

**A
P
I
D
A
G
R
A
D
C
O
C
K
E**





**THE ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER STUDENT RESOURCE CENTER, AND
CROSS CULTURAL CENTERS AT CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LOS ANGELES
PRESENT**

THE 31ST ASIAN, PACIFIC ISLANDER, AND DESI AMERICAN GRADUATE CELEBRATION:

WEAVING OUR LEGACY

**Friday, the Fifteenth of May
Two Thousand and Twenty-Six
Seven-Thirty o'Clock in the Evening**

**University Gym
California State University, Los Angeles**



HOST

MALIA OTUHIVA

Program Coordinator, Cross Cultural Centers

INTRODUCTION

PROCESSION OF GRADUATES

PERFORMANCE

THIÊN ÂN PERFORMING ARTS

WELCOME FROM THE UNIVERSITY

BLANCA MARTINEZ-NAVARRO, PH.D., MSW

Associate Vice President and Dean of Students

Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management

FACULTY & STAFF PERSPECTIVE SPEAKER

DR. FRANGELO AYRAN BOQUIREN

Senior Associate Dean, Cal State LA

PERFORMANCE

KUTTURAN CHAMORU FOUNDATION

STUDENT PERSPECTIVE SPEAKER

REIZEHLE REINE SANTOS SAAVEDRA

STUDENT PERSPECTIVE SPEAKER

KOI SAELEE

PRESENTATION OF THE CLASS OF 2026

CLOSING REMARKS

CONGRATULATIONS!

To the Class of 2026,

On behalf of the Asian & Pacific Islander Student Resource Center and the Cross Cultural Centers, we are delighted to welcome you all to the 31st Asian, Pacific Islander, & Desi American (APIDA) Graduate Celebration! This ceremony serves as an important moment to honor the graduating class of 2026 for their academic achievements at California State University, Los Angeles.

The Asian & Pacific Islander Student Resource Center's goal is to elevate the Asian, Pacific Islander, and Desi American communities and cultivate an environment that honors our cultural heritage and identities. This year's theme, *Weaving Our Legacy*, reflects the many journeys that bring us to this moment. Our lives are shaped by stories of migration, family, resilience, and community. These stories become the threads that connect generations and weave together the experiences of those who came before us with the paths we continue to create. Our APIDA graduates have shown dedication, perseverance, and heart throughout their time at Cal State LA, and we are proud to celebrate all that you have accomplished.

The butterfly, a symbol of transformation for this year's celebration, reminds us that growth is a journey. Like the butterfly's transformation, your time at Cal State LA has been filled with learning, change, and discovery. As you step into this next chapter, may you carry the stories and communities that ground you while allowing your dreams to take flight.

This celebration honors not only your achievements, but also the families, mentors, and communities who have supported you along the way. Wherever life leads you next, may you continue weaving your stories into the legacy of our communities.

CAITLIN JANE "CJ" CALIGA

Student Program Coordinator

Asian & Pacific Islander Student Resource Center
Chair, APIDA Graduate Celebration Committee

MALIA OTUHIVA

Program Coordinator

Asian & Pacific Islander Student Resource Center



FACULTY & STAFF PERSPECTIVE SPEAKER

DR. FRANGELITO AYRÁN BOQUIREN

SENIOR ASSOCIATE DEAN, CAL STATE LA

DR. FRANGELO AYRAN BOQUIREN serves as the Senior Associate Dean of Students at California State University, Los Angeles, where he has worked across student affairs roles since 2006. He is also an adjunct faculty member in the Higher Education and Student Affairs program at the University of San Francisco, where he has taught graduate courses in Assessment and Evaluation in Higher Education, Student Affairs and Academic Affairs, and the Capstone thesis course.

A proud Filipino American, first-generation college graduate, and member of the APIDA community, Dr. Ayran Boquiren's leadership is deeply shaped by his lived experiences, cultural identity, and commitment to equity-minded practice. A "triple Don," he earned all of his degrees from the University of San Francisco, including an EdD in Organizational Leadership. His doctoral research examined how student affairs leaders navigate, resist, and reshape institutional logics to better serve students of color through engagement practices. He also holds a master's degree in organizational leadership and undergraduate degrees in Biology and Philosophy.

With more than 20 years of experience in student affairs, Dr. Ayran Boquiren's work at Cal State LA centers on campus engagement, wellness, and basic needs initiatives. His portfolio includes oversight of Eddie's Essentials, Cal State LA's comprehensive basic needs initiative that supports students experiencing basic needs insecurity. His approach to basic needs work is informed by a cultural foodways framework that understands food as not only sustenance, but also identity, memory, community, and a powerful site of belonging and healing.

Dr. Ayran Boquiren also co-chairs the Cal State LA Staff Working Group and leads the Division of Student Life's Assessment Council, supporting campus leaders in telling Golden Eagle stories through data-informed reflection and meaning-making. In the classroom and as a supervisor, he encourages students and staff to critically examine systems, honor lived experience, and build practices rooted in community, resilience, and collective care.

Outside of work, Frangelo can often be found power-walking on campus, enjoying an ice-cold Celsius, spending time with his husband Jeffrey as they explore new places to eat in LA, making reels, or dreaming about starting a student affairs podcast.



STUDENT PERSPECTIVE SPEAKER REIZEHLLA REINE SANTOS SAAVEDRA

Reizehlla Reine Santos Saavedra (she/her) is a Filipino student born and raised in the Middle East, and currently studying business administration with a concentration in international business. She is a multiple time Dean's List recipient, graduating with honors. She serves as a student director for the University-Student Union, contributing to board-level governance impacting students on campus. Reine is an active member of the Delta Phi Epsilon sorority, where she serves as Secretary and has held various coordinating positions. She also serves as Director of Events for the Marketing Club and is a member of the ROOTS Scholars program. Guided by her belief in "leadership with heart," she is passionate about the blossoming of inclusive communities where students feel a sense of belonging, with a leadership style rooted in compassion, connection, and intentional impact shaped by her background in the arts. As an incoming MBA candidate, she hopes to continue creating meaningful impact through strategy, creativity, and community-centered leadership.



STUDENT PERSPECTIVE SPEAKER KOI SAELEE

Koi Saelee (she/her) is a second-generation Mien American and first-generation college graduate studying Engineering Technology. She is a multiple Dean's List recipient and will be graduating with her Bachelor of Science in Engineering Technology. As a single mother, Koi began her educational journey when her daughter was three years old — and after years of persistence, including time away to grieve the loss of her mother, she has now crossed the finish line. During her time at Cal State LA, she has served as an ASI student representative, advocating for women in STEM, participated in CSU Advocacy Day, and uplifted the voices of student parents at the Lieutenant Governor's forum. Through the ROOTS Scholars program, she found belonging as a non-traditional student navigating motherhood, grief, and academia all at once. Shaped by the sacrifices of her immigrant parents and inspired by the daughter who has watched her every step of the way, she hopes to leave behind a legacy that showcases that showing up no matter the obstacle, is its own form of excellence.

To every first-gen dreamer still fighting their way through: you are unstoppable. Do not let anyone tell you otherwise — not the doubt, not the judgment, not the voices that say you don't belong. They do not know your story. They do not know your truth. You are not small, and you can achieve anything you set your mind to. This is YOUR legacy.



PERFORMANCE

THIÊN ÂN PERFORMING ARTS

“Thiên” in Vietnamese means heaven, and “Ân” means blessings. Therefore, Thiên Ân Performing Arts’ (TAPA) mission is to share their blessings with others through unique forms of dance, drum, and lion dance. TAPA’s performances encompass new elements with the change of time and instill traditional core values that can be applied beyond the dance studio. Moreover, Thiên Ân Performing Arts was established in 2005 with the goal of bringing local Vietnamese youths together, and provide them with the platform to learn and perform various cultural performances. Not only does TAPA teach dance, but also valuable core characteristics such as respect, self-discipline along with high encouragement so each student may value performances as fun and a form of self-discipline. Furthermore, Thiên Ân Performing Arts is a well-established Non-Profit Organization, highly recognized performing group in the community for the past ten years providing a range of entertainment services.



PERFORMANCE KUTTURAN CHAMORU FOUNDATION

Gi kinalamten-ta ta hãgu'i i hãleta
In our movements, we reach for our roots

Kutturán CHamoru Foundation (KCF), founded in 1993 based in Long Beach, CA led by Fafa'nã'gue Saina Heidi Chargualaf-Quenga, is a tuition-free nonprofit preserving CHamoru language, music, dance and culture for youth and families living away from the Mariãná Islands to include: Guam, Saipan, Tinian and Rota. United through culture, we celebrate our Micronesian heritage and honor the wisdom of our ancestors through action and movement.

Saina ma'ãse to Cal State LA's APIDA Student Resource Center for uplifting Pacific Islanders and strengthening our connection to Oceania!

www.KutturánChamoru.org
<https://www.instagram.com/kutturanchamorufoundation/>
www.facebook.com/pages/Kutturán-Chamoru



**MASTERS
DEGREES**



ROCHELLE ANDREA MAGTIRA CORDERO

Public Health, M.P.H.

I want to thank all my friends and family for all their dedicated support. I am here because of you all.



DHRUVI SHAILESHBHAI DESAI

Computer Science, M.S.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to my parents, family, and friends for their constant support, encouragement, and sacrifices throughout my journey at Cal State LA. Their belief in me kept me motivated during every challenge. I am also thankful to my professors and mentors for their guidance and inspiration. I will always cherish the memories, friendships, and experiences as I move forward toward new goals.



CAITLYN KENOBI DONART

Psychology, M.S.

Maraming salamat to my parents for their continued love and support, as well as my grandparents and family members who are no longer here, but still guided me on my path to success. I want to note that I am a granddaughter of immigrants, and I would not have the success I have today without their sacrifice and bravery. Mahal na mahal kita, Kalahi, for providing a welcoming space on campus to celebrate our culture :)

MASTER'S DEGREES



RACHEL HAN
Social Work, M.S.W.

I would like to thank my family, my friends, my peers and School or Social Work for their support and encouragement through my long journey at Cal State LA. Without my family and friends, peers, my professors I would not have accomplished all my goals. I am grateful for all the wonderful memories and great friends I made at this university, and I will keep striving for the next big thing. Thank you.



SIMRAN KAPOOR
Computer Science, M.S.

I would like to thank my family, my boyfriend, and my friends for their continued support.



KINNARIBEN MANOJKUMAR KOTADIYA
Computer Science, M.S.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to my parents and family for their unwavering support throughout my journey at Cal State LA. As a first-generation student and the first in my family to come to the United States to pursue a master's degree, this milestone itself is a significant achievement for me. I am thankful to my professors, mentors, and friends for their guidance, and unforgettable memories that made this journey truly meaningful.

MASTER'S DEGREES



HUONG NGUYEN-VINDUA

Business Administration, M.S.

I want to sincerely thank my husband and friends for their unwavering support and encouragement throughout my journey at Cal State LA. Your patience, understanding, and belief in me gave me the strength to keep going, even when it felt overwhelming. Thank you for celebrating the wins, listening, and reminding me why I started. This achievement is not mine alone -- it belongs to all of us.



CHIRAG H PATEL

Mechanical Engineering, M.S.

I am proud to have completed my MS in Mechanical Engineering. This milestone would not have been possible without the constant support and encouragement of my parents, family, and friends. Their belief in me kept me motivated through every challenge. I am grateful for the experiences, lessons, and friendships I gained along the way, and I look forward to pursuing new goals and opportunities ahead.



BRIAN TRUONG PHAM

Computer Science, M.S.

I would like to thank my ASI and U-SU colleagues for helping me to be who I am now, including the great memories and accomplishments that I have shared with them on making Cal State LA better for future students to enjoy. I also like to thank my family that has been with me from the start, not only for starting my Masters, but starting my Cal State LA journey as an 2019 undergrad. #postgrad

MASTER'S DEGREES



NAOMI ISHANI SAMARASINGHE

Chemistry, M.S.

I wouldn't be standing here today without every single person in my life, and I will always be grateful to them. Education is power, knowledge is power, and my family gave me every opportunity to gain the power they were not afforded. I am the daughter of immigrants, and I will always be. I love you, Jesse. අමමා සහ තාත්තා, බොහෝම ස්තූතියි (Ammi and Thati, thank you so much).



DRASHTI KIRTIBHAI SHAH

Computer Science, M.S.

I am deeply grateful to my parents and family for their endless support, sacrifices, and encouragement during my academic journey at Cal State LA. I also thank my professors and friends for their guidance and motivation. Their support played a meaningful role in helping me reach this milestone.



BACHELORS

DEGREES



BACHELOR'S DEGREES



GABRIELLE MARIE ADOBO ANGEL

Communicative Disorders, B.A.

Lubos akong nagpapasalamat sa aking pamilya at mga kaibigan. Sa ligaya at pighati, sa tagumpay at kabiguan, sa bawat panahong ako'y naligaw ng landas; sa paglalakbay mula sa lupang aking sinilangan patungo sa mga bagong simula, kayo ang naging sandigan ko. Salamat sa inyong pag-ibig, sa pagiging aking tahanan — saan man ako dalhin ng buhay.



BRYAN LUMBANG AQUINO JR

Exercise Science, B.S.

I'd like to thank my girlfriend, my family, friends made here, and colleagues. I owe my success to everyone I've met and interacted with during this four year journey and I wouldn't trade these connections for anything else!



HILARY MANADIS ATABAY

Art, B.A.

I would like to thank my family, peers, and Professors for all the support and encouragement throughout my time at Cal State L.A. I am very grateful for being able to complete one of the greatest achievements, and continue to strive and work hard for what is to come.



ALLYSSA ARIEL JIMENEZ BANGLOY

Biology, B.S.

I would like to thank my family for supporting me throughout the years I have been going to college. I would like to thank my boyfriend for helping me get through the long nights of studying, and my friends new and old for keeping sane during finals week. Thank you for your great support and keeping my sanity through all of college.



MONICA KATRINA BERNARDO

**Business Administration, B.S.:
Opt in Accounting**

I would like to dedicate my hard work to my family, friends, the Accounting Society, Beta Alpha Psi, CSULA faculty, and staff for their endless support. Without them, I would not have the motivation to strive for success. I appreciate all the opportunities this University offers, and I will continue to make great impacts.



MATHEW AVERY BIO

**Business Administration, B.S.:
Option in Real Estate**

I want to thank my parents for their steady support throughout my time at Cal State LA. My dad helped open doors that made my education possible, and my mom has always been there for my twin sister and me with encouragement and care. I'm also grateful for Kalahi, my friends, classmates, and professors who gave me a sense of community, challenged me to grow, and made this journey meaningful.



EMILIANA ROSE BID
Social Work, B.A.
Minor in Art

I would like to thank my parents for the endless love, encouragement, and support throughout this long journey. I truly would not be where I am today without them. To my twin brother and little brother. I thank you for always believing me standing by my side and motivating me to be better, not only as a sister, but a better person in general.



LORI JANE ERESE CABANATAN
Psychology, B.A.

I would like to thank my family, friends, and community for all their support along the way. They helped me get to where I am now and I could not be more thankful for all their sacrifices.



GAITLIN JANE MANGALIMAN CALICA
Criminal Justice, B.S.
Minor in Asian American Studies

I would like to thank the community I found at Cal State LA and beyond for meeting me where I was and helping me become who I am. I came here at 17 still figuring myself out, and I am leaving at 21 shaped by every person, space, and experience along the way. I am a mosaic made of shared moments, lessons, and love from mentors, faculty, and friends who felt like home.

BACHELOR'S DEGREES



HALEY GARRANZA

Natural Science, B.S.
Minor in Asian American Studies

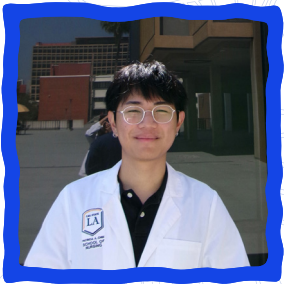
I would like to thank everyone who has supported me throughout my years at Cal State LA, all the wonderful people in my life such as my friends and family have been the reason why I am able to proudly stand here today. I will always cherish all the memories I have made here and I am excited for the next chapter of my academic journey.



WALEY W CHAN

Computer Information Systems, B.S.

I would like to thank my parents for all the sacrifices they made. Without them, I wouldn't be where I am at today. Secondly, I would also want to thank my professors and counselors for all the support they have provided me throughout my academic journey here at CSULA.



MATTHEW CHAN

Nursing, B.S.

Thank you to my family, classmates, and friends for supporting me throughout my nursing journey. Big shout-out to Maria, Charlene, and Rebecca. I'm forever grateful to have met you all and to survive nursing school together. I could not have done it without you guys. Thank you Mom and Dad for getting me through school and for always making sure I had everything I needed throughout my life. I love you all!

BACHELOR'S DEGREES



JOGELYN THERESA CHANG

Urban Learning, B.A.

Thank you to my parents, my brother, and my dogs for their support and encouragement during my academic journey. As a first generation student, I am completing a major milestone with your support. I am grateful to my professors, friends, and peers for all of the wonderful memories I made at Cal State LA. Thank you to the library staff and librarians at the University Library for all your help in my LIS journey.



AN KANG CHEN

Computer Science, B.S.

I would like to thank my friends and family for their constant support and encouragement throughout my journey at Cal State LA. Their belief in me helped me succeed in my coursework and overcome many challenges. I am also grateful for the friends and community I found through Alpha Phi Omega. The memories, experiences, and lessons I gained here will stay with me as I continue striving for the next big opportunity.



TYLER CHENG

Psychology, B.A.

Minor in Asian American Studies

Thank you to my friends and family for getting to where I am today and continuing to encourage me towards my life goals. For those of you here tonight, I am so grateful to have met you. You have all changed my life and made it a brighter place. Although I addressed this to my friends and family, I consider you all family. I love you all from the bottom of my heart.

BACHELOR'S DEGREES



MARIALY CRUZ

Child Development, B.A.

Gracias a mi familia por el apoyo que me dieron. Por sus sacrificios que hicieron por mi futuro y por mi education. A mis padres por ser todo por mi, a mis hermanos por siempre hacerme reír en los momentos estresantes, a mi cuñada por todo el apoyo en mi carrera y mi amor por siempre creer en mi. Mis logros son gracias a ustedes y para ustedes. Los quiero mucho!



PATRICK RENEI VILLA DELA PENA

Art, B.A.

I would like to thank both of my moms and my dads for supporting me ever since I was little. They are always there to guide me whenever I am in those spots where I am unsure where I am going and the times where I am down emotionally. They have also guided me to be the best version of myself in which I have become who I am today.



ANGILYNN NAVIDA DOLOPO

Business Administration, B.S.:

Option in Marketing

Minor in Marketing

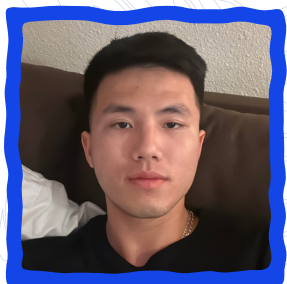
I'd like to thank my family, friends, my boyfriend Kanoa, and everyone who supported me throughout this journey. Your love and encouragement carried me through every high and low. I'm grateful for the memories, the growth, and the community I found here. I'm excited for what the next chapter of my life will bring. Maraming Salamat <3



ELLA SIMONE-TSAI DYBERT

Art, B.A.

Thank you to my mom, my dad, Dina, Brent, Olive, Edith, Hayden, Grandpa, Simone, and Grandma for their endless love and support. The journey here was long but their support reminded me that I am capable of achieving anything. Thank you to the city of Los Angeles for being the most amazing place in the world. A final big thank you to my entire family and my friends. I love you!!



HENG NIKO FAN

Computer Information Systems, B.S.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to my family for their sacrifices and encouragement throughout my journey. Their belief in me has been my greatest strength. To my friends, thank you for the laughter and support. This achievement would not have been possible without all of you.



WENG HIN FENG

Business Administration, B.S.:

Option in Marketing

Minor in Marketing

我很感谢我家人对我的支持。没有他们我也不会在哪里。我会继续努力。追求更好的自己

BACHELOR'S DEGREES



GRACE ELIZABETH FRANKLIN

Accounting, B.S.

I would like to thank my family for all of their support throughout my journey here at Cal State University, Los Angeles. I am super lucky to have such amazing friends and family that are always by my side. Thank you for all the encouragement, patience, and endless motivation. I truly would not be here without any of you, love you all so much. On to the next reality.



BRIANA GASTROCK

Nursing, B.S.

Going through nursing school for these past four years at Cal State LA has not been easy. I want to thank and share how grateful I am for the support of my partner Riley, my wonderful friends I have made through Kalahi, my family, and especially the CCC, API and Malia for providing a safe space to come to on campus. I am forever thankful that I am able to cherish my college experience.



JASMINE MARIE RAMIREZ HABON

Nursing, B.S.

Thank you to my mom and dad, my siblings April and Therence, my boyfriend Angelo, my dog Maddie, and to all the wonderful people I have met along the way throughout my journey of nursing school.

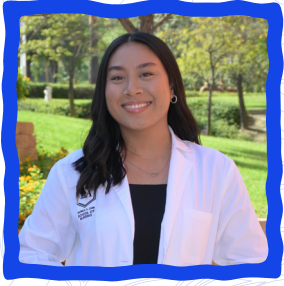
BACHELOR'S DEGREES



KRISTIN HAN

Nutritional Science, B.S.

I would like to thank my family, friends, and professors for their constant support and encouragement throughout my academic journey. Their guidance and belief in me helped me overcome challenges and reach this milestone. I am grateful for the experiences, lessons, and memories I gained during my time in college and look forward to the opportunities ahead.



FAITH GAILE AWA HERNANDEZ

Nursing, B.S.

Thank you to my parents and family for their endless sacrifices, love, and support throughout my nursing journey! Maraming salamat po sa lahat ng tiwala at lakas na ibinigay ninyo sa akin. Without you, I would not be where I am today. To all the friends I've made along the way, I truly cherish all the memories we've made! Thank you all for being part of my journey, mahal ko kayong lahat



MARIA LOURDES BASCACIO HO

Sociology, B.A.

Minor in Political Science

I would like to thank my husband, Mark Ho, for his love, patience, and constant support throughout my journey. Moving to the United States and pursuing my education was not easy, but he always believed in me and encouraged me to keep going. I am truly grateful for everything he has done for me and for always standing by my side.

BACHELOR'S DEGREES



MICHELLE HUYNH

**Business Administration, B.S.:
Option in Accounting**

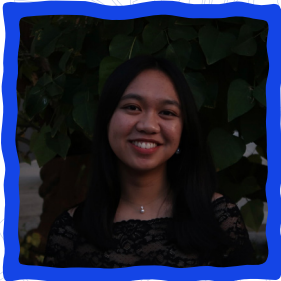
To all who stood by me these last four years while I put the 'pro' in procrastination, you're the extra in my ordinary life, the star in my dust. Thank you for turning my dull sky into a constellation I never want to stop looking at. Vi điều đó, 我會永遠感激你啦 🥰



RYAN HWANG

Computer Information Systems, B.S.

I would like to thank my family for their support, encouragement, and trust in me throughout my journey. I would also like to thank my neighbors for their kindness, encouragement, and support. Finally, I would like to acknowledge my professors and classmates throughout my years here for their understanding, approachability, and willingness to answer my questions and help me when needed. Without all of you, I would not have succeeded. Thank you very much.



SAMANTHA SALIGANAN IMPERIO

Biology, B.S.

Thank you to my family, especially my parents, for their support and the sacrifices they have made so I can succeed in my undergraduate journey. To Kalahi, my Filipino community and my dearest friends, thank you for the countless happy memories and being my inspiration in discovering who I am, culturally and personally. Thank you to my loving partner for always being my source of comfort, encouragement and strength. 🇵🇭 🌻 🥰



DJAIRA LEEZANDRA JOHNSON

Child Development, B.A.

I'm extremely grateful for the many wonderful people I've met throughout my journey at Cal State LA. Each experience has helped me grow both personally and academically. I'm especially thankful for the opportunity to learn more about my culture and become more involved in my community. I look forward to creating even more meaningful connections and positive memories in the years ahead.



ATIYA KARIM

Microbiology, B.S.

I would like to thank my parents for their endless sacrifices, love, and unwavering support throughout my journey at Cal State LA. They left their entire life behind in Bangladesh so I could have greater opportunities, and I carry that sacrifice with me every day. I am deeply grateful to my family, friends, mentors, professors, and campus communities who supported me and helped shape who I am today.



RAKSHYA KARKI

Psychology, B.A.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to my parents, teachers, friends, and family for their endless support and encouragement throughout my journey at Cal State LA. Thank you for giving me the space to grow, believe in myself, and reminding me that I belong and matter. I stand here today with gratitude, cherished memories, and love in my heart, proud of how far I have come and hopeful for the future ahead.

BACHELOR'S DEGREES



HUY GIA LAM

Computer Science, B.S.

I want to thank my family and friends for always supporting me during my time at university. Your encouragement kept me going through hard times and helped me reach this milestone. I am grateful for the teachers and classmates who made learning enjoyable and memorable. This journey has taught me so much, and I will always remember the experiences and lessons I gained here. Thank you to everyone who helped me succeed.



MINDY LIM

**Business Administration, B.S.:
Option in Marketing**

I am deeply thankful to my family and friends for their endless love, patience, and support. Your encouragement helped me through every challenge, and I could not have reached this moment without you.



WILLIAM BLAKE WOLF LUONG

Television, Film, and Media Studies, B.A.

This concludes the final chapter in my life. Thank you to all of my friends, my family, and others who have supported me throughout my college journey!

BACHELOR'S DEGREES



KEZIA ANTONIETA BRILLIANTARI MAMBO

Communicative Disorders, B.A.

I want to give the biggest shoutout to my parents for always striving to provide better opportunities for my brother and I. Because of their sacrifices and support, I am able to pursue higher education and the opportunity to help others. To my loved ones back in Indonesia, I dedicate my degree and accomplishments to you all. I am truly blessed for my family and friends, and I hope to continue making them proud.

#FutureSwaggedOutSLP



BIANGA MAE MARANAN

Business Administration, B.S.:

Option in Accounting

Minor in Sustainability Marketing

I would like to thank my parents for allowing me to pursue my education here and for the sacrifices they made in immigrating across the world to create a better future for our family. I am also grateful for the friends I have made along the way and for the meaningful connections that have supported me throughout this journey. I look forward to continuing to work hard and striving for excellence in my future career.



SAMANTHA MARCELLO

Business Administration, B.S.:

Option in Management

Minor in Entrepreneurship

I would like to sincerely thank my parents and family for their endless love, sacrifices, and encouragement throughout my journey. Your belief in me gave me strength during the most challenging times.

BACHELOR'S DEGREES



BRIDGET NOEMI MARTINEZ

Business Administration, B.S.:

Option in Business Economics

I would like to thank my mom and give this moment to her. I see how well she's done for me and my siblings to give us a stable life and I want to thrive to give her much more.



NIKI MEI

Business Administration, B.S.:

Option in Accounting

Minor in Computer Information Systems

As I'm graduating now, I am forever grateful to my parents, who immigrated here to build the life I now get to live. Thank you so much Mom and Dad, for all the lectures, bad jokes, and unwavering support. Natalie and Calvin, thank you for being the best siblings I could ever ask for. To Michael, I'm so lucky to find both my best friend and partner in one. +S/O to AS, BAP, & Dr. Zhao! :))



GIZELLE TALIA MERCADO-REYNOLDS

Biology, B.S.

I would like to thank my family for the constant support throughout my college journey. I would also like to thank my friends for all the fun memories we shared throughout college and all the support.

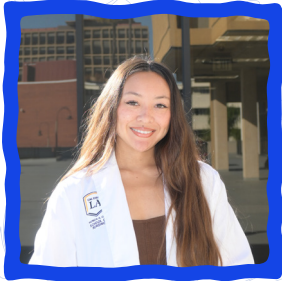
BACHELOR'S DEGREES



CHARLENE TAN NEO

Nursing, B.S.

Thank you to my nursing school friends for supporting and trauma-bonding with me throughout nursing school. Throughout these three years, I would not have survived without them. I want to say thank you to my family for always believing in me and pushing me to work hard. I'm excited for what's next to come!



MARIA LUISA OCAMPO

Nursing, B.S.

I could not have accomplished my goals of getting my nursing degree here at CSULA without the amazing support of my friends and family. I do not take my degree for granted. All the hard work I put into getting me where I am finally pays off today, and I am excited to see where this journey leads me!



FRANCESS MYKA C. FAMITANGCO

Electrical Engineering, B.S.

Thank you to everyone who's been there for me during my time here as a student. My amazing support system; family, mom, dad, my brother and my sister, all of my beloved friends who have supported me throughout my academic journey, throughout long nights of homework and studying. I love and appreciate you all.

BACHELOR'S DEGREES



JADEALYN SKYE ARAGONÉS PAULINO

Electrical Engineering, B.S.

I would like to thank my family and friends for supporting me during my time at Cal State LA. Through every accomplishment and every trial, they have always been there for me. I couldn't be more grateful for having them in my life. I hope I can continue to make everyone proud.



AMBER NGUYEN PHAN

Psychology, B.A.

Thank you to my friends for supporting me throughout my journey, to Malia for everything she's done for me, my parents for encouraging me to complete my degree, and most of all I'd like to thank my inner circle for everything. From late nights to early mornings and everything in between. Thank you for driving with me everywhere and being my passenger princesses. We'll start a new chapter tomorrow together and figure it out.



EDWIN L PHUNG

Electrical Engineering, B.S.

I am grateful for my family and friends for pushing me to stay in college. My success exists through their support. I am proud to be able to walk the stage for them. Lastly, shoutout to the Student Union for being the comfort on campus after a long day of classes.

BACHELOR'S DEGREES



MICHELLE LIEM RACHMAT Urban Learning, B.A.

I would like to thank my parents for their hard work that guided me to Cal State LA. I am very grateful for all the amazing memories and friends I made along the way. I am excited to begin my career in teaching and to take on new adventures.



KATRINA AILA RAMOS Psychology, B.A. Minor in Asian American Studies

Thank you to my family and friends for all your support. This journey has not been easy as a first-generation student. But with all the never-ending support, I have been able to develop that growth and perseverance to shape me into the person I am today. Mahal kita (I love you)



HARLEY REYES Nursing, B.S.

I would like to thank my family for their constant support and sacrifices since we moved to the United States from the Philippines. Their encouragement gave me the strength to pursue nursing and push through every challenge. To my friends, mentors, and classmates at Cal State LA, thank you for growing alongside me. This achievement reflects not only my hard work but also the love and support that carried me here.

BACHELOR'S DEGREES



LISA MARIE RODRIGUEZ
Child Development, B.A.

I would like to thank my family by giving me the strength and confidence to finish what I started and to my husband thank you for not giving up on me when I was giving up on myself.



REIZEHLLA REINE SANTOS SAAVEDRA
Business Administration, B.S.:
Option in International Business

I wholeheartedly extend my deepest gratitude to my family, especially my mom, for their unwavering love, patience, and belief in me. To my friends, sisters, mentors, and professors, thank you for pushing me to grow and supporting me on every step. This university has become a home filled with late nights, laughter, and learning. That being said, I am standing with pride, grace, and so much love, and I am ready to continue dreaming unapologetically.



KOI LEWIAN SAELEE
Engineering Technology, B.S.

As a child of an immigrant, this achievement is for my mother. Though she is no longer here to see me walk across the stage, her spirit and strength carried me forward. As a single mother, this journey was no easy feat, especially with our family 500 miles away. I hope my daughter learns that perseverance matters and that even long journeys are worth finishing. We Saelee's don't quit!

BACHELOR'S DEGREES



LIZBETH SALVADOR LAVARIEGA

Child Development, B.A.

I am proud of myself, my friends, colleagues and everyone in this room. I am a first gen, first daughter, first grandchild, and first woman in my family to pursue higher education. I am grateful to my parents and everyone who supported me to be able to get here, thank you all. May we be the change in our world and continue to strive!

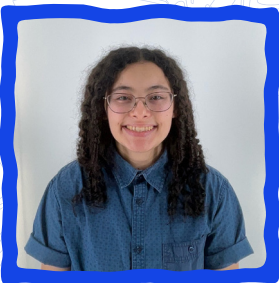
Much love,
Lizbeth Salvador Lavariega



MINH PHUC THONG

Civil Engineering, B.S.
Minor in Construction and
Engineering Management

I am deeply grateful to my family for their unwavering support throughout my academic journey. Earning my Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Cal State LA is a milestone I am proud of. I sincerely thank my professors, mentors, and friends for their guidance and encouragement. This achievement motivates me to continue growing as a civil engineer and contributing to my community.



LAUREN ANNE TSUSHIMA

Psychology, B.A.

I give special thanks to my family for supporting me in my journey from community college to Cal State LA. Thank you, Mom and Dad, for giving me the opportunity to focus the necessary time and effort toward my goals. Thank you, Dana, for brightening my days with your humor. I extend my gratitude to my Aunties and Uncles, Papa, and Grandma for cheering me on and celebrating my accomplishments.

BACHELOR'S DEGREES



JELENE AIRA L. VILLEGAS
Philosophy, B.A.
Minor in Criminal Justice

To my family that showed me the love and patience that I wanted to give to my community, to my Kalahi made me feel like I won the college experience... Sa wakas! Na tapas na rin!

Hanggang sa muli,
Jelene :))



SAU-LAN YANG
Business Administration, B.S.:
Option in Accounting

I want to thank my family and friends for all their support. We had our highs and lows but in the end you stuck with me. And that's all that matters.



LUCKY CHONG IL YOON JR
Communication, B.A.

Thank you, Cal State LA, for introducing me to a community I now call home. I will treasure the memories and accomplishments I've shared with my friends for the rest of my life. Mahalo nui loa, a hui hou Cal State LA.



ANGELA GRACE PORRAS YUSON

Art, B.A.

I would like to thank my loving family, close friends I have made and kept, my blessing, Write On, and Jesus for encouraging me to work hard and smart during my journey at Cal State LA. Even though there are moments when I don't believe in myself, knowing what I have helped me strive for better.



YUXUAN ZHANG

Criminal Justice, B.S.

I would like to thank my parents for bringing me to the United States. I am also grateful to the U.S. government and the State of California for their support. In addition, I sincerely thank the professors and classmates at Cal State LA who have helped me along the way. My educational journey has been challenging, and without their support and encouragement, I would not have achieved the progress and opportunities I have today.



LOREINICE TEDDORO ZILABBO

Nursing, B.S.

I would like to thank my parents for all of their support. I would not be here today if it weren't for the sacrifices they made along the way. I would also like to thank my friends for keeping me motivated throughout my journey here at Cal State LA. I have had so many unforgettable experiences with my friends here, and I am so thankful for everything they have done for me.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Asian & Pacific Islander Student Resource Center in conjunction with the Cross-Cultural Centers would like to thank the following individuals and departments for their support of

THE THIRTY-FIRST ASIAN, PACIFIC ISLANDER, & DESI AMERICAN GRADUATE AND AWARDS CELEBRATION 2026

CAITLIN JANE [CJ] CALICA

MALIA OTUHIVA

KRIS ARCEO

FABIOLA AVINA

DR. FRANGELO AYRAN

DR. MEGAN BELL

ALICE CHOU

DR. MAY FU

MICHELLE HUYNH

PHUNG HUYNH

WILLIAM LUONG

BRIAN PHAM

DR. JULY PHUN

MARIO PIZARRO-ROJAS

DR. JOY SALES

THANH THUAN [TOM] NGUYEN

IMANI THOMAS

EMILY URRUTIA

U-SU Graffix

University-Student Union

Asian and Asian American Studies Department

Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management

Office of the President

... and all others who contributed to the success of
the Asian, Pacific Islander, & Desi American Graduate Celebration 2026!

HINGWANG
HAWAII
2008





CROSS CULTURAL
CENTERS



CAL STATE LA
UNIVERSITY
STUDENT UNION



CAL STATE LA