uno se propone. Muchisimas gracias por amarme y apoyarme incondicionalmente durante el transcurso de mis estudios! Si se puede!





## FRANCISCO JAUREGUI JR.

BS / Mechanical Engineering Minor / Mathematics

The climbing wasn't always so easy, but the peak was definitely worth striving for. I want to give special thanks to my family and friends who have been there to help and support me in the times of need through these college years. In addition, I want to particularly thank my mom and dad who I consider are my heroes because their discipline and push kept me focused in my life as a student.



## SERGIO A. JIMENEZ

BA / Political Science

I am not myself; at least, I am not the same person I was when I started this journey. My undergraduate experience has changed me more than I thought possible. I now have a clear view of the world; its contradictions and the possibilities for change. The change within would not have been possible without the support and love of my beautiful wife Patricia and the understanding of my kids, especially Sergio and Maya, who knew that if dad was not home, he was studying. I want to thank my mother Sabina for instilling in me the work-ethic and the idea of moving forward. I will carry this as I move towards the next phase of my education and hope to show her that her sacrifice has not been in vain.

## LIZETTE LORENZO MARTINEZ

BA / Spanish BS / International Business

Mama gracias por todo lo que haces por mi y por ser la MEJOR del mundo, Te quiero mucho! Papa agradezco mucho tu sentido del humor, love you!! To my step dad, thank you for understanding and supporting me in my education. Tia Cecy gracias por tu apoyo. A mis beautiful and fabulous sisters who have helped me in more ways than they know. I love you girls SOOO much!!! A mi familia gracias por su amor incondicional. To my friends & SOPhi sisters thank you for the wonderful memories, muah!!



## DIANA MEDRANO

BS / Justice Studies

My name is Diana Medrano and I'm proud to announce that I am the first college graduate in my family. It has been a long journey to reach this point in my life but worth every second of it. Although I had to overcome several obstacles in life, I was determined to accomplish my goal as a college graduate. I would like to thank my friends and my family for supporting me throughout my college career. I especially would like to thank my mom for always pushing me to the limit, encouraging me to always think positive and to never give up.





## ARNOLD MELGAR

**BS / Business Administration / Organization & Management  
Minor / Social Science**

First and foremost I would like to thank God for all that he has done for me. Mom you were the backbone of our family through all these years and somehow managed to raise three wonderful children through thick and thin, and for that I dedicate my degree to you. To my brother and sister (Marco, Lupe) thank you for always being there for me when I needed you. To my friends "The Circle," thanks for some of the best times of my life. To my NAK brothers, college would not have been the same without you.

## EDWIN ADALVERTO MENA

**BS / Business Administration / Management**

First I want to thank the man above for he has bless me in life and especially throughout my college years. Maria Mena gracias por hacer un excelente madre, sin su apoyo y sacrificio no se que hubiera hecho con mi vida. Para Miguel Mena, Baby Jesus, tios, tias, y primos gracias por el amor que me han dadon. To my best friend Rocio, thank you for always being there and showing nothing but support. Of course, to the Brothers of Lambda Theta Phi, without you guys this journey would have been impossible. I am honor to stand beside a group I can call family and brotherhood for life. Thank you.



## ROSA MURILLO

**BS / Justice Studies**

Todavía no lo puedo creer! Mi graduación de la Universidad es el momento que he estado esperando por mucho tiempo. El sacrificio por fin tuvo su recompensa. Han sido años muy difíciles, especialmente los dos últimos, pero como siempre, mi familia siempre estuvo ahí. Padres, hermanos quiero darles las gracias por darme ese apoyo, motivación y amor porque sin ustedes nunca lo hubiese logrado. Los quiero mucho!!!



## DANMAR NUILA

**BA / Radio -Television-Film Minor / Sociology**

I am 22 years old, born and raised in Southern California. In a city called Downey. I am half Mexican and Salvadorian thanks to my parents, Hermila and Roberto Nuila. I have three beautiful sisters, which makes me, the middle child. Also, I am the first in my family to attend college. I am a bit of a goofball with a strong attitude and kind heart. Dancing, football, and television are some of my passions.





## ANTONIO GONZALEZ NUÑEZ

BS / Political Science Minor / Administration of Justice

I want to Thank God and my Family first of all. My Professors, MEChA, & all the friends who have helped me become the man I am today. For giving me the strength & fortitude to change myself and the things within my power and the wisdom & understanding to accept all the things I can not change. Always have faith in God.



## YULISMA SEGURA ORTIZ

BA / RTVF / Video and Film Production Minor / Theatre

First I'd like to thank God for blessing me with all the opportunities that allowed me to come this far. A mis padres por haberme brindado su apoyo y por el amor incondicional que me han demostrado siempre. Gracias por creer en mi. Los Amo! To my Sigma Alpha Zeta sisters for believing in me and for always standing by me during the good and the bad. Luv ya lots! HEY HEY!!!

## ANTONIO JUAN PEREZ

BA / Justice Studies

Primero quiero dar Gracias a Dios y gracias al grande apoyo y amor de mis padres Antonio y Marcela, mis hermanos, Nancy y Alex. Para mi futura esposa, Mari, gracias por tanto apoyo. Mi hija, que esta por nacer, esto es para ti, para poder ofreserte una major vida. Gacias a toda mi familia, Los quiero. Esto es un gran comienzo a mi futuro



## GILBERT ANDREW PINEDA

BA / Design Studies / Graphic Design

First of all, I would like to thank the lord up above because if it wasn't for him, I would not have the drive and passion that I do today. Also I would like to thank my family and close friends for their continuous support, you all mean the world to me. "If art is a crime, then may GOD forgive me!"





## **NORMA ISELA RAMÍREZ MARTÍNEZ**

**BA / Behavioral Science BA / Psychology Minor / Spanish**

Quiero darles las gracias a mis padres Herminio y Sabina ya que sin ellos no estaría aquí. Mis hermanos Ray, Jorge, y José ya que todo este esfuerzo es para ellos. A mi inspiración de superación, Ixzel, baby this is for you. A Rigo, por siempre recordarme de mi objetivo y nunca darme por vencida. A mis familiares y amigos por creer en mí. A Pancho, gracias amor por estar siempre conmigo, Te Amo.

## **RICARDO GERARDO RAMIREZ-GONZALEZ**

**BA / Child and Adolescent Development**

My name is Ricardo Gerardo Ramirez Gonzalez. I was born on April 3rd 1982 in Mexico City, Mexico and I was raised in San Jose, California. I graduated from William C. Overfelt High School and I began my college career in De Anza College where I received an AA degree. I then decided to transfer to San Jose State. I am the oldest of three and the first to graduate from a university. In all, this accomplishment beyond any rewards that it can bring me nothing holds more value to me than seeing the look in my parent's eyes when I receive my diploma



## **VIOLETA RAMIREZ**

**BA / Sociology**

Primeramente quiero dar gracias a mis padres: MANUEL y YOLANDA RAMIREZ por apoyarme en seguir con mis estudios. Por todos sus esfuerzos les agradezco. A ellos les debo todo lo que tengo hasta mi propia vida. Los quiero tanto. A mi hijo JARED: esto es para ti: i luv u my baybay! MANNY & YARELI: thanks for taking care of Jared so I could study or sleep. I did it and I'm Out!

## **YESENIA MARIE RAMIREZ**

**BA / Behavioral Science**

First to my husband and best friend, Ulises, you have been my inspiration throughout this journey. I love you! Uriel, my precious son, I dedicate this accomplishment to you. También quiero agradecerles a mis padres Celia y Octavio y a mi hermano Yair por su amor y apoyo todos estos años. To my family and friends, thank you for your support and encouragement. I love you all, los quiero a todos.





## JUAN MANUEL RAYAS

BA / Political Science

Quiero darle las gracias a mis padres Juan Manuel y Sara Rayas por su amor, apoyo y todos los sacrificios que han hecho por motivarme a salir adelante. A mis hermanas y hermano Alma, Vanessa, y Andrei, thank you for always being there for me and for helping me become the man I am today. To all my friends, thank you, I'll like to especially thank my wonderful girlfriend Mirna for always believing in me and for her unconditional love.



## EDGAR RAYGOZA

BA / International Business Minor / Spanish

I would like to give special thanks to all those who supported me during my college experience. This goes out to all my family, friends and brothers from Nu Alpha Kappa Fraternity who never gave up on me and motivated me to continue my education and get ahead in life. I would really like to dedicate this accomplishment to my parents Cristina and Miguel Raygoza, without their unique and encouraging motivation methods i never would have accomplished such a goal. Muchas Gracias. HAHA I DID IT!!!

## CORINNA REYES

BA / Political Science Minor / Journalism

As I end this academic chapter in my life at SJSU, I thank God, Elizabeth and Felipe Reyes, my sisters/brother Christine, Suzanne, Priscilla, Elaine, Phillip, dear friends Davide, Sister Mary, and others. Congratulations to each and everyone I mentioned for your support/encouragement. Without you individuals, I would not be graduating from SJSU. I thank you! Now, that SJSU is behind me, law school is ahead. This is the new academic chapter of my life



## FILOMENA REYES

BA / Behavioral Science BA / Psychology Minor / Spanish

Primeramente, quisiera decirles a mamá y a papá muchas gracias por todo el sacrificio que han hecho por mí, para que pueda realizar mis metas. Sé que sin su apoyo todo esto no sería posible y quiero que sepan que los amo con todo mi corazón y espero verlos pronto! También me gustaría agradecerle a Zosi y a Javito por su amor y apoyo. Love you guys! Finalmente, espero ser un buen ejemplo escolar para mis chiquillas (all my cousins).





## MELVA ROSALYN REYES-MELÉNDEZ

BS / Justice Studies Minor / Legal Studies

A mi Divino Señor le agradezco por conceder graduarme. A mis padres David Reyes y María T. Meléndez les agradezco su incondicional amor hacia mí y también por siempre decirme que soy linda e inteligente. A David, Laura, Alejandrito, Victor, y toda mi familia, de corazón agradezco el apoyo que me brindaron, sin ustedes hubiera sido muy difícil. También agradezco a mis amigos por ayudarme a mantener la frente alta. Dios les bendiga a todos. Aprender un idioma, graduarse es un triunfo, graduarse con balotes es un orgullo.

## JOSE ROMERO

BS / Justice Studies Minor / Business

One of the most important things in life is education, and with this comes responsibility; the responsibility for an educated minority to help others in need. I'm thankful God has blessed me in this position. I wouldn't be graduating without the support of my parents Maria Elena, and Jesus Romero who have always given me their unconditional love and trust. Thanks; Samantha, Jacob, and Carolina you have always been a motivation for me to graduate.



## MARIA DE REFUGIO RUIZ

BS / Business Administration / Management Minor / Human Resources

Gracias Dios mio por haberme permitido terminar una etapa muy importante de mi vida. A mis padres, Sigifredo y Evelia, gracias por todo el apoyo y el cariño que me han brindado. Sin su apoyo nunca hubiera logrado nada. Le doy gracias a toda mi familia por haber confiado en mi. Gracias a mis abuelos que son una inspiración inmensa para mi. Los quiero a todos!!!! A todos mis amigos que me ayudaron a continuar asta el final de esta etapa cumplida gracias. Lo logre....Love you Gatito y Gatita !!!!!



## NALLELI YADIRA SANDOVAL CONTRERAS

BA / Behavioral Science BA / Psychology Minor / Spanish

Quiero dedicar este esfuerzo a mis padres Gerardo y Yolanda, por el sacrificio de toda su vida. A mi hermano Héctor, mis hermanas Dalia y Aimeé, y mis primos—ustedes son mi inspiración. Gracias a mis abuelos, tíos, y tías, por su apoyo y guianza incondicional a través de los años. Agradezco a mis amigas, y Lalo por siempre estar a mi lado. SAHEistas: gracias por cuatro años de luchas, y por las que vendrán.





## CHRISTINA SAUCEDO

BS / Nursing / RN Minor / Biological Science

Primeramente quisiera darle gracias a Dios por todo lo que me ha dado, incluyendo a mis maravillosos padres quienes me han guiado a la buena vida en dándome todo lo que tienen y por su buen ejemplo, también por mis familiares y buen amig@s quienes me han sorportado mis locuras, y por dándome el apollo para sobrevivir estos años tan difíciles. Gracias y los quiero mucho. Omateo



## BERNADETTE MARIE SUAREZ

BA / Sociology / Concentration in Criminology

To my wonderful husband Ricky and our children, Ricky III and Isabella...Thank you for your love, support, patience and understanding throughout this long journey. You have always been my strength and inspiration. I love you with all my heart! To my parents, Andrew and Debbie, brother Andrew, in-laws, Rick and Jerri, and my mentor, Laura...Thank you all for your help and encouragement through the years. I am so blessed to have you all in my life!

## MONICA G. TORRES

BS / Justice Studies

I would like to thank my parents and siblings for helping me financially, emotionally, and supporting me through every decision I made the past five years at SJSU. Without them, what I learned would not have been possible. I would also like to thank the rest of my peeps for their help. I graduate as a strong and driven individual ready to face the up's and down's of life. Time to Party!







## PRESERVING A NATIVE TRADITION: EDUCACIÓN

Perla M. Arellano

This semester, I decided to take a class outside my graduate program. Chicanas/os and Education, a Mexican American Studies class, exposed me to the key educational issues our Chicana/o youth have faced and continue to face. I thought I'd share a great learning experience with my graduating class.

An idea I learned in this course that I never narrowed down to one word was educación. Not in the literal sense, but educación as a native tradition that our parents and ancestors encourage us to embrace and demonstrate. Educación describes how nuestra familia instills in us "a sense of honorable, social, and personal responsibility and serves as the foundation for all other learning" (Valenzuela, 1999: 23). It is applied beyond the school setting and is carried over to society. Mis padres, both Mexican immigrants, always encouraged me and my sisters to apply ourselves in school and to take our education seriously. Although we each approached school differently and with unique experiences, we all graduated from high school and pursued higher education. They also instilled in us to be polite to people we met; to show respect to our family and to strangers, especially our elders; to take responsibility for our actions; to embrace our cultura and the diversity of our community; and most importantly, to always pursue our goals and dreams. By maintaining this educación throughout my life, I have honored my parents and ancestors.

This lesson we receive from our parents has undoubtedly helped each of us reach today's accomplishment. My motivation to pursue higher education and the constant support of my parents and sisters has been a huge blessing. However, not everyone is blessed with a strong support system. As college graduates, it is our responsibility to continue this native tradition by sharing this idea of educación and mentoring those around us who need positive role models. As educated Latinos, we need to give back to our community. So today, I ask my fellow classmates, mis hermanos y hermanas en esta comunidad académica, to please join me in not only acknowledging our parents and mentors, but also in holding open the door of education, success and hope for those who will follow in our footsteps. Necesitamos no sólo reconocer a nuestros padres y mentores, pero también tener abierta la puerta de la educación, el éxito y la esperanza para los que seguirán en nuestros pasos. ¡Que viva la tradición!

(Excerpt from Valenzuela, A. (1999). *Subtractive schooling : U.S.-Mexican youth and the politics of caring*. Albany, New York: State University of New York Press.)



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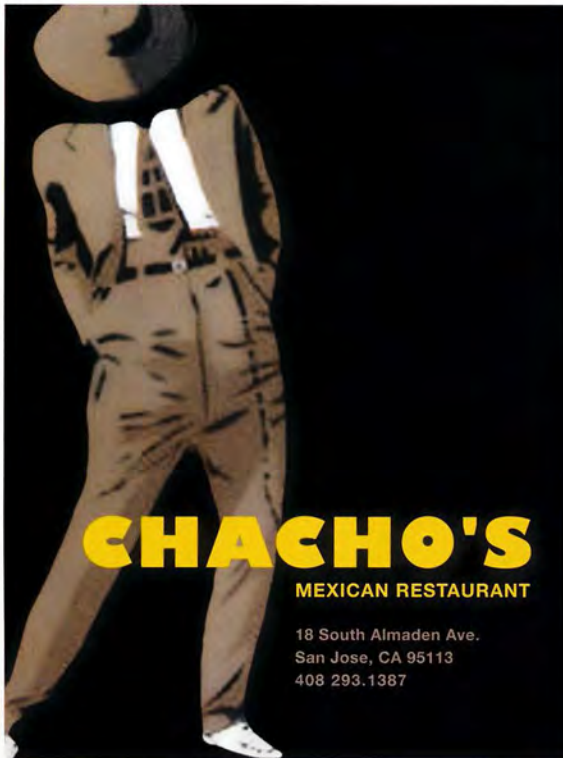
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## CONGRATULATIONS

Chicana/o and Latina/o Graduates  
San Jose State University - Spring 2008

The faculty and staff of the Mexican American Studies Department would like to extend our heartfelt congratulations to this year's graduating class. We 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.**

Jesus Covarrubias, Julia Curry-Rodriguez,  
Lou Holscher, Gregorio Mora-Torres,  
Marcos Pizarro, Kathryn Rios, Mildred Salazar,  
Phillip Tabera, and Erlinda Yañez.

The Chicano / Latino Faculty  
& Staff Association  
of San José State University  
**Congratulates the Class of 2008**



"Look for your passion and follow it, come what may, but do it from a Latino perspective, where you are guided by the effect of what you do on your family and your community. Being Latino is emotional, is spiritual, and to me it means moral structure: what is good, what is right, what is justice. All this will become more important as we go through some tough times ahead. We need to build on that."

David Hayes-Bautista  
Professor of Medicine and Health Services, UCLA



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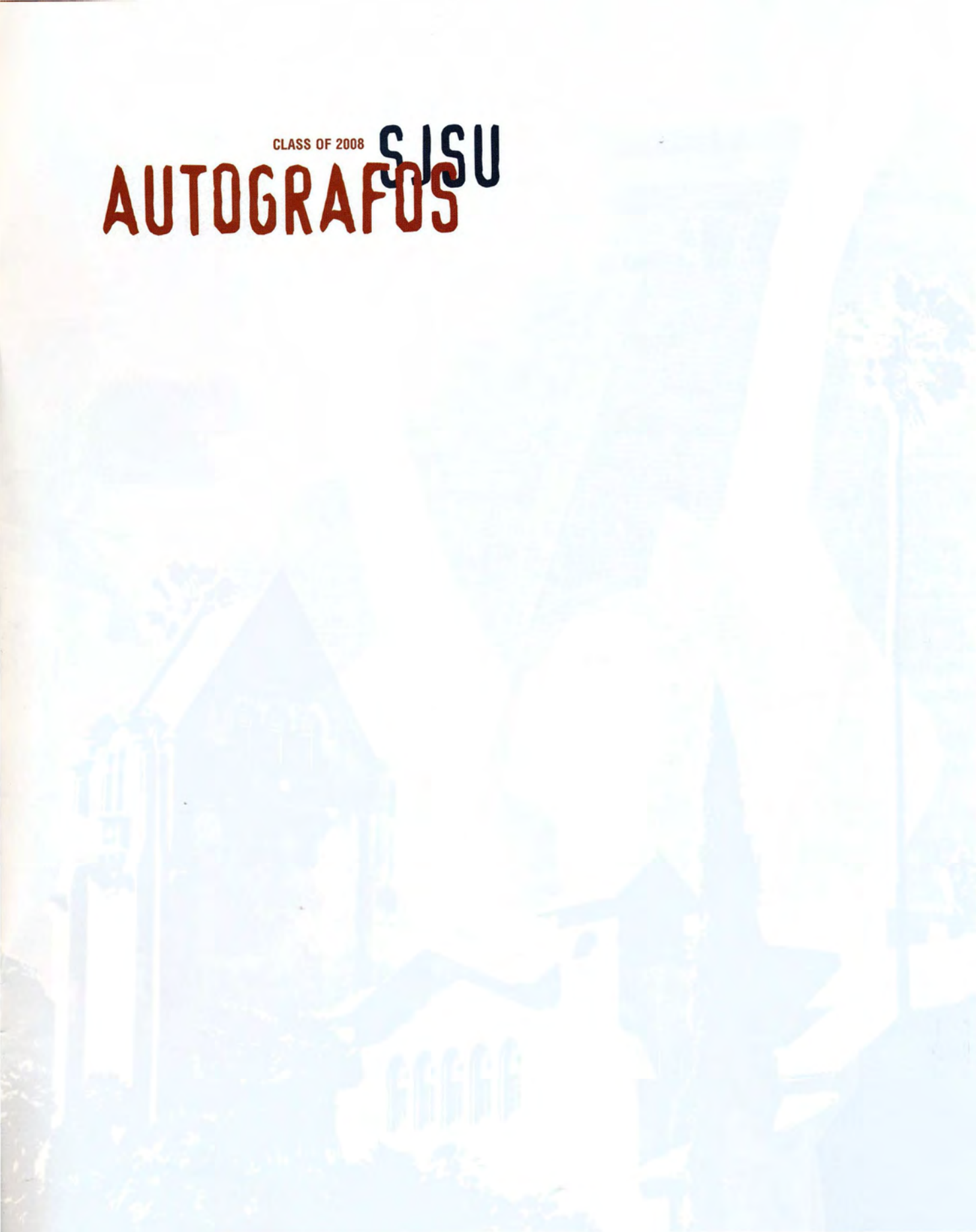
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