



Latina/o Graduation Celebration



2009 Latina/o Graduation Celebration

Welcome

Dr. Nariman Farvardin

Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

Keynote Introduction

Dr. Johnetta Davis

*Associate Dean of the Graduate School and Director
Office of Graduate Recruitment, Retention, and Diversity*

Keynote Address

Jose Antonio Tijerino '89

President and CEO

Hispanic Heritage Foundation

Carolina Rojas-Bahr Award

Dr. Christopher Lester

Director

Office of Multi-Ethnic Student Education

Outstanding Graduate Student Award

Neruh Ramirez

*2008 Award Recipient and Coordinator for
Academic Advising Services, Letters & Sciences*

Recognition of Graduating Students

Vanessa Morales & Cristina Risco

Apreciando Nuestras Familias

Graduating Students

Closing Remarks

Dr. Cordell Black

Associate Provost for Equity and Diversity

Dr. Nariman Farvardin

Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost



On behalf of the University of Maryland, it is my privilege to congratulate the 2009 University of Maryland Latina/o graduates. The Office of the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost is pleased to acknowledge and recognize your diligence, accomplishments, and academic achievements. This celebration is a significant event for the entire University community, because it recognizes your impact, both as a University of Maryland student and as a member of the Latina/o campus community.

As you prepare for your future endeavors, whether in continued studies or a professional career, we hope you will appreciate the investment you and the University of Maryland community have made towards your future. Your future participation in alumni activities and service will create a legacy that will guide many other students towards a day like today.

As you celebrate with family, friends, and loved ones, I hope you will take this opportunity to reflect on the challenges and successes you have encountered, relish the triumphs you have achieved, and enjoy the successes you have earned as a University of Maryland graduate.

Please accept my best wishes for all of your future endeavors.

Sincerely,

Nariman Farvardin, Ph.D.

Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

Dr. Cordell W. Black

Associate Provost for Equity and Diversity

On behalf of the University of Maryland, it is my distinct pleasure to help sponsor the 2009 Latina/o Graduation Celebration. The Office of the Associate Provost for Equity and Diversity is dedicated to the excellence of all Maryland students. I am delighted to help commemorate the culmination of this educational experience and the beginning of many new experiences for members of the Latina/o community.



The University of Maryland is proud to provide a time for family and friends to acknowledge these dedicated, hard-working students. It is a time for members of the campus community to support and encourage future generations of Latina/o students to achieve their highest potential.

Thank you for joining us at this momentous occasion.

Sincerely,

Cordell W. Black, Ph.D.

Associate Provost for Equity and Diversity



Latino Alumni Network

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

Dear Class of 2009,

Congratulations on completing a significant and unforgettable achievement in your academic career. It is also noteworthy that you will begin the celebration of your accomplishments through participation in the University of Maryland's (UMD) fifth annual Latina/o Graduation Celebration. It is with great enthusiasm that we congratulate you and welcome you as a Latino Terp alum.

Continuing a sense of community and development is an important element even as we leave our UMD experience. It is for this reason that a group of current UMD alumni have been working to establish the Latino Alumni Network (LAN). The Latino Alumni Network is being established in order to provide a network of support and opportunity for professional and personal development for Latino alumni. Seeing the benefit and need for this group, we envision an organization that will reconnect individuals as we grow as professionals but also to provide opportunities for development and mentoring that is essential to ensuring that our community excels professionally and personally.

To ensure the sustainability and appropriate resources needed to maintain an active LAN, we will be taking steps to officially charter LAN through the UMD Alumni Association system. To make this a reality, we are seeking assistance from UMD alumni; in the immediate future, we will need the signatures of 100 UMD Alumni Association members in support of the LAN charter, as required by the University. As recent alumni you will receive complementary membership to the UMD Alumni Association for one year following graduation.

We will be attending the Latino Graduation Celebration and collecting names of individuals that would like to join the LAN listserv; are interested in supporting the signing of the LAN charter; and individuals who would like to receive more information in general. We appreciate your insight and hope that you will join us in becoming a charter member of the Latino Alumni Network.

We wish you the best with the conclusion of your academic career at UMD and the beginning of the next chapter of your life.

UMD Latino Alumni Network

Keynote Speaker

Jose Antonio Tijerino '89

President and CEO, Hispanic Heritage Foundation

A graduate of the University of Maryland's School of Journalism, Jose Antonio Tijerino is the President and CEO of the Hispanic Heritage Foundation, a national leadership organization which identifies, promotes, and prepares Latino role models through national leadership, cultural, educational, and workforce programs.



In his role, Mr. Tijerino is the executive producer for the Hispanic Heritage Awards held at the Kennedy Center and broadcast on NBC, Telemundo, and the Armed Forces Network. In addition, Mr. Tijerino has developed several youth leadership programs including the Youth Awards, a leadership and national educational program providing \$650,000 in grants annually to 300 students in 12 regional ceremonies across America.

Mr. Tijerino has made a conscious effort to partner with, and assist other non-profits, Latino, African American or Asian, by leveraging resources with the Latino proverb in mind that, "When the sun rises, it rises for everyone." He is extremely active in the District of Columbia community by serving on several boards and as a communications and development advisor to numerous organizations.

Participating Faculty & Staff

Mark Brimhall-Vargas

Assistant Director, Office of Diversity and Inclusion

Alberto Cabrera

*Professor, Department of Educational Leadership, Higher Education,
and International Education*

Noah D. Drezner

*Assistant Professor, Department of Educational Leadership, Higher Education,
and International Education*

Manel Lacorte

*Associate Professor, Department of Spanish and Portuguese
School of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures*

Victoria Maria MacDonald

Assistant Professor, Department of Curriculum & Instruction

J. Carlos Manduley

*Visiting Professor, Department of Educational Leadership, Higher Education,
and International Education and Special Assistant to the Dean*

Julia Matute

Coordinator for Marketing Services, University Health Center

Dharma Naik

*Coordinator for Asian Pacific American Student Involvement and Advocacy,
Multicultural Involvement & Community Advocacy*

Randy Ontiveros

Assistant Professor, Department of English

Juan Carlos Quintero-Herencia

*Associate Professor, Department of Spanish and Portuguese
School of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures*

Ana Patricia Rodríguez

*Assistant Professor, Department of Spanish and Portuguese
School of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures*

Ivette Rodríguez-Santana

Lecturer, USLT Minor Program

Lee Thornton

Eaton Chair, Philip Merrill College of Journalism

Sabina Trejo

Program Management Specialist for Pharmacy, University Health Center

Dr. Robert Waters, Jr.

Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and Special Assistant to the President

Ruth Enid Zambrana

Professor, Department of Women's Studies

List of 2009 Graduates

Josean Antonio Acevedo-Soto

*BA, Criminology and Criminal Justice
College of Behavioral and Social Sciences*

I want to thank the Academic Achievement Program, because without that program here at the university. I would not be graduating alongside my fellow Maryland Terps.

Alexander Cetan Astudillo

*BS, Entrepreneurship
Robert H. Smith School of Business*

After my graduation this semester I plan to find a job in the "Green Industry" and help contribute to reducing the effects of the global climate change crisis. I plan to take this knowledge I have gained working in the industry and open up my own company re-manufacturing recyclables. I will also be working towards my MBA by that time hopefully, at least part time. I would like to personally thank Chris Mays and Dina Sparks for all the help and support they have lent me during my time at Smith.

Jennifer Bado-Aleman

*M.A., Secondary English Education
College of Education*

Thank you to the UMCP staff in the College of Education, for their continued support and guidance. Congratulations to all graduates.

Monica Bedon

*BA, Studio Art
College of Arts and Humanities*

I would like to thank my parents for the support they have given me throughout my 4 yrs in college. Kat you were always encouraging me to face my fears and doubts. Ed you never failed to tell me the difference btw what is right or wrong. Nat thank you for being there when I needed you the most. Jacks, thank you for always telling me what I should or shouldn't wear. Thank you for getting married too. I love weddings! Leli thanks for seriously everything! Omar, LA! Finally, Thank you Baby Jesus!

Jessica Noelle Boluda

*BA, Government and Politics/Spanish Language and Literature
College of Behavioral and Social Sciences/College of Arts and Humanities*

I thank my family, friends, & teachers who have helped me to grow as a student and a person during my time at UMD. Mom, Dad & Christine: With your love and encouragement, I gained the confidence to believe in myself and follow my heart. Abui y Abuelo: Les agradezco por todo su cariño y apoyo, los que me han ayudado alcanzar mis sueños durante mi vida. Finally, as I go on to law school, I will remember Fr. Basil Moreau's words: "the mind shall not be cultivated at the expense of the heart."

Melissa Janet Cabrera

*BS, Marketing
Robert H. Smith School of Business*

I would like to thank my family, my fiancé Alex, and friends for supporting me through my years at Maryland. My baby girl Alyssa has been the driving force my senior year and I want her to know that anything can be achieved through determination and perseverance.

Otto A. Calderon Moscoso

*BS, Chemical Engineering
A. James Clark School of Engineering*

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my parents and family for having given me the opportunity to reach such an accomplishment. I could not have done it without their help. I would also like to thank all my professors and friends throughout my school career for being by my side when I needed help. I never thought I would make it this far but perseverance has proved me wrong. Thank you mom and dad for showing me the right way to success. To my siblings, YOU ARE NEXT! DON'T STOP!

Janet Carolina Callejas

*BA, Philosophy/Linguistics
College of Arts and Humanities*

Without the support and words of wisdom from my family and friends I would not be here. I can only hope to take this step forward and make them all proud. Thank you.

Diego Camargo

*BS, Kinesiology
School of Public Health*

Quisiera agradecer a mis padres y mi hermana por el apoyo que me han brindado durante mis estudios lo cual me ha ayudado a seguir adelante. Gracias a toda mi familia y mis primos por el amor y por ser buenos ejemplos. Gracias a mis amigos de la universidad que me dieron el animo para alcanzar mis metas y a mis profesores por la guía. Thank you! Salud dinero y amor ;)

Cynthia Cannock

*BA, Spanish Language and Literature
College of Arts and Humanities*

I'm very happy to be graduating! I want to thank my parents and the Spanish teachers and my advisor for helping me and giving me advice.

Denise Isabel Castro

*BA, Theatre/Criminology and Criminal Justice
College of Arts and Humanities/College of Behavioral and Social Sciences*

College has definitely been the best four years of my life and I could not have picked a better school to attend. It has been a long journey, yet I am sad to see it come to an end. I am very proud and excited to be the first in my family to graduate from college and I could not have done that without the support of both of my parents. I will be eternally grateful to them for helping me make the most out of my college experience.

Liliam Natali Coronado

*M.S., Accounting
Robert H. Smith School of Business*
Thanks to my family for all of their support!!!

Brenda Elizabeth Delgado

*BS, Family Science
School of Public Health*

This diploma is dedicated to my familia, especially my Mami, Daddy, and Mama Tina, thank you for the unconditional love and support! Elmer, Judy and Janet thank you for keeping me sane, I love you all very much. Now to those LOVELY LADIES DE LAMBDA THETA ALPHA LATIN SORORITY INC. I would not be here without the support of my hermanas, you all pushed me to be the best I can be. THANK YOU SISTERS AND I LOVE YOU ALL SO MUCH! To my neos, you all have given me and Judy so much happiness T.R.U.E!

Maria Teresa Diaz

*BA, Criminology and Criminal Justice
College of Behavioral and Social Sciences*

I would like to thank God for all of the blessings he has given my family and me. I also want to thank my guardian angel Ramon L. Diaz for his guidance. You are always in my heart big brother. The next person I want to thank is my mother for all of her love, wisdom, and support. You are my role model and this could not have happened without your unconditional love. Finally, I would like to thank my family Omayra Mendoza, Juan Diaz, Nigel Holmes, and Nestor Reyes for their love and support.

LaShanda Sharlyce Edmond

*BA, Criminology and Criminal Justice
College of Behavioral and Social Sciences*

I would like to thank my parents for their continued support in my success here at UMD; I could not have done it without you. I would also like to thank my fiancée for his support, love and devotion throughout my college career. Most of all, I would like to thank my grandmother aka "MOM" for believing in me. I wish you could be here to celebrate this moment however I know you are close in my heart and are here in spirit.

Jose Luis Espejo

*BA, Government and Politics
College of Behavioral and Social Sciences*

I would not be here today if it weren't for several people but none more important than my family. You have always been my motivation and support system and even more in these four years. Gracias por todo Karol, Mama y Papa. Los quiero mucho!!!

Sarah Fang

*MFA, Creative Writing
College of Arts and Humanities*

Thank you to all of my family and friends for their support, to the faculty of the MFA program for their constant encouragement, and to the few literature professors who kept it real while pushing me to think about the meaning of art.

Emily Gabriela Fortis

*BA, Spanish Language and Literature
College of Arts and Humanities*

I thank my God first and foremost for this achievement. To you I owe it all. Mom and Kev: thanks for everything—from hugs and kisses to hour-long lectures. Love you always. Abuelita: un beso enorme. Last but certainly not least, I would also like to thank the professors and faculty of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese for their amazing work.

Claudia Alicia Garcia

*BS, Biology
College of Chemical and Life Sciences*

The memories and friendships I have made over the past four years at the University of Maryland will be cherished forever. My experiences at the University have made me become a better person. I would like to thank my parents Fatima and Mauricio Garcia, who came to this country for a better opportunity, for supporting me and stressing education. I am extremely proud to be the first in the family to receive a college degree and hope I have set an example for my younger sister and brother.

Jorge Felipe Garcia

*M.Eng., Engineering
A. James Clark School of Engineering*

Solamente agradecer a Dios por darme la oportunidad de alcanzar mi meta y permitirme gozar de una familia tan hermosa.

Eliza Clarivel Garcia-Castillo

*BS, Accounting
Robert H. Smith School of Business*

Thanks to God, my family, and friends who have always been by my side in this wonderful journey. Special thanks to my mom, Mercedes Amparo Castillo, without her I could not have done it. Also, my Dad, Angel Garcia R.I.P., whom I will remember with love for supporting me and always believing in me.

Stefanie Gernat-Rovelo

*BA, Government and Politics
College of Behavioral and Social Sciences*

I would like to thank all of the faculty and staff members that have contributed to my personal and academic success at the University of Maryland. I would also like to thank my family for never doubting me and always being there for support!

Jessica Concepcion Gomez

*BS, Family Science
School of Public Health*

Me gustaría agradecer a mi familia y amigos, sobre todo mis padres para el amor y apoyo que ellos me han dado. Sin ustedes dos este no sería posible, los quiero muchísimo! To my sisters Claudia & Veronica, I can't wait to see you at this point in your life because it's truly an amazing feeling, I believe in you both. Words truly cannot express how thankful and grateful I am to have made it this far. I love you all!

Diana C. Gracias

*BA, Economics
College of Behavioral and Social Sciences*

Quisiera dar las gracias primeramente a Dios por permitir esta maravillosa oportunidad. Quisiera dar las gracias a mi familia, Marilyn y Franklin, que siempre me han motivado en todo. Hay dos personas en mi vida que sin ellos no estaría aquí hoy. Mis padres, Maria y Balmoris, han sido todo para mí y me han ayudado en absolutamente todo. Mami y Papi, les quiero mucho y muchas muchas gracias. Últimamente quisiera dar las gracias a esas amistades y personas especiales que me han ayudado en todo.

Kathy Guevara

*BA, Sociology/Criminology and Criminal Justice
College of Behavioral and Social Sciences*

A BIG thank you to my mom, Bina, and Nisa- you always PUSHED & INSPIRED ME to not settle for anything but the best! Thanks to LTA- Upsilon Chapter- especially my PM, APM, LS's & Neo's- you made college full of great memories and a home to return to! My Cumberland Buddies, you helped me open my eyes and find my passion. Thank you to McNair for giving me the tools to become a successful Latina. And a special thank you to Alfredo, you ALWAYS supported and believed in me no matter what.

Michele S. Hellebuyck

*BA, Communication
College of Arts and Humanities*

The greatest joy in graduation is in being able to see the pride in your parents/guardians eyes as you receive your diploma. That diploma not only symbolizes your academic success but their success in raising you.

Jessica Henriquez

*BA, History
College of Arts and Humanities*

I would like to say thank my mami and sister for supporting me in this long journey. Thanks for not giving up on me...I hope I have made you proud. I would also like to thank my Henriquez/Romero family for playing an important supporting role in my accomplishments. And last but certainly not least, I would like to thank Megan Forbes in Arts and Humanities, without her making sense of it all, I'd still be lost. Again Thank you.

Arelis Rocio Hernandez-Amador

*BA, Journalism
Philip Merrill College of Journalism*

Reaching my graduation day has not been my own triumph but that of those who believed in me, encouraged and supported me throughout these four years. Countless names and faces come to mind and I share this occasion as a collective victory for my family, friends, classmates and greater Latina/o community. Gracias a Dios quien me dio las fuerzas para seguir adelante con virtud, caracter, y amor.

Judy Elizabeth Herrera

*BA, Communication
College of Arts and Humanities*

I would like to say thank you to my beautiful family for supporting my decisions. To my bfs Jeanette & Brenda thank you for believing in me. To Mamita, thank you for giving me the motivation to stay determined. To my Lovely Sisters of Lambda Theta Alpha Latin Sorority, Inc. thank you for always being there for me and making college the best experience ever, I love you all. To my LS's thank you for the beautiful moments we shared. I will cherish those moments with each of you forever.

Vivian Fernanda Ibanez

*BA, Psychology
College of Behavioral and Social Sciences*

I would like to thank God foremost for allowing me to reach this point in my life. He has blessed me with incredible parents who have been there for me every step of the way. My siblings, Jennifer, Emely, and Fernando have also blessed my life with love and support. I can't wait to begin the next chapter of my life and will certainly treasure the four years that I spent at the University of Maryland in College Park. Felicitaciones a todos!

Jacqueline Juarez

*BA, Psychology
College of Behavioral and Social Sciences*

I would like to thank God for blessing me with the opportunity to attend & finish college. Without him, none of this could have been possible. This diploma belongs to my two biggest supporters & personal cheerleaders: Mami y Papi. They epitomize hard work, dedication, & selflessness, all of which have been my motivation throughout my academic career. The rest of my family, my brother, sister, abuelitos, tias, tios, cousins, and nieces, deserve a special thanks for all their support.

Artur Marques Kalil

M.Arch., Master of Architecture

School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation

Agradeço meus pais, Maria Marques e Nelson Kalil, e a minha irmã, Patricia, por todo apoio, amor e carinho toda a minha vida.

Tanya L. Levy

BS, Logistics, Transportation, and Supply Chain Management

Robert H. Smith School of Business

Congratulations class of 2009! I wanted to thank my family, friends, and teachers who supported me throughout these four years of college and who contributed to my success. To happy endings and new beginnings!

Diego Llanos

BS, Operations Management

Robert H. Smith School of Business

Thank you to my family for all their support throughout the years, much of my success is thanks to them.

Alexander Maldonado

BA, Criminology and Criminal Justice

College of Behavioral and Social Sciences

I thank God for the opportunity that I have had to continue my education and to accomplish this great milestone. I dedicated two years of my life in the service of the Lord and now I see the great blessings. I would like to thank my family and friends for their support and love throughout this journey. Muchisimas gracias por todo. La lucha continua!

Raul Marin

BA, Spanish Language and Literature

College of Arts and Humanities

I want to thank God, my family, friends, and professors for making my college experience worthwhile!

Jaqueline Marquez

BS, Family Science,

School of Public Health

"Deserve your dream"-Octavio Paz Thanks to my parents for instilling passion in me, it is in everything I do, my brother for giving me courage, I know I can take on the world, Nikki for giving me faith in myself and in God, my professors for giving me wisdom, I will continue to learn and to teach others, to my Hermanas for sincerity, loyalty and unity, and to my friends for happiness. These qualities and more make me worthy of my dreams and I am thankful to all of you for helping me get here.

Eliana Martinez

BA, Government and Politics/Romance Languages

College of Behavioral and Social Sciences/College of Arts and Humanities

Muchisimas gracias a mi mama y a mis abuelos por siempre apoyarme en todo. Los quiero mucho y no se que haria sin ustedes. Besos a tia Loli y tio Antonio, me alegro que hayan podido venir hoy dia. Thanks to all of my friends who have inspired and encouraged me along the way. Neggie, thanks for being the sister I never had.

Freddie Ray Martinez

BS, Physical Sciences

College of Computer, Mathematical and Physical Sciences

I did it! I have a college degree. I'm proud to be one of the few Hispanic members of my family to get this far in my academic career. This achievement would have been impossible without the constant support and encouragement I received from family and friends. I would also like to give extra thanks to the Doyle family for taking me in when I needed it most. Lastly, I would like to thank God for having my back and giving me this great opportunity. Go Terps!

Andres Molina

BS, Aerospace Engineering

A. James Clark School of Engineering

I would like to specially thank my parents Arturo & Anita and my beautiful wife Myriam, for always believing in me and for making an impact on my life as well as always encouraging me to do what I want to do in life. Also, I want to thank my sister Meche por hacer mi ropa, niece Rachel por hacerme tener iras y la Tia Maria por la cominda tan rica. Para toda familia, GRACIAS, por todo su apoyo y dedicación, por todos sus pensamientos y oraciones, por su infinita comprensión y amor. Esto es para ustedes!

Stephanie Lynn Nguyen

*BS, Kinesiology
School of Public Health*

I would like to thank God for this beautiful life that I have been blessed with. I thank my parents for all their hard work and sacrifice so that I could have all of the opportunities that they never had. I am thankful for Chris, the best brother and friend I could ask for, and for the rest of my family for believing in me. I am grateful for my friends for all of the memories these past four years. To my boyfriend, thank you for your love and support. To my Ba noi, this degree is for you.

Christopher Otoniel Novoa

*BA, English
College of Arts and Humanities*

I made it!!!!!! and it only took six years!!!!!! What now, Dirk?

Hassel Nunez

*BA, Criminology and Criminal Justice
College of Behavioral and Social Sciences*

First and foremost, thanks to the Lord Jesus Christ for everything he has done for me. My parents, thanks for always being there for me, providing, and supporting me both financially and emotionally. Josh, my brother, I know you're in a better place watching over me, this one's for you. I LOVE YOU MANITO! My friends, we all know my college experience wouldn't have been the same without you guys, late night studies, parties, laughs, tears... I wouldn't have it any other way, thanks for everything!

Nicolas Olivares

*BS, Bioengineering
A. James Clark School of Engineering*

I want to thank my mother, Gloria Olivares, and my father, Enrique Olivares, for their immeasurable, loving support throughout my life. Mom and Dad, I worked hard for this diploma, but God knows you worked harder. To Daniel Olivares, my brother, you have the potential to achieve anything you set your mind to; so aim high because you will get there!

Rebekah Nicole Ontiveros

*BA, English
College of Arts and Humanities*

I would like to take the time to thank every single person who participated in helping me get back on my feet after taking a stumble early on in my college career. I would also like to thank the University of Maryland for taking a chance on me when most other universities turned a blind eye. Thank you Mom and Dad for always helping me find the courage within myself to find my own potential for excellence. Thank you to my sister for always reminding me to stop and enjoy life with a smile.

Melissa Perla

*BA, Economics
College of Behavioral and Social Sciences*

I'm extremely excited about graduation and I give thanks to God and my parents because without them, I would not be here celebrating this amazing day of graduation. Congratulations class of 2009.

Gustavo Quinteros

*BS, Civil & Environmental Engineering
A. James Clark School of Engineering*

First and foremost I give thanks to God for all the strength he has given me over the past 5 years. To my Mami for her encouragement, knowing that this day would always come with perseverance and applying my intelligence. To my Papi who has shown me that not having a father of his own had no bearing on being the greatest dad to his own son. To my three loving sisters whose love and support has known no limits for their little brother. To my Abuela who taught me what the power of faith can bring.

Fernando Ramirez

*BS, Electrical Engineering
A. James Clark School of Engineering*

Quisiera agradecerle a mis padres Evangelina y Oscar porque sin ellos no estaria aqui. Los amo y son lo mas grande que tengo. Tambien quisiera dar gracias a Eva y Oscar. Me suportaron estos ultimos cuatro años, y muchas veces sin saberlo me dieron el apoyo moral que necesite para continuar. Lastly, I would like to thank Leasa, Jackie from the Stamp Gallery, Carlos, and the rest of my family and friends for supporting me unconditionally and helping me get to this point.

Crystal Reyes

*BS, Community Health
School of Public Health*

I thank God with all my heart for being marvelous and for helping me achieve this important milestone. I thank Him for the family he has blessed me with and for my friends. May we be able to share our gifts with others and to testify the glory and love of God. Que el Señor nos de la fe autentica por la que uno obedece y se somete a su voluntad. Obediencia que no es frustracion. Todo lo contrario: lleva a la plenitud, a la verdad. "Feliz el hombre que pone en Dios su confianza." Felicidades!

John Ulisses Reyes

*BA, Criminology and Criminal Justice
College of Behavioral and Social Sciences*

I would like to thank everyone who has helped on the path to graduation. I would like to thank all of my friends and family, my professors, and I would also like to thank god. Woo!

John Dennis Rios

*BS, Elementary Education
College of Education*

I am the first in my family to graduate! It was hard, but I did it!

Jean-Pierre Rock Jr.

*BS, Mechanical Engineering
A. James Clark School of Engineering*
Family and friends thank you for your support.

Ana Cristina Rosas

*BA, History/Spanish Language and Literature
College of Arts and Humanities*

Rosas Family you are so very dear to my heart! THANK YOU for the sacrifices made, for your time teaching me with kindness to strive for excellence, for believing in me, and for sharing about your life experiences. I recognize that I walk away from this college in large part because of you all. There is not a doubt in my mind that I am all the richer for having had your support to see me through my college experience.

Karen Ruano

*BS, Finance
Robert H. Smith School of Business*

Thank you God for letting me be where I am. Thanks to my family for giving me all the support needed to pursue my finance degree. Special thanks to my parents, Jorge & Marina Ruano and my husband, Adolfo Martinez, without you guys I wouldn't have made it this far. Additionally, thank you Jenny for proofreading my papers; Junior for your unconditional support; my kids, Josselyn, Natalie, and Elijah for letting you mommy be a student. Los Quiero Mucho a Todos!

Manuel Angel Ruiz

*BS, General Business
Robert H. Smith School of Business*

I want to thank: my entire familia for helping me get to this point in my life--especially my mother and oldest brother (Toño) for sacrificing so much to get me to where I am today; Alicia (my better half) for helping me get through this crazy year; my fraternity brothers for being my familia on campus, PARA SIEMPRE!; Pamela and Ana Patricia for guiding me throughout my time here; and the Latino Student Union and my executive board for helping me become a stronger, wiser, and empowered Latino!

Andrew T. Ryan

BA, Kinesiology

School of Public Health, There has been a group of people me getting through my 17 years of education. My parents for their love and guidance. My brothers and sisters for their support. And my fiancé for her love and sacrifice. I stand at the forefront today celebrating my graduation as an expression of my thankfulness to you all. My confidence in the future rests in the fact that the LORD says: All things will work together for the good of those who are called to my name. By grace, I stand today - GRADUATED!

Kreg Thomas Barrett Ryan

BS, Computer Science

College of Computer, Mathematical and Physical Sciences

Thanks to my parents, Terrence and Maria Ryan for all their support and tough love. I love you both! Thanks to my aunt, Anne Barrett for all of her assistance. Without you I would not have had this second chance. Thanks to my G-Pa, Joseph Barrett for your understanding. Shout out to my brother, Drew Ryan who is graduating with me! Go Terps! And also to my Hermanos of La Unidad Latina, Lambda Upsilon Lambda Fraternity Inc. College would not have been the same without you. Para Siempre!

Stefany Salas

BA, Sociology

College of Behavioral and Social Sciences

Mami y Papi, gracias por ser mi inspiración mas grande que me motiva a seguir adelante y nunca fallar. Tia Ely, gracias por toda la ayuda y apoyo durante estos 4 años. To my family for always supporting me! To my UPSILON sisters of Lambda Theta Alpha for always being there and motivating me to reach my full potential, I admire each n everyone of you! Keep that Upsilon legacy going strong! And to my bffs, my DK girls for keeping me sane, filled with laughter, and never a dull moment. LOVE YOU!

John Nathan Salazar

M.Ed., Counseling and Personnel Services

College of Education

I'd like to thank God for giving me the strength to accomplish this wonderful achievement! I'd also like to thank all my faculty, friends, and family who supported me throughout this journey. I'd especially like to thank my lovely fiancé; I look forward to the journey we will begin together in just a few weeks and just wanted to thank you for all your love and support! I love you!

Rommel A. Sandino

BA, Government and Politics

College of Behavioral and Social Sciences

Thank you to all the special beings that supported me on this journey. God, who permits me to reach such heights. My parents, Armando & Leslie, I love you mucho and am forever indebted to. Mi amada wife Vicky and son Nathaneal, patience is a virtue. My spiritual leaders & 2nd parents, Pastors Paredes, always doing much more then expected. The two best Professors I have the privilege of calling friends, Dr. Ana P. Rodriguez & Dr. Ivette R-Santana, your teachings have opened new venues in my life.

Stacey Mabel Santiago

BA, Communication

College of Arts and Humanities

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Kristen Marie Scott

BA, Psychology

College of Behavioral and Social Sciences

On this proud occasion, I would like to thank God, my family, and my friends first and foremost - thanks for being patient with my various waves of eccentricities. Many thanks to the Honors Program as well for their support, guidance, and cheerful faces. Best wishes to all the graduates as they continue to pave the path for themselves. I am truly honored to share this moment with you. Your humanity and illustrious works inspire me to achieve greatness. Much love, Class of 2009. ¡Felicitaciones!

Genevieve G. Segura

Ph.D., Education, Policy, Planning & Leadership

College of Education

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Guillermo Andres Silva

BS, Physics

College of Computer, Mathematical and Physical Sciences

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Sebastian Diaz de Leon Smoot

BS, Civil and Environmental Engineering

A. James Clark School of Engineering

Quiero agradecer a todos que me hayan apoyado durante mi carrera, especialmente a mi mamá, mi hermanita, mis abuelos, y mi novia. Ustedes me han ayudado a lograr ser un hombre honorable y bien educado. Muchísimas gracias y abrazos, Sebastián.

Alicia C. Tito

BA, History

College of Arts and Humanities

The Latino Community, including all student organizations, faculty, and staff have been of extreme importance to my success in school. They encouraged me to become involved and gave me the warmth and support I needed to feel right at home. Most importantly, the Latino community on campus helped me maintain my identity among thousands of students.

Jeannette Magdalena Trejo

BS, Family Science

School of Public Health

I would like to thank Magdalena and Samuel Trejo, my mother and father, for being my support system and for showing my brothers and me how far hard work can get you. One of my goals in life is to lead a happy, honest life like the one that you two have always provided for me and my brothers.

I love you two so much and I thank God for you guys every day.

Brian Anthony Vargas

BS, Accounting

Robert H. Smith School of Business

Finally Finished! Thanks to all those that helped. Classes were a mix of hard and harder but we all pushed through and finally our professional lives can begin. I will miss all the friends I've made and professors that really went out of their way to assure our success. Special thanks to Dean Patricia Cleveland & Professor Oliver Schlake your impact has shaped our lives and will be felt for years to come! Thanks of course to my family who has helped even when they couldn't. Congrats class of 2009!

Rebecca C. Villarreal

M.A., Education Policy and Leadership

College of Education

At times I thought this day would never come. I would like to thank my cohort for being there for me: Laila, Miki, & Tiffany, I couldn't have made it without you! To study party members: thank you for your company during those long days and nights, we will do big things. DRL-HR: thank you for your support and a wonderful experience. Special thanks to my support network within the Latino community at UMD: thank you for your commitment to being agents of change. To RQ: thank you for helping me to smile and laugh throughout this process and most importantly to my parents: words cannot describe your love and support, THANK YOU! I LOVE YOU BOTH!

Andrea Carolina Zamudio Galvis

BA, Sociology

College of Behavioral and Social Sciences



The Washington D.C. Graduate/Professional Chapter of La Unidad Latina would like to congratulate the 2009 Latina/o Graduates of the University of Maryland, College Park.

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<http://chapters.launidadlatina.org/dcmetro>

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Department of Resident Life

**Denotes Committee Co-Chair*

Photography

Please refrain from approaching the stage throughout the ceremony. All photographs taken by the photographer will be available, free of charge, at the Latina/o Graduation Celebration web site. If you wish to take pictures, we encourage you to use the balcony.

Todas las imágenes de la ceremonia estarán disponibles gratis en nuestra página en la red. Les pedimos que eviten acercarse al escenario. Si quieren tomar fotos, por favor, usen el balcón.

<http://www.provost.umd.edu/diversity/latinograduation/>

Reception & Certificates

Following the ceremony, join us in celebrating our graduates at a light dessert reception behind the chapel on the patio.

Don't forget to pick up your Latina/o Graduation Celebration Certificate. After the event, they will be available for pick up until June 30th in 2100 Annapolis Hall.

LATINA/O GRADUATION CELEBRATION

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2009



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