



NUESTRA GRADUACIÓN
June 15, 2002



LELAND STANFORD JUNIOR
UNIVERSITY
Memorial Church
Stanford, CA



Nuestra Graduación *Adelante Juntos*

111th Commencement
Stanford University

Master of Ceremony

Dr. Noé Lozano, *Associate Dean of Student Affairs, School of Engineering*

Processional

Welcome

Professor Luis Fraga, *Political Science*

Student Address

Laura Meraz and Rita Rico
Co-Chairs, Nuestra Graduación

Nuestra Graduación Awards

Faculty Award & Staff Award

Presented by Adrian Aguilera and Erika Soto, *Officers, Nuestra Graduación*

Professor Guadalupe Valdés, *Spanish and Portuguese and Education, Faculty Award*

Dr. Noé Lozano, *Staff Award*

Student Awards

Presented by Frances Morales, *Assistant Dean/Director, El Centro Chicano*, and
Chris Gonzalez Clarke, *Assistant Director, El Centro Chicano*

Angélica Amador
Community Service Award

Rita Rico
Chicana/o Leadership Award

Arnulfo Medina
Arturo Islas Award

Senior Academic Awards

Alejandro Huerta
Jacinta Maria Jimenez
Rosa Navarro
Rita Rico
Elsa Walther-Meade Hernandez

Cecilia and Tony Burciaga Community Development Award

Presented by Cecilia Burciaga, *Assistant Vice President for Residential Learning, California State University, Monterey Bay* and Victor Arias, Jr., *Member of the Board of Trustees, Leland Stanford Junior University*

Keynote Address

Introduction by Dayna Cobarrubias and Arnulfo Medina,
Officers, Nuestra Graduación

Keynote Speaker

Michele Serros, *Writer and Poet*

Presentation of the Class of 2002 Student and Family Recognition

Presented by Former Vice Provost of Student Affairs James Montoya, *Comparative Studies In Race and Ethnicity*
Professor Paula Moya, *English*
Professor Yvonne Yarbrow-Bejarano, *Spanish & Portuguese*

Student Acknowledgements

Read by Professor Guadalupe Valdés, and
Professor Luis Fraga

Senior Send-Off

Dr. Noé Lozano

Recessional



Michele Serros

Born in Oxnard, California, Michele Serros was still a student at Santa Monica College when her first book of poetry and short stories, *Chicana Falsa and other stories of Death, Identity and Oxnard*, was published. When Lalo Press, the original publisher went out of business, Michele sold copies of the book from her garage and since then, *Chicana Falsa* has become required reading in high schools and universities nationwide.

An award-winning poet and commentator for National Public Radio (Morning Edition, Weekend All Things Considered), Serros has released a spoken-word CD on Mercury Records and toured with Lollapalooza as one of their "Road Poets." She was selected by the Getty Research Institute and the Poetry Society of America to have her poetry placed on MTA buses throughout Los Angeles County and has been a featured contributor for the *Los Angeles Times*' children's fiction section.

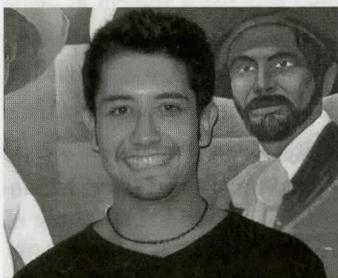
Serros, who was recently named by NEWSWEEK as "one of the top young women to watch for in the new century" made the *Los Angeles Times* bestsellers list with her newest collection of fiction, *How to be a Chicana Role Model*.

Currently living in New York City, Michele is working on a young adult novel tentatively titled, *Notes for a Medium Brown Girl*, and continues to speak at high schools, correctional facilities and universities across the country. (source: www.mediumbrowngirl.com)



Nuestra Graduación

Undergraduate Degree Recipients



**ADRIÁN AGUILERA, B.A.,
Psychology and
Comparative Studies in
Race & Ethnicity**

Quiero darles gracias a Dios y a mi familia sin quienes esta meta de graduación no sería posible. El camino a este día empezó hace muchos años, el día que decidieron

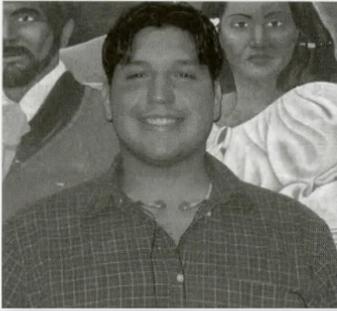
mis padres que se iban a sacrificar para dar nos una educación moral y académica en las escuelas católicas y en la casa. Hoy no es solo una celebración mía sino una celebración para toda nuestra familia quienes hemos progresado juntos a llegar a este gran día. Tampoco es este día el termino del progreso, sino es un símbolo de los esfuerzos de nuestra familia y es motivación para continuar en estos mismos pasos para mi individualmente y en total como una familia. Gracias a mis padres, a mis hermanos, a mis cuñadas, a mis sobrinos y a mis abuelitos por todo su amor y su apoyo siempre.



**LISA ALARCON, B.A.,
Human Biology**

To my mom and dad, I just want to thank you for putting me through Stanford and supporting me along the way. Mom, I especially want to thank you for giving me a love for learning and for showing me the value of a good education. Dad, I especially want to thank you for teaching me the importance of being a good person and working hard in life.

Only with both of your love and support could I have made it to and graduated from Stanford. And, I want to say thanks to my sisters for making me laugh and being there for me when I needed them. I also want to thank Leora for being such a good friend and my family-grandma, grandpa, aunts, uncles and cousins for coming all the way up here to watch me graduate.



**BRYAN ALFARO, B.S.,
Computer Science**

Today, I would like to thank my father and my brother for walking with me today. To my father, a strong man whom never gives up on me for any reason. I love you and I thank you for all that you have given me. To my brother, for his help pushing me through four years of my life I thought would never end. When I

was afraid to admit my fear I could always get your reassurance. I love you. I would also like to thank my grandpa, Henry and grandma, Lillie for the undying love they have given me. And to my aunts and my uncles who have stood beside me through the years, I would like to thank you for your support through the hardest of times. For those who could not make it today, I know you are here with me in spirit. To my mother, who has passed on and is not here today, I love you and I miss you. I will not forget those that came yesterday, those that come today, and those that are coming tomorrow. I Love You, Bryan Paul.



**ANGÉLICA AMADOR, B.A.,
Psychology**

Gracias mami por todo tu apoyo, tu fuerza, tus sacrificios, y todo tu amor. You have been the inspiration in my life. Papi, si que fue muy difícil para ti dejarme venir a Stanford, pero quiero decirte que siempre será tu niña chiquita. Les dedico este diploma a ustedes, mis padres. Este logro es de ustedes al igual que

es mio. Tia Silvia, gracias por quererme tanto and for supporting my reading addiction. Alonzin y Wendy, siguen ustedes. I hope this small victory inspires you to reach for the stars. Miss Eva, this space is too small to even start to thank you. All those long nights when we would procrastinate together will forever be in my heart. David, thank you for always believing in me and for always pushing me to be the best that I can be. I wish I could really take the time to properly thank each and every individual that has made this day come true but it would just be impossible. This day is a culmination of many peoples' time, effort, love, dedication, hopes, and dreams. With my sincerest love, thank you everyone.



**ALVARO ARCE, B.A.,
Public Policy**

It was through education that I managed to find my voice. I dedicate my work at school and beyond to those without a voice. I would specifically like to thank my parents, Tomas and Maria, as well as my little brothers Thomas and Oscar: thank you for everything; without your inspiration I would be lost.



**AZUCENA AREVALO, B.A.,
Psychology and Sociology**

My family and friends have been my saving grace these past four years because I've always known that I can count on them, for anything, and I thank and love you all for that. Mom and Dad: all I can say is thank you. Gabby, Monica, and Cesar: thank you for bringing Dani, Dominic and Nicolas into existence! There's nothing

more that I could ask of you; you've added an infinite amount of happiness to my life through them. My little princess, Daniella: you are the reason why I've trudged through these past four years and met my goals. I only hope that I have been the role model you deserve. Love you forever, and forever, love you with all my heart! Finally, Chris: I don't know what I would have done these past two years without you with me. Thanks for putting up with me! I'll love you always. Thank you to everybody who gave their support—whether direct or indirect—I felt it and I am forever grateful for it.



**VERONICA BASHBUSH,
B.S., Mechanical
Engineering**

Querida Familia, I am very excited and honored to have all of you here today. I can't believe that we are finally together after so long. This diploma is as much your effort as it was mine. Alexandra you are the coolest little sister and I wanted to thank you

for always making me laugh when I called you after a long week of school. I loved hearing about your last year in high school and watch you grow

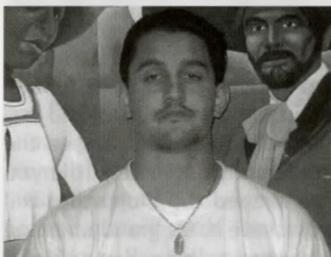
up. You have such a beautiful outlook on life and you have taught me to appreciate what I have. Olga...we did it! Its been hard to be away from my twin for four years. I am so proud of you and I know you will succeed in whatever you decide to do. Mami y papi - you have been wonderful parents and I admire both of you very much. You have been my inspiration and have always been there to support me. Thank you for coming and sharing such a special day with me. Los quiero muchísimo!



**ERNEST C. BUSTAMANTE,
B.A., Political Science
and Comparative
Studies in Race &
Ethnicity with Honors**

My pursuit of education has been influenced by many individuals. Perhaps the greatest influence has been my family. I would first like to

thank my parents, Ernest and Martha for their unconditional support in all my endeavors throughout college. It was through my parents that I learned about the importance of knowing your history and having faith in the American political system. Without the both of you I would not have been able to apply, be accepted, and graduate from Stanford University. I dedicate my graduation to you both. I would also like to thank my siblings, Eric and Elyssa. You both inspire me in more ways than you know. I love you both. I also can't forget the rest my family and friends from high school who made the distance seem not so distant. To my friends at Stanford, I wish you the best of luck in the coming years. Viva La Raza!



**NOLAN CABRERA, B.A.,
Comparative Studies in
Race & Ethnicity
Education Focus with
Honors**

There are so many people that have made significant contributions to my education, but I do not have enough

space. However, here is a significantly abbreviated version. Mom and Dad, you have both in your own ways been the cornerstone of my education. In your separate ways, you both gave me undying support even when I sometimes wasn't the best at calling home. Aunt Marti and Aunt Bea, you both, in many ways have treated me like one of your own, and I can never tell you how much you mean to me. DeMara, you've been there for me more than you know through our various conversations and random

dinners out. Kim, the brownies are various idiosyncratic gifts that always bring excitement to life. Finally, while none of my grandparents lived to see this event, I know they are watching the ceremony. I just hope I make them proud



**MARÍA ISABEL CESANTO,
B.A., Political Science,
Human Biology Minor**

Primeramente, gracias por todo a mí adorada familia. Este es solo el comienzo de un sueño que empezó hace mucho y que no hubiera sido, ni será, posible sin mi familia. Ustedes son y siempre serán lo más valioso y querido en mi vida. Mamá,

muchas gracias por todo su apoyo y su cariño durante estos últimos años. ¡Júnior, felicidades por tu graduación! Tengo fe de que si le pones mucho empeño, lograras todo lo que deseas. Cynthia, nunca te olvides de tus sueños y sigue adelante. Luisito, estoy muy orgullosa de tus logros. Yo se que llegaras muy legos. Chely, recuerda cuanto te quiero, mi chiquita. Y muchas gracias a toda mi gente que en este día mi acompaña. Omar, my love: thank you for your unending love, patience, and faith. Without your belief in me, I would not be here at this moment. I love you with all my heart. Lastly, but very importantly, thanks to all of my dear friends, who with their friendship have added value to my life. Thank you all for sharing this day with me.



**DAYNA A. COBARRUBIAS,
B.A., Political Science
with Honors**

Mami and Dad: Thank you's undermines everything you've done for me. You've always given above and beyond and although we may see the world differently, ultimately it is you who has shaped the mujer that will attempt to save it. My grandparents: I am so blessed to have been able to

have you be such an integral part of my life. You have made so many sacrifices for my parents and me and I am proud to represent the Almaguer and Cobarrubias family. You have been key in reminding me where I come from and I take that with me wherever I go. Stanford mujeres de color: you make me proud to be a brown woman at Stanford. When there are so few of us here, you gave me the strength to carry on and would amaze me every day with your knowledge, beauty, compassion, and infinite love.

You have been friends, healers, mothers, but most of all sisters. This day is dedicated to God, my family, and for all my gente not given the same opportunities as me. En la lucha....Dayna with a 'y'



**ALEC DETWILER, B.S.,
Management Science &
Engineering**

To my Mom, Dad, family and friends, thank you for believing in me and providing me with the confidence to strive for my personal achievements and to overcome life's challenges. I am grateful for your guidance, love, and continuous support as I end this

path, and begin another. To my sister Anissa, thank you for being there for me when I needed your support and advice, for trailblazing my path to success, and for being my greatest role model. To my friends, thank you for the unforgettable memories and experiences the past four years. I will always remember the jokes, the tears, the parties, the band runs, the conferences, and the enlightening late-night discussions.



**MISTY ESPINOZA, B.A.,
Communication and
Drama**

This day is dedicated to my family. To my grandparents, who taught me to dream big and to work hard to make those dreams real. To L.V. for believing in me and being there for me. Thank you for being the rock that I could lean on whenever I needed someone. To my Mundo,

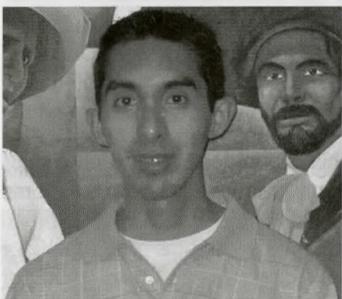
you inspire me to be someone that you can be proud of. I hope that this shows you that anything is possible if you put your mind to it. To my Mom, it has been twenty-two years of "We will find a way" and "I will make it work." You delivered on your promises and we did find a way and you did make it work. Thank you for all your support, faith and unconditional love. You truly are the strongest person I know. If I have inherited any of the spirit you have, I know that I will be fine out there in the real world. God has blessed me with each of you and this cannot even begin to cover how grateful I am for all of you.



**CRISTINA L. GONZALEZ,
B.A., Human Biology**

First, I thank God for giving me the strength to go on during those times when I thought I couldn't make it. I also want to thank my roomies, Bella, Karen, Margaret, Tiara. You girls aren't just my draw mates, but my best friends. All of us being so differ-

ent, but being able to laugh together, share chisme, and talk about our post-graduation plans. I'll never forget you. Thank you to all members of my family, since they all contributed in some way or another to my success, and helped me to overcome my failures. Lastly, Mom, I owe everything that I am to you. You helped your kids recognize the value of a great education, and you did your best to ensure that we had the opportunity to obtain one. Paco and I are the luckiest kids in the world. Your hard-work, your dedication, all your sacrifices have helped me to reach this very moment. I love you.



**ALEJANDRO HUERTA,
B.A., Urban Studies**

The day has come. I will always remember the wise words from my parents: their support helped me through this journey. Their love is a source of inspiration. Gracias, Mom and Dad. To my Brothers, thanks for the lessons on life that shed light on the challenges of life. Thanks to Sandra, for always checking up on

me and charting my progress. Thanks to Lucky for his humor and energy, and Denita for her continuing care and interest in my pursuits. To Patty Jeanne, her spirit will forever nourish me. Thanks to all the family, relatives and friends who made me feel proud. Thanks to my professors and advisors who guided me at Stanford. Finally, thanks to the Latino dining hall workers, cooks, and cleaners, who told me never to give up, and who always befriended me. For all of you, I thank God.



**JACINTA MARIA JIMENEZ,
B.A., Psychology, Dance
Minor**

As I near graduation, I've been reflecting on all those who helped me arrive at this special day. To my father, Francisco, who taught me that an education was something that could never be taken from me—thank you! My love of learning

comes from you. To my mother who nurtured me through illnesses and finals, I thank you for being my mother and my best friend. I thank my brother for teaching me a lot about life and perseverance and also for always being there whenever I needed to talk—no matter how late. And to my grandma, I will always be grateful for your faithful letters that kept me going. Lastly, to the Lema and Jiménez families, please know how much your support has meant to me—thank you for being my familia—always and forever.

Psi Chi National Honors in Psychology



**OSVALDO JIMENEZ, B.S.,
Computer Science,
Psychology Minor**

No mas quisiera darle las gracias primeramente a Dios porque me ha dejado llegar a este dia. Muchas veces solo el pensamiento de graduarme de una universidad se me hacia muy lejano de donde andaba en mi vida. Tambien

quisiera darle las gracias a toda mi familia porque desde chico ellos fueron los que me apoyaron en cualquier momento y fueron los que me echaban porras. Sin ellos, no hubiera creido que mis estudios iban a abrir tantas oportunidades. Mom, Dad, esto es para Uds.



**VANESSA LOPEZ, B.A.,
Comparative Studies in
Race and Ethnicity**

Ama y Apa, se que siempre han tenido gran esperanzas de su Bonguito —Esperanzas en veces excesivas, pero siempre con el deseo de verme realizarme. Esperanzas en veces egoístas, pero siempre con la buena intención de mi bien en mente. Esperanzas sin las cuales yo nunca hubiese podido lograr lo que hoy he logrado. Un logro que hoy festejamos juntos por la simple razón de que es un logro

tanto mío como suyo. Les agradezco por todo el apoyo que me han dado y por la fe que siempre han tenido en mi. Les agradezco por tener la capacidad de no simplemente escucharme, pero por tener la paciencia para entenderme. Pero sobre todo, les agradezco por simplemente estar ahí cuando los he necesitado. Aunque se que he sido culpable de esto en el pasado, por favor sepan que nunca tomaré lo que han hecho por mí en vano. Su hija que los ama muchísimo, Vanessa



**ARNULFO MEDINA,
B.A., Human Biology**

Uno de mis sueños se llegara a realizar al terminar esta celebración, pero esto solo quiere decir que habra lugar para sueños nuevos y metas mas grandes. Mi familia a sido el instrumento mas importante, ayudandome a lograr el iniciar y ahora terminar mis estudios en la universidad de Stanford. Los

sacrificios de mis padres no los aprecie antes, sino hasta que yo mismo llegue a ser padre; ahora entiendo cuando dicen que un padre haria lo que sea para sus hijos. Mama, Papa, muchas gracias por todo su apoyo y amor que nos han brindado todos estos años, ojala yo pueda igualar estos sentimientos hacia mis hijos. Maria, muchas gracias por todo tu apoyo, especialmente durante mi primer año en Stanford, no se que hubiera hecho sin ti. Para Silvia, Eduardo, y Daniel, perdon por ser el hermano mayor que fui, ojala les pueda recompensar por mi actitud a partir hoy. Christina, mi esposa, no hay palabras suficientes para agradecer todo lo que has hecho por mí, te amo. Mi Princesa Maya Isabel, eres mi estrella motivadora, te prometo que algun día veras las letras M.D. despues de mi nombre.



**EVA MARÍA MEJÍA
ÁLVAREZ, B.A.,
Psychology**

Mamá y Papá, este logro es tan mío como de ustedes. Es difícil expresar cuanto les agradezco todo lo que me han dado con su apoyo. He aprendido tantísimo de ustedes. Mamá: mi mejor amiga, siempre has sabido que decirme para darme animo y fuerza. Papá: nos parecemos tanto que aveces me entiendes mejor que nadie. Gracias por todas las veces que me enseñaste que soy capaz. Fernando: indirectamente me haz enseñado el camino y se que me apoyas. Felipe: mi nanno, cada sonrisa tuya me da energía y me contagia tu felicidad. A mis abuelos y familiares les agradezco su apoyo y cariño. Cada uno me ha enseñado valuales lecciones. Verdaderamente soy afortunada de tenerlos. To all my friends and everyone that helped me along the way, I wish I had the space to thank you specifically. Even if I can't, know that I keep you in my heart and you have made an impact on me. All the memories of silly times, late night studying, early BA mornings, road trips, long chats, coffee shops and dancing I cherish and take with me. No matter where I go in life, lo bailado nadie me lo quita.



**LAURA RACHEL MERAZ,
B.A., Human Biology**

Today, and everyday, I thank God for the countless opportunities he has placed in my path and for giving me the strength to take advantage of them. I thank my family for encouraging me to no end. Thank you all for your love and support, for every phone call, for every card, for the home cooked meals on the weekends, and for the no-stress baby entertainment-Marco and Mikayla. Frankie and Mandy, thank you for always understanding and for always checking in on me. You two have been a tremendous strength for me for years. Dad, thank you for all of your wise words. Dave, thank you for always being interested and all that you've done for me. Ama, my best friend, my inspiration, my strength, and all that I'm made of, thank you! I will never know all of the sacrifices that you have made for me, but I am thankful for each and every one of them. Thank you for always supporting me in my actions, even though

you didn't always understand them. Thank you for encouraging me through the hard times and reminding me of how strong you taught me to be. For so much more, I thank you. Thank you to my friends in Fresno for the weekend entertainment. Joey, you've been there through it all, thank you for always managing to get a laugh out of me. Cristina, Dayna, Jatzin, & Rita we've shared some good memories. Thank you Misti, who would have thought we'd ever be such good friends?! Paul, thank you for your love and support you've been an inspiration to me and have taught me so much. Cruz, Keeker-Deeker, Marco, Troy many thanks!

LUCAS VICTOR MUÑOZ, B.A., Human Biology

Mom, Dad: I love you. I couldn't have done this without you. You have always taught me through your example that an education should be put to use to do good things for other people and for the world. I only hope that I can follow in your footsteps in a way that makes you proud. I think I already said this, but: I love you, and I couldn't have done this without you. To the rest of my family, my grandmother, my sister, my aunts and uncles, my cousins, and my friends: I can't believe you all made it out here! Thank you. It means the world to be able to share this with all of you. You've all made me a better person than I could have been on my own. Camellia, your support has been unconditional, your love unbounded. I will love you always, and with all my heart. I'd also like to thank Jon, Alan, Tom, and Armin. You've influenced me more than you know. Once again, thank you all. Your help has nurtured me more than I could ask for, and more than I deserve.

NADIA G. NAVARRO, M.S., Mechanical Engineering

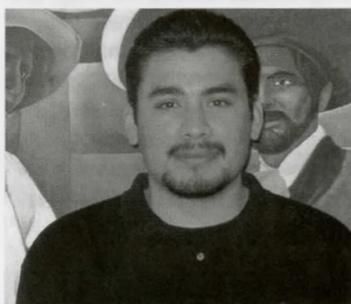
Thank you Mom and Dad for all of your support and guidance through the years. Mom, somehow you knew I would end up at Stanford and now I have done it. Dad, thank you for all the times you drove me to get the supplies I needed for a science project and sat down and tried to help me with my homework even though it had been a long time since you had taken the class. Mom and Dad both of you have been shining examples of where hard work can lead you. Growing up I saw both of you work tirelessly, getting up before dawn to get to work on time or studying late into the night to get the degree. This determination was instilled in me and has greatly helped me reach my goals. Marisa and Bryan, I hope you can appreciate everything Mom and Dad have done to achieve all they have and what they continuously do to encourage you to do your best. I love you all.



**ROSA NAVARRO, B.S.,
Biological Sciences with
Honors and B.A.,
Spanish**

When I was growing up, I always dreamed about going to a great college and graduating today is the culmination of a dream come true for me. Yet, the main reason I am here today is because of the love and support of my wonderful par-

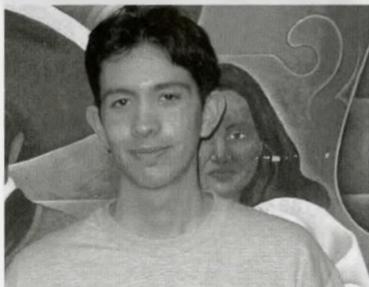
ents. Thank you Mom and Dad for always believing in me and for encouraging me to reach for the best. Ustedes son mi inspiración. I love you. To Karen and Edwin, thanks for being the best sister and brother I could ever ask for, you guys rock. También quiero dar gracias a mi Abuelita Chave, a mis tias, a mis primos, y a la familia Gomez. Gracias por todo el amor y apoyo que siempre me han dado. Los quiero a todos mucho. To all my Stanford friends, thanks for all the great memories and for some of the best years of my life.



**ISRAEL OLIVARES, B.S.,
Mechanical
Engineering, B.A.,
Spanish Minor**

En este día tan especial quiero darle las gracias a Dios, a La Virgen, y a todas aquellas personas que me ayudaron a llegar a donde estoy hoy. En especial quiero agradecer a mi mama y papa por todo su

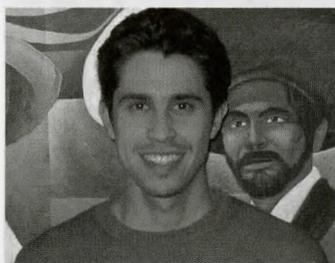
esfuerzo y sacrificio por sacarme adelante. Desde una temprana edad sus valores y enseñanzas fueron inculcados en mi. Su cariño y ejemplo de persistencia y valentía al enfrentar obstáculos diarios me dieron la fuerza para seguir mis sueños. Que gran placer es el poder realizar nuestros anhelos y compartir nuestros triunfos con familia y amigos como lo hacemos juntos hoy.



**GABRIEL PARDO, B.A.,
Political Science**

I would like to thank first and foremost my Father, Mother and Sister. The love, support and education they gave me are the reasons I'm here today. Being away from home these past four years has been difficult for all of us. I truly

appreciate my parents' ability to balance between being there for me when I needed them and giving me room to grow while here at Stanford. My sister Isela's arrival on campus in the class of 2004 has added an invaluable sense of family here at school. I also want to thank all members of my extended family, many of whom are here this weekend. I can't express how much their support and love has meant to me. And last but certainly not least, all my friends here at Stanford. I truly could not have made it without them.



**DANIEL REYES, B.A.,
Economics**

Finally made it!! Mom and Dad, no words can do justice to the pride I have for being a part of this family and for being your son. Thank you for everything. Know that whatever may come to pass and wherever I may be, our house will always be my

home. Pat, good luck with the rest of your time here and enjoy! This truly is a special place. And Jeannette, my Chiquita, we are all already so proud of you, just keep being yourself. Thanks for always making me laugh and for being the sister I never had. Wait, I do have a sister, that's you, so thanks for being you! Yeah, I know what you're gonna say. I can't help it! And to all my friends, from Zapata until now and everything in between, it's been a blast!

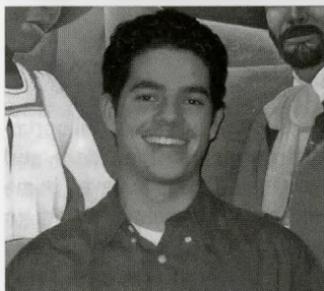


**RITA RICO, B.A., Latin
American Studies with
Honors, Comparative
Studies in Race &
Ethnicity**

Estoy alcanzando mi sexto sol por la fuerza de mi gente. I make it to this special day only because you fought for me and stood for me, and most of all because you loved me. Thank You To Mama Bonnie: for

being my partner and my guide. You are the smartest woman alive. I am your runaway bunny that always comes back. To Daddy-O: for listening to my opinions like I am an equal, for teaching me dignity, for reminding me I am your goofusmarufus. To Sajili: for your big sis wisdom and ridiculous reckless laughter, for teaching me grace. To My Grandparents: for your unconditional acceptance and support. Uncle Joey, Tish & Fam: for moving me in and taking me in year after year. To Ericka: for holding me up when I could not stand, for laughing with me when it hurt so bad. To HC

'02/'03: for growing with me, for group tears, for the roadtrips, for the Smirnoff-Suites-DL scandals, for midnite b-day showers, for «I Will Survive.» (And we did. Meems, we will.) We are sisters through it all. Orale! To Blessings-Arise-Afresh: for reminding me to shine. To CPT and NYC: The Honorary Latinas, how did we ever live without you? MAN! To Tocaya: you carry the torch.



**LUIS ROBLES, B.S.,
COMPUTER SCIENCE**

For my mother who showed me how to be brave and how to love,
For my father who taught me to work hard and gave me his passion for learning,
For God who continues to bless my life,
For my entire family, which offered constant encouragement,

For my friends who kept me on the right path,
For those who believed in me and challenged me,
For those who came before me and those that will follow.

Para mi Madre quien me mostro como ser valiente y como amar,
Para mi Padre quien me enseno a trabajar duro y me transmitio su pasion de aprender,
Para Dios quien sigue bendiciendo mi vida,
Para mi familia entera y su constante apollo,
Para mis amigos que me mantuvieron en el buen camino,
Para los que creyeron en mi y me desafiaron,
Para los que vinieron antes de mi y para los que seguiran.



**ANABEL RUIZ, B.A.,
Human Biology**

Ever since that day, when I was fourteen, and I first visited Stanford, it has been my dream to belong to the long and prestigious legacy of this grand university. Now, the day has come where I know this campus like the back of my hand, and have come to consider it a home. I thank all of my friends and family for joining me today as I celebrate the fulfillment

of my dream. I would also like to thank my friends and family for giving me valuable support and guidance that has allowed me to make it to this moment. Le doy las gracias a mi papi y mami, a mi familia, y a todos mis amigos y amigas que me han acompando durante estos anos. Ademas,

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**CRISTELLA SANCHEZ,
B.A., International
Relations**

I thank God for the wonderful opportunities during my life. Mom and Dad you have always believed in me allowing me to do what I wanted, go where I needed to go and for that I can never thank you enough! Rene, Joel and Lawrence, thank you for al-

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**ROSEMARY SOLIZ, B.A.,
Human Biology**

I dedicate this day to my family. Thank you Mama and Daddy for your endless love, support, and guidance during my time at Stanford. I love you. Thank you for working hard so that I would have the chance to go to college. It means the world to me to have you here to share this day with me. You are

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**ERIKA SOTO, B.A.,
Political Science**

God has blessed me with an amazing family and I want to thank each member of the Saldivar and Soto families for being the reasons why I am here today. But I would like to dedicate this day to my parents, Manny and Leonor Soto, for their incredible love and encouragement.

Mom and Dad, nearly 10 years ago you came home from a trip to San Francisco with a Stanford t-shirt and the Stanford Picture Book for your 7th grade daughter. Inscribed on the first page were the words, "We know you can do it," and you were right. From, "You can do it mija, you can, you will" to, "Win Baby, Win!" your relentless love and encouragement have made me who I am today and I will forever be grateful. Everything that I am, all that I have achieved and all that I will ever achieve is because of you. I will never be able to thank you enough. I love you both with all of my heart, and I always will. Con Cariño, Erika.



**LORENA VILLARREAL,
B.S., Mechanical
Engineering**

This day is dedicated to the woman who has been my inspiration. For all she has been in my life...my friend, my strength, my guidance, my motivation...I cannot seem to thank her enough. Mother, I love you more than words or actions could ever

express. Every day I thank the Lord for letting me be your child. Thank you for always supporting my decisions and encouraging me to be me. I would not be who I am today without your love. Although we are far apart, know that I will carry your love with me always. With all my heart, I love you mama. To Leo, my best friend, my brother, thanks for always looking out for your «little sis». To Lisa and Alex, thanks for sharing this special day with me. And to my father, I know I don't say it often, but I love you.



Graduate Degree Recipients



CARLOS ALDANA, Ph.D., Electrical Engineering

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ADRIAN CASIAS, M.S., Chemical Engineering

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FRANCES E. CONTRERAS, Ph.D., Education, Administration Policy Analysis

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**LARRY MARCIEL
ESTRADA, M.A.,
Science, Technology,
and Society, and B.A.,
Sociology**

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**BERNABÉ N.C. GARCIA, Jr., M.A., Latin American
Studies**

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**ALFONSO GONZALES,
M.A., Latin American
Studies**

Esto es dedicado a mi Jefe y Jefita. Thank you for teaching me the meaning of love everytime both of you would get up in the morning to drive a forklift or take care of other peoples kids. You have been the greatest teachers in my life for you

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**GARY HERNANDEZ, M.A.,
Sociology**

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**RICARDO RAMIREZ, Ph.D.,
Political Science**

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**ELSA WALTHER-MEADE
HERNANDEZ, B.A.,
Communication and M.A.,
Sociology**

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Thank You

The Chicano/Latino Graduating Class of 2002 would like to especially thank the following individuals we encountered at Stanford for all of the personal dedication they committed to ensuring that we would reach this special day. We recognize that this day is not only our accomplishment, but also an achievement that belongs to all of those who have worked so hard for us to have the opportunity and the support to be here. Thank you for being our family away from home.

Alan Acosta & Tom Gratz, Casa Zapata RF's (1997-2001)
Juana Alicia • Albert Camarillo • Saul Cardenas & Stern
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Noé Lozano • Alejandro Martinez • James Montoya •
Frances Morales • Paula Moya • Marcela Muñoz • Amado
Padilla • Anna Marie Porras • Pedro Robles • Renato
Rosaldo • Ramon Saldívar • Laura Selznick
Guadalupe Valdés • Yvonne Yarbrow-Bejarano

Volunteers

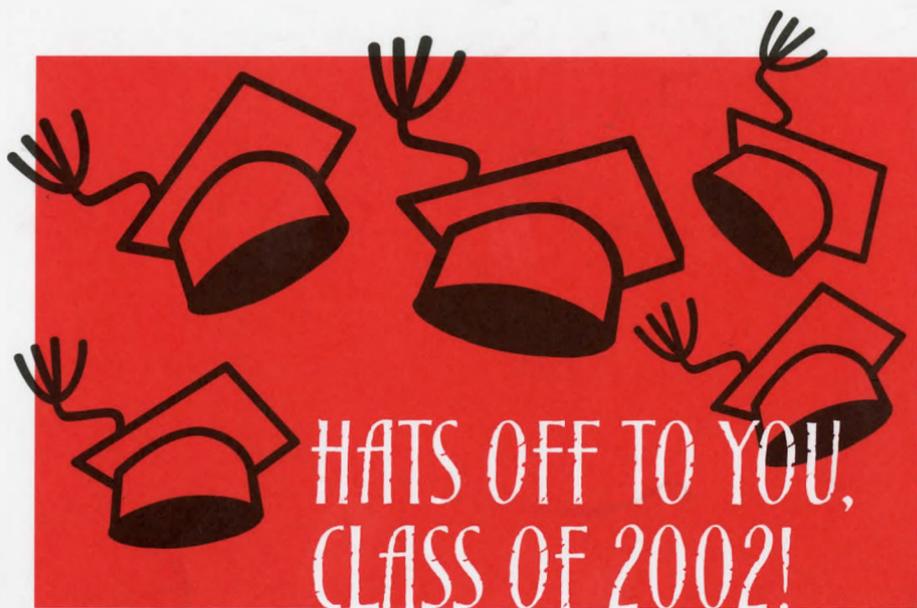
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Artwork by Vanessa Lopez





THE STANFORD ALUMNI ASSOCIATION congratulates the Class of '02 and welcomes you and your special guests to the greater Stanford family! Stanford is your university, and the Alumni Association is here to make sure the benefits are *always* with you, wherever you are in the world. Through membership in the Association, you help support the many activities that keep us connected.

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