

El Fruto De Nuestro Esfuerzo
The Outcome of Our Struggle



34TH ANNUAL | CHICANO COMMENCEMENT | 2004



SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY

CHICANO COMMENCEMENT HISTORY

It was the spring of 1969 and two perfect strangers, Chris Jimenez and Mauro Chavez, were waiting in line to register for classes at San José State College. Standing in the line that wrapped itself around the campus like a snake — a typical sight in those days — the two men crossed paths. “Mauro was \$10 short for registration and I lent him the money,” Jimenez recalls, of the day he met Chavez. Incidentally, Mauro, of National City and Chris, originally of San José were both sociology majors. In their classes, they would meet again eventually becoming compadres.

By the spring of 1971, graduation was approaching for the two compadres and with it the thought of commencement. “Mauro called me up one night and he told me we should have our own commencement,” says Jimenez, a retired teacher, counselor and dean of Mission College. Jimenez said his compadre wanted to have a family oriented event where the graduate’s accomplishments could shine in the eyes of a younger generation. On June 5, 1971, the first official Chicano Commencement was held at Our Lady of Guadalupe church in San José, Jimenez said.

Others say the first Chicano Commencement at San José State College was held in 1968. Dr. Juan Olivérez in “Chicano student activism at San José State College” cites that on June 14, 1968, MASC (Mexican American Student Confederation), an organization with the goal of working toward Chicano “self determination”, directed a walkout of graduation ceremonies at San José State College.

According to Olivérez, 200 graduates and faculty and about 500 people from the community participated in the Chicano Commencement ceremony in a field adjacent to Spartan Stadium where regular ceremonies are held. A Chicano conjunto played music and speakers proclaimed “the beginning” of the movement for Chicano Liberation. The walkout was held when college president Robert Clark did not meet MASC’s demand to postpone Commencement ceremonies.

Jimenez said the 1968 walkout was unrelated to the formal 1971 ceremony he and his compadre Mauro organized. “We were the first to do it as our own entity,” Jimenez said. Rather than disrupting someone else’s graduation, Jimenez said he and his compadre planned their own celebration over a period of five months.

In 1971, Mauro Chavez, now deceased, spoke about the ceremony he helped organize. “The time for a Chicano Commencement is near. No more walkouts, no more protests of the Gabacho graduation commencement at San José State College. Instead, this June 5th 1971, we will have our OWN. This will be a RAZA commencement, and probably the first separate, independent, Chicano administered commencement ever held anywhere in the Southwest. But hopefully this will not be the first and only! Out of this one, other commencements will arise. This is only the beginning,” Chavez said. Jimenez said graduates from all over California attended the first ceremony, some from as far away as UCLA. Some are said to have come from as far as Harvard University. Collectively nearly 60 graduates took part in the ceremony.

Gabe Reyes, a 1972 graduate of San José State College, currently the assistant to the president for campus climate, attended the first ceremony. “Mauro wanted to do a celebration that was more family oriented, more traditional,” says Reyes. The ceremony was held in that fashion. Reyes recalls that some graduates dressed in robes while others wore traditional dress. Following the ceremony, which recognized the individual accomplishments of each graduate and awarded them a diploma, a pot luck was held. “We had rice, beans and mole and it was all free,” Jimenez says.

Now in its thirty-fourth year of celebration, the tradition of Chicano Commencement is carried on. Though changes have taken place, most notably in the scale and cost, the fundamentals of Chicano Commencement remain the same: To hold a ceremony where the achievements of individual graduates are recognized and the contributions of family honored while providing a positive example to younger generations.

BY DANIEL ANGEL LÓPEZ
Graduating Student

Linda began her career in 1979 as an Outreach Counselor for the Educational Opportunity Program at SJSU where she formulated recruitment programs for disadvantaged students. Currently, Linda is the Assistant Director of Student Outreach and Recruitment and is responsible for the development and implementation of outreach programs and policies. She received both her BA in Sociology in 1977 and MA in Counselor Education in 1996 from San José State University. As an undergraduate, Linda was co-chair to three Chicano Commencements. In addition, she was active in MEChA, Semana Chicana, and helped to organize the Chicano Educational Pilgrimage to Sacramento in 1975 protesting the cutbacks in education.

Linda currently serves on the executive board for the Chicano/Latino faculty and Staff Association and serves on the Ernesto Galarza Scholarship Committee and the President Scholars Scholarship Committee. In addition, she chairs the Western Association for College Admission Counseling, College Fair Planning Committee and she is an advisor to Sigma Lambda Beta, Chicano Commencement, Lambda Theta Alpha and MEChA at San José State University



LINDA ORTEGA – ADVISOR



JULIA E. CURRY RODRÍGUEZ

Julia E. Curry Rodríguez earned her doctorate in Sociology in 1988 from the Department of Sociology at the University of Texas at Austin. Her research examines immigrant women and children, immigration, language minority educational experiences, racial and sexual stratification, and a variety of issues pertaining to Chicanos and Latinos in the United States. Currently she is an Assistant Professor in the College of Social Work, Department of Mexican American Studies at San José State University.

Dr. Curry Rodríguez came to the United States with her mother and sister in the early sixties as immigrants from Mexico. She lived in Southern California through her early childhood. After graduating from Bassett High School in La Puente, California she attended the University of California, Santa Barbara as an Educational Opportunity Student. After graduating from UCSB she worked for Migrant Education, the Educational Opportunity Program and the Departments of Religious Studies and English as a Second Language at UCSB. In 1980 she began her doctoral training at the University of Texas at Austin where she specialized in the study of immigration, race and women's studies. Curry has taught at UCLA, Arizona State University, UC Berkeley, Holy Names College and York University in Toronto, Canada.

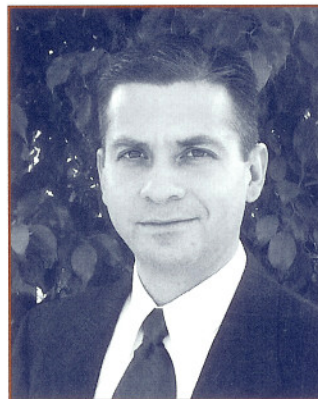
She has published in *Re-Emerging Native Women* (2003), *Bilingual Research Journal* (2001), *The Power of Language* (2001), *Colorlines* (May 1999), *Americanos: Latino Life in the United States* (1999), *Mexicanas at Work* (1988), *Chicano Politics after the Eighties* (1988), and *The Use of Social Services by Undocumented Aliens in Texas* (1984). She is currently revising a book-length manuscript, *Making One's Path*, based on her dissertation (*Reconceptualizing Undocumented Labor Immigration: The Causes, Impact and Consequences in Mexican Women's Lives*) and an oral history tentatively called *I'm Nico: Summoned to Memory*. For 2003-2005 she is the recipient of a Ford Foundation Grant to document services for Binational Students with

Liz DeLeon was born and raised in San José, California. In her early childhood years her family experienced what many of our families have gone through. Coming from a low income family she knows what it is to work in the fields to help support her family. As a youngster she would pick prunes, grapes and apricots every summer until she was old enough to obtain a part time job. She graduated from Mt. Pleasant High School and attended Evergreen College right after. Due to life circumstances she left school and dedicated herself to her career. Today she is a mentor to other students and she emphasizes the importance of education. She reminds us everyday that money should never take precedence over education. She strongly believes that knowledge is power and education is the future.

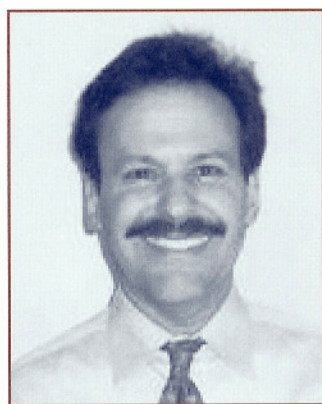


LIZ DE LEON

Roberto González is Assistant Professor of Anthropology at San José State University. He received his B.A. degree from the University of Texas at Austin and his M.A. and Ph.D. degree from the University of California, Berkeley. He was born and raised in McAllen, Texas along the U.S.-Mexico border. As a cultural anthropologist, he spent more than two years living and working in Zapotec communities in Oaxaca, Mexico from 1994 to 2001. His doctoral research, which focuses on the agricultural systems of campesino farmers, was published in 2001 as a book, "Zapotec Science: Farming and Food in the Northern Sierra of Oaxaca." Earlier this year his second book was published, an edited volume titled, "Anthropologists in the Public Sphere: Speaking Out on War, Peace, and American Power." Since completing his graduate studies, Professor González has taught courses on corporate globalization, the history of anthropological theory, economic and political systems, Latino health issues, and the anthropology of Mexico at San José State University and the University of California, Berkeley. He is currently faculty adviser of the SJSU chapters of MEChA and Pi of California anthropology honors society.



ROBERTO GONZALEZ



SCOTT MYERS-LIPTON

Scott Myers-Lipton is an Associate Professor of Sociology at San José State University. His research has focused on how to reduce racism, increase civic engagement, and to develop global awareness. Over the past two summers, he has sent a group of SJSU students to El Salvador to do community work and to understand the social, political, and economic issues facing this Central American nation. His current book is exploring social solutions to poverty and inequality.

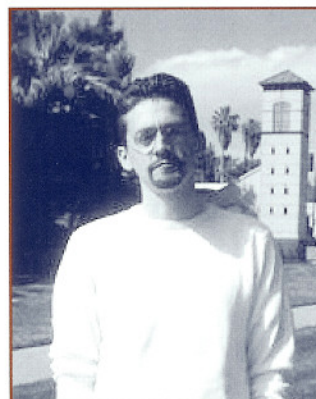
Two of his academic highpoints have been when he was awarded the Manuel Vega Latino Empowerment Award by the graduating Latino class at Saint Mary's College for being the professor who had most empowered them; and when he facilitated a dialogue at SJSU on racism with Tommy Smith and John Carlos, the two former SJSU students who transformed the 1968 Summer Olympic Games in Mexico City into a cry for freedom and justice by bowing their heads and raising their fists for human rights.

Dr. Myers-Lipton received his teaching credential from Mills College, his masters degree in the Humanities from San Francisco State University, and his doctorate in the Department of Sociology at the University of Colorado at Boulder. He lives with his wife and two children a few blocks from SJSU.

Marcos Pizarro is the son of Leonard and Helena Pizarro, the husband of Maria Esther Fernandez, and the father of Xóchitl and Citlali. He was born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area and received his BA from Stanford University in 1989 and his Ph.D. from UCLA's Graduate School of Education in 1993. He is an Associate Professor and the Coordinator of the Master's Program in Mexican American Studies at San José State University.

Pizarro does work with Chicana/o students at various stages in their schooling and tries to understand how interventions can help these students develop strategies that might aid them in their efforts to succeed in school. Currently, he is working closely with a few Latina/o-based Charter Schools and coordinates an Institute for Teachers who work with Chicana/o Youth to help teachers develop innovative teaching strategies for educationally empowering these youth.

Pizarro, a former elementary school teacher, has taught in the Chicana/o Studies programs at UC Berkeley and Washington State University and been a Postdoctoral Fellow at UCLA's Chicano Studies Research Center and UC Berkeley's Graduate School of Education (through the Ford Postdoctoral Fellowship for Minorities)



MARCOS PIZARRO



AGENDA

SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY

CHICANO COMMENCEMENT

34TH ANNUAL | 2004

34TH ANNUAL CHICANO COMMENCEMENT

SUNDAY, MAY 30TH, 2004

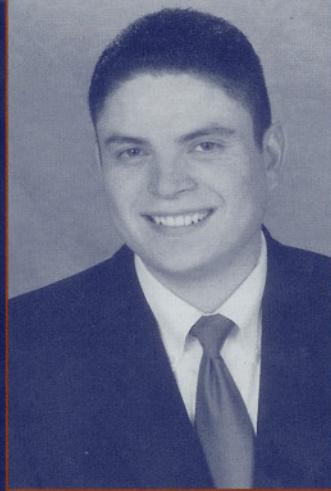
SANTA CLARA CONVENTION CENTER

AGENDA

3:00 - 4:30 pm	Registration and Social Hour
4:30 - 6:00 pm	Dinner
4:30 - 5:30 pm	Grupo Invasión Norteño
5:30 - 6:00 pm	Mariachi San José
6:00 - 6:30 pm	Grupo Folklorico Luna y Sol and Itotiani Pro Latino
6:30 pm	Graduates Enter
6:45 - 7:15 pm	Keynote speaker
7:15 - 8:00 pm	Ceremony and Graduates
8:00 - 11:30 pm	Dance (DJ Nick and Grupo Jerez)



MASTER OF CEREMONY



ABEL ARALLMIO
KSTS Telemundo TV48

My name is Abel Alamillo, Jr. I am 27 years old and a resident of San José, CA. I currently work as a general assignment reporter at KSTS-TV Channel 48 Telemundo. I've been a Telemundo employee for the past 4 1/2 years. Prior to this, I was an Associate Producer at KOVR-TV 13 in Sacramento, CA. Before arriving at the state capitol, I was an anchor/reporter at a community television station in Santa Ana, CA and a researcher for a nationally syndicated radio show in Los Angeles. I received my bachelors' degree in broadcast journalism from Boston University in Massachusetts in 1998. I was born and raised in Los Angeles. My parents and four of my siblings were born in Zatecas, Mexico. I'm second to the youngest out of six kids in my family. I was the first member of my family to attend a four-year university. In college I received a reporting and producing award and a few years ago, I received the "Silicon Valley Latino Professional Award" as a recognition to my contributions to the community. I like helping out members of the community and when I'm not working, I enjoy exercising, listening to music, visiting family and friends and spending time with my girlfriend.





CO-CHAIRS

HONORABLE CLASS OF 2004
AND GUESTS!

Les extendemos una cordial bienvenida a todos los presentes en especial a los que hoy en este día vienen a celebrar sus logros académicos. En esta trigésima cuarta graduación chicana de la Universidad Estatal de San José, les agradecemos su presencia y apoyo a través del reto que significa nuestra lucha académica.

A pesar del trabajo y dificultades que enfrentamos para llegar a este punto, nuestra perseverancia, convicción y el apoyo de nuestros familiares y amigos han hecho posible esta celebración. Bien tenemos en mente que nuestros logros se han dado en gran parte gracias a la ayuda y respaldo de nuestras familias y comunidad. Por lo tanto el logro celebrado esta noche nos pertenece a todos; hoy aplaudimos “el fruto de nuestro esfuerzo”

Welcome graduates, family, and friends to the thirty fourth annual Chicano Commencement. Today we come together to celebrate the academic achievements of the graduating class of 2004.

It has taken hard work, perseverance, and strong convictions to get to this point. Although our struggles have been many, our resulting success has made the journey all the more rewarding.

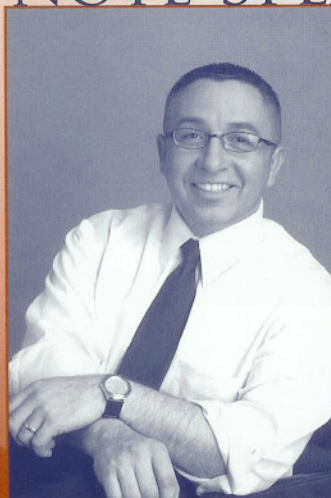
We realize that this journey has not been ours alone. Our families and community have guided our way, giving us continued encouragement. So, on this day we share our accomplishments with our family, our community, and our culture. This day we celebrate “the outcome of our struggles”.

ANTONIO MUNGUIA, JR.

KARINA ALVAREZ
BARRAGÁN

MARIA INES CARRILLO

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



DAMIAN TRUJILLO
NBC11 news reporter

Damian Trujillo is a NBC11 news reporter, host and producer of Comunidad Del Valle. He joined the NBC11 family 7 1/2 years ago in June 1996. Damian's favorite part of his job is - waking up in the morning not knowing what he'll be doing that day, who he'll be talking to or where he'll be going.

Damian has been honored with awards from the Associated Press, as the 2003 "Reporter of the Year" for the California-Nevada region. He's also been nominated twice for the prestigious Emmy Award. Damian has also earned an award from The Radio and Television News Director's Association (RTNDA), and the National Association of Hispanic Journalists. He is a member of the Board of Governors for the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences (NATAS). In his spare time, he enjoys golf and volunteering with school children.

A native of the South Bay, Damian grew up in Greenfield, about 2 hours south of San Francisco on Highway 101. While in high school, Damian worked in the agricultural fields of the Salinas Valley, with his family, to help make ends meet. He is recently married and now lives in the Bay Area. Damian holds a bachelor's degree from San Jose State University.

CHICANO COMMENCEMENT



Chicano Commencement Committee:

Top Left to Right: Nubia Sánchez, Aida Barajas, Antonio Mungia, Malenda Wallin, Maria Carrillo, Nansee Castro

Bottom Left to Right: Adriana Alvarez, Kenya Lopez, Karina Alvarez, Fabiola Zendejas, Yolanda Hernandez

GRACIAS POR SU APOYO
CLASS OF '04