

5-29-2016

46th Chicano Commencement, 2016

San Jose State University, Associated Students

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SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY

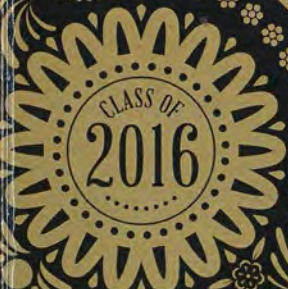
CLASS OF
2016

46TH ANNUAL CHICANO COMMENCEMENT

LA EDUCACIÓN NO CAMBIA AL MUNDO
CAMBIA A LAS PERSONAS
QUE VAN A CAMBIAR AL MUNDO

SJSU EVENT CENTER

SUNDAY, MAY 29, 2016



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Congratulations Class of 2016!

Congratulations Class of 2016! Commencement is the beginning of your life as alumni of San José State University. Today, you join the ranks of thousands of leaders and professionals who have graduated from this institution and have become a part of its history. Like them, your role will be to help shape our future society. 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. Always remember to give back to your community and do your part to improve our world. Education is a life-long process, and I wish you well as you continue your intellectual accomplishments and personal growth. Congratulations on your degree!

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan H. Martin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Susan
Interim President
San José State University

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CLASS OF
2016

46

GRADUATION AGENDA

2:00 PM

Doors Open

2:30 PM

Aztec Dancers Bless Chicano Commencement
Class of 2016

3:00 PM

Dinner & performances by Spartan Mambo,
Ballet Folklorico Los Laureles,
and Marachi Mi Tierra

5:00 PM

Doors Open to the General Public

6:00 PM

Graduation Ceremony

8:00 PM - 12:00 AM

Celebration with
Banda Los Nuevos Miravalle and DJ



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

DAMIAN TRUJILLO

Since 1996, Damian Trujillo has been a NBC Bay Area News reporter, host and producer of “Comunidad Del Valle,” the longest running public affairs program in the Bay Area. Comunidad Del Valle now also airs in Spanish on Telemundo 48.

Damian has been honored with awards from the Associated Press, the Radio and Television News Director's Association (RTNDA), and the National Association of Hispanic Journalists. Damian was named “2004 Reporter of the Year” by the Associated Press Television and Radio Association for California and Nevada and five times nominated for an Emmy Award.

Damian grew up in Greenfield, about 2 hours south of San Francisco on Highway 101. While in high school, Damian worked in the agricultural fields of the Salinas Valley, with his family, to help make ends meet. He picked garlic, broccoli, cucumbers, and strawberries. As a former farm worker, Damian now honors his first job, on the Cesar Chavez Holiday. Every March 31, Damian's family hosts family, friends, and students. They make sack lunches at the Trujillo home, and distribute them to roughly 250 farm workers in the South Bay. The gesture is a “thank you “ to farm workers, for their tireless work. In addition, each year, the Trujillo family awards a college scholarship to the son or daughter of a farm worker in Greenfield.

In 2012, Carolyn Brown, professor at American University in Washington D.C., produced a half-hour documentary on the life of Damian Trujillo titled “From the Fields: An American Journey”. Damian screened the film at Stanford, Georgetown, and Harvard Universities, and at The National Steinbeck Center. In April 2013, the United States Congress invited Damian for a special screening on Capitol Hill.

Damian and his wife Monica have a daughter, Malyna, and twins Isela and Michael Damian.



FACULTY ADVISOR



CLAUDIA TERCERO

Claudia Tercero came to the United States from Mexico City at the age of five years old with her parents. Her Mamita (which is what she called her grandmother) had migrated to San Jose, California three years earlier and they soon joined her. Soon after arriving she became a big sister to a brother and sister. Growing up on the East Side and graduating from Lee Mathson Middle School concerned her parents. It was decided they would sacrifice family trips or purchasing a new vehicle to send her to a private school in Mountain View, California. Her parents had strong beliefs that no matter where you came from it didn't have to define your future.

After graduating from Mountain View Academy she attended San Jose State University. While at SJSU she along with five other members reactivated the Circulo Hispanico which had been inactive for the past fifteen years. She served as the secretary for two years and led efforts to have the first Spanish Department graduation. During her college years her life was also changed when she became a mother to her son Elijah Terry-Tercero. Another significant moment took place in 2007 when she pledged with Sigma Gamma Rho, Inc. sorority. That spring she shared special memories with her family at the 2007 Chicano Commencement. She double majored in Spanish and Sociology with a concentration in Criminology.

After graduation she worked with the Tower Foundation for three years. Presently, she works with the Development team where she has discovered her passion for philanthropy; thus, taking courses and workshops to further her enrichment in this area. As a Latina on this campus she became involved with the Latino Faculty and Staff association in order to be involved with the Latino community on campus. While at SJSU an incident forced her to take action and be directly involved with the California State University Employee Union becoming a union steward gave her the tools to help other employees on the campus. At present she is the advisor for Lambda Theta Nu Sorority, Inc., the Chicano Commencement, a Court Appointed Friend of the Court to a child that needs someone to not give up on them and a community leader. Quality and Higher Education along with working in her community to make a difference is something she is passionate about.



MASTER OF CEREMONY

JULIA E. CURRY RODRÍGUEZ, PH.D.

Professor Julia E. Curry Rodríguez earned a doctorate in Sociology in 1988 in Sociology at the University of Texas at Austin. In her research she examines immigrant women and children, immigration, language minority educational experiences, racial and sexual inequality, and a variety of issues pertaining to Chicanos and Latinos in the United States. At SJSU, Dr. Curry is past President of the Chicano/Latino Faculty and Staff Association-and advocacy group representing the status of Chicana/Latina Staff, Faculty and Students and board member of the Cultural Heritage Center at King Library to serve minority students and ethnic studies collection development. Since 2003 Dr. Curry has served as the faculty adviser for Student Advocates for Higher Education (SAHE)-an advocacy group addressing issues encountered by AB540 students. She teaches classes in: Global Migrations, Gender & Sexuality, Race and Ethnicity in Public Space, Graduate Theory in Chicana/o Studies, and Graduate Research Methods. Professor Curry has held many elected offices in various professional organizations. In the National Association for Chicana and Chicano studies (NACCS) she has been the General Coordinator, secretary, newsletter editor and the Northern California Regional Representative. Currently she is the executive director of NACCS. While still a graduate student at UT Austin, she was elected as the organizing and founding chair of the Chicana Caucus. She was Secretary of NACCS and Newsletter Editor of Noticias de NACCS for 1998-99. In MALCS-Mujeres Activas en Letras y Cambio Social, she has also held elected offices, including Chair in 1998-99. In the Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS) she served as the Chair of the Discrimination Committee from 1989-91 and organized the conference program for the annual meetings in 1989. In the American Sociological Association she was the organizing and founding Chair of the Section on Latina and Latino Sociology. In the American Sociological Association she served as a council member for the Section on Sex and Gender and served as former treasurer/secretary for the Section on Race and Ethnic Relations. Dr. Curry Rodríguez credits her academic success to the UC Educational Opportunity Program; the National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies (NACCS); the American Sociological Association's Minority Fellowship Program (ASA MFP); Mujeres Activas en Letras y Cambio Social (MALCS)-an academic Chicana/Latina feminist organization. Her optimism, determination and strength she derives from her Mother Elsa and her Sister María-to whom she is eternally grateful.



Photo by Tom Sanders



WELCOME FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

Written by: Lizbet Huizar

With utmost joy, we welcome our families and friends to the 46th Annual Chicano Commencement! To say we have worked hard is an understatement and today we share this ceremony commemorating our hard work at San Jose State University. We are honored to celebrate this rite of passage alongside those we love most.

Rooted in activism, the first Chicano Commencement took place 46 years ago when a group of brave students decided to walk out from the SJSU Commencement. Deciding to make a statement, these students peacefully walked out of the ceremony protesting the lack of resources for Chicana/os on campus. Though we have made great strides, 46 years later conditions for Latina/os mirror the conditions of our brothers and sisters in 1970. Thus, this organization prepares its members to go out into their respective fields with a fire in their belly and willingness to help the next generation. The legacy of the first Chicano Commencement lives on through each one of our members.

Each graduate has demonstrated true commitment and sacrifice in making this event come true. Being a member of Chicano Commencement is no easy task. Collectively our members volunteer over 2000 hours of service and help fundraise our goal of \$50,000 in the course of one semester. On top of organizational responsibilities, our members balance jobs, internships, and coursework. The majority of our members are first generation students, the sons and daughter of immigrants and above all visionaries for a better tomorrow.

Our members are model Spartans that have contributed a great deal to both the campus and surrounding community.

Each week we met, not complaining about the things that needed to get accomplished rather moving forward with our responsibilities. We have seen first hand the dedication that each one of our members presented. We look forward to the future knowing little by little we will go out into the world and create change for the betterment of society.

Thank you for allowing us the honor to lead you on this rollercoaster journey. It has been privilege to serve as your Co-Chairs. We are humbled by the honored bestowed in leading this organization full of young activist. Everyday you made our role worthwhile. The lesson we learned together will serve as blueprints for us to follow and if our years at SJSU and our participation taught us anything is that together we are capable of anything!

Go out into world as proud SJSU Alumni and even prouder Chicano Commencement Alumni. Always remember today belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams! Congrats Class of 2016, we did! Muchas felicidades compañeros!



BIENVENIDA DE LOS CO-CHAIRS

Escrito por: Andrea Carolina Fernández

En nombre de la clase del 2016 de Chicano Commencement, les damos la más cordial bienvenida a todos nuestros familiares y amigos que hoy nos acompañan en este día tan especial para todos nosotros, en el cual cumplimos uno de varios de los sueños más anhelados, nuestra graduación de la universidad. En 1970, un grupo de estudiantes valientes y perseverantes decidieron demostrar la necesidad de tener una ceremonia digna y honorable que resaltara y celebrara sus diferencias culturales al igual que sus logros académicos. Hoy cuarenta y seis años la tradición sigue, y con la misma euforia y determinación del comienzo de esta bonita y única tradición, aquí estamos luchando por lo que queremos.

Chicano Commencement es una organización estudiantil con características únicas. La organización lleva un gran legado de resaltar el valor de la educación, el activismo comunitario, y de siempre mantener la frente en alto a todo momento, y de nunca darse uno por vencido. Además, las amistades invaluable y el espíritu familiar creado entre nuestros compañeros a través de nuestra organización es algo que también nos llena de orgullo y felicidad.

En la unión está la fuerza, y esta celebración es un ejemplo de esa frase tan resonante y sabia. Hemos trabajado juntos como un equipo, en colaboración con varias otras organizaciones estudiantiles de nuestra universidad, al igual que con miembros de nuestra comunidad, maestros y maestras, consejeros y más, para poder llegar a este día. A veces todo parece imposible, hasta que ya está hecho, y es ahí en donde nos recuerda la vida que todo esfuerzo tiene su recompensa.

Cada uno de nuestros miembros de Chicano Commencement han trabajado innumerables horas y demostrado un gran empeño y esfuerzo hacia este acontecimiento tan grandioso e importante para todos los presentes.

Nuestra jornada por la universidad no ha sido una jornada individual, porque cada uno de nosotros llevamos dentro de nosotros los sueños, las enseñanzas, valores y costumbres, consejos y apoyo de nuestros seres queridos. Esta celebración es tanto nuestra

como es de ustedes, ya que sin su apoyo incondicional, ninguno de nosotros estaríamos aquí listos para emprender en este nuevo vuelo en nuestras vidas. Nuestra gratitud hacia ustedes nunca tendrá límites, ya que nos han dado un mundo entero lleno de ejemplos de valentía, perseverancia y ganas de seguir y salir adelante. Hoy cosechamos los frutos de sus sacrificios y esfuerzos a través de estos logros.

En la escuela aprendimos materias y enseñanzas académicas, pero al igual aprendimos de nuestras experiencias vividas, tanto como de las buenas, como de las malas. Los obstáculos y las adversidades que vencimos, junto con los momentos de alegría y júbilo, suman al gran número de recuerdos que nos llevamos con nosotros al graduarnos de esta universidad.

Hoy estamos frente a ustedes como ejemplo de seguir adelante y mantener viva la esperanza y el entusiasmo para las generaciones que vendrán después de nosotros. Cada quien deja un huella inigualable, y hoy nuestras huellas se quedan marcadas en este bello legado de Chicano Commencement. Nuestras huellas trascenderán más allá de esta universidad, ya que somos el futuro y la esperanza que le dará la mano a nuestras comunidades, familias, y el mundo entero. Este nuevo viaje apenas comienza, y aunque algunos de nosotros volaremos más lejos de los lugares que nos han visto crecer, que nunca se nos olvide el camino a casa, ya que ahí están nuestras raíces, y nuestras razones de ser.

En nombre de nosotras, ha sido un gran honor haber servido como las Presidentas de la clase del 2016 de Chicano Commencement. Ha sido todo una hermosa experiencia que no cambiaríamos. Nosotras hemos aprendido de todos ustedes, y estamos sumamente orgullosas de toda la dedicación, el esfuerzo y el trabajo que han hecho todos para que este día llegara a ser realidad. Todos los recuerdos y momentos vividos durante este año los guardaremos en nuestros corazones y siempre lo recordaremos con gran alegría y aprecio. Chicano Commencement, clase del 2016, este es nuestro momento de brillar, lo hicimos! Felicidades!



CONGRATULATIONS

CLASS *of* 2016

First Row (left to right:) Jessica Jazmine Mendoza, Karla Y. Armenta Ocegueda, Lizbet Huizar, Maria De Los Angeles Lopez, Claudia Nayeli Ruelas, Jazmin Chavez, Andrea Carolina Fernández, Marlene Arteaga, Claudia Sanchez Aguirre, Vanessa Berrios, Jennifer Perez, Lourdes Rodriguez Hernandez, Andrea Patricia Ruiz, Perla Rivas, Ana Gonzalez

Middle Row: Elizabeth Barrera Munoz, Leila Ibarra, Michael Anthony Espinoza Jr., Ricardo Ivan Gonzalez , Miguel Angel Hereida, Martin Jairo Martinez , Hector Gastelum Gaxiola, Joshua Quiroz Moreno , Pedro Medina, Javier Aldama, Jesus Guido, David Rico, Jovani Ruiz, Efrain Segundo, Claudia Guzman Aguilar, Yazmin Vargas, Roxanna Guijaro Sanchez

Third Row : Irma Yesenia Flores, Alejandra Garcia , Evelyn Ruesga, Stephanie Madrid, Suleyma Delgado, Yadira Quintero, Monica Yovani Orozco, Teresa Ignacia Perez, Monica Alexandra Bravo Ramos , Priscilla Elizalde, Adriana Torres, Elizabeth Sosa, Lucia Ojeda, Irene Fernandez, Joselin Dayanna Guerra, Karina Sanchez, Michelle Diaz- Garza, Karina Elena Herrera, Marlene Zambrano







E-BOARD

Top Row: Co- Publicity Chair, Yadira Quintero; Co- Publicity, Jessica Mendoza; Co- Treasurer, Perla Rivas; Co- Secretary, Jovani Ruiz; Co- Fundraising, Roxanne Sanchez; Co- Fundraising, Teresa Perez; Co- Entertainment, Marlene Artega

Bottom Row: Co-Treasurer, Lourdes Rodriguez; Co- Programming, Andrea Ruiz; Co- Chair, Lizbet Huizar; Co- Chair Andrea Fernandez; Co- Entertainment, Elizabeth Sosa



MEET THE 2016 GRADUATES

LOS GRADUADOS

MASTERS DEGREE



LIZBET HUIZAR

MASTERS: Mexican American Studies emphasis in Education

Todo lo que soy y todo lo que tengo ha sido por el sacrificio de mis papas. Nunca sabré lo duro que es levantarse a las 3 de la mañana o lo que es llegar del trabajo hasta con los hueso adoloridos, gracias a ustedes. Nunca en mi vida voy a poder pagarles el sacrificio y el esfuerzo, yo se que no ha sido fácil pero cada día voy a tratar. Cada uno de mis logros es dedicados a ustedes. Gracias ama y apa por dejarme seguir este camino. Les prometo su casa muy pronto. A mi hermano, Arturo Huizar, you're next bro!

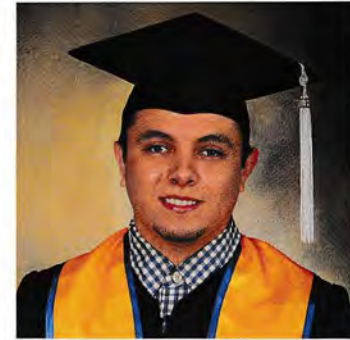
En mi vida pensé que estaría aquí a punto de recibir mi maestría. Este logro no es solo mío pero va con dedicación a todo la Raza. Como les he recordado a mis compañeros con este logro ahora tenemos un responsabilidad de seguir avanzando nuestra comunidad. Es nuestro turno guiar la próxima generación en cualquier manera que podamos. Y recuerden que aquí no acaba nuestra trayecto. Esto es solo el principio! Viva La Raza!



JAVIER ALDAMA

Major: Radio, Television and Film

Quiero agradecer a mis papas, Gloria y Javier Aldama, por siempre apollarme y creer en mi. Se los devo todo a ustedes y no estuviera aqui sin su apollo.



KARLA Y. ARMENTA OCEGUEDA

Major: Liberal Studies Preparation for Teaching

Primero que nada quiero darle gracias a dios por darme el esfuerzo y la capacidad y a mis padres por el apoyo incondicional para poder lograr mis principios para una preparacion mejor para mi futuro. La dedicacion y esfuerzo para poder lograr mi especialidad a requerido de mi prepareme y estudiar dia con dia para poder lograr mi educacion que tanto anelo. Gracias a dios por darme la capacidad y salud para poder seguir y lograr muchas cosas mas en mi camino. A mis hermanos que tanto quiero estare siempre alli para apoyarlos! Felicidades Chicanos lo logramos!



MARLENE ARTEAGA

Major: Sociology & Spanish

Primeramente me gustaría darle las gracias a Dios por haberme permitido llegar hasta el día de hoy. El más grande apoyo de mi vida han sido mis padres por el gran esfuerzo que me han brindado. Ellos siempre me han enseñado que al luchar por mis sueños será la mejor recompensa de mi vida. Con chanzazos y jalones de oreja, me he convertido en la mujer que soy el día de hoy. Algún día será mi turno de poder regresarles todo lo que han hecho por mí, y esto empieza con este gran logro. My siblings have also been a great support these past years in my journey here in SJSU. I am truly lucky and thankful to be blessed with two amazing brothers and one lovely sister. You guys play a big role in my life and in my accomplishments.





ELIZABETH BARRERA MUNOZ

Major: English Concentration in Professional & Technical Writing | Minor: Pyschology, Business

Primero que nada les quiero dar las gracias a mis padres por demostrarme su amor en la manera que lo hacen. Sin sus sacrificios y apoyo jamas hubiera alcanzado mi meta de estar aqui el dia de hoy. Mama, papa, y hermanos, ustedes son mi motivacion y razon de ser. Verlos levantarse temprano cada manana para sacar adelante a la familia es la definicion de un luchador. Luchan para darnos lo major, para criarnos con valores y fe. Le doy gracias a Dios por darme la dicha de estar rodeada por personas tan maravillosas. Ustedes, quien me dieron la vida, son mi inspiracion, y mi orgullo. Gracias por todo, mami y papi. Este logro es dedicado para ustedes.



VANESSA BERRIOS

Major: Pyschology

Hi! My name is Vanessa Berrios. I'm from Oakland, CA. This is my 3rd year at SJSU & I'm graduating which you can say is pretty cool. I will be graduating with a BA in Psychology and hopefully continuing on for my Master's real soon. I really want to thank all my friends, but more importantly all my lovely sisters of Sigma Pi Alpha Sorority. Thank you for making my time here memorable & making college an overall fun experience for me. I will never forget y'all. I want to thank my family for giving me constant support throughout my entire SJSU career. I couldn't have done it without you. Finally, I want to say thank you to my mom dad, stepdad and little sister. You all are my #1 supporters and I am forever grateful. Everything I do is for you all. I love you so much.



MONICA ALEXANDRA BRAVO RAMOS

Major: Pyschology | Minor: Justice Studies, Spanish

I can finally say I did it! All those sleepless and stressful nights of studying and writing papers have been worth it. Gracias a mi familia for always being there and supporting me throughout my college journey here at San Jose State. I couldn't have done it without you all. Los quiero mucho! I also had the support from my sorority sisters who helped pushed me to not give up and for that I will always be grateful. I never thought I would make it this far, but I did. I accomplished what a lot of others can't and that's something to be proud of and walk with my head held high. I am proud to call myself a Chicana...An educated Chicana. I am no longer a statistic, and there's no stopping me now. Si se pudo!



JAZMIN CHAVEZ

Major: Advertising | Minor: Concentration in Hospitality Management

I knew from the beginning that being a first generation college student wasn't going to be easy but I couldn't have done it without the help of my family and friends. You all motivated me and always reminded of the finish line up ahead. Mommy y daddy sin su apoyo y grandes sacrificios no hubiera podido lograr esta meta. Este diploma es para ustedes! I love you! We did it! Julianna, this is all for you baby girl!

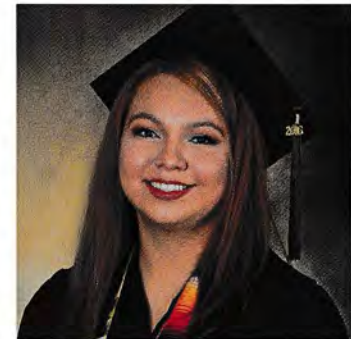


Dime que no puedo y te demuestro lo contrario.

ANAHI DE LA CRUZ BELTRAN

Major: Justice Studies | Minor: Forensic Sciences

Esta graduación está dedicado a mi mamá. Mi mamá es reconocida por ser estricta pero con un gran corazón. Como una mamá soltera ella es madre y padre para sus dos hijas, mi hermana y yo, y sin embargo, dedica su tiempo al futuro de su hijas. Ella se aseguró de que me dieran la mejor educación y programs escolares. Sin su sacrificio y amor, sinceramente, no sé dónde estaría. Mi hermana, novio y amigos también participaron de ayudar y apoyar me durante mi trabajo escolar. Ellos producirsen un camino positivo para una Latina. Gracias a todos por darme esta oportunidad increíble y inolvidable, todos está representado en esta ceremonia. Recuerde que debemos devolver el favor! Felicitaciones a mis compañeros de clase 2016, lo hicimos! "No debemos olvidar nunca nuestros maestros, nuestros profesores y nuestros mentores. A título individual han contribuido a nuestro desarrollo académico, profesional y personal"





SULEYMA DELGADO

Major: Business/ Human Resource Management

Thanks to my Parents, Husband, and Siblings for being there to help/guide me through this wonderful, at times challenging, journey. To my love, thank you for staying up late nights with me studying, driving me to school when I needed to refresh my memory before an exam, staying positive when I've wanted to crack and listening to me practice for presentations. A mis padres, su baby se gradua! Gracias por creer en mí cuando yo no creía en mí y amarme incondicionalmente. My siblings; thank you for always pushing me to do better. I'm lucky to have you guys. And to my unborn baby, we did it! You truly know how hard this last semester has been for me because you have been through it with me every step of the way. It's been wonderful carrying you in my tummy but we can't wait to meet you July 2016!



MICHELLE DIAZ-GARZA

Major: Health Science Concentration in Health Administration, Spanish

Michelle Diaz-Garza was born and raised in Watsonville, CA. She is the first in her family to attend a university straight from high school. Her hobbies consist of spending time with her family, hiking, and watching movies. Michelle will be receiving her Bachelors of Science degree in Health Science concentration in Health Services Administration and her Bachelors of Arts in Spanish. During her five years at San Jose State University. Michelle has been a member of the Health Science Honors Society, Health Leadership Organization, and Chicano Commencement. This semester she interned with the Healthy Aging Research Technology and Solutions Lab a branch of the Stanford Prevention Center. She plans to continue her education in Health Administration and help communities.



PRISCILLA ELIZALDE

Major: Psychology | Minor: Child and Adolescent Development, Justice Studies

Solo quiero agradecerles de todo corazon a mis padres que sin ellos, jamas pudiese haber cumplido este logro tan grande. Gracias a sus esfuerzos estoy aquí, y soy quien soy. Gracias al amor que siempre me demostraron, por sus paciencia cuando me porté mal, por sus consejos cuando me sentía confundida y por su apoyo cuando más lo necesité, siempre me enseñaron el valor de las cosas y por eso, son los mejores padres del mundo. No puedo nombrar todas las cosas por las que estoy agradecida con ustedes porque no me alcanzaría la vida, pero quiero dedicarle este momento a ustedes. Los amo.



MICHAEL ANTHONY ESPINOZA, JR.

Major: English Concentration in Secondary Education

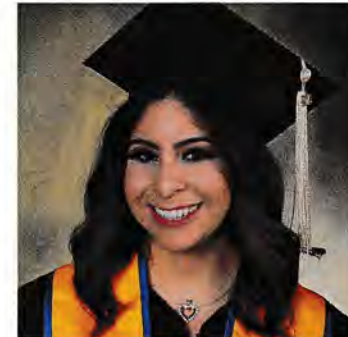
My path has been long and winding. Nonetheless, here I am amongst my fellow Chican@s, and I couldn't be more proud. From the Eastside to SJSU and beyond, I couldn't have done this without the help and encouragement of so many people: all involved with the ¡Adelante! Task Force, especially Marcos, Itza, Lilly, and Hector - all of you greatly inspire me; my Peer Connections peeps whom I have shared so much with and will never forget; Dr. Mitchell, who believed in me even when I didn't believe in myself; Joanne, Scott and Kory for easing my transition out from VGCC to follow my dream; the homies Fernando, Mike, and John for hanging in there with me even when I couldn't kick it; and of course Mi Familia - Mom, Dad, Mony, and Nicco - I love y'all so much! Now I'm gonna sine your pitty on the runny kine! Wadatah!



ANDREA CAROLINA FERNÁNDEZ

Major: Communication Studies | Minor: Mexican-American Studies

Primeramente le doy gracias a Dios por darme la dicha de poder cumplir este sueño tan anhelado tanto por mi, como por mi familia. Hoy no solamente yo me graduó de la universidad, si no también mi familia, ya que sin su amor y apoyo incondicional, sacrificios y esfuerzos, yo no estaría aquí. A mis padres tan queridos, mis primeros maestros de la vida, mi gratitud hacia todo lo que me han dado nunca tendrá límites. Hoy es el día en el cual digo, no fue fácil, pero lo logre. Al graduarme de SJSU, celebro no únicamente los triunfos, pero también los momentos difíciles, momentos de aprendizaje, las valiosas amistades, y cada una de mis experiencias en estos cuatro años. Shoutout to my LG's and my Ellas that always hold it down. Hoy abro mis alas y emprendo en un nuevo viaje, porque lo mejor esta por venir. #sisepudoquiendijoqueno #firstgenerationandproud #ArrivaJaliscoyDurango

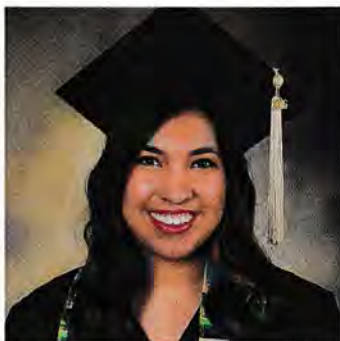


IRENE FERNANDEZ

Major: Psychology | Minor: Sociology

Being the first in my family to graduate from college was one of the hardest challenges I've had to face. I made it a point to strive for any goal I set and it was a promise I held on during my time at San Jose State. There were many obstacles along the way but having parents who work so hard to provide everything for my siblings and I, kept me going. I was determined to do this for them and for myself. I majored in Psychology with a minor in Sociology, in hopes to pursue my dream career as a juvenile Probation Officer. During my time at SJSU I became a sister of Sigma Pi Alpha sorority which helped me live the college experience. With the support of my family, boyfriend, sorority sisters I am prepared for the next chapter in life. Si se pudo!





IRMA YESENIA FLORES

Major: Behavioral Science | Minor: Child Development

My name is Irma Yesenia Flores and I am graduating with a Behavioral Science degree and a minor in Child Development. To my daughter Karina Aliana, you have been my greatest motivation. Andrew, I love you & thank you for always believing in me! MUCHAS gracias a mis padres, mi Tia y toda mi familia por el apoyo incondicional! Es gracias a ustedes que me encuentro aquí, todos mis logros se los dedico a ustedes. I am so proud to be able to fulfill my parent's dream for their daughter and be the first one in my family to graduate from a University. A mi abuelito, Edubiges Zambrano, quien siempre creyo en el valor de una buena educacion. I wouldn't have completed my college career without my many loved ones who have supported me along the way. Your love and support mean more to me than you will ever know.



ALEJANDRA GARCIA

Major: Business Administration Concentration in Management

My name is Alejandra Maria Garcia class of 2016 graduating with a degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Management. Now that I'm coming to the end of my 4th year in my college career, it feels bittersweet for I have accomplished so much in such a small amount of time. I was able to have a job on campus, go Greek, and most importantly be a part of Chicano Commencement. Being that my mom was one of the first classes to graduate in Chicano Commencement, I am honored to follow in her footsteps making not only my mother proud but my family. I hold my family very close to my heart and many of my decisions that I have done were with them in mind. This degree wasn't only for me but for my family, I love you.



HECTOR GASTELUM GAXIOLA

Major: Aviation Operation | Minor: Business Management

Fueron tantos los años que pase en este lugar, que el tiempo se me hacía eterno. Nunca miraba este día, ni tampoco me lo imaginaba. Y aunque la jornada fue larga, le agradezco con mi vida a mis padres por nunca haberme soltado el dedo del renglón, sin importar cuantos años nos tomara. Por sus consejos y regaños, que tal vez no parezca, pero siempre los traigo presentes. Y por haberme dado esta oportunidad que me cambio la vida y tanta motivación por salir adelante. Gracias!



ANA GONZALEZ

Major: Interior Design | Minor: Environmental Studies in Energy Policy, Theatre/Performance

I was brought illegally to the United States by my mother from Tepatitlán, Jalisco, Mexico when I was a baby. I grew up in San Jose and ever since I can remember I have always loved learning. As a Chicana woman I struggled to find my identity. I have more regrets than I can count, but I also feel wiser because of them. Today I graduate from San José State University with a 3.5 GPA. Also, with a Bachelor's Degree in Interior Design, a Minor in Environmental Studies in Energy Policy and a Minor in Theatre/Performance. I thank all my mentors, counselors, advisors and everyone who never gave up on me. Most importantly I want to thank my Mamita Teresa Campos who has been my *mujer guerrera* and *mejor amiga* throughout my life and especially during my academic journeys. I encourage everyone to always DREAM BIG! Si Se Puede!



*Latinos y latinas unidos y educados
jamás serán vencidos.*

RICARDO IVAN GONZALEZ

Major: Behavioral Science

Gracias a todos los que me ayudaron y apoyaron durante todos estos años para poder lograr esta meta. En especial a mis padres por siempre estar conmigo en las buenas y en las malas. Ellos han sacrificado mucho por mi para que pueda lograr mis sueños desde pequeño y siempre estare agradecido por tenerlos ha ellos a mi lado. Maya, sin ti no pudiera lograr muchos de mis retos porque tu siempre fuistes mi favorita consejera personal. Tu siempre haz actuado como mi segunda mama y te quiero mucho por eso. Tu igualmenete me haz apoyado y regañado para poder enpujarme para seguir adelante. Esta graduacion se los dedico a ustedes y espero que los he hecho orgullosos de mi!





JOSELIN DAYANA GUERRA

Major: B.A. Communication Studies

Primero le quiero dar gracias a Dios por todas las bendiciones y por dejarme llegar a este gran momento. Mami & Dad palabras jamas podran expresar cuanto los amo y aprecio, estare eternamente agradecida por todo lo que han hecho por mi, I love you!! Tia Vilma gracias por ser mi segunda mama te quiero mucho! Yvonne, I don't know what I would have done these past 2 yrs without you, I love you so much! Nadia, my fave guera thank you for being "my person." Evette (my soul sister) your friendship is something I am forever grateful for. Eddy & Brianna my partners in crime, I will never be able to put into words how much you both mean to me, I am beyond proud to be your big sister! To Everyone sharing this moment with me from the bottom of my heart THANK YOU & I LOVE YOU!



JESUS GUIDO

Major: Chemistry Concentration in Materials Science | Minor: Materials Engineering, Mexican American Studies

Dejé mi infancia en México cuando tenía doce años sabiendo que no iba a ser nada fácil empezar otra vida en un país completamente diferente. Todo el sendero que he caminado ha sido gracias a mi familia y cuando me caigo, me levanto y sigo adelante porque es la única salida. Mientras uno sepa de donde viene y donde está, siempre será más fácil el camino hacia donde uno va. Desde que era pequeño siempre he querido ser lo que ahora soy. Mi familia siempre me aconsejó "mijo no hay nada como la educación y el honor". Gracias a todos mis amigos, mis profesores, Sigma Delta Alpha Fraternity Inc. y mi familia por toda su comprensión y apoyo, principalmente a mi mamá que es todo un ejemplo para mí.



ROXANNA GUIJARO SÁNCHEZ

Major: Health Science | Minor: Child and Adolescent Behavior

Mami y papi, los quiero tanto! Nunca voy a dejar de darle gracias a Dios por haberme dado padres tan increíbles. Gracias por su esfuerzo, su amor, y por siempre creer en mí.

Nubs, Chivis, and Cari, God outdid himself with you three. I got not one but three strong and beautiful women to look up to and I am incredibly lucky to be your little sister.

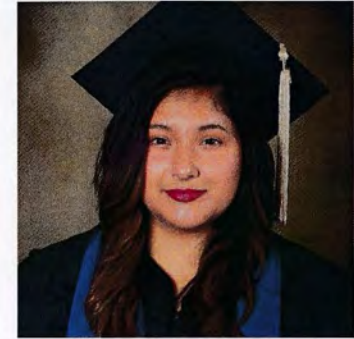
Mari and Ed, I say this here because I know if I try to say this on stage words will fail me. I celebrate this day in your honor knowing you never got the chance to. Thank you for watching over me and for having blessed me with your friendship. I love you and I miss you every day.



CLAUDIA GUZMAN-AGUILAR

Major: Political Science | Minor: Mexican-American Studies

I'd like to thank my parents, and everyone that supported me even when I moved over 100 miles away from home. Thank you to the people i meet here too for becoming a family away from home. And thank you to everyone for all your help, advice and love.



MIGUEL ANGEL HEREDIA

Major: Finance

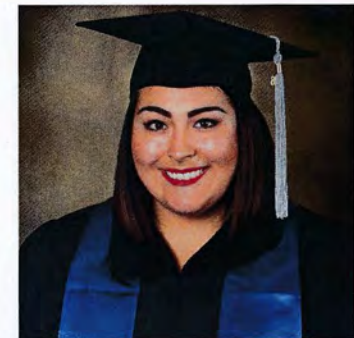
Primero que nada, le quiero dar gracias a dios por ayudarme llegar a este día. Quiero dedicar esta celebración a mi madre y a mi padre por nunca haber dejado de creer en mi y alcanzar a ver todo lo que puedo lograr. Para toda la gente que lucho conmigo en este camino hacia mi graduación les quiero dar mil gracias por ayudarme, apoyarme y soportarme. A todos mis hermanos, les debo más de que les puedo dar siempre estado agradecido de tenerlos ustedes. Y a toda la gente que ya no está aquí conmigo en este día, un día nosotros los volvemos ver de nuevo en ese paraíso sagrado.



KARINA ELENA HERRERA

Major: Child and Adolescent Development | Minor: History

Esto es dedicado a mi familia que sin sus sacrificios ninguno de estos logros serían posible y ahora mis logros serán de ellos también





LEILA DOMINIQUE IBARRA

Major: Liberal Studies Preparation for Teaching

I'm proud to say that I made it. I'm the first to attend a university and the first to graduate in my family. It took me 6 long years to finally obtain my degree and within those 6 years on my own I learned how to be a better student, teacher, friend, sister, and most importantly a daughter. I could not have done all this without the support and unconditional love from my parents. To my brothers and niece, thank you for always making me smile and laugh. To those who aren't blood but became family, thanks for always holding me down. I love all of you and hope to continue making you proud. LSG til the death of me. Love, your favorite Loca.



JANET LEDESMA

Major: Spanish | Minor: Psychology

A los 22 años de edad puedo decir con orgullo...¡Sí se pudo! Le quiero dar las gracias a toda mi familia que siempre me apoyaron y me siguen apoyando en este viaje tan largo. Sin ustedes esto no fuera posible.

Obteniendo esta especialidad en español y psicología me abrirá puertas pero no terminare ahí. Seguiré luchando por mis sueños hasta un día tener un título en terapia ocupacional y poder facilitar las vidas de los tantos con capacidades diferentes.



MARIA DE LOS ANGELES LOPEZ

Major: International Business | Minor: Area Studies

Graduating from a university has been one of my greatest accomplishments thus far, and one that I will cherish forever. Este logro se lo debo todo a mis padres. No hay suficientes palabras para agradecerles por todo su apoyo y todos los sacrificios que han hecho para que yo pudiera llegar a este momento, gracias! Si se pudo!



SHEILA A. LOPEZ

Major: Radio, Television and Film | Minor: HSTM

Hace 15 años llegué a este país con mi Mamá, tenía solo nueve años y nunca me imaginé que alguna vez asistiría a la Universidad. Hubo ocasiones donde consejeros de la preparatoria me decían que iba ser casi imposible graduarme de la Universidad. Quiero darle las gracias a mis tías, tíos, y Eloy por siempre ayudarme. To my brother and cousins I hope that all that I'm doing can inspire you to be successful in all that you do. Never give up and don't take "no" as an answer. A mis abuelos les agradezco todas sus palabras de motivación que me ayudaron a llegar a este punto. Esto se lo dedico a la persona que más amo y que nunca se dio por vencida, Mami tu sacrificios valieron la pena!! Te amo muchas gracias por todo!!

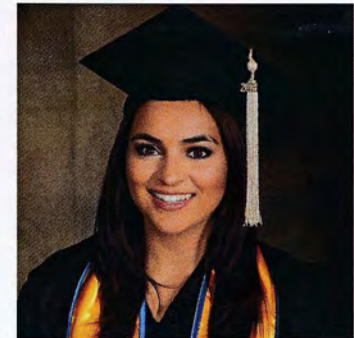


Si se puede, ayer, hoy, mañana, y por siempre.

STEPHANIE MADRID

Major: Psychology | Minor: Mexican-American Studies

Me gustaría dar las gracias a mis padres por motivarme a ser siempre la mejor versión de mí misma . A mis hermanos por creer en mí y apoyarme a pesar de todo . Gracias a esos profesores, tutores y amigos que contribuyeron a este viaje inexplicable. ¡Lo hicimos! ¡¿Que sigue?!





MARTIN JAIRO MARTINEZ

Major: Sociology

Primeramente quiero agradecer a mis padres por todo su esfuerzo y el apoyo que me han brindado para poder llegar a este momento. También quiero dar gracias a mi hermana que siempre me apoyo y motivo a salir adelante. Todos nuestros esfuerzos son celebrados en este día y estoy orgulloso de poder decir: Mis Logros Son Sus Logros!



PEDRO MEDINA

Major: Business Management

Just like every other Chicano at SJSU, the struggle has been coming all this way since even before college. Not knowing how far I would get or if I would even graduate, the support system I had was stronger than expected. Quiero darle las gracias a mis padres por todo su apollo y por siempre creer en mi. La fuerza, orgullo, y trabajo duro que doy cada dia de mi vida es la reflexión de ustedes. Nunca me eh sentido tan feliz de decirles que después de tanto trabajo duro, hoy tengo el orgullo de decirles que finalmente sere alumbre de San Jose State University! Su primer hijo se estará graduando, dejando atrás un buen ejemplo y expectativa para mis hermanas que quiero tanto. Gracias a ustedes, mis amigos locos que tengo y mi novia que me apolla, lograre muchas cosas mas! Now lets get this money baby!



JESSICA JAZMINE MENDOZA

Major: Behavioral Science

No podría decir que la persona en la cual me he convertido es unicamente un logro personal, ya que hay personas que me han ayudado y por siempre han dejado una huella en mi. Hoy quiero agradecer a mis padres Ignacio y Maria Mendoza por darme el mundo entero. Atravéz de sus bendiciones, he aprendido a nunca dejarme por vencida y siempre seguir luchando. Hoy celebro uno de los días mas felices de mi vida, se cumple uno de mis sueños mas deseados. Todos mis esfuerzos se han logrado. El tiempo fuera de casa, y las barreras que aun me quisieron impedir mi objetivo se conquistaron y gane la batalla. Durante estos anos inolvidables hay personas en la que siempre tendrán un lugar especial en mi Corazon. Gracias por su amistad y apoyo. Mom, Dad, son mi fuerza, motivación, y mi tesoro, y este día es dedicado a ustedes.

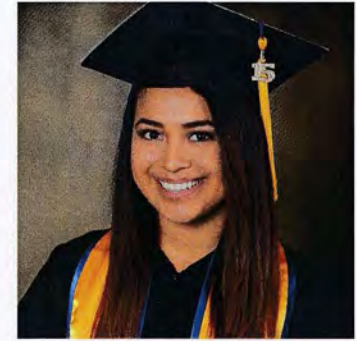


ABIGAIL NUÑO

Major: Communication Studies

"Si la vida te da limones...pide sal y tequila"

Dios me a bendecido con un sistema de apoyo increíble. No hubiera podido lograr esta aventura de collegio tan loca sin el amor, apoyo y guánsa de mi familia. Durante mi tiempo en el colegio, no sólo aprendí sobre investigaciones y teorías. Si no también mi familia me enseñó muchas cosas importantes que yo a un no sabía. Cosas como la historia de mi familia, como valorar mi cultura, y el poder de dios. No sería una orgullosa Latina graduante de San Jose State University si no fuera por mi familia. Gracias por todo! Los quiero mucho.



LUCIA OJEDA

Major: Justice Studies

Soy la segunda hija de una familia de cuatro y la primera en graduarse de la universidad. Desde que recuerdo, siempre ha sido mi sueño obtener una educación universitaria y seguir una carrera en aplicación de leyes. Desde pequeña mis padres me inculcaron la importancia de esforzarse y trabajar duro por lo que uno quiere obtener en la vida. Gracias al apoyo incondicional que he recibido de mis padres, familia, mentores y amigos hoy logro este sueño. Agradezco a todos y cada uno de las personas que me ayudaron y me apoyaron en este viaje, estaré por siempre agradecida y en deuda por todo el amor y apoyo que me han brindado. Gracias Mamá y papa, ¡lo hice! Si Se PUEDE! "Con dios todo es posible" – Mateo 19:26



MONICA YOVANI OROZCO

Major: Communication Studies | Minor: Business

Throughout my educational career I've had great professors, however I was blessed with two of the most loving and hardworking professors, mis padres! I couldn't have done it without your consejos y motivation!

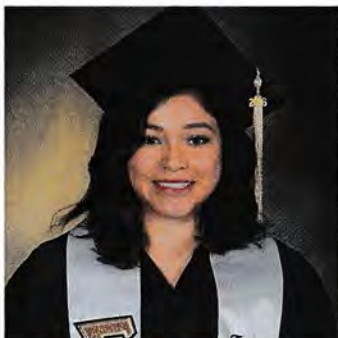




JENNIFER PAULINA PEREZ

Major: Communication Studies

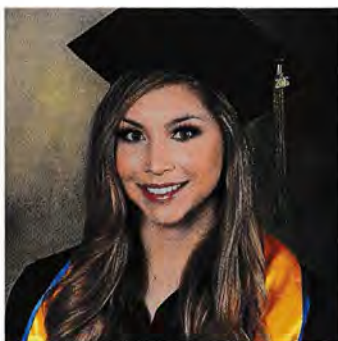
Mommy & papi, Dios ha sido tan grande conmigo y no pudo haberme bendecido con mejores padres. Gracias por apoyarme en todo lo que hago y ayudarme a llegar a donde estoy hoy. Estoy tan orgullosa de ser su hija y quiero que sepan que todo lo que hago es para ustedes. Cada vez que estoy estresada, pienso en ustedes y automaticamente recuerdo la razón por la que empecé. I love you so much.



TERESA IGNACIA PEREZ

Major: Psychology | Minor: Spanish

"Follow your dreams, they know the way." Staying focused and determined brought us all here to this day. But for me in particular, it was my brother who inspired me to pursue a degree in Psychology, my father who has encouraged me to keep my eyes on the prize, and my mother who has always kept my head on straight. Thank you to my loved ones for pushing me to this moment and staying by my side. Santiaguito, this is all for you. I only hope to see you here where I'm standing 20 years from now.



YADIRA QUINTERO

Major: Public Relations | Minor: Communication Studies

Obtener un beca universitaria es un logro que no hubiera obtenido sin la bendición de Dios y el apoyo de las personas que más adoro, mis padres. Agradezco mucho su amor, sus consejos y sus grandes sacrificios. ¡Ustedes son los mejores maestros de la vida ! XOXO



JOSHUA QUIROZ MORENO

Major: Justice Studies | Minor: Mexican American Studies

As the son of immigrant parents I was always taught to work hard and take pride in what I do. My parents taught me to value education. With the support and motivation of my parents I have been able to achieve one of my dreams of graduating from college. Thank you for all the sacrifices you made to be able to make this dream come true. Gracias mama, gracias papa por todo su apoyo y amor sin condiciones. I dedicate this degree to you both.

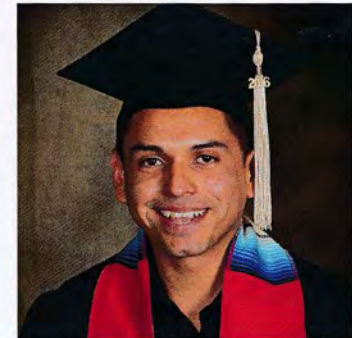


Cosechando los frutos de nuestros sacrificios y esfuerzos.

DAVID RICO

Major: Behavioral Science | Minor: Philosophy

I was born and raised in the city of Santa Ana, California- the real Orange County. Santa Ana was all I knew until I graduated from High School. Being the youngest of three siblings, while also being the first generation of my family to graduate from a University has been an experience that has molded me to the person and professional I am today. Luckily, I have had the college experience of a lifetime, which is due in huge part to my second family, the brothers of Lambda Theta Phi, Beta Zeta Chapter. The journey that I have taken to get here started long before I arrived to San Jose State. The support I have received from my family, friends, and mentors has kept me pushing and striving. I thank and cherish them all. Today is simply a glimpse into the autobiography of David Rico. Today is simply the beginning.





PERLA RIVAS

Major: Spanish | Minor: Latin American Studies

Mis padres me trajeron a Los Estados Unidos cuando tenía tan solo cuatro años junto a mi hermano. Mi objetivo siempre ha sido salir adelante y esforzarme para jamás ser una conformista. El viaje a este país fue una oportunidad que mis padres quisieron brindarme y el verbo "defraudar" jamás lo quise existente entre ellos y yo. A través de mis estudios, constantemente escuchaba las quejas de aquellos estudiantes indocumentados sobre la escuela. Siendo yo indocumentada, los entendía pero jamás quise que eso fuera una excusa en mi vida y siempre guarde las esperanzas de que algo tenía que suceder al respecto. Ahora aquí estoy en una etapa muy importante de mi vida que ha llegado a su fin para poder seguir a la siguiente. Les debo todo a mis padres por siempre apoyarme y creer en mí y enseñarme que yo también debo creer en mí misma.



BRISA RODRIGUEZ

Major: Social Science Preparation for Teaching | Minor: Mexican-American Studies

"Quiero darle las gracias a mi mamá y papá por todo su apoyo. Ama, gracias por ser una mujer chingona. Apa, gracias por tu amor y por siempre decirme, 'tu puedes Brisilla'. Sin ustedes nada de esto fuera posible. Estoy eternamente agradecida con ustedes dos. Los amo un chinog hoy, mañana, y siempre."



LOURDES RODRIGUEZ HERNANDEZ

Major: Business Administration

Mamá y papá ustedes son mi motor. Roberto, Alex, Vany, Eli y Sofhie son mis estrellas. Alfredo tu eres mi luz. Juntos no seremos vencidos!



CLAUDIA NAYELI RUELAS

Major: Sociology

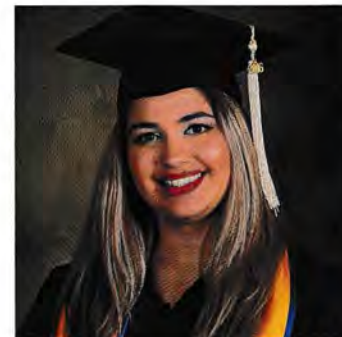
Hola, my name is Claudia Nayeli Ruelas. I'm graduating from SJSU with a BA in Sociology. I transferred in from De Anza College. I'm the first one to graduate from a university in my family. My family has been my motivation to accomplish my goals. I would like to thank my family for always supporting me in my education. A special thank you to my mom, who believed in me, even when I didn't believe in myself. Todos mis esfuerzos y sacrificos son para mi familia, y hoy se que valio la pena.



EVELYN RUESGA

Major: Behavioral Science with an emphasis in Psychology

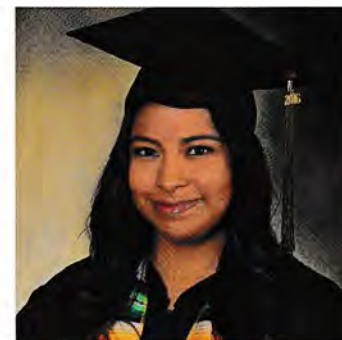
I would not be where I was now if I did not have the love and support that has been given to me by my family. This day is not just for me, but for us. Thank you for instilling in me the drive and ambition to succeed I now have. Aunque el camino sea dificil, Siempre seguire luchando.



ANDREA PATRICIA RUIZ

Major: Public Relations | Minor: English

At a young age, I learned what it was to dream. To have the ability to want to do anything you set your mind to. I have always been told that I can, "tu si puedes mija." That the only ingredients I needed were hard work, patience, and dedication. A dream is a goal. A dream is inspiration. A dream is hope for the better. Today, I have conquered one of my dreams, of getting higher education, something my parents taught me could never have a price tag. But, I am only here because of the dreams of my parents. Because they dared to have a dream of a better life for themselves and their family. Behind me I leave memories but ahead of me lie unconquered dreams. Thank you mom and dad because without you, I could not have achieved such a great accomplishment. Lo hicimos!





JOVANI RUIZ

Major: Radio, Television and Film

My name is Jovani Ruiz. This is my 5th year at San Jose State University and I'm a Radio, Television and Film major. I come from the city of Watsonville, CA. I was born on July 15, 1993. So how did I end up here? Since I'm the first person from my family to go to a 4 year university straight out of high school, it gave me motivation to pursue something I have been doing in high school, which is learn about films. I got a lot of support from my family, even though it meant being away from them. Their support has gotten me this far and I'm proud of that. Muchas gracias por todo y los amo mucho!

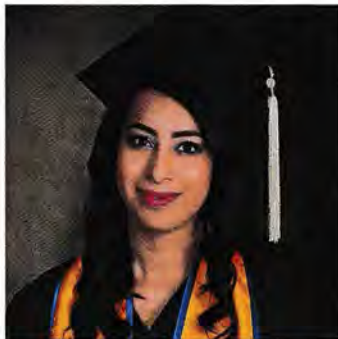
And shout out to the Beta Zeta chapter of Lambda Theta Phi Latin Fraternity, Inc.



CLAUDIA SÁNCHEZ AGUIRRE

Major: Psychology | Minor: Child and Adolescent Development

El día mas esperado ha llegado a recorrer el escenario y recibir uno de los reconocimientos más importantes de mi vida, una licenciatura. El día ha llegado para finalmente darme cuenta que las luchas que soporté me dio frutos al final. Cuando camine el escenario, voy a saber que todo mis esfuerzos se han logrado. A través de las bendiciones de mis padres, Guadalupe y Estela Sánchez, era capaz de luchar en contra las barreras que alguna vez trato de impedir mi objetivo. Mi familia es y será siempre mi mayor motivación para seguir mis sueños y para seguir adelante. El tiempo que pase siempre será inolvidable por los queridos que ha conocido y siempre tendrán un lugar especial en mi corazón. Dios siempre estuvo a mi lado y por eso estoy agradecida.



KARINA SANCHEZ

Major: Sociology

My name is Karina Sanchez and I was born in San Jose, CA. I am first generation college student. I transferred from De Anza College earning my Associate Degree in Social and Behavioral Science and now graduating from San Jose State University with my Bachelors Degree. I am happy to be accomplishing one of my biggest goals. To see how much my parents struggle through life motivated me to keep going and get a higher education. With this accomplishment I want to be able to show that anything in life is possible if you put your mind to it. Thank you to all my family and friends for the support through out this journey.



LIZZETT SANCHEZ

Major: BS, Nutritional Science, Concentration in Dietetics

"Este mundo no es de los cobardes, y tú no eres cobarde". Aferrada a estas palabras que un día mi padre me dijo, me mantuve de pie en los momentos más difíciles como estudiante. Hoy no me queda más que agradecerle a Dios y a mi familia por nunca dejar de creer en mí. A mi mamá, que ha trabajado casi toda su vida en el campo para darme la oportunidad de hacer mi sueño realidad; y a mi papá por ser mi consejero, mi amigo y mi más grande inspiración para luchar por mis sueños. Como estudiante aprendí que no importa cuántas veces te caigas, sino las veces que uno se levante. Y de la vida, aprendí que con todas sus complejidades hay que caminarla siempre con valor y humildad; y que el amor a tu familia, amigos o pareja no es un capricho, sino una dulce y total renuncia. Gracias familia! SI SE PUDO!



EFRAIN SEGUNDO

Major: Business Management | Minor: Human Rights

I dedicate my degree to my loving mother who is the best person I know, anything great I've ever accomplished is because of you. To my family, for believing in me and never having any doubt that I would make it. To the neighborhood of S. Poplar in Santa Ana California for never being perfect but always being home. To all my Santa Ana kids, who everyday in every way get better and better and better. To Beta Zeta, for adopting a boy from the OC and shaping him into the best kind of man there is, a lambda man. To Efrain Segundo Sr., your absence was always felt but your presence was never needed. Finally this achievement is dedicated to anyone whose ever felt like the odds were stacked against them, to the people who had every reason in the world to quit and settle but didn't....P.S I love tacos.



ELIZABETH SOSA

Major: Justice Studies, Spanish

Soy originaria de Michoacán, México y criada en California. Soy la tercera y la única mujer de cuatro hijos. Tengo tres hermanos a los que adoro con todo mi corazón y padres ejemplares por los que lucho a diario. Soy la primera en mi familia en recibirse de la universidad con doble licenciatura en administración de justicia y español. Planeo ejercer una carrera en dependencias de gobierno y ayudar a la comunidad latina. Mas sin embargo, nada de esto hubiera sido posible sin el incondicional apoyo de mi familia. Ya que me han ayudado en este trayecto de una y mil maneras. Ellos son la base de mis pilares ya que el verlos trabajar arduamente me impulsa a ser alguien en la vida. Pues considero que de esta forma podre retribuir un poco de todo el cariño y apoyo que me han brindado.





ADRIANA TORRES

Major: Economics

Nací y me crié en una familia de cinco, dos hermanos y mis padres en el pequeño pueblo de Hollister, CA. Decidí estudiar en la universidad de San José siguiendo los pasos de mi hermano mayor. Con la bendición de dios y mi familia, hoy me uno a un escaso grupo de mujeres latinas con una licenciatura en Economía. En estos años he aprendido que no importa el precio, si no el valor de una educación. Espero ser un ejemplo a si seguir para mi hermano menor y futuras generaciones latinas. Agradezco de corazón a mis padres por enseñarme que en la vida se tiene que trabajar y luchar para alcanzar tus metas. Gracias por enseñarme la gran importancia de la educación y ante todo mantener mis raíces y cultura con humildad y orgullo.



YAZMIN VARGAS LEYVA

Major: Behavioral Science | Minor: Mexican-American Studies

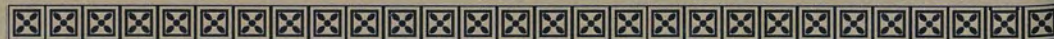
Just like every other Chicano at SJSU, the struggle has been coming all this way since even before college. Not knowing how far I would get or if I would even graduate, the support system I had was stronger than expected. Quiero darle las gracias a mis padres por todo su apollo y por siempre creer en mi. La fuerza, orgullo, y trabajo duro que doy cada día de mi vida es la reflexión de ustedes. Nunca me eh sentido tan feliz de decirles que después de tanto trabajo duro, hoy tengo el orgullo de decirles que finalmente sere alumbre de San Jose State University! Su primer hijo se estará graduando, dejando atrás un buen ejemplo y expectativa para mis hermanas que quiero tanto. Gracias a ustedes, mis amigos locos que tengo y mi novia que me apolla, lograre muchas cosas mas! Now lets get this money baby!



MARLENE ZAMBRANO

Major: Child and Adolescent Development | Minor: Sociology

I'm a future teacher who is studying Child and Adolescent Development with a minor in Sociology. This degree would have not been possible without the help of God, my family, friends, and church community. But I want to give a special thanks to my parents and siblings. They are the world to me without them I would have never gotten this accomplishment. Thanks Team Zameli! I really appreciate everyone support





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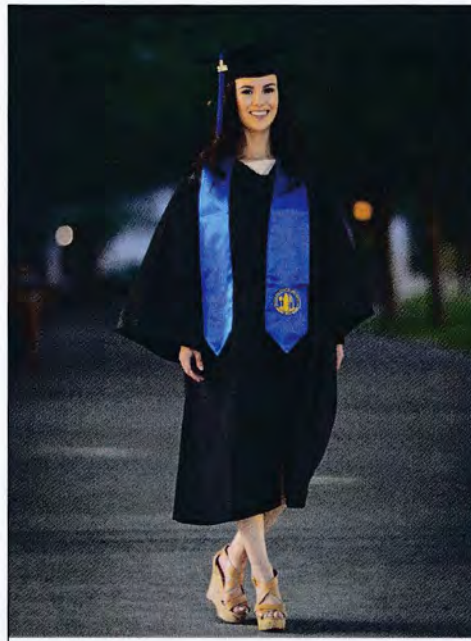
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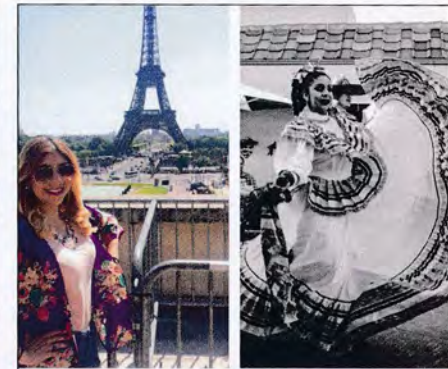
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Felicidades Teresa!

Familia, donde la vida comienza y el amor nunca termina...! Sin el apoyo de toda la familia, este logro no se hubiera alcanzado. Gracias, por haber seguido adelante por Santiaguito y por demostrarle que nada es inalcanzable! Felicidades Teresita! Que todos tus esfuerzos sean recompensados! Te Queremos Mucho, Familia Grover-Pérez

-Tus Padres



**Felicidades
 Andrea!**

Eres nuestro gran orgullo, tus logros y éxitos en tu carrera son nuestra recompensa. Te queremos mucho.

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*Para nosotros es un orgullo que haya realizado su sueño de graduarse profesionalmente de la universidad. Todo sacrificio y esfuerzo al final tiene su recompensa . FELICIDADES!!!!!!
-Mama y Papa*

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*To my daughter, Vanessa Berrios, your mom and dad are very proud of you for all of your accomplishments and hard work. This is just the beginning of the journey to a lifetime of success and we know you will work hard to get to the end. With lots of love,
Mami & Papi.*

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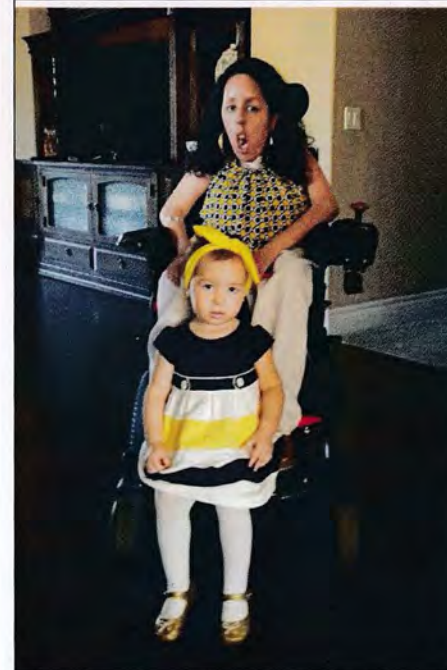
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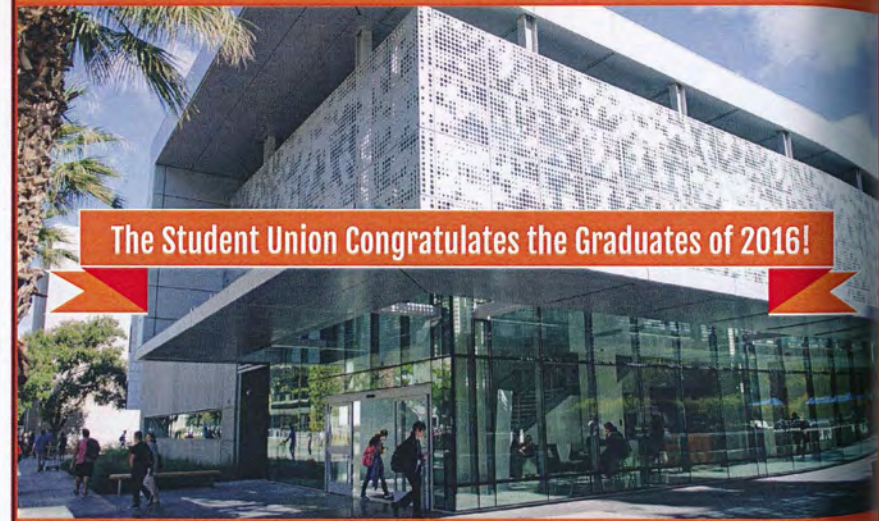
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Congrats Evelyn!!

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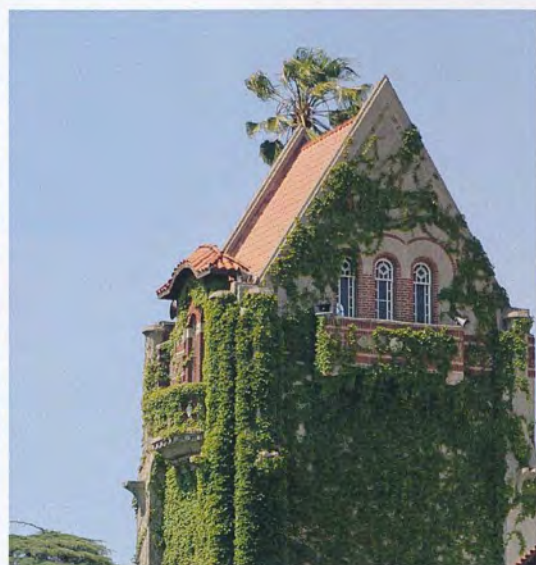
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ANTONIO RIVERA

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Antonio Rivera is a Xicano Artist & Designer, founder of Maldición Brand. His creative journey started in Half Moon Bay, where he began to paint and explore his identity as a MeXicano.

Rivera is known for his contemporary art style that finds inspiration and is deeply rooted in traditional Mexican & Mesoamerican Art and Culture. He looks to become a bridge between our younger generations and our parents, grandparents and ancestors through his art.

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