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#### 39th Chicano Commencement, 2009

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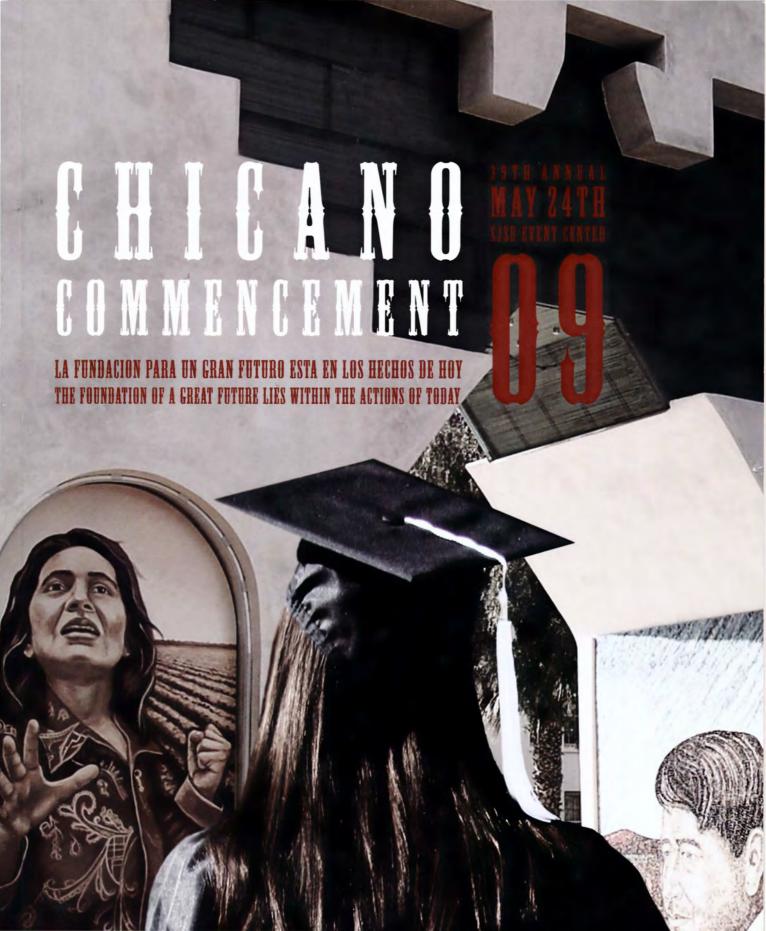
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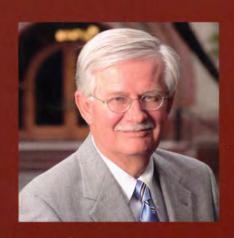
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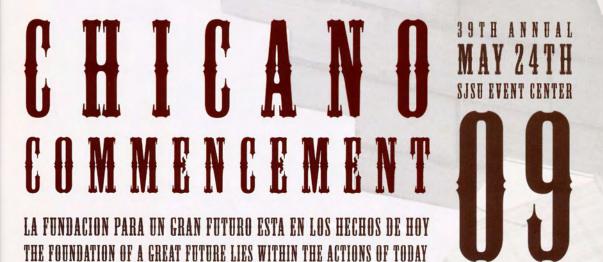
Congratulations Class of 2009! Commencement is not only the culmination of your college career, but also the beginning of your life as alumni of San José State University. Today you join the ranks of leaders and professionals who have graduated from this institution and have become a part of history. 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!



Jon Whitmore

Jon Whitmore President San José State University









# AGENDA

2:30 - 3:00

Registration of guests

3:00 - 4:00

**Appetizers** 

4:00 - 5:30

Dinner

Mariachi Tequila

Folklórico Los Lupeños de San José

Danza Azteca: Ehecatl Quetzalcoatl

#### 5:00

General Admission

#### 6:00 - 9:00

Ceremony

Blessing Ceremony by Ehecatl Quetzalcoatl

**Graduate Procession** 

Welcome by Co-Chairs: Erlinda Yañez and Ezequiel Deniz

Master of Ceremony: Leo Cortez Mistress of Ceremony: Silvia LaRosa Guest Speaker: Humberto Garza Keynote Speaker: Sal Castro

Graduates' Ceremony

Padrino: Gregorio Mora-Torres

Madrina: Martha Arévalo

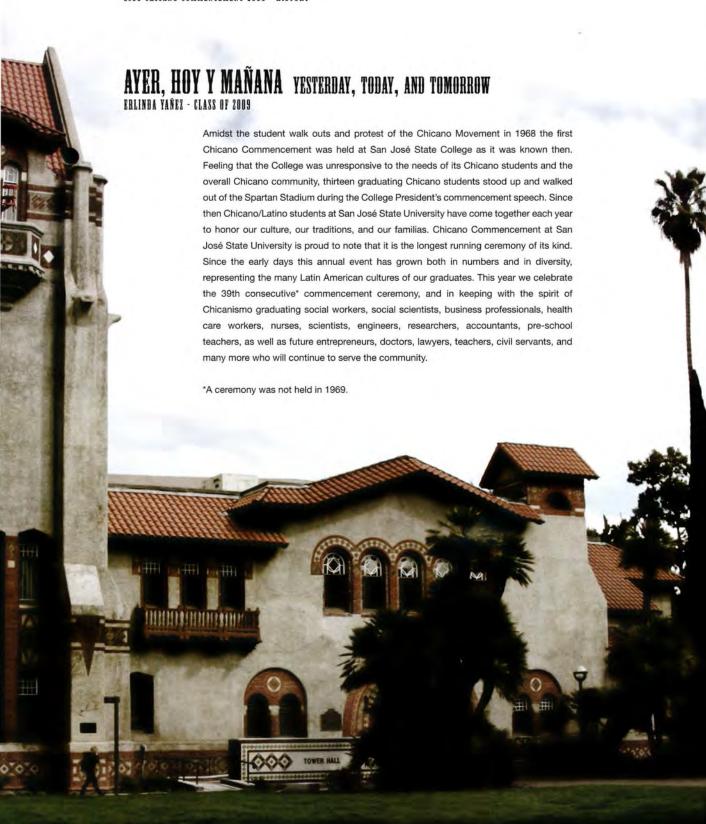
#### 8:00 - 1:00

Dance

Dueños del Sueño

Banda Kdt

DJ Mike López

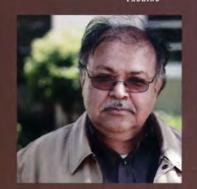


## MARTHA AREVALO



Born to Mexican farm worker parents from Michoacán, México, Martha was raised in Salinas, CA. Although her parents wanted the best for their five daughters, college was unthinkable. The vision of her parents' muddy pants and broken skin on their stained fingers from picking strawberries served as her reminder of the importance of an education. College did not become a reality until she met Sandy, through the Upward Bound program. Sandy, a Latina college student from UC Santa Cruz encouraged Martha and made college seem attainable. Martha attended Fresno Sate and received a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies with a minor in Spanish along with a Multiple Subject BCLAD Teaching Credential. After being a Bilingual teacher for six years at the elementary level in East San José, Martha became College Coordinator for the CA Mini-Corps program at San José State University, Migrant Region 1. For the past six years while at San José State University, she has worked closely mentoring and coaching Latino college students who aspire to become bilingual educators. Through the Mini-Corps program, together they provide academic support and mentor the migrant students as well as empower and educate the migrant parents and community in hopes to making a positive impact. Not ashamed of her parents or her humble upbringing, she now eats strawberries with greater appreciation and infinite respect for the hands that pick them.

## GREGORIO MORA TORRES



Professor Gregorio Mora -Torres was born in Tlalpujahua, Michoacan, Mexico and was raised in the Santa Clara Valley. To help his family, as a youth he worked in agriculturepicking cherries, apricots, pears, and grapes while also harvesting tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, and topping onions and garlic. Like the rest of his siblings, he pursued a college education because it was something that his parents expected him to achieve. Gregorio entered college in 1972 and in 1976, he graduated from Santa Clara University and then went to the UC Irvine to pursue a MA and PhD degrees in Latin American history, with an emphasis on Mexican history. In his doctoral dissertation, he studied entrepreneurs in 19th Century Sonora, Mexico. Beginning in 1988, he has taught at San Francisco State University (La Raza Studies), the UC Davis (Dept. of History), and, since 1989, at SJSU (Mexican American Studies Dept). Professor Mora Torres enjoys working with students--he has mentored some of them, he has given others career guidance, and he has helped others adjust to college life. Often, he joins students for a cup of coffee to explore topics on history or Chicano Studies or to just simply discuss the sport of soccer. He also relishes talking to parents and to community groups about education and history. Finally, he enjoys giving historic tours on Mexican San José. In addition to teaching, Dr. Mora-Torres has done extensive research and writing on Northern Mexico and Chicano history. In 2005, he edited and translated Californio Voices--the Spanish language oral memoirs of a 19th century Californio soldier. Don Jose Maria Amador, published by the University of North Texas Press. He has just finished editing the manuscript "A Californio at Santa Clara College: the 1861-62 Diaries of Jesus Maria Estudillo." Estudillo was a native 19th century Californio from San Leandro who studied at Santa Clara College. He is currently working on a two volume history of Mexicans in the Santa Clara Valley during the 19th and 20th centuries. Professor Mora Torres also serves as a resource person for radio, television, and print media on issues concerning Latinos in the United States as well as issues dealing with Latin America, in particular, Mexico. Lastly, he also gives presentations on the history of Mexicans in Northern California to academic and community groups.

## MARIA LUISA ALANIZ, PH.D. CHICANO COMMENCEMENT ADVISOR



María Luisa Alaniz is Professor and former Chair of the Social Science Department and Director of Social Science Teacher Education at San José State University. María received a BA, MA and Pupil Personnel Credential from San José State University and an Ed.S. in Educational Evaluation and Ph.D. in Sociology of Education from Stanford University. She conducted research on alcohol outlet density and youth violence in Mexican American communities at the Prevention Research Center in Berkeley from 1991 to 2000. María was the Co-Principal Investigator of studies funded by NIH, the California Wellness Foundation and the California Endowment. Her numerous articles on alcohol use among Mexican Americans, ethnic and gender specific targeted advertising and drinking patterns among women have been published in national and international scholarly journals in the alcohol field. Maria was raised in a farm worker family of all women in Stockton, California. Her latest research project, based in Stockton, investigates the effect of public policy on personal lives. Her hobbies include travel, hiking and reading.

## HUMBERTO GARZA



Humberto Garza, born in Eagle Pass, Texas, in 1940. In his early twenties he came to California in 1961. He was drafted in 1962 and served in the U.S. Armed Forces until he was honorably discharged in 1965. Using the GI Bill, he enrolled at San José City College in 1965 and then transferred to San José State College in 1967 where he received a BA in History in 1968. He later returned to SJSC to complete a MA from the Mexican American Graduate Studies Department in 1971. He enrolled in the Doctoral program at Stanford University in 1974 to 1976. He was appointed EOP Director at San José State College serving from 1969 – 1971 and taught at San José State University as a lecturer on and off until 1994. In between 1965 and 2000, he worked and organized for the UFWA, IAF, and PICO. Since retirement in 2000, he has written 5 books, played golf, and enjoyed life. Three of his books (historical polymics) have been published and a fourth is currently being edited for publication, due out by September 2009.

## LEO CORTEZ



Leo Cortez is a Human Resource Professional with 10 years of experience in the high-tech industry with another 10 in the field of education. He is a graduate of San José State University where he received his B.A. in History and a M.A. in Administration and Supervision. While earning his BA, he became a founding member of the first Latino Fraternity at SJSU, Gamma Zeta Alpha. Leo Grew up as a migrant farm worker in the Salinas Valley where he worked tirelessly to help his family of 15 (9 sisters and 6 brothers) make ends meet. He was inspired by a Migrant Education Program, "Yo Puedo", that anything was possible. With this in mind Leo has worked tirelessly to achieve his goals and has received numerous awards and accolades from student organizations, non profits and the industry. Mr. Cortez currently serves as a board member of the Mexican-American Alumni Association at USC where he helps raise scholarship money for deserving Latinos. He has also served on other boards and maintains membership with several organizations such as NACE, LISTA, Resources for Families and Communities, and NSHMBA. Leo continues his work in the community by serving as a mentor to several rising community leaders in San José and the Salinas Valley, delivering motivational and professional workshops to student organizations, and inspiring his nephews and nieces to achieve their dreams.

## SILVIA LAROSA



Silvia La Rosa was born and raised in Lima, Peru. La Rosa is the fifth kid with two brothers and two sisters. Since 2006, Silvia has been the School Coordinator of the School of Journalism and Mass Communications of San José State University. La Rosa holds a BA degree in Spanish and a BS in Business Administration, also from San José State University. La Rosa is a single mother and her son Jonathan is now a junior in High School. La Rosa encourages her son as well and students to pursue a college education and to overcome any obstacles that might arise along the way.

## SAL CASTRO



Sal Castro, a life long educator, is well known for his role in the 1968 "Blowouts" – student protests against unequal conditions at schools throughout the Southern California area.

Castro was born in East Los Angeles and received his early education in Los Angeles and Mexico. After graduating from Cathedral High School in Los Angeles, he served in the United States Army during the Korean War. Upon his discharge he attended Los Angeles City College and LA State. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Social Science and has done graduate work at UCLA and USC.

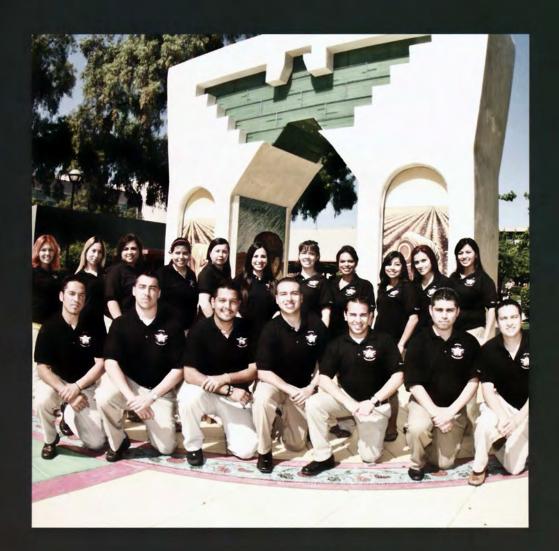
Castro's activism and commitment to improving educational opportunities for Mexican-American students span his entire career. As a graduate student at LA State, he and other graduate students on the Mexican-American Education Committee developed recommendations for improving education to the Los Angeles Board of Education which were mostly ignored. Ongoing meetings with Mexican-American college students resulted in a network of educational activists and the formation of the Mexican-American Youth Leadership Conference. The first conference, sponsored by the Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission, took place in 1963. Castro still organizes and presents these conferences now known as the Chicano Youth Leadership Conferences, Inc.

Castro has been honored by numerous organizations including the Los Angeles City Council, the Los Angeles Board of Education, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, the California State Assembly, the National Hispanic Media Association, the California Association of Bilingual Educators (CABE), Association of Mexican-American Educators (AMAE), and the Moviemiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan MECHA) at numerous state and private universities. He was invited to the White House and received a presidential award from former President Bill Clinton for community service. He was also recognized for his volunteer community involvement by former First Lady Laura Bush.

Castro has been invited to lecture at colleges and universities through the United States including Notre Dame, Wellesley, Princeton, Yale, University of Kentucky, UC Berkley, University of California Los Angels, University of Southern California, University of California Riverside. University of California San Diego, University of California Santa Barbara, University of California Davis, University of San Diego, San José State, San Diego State, University of Arizona, Arizona State University, Long Beach State, California State University Los Angeles and various community colleges in California and the Southwest. He is a popular keynoter and motivational historian at youth conferences throughout California.

Most recently, Castro's efforts during the 1968 Blowouts, for which he was arrested and charged with thirty counts of felony conspiracy, were featured in the full length HBO movie WALKOUT. All charges were dismissed by the California State Supreme Court citing the United States Constitution First Amendment's "Right of Redress of Grievances". Castro's story was also a part of the PBS series "Chicano" in the "Taking Back the Schools" segment.

Even though he is retired after 42 years as a high school teacher, Castro continues to be the volunteer Director of the Chicano Youth Leadership Conference, Inc. which presents bi-annual conferences for Southern California high school students. He is also a member of the LAUSD Inter-scholastic Athletic Committee, serves as a Commissioner on the Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation Commission, and is a part of the Los Angeles County Interagency Council on Child Abuse Prevention. He is the proud father of two sons and has two grandsons.



### 2009 CHICANO COMMENCEMENT COMMITTEE

Co- Chairs: Ezequiel Deniz and Erlinda Yañez
Co- Secretaries: Brenda Esparza
Co-Publicity & Recruitment Chair: Ricardo Miranda and Jose Tejeda
Co-Treasurer Chair: Andres Ruiz and Cristina Delgado
Co- Program Chairs: Claudia Mendivil and Edgar Hernandez
Co-Entertainement & Facilities Chair: Hector Garcia and Manuel Quintana
Co- Fundraising Chairs: Cinthia Rodriguez, Mayra Valdivia and Catalina Alvarez
Junior Representatives: Martha Zamora, Lupita Ramos and Monica Torres



#### WELCOME FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

Esteemed family, friends, and colleagues,

We would like to welcome everyone today to the 39th consecutive Chicano Commencement ceremony. It is with great honor and pleasure that we welcome you in this very important moment in our lives.

On this occasion of our graduation we would like to thank our families for their love, motivation, and support. Without which this day could not have been possible. We proudly stand here as a testament to the many sacrifices they endured to help us complete our hopes and dreams to further our education. Our varied experiences here at SJSU have brought us in contact with many important and amazing people. Yet none are no more important or any more amazing than our families, who stand tall in our eyes.

Graduation ceremonies often are occasions when we reflect back on our time as students, more importantly commencement is about new beginnings. As a graduating class, we have worked very hard facing many personal and academic challenges to perhaps be one of the first in our family to graduate with a degree. Today's celebration is about the achievements we have all accomplished because we have persevered to overcome the many obstacles placed before us. In the process we have learned from our mistakes and the examples of others. We leave San José State University knowing that we have set down the first building blocks for a brighter future. Thank you to the friends, mentors, and classmates who have supported us along the way.

We would like to express our joy and gratitude to the entire membership of the 2009 Chicano Commencement. It has been our pleasure and deepest honor to have worked alongside of you to make this day come true. The journey was filled with seemingly endless decisions to make and challenges to prevail over. Your positive attitudes, willingness to work hard, and constant support made it all worthwhile. It is our hope that as you look around at the joy our families and friends experience in being with us today that you take a great amount of pride in knowing we did it together!

Throughout the year it was often reflected on how many of us came from different walks of life, various student organizations, and differing student experiences, and yet somehow we collectively joined in unity to make this a memorable occasion for ourselves and our families. It wasn't easy but we've had many fun times, made new friends, and shown our community what can happen when we all work together. It is also our hope that you continue on your paths and remain an inspiration to the many that follow.

Congratulations Class of 2009 we wish you the best of luck and may this day be everything you hoped it would be!

Erlinda Yañez and Ezequiel Deniz

9 0

2009 Chicano Commencement Committee Chairs

#### BIENVENIDA DE LOS PRESIDENTES

Estimada familia, amigos y colegas,

Queremos darles la bienvenida a todos a la Trigésima Novena Conmemoración Chicana de la Universidad Estatal de San José. Con gran honor y placer les damos la bienvenida a este momento tan importante de nuestras vidas.

Hoy que es nuestra graduación queremos agradecer a nuestras familias por su amor, apoyo y motivación. Sin ustedes este día no hubiera sido posible. Enorgullecidos nos paramos ante ustedes como un testamento a los muchos sacrificios que han soportado para ayudarnos a alcanzar nuestros sueños de continuar nuestra educación. Varias de nuestras experiencias aquí en la Universidad nos han puesto en contacto con muchas personas increíbles e importantes. Sin embargo, ninguno es más importante o increíble como ustedes, que se mantienen en la cima de nuestra admiración.

A veces las ceremonias de graduación son ocasiones para reflejar hacia el pasado como estudiantes. Nuestra conmemoración es sobre nuevos comienzos. Como clase, hemos trabajado duro, a veces enfrentando retos personales y académicos, pero siempre sabiendo que llegaríamos a la meta final. Muchos de nosotros somos los primeros en la familia en graduarse de la universidad. Con ello viene la gran responsabilidad de asegurarnos de pasar la antorcha de enseñanza y determinación a las próximas generaciones. La celebración de hoy es sobre el éxito que hemos logrado a pesar de los muchos obstáculos que se nos han puesto en frente desde el primer día. En el proceso hemos aprendido de nuestros errores y de los ejemplos de aquellos que nos rodean. Dejamos la Universidad Estatal de San José sabiendo que hemos empezado la fundación para un futuro más brillante y exitoso. Gracias a los amigos, mentores y compañeros de clase que nos han apoyado en nuestra trayectoria.

También queremos expresar nuestra dicha y gratitud a todos los miembros del la Conmemoración Chicana del 2009. Ha sido nuestro placer e inmenso honor haber trabajado al lado de todos ustedes para lograr algo tan especial como lo es este día. Sus actitudes positivas, su buena disposición para trabajar duro y su apoyo constante lo hicieron valer la pena. Esperamos que al ver la alegría de sus familiares y amigos estar disfrutando de este bonito momento se enorquillezcan al saber que lo hicimos todos juntos.

Durante todo el año hablamos de como todos nosotros venimos de distintos caminos de la vida, varias organizaciones estudiantiles y diferentes experiencias académicas y aun así, de alguna manera, nos unimos como familia para hacer este día memorable para nosotros y nuestras familias. No fue siempre fácil, pero tuvimos muchos momentos divertidos, hicimos nuevos y buenos amigos/as y demostramos a nuestra comunidad los buenos resultados que produce un grupo que trabaja unido. Esperamos que continúen su recorrido y que en el camino inspiren a los muchos que siguen.

¡Felicidades Clase del 2009! Les deseamos la mejor de las suertes y esperemos que este día sea todo lo que ustedes hayan imaginado.

Exy Din

Erlinda Yañez and Ezequiel Deniz

2009 Chicano Commencement Committee Chairs









#### CATALINA ALVAREZ

MSW / Social Work

Alegremente comparto con todos mis seres queridos esta fecha especial. Me siento plenamente feliz de adquirir mi maestría. El camino universitario no ha sido fácil, pero con al apoyo y ayuda de mi familia, compañero, amigos y profesores, lo he logrado. A mis padres David y María Isaac les agradezco el enseñarme a ser una persona de bien y motivarme en la escuela. Mi hermana Andreina quien ha sido una gran inspiración. A mi compañero Ricardo sinceramente le digo que lo amo y agradezco su amor, apoyo, y animo incondicional. Gracias a mis ángeles: mi hermana Milagros Editt, mi abuelo Regino, y mi tío Samuel que viven en mi corazón y me brindan tranquilidad y cuidado. Siempre recordaré los consejos y enseñanzas de las personas que han influido mi vida positivamente. Soy una mujer realizada que hoy cumple un sueño académico y que aun tiene metas y sueños por realizar.

#### JENNY C. GONZALEZ

MA / PPS Education Counseling

Quiero agradecer a mi mami y tias por todo el amor y apoyo que me an dado. Las amo con todo mi corazon, este diploma es dedicado a ustedes y todas las mujeres de nuestra familia, CARTAGENA. En este dia pienso en mi abuelita que esta en el cielo me ha ayudado segir adelante en mis estudios, la extrano tanto. My wonderful brothers, I hope I have been the best sister and role model to you all. BIG BROTHER you mean the world to me, thanks for always being there for me, I hope I've made you proud. To my second family and only sisters of LAMBDA THETA ALPHA LATIN SORORITY INC., thanks for keeping me on my toes and making my experience memorable, I cannot imagine not having you all in my life. Treasure your education because that's what will help you be who you want to be .... Successful!

#### MARIA CRISTINA LOPEZ

MA / Public Administration

Glory to God Almighty, the King of kings and the Lord of lords, who made this achievement possible! Mama and Daddy: Thank you does not express my complete gratitude for all you have done. I am most appreciative of your wonderful love and instilling in me the values of education and diligence. Sarah, Gabriel, Shorty, and Gigi: I could not have done this without your support. Junior, Mateo, Gabriel, Donte & Alena: remember, "All things are possible with God!" To my family and extended family, including Maranatha, MESA. Sigma Theta Psi, and friends: thank you for your kindness, prayers, and encouragement. Philippians 4:4

#### DENISE RODRIGUEZ

MSW / Social Work

Quiero darle gracias a Dios por haberme dado fortaleza para lograr esta meta, que apesar de las miles de barreras que enfrente durante estos dos anos, al final sali como toda una triunfadora. Le dov gracias a mis padres por apoyarme incondicionalmente, a mi padre por sus palabras alientadoras en momentos dificiles, a mi madre por su paciencia, apoyo moral y emocional. A mi esposo Carlos, que apesar de haber sacrificado mi role de esposa para poder dedicarme al estudio nunca me reprocho solo me apoyo, se desvelo y tambien sacrifico su superacion personal para que yo lograra mi meta. Estoy agradecida con toda mi familia, y mis amigos (as), que estuvieron conmigo en las buenas y malas, mis amigos llegaron a formar parte de mi familia en especial Rosa, Vianey y Bequer. Finalmente, Angelica Lujano, ala mujer que le debo muchisimo por haberme dado fuerza para continuar. Gracias!









#### ERICK ALDAMA

BA / Sociology Minor/Social Science, Military Science

It has been an adventure to achieve one of my goals in life. The time has arrived to offer thanks to those who mean so much to me and guided me to this joyous occasion. Poppy, you are my hero and savior. Paul, I admire the way you live your life and I hope to be as brilliant as you one day. Sweets, you are my guarding angel and you have pushed me to be the best since the day I was born. Love, you have challenged me to strive higher, you accepted my flaws, you listened, stood by me and it was you who completes me. Mother, since the day I was born, no one has played more of an important role in my life than you. "All that I am or ever hope to be, I owe to you." I am forever grateful to you all. Thank you.

#### MARIA GUADALUPE ANDRADE

BA / Psychology Minor / Social Work

Llegar aqui no a sido facil, pero si se pudo! Gracias a mi familia por todo el apollo que me an brindado, por ser la fuente de motivacion que a veces me faltaba, y por creer en mi cuando yo no creia en mi misma. A mi mama, por ser mi mas grande inspiracion. Y como canta Sin Bandera "le pido a dios que me alcanse la vida, y me de tiempo para regresar aunque sea tan solo un poco de lo mucho que me das." A mi "Sapito," thank you for loving me, I know it's not always easy. I appreciate all you do for me and thanks for keeping a smile on my face. Sylvia, you're by far my favoritest roommate, and have been my most loyal partner in crime throughout this journey, so thank you. And special shout-out to my brothers for being the COOLEST dudes EVER!!!!

#### DINO BACA

BS / Civil Engineering

First and foremost, I would like to thank my mom Herminia and dad Juan for their hard work and unconditional love through right and wrong. My parents came from Michoacán Mexico to Redwood City, CA where I was raised. The one thing they asked from me was to graduate from high school and here I am graduating from a University. I did it with faith and have been blessed. I thank my family, my brothers Jesus and Junior, my sister Ruby, my true homies, the teachers who believed in me, all those who supported my cause and god for giving me all my blessings. I do this for my people and my gente. The weight is finally over and now it is time to get paid. Like my people used to tell me, "Can't Stop, Won't Stop. You best a go get it." Much love and respect.

#### JESSICA BAROCIO

BA / Psychology BA / Child and Adolescent Development

Quiero dar gracias a mi familia. incluyendo abuelos, tías, tíos, y primos por el amor y apoyo que me han dado estos años difíciles. A mis padres, Samuel y María, gracias por el amor que me han demostrado siempre. Mom, my superwoman, thank you for being the best mom anyone could ask for. I have experienced many hard times in my life, but you always told me to never give up and to strive for what I want . Without you. I could have never accomplished this milestone. Sammy, my little bro, thank you for being my person to pick on when I needed someone to distract me when I was studying. I love you dude! I know you'll do well in college. Claudio, I could have never accomplished this journey without your motivation, love and support. Besos! Friends, thanks for everything, it's finally time to party!!!

#### SISE CHICANO COMMENCEMENT 2009 - THE GRADUATES









#### MAYRA BERMUDEZ

BS/Recreation/Concentration in Therapeutic Recreation Minor/Women Studies

Son tantos los sentimientos que quisiera expresar que no hay suficiente espacio para hacerlo. Quiero agradecer a mi familia por su apoyo incondicional; mi madre, mi padre, mi hermano, y mi mejor amiga mi hermana Lucia. Gracias por tener confianza en mí y paciencia para terminar mi carrera. Los amo. A todos mis amigos que hice en el transcurso de los años. Los aprecio mucho. También quiero agradecer a una persona muy especial en mi vida; a mi Chilango. Gracias por tanto amor y apoyo que me has brindado. Eres lo mejor que me pudo haber pasado. Te kero musho (iiji). Bueno no se diga mas, a festejar con la gente que me quiere! Estoy feliz. La vida es dulce cuando te lo propones. Mucha suerte a la clase 09. Y suerte a mi Maquina de Cruz Azul para que ya den una y no me hagan llorar tanto!

#### DENIS F. CAJINA. JR.

BS / Business Marketing Minor / Spanish

I would like to thank my family for always supporting me throughout my academic career. My sisters have been amazing role models and have helped raise a bright young man with a prosperous future ahead of him. My parents took the ultimate sacrifice by leaving Nicaragua to provide their children with a brighter future. No words can express my true appreciation for their actions. I love you Dad and I know you shine down on me from heaven Mama. Henry, Peff, Omar, Batis, Lo, the Lounge 12 and Jessica, thanks for your support. I love you all. And last but certainly not least, to my brothers of GAMMA ZETA ALPHA FRATERNITY, INC. The memories of brotherhood and community service will always live within me. You truly are my second familia and reaching the top of the pyramid was a community effort. Tu Sabes! My next graduation will be for my MBA!

#### ALEJANDRA VICTORIA CALDERON

BA / Liberal Studies / Teacher Prep

My focus throughout this journey has never deterred due to the amount of love and support I have received from my family. I would like to personally thank my mother, who has been my strength all through this journey. I have greatly appreciated every phone call in which my mother has reminded me to stay positive. I would also like to thank my dad and my sisters for always believing in me; it has been extremely encouraging to have people convinced that you will succeed. Finally I would like to thank my beautiful sisters of Lambda Theta Alpha. I could never put into words what you ladies mean to me, or how much you have impacted my life. All that I can say is that I love you and I am truly grateful. My ultimate goal is to be an educator, a goal that I now know I can achieve.

#### **VERONICA CHAIDEZ**

BS / Biological Sciences Minor / Chemistry

I want to give thanks to my Lord for saving me and giving me life to the fullest. It is through Him that I am successful and am now graduating. This day would not be possible without my parents' unconditional love and support. Gracias por todo el sacrificio. Gracias por trabajar tan duro para nosotras, para dejarnos soñar grande. Su sacrificio no es en vano. Este triunfo, de mi graduación, es el triunfo de ustedes también. Ustedes lograron esto, es como si ustedes estuvieran recibiendo el diploma también, Gracias papa, gracias mama. Gracias por estar ahi todos los días, por cuidarme, por manejarme a todos lados, por decirme que puedo ser lo que yo quiera. Gracias por amarme. And thank you to my brothers and sisters in Christ for making these past four years the time of my life. It has been a great adventure.









#### MARIA ROSARIO CISNEROS MATA

BA / Spanish Minor / CHAD

Quiero expresar mi más grande y profundo agradecimiento a quienes con su amor, apoyo y comprensión, me alentaron a realizar uno de mis más grandes sueños; mi graduación. Quiero dar las gracias a mis padres por siempre estar a mi lado. Por enseñarme que los sueños solo se logran a base de esfuerzo y perseverancia. "Papás, la educación que me dieron es la meior herencia que me pudieron dar, no hay manera de agradecer una vida de sacrificio, lucha y esfuerzo constante, por eso quiero que sepan que este logro es suyo, que mis años de esfuerzo en la universidad son inspirados en ustedes. Son los mejores papás del mundo, los amo". También quiero agradecer a mis hermanos por su apoyo y confianza. Gracias por su apoyo recibido durante mi formación profesional, por ser parte de mi vida y por ser mis más grandes amigos, los quiero mucho.

#### JASE LHIS CORDOVA

BA / Communication Studies

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#### CRISTINA ROSE DELGADO

BA / Child and Adolescent Development BA / Sociology

I would first like to say thank you Mom and Dad for always loving and supporting me, especially since I changed my mind so much. Thanks Teo and Yol for always setting a good example. Hopefully I am a good example for The Girls too. And to my Grandparents who spoiled me and made sure I never left the house without eating first. Graduating would not have been possible without any of you or the sacrifices you have made for me. Also thank you to all my friends and Lambda Sigma Gamma for making college so much fun and memorable! And thank you to everyone else who has touched my heart and made a difference in my life. I know it has taken me longer then I planned to graduate, but I finally did it! I hope I have made everyone proud!

#### EZEQUIEL DENIZ

BA / Liberal Studies, BA / Spanish Minor / Mathematics

Los últimos seis años definitivamente han sido los mejores que he pasado: me he desarrollado mucho más en mi campo académico, he madurado como persona, he logrado conocer gente que sé está ahí en momentos difíciles y de celebración, he hecho todo lo que está a mi alcance para ayudar y ser parte de la comunidad en la que vivo, y sobre todo he aprendido más sobre mi persona y carácter. Le quiero dar las gracias a mi familia, especialmente a mi querida madre, Alicia Orozco, por ser mi motivo más fuerte de inspiración y enseñanza. Gracias a mis profesores, amigos y colegas que me han brindado su apovo incondicional. Finalmente gracias a todos los miembros de la Conmemoración Chicana por apoyarme, respetarme y por no perder la fe y la paciencia en mí al igual que en mis colegas y amigos de la mesa directiva. ¡Felicidades Graduados...SÍ SE PUDO!









#### FRANK ANTHONY ESCORAR

BS / Aviation Operations Concentration Minor / Business

First off, I would like to thank my family and friends for all their love and support throughout my time here at San Jose State University. I also wish to take this opportunity to tell my mother that I love her, and that her love, compassion, and friendship have been the driving force behind my successes. I would also like to recognize the best brother and sister ever. Ralph and Erika... "Dad we love you." And to extended family-Gentlemen of GAMMA ZETA ALPHA, thanks for all the memories and the many more to come ... ¡Tú Sabes!

#### BRENDA ESPARZA PADILLA

BA / Behavioral Science BA / Sociology / Criminology

Primeramente le doy gracias a Dios por darme fortaleza para llevar acabo una de mis metas. La cual es de vital importancia para formar mi futuro. Futuro en el cual mis padres, Benjamin y Imelda Esparza, mi novio Francisco Alvarado, mi mentora Teresa Marquez, mis abuelitos, mis tíos y tías y mis amigas(os) me han brindado su constante apoyo y motivación. Siempre he contado con ellos para mejorar y expandir mis metas. Les doy las gracias por inculcarme los mejores principios que han hecho de mi una mujer llena de virtudes y conocimientos. Al iqual me han ayudado a reconocer mis debilidades v fortalezas pero sobre todo a usarlos para lograr recibir mi doble bachillerato en el Comportamiento de la Ciéncia y Sociología. ¡Lo hemos logrado!

#### MARISSA FIGHEROA

BA / Psychology Minor/Sociology

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#### HECTOR DANIEL GARCIA

BS / Business Administration BS / Hospitality Management

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#### ELIZA GONZALEZ GARCIA

BS / Business Administration; Marketing BA / Spanish

y apoyo incondicional y ser como y apoyo incondicional y ser como padres para mi Chulo. Teri, Meli y Tini, les agradezco haber llevarlo a la escuela, cuidarlo, y en ayudarle con las tareas. Lluli, gracias por apoyarme en tiempos dificiles y tristes. Gracias a todos ustedes por darme fuerzas cuando yo no las tuve. Perdoname Tito por no estar contigo todos los momentos. Pero estos sacrificios que hago son para ti. Eres mi corazon y me hiciste fuerte. Mira lo que Marni hizo, y gracias a tus abuelitos y tias. Dios fue muy bondadoso en regalarme una familia tan linda, fuerte, feliz y muy unida. Soy muy orgullosas de ustedes. Mis padres con cinco hijas y todas en la universidad. Teri, Meli, y Tini sigan adelante y termiran pronto. Lluli felicidades por comenzar tu Master's! Sin ustedes no soy nadie, los amo muchisisisisisismo! Nuestros padres nos hicieron triunfadoras.

#### GABRIELA GONZALEZ TEJEDA

BA / Sociology / Criminology
Minor / Mexican American Studies

First and foremost I would like to thank my parents Eugenio and Teresa Gonzalez. If it wasn't for their constant struggle to provide a better life for their four children, I wouldn't be standing here a few steps away from my degree. My parents taught me to be grateful, humble and never settle for less. They also emphasized the importance of education as a necessary step towards independence and life long success. My siblings and I are very blessed to have our parents. We are the first generation to graduate from college, and I hope for this trend to continue progressing for many years to come. I am proud to be a Chicana and aspire to be a role model for the youth Chicano community. I also want to thank my siblings, and everyone who helped me through this challenging yet adventurous journey. Thanks for your support and unconditional love.

#### NANCY ALEJANDRA GONZALEZ

BA / Sociology Minor / Philosoph

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#### EDGAR ISRAEL HERNANDEZ

BA / Art

Concentration in Design Studies Emphasis in Graphic Design

Esta graduacion a sido posible gracias a la ayuda de mis padres, Luz Maria y Demetrio. Todos sus esfuerzos y largas horas de trabajó han valido la pena. La verdadera educación que he recibido hasta hoy, ha sido la de Ustedes. Gracias por creer en mi y motivarme a tener un gran futuro. Los amo con todo mi corazón. Por supuesto gracias a mis hermanos por el apoyo incondicional, Norma Julio, Luis, Omar y mi primo Miguel que al igual eres como un hermano. ¡Los quiero mucho! Y quisiera agradecer a todas las personas que han hecho una diferencia en mi vida y siguen estando a mi lado. ¡Ustedes saber quienes son! Finalmente, gracias a todos los hermanos de Gamma Zeta Alpha por regalarme todos esos momentos bonitos e inolvidables y estar junto a mi durante los momentos amargos. Sin ustedes mi experiencia universitaria no hubiera sido la misma...¡Tú Sabes!



## REFLECTIONS OF MY EDUCATION

In the mid 1980's, the musical super-group "the Traveling Wilburys" recorded the hit song: "End of the line". The song goes on to say how in the twilight of life, a person has to adjust to the changes that time inevitably causes. We realize how little it really matters what people think of, when one drives a Dodge Omni, or a BMW M5. What matters, in this instance, is that the car is dependable. "We can try to live life as best as we can, as long as we always lend a helping hand". This at least, is how the "Traveling Wilburys" recommend that we live our lives like.

As we continue to live and grow from our experiences, we invariably reach our own conclusions on how to deal with all the trials and tribulations that life throws in our way. The knowledge and wisdom that we achieve however, is gained through the observation and practice of what others more knowledgeable than us, teach us. We are born into this world totally dependent on our parents and family, our first teachers, and we learn to be human through them. As we grow older and more sophisticated, we enter formal education to become more than just humans. We become students. We learn from strangers, whom we come to accept as our teachers and friends, all the wisdom and knowledge that we now posses. Of that wisdom that we have gained, we know that: "for every beginning there is an end".

As graduating students from San José State University, or for that matter any university, we now stand in the twilight of our careers as students. We are at the end of our lives as students and are about to become those strangers that once imparted their knowledge on us years ago. The road to reach this point in our lives, however, has not been easy. Who would have thought that that little kid, who enjoyed watering the garden in kindergarten, would now be standing among peers and in front of family and friends, ready to receive his diploma. How about the teenager who arrived late at his first ever college class, because he went the beach instead? He is here right now. Did the student, who burned the midnight oil studying for a test, think he would ever reach this final stage? Many of us have. Time sure passes by real fast doesn't it? We are all about to become the fountains of knowledge that younger people will depend upon. So let us reflect upon our life as students and think of the best way to relay the knowledge and wisdom that we have gained. After all, we can try to live life as best as we can, as long as we always lend a helping hand.

#### SIST CHICANO COMMENCEMENT 2009 - THE GRADUATES









#### VANESSA HERNÁNDEZ

BA / Psychology Minor / Sociology

En primer lugar quisiera agradecer a Dios por haberme permitido alcanzar mi meta. Quiero dar gracias especiales a mis padres Alizia y Marco por el gran amor y apoyo incondicional que siempre me han brindado. Este logro no sería posible sin su constate ayuda. Gracias a mi hermano Marco y hermana Wendy por siempre creer en mi y ser mis mejores amigos, los quiero mucho. A mi novio, gracias por toda la ayuda que me brindas. A mi bebé Jonathan, te amo con todo mi corazón, gracias por ser mi motivación y razón de vivir. A Marquitos, Nathan, Joseph y Mya, I love you. También quisiera agradecerle al resto de mi familia y amigos por ser una parte importante en mi vida. Comparto este logro con ustedes. Gracias por todo su apoyo y amor.

#### MIGUEL A. MADRIGAL

BS / Criminal Justice

Mas que nada, lo logramos!
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#### MELISSA ANN MARTINEZ

BA / Behavioral Science BA / Psychology

College has been a series of unique experiences for me. I may have chosen the longer and more unstable path, but I would not have had the full college experience otherwise. I would like to thank my family for always supporting the decisions I have made along my journey through school whether it be taking a semester off, switching schools, or co-signing on a loan for me. It was very important for me to do things on my terms when I was ready. I dedicate my achievement to my entire family for making it all possible. Thanks brother for setting the bar high for me to follow and always encouraging me. Thank you Chris for all your love. Thank you greek life and sisters of LSG for all the laughs. IPSE!

#### ROSA MEJIA

BA / Child Development Minor / Mexican American Studies

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#### CLAUDIA CARINA MENDIVIL

BS / Health Science Minor / Social Work

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#### RICARDO RAMON MIRANDA PEDRAZA

BS / Business Administration / Marketing Minor / Advertising

Un Titulo Universitario? "Parece fácil. Pero es difícil" Soy Ricardo Miranda nací en la ciudad de México, soy el menor de dos barones y yo con mi sueño. Un anhelo que comenzó en el D.F., y hoy en día en base a los hechos que e tomado se a cumplido. Eternamente agradeceré a mis padres, Ramón Miranda y Teresa Pedraza! Papa gracias por escucharme y guiarme con tus sabios consejos, Mami gracias por darme tu fortaleza, y bendiciones. Papas gracias por nunca bajar nuestra bandera, en todas estas batallas, hoy en día lo hemos logrado! Quiero también darle gracias a todas esas personas especiales en mi vida que estuvieron conmigo y creyeron en mi! La persistencia me enseño que a pesar de lo que pase al final la FE y el esfuerzo, lo convierten en realidad. Dream, believe, achieve and succeed and the rest will only be "Lagrimas en la lluvia"

#### DANIEL MONROY

BA / Political Science

In Kindergarten, gardening was the best. My whole 1st grade class went to my birthday. My first real school was Primaria "Rafael Valenzuela", played hooky in 5th grade (went to Chapultepec). Music school was a disaster, my apologies to my piano teacher. I graduated and went to Secundaria #88. Back in the US, I became a "Lancer" (La Cumbre Jr. High) and later a "Royal" (San Marcos High). I missed the first day of college at Sta. Barb. C.C.. I earned an A.A. degree in Photography from Southwestern College. Hiatus. Soon, I will receive a B.A. in Political Science from San Jose State University. To all my classmates ever: ha, bet you didn't think I'd make it huh?! Finally, to my parents: Neftali and Victoria and my brothers and sisters E.R.M.E.P.& B: it took me a while, but I finally finished this stage. Thanks for your help and support!

#### SANDRA ERICA MORENO

BA / Sociology Minor / Mexican American Studies

Quiero empezar por darle gracias a Dios por las bendiciones que me ha dado y por esta vida tan linda que me ha prestado. Humildemente, quiero agradecer a mi mami Graciela y a mi papá, Miguel Moreno, por todo el amor que me dan y el esfuerzo que han hecho por sacarnos adelante y nunca dejarse vencer. Ustedes me han enseñado tanto de la vida, cosas que nunca aprendería de los libros. ¡Soy quien soy por ustedes! A Mari, Danny, y Andrea gracias por ser ¡los mejores hermanos del mundo! Cain, thank you for always assuring me that I can do anything I set my mind to, it means a lot. I want to thank my friends, especially my girls, for always being there. You know who you are! I am proud to say that I am an educated Latina, something no one will ever be able to take away!









#### HENRY OMAR ORTEZ

BS/Business Administration / Accounting Minor / Military Science

In this day of my graduation I want

to show gratitude to two individuals that never stop believing in me and kept me going even in the face of adversity. First and foremost I wouldn't be here without my mother. As a single mother from El Salvador she made the decision to migrate to the US so we could have a better life. She work nights and days so we could afford a roof over our heads and have food in our table. Even with so many things in her plate she took the time to check on my schoolwork. I also want to thank my stepfather who treated me as his own son and prepared me for success by making sure I had everything I needed. This day is the culmination of their accomplishment by having raised such a respectful and productive

#### ADRIANA IRIS PACHECO

BA / Child Development Minor / Psychology

I would like to thank my parents who have done their best to give me everything they could, their support, their motivation, and most important of all their Love. Hermanito, you are my inspiration. Pedro, you have always been there for me when I felt that I couldn't continue. Ralf, I am grateful for all the help you've given me. Erika and Melissa, you girls also motivated me to continue on to further my education and become and educated Latina woman. Lucy. Nancy, and Jasmine: I wanted to set an example to get educated to become something of my self. I hope I did a good job in achieving that goal. Armando, Lucy, Nancy and Jasmine, I also wanted to thank you for the path that you have chosen. You guys decided to become responsible individuals and decided to do something positive in your life. I LOVE YOU ALLI

#### ADRIANA PEDRAZA

BS / Business Administration

The road to getting here has not been easy, but I have made many new friendships, and memories along the way. It will be sad to leave SJSU, but exciting to finally graduate!

Although many people have helped me along the way, I especially want to thank my parents and my sister because they have always been so supportive. I also want to thank Tonya and Hector for being there for me whenever I have needed them.

#### CARLOS PELAYO

BS / Business Finance

Hi my name is Carlos Miguel Pelayo, proud son of Carlos and Margarita Pelayo. I was raised in Redwood City California and have three sisters that I love dearly. These years in College have not been easy but with the support of my family, friends and fraternity brothers I have been able to overcome all obstacles. I would like dedicate my BS degree in Business Finance to my parents who have always worked hard and set the right path for my sisters and me to follow. Also, I would like to give a special thanks to Gamma Zeta Alpha, the best fraternity in the west coast for shaping me in to a true gentleman by showing me the true meaning of brotherhood and academic excellence.









#### ROMINA VIQUEZ PEREZ

BA /French Minor / International Business

"A man who is ignorant of foreign languages is ignorant of his own"-Goethe. My family taught me that languages are very important, from moving here and mastering English to my brother taking Japanese. It lets people know they are important enough that you want to communicate with them. I want to thank my parents for all of their sacrifices & support throughout my college career without them none of this would be possible. I also want to thank my sister for her encouragement & constructive criticism. I dedicate my diploma to my brother; he inspires me every day. Last, but not least, Tlazocamati a Dios y a la Virgen de Guadalupe por mi familia y por todo. This is only the beginning!

#### JUAN VALENTIN PRECIADO

BA / Spanish Minor / Art Education

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#### SANDRA QUEZADA

BS / Criminal Justice Minor / Spanish

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#### MANUEL QUINTANA MANZANO

BS / Justice Studies BA / Latin American Literature

Alguien tuvo un sueño para mí y ese sueño se hace realidad este día. Ese alguien me observa, cuida desde el cielo y le presume a los otros ángeles que su hijo lo logro. Ese Ángel es mi mama la cual ha sido mi inspiración numero uno (gracias mama lo hicimos juntos y nunca te olvidare). Otra grande inspiración ha sido mi papa el cual me preguntaba constantemente "ya casi?" hoy los hechos hablan por si mismos (te amo Papa). Gracias a mi familia por siempre estar ahí los quiero mucho, Gracias a mi hermana Sara, mi Chagolla (I love you), Al gordito (Juan), Chino, Mayra, Aníbal, Ángel, Salazar, Candis, roommates, etc... I love you all so much and thank you for being part of my life. It has not been easy, but your support means a great deal to me and I appreciate you. Si se pudo y a celebrar!









#### ARTURO QUINTERO

BS / Mechanical Engineering

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#### JONATHAN OUINTERO

BS / Kinesiology / Sport Management

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#### WIL QUINTERO

BS / Justice Studies Minor / Psychology

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#### ALFREDO QUINTINO

BA / Spanish / Latin American Studies

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#### NANCY BAMIREZ

BS / Business Administration Concentration in Marketing

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#### ELSA REYES

BS / Business Administration, Concentration in Management

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#### JESUS RIVERA

BS / Social Work

Mom, thank you for showing me throughout the years what it means to be selfless and for putting your children first. Manuel, Lil, Jess, Tina and Rosio. We do not always see eye to eye, but I love that no matter what our differences are, you have been there for me when it has mattered the most. Isaiah, Eli, and baby, thanks for understanding that uncle Boo had homework to do and could not always play horsy, cars, or halo. Big Mo, thanks for checking in on me from time to time and encouraging me to finish, Semper Fi. Dad thanks for letting me ramble on about whatever I learned that day. Norma, thanks for dealing with my attitude during every finals week....I love you. Big thanks to Cesar, Steven, Javi, Flu, G, JJ, and every other brother that got me out and away from my computer.

#### CINTHIA G. RODRIGUEZ

BA / Journalism

Criada en los barrios bajos de Fresno y siendo la primera de cuatro hijos; aprendi a vivir dia tras dia y a no esperar nada de la vida. Me meti en situaciones dificiles y sali bien librada. Lo unico que puedo recordar es que eso me hizo ser quien soy, puesto que no quiero ser una ola mas en el mar. No puedo creer que haya llegado tan lejos. Pero, no lo hublera hecho sin mis papás. A los cuales quiero agradecer, el esfuerzo que han hecho, especialmente a mi Mama. Sin ella no se que fuera de mi. "Jefa te la rifas!" Asi como mi Padre, mis Hermanas y Hermano. Me alegra que me apoyen y deseo que esten orguliosos de mi. Quiero lo digo muy segido, los quiero un chingo. Gracias tambien ala familia Alba. Carnara Banda. -Cinthia "Cin Citi" Rodriguez.

#### EL CAMBIO HA LLEGADO A ESTE PAIS

EZEONIEL DENIZ

La gente estaba más atenta que nunca el 4 de Noviembre del 2008 alrededor de las 8:15 pm (hora del Pacífico). Todas las caras fijaban su mirada hacia un sólo hombre: Barack Hussein Obama. Obama fue elejido como el cuadragésimo cuarto presidente de los Estados Unidos de América. En Chicago, Illionois, hogar principal de la familia Obama, se reunieron miles de personas para apoyar en primera fila al nuevo jefe de estado. Con lagrimas en los ojos, la gente esperaba con ansias el discurso de aceptación del primer presidente negro de este país. Al pisar el escenario, la gente aplaudió, lloró, y gritó como jamas haya visto en mi vida. Así como ellos, yo desde mi casa también demostraba mi apoyo incondicional mientras lo veía por la televisión.

Millones y millones de personas en todo el mundo tienen el sueño de algún día poder venir al país de oportunidades, igualdad, y justicia. Hasta hace apenas unos meses, esto sólo era un dicho, porque como dicen por ahí "del dicho al hecho hay mucho trecho." Ahora tenemos la prueba más importante de que todo es posible si te lo propones. Apenas hace medio siglo, por ejemplo, la gran mayoría de los negros del país (especialmente en el sureste) no tenían las oportunidades básicas de un ciudadano de complexión blanca. Estados Unidos tiene muchas faltas, pero no se puede negar que estamos caminando hacia un futuro más próspero donde la justicia no tiene un color en particular. Así como Obama dijo al principio de su discurso el día que fue elejido, "Si hay alguien por ahí que todavía dude que los Estados Unidos es un lugar donde todo es posible, que todavía se pregunte si el sueño de nuestros fundadores todavía vive en nuestro tiempo, que todavía cuestione el poder de nuestra democracia, esta noche es su respuesta," yo también siento la misma energía positiva.

Desde ese Noviembre 4 del 2008 mi ilusión de ver más Chican@s/Latin@s graduarse de la universidad ha aumentado. Deseo que nuestra generación, al igual que las que siguen, puedan darse cuenta del poder de la educación. La educación es algo que no te pueden arrebatar ni aunque te deporten. La educación no es sólo obtener un diploma, sino el estar al tanto de todo lo que pasa alrededor de nosotros, por ejemplo lo que nos afecta, y como podemos encontrar una solución constructiva y justa para todos. La educación nos libera de la esclavitud moderna. La educación nos ayuda a darnos cuenta de que nuestro planeta es frágil y que tenemos que hacer todo lo posible para mantenerlo limpio para los humanos y las otras miles de especies con lo cual lo compartimos. Así como Barack Obama, muchos de nosotros o nuestros padres venimos aquí para buscar un mejor futuro. Un futuro que incluye una mejor oportunidad académica para nuestros hijos y un trabajo digno y adecuado para vivir sin tropiezos. Vamos a "agarrar al toro por los cuernos" y salir vencedores. ¡Vamos por el cambio!









#### MARISA CHRISTINA ROOTERO

BA / Sociology / Criminology

I'll never forget my first day at San Jose State...I missed it! Fortunately, this wasn't a trend, and now I'm here graduating! I never thought this day would come, but it's here, I did it! I transferred to San Jose State so I could pursue my dream career of working in the juvenile criminal justice system; the Sociology department has prepared me for this career and I'm proud to say that I have achieved this dream and am now working in Juvenile Hall in San Jose. Along the path of following my dream I've overcome many obstacles that I could not have surpassed on my own. I would like to thank my mom, dad, sister, brother in law, niece and nephew, whom have taken an incredible role in my life, providing unconditional support, and putting up with me during all my stressful moments.

#### JASE BAJA

BS / Justice Studies Minor / Psychology

Primero que nada quisiera agradecer a mi familia que me ha apoyado incondicionalmente en todo momento. Gracias a mis amigos que al igual que mi familia me apoyaron cuando más lo necesite. I like to thank my brother that although he's not with me anymore the impact he made in my life goes on even without his presence. I could have not made it this far without my good looks. From the bottom of my heart I thank my family. I love you guys.!!!

#### VINICIO ELIAS RUBALCAVA

BA / History Minor / Mexican American Studies

Pita, we finally did it! So you can stop stressing. J/K Vanessa, thank you for all of your unconditional support. I don't know what I would do w/out you. LAS COMADRES, you have all had a hand in raising me since I was a child and I have always understood how lucky I am to have you all in my life. I love you all so much! Tia Cuca, Uncle Richard, and Rickey I will always feel indebted to you all for all the support you have always shown us. LAMBDATHETAPHI, my other family, I love u all...'Till The Day I Die!! MOM, not a day goes by that I don't think of You. You have been the most inspirational person in my life and the driving force behind my resilience. Thank you for always pushing me to be better and never give up.

#### NUBIA YVETT BUELAS

BA / Behavioral Science BA / Sociology

Antes que nada quiero agradecer a Dios por darme la existencia, fortaleza, y sabiduría para alcanzar una meta más. Infinitas gracias a mis padres por haberme dado la vida y guiarme por el buen camino. Gracias mami por todas esas bendiciones y palabras de aliento cuando más las necesitaba, quiero decirte que tú has sido mi fuerza y motivación para seguir por este pasaje Gracias a mis hermanos y bellos sobrinos por también inspirarme a realizar este día. Many thanks for being there to take good care of your little sister. A ti mi amor, thanks for also being there for me when I most needed you; thank you for being tolerant, caring, and loving during the stressful times-I love you. I love you all, and once more, thanks for the encouragement and unconditional support that you have all granted me.









#### ANDRES RUIZ

BS / Business Administration Concentration Corporate Financial Management

Primeramente quisiera darle las gracias a mis padres, Guadalupe y Maria Ruiz. Sin los valores que me inculcarón desde niño nunca hubiera alcanzado las metas que hoy en este día he logrado. Estuvieron conmigo en los momentos más bajos y me ayudaron a aprender a seguir adelante. A mi hermano Luis, I was not supposed to be here but you always had my back. Your words of wisdom helped me grow into the man I am today. I am forever indebted to you. A toda mi familia, gracias por todo su apoyo. I have to thank my San José and Windsor Crews. I hope the good times keep rolling. To all those who ever doubted me, thanks, I needed the motivation. Por último tengo que darle gracias a Dios por bendecirme y dejarme llegar a este día.

#### BERTHA ALICIA SANCHEZ

BS / Business Administration

La graduación es una ocasión de celebración, de orgullo y realizaciones profesionales. Después de tantos años de esfuerzos y dificultades, finalmente estoy frente a uno de los días más importantes de mi vida: llegar a este día, pues no fue cosa fácil, pero con dedicación, devoción y paciencia lo pude lograr. Yo Bertha Sánchez estoy orgullosa de graduarme con el titulo de Business Administration, concentración en Marketino. Primero le doy gracias a Dios por darme fuerzas. Agradezco infinitamente a mis padres Roberto y Jovita Sánchez por sus ejemplos y por los sacrificios que tuvieron que enfrentar para que pudiera realizarme como profesional. También doy las gracias por su apoyo incondicional a mis hermanas y a mi hermano. Y por su puesto a mi esposo Leonel que durante más de 9 años ha sido mi amigo, mi sostén, y mi guía. Lo único que me queda por decir es "Si Se Pudo."

#### ROSENDO RAFAEL SANCHEZ

BS / International Business Minor / Latin American Studies

"El que es perico, donde quiera es verde," by Santiago Sanchez. I am a Mexican-American who was born in Fresno, California but was raised in Michoacan, Mexico, I move back to US in 2001, yet I had to work part time and attend college simultaneously. In 2004, I met Marta Torres and a year later we got married. We had a daughter name Delilah Sanchez who is my eyes and my reason of living. In 2005, I decided to go back to school and in 2007 I graduated from Cañada College and transferred to San Jose State University to pursue an International Business Administration Bachelors degree with a minor in Latin American Studies. Thanks to the support of my family and my suegra, Rosalba Padilla, I was able to accomplish one of my goals in my life. My next goal is to work for two years and then pursue a Masters degree in corporate taxation.

#### DEANNA PATRICIA TALAVERA

BA / Political Science

San Jose State has provided me with many opportunities and experiences. Throughout my years here I have learned so much about myself. I have learned not to be afraid of a challenge, I have learned how much fun learning could be, and more importantly I have learned the importance of a quality education. I would like to thank all of the employees and faculty who have contributed to my education. I would especially like to thank my family, who have pushed me to be the best and pursue my dreams and without whom I would not be where I am today. This accomplishment is as much theirs as it is mine. I LOVE YOU AND THANK YOU!









#### JOSE IVAN TEJEDA CABALLERO

BS / Business Administration

"Here I am almost six years later... at one time I said I would be married by the age of 25, but now through my collegiate experience, I must say, I have yet much more to accomplish before I settle down! Because of the support I've received all through my childhood years to now, I have become the man I am today, an educated Mexicano! I will never forget all of YOU who had patience with me to teach or guide me through the right steps. There's two spaces I hold in my heart, the love to my familia and friends, and or course, to my West Coast pioneers who have offered me support and knowledge allowing me to accomplish the never imagined... this one is for you little bro!!! GO GAMMAS! ..... TU SABES!!!!!"

#### **ALICIA TORRES**

BA / Spanish Minor / Latin American Studies

I would like to thank my parents Martha and Margarito, as well as my sister Elva, my brothers Hugo and Tony. I also want t thank my husband Jorge. I wouldn't have done it without all of your support. I dedicate this award to my beautiful children Jorge, Mia, and Emmie Palacios. Thank You and I love You All.

#### ANA CECILIA TRUJILLO SANTILLAN

BA / English Minor / Spanish

Le agradezco a Dios por haberme dado la oportunidad de realizar mis metas académicas y profesionales. A mis padres. Domingo y Lourdes, por todos sus sacrificios y consejos. A mi abuelo, Fidel, por brindarme la inspiración de superarme siendo útil y servicial. Además, a las familias Medina, Santillán y Ledezma por ofrecerme su apoyo incondicional en lograr mis metas. Finalmente, en las palabras de Maya Angelou, "the horizon leans forward, offering you space to place new steps of change."

#### MAYRA VALDIVIA

BS / Social Science Minor / Mexican American Studies

Ante todo quisiera darle las gracias a Dios y a la Virgen de San Juan por todas sus bendiciones. Asimismo a mi familia y amigos. Ama y Apa, gracias por su apoyo durante el proceso y por tenerme paciencia a través de las adversidades. Espero que estén orgullosos! Hermanos y little sister, si yo pude ustedes también podrán y aun mas hasta alcanzar las estrellas. Amigos y familia que de alguna manera me ayudaron mientras completaba mi meta, gracias. Fue un camino difícil pero valió la pena. A todos los que creyeron en mi y a los que alguna ves dudaron de mi, esto es para ustedes. Y por ultimo, Si se puede, y hasta la victoria siempre.!. Que viva la revolución!









#### DORIS VASQUEZ

BA / Liberal Studies

Primentamente quisiera agradecerle a Dios por aberme permitido terminar una etapa de mi vida. A mis padres, Raul y Joaquina por su apoyo, consejos y amor incondicional lo cual me ayudo a nunca darme por vencida y slempre seguir adelante. Gracias a sus sacrificios, ahora soy quien soy y todo lo que en logrado se lo debo a ellos. A mis hermanos, Junior, Esme, y Richar que simpre estan ahi en las buenas y en las malas asegurandose en senalar todos los "doris moments." Familia mia los amo contodo mi corazon! Y a todas esas otras personas que an sido parte de mi vida, muchas gracias ustedes tambien contribuyeron en este logro. Diego gracias por tu apoyo y comprencion. Este logro es de todos ustedes tambien!

#### REGINALDO JAVIER VILLARREAL

BS / Aviation Operations Concentration Minor / Business

Your son finally did it! I would like to thank the two most influential and important persons in my life for all their support throughout these past six years. I was an inexperienced, 17-year-old who came to college to follow his dream. Now, six years later and at 23 years of age, I cannot explain the knowledge and maturity I have gained through higher education. Mom and Dad, there never was a time when you did not help me. Thank you for truly believing in your son. Rebecca and Ruby, your brother has done the impossible, now it's your young ladies' turn to go to college and do better than I did. I want to thank Gamma Zeta Alpha Fraternity for all the sweet and acidic times. You all have shown me what true brotherhood is. Bros, I've reached the top of the pyramid! Law school, here I come...

#### ERLINDA S. YAÑEZ

BS / Behavioral Science BA / Sociology Minor / Mexican American Studies

I thank our lord for the many blessings I have been given. For without them I would not be here today. To my mother, Estella, I would like to thank you for all of your love, sacrifice, and support. I know it was hard but you never gave up! To my daughters, Ebony and Jade, thank you mijas for being so understanding and loving. My sisters, Penny and Missy, I can not tell you how much I love you and am grateful to have you in my life. To the rest of my family and friends, I also want to thank you for your patience and love. Dr. Mora-Torres, thank you for raising the bar and pushing me to work harder. Jeannine, Dr. Boero, and the rest of my McNair cohort thank you so much for your friendship and guidance, it has meant the world to me.

#### ESPERANZA ZAMORA-SANCHEZ

BA / Spanish, Minor / Psychology

Quiero agradecer a Dios por permitirme llegar a esta etapa tan importante de mi vida y poderla compartir con mis seres queridos. Doy gracias a mi familia por todo el apoyo y el sacrificio. A mi madre, Esperanza por todo su amor y paciencia. A mi padre, Francisco (R.I.P.) que aunque me hubiera gustado compartir esta dicha con él, espero que desde el cielo este muy orgulloso de mi, te amo papá!. A todas mis hermanas y hermanos que no puedo nombrarlos a todos por que son bastantes, pero les agradesco de todo corazón. Gracias, Rosita, por tus consejos y tu apoyo incondicional! Los amo a todos. Agradesco a mis profesores y a todos mis amigos y a todos los que aportaron para que este logro fuera posible.. Gracias C. Augusto por tu apoyo a pesar de nuestras diferencias siempre me apoyaste en mis estudios. Muchas gracias, lo logre!!!

## RELEASING THE BALLOON FROM THE ANCHOR

Four years ago we embarked in this journey called college. We left the cocoon and safety of our parents' home and attempted to recreate our own. We began to mold our strengths, our character and our future education. And yes at times we felt the stress of the classes, the midterms and the never ending assignments. But today, before the presence of our colleagues and families we will cross the stage from which will continue to create and mold our own path.

Our educational career began many years ago, on our first day of school. Some of us were eager to go to El Gardin de Niños o Kinder Garden, others teared-up at the site of the school gate and many simply refused to enter the classroom. At this early stage of our educational experience we were simple balloons tied to an anchor; flinging in a uniformed manner and shape. Our anchors were the academic and personal challenges we faced along the way. Whether it was a learning disability or a language barrier many of us faced academic obstacles which hindered our experience within the educational system. Today, we have transformed ourselves to college educated individuals, who have matured in all aspects of life. San José State University has given us the foundation to acquire the tools which we will use to make a difference for the future generations. Let us become the best educators, lawyers, health providers and police officers to put into practice the curriculum that we have learned over the years.

Let us remember, that our graduation day is not a singular act, but rather a communal act. Our commencement is that of our parents, our sisters and brothers whose sacrifices, empowering words and inspiring actions have allowed us to get to this momentous stage of our life. Now it is our responsibility to pass down the torch of education to the younger generations. To our hermanitos and primos, who will look upon us on that stage in admiration, aware that an incredible event is taking place and soon enough it will be their turn to do the same.

The act of graduating marks the reconciliation between our past and future endeavors. Our commencement indicates our release from the anchors that once apprehended us from our true learning. As we walk the graduation stage, let us remember the past, present and future actions that construct our academic and professional lives. And also the responsibilities we now have to pass down and properly put into practice our acquired education.









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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!

Magdalena Barerra, Monica Burgara, Jesus Covarrubias, Julia Curry-Rodriguez, Lou Holscher, Gregorio Mora-Torres, Marcos Pizarro, Kathryn Rios, Phillip Tabera, and Erlinda Yañez.

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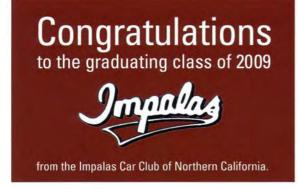
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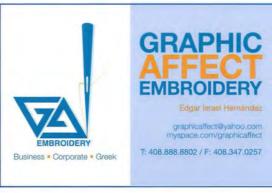
a todos los graduados y sus familias y especialmente a Claudia Mendivil de nuestro departamento! Estamos bien orgullosos de todos ustedes!

Dr. Kathleen Roe y el departamento de Health Science!









#### SOCIAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Asian American Studies Program Social Science Program Women's Studies Program

Mission Statement
The Social Science Department is
distinctive at San Jose State University in its training of K-12 public
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agents through an interdisciplinary
approach to understanding, analyzing,
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and people of color in our local
community, California, the United
States, and globally.

## Congratulations to the Class of 2009!

The faculty and staff of the Department of Justice Studies wish you the best of luck on this special day. We are very proud of you.

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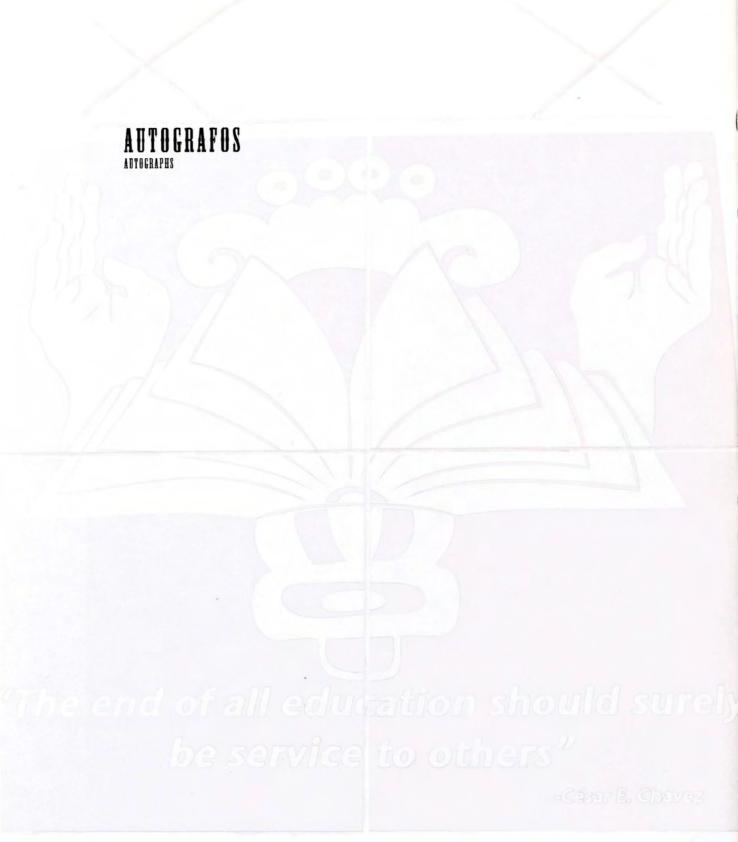
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Gracias. The 2009 Chicano Commencement class would like to thank you for your generous contribution. Your support is greatly appreciated.

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