

*28th Annual*

**19** **CHICANO**  
**98** **COMMENCEMENT**

San José State University

Sunday, May 24, 1998

San José Civic Auditorium





19 CHICANO  
98 COMMENCEMENT

**ROOTS, STRUGGLE,  
AND UNITY GIVES US  
POWER**



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# ROOTS, STRUGGLE, AND UNITY GIVES US POWER

On behalf of the 28th Annual Chicano Commencement Committee, we welcome all of you to our graduation ceremony. Chicano Commencement is a very special and intimate ceremony in which all graduating seniors are given the opportunity to say "Thank you" to our loved ones. It is a moment for us to reflect on all that we, and those who've graduated in the past 28 years, have endured throughout our educational careers at San José State University.

As many of us were organizing this event, we experienced a variety of circumstances that have taught us lifelong lessons. We overcame the differences we have among each other and made this graduation ceremony a reality for all of us.

As a graduating class we chose "Roots, Struggle, and Unity Give Us Power" as our class theme because we felt this statement best represents us. Although many of us come from various countries in Latin America, we all share a similar root in our ethnicity, culture, and history. Our ancestral similarities brought us together for this memorable event. Our indigenous ancestors gave us our customs, culture, and identity that we so proudly display. We refuse to forget our roots by continuing to celebrate our customs.

Through this ceremony, we also acknowledge and remember the struggles that the Chicano Student Movement suffered in order for us to be here today. They sacrificed themselves and endured a variety of obstacles for us — their future. We thank all of our Chicano leaders who demanded and fought for our right to an education.

Now, it is us who have overcome a variety of our own struggles and obstacles to get to where we are today. It hasn't been an easy four, five or maybe six or more years here at San José State University. Many of us are following in the footsteps of our Chicano and Chicana leaders. We refuse to close our eyes and pretend that our society is perfect — we are still aware of the many injustices that our people continue to face at this campus and in society. It is us who will continue to fight for the rights of our Raza.

As Chicanas and Chicanos we have united for our graduation. We united to organize and celebrate our achievements together. Throughout this past year, we have witnessed what unity can accomplish. We were able to resolve various problems in order to meet a common goal. Think about that for a moment — imagine what more we can accomplish in this society as a whole. Think about the power that we shared as leaders and organizers of this event. Don't forget those who helped you get where you are today and give back to your community and to the younger generations.

Acuerdense

***¡LA UNION HACE LA FUERZA!***





# madrina

## MARIA D. ORTIZ, PH.D.

Dr. Ortiz was born and raised in Veracruz, Mexico. She came to the U. S. to attend Brigham Young University (BYU), where she received her Bachelors' Degree in Social Work. She later received her Master's Degree in Organizational Behavior in 1980 and her Doctoral Degree from the Union Institute in Organizational Behavior in 1991. Her work in organizations

include among others: Procter & Gamble in Mexico City and Cincinnati, Ohio; IBM in New York; Hewlett Packard in Palo Alto; The YWCA of Salt Lake City, and the Office of Substance Abuse Prevention.

From 1986 to 1990, she served the Latino community in Utah as Director of the Governor's Hispanic Council. During three consecutive years, Dr. Ortiz helped the Latino community work hard to stop legislative efforts to make English the official language of the State of Utah. During her tenure in the Governor's office in 1989, Dr. Ortiz was awarded a distinguished Fellowship in the Program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government of the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

In 1991, Dr. Ortiz was invited to become a member of the faculty at San José State University in the Mexican American Studies Department where she currently teaches lower division and graduate study courses. She was awarded a Visiting Scholar Fellowship in the Institute for Teaching and Learning at the University of Stanford in the Spring and Summer of 1993. This fellowship allowed Dr. Ortiz to continue her research in faculty development for multicultural and interdisciplinary teaching. Dr. Ortiz hopes to make an impact in the teaching assumptions of faculty members in multicultural classrooms.

Dr. Ortiz has been an advocate when it comes to defending the quality of education her students receive. She will be extremely missed at San José State University as she moves forward to other teaching opportunities. Suerte, we will miss you!



28th Annual

1998 CHICANO COMMENCEMENT

2:00-2:30 / Johnny Gitar Gutierrez



3:00-3:15 / Sylvia Chacón

Mistress of Ceremonies

Xavier Soriano

Master of Ceremonies

3:15-3:30 / Welcoming

Xochilt Chavira & Luis Rodriguez

Co-chairpersons

3:50-6:15 / GRADUATES' SPEECHES

6:15-6:30 / DESPEDIDA

6:30-6:45 / GRADUATES MARCH OUT

"Mi Tierra" by Gloria Estefan



entos

# padrino

## RANDALL JIMENEZ

Randall Jimenez was born and raised in San Francisco. He came from a traditional Mexican family that valued education. After High School Randall decided to attend San José State University where he received both a B.A. and his M.A. in Social Science. Wanting to continue his education, Randall attended U.C. Berkeley where he received his Ed.D in Curriculum and Instruction.



Since 1989, Randall has been a professor, a Graduate and Undergraduate advisor in the Mexican American Studies Department at San José State University. Randall has been a mentor and an advocate who believes students should get an equal education.

Randall has held various administrative positions such as: Director for Resources and Referral Programs for Growth and Opportunity Inc., Coordinator of programs for Community Coordinated Child Development Council of Santa Clara County, and Deputy Director of the Mexican American Community Services Agency (MACSA). He has published many books and articles such as "Muchos Boletos," "The Voices of Matatlan," and "The Legacy of the Tratado de Guadalupe Hidalgo." Randall has also been an active member of Western Service Association in Santa Cruz, which works with low income families, farm workers, and domestic labor. He has participated in organizing events on campus to promote higher education such as the 1996 "Desarrollo" Conference.

The 1998 Chicano Commencement graduates would like to thank you for all the work you have contributed to the University and our education. Your work is greatly appreciated.

**CHICANO  
COMMENCEMENT**

**SUNDAY, MAY 24, 1998**

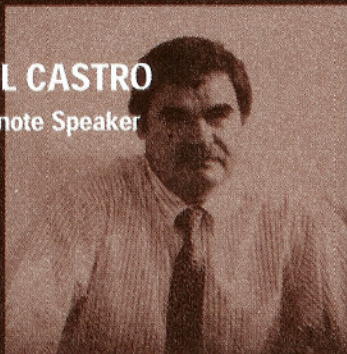
**SAN JOSÉ**

**CIVIC AUDITORIUM**

**2:30-2:45 / Aztec Dancers**  
Nahui Quetzal

**2:45-3:00 / Graduates March In**  
"I Believe I Can Fly" by R. Kelly

**3:30-3:50 / SAL CASTRO**  
Keynote Speaker



**RECEPTION PARKSIDE A AND B**

Mariachi Jalisco

**7:00-8:00 / DINNER**

**8:30-9:00 / AWARDS AND RECOGNITION**

**9:00-1:00AM / BAILE**



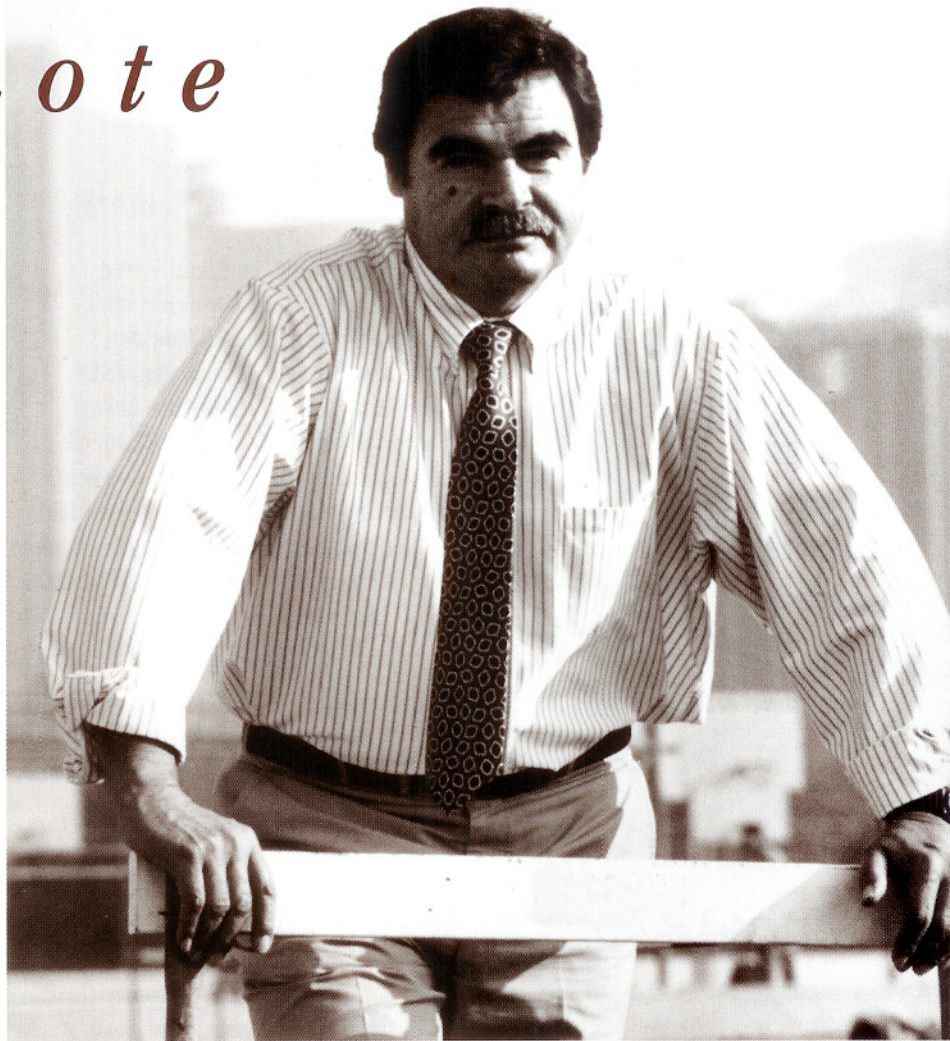
# keynote

## SAL CASTRO

Sal Castro is a charismatic speaker and educator who has spent his lifetime working with youth by raising consciousness through his numerous national presentations. He is a strong believer of students' rights and makes the quality of education they receive his primary concern. He has a strong background in community activism and youth empowerment.

Sal was born and raised in East Los Angeles. He received a B.A. in Social Science from California State University in Los Angeles. He served as a Student Coordinator of the Southern California region for the "VIVA Kennedy" Campaign in 1960. He was a member of Mexican American Political Association (MAPA) and a founding member of Association of Mexican American Educators (AMAE). He was a Korean War veteran while attending college under the G. I. Bill.

His dedication and commitment to the betterment of students' education drove him to guide students throughout East Los Angeles as they walked out because of the conditions that existed in their schools. It became "the first major mass protest explicitly against racism undertaken by Mexican Americans in the history of the U.S.," (Munoz, Jr. Carlos, *Youth, Identity, Power*, 1989). More than 20,000 students walked after the first "Blowouts" which called for national attention and encouraged other walkouts throughout the rest of the Southwest and Midwest.



Sal Castro is seen as a great contributor towards the improvement of our community. He has become a mentor and a role model to many students throughout the country who have committed to follow the paths that he has begun. This is why National Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán (M.E.Ch.A.) awarded him the M.E.Ch.A. Aguila Award on April 11, 1998. He is featured in the 1996 PBS documentary "Chicano; Taking Back the Schools." He was also invited to the White House by President Clinton where he made education his primary issue. He continues to teach at Belmont High School in downtown Los Angeles where he first started teaching. Today, 30 years after the "Blowouts," Sal continues to stay true to the cause and continues to serve the community where he lives.



# M.C.'s

## SYLVIA CHACON

Sylvia was born in Castro Valley and raised in Hayward. After graduating from Sunset High School, she started her college career at Cal State Hayward. While attending CSU Hayward, Sylvia served on the Board Of Directors for a community center which she helped to establish in Hayward. The community center, provided child care, employment training, and financial assistance for low-income families in a highly populated Latino community.

After earning a B.A. in Communications, Sylvia started an entry-level position at KSFO/KYA in San Francisco, working in the news department. After much hard work, Sylvia became the news producer. However, she felt that being on the air would suit her better.

Sylvia started her first on-the-air job in 1986 and after 12 years she continues to grace the air waves. Today, Sylvia is at KFRC for the second time. She is mostly known for her radio show.

When she is not working, Sylvia enjoys spending time with their husband and their two children. She continues to expand her 25 years of experience of dancing for the Ballet Folklórico performing on special occasions.

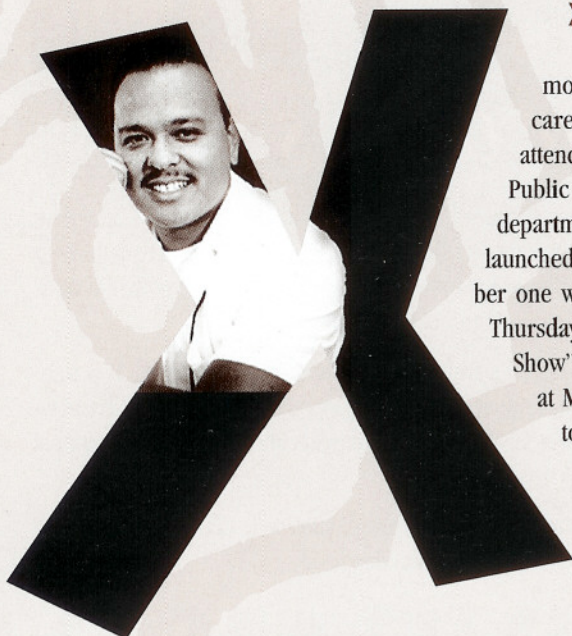
In addition to her busy schedule, Sylvia finds time to help out in her community. Over the past 8 years, she has served as a mentor for the Puente Program. She serves on the Radio/TV advisory committee for Chabot College. She also serves as the Media Chairperson for the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation.

Sylvia leaves us with this statement: "Today is God's gift to me, and what I do with today is my gift to God."



## XAVIER "THE X-MAN SORIANO"

At the age of 5, Xavier tried to scratch Vicente Fernández records as his mother shrieked about his musical attempts. In high school, he started his career at KHDC community radio. Upon leaving his hometown of Salinas, he attended San José State University where he received his Bachelor of Science in Public Relations. During this time, he worked at HOT 97 in the promotions department as well as KDON 102.5 as an on-air personality. After college, he launched his career at WILD 94.9. His work on the radio station has become number one with his love dedication show "Turn Off the Lights" on Monday through Thursday evenings from 10pm to 2am and Sunday on the "Sunday Night Oldies Show" at 7pm to 12 midnight. He can currently be heard through syndication at MEGA 100 in Los Angeles. In his spare time, Xavier is intensely dedicated to giving back to the community and is involved in mentorship programs with the Boys and Girls Club of America, Puente Program, Mexican American Community Service Committee and his own Educational Motivational Tour.







# 28 Years of Protest!

The late 1960's gave way to the growth of a youth-oriented movement full of energy, political consciousness and revolutionary leadership. Motivated by a new Chicano ideology, student leadership quickly developed throughout the Southwest. Spreading a cultural consciousness, which emphasized language, heritage, and ethnic contributions. New organizations like Mexican-American Student Confederation (MASC), which later became M.E.Ch.A. (Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán), appealed to unity and action at all levels.

MASC embodied these concepts of Unity and Power. On June 14, 1968, MASC directed a walk-out of graduation ceremonies. Two hundred graduates, faculty, and community members participated in the Chicano Commencement Ceremony. It was the first step toward achieving self-determination. On June 5, 1971 Chicano students challenged the alternative to regular Commencements and held their first annual Chicano Commencement.

The class of 1998 marks the 28th protest and celebration to be held at San José State University. Los estudiantes de la clase del '98 quieren agradecerle a la comunidad, a nuestras familias, a nuestros antepasados por el ejemplo, orgullo y la educación.