

PILIPINX ACADEMIC STUDENT SERVICES  
PRESENTS



THE  
**30<sup>TH</sup>**

**A N N U A L  
P I L I P I N X  
G R A D U A T I O N**



CLASS  
OF  
*Perlas ng  
Silanganan*  
2016



MAY 22, 2016  
PAULEY BALLROOM



# "Perlas ng Silanganan"

Since 1751, during the time of Spanish Colonization, the Philippines has been given the sobriquet of Pearl of the Orient Seas. Although the name connotes the beauty of the islands and its people, the image perpetuated hides a long and continuing tradition of Peripheralization, Exoticism, and Neocolonialism.

These underlying currents continue on in the experiences of many Pilipinx and Pilipinx American students in Higher Education and here in UC Berkeley.

A pearl begins to form when a unsolicited grain of sand manages to slip into the shell of an oyster. In response, the oyster gradually coats the grain of sand in layers nacre, transforming it into a prized gem through a slow and difficult process. As Pilipinx and Pilipinx American students, we have asserted ourselves past the shell of Higher Education and have, over time and after layers of struggle, become pearls of the oyster.

So is the beauty of our graduation not found simply in its polished conclusion, but more powerfully in the long, gradual and difficult process of our retention.



# Order of Ceremony

## PROCESSION OF GRADUATES

### OPENING REMARKS

*Dominique Siquian & Fia Castillo*

Masters of Ceremonies

### NATIONAL ANTHEMS

*Dan Cabanero, Nicole Manalo, Van Pierre Mandin*

US National Anthem

*Nicole Arca & Adrian Maglaqui*

Philippine National Anthem

### WELCOMING SPEECH

*Edgar Yap* Director of Internal Affairs

*Jan Bautista* Executive Director

*Nikki Acosta* Director of Retention

*Niko Martniez* Director of Recruitment

### KEYNOTE SPEAKER

*Donna Vivar*

UC Davis Advising Director

### GRADUATE SPEAKER

*Loi Almeron*

### UNDERGRADUATE SPEAKER

*Corrina Calanoc*

### PRESENTATION OF DEGREES

### SLIDESHOW PRESENTATION

### CLOSING REMARKS

*Nikki Acosta*

Direction of Retention

### INDUCTION

# Keynote Speaker

**Donna Vivar**



Donna Vivar is the Advising Director for the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences at the University of California, Davis. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree for American Studies with an emphasis on Public Health from the University of California, Berkeley and went on to receive her Master of Education degree for Higher Education Administration from Harvard Graduate School of Education. Her passion for social justice and higher education is exemplified throughout her career in institutions like Boston College, Stonehill College, and here in UC Berkeley wherein she has served in multiple departments. As an academic advisor in the College of Environmental Design, she received the Chancellor's Outstanding Staff award for her outreach work. She has also served as an academic advisor and associate director for the Educational Opportunity Program where she served first generation, low income, and historically underrepresented students. Donna lives in West Sacramento with her husband Dave and their pug named Jack.



## ADRIAN MAGLAQUI

**B.A. Molecular and Cell Biology: Medical Physiology and Biology**  
**Minor: South & Southeast Asian Studies**

**Hometown:** Long Beach, CA

**Goals & Future Plans:** Some of my future plans are to learn how to play the piano, become a famous YouTube singing sensation, keep up with my health, and work hard to become a medical student in a big city (hopefully NYC).

**Advice:** Delve into activities that relate to your interests. You never know how much you'll be able to accomplish if you don't try.

**Thank You:** Parents, Dream Team/GOAT Paamily, Allen, Emma, Jason, Joelle, Katrina, PAHC, PCN's Child



## ALEX MABANTA

**B.A. Political Science & B.A Rhetoric**  
**Minor: Human Rights**

**Thesis: Racial Profiling: A Case Study in Berkeley, California**

**Hometown:** Saratoga, CA

**Goals & Future Plans:** Alex hopes to pursue a career in public service, mentorship, and scholarship

**Advice:** On empowerment -- lift as you climb.  
Live with a capital "I".

**Thank You:** Thanks to my family for being my foundation, my village, and my cheerleaders. Shout out to my dad, Wil, mom, Alice, and brother Ryan -- I have learned a lot about love, patience, and tenacity from you all. Shoutout to Grandma Diana (the #1 grandmother in the world and whose wisdom and humility I'm deeply honored to have been guided by) and Grandpa Chris (although you rest in heaven, you taught me about dedication and diligence that I carry forward with me. Thanks for twenty-one years of birthday cards and Christmas letters).



## ALVIN BALMEO

**B.A. Integrative Biology**

**Hometown:** San Diego, CA

**Goals & Future Plans:** I plan to pursue a career in health.

**Advice:** Make the most out of the 4 years. Twerk hard and never let anything bring you down. <333

**Thank You:** Thank you God for all your blessing. Thank you to my mom, dad, and brother for your continued support and love <333 Thank you to my girlfriend Katrina (thanks for coming to my Pilgrad even though I didn't go to yours). To 103- Carlo, Gibby, Jizel, Matt, and Tingting- you the best roommates. To the BOSS Paamily, thanks for all your support keep the dynasty running! Thank you to all my SD homies that came up and to all the friends I made at Cal! :D

## AMADAERE OKORO

**B.A. Political Science**

**Minor: English**

**Hometowns:** Lagos, Nigeria & Bakersfield, CA

**Goals & Future Plans:** Be #funemployed until I am really #employed.

**Advice:** "You can retake a class but you can never retake a party."

**Thank You:** S/O to all my roomies throughout the years at 301 & 223, the meangirlz, team pretty, the betches, the biddies, and of course my #goodgood paamily!! I am eternally thankful and grateful to have you all in my life and I love you all so much!



## ANGELICA PATRICIO

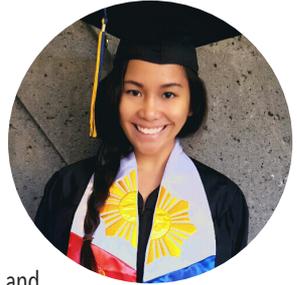
**B.A. Political Science**

**B.A. Social Welfare**

**Hometowns:** Cavite, Philippines & Hercules, CA

**Goals & Future Plans:** I plan to go into law school which I hope will enable me to pursue a career related to public policy and education reform.

**Thank You:** "My family and friends; without their I wouldn't have made it this far. Special shoutout to my parents, Auntie Lolit, and Ate Lori. I can't express how grateful I am to have you all in my life. Thank you for everything. <3 Dyna\$ty Paam, thanks for making Berkeley feel like home."



## ANTHONY ABARIENTOS JR.

**B.A. Molecular and Cell Biology**

**B.A. Integrative Biology**

**Hometown:** Oxnard, CA

**Goals & Future Plans:** Scientist, Doctor, Point Guard, Quarterback/ Defensive end

**Advice:** Turn up or transfer

**Thank You:** Shout out to Mom, Dad, Ate, Madeline, Sean, Jalen, #UltraBoyyzz, #BTBOyyzz, #BugattiBoyyzz





## ASHLEY SANTA CRUZ VILLARTA

**B.A. Molecular and Cell Biology: Neuobiology**  
**Minor: Peace and Conflict Studies**

**Hometown:** San Diego, CA

**Goals & Future Plans:** After graduation, I will be traveling to Europe! I hope to do research in San Diego and eventually continue on to Medical School. So be on the look out for "Dr. Ashley Villarta"

**Advice:** Be bold. Be unapologetic.

**Thank You:** WE DID ITTHIRSTYEARS! Shout out my PAAfamily. \$D Hustlers/DELTA for life! Also thank you to Mama V and Big Papa Noel for always keeping me sane.

## BALTAZAR JONNEL BATONGBACAL DASALLA

**B.A. Media Studies**  
**B.A. South & Southeast Asian Studies**

**Hometown:** Los Angeles, CA



**Goals & Future Plans:** I'll be studying abroad in Korea over the summer and will also visiting different countries in the South/East Asian region. In the future, I hope to work in content creation in marketing and design for either print media or digital graphics.

**Advice:** Your time here at Cal is limited, so always look at the bigger picture to get a better sense of what you're doing & why you're doing it. Getting caught up in the little things can really narrow your perspective & your outlook on life. But also, go out more often

**Thank You:** I wouldn't be here today if it weren't for my family who came all the way up here to see me cross this stage- especially you Mom & Tita Mina, these degrees are for you. To my #Supremes for always believing in me and giving me the courage to take risks, & more importantly being like a second family to me. #SW2012 - we started from the bottom now we here! Shoutout to my roomies in the #202, #105, & #223 for always holding it down and shout out to #iLL, #Baegas, #Shhh, #SSBros202, & #UxI for everything!

## BENEDICTO BORJA LLAVE

**B.A. Geography**

**Hometown:** American Canyon, CA



**Goals & Future Plans:** Immediate future: move forward with no more "what ifs" by taking risks exploring career options; & more importantly, in my personal life to better understand the person I'll become. Long term: work within higher education, making space for student self-empowerment in claiming their educational & life experiences as their own.

**Advice:** "Honestly, so many things. But less is more so I'll keep it to these three: 1. Ask questions. 2. Follow up. 3. Trust your gut.

**Thank You:** To Trixy and Ate Justine, for your patience with a scared first year who learned to laugh from you. Ate Djenilin, Ate Kristin, Angelo, Drina and KGD: for taking a chance on me. Ali and Aldrin, for introducing me to a space and people who changed my life. Bradley, Angie, Redjan, Darius, Kylon, Crystal, Nikki, Marinella, and Ate Justine, for being the shoulders I stand on to be tall. Jerrold and Ricco, for being two of my best friends from Badmin-Tuesdays, talks about SESSIONS, to late night conversations - you both mean a lot to me. Kirby, for supporting me to take one thing at a time. From burritos to glazed doughnuts, and Santa Barbara to abroad, we made it. NINETEEN

## BRADLEY FABRO AFROILAN

**B.A. Sociology**

**Thesis: Maraming Mga Mka: Pilipinx faces navigating within Asian American spaces**

**Hometown: Bay Area, CA**

**Goals & Future Plans:** traveling. reading. helping. summer art instructor. communications. live in NYC. art therapy. psychology. grad school. get a puppy. stay rooted. do everything with love. learn about pilipinx spirituality. skateboard.

**Advice:** 1. it's okay to say no 2. self-care. you're more important than the work, the work will always be there. 3. give grace to yourself 4. stay rooted. do everything with love. 5. other's vision of you shouldn't be your vision of you. follow your heart 6. make mistakes.

**Thank You:** Pops & Manang. TY for the tough love. All the Aunties, Uncles, and of course the cousins! Jocelyn, Tyler, Ari, EV, Zeke, Tristain, Cassia, Isaiah, Sammy. TY for making uncle feel better when he's blue. PSC. thank you for sharing your space with me and friendship. Dawn and rita. thank you for believing in me and your patience. #Benny4Senny CT <3 Professor Gaye Theresa Johnson & Professor John Foran at SB. Thank you for making me an organizer. mom, i know you're smiling. physically gone, here in spirit and in the lines of the rose above my heart



## CAMILLE FLORENTINO

**B.A. Media Studies**

**B.S. Business Administration**

**Hometown: Antipolo City, Philippines & Fremont, CA**

**Goals & Future Plans:** I hope to stay in the Bay Area and pursue a career closely linked to my passions in either the entertainment, beauty, or music industry. I also hope to start traveling as often as my time permits!

**Advice:** Find something to look forward to at the end of every week. Don't be afraid to try something new. Remember to give yourself a break. Go to your first rave! Let your loved ones know how much you love them. Most importantly, know that it's okay to not have it all figured out - you will get there.

**Thank You:** To my family for all the love and support; my #314 and #207 roomies for the great experience of living together; my lovely paamily for being the best aates/adings I could ever ask for; to Robin, for being the brother/best friend I've always wanted; to Isabel, the sunflower to my cheesecake; to my hubby JP for always cooking for me; to Melsilog - may we be dabs forever; and to everyone else who have made my time at Cal nothing but sweet and wonderful. I love you all!



## CARLI YORO

**B.S. Environmental Economics and Policy**

**Minor: Public Policy**

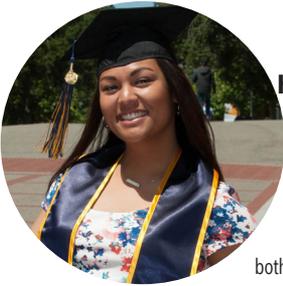
**Hometown: Bakersfield, CA**

**Goals & Future Plans:** I plan to work for a non-profit in the Bay Area before getting a masters degree in public policy. I hope to pursue a career in sustainable resource management and environmental justice issues. Hopefully, these plans allow me to travel, spend time with family and friends, and adopt a puppy.

**Advice:** Accept that you will fail at times, but that it's how you respond that matters. Even when you feel at your lowest, know this feeling is not permanent and you can always find a way to move forward. Don't forget to ask for help and never give up on yourself.

**Thank You:** I wouldn't be who I am today if it was not for my loving parents, lola, and my sister. I want to particularly thank my Random House PAAmily for always supporting me in all my endeavors. I want to give a special shout out to my PCN: Renewal family that introduced me to a wonderful community and allowed me to tell a wonderful story through dance. I want to sincerely thank my PCN: Embark family for being there for me during some very tough times, letting me explore my creative side, and allowing me to connect with my culture.





## CARMELA L. VALDERRAMA

**B.A. Molecular and Cell Biology: Infectious Diseases**

**Hometowns:** Cavite and Bohol, Philippines & Castro Valley, CA

**Goals & Future Plans:** The big goal is still medical school, but I also want to get involved with prenatal & infant care education for new parents.

**Advice:** The Berkeley bubble can be suffocating, venture outside it once in a while to catch your breath. Accept your failures and learn from your mistakes, don't be afraid to ask for help; professors actually like that! Network as much as possible, both socially and professionally. Know that it's okay to say "no," and then be unapologetic about it. Most of all, please don't forget to take care of yourself!

**Thank You:** Special thank you to my parents and sister, my Bay Baes, VaNiLa CaMa, my RA family, and the entire Pilipin@ community at Cal for supporting me, growing me, and challenging me to be the person I am today. Much love! <3

## CELICA GLENN QUEBRAL COSME

**B.A. Molecular and Cell Biology: Neurobiology**

**Hometowns:** Antipolo, Rizal, Philippines & Vallejo, CA

**Goals & Future Plans:** I know that I'll be married to my profession, and so I want to explore the world and my interests right after college. My ultimate goal is to become a doctor and continue doing neuroscience research. On the side, I'd like to become a photographer and learn how to use watercolor (haha).

**Advice:** On days that are really tough, be sure to give yourself time and room to understand where your feelings are coming from, and what they mean to you. Feelings, in my experience, are a one-word story that could be turned into a novel. #cheesy

**Thank You:** Thanks to my PAAmily for always being there for me especially on nights that I freak out about my midterms, and when life was just being tough. I'll always be here for you, adings! To Sam and VP: #azimuthbabies! To the two Justins in my life: JLa and JBau: I don't know how I would have made it out of college without the two of you. Lastly, to my mom and step-dad: thanks for your unconditional love and support, and always reassuring me that you'll still love me even if I fail my midterms.

## CHEVY WAYNE MAQUILING CASALS-QUIJANO

**B.A. Political Science**

**Hometowns:** Cebu City, Philippines & Bakersfield, CA

**Goals & Future Plans:** In no rush, I dedicate a year for self-growth through governmental and nonprofit work as well as traveling for self-discovery until ready to pursue graduate study to contribute to my passions in the fields of political science, history, and Spanish literature.

**Advice:** Step out of the (Berkeley) bubble every once in a while, it rejuvenates you and often times inspires you.

**Thank You:** For endless dance breaks, shooting star adventures, Jollibee midnight runs, and "ma'y itsura", without #ChAnSy, the two who got me through Berkeley, thanks to Syreen and Anna for making my Berkeley experience. To my adings, Erica, Therese, and Kori, y'all are all FANTASTIC, and even though I was your kuya, y'all were like my "ATEs" tbh. To my wonderful parents, for always inspiring, supporting, and pushing me to reach for and surpass my aspirations. And lastly, to my hermanitos, Nicolás and Ethan, you both are my inspiration I strive to work harder. We made it, but stay tune for more!



## CHRISTOPHER MINA NATIVIDAD

**B.S. Business Administration, B.A. Rhetoric (UCB)**  
**MBA Haas School of Business**

**Hometown:** San Jose, CA

**Goals & Future Plans:** Living my dream is driving innovation and change through strategic investment and involvement in the public education system.

**Advice:** What are you doing today that will make your tomorrow better?

**Thank You:** To Grandma, Mom, and Dad, thank you for your endless motivation, inspiration and support. I love you all so much for the time and sacrifices you have made for the good of our entire family. I hope I have made you proud. Thank you to my amazing wife and best friend. I am blessed to have met you here at Berkeley 15 years ago. You continue to be my guardian angel and guiding light. Cheers to our next adventure! "Think of your family today and every day thereafter, don't let the busy world of today keep you from showing how much you love and appreciate your family." My sincerest congratulations to all of the graduates and their amazing families.

With God all things are possible,  
Christopher Mina Natividad



## CIANTELE ARCEO TIENZO

**B.A. Psychology**  
**Minor: Disability Studies**

**Hometowns:** Apalit, Pampanga & Fremont, CA

**Goals & Future Plans:** I have a lifetime to set goals, but more importantly, I hope to continue growing as a person. I want to feel empowered in my identity & have it guide what I pursue & ground me in values I want to uphold. Professionally, I aspire to care for people's wellbeing.

**Advice:** To cultivate and use your voice, you first have to listen to it. I hope you feel valid in your thoughts and expressions, even if you might end up letting some go because you've realized that they no longer or never truly represented you. That's a process of growth, right?

**Thank You:** There's a huge web of history that made it possible for me, and students like me, to be here. I'm grateful for all who've loved, taught, supported, guided, and struggled for me on this journey and at this university. Here's a big shout out to my family, here and in the PI, our communities in AZ, TX and the Bay, my school friends from Fremont who have been with me all this time, Maknae line, my PAamily <3, instructors and peers I've learned from and with, friends I've met through IV/summer programs, Jesus, and Kapwa, through which many things flowed.



## CINDY MA

**B.S. Nutritional Science: Dietetics**

**Hometown:** Hayward, CA

**Goals & Future Plans:** You will probably find me solving food system issues via the nutrition/food tech industry.

**Advice:** Live in the moment. Get out of your comfort zone. Look on the bright side. Enjoy every moment of your undergrad years because YOLO!

**Thank You:** THANK YOU TO MY FAMILY, MY PAAMILY, AND THE ENTIRE PILIPIN@ COMMUNITY FOR BRINGING ME HAPPINESS & FOR SUPPORTING ME! <3





## CORRINA LYNN CALANOC

**B.A. Computer Science**  
**Minor: CalTeach - Science & Math Education**

**Hometowns:** Los Angeles & Tujunga, CA

**Goals & Future Plans:** I plan to be happy but more importantly help others live better lives.

**Advice:** If you forget what goes in compost, just remember : It's anything that used to be alive (ex: cardboard used to be trees, lettuce was a plant or something)

**Thank You's:** to everyone I share DNA with aka my family - I hope I've made you all proud. @mom I hope I made everything you went through to keep us afloat worth it. @dad thank you for always supporting my aspirations to go this far. @ate you keep our family together and I'll always look up to you. @modernpaamily you all keep me young, loving, & make me a better person. @jon@nirv without you, college wouldn't have been the same. @swi say you'll never let me go. PASAE till I Die! PAA damn we fine. thank you auntie reggie for attending.

## DANIEL CABANERO

**B.A. Integrative Biology**  
**Minor: CalTeach - Science and Math Education**

**Hometown:** Santa Rosa, CA

**Goals & Future Plans:** Pediatrician or pediatric physician assistant

**Advice:** Know you're never alone. Take care of yourself, and always reach out for help if you need it; you never know who is going to catch you. Meet as many people as possible, peer and professional, and never burn bridges. You never know where those connections can take you.

**Thank You's:** Thank you to JD for getting me out of my shell and into the Pil community, to Mary, Sam, Chris, Alvin, Mariane, and Carlo for always having my back when I fall down, to PAHC and PASS for welcoming me as a transfer student and reconnecting me with my heritage, to Michael, JP, and Pam for putting up with my weirdness, and to PAHC core for giving me genuine people to talk to and a shoulder to lean on when I most needed it.  
ALSO S/O TO LIT CAR IT'S LIT.



## EDGAR GERONIMO YAP JUNIOR

**B.A. Anthropology**  
**B.A. Integrative Biology**

**Hometowns:** Born in LA, Raised in Kuwait, Lives in the Bay

**Goals and Future Plans:** I'll be taking MCAT classes this summer while volunteering at Alta Bates and working at the Human Evolution Research Center. Then I'll be working as a fellow at East Bay Ophthalmology, working with patients, non-profits, and being a GSI for a Public Health class at Cal. After a few years I plan to apply to Medical School!

**Advice:** Love. It is an action, a sense of being, a hope, a dream. Make it a reality. Embody it in your work, your relationships, & especially in yourself. Finding love can be difficult, especially the love for yourself. But in this journey you learn the most about life. Love yourself to the fullest so that you can share your love with others.

**Thank You's:** Thank you to my Mom and Dad for all of your unconditional love and for raising me to make me the person I am today! Thank you to my brothers and family. Thank you to Ricco, Redjan, Jay, Maria, Nikki, Johannah, and Katy, y'all are my BFFs. Thank you to my mxntrs here at Cal. Thank you to my friends, especially those who are graduating today, the Jollibaes, and the Siopals. Thank you to PASS for being my home & for opening my eyes. Thank you to my beautiful partner Diana for all your love and support! & last but not least, thank you to God for creating this wonderful world.



## ELIOTH ARIEL GOMEZ PRIETO

**B.A. Molecular and Cell Biology: Cell and Systems Biology**

**Minor: Global Poverty and Practice**

**Hometown:** Stockton, CA

**Goals & Future Plans:** I plan to get a masters in public health or global health and hopefully in 4 years to apply to a Ph.D program in molecular and cell biology. I hope to work at the Center for Disease Control, World Health Organization or the UN. I hope to return to my country of origin, Mexico.

**Advice:** Let yourself be loved and love those that let you be yourself. Never compromise your beliefs for anyone. Just because you are part of the majority does not mean you are on the right side, always reflect. Live a life you are proud of and never be afraid to start over. Always be political.

**Thank You's:** I would to thank the people that have stood by my side for these past 4 years. Thank you for listening and for the advice and the love. Thank you Modern Paamily! Sib Corrina, Aiding Cathy, Camille, Luci, Patton, Avril, Lina, James and Juanna. Rene I love you thank you for being so understanding. Sam you're my little sister and I will always look out for you and thanks for always having my back. Amadaere you're my day one from day one I can't thank you enough for always being beside me, shout out to my jo(h)ns I love you biddies. Allen you were the older brother I didn't have, thank you for all the times on couchy! Kuya kevin you have been so great honestly it's been lit. Lastly my roommate Adrian thank you for picking me up when I was down.



## FERRON JOHN PAUL G. CRUZ

**B.A. Geology**

**Hometown:** Olongapo City, Philippines & Salinas, CA

**Goals & Future Plans:** I plan on working so I can save up money for myself and future grad school plans.

**Advice:** Keep trying and explore. College is a time for you to know more about who you are and what you can accomplish.

There is a light in everyone that deserves to shine, so shine!

**Thank You's :** Shout out to PASS for being the first Pil org I joined and stayed in until the end. Shout out to Edgar, Redjan, Jensine, Justine, Ricco, Rayanne, Ben, Bradley, Bryan, Leslie, Leigh, Angie, Gelly, Erica, Dome, Nikki, Niko, Christopher, Jackie, Jaelyn, Kevin, Marinella, Kayla, and everyone else. Shout out to {m}aganda and PASAE for amazing moments in the community. I've learned more about myself because of the Pil community and I would do it again if I could.



## GORDEN CHANG

**B.A. Political Economy**

**Hometown:** Cypress, CA

**Goals & Future Plans:** Start in a public policy occupation and work my way up to the point that I can advocate for stronger global social rights. Half because of the humanitarian motive and the other half because I want to travel the world.

**Advice:** No limits. There's no limits to how much we might have to struggle but also no limits to the amount of success we can achieve through that struggle. Most importantly, there's no limit to how much you can experience and how much fun there is to have in college.

**Thank You's:** First to my PDPsi Brothers for randomly pushing me to join the Filipino community. Then S/O's to PASAE for all the crazy memories, my roommates from last year for immersing me in the Filipino life, my DAPaamily for being ssoooooo down, and my dazzling and amazing girlfriend Alexandria Fortaleza for topping this whole experience off perfectly. Lastly, thank you to the whole Filipino community who thankfully remembered me and my name when I sometimes couldn't remember yours from the too-many forgotten nights cuz I'm so bad at names AND for showing this random kid so much familial love.





## JAMES ARIAS

**B.A. Political Science**  
**Minor: Public Policy**

**Hometowns:** Palmdale, CA & Edwards Air Force Base, CA

**Goals & Future Plans:** In the future, I hope to go to law school and work for a private firm with a focus on administrative or entertainment law. Also, I hope to still be dancing (even in the privacy of a garage) regardless of where I end up career-wise.

**Advice:** If you're reading this, you're too late.

**Thank You:** Shout out to my family for always supporting me from hundreds of miles away (mom, dad, Ate, Sabrina, Christian, Tito Vic, Enz, Kuya Steph), The Four Cedars (Robin, Elijah, Michael, Kaitlin), Christina, Aileen, Ryan, Gio, Rhi, both sides of my paamily, The Crew, Sausage Links, P4, Main Stacks, those people in my classes who always repeated what I would say, Prof. Richard Allen, Pat, etc.



## JAN CARMELO BAUTISTA

**B.A. Political Science**  
**B.A. Asian American and Asian Diaspora Studies**  
**Minor: Education**

**Hometowns:** Cagayan De Oro, Philippines & Downey, CA

**Goals & Future Plans:** I hope to pursue Masters and Doctoral programs in the fields of Higher Education, Student Affairs, Educational Policy. "Having been given, I must give" - African proverb"

**Advice:** Allow yourself to (re)purpose your education, your access to this institution in ways that serve your community, your family, yourself. Let your experience here be a daily disruption.

**Thank You:** To the 100+ people who defy limits - but not word limits - you know who you are and I love you and thank you everyday :)

## JAN KIRBY ZABALA

**B.A. Public Health**

**Hometowns:** Baguio, Philippines

**Goals & Future Plans:** Don't know yet I could:

- take another semester/year I will take that time to be a student or study abroad.
- Take a break these 4 years have been fun but rest is nice. - work as an IT Technician with the EECS dept.

**Advice:** There are some times where I get overwhelmed remember to stay calm and do things one at a time. Additionally, reciprocity is important so invest in your relationships and vice versa. Finally, focus on quality over quantity.

**Thank You:** My family who still reaches out despite how busy I am.

My Grandma for sending me consistent support. Shoutout to the spaces where I was challenged and loved: Barkada, PASS 29, Campaign Team, PCN Currents, PAA, PCN Balikbayan, To Darlene Mergillano thank you for leaving the door open and letting me share :) Marissa Reynoso for keeping me in mind since Sophomore year ;) Ricco, Jerrold I care about you both a lot. Thank you for being best friends and support systems #badmintuesday #SESSIONS To Ben thank you for being a confidante, laughing buddy and someone I can trust -> Burritos, acTING, take risks #misakiidoi



## JARROD SUDA

**B.A. Development Studies**

**Minors: Global Poverty & Practice, Geospatial Information Systems & Technology**

**Hometown:** Pasadena, CA

**Goals & Future Plans:** Jarrod will backpack across Southeast Asia with his brother for 5 weeks. In the Fall, he will begin teaching English in Japan as an Assistant Language Teacher with the JET Program. He hopes to return to the United States in the near future to earn a Master's in Public Policy.

**Advice:** If a sizable income and a future with money are your main reasons for earning a degree from UC Berkeley, then you education here will fall far behind its potential. Instead, observe the present and look around you. This is your life - it's happening now. Embrace it and its process.

**Thank You:** Thank you P4 for introducing me to the Pilipino community. Huge thanks to PCN for accepting me as a part of the family and for helping me connect with my roots. For the first time in my life, I felt the true meaning of bayanihan. This is all thanks to the Pilipino community. You all make me proud of our history, our culture, and our people. Shout outs to Richard Tallungan, Emmanuel Llanda, Darius Ramirez, and my ading Gino Carrillo.



## JENA YUZON HUGHES

**B.A. Sustainable Environmental Design**

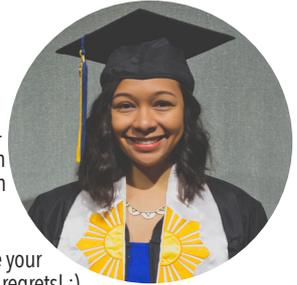
**Minor: City Planning**

**Hometown:** Portland, OR

**Goals & Future Plans:** I plan on participating in Global Internships in London this summer, and in the fall I plan to move back home in Oregon temporarily and look for a job. Eventually, I would like to enroll in graduate school to get my Master's in Urban Planning.

**Advice:** You might not always end up at the place you thought you would, but that's okay. There's no such thing as 'supposed to be' so make your decisions based on what is right for you at the moment, and live with no regrets! :)

**Thank You:** HUGE THANK YOU to my parents who have always supported me in my decisions and done what they can to help me succeed and be happy. Shout out to the MagiCAL PAAmily (Wilzen, Joan, Jilian, and Kat) who I can always rely on to make me smile :) A special thank you goes out to my kuya for being my right hand and my go to. I also want to give a shout out to my pseudo-ate, Diana, the Favoritez (ya'll know who you are ;) ) and to my PCN fam - You all inspire me so much!



## JENSINE LOU GUNGNON CARREON

**B.A. Political Science**

**Minors: Education & Asian American and Asian Diaspora Studies**

**Hometown:** Menifee, CA

**Goals & Future Plans:** My goal is to receive my PhD and become an educator. I plan to continue the advocacy work that I've started here at Cal, always organizing for, and with, communities of color and marginalized communities to challenge the status quo and transform our world and lives for the better.

**Advice:** Stay woke and have critical hope.

**Thank You:** Thank you to my parents, Lourdes and Lovelito, and to my sisters, Jessica and Janelle, for their unconditional love and support throughout my undergraduate career. Special shout out to the "barkada" for being so "down 2 chill," to all of the powerful womxn mxntors and friends - Ley Cerezo, Justine Velasquez, Patricia Cruz, Redjan Quarto, Gabby Perez, Kathryn Lee, rita zhang, Tita Joi Barrios, and Jocyl Sacramento - who have made a positive impact on my life, and to Prof. Catherine Ceniza Choy and Alex de Guia for helping me get accepted to SFSU's M.A. program in Asian American Studies.





## JOANNE BELLE CHUA

**B.A. Political Science  
Minor: Public Policy**

**Hometown:** Manila, Philippines

**Goals & Future Plans:** Become a lawyer and ultimately influence domestic and international policy to better serve the unheard masses and communities of color that contribute, and make up, the backbone of this country.

**Advice:** Fail forward, not backwards. Take things as a learning experience, and be open to always improving yourself! Also, don't forget your Telebears.

**Thank You:** Much love to P4 and the Badass Womyn Paamily. <3 Ya'll keep it real.

## JODY ADRIANO DIALA

**B.A. American Studies**

**Thesis: Model Minority is a discourse: Analyzing the intersectionality between Mental Health, Asian/Southeast Asian American woman, and Higher Education through Literature and Media**

**Hometown:** Oakland, CA

**Goals & Future Plans:** I'm interested in getting a masters degree in Public Health, working for the Alameda Health Department, traveling before settling down, etc.

**Advice:** Take advantage of the resources and opportunities offered at UCB, build networks, and organize / balance out your priorities.

**Thank You:** Thank you family, friends, & mentors who supported me thus far in life. I am walking this stage today because of you! Love you!!



## JOHN EARL DIO

**B.A. Legal Studies & B.A. South & Southeast Asian Studies**

**Thesis: Beyond the Philippine State Narrative: The Micro-Level Decision Making of Overseas Filipinos and their Families**

**Hometown:** Manila, Philippines

**Goals & Future Plans:** I will be postponing attending law school, and graduate school for a few years to work and focus on developing professionally, and personally. I hope to also take this time to visit family more, and travel.

**Advice:** You may think you have everything figured at different points in your life (I know I did), but remain flexible. You may surprise yourself for the better!

**Thank You:** Thank you to my family who have supported me every step of the way, you have inspired me to be true to who I am, and be proud of my heritage. Thank you mom, although you're not here to see this, I know in spirit you are celebrating this milestone. To my dad who've worked so hard to provide for his family, you inspire me everyday. Last, thank you PASS Biyuti/queer Pin@y space for existing, and thanks to the folks here who continuously fight and those who fought before us to have Filipino related courses.



## JOHN CARLO VILLANUEVA SAUL

**B.A. Integrative Biology**

**Hometown:** Daly City, CA

**Goals & Future Plans:** I will be taking a gap year or two then start pursuing physical therapy in graduate school and hope to have a shoe room in my future home.

**Advice:** 1. Fail forward. 2. Kill them with courtesy. 3. Reflect, reflect, reflect. 4. Follow me on Sound Cloud: [soundcloud.com/csalt25](https://soundcloud.com/csalt25)

**Thank You:** My family: Mom, Ate, Nanay, all my cousins, ninongs, ninangs, and everyone in between. PASS Senior Weekend 2012. PAHC, especially PAHC Core 29 and Core 30. My amazing co's, Chris and Sherwin. Meow Meow PAamily - Ate Carissa and Adelyn and my Adings Megan, Alex, and Caitlyn. #2Kislife: Kyle, Gibs, Matt, and my 3-year roommate and best friend Alvin and our extended apartment #210fam+adings. #ULTRABOYZ. Thursday Night squad at Pappy's, Kip's, and Tap Haus. Eshleman and Hearst tenants. And lastly, the Pilipin@ Class of 2016 for showing me the definition of community and passion the last 4 years.



## JOHN RUSSEL PEREZ

**B.A. Integrative Biology: Human Biology & Health Sciences**

**Hometowns:** Gapan City, Philippines & Antioch, CA

**Goals & Future Plans:** After graduating, I hope to work in the healthcare field during my gap year and apply to medical schools to become a medical doctor.

**Advice:** If ever you failed to accomplish a goal and feeling defeated, look back on your personal statement and reflect on the obstacles you overcame just to get to where you are at in this moment, because those accomplishments epitomize your resilience and strength. And remember this quote from Albus Dumbledore in Harry Potter, "It is our choices that show us what we truly are, far more than our abilities."

**Thank You:** Big thanks to the following: - Pil Community for being my home during my time here as undergraduate - Pil Community class of 2016 for the memories since our freshman year in 2012 - My wonderful Paamily for the love and support you all gave me - Nirvana Felix, Baltazar Dasalla, and Jon Cana (THE 202) for the memories when we all lived together in 2013-2014 - Benedict Llave, Kylon Chiang and Leo Colobong for the good times when I lived with you last year - Camille Florentino and Jon Cana again for the friendship and the memories we made living together since last year -PASS intern classes Fall 2012/Spring 2013 and PASS 29 for the good and challenging times and for allowing me to grow to be the person I am today.



## JOHN-DEL ANDAYA

**B.A. Public Health**

**Hometown:** Chula Vista, CA

**Goals & Future Plans:** I guess adult things.

**Advice:** Go to class. Study and learn. Have fun.

**Thank You:** Thank you Nay, Tay, Kuya, and the rest of the family and friends for the unwavering love and support.





## JON LUIGI ABELLA CAÑA

B.A. Media Studies

**Hometowns:** Cebu City, Philippines / Belleville, NJ / Roseville, CA

**Goals & Future Plans:** I'll be working as a Production Assistant for ABS-CBN in Redwood City!

**Advice:** Have the confidence to pursue the goals you're truly passionate about. Become unrelenting about these goals. Make strategic plans for achieving them. Ask for help- someone has done this before you and can share some advice! Also, spend less time worrying.

**Thank You's:** I wouldn't be here without the support of so many: PAA: Core & Interns 45, 46, 47, Disney PAAmy: Ates, Sib, Adings, my best friends Camille, Nirv, Corrina, Ranna, JP, the biddies AmaD & Elioth, my mentors at Kaya Co., ABS-CBN, Garwood, GDP & KTVU. The Filipino department for teaching me language and about myself. The Pil community at Cal. My relatives across the world, especially my family, Mama, Papa, Ate, Kuya, Jerick, Jeff, and baby Cassi. I love you all!

## JUSTIN JON MARTIN LASOLA

B.A. Media Studies

**Hometown:** Vallejo, CA

**Goals & Future Plans:** I plan on working in public relations and marketing in the entertainment industry with the goal of increasing diversity in the field. Also I wanna buy more sneakers now that I'm not paying for that Berkeley cost of living.

**Advice:** Your path, no matter what random directions it goes and detours it takes, it's yours. Own it. Love it.

**Thank You's:** Shout out to my the Favoritez, Random House, the Badass Womxn, and the BCEC fam for being the best friends I could ever ask for! Thank you PCN and P4 for helping me grow as a leader and preparing me for the real world. Shout out to my platonic lifemate, Celica, for dealing with my crap for eight years. Gotta shout out to my girlfriend, Jasmine Cordero because I'm lame and I love you so much! And last but not least, shout out to my family - this ones for you, mama and pops! Your baby graduated!!



## KATHLEEN ANNE RIVERA BALUYOT

B.A. Integrative Biology

**Thesis:** Characterizing the role of Caudal in posterior development of model crustacean *Parhyale hawaiiensis*

**Hometowns:** Laguna Niguel, CA & Silver Spring, MD

**Goals & Future Plans:** After taking a year off, I will be applying to the UC post-baccalaureate consortium with the intent of attending Medical School in California. I hope to obtain an MD/MPH dual degree and work in pediatrics, with a professional focus on mitigating healthcare access disparities for immigrant and non-English speaking families.

**Advice:** Love yourself, because this campus will not always love you back. You are worth more than your grades. Finding the balance between working hard and taking care of yourself is difficult, don't get frustrated because you are not the only one. Even if it seems like a fun idea don't drink on a Monday.

**Thanks You's:** Thank you to all my families on campus for getting me this far. Thank you to PASS and PASS 30 for teaching me the significance of my education and for getting me through one of the hardest years of my life. Thank you to bridges Staff, for being supportive and always down. Thank you to my PAAmy, Dem Britches. To my Kuya Klyde/Ate Marie for being unwitting mentors and letting me unleash my mean personality and my adings for dealing with our messes. Finally, thanks to my roommate for sticking with me, even though I have farted continuously for 3 years.



## KAYLA CAMILLE CRUZ MORENO

**B.A. Psychology**

**Hometown:** Buena Park, CA

**Goals & Future Plans:** Lots and lots of traveling. Medical school. Something in design. Yee. I think I really just wanna do and go and know more. Honestly, I'm not the best at planning long-term, but I believe everything will turn out okay.

**Advice:** Stay hungry.

**Thank Yous:** To my family, thank you for your endless support in all the things that I do. To the Dyna\$ty, y'all gave me so much life and each and every one of you are the epitome of love and ratchetness. To AFX and the greater Berkeley Dance Community, thank you for giving me a creative space. To all the people that have given me so much love - PASS 31, PTB, Penta, #16, etc, - this one is for you.



## KRISHA MAE "KIMY" CABRERA

**B.A. English**

**B.A. South and Southeast Asian Studies**

**Thesis: The Representation of Overseas Filipino Workers in Film**

**Hometowns:** Santa Cruz, Laguna, Philippines and Rocklin, CA

**Goals & Future Plans:** I hope to both see and help the world with all I've learned in my college years. After graduation, I will be volunteering in the Philippines and preparing for law school.

**Advice:** Never be typical. Prioritize and stay grounded. Know how you are strong.

**Thank Yous:** Thank you so much to Tita Chat and Tita Joi for helping me truly love it and seek to know my culture better. Thanks to my family who never let me lose what it means to be Filipino. And the utmost thanks to the Lord for His Grace, love, and guidance every day.



## KYLE CHUN

**B.A. Applied Math**

**Hometown:** Northridge, CA

**Goals & Future Plans:** I plan on watching the Lakers win many more championships.

**Advice:** Don't skip class.

**Thank Yous:** #DAP #210fam #ultraboyz #groupoftrust #2kislife #giselle





## LESTER LLOYD LAGUETA FULAY

**B.A. Interdisciplinary Studies**  
**Thesis: Culture, Values, Education: Filipino Values that Promote Educational Attainment**

**Hometowns:** Baguio City, Philippines & Long Beach, CA

**Goals & Future Plans:** This Summer, 2016 I will be attending a UC Berkeley Global internship in Mumbai, India. I will be interning for a non-profit healthcare internship that will expand my knowledge as I attend St. Xavier's College taking courses. My career path is to become a Neurosurgeon.

**Advice:** "Shoot for the moon. Even if you miss, you'll land among the stars."

**Thank You's:** I would like to thank my Family who has supported me emotionally and financially, my academic advisors in College and Letters who has seen my academic progress for the past 3 years, my friends I met through my jobs as a Supervisor at the Gardner Main Stacks Library and the Housmates I meet in my Property Managerial job, my superiors in all my disciplines, and lastly, God who has showed me the path of success.



## LOI AMEERA ALMERON

**Master of Journalism**

**Hometowns:** Manila and Batangas, Philippines

**Goals & Future Plans:** I would like to pursue a career in news reporting and producing for television and longform storytelling. My journalism focus would stay with immigration, community and culture development, and international affairs.

**Advice:** It will happen.

**Thank You's:** Always to my family, my colleagues inside and outside the UC Berkeley Journalism School, and all those who still believes. And to our Heavenly Father.



## MARIA DE JESUS MINDANAO

**B.A. Public Health**

**Hometown:** Manila, Philippines

**Goals & Future Plans:** I will get my Masters in Public Health and work in the field, hoping to make an improvement in the lives of the people in my community.

**Advice:** Enjoy college! Grades are definitely important but don't forget to have fun. Try to venture out and join groups -- either related to your major, so you can meet other people interested in the same things as you, or just groups about things you would like to explore.

**Thank You's:** Thanks to my family, friends, & everyone I've met that made these past four years memorable.

## MARIELLE LOUISE NABAZA TORRES

**B.A. English**

**Hometown:** Alameda, CA

**Goals & Future Plans:** I am going to graduate school for accounting for Fall 2016.

**Advice:** Try to have fun while you're at Cal. The time goes by really fast. And always make sure to take care of yourself, because your health is really important.

**Thank You:** Thank you to my family for always being very loving, supportive, and caring not only throughout my years here at Cal but throughout my whole life. Shoutout to my awesome professors who made my experience at Cal very memorable and to my closest friends who've stayed through thick and thin. Most importantly, thank you God for all of Your guidance, love, and for blessing me with this opportunity.



## MARY JIAN FALCON

**B.A. Public Health**

**Minor: CalTeach- Science and Math Education**

**Hometown:** Vallejo & American Canyon, CA

**Goals & Future Plans:** Eventually, I would like to become a physical therapist and teach/reform the educational system in the US. I want to help with injury rehabilitation, and ultimately, give back to my community, and help my siblings and parents.

**Advice:** Don't be afraid to put yourself out there, explore, and build new connections- you'll learn more about yourself and the world around you. Also, don't forget to take time off to #treatyoself! :)

**Thank You:** First, I'd like to thank God for giving me & blessing me with this opportunity. Next, I'd like to give the biggest shout out to my parents for the constant support they've given me in all my years, not just at Cal but throughout life- mahal ko po kayo! Also thank you to my siblings, my aunt, and friends back home for being there for me. Finally, lemme give a shout out to the friends I've made here for holdin' it down all 4 years- despite the stress and sacrifices we've made, WE DID IT, AYYYYY!



## MATTHEW ROCES

**B.A. Public Health**

**Hometown:** Sacramento, CA

**Goals & Future Plans:** My goal is to become a physician.

**Advice:** Be proactive! If you want something, then work towards achieving it.

**Thank You:** shout out to Megan Yee, 210 fam + adings, the paam, all my friends and my family. Couldn't have done it without your support.





## MELANIE ROMEN JINON

**B.A. Molecular Cell Biology**

**Hometown:** Richmond, CA

**Goals & Future Plans:** With a big heart and big future ahead, I am ready to embark on another journey as I start nursing school. God's plan for me is slowly unfolding, and it's a bitter-sweet feeling to know I already made it this far.

**Advice:** "Be humble in your confidence, yet courageous in your character." -Melanie Koulouris. Life is unscripted, where you'll face worry, doubt, and fear, but do not lose sight of your passions. Only you can define yourself, so accept it, embrace it, and live it!

**Thank You:** The BIGGEST of thank yous to my mom, dad, Allen, Lolo, Lola, Tito, Tita, and Kyra. You've always been by my side since day one. Also, shout out to my friends, relatives, and PNS for all the memories and encouragement. Love you all very much!



## MICHAEL KIGGINS

**B.A. Psychology**

**Hometown:** Tracy, CA

**Goals & Future Plans:** My future self in 10 years will be practicing medicine as a physician here in the United States with a primary focus on helping underserved and underrepresented communities. I will also be giving back to my Pilipino community overseas periodically throughout the year through charity volunteer work and medical missions.

**Advice:** If there is one thing I have learned so well is that humility and gratitude is the secret to thriving at Cal. Empathize with all, embrace the challenges that await you, and to always remember your Pilipino heritage by acknowledging all the sacrifices that were made that brought you here.

**Thank You:** An immense shoutout and thank you to my wonderful family and amazing friends! Without all of you I would not have survived and excelled throughout this journey. Everything I am and aspire to is the result of the unconditional love and support I have received. To my extraordinary mother, my hardworking father, my lovely grandmother, my awesome brother, the rest of my family in the US and the Philippines, the Gunabe family, Ernesto, Ancilla & family, Melissa & family, Grayce, and the many others that have touched my life that are not listed - I am eternally grateful, thank you!



## MIGUEL LORENZO ELIZAGA

**B.S Business Administration**

**Hometown:** Paranaque City, Philippines & Walnut Creek, CA

**Goals & Future Plans:** Eat well, exercise daily, hydrate often, sleep lots, be happy. Repeat FOR LIFE

**Advice:** Don't get lost in the grind. You only get four(ish) years of undergrad

**Thank You:** Special shoutout to everyone I've met these last few years! Thank you for giving me a home here at Cal : ^)

## MINDANAO BAUTISTA HICKEY

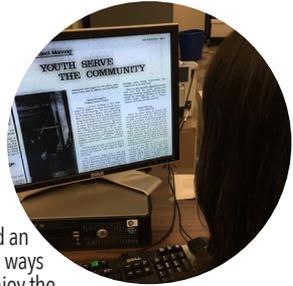
**B.A. Asian American and Asian Diaspora Studies**  
**Thesis: From the Fields to the Pool Halls:  
the Plight of the Manong**

**Hometown:** Oakland, CA

**Goals & Future Plans:** I hope to turn my Haas Scholars research into a book to document the history and legacy of Filipinos in Oakland.

**Advice:** A lot of people of color do not have the opportunity to attend an institution like UC Berkeley. Take responsibility for that privilege and find ways to advocate for and represent your community during your time here. Enjoy the journey. It has its challenges, but it is also incredibly rewarding.

**Thank You:** Thank you to Synequeen, Kitty, and Billy for all your guidance and support as I navigated my return to school. My Haas Scholars mentor Lok Siu. All the incredible academics committed to social justice and critical race theory. Finally, thank you to all my family and friends who encouraged me to take a huge life risk and return to school. Without your love and support this journey would have been a lot less enjoyable.



## MOLLY OLIS KROST

**B.A. Classical Civilizations**  
**B.A. Theater and Performance Studies**  
**Minor: Creative Writing**

**Hometown:** Marina, CA

**Goals & Future Plans:** I'll be spending next the few months in Ireland. Then, once I'm forced onto the plane back home, I will begin the process of applying for grad school. Hopefully after completing a MFA in Playwriting you'll see my work across plenty of stages or even on a movie or television screen!

**Advice:** If you aren't happy with your major or anything about your professional or personal life: change it! Don't wait for it to get better because it won't if it isn't meant to be. You'll save yourself a lot of tears and gain happiness and sleep.

**Thank You:** First & foremost, I'd like to thank my family. Without their I love & support I wouldn't be here & without their laughter and stories I would have nothing to write about. Mom, thanks for always being weird & teaching me to love reading. To my PAamily for being the sisters I've always wanted (Ading Abi, you inspire me <3). To my OG5 for being my first friends at Cal & still sticking around four years later. To Rayanne & PCN 40 for letting me spend my senior year with the most creative people and showing me what I love.



## NATHANIEL PENARANDA ACERON

**B.S. Electrical Engineering and Computer Science**

**Hometown:** Fairfield, CA

**Goals & Future Plans:** Work as a software engineer and give back to all the communities that have helped me along the way. One day, I will visit the Philippines for the first time and discover where I truly came from.

**Advice:** Find a community you can call your family in college. The more time and commitment you give to people in college, the more worthwhile your college experience will be.

**Thank You:** Thank you God for all the blessings you have given me in college! My family for being there & providing me whatever I needed. To everyone in Presence, Pioneers in Engineering, PASAE, & Tennis at Cal for all of the awesome college memories and support. A special thanks to Dado and Maria Banatao for generously contributing to my education expenses during the past 4 years.





## NICOLE ARCA

**B.A. Media Studies**

**Minor: Theater and Performance Studies**

**Thesis: Exploring the Integrity in "Food With Integrity": A Case Study of "Greenwash" in Chipotle**

**Hometown:** West Covina, CA

**Goals & Future Plans:** A career in arts administration and keeping up my artistry as a spoken word poet and actress.

**Advice:** Never settle.

**Thank You:** PCN / {m}aganda magazine / Vagina Monologues / #mscal / TDPS / Open Lab: Identity & Belonging / Alternative Breaks / FilAm ARTS / UC Berkeley Music Department / Rilo / My parents / My grandparents / Tita Louie / Astrid / My Lola Fausta <3

## NICOLE ISABELLA MANALO

**B.A. Integrative Biology**

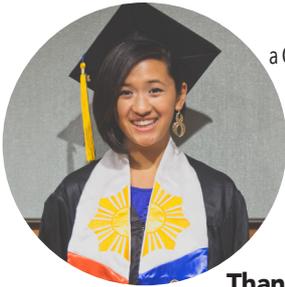
**Minor: Peace and Conflict Studies**

**Hometown:** San Diego, CA

**Goals & Future Plans:** I'm going to serve as a Catholic missionary at a US college campus for 2 years! Other plans include: continue exploring how to transform our current food system, go on a mission trip outside of the US, take an art class or 2, go to grad school for Occupational Therapy, & above all, keep striving to do everything with love.

**Advice:** As ambitious & busy as Berkeley makes you, stay connected to your source of strength and be intentional about time for stillness, prayer, & true rest each day. Be careful about overcommitting to activities. Support your friends - listen, love, check in, make a space for them to be vulnerable.

**Thank You:** Thank you to all those were instrumental in...1) The moments of learning at Cal: professors & students in and out of class who empowered me through education; 2) The musical moments at Cal: friends who were always down for impromptu jam sessions, The Fire Hazards, Newman praise & worship team; 3) The moments of community at Cal: VaNiLa CaMa, PAAmily, Newman Village, Bible studies, B4EW; and 4) The joyful (and raw) moments at Cal: God and Mama Mary, my lovely DPEN apartment, my dear Derrick Nathaniel, and my lovely family at home and at Newman Holy Spirit Parish.



## NIRVANA GISLE FELIX

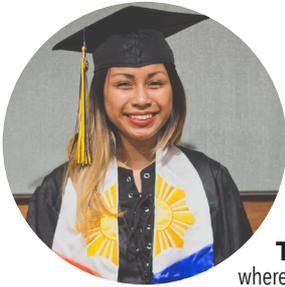
**B.A. Social Welfare**

**Hometown:** San Jose, CA (408)

**Goals & Future Plans:** I'm joining a non-profit called ScholarMatch, acting as the College Advisor & Engagement Coordinator! I'll be continuing my passion for education reform by supporting low-income college students/engaging in outreach efforts to increase student of color representation within higher education. After, I plan on getting my Masters in Education Policy!

**Advice:** Take care of yourself by every means necessary. Self care is self love.

**Thank You:** So much thanks to everyone who has helped me get to where I am today. Mom, I love you - thanks for birthing me. To my Adings in the Classiest PAAmily around, I wouldn't have survived college without your continual reminders that I am loved and constantly supported - I promise to never stop being your Ate. Much love to my Summer Bridge fam, Five Brown Folk, the infamous 202, 002, PASS 30 (hi ReCUTEment), and the Thirst Years for being my support systems. I couldn't have done this without you all! <3



## OLIVER ANTONIO GUEVARRA

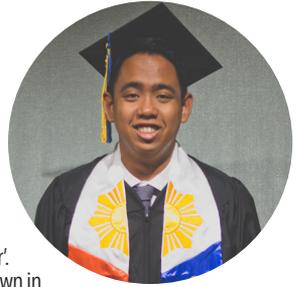
**B.A. Integrative Biology**  
**Minor: Dance and Performance Studies**

**Hometown:** Carson, CA

**Goals & Future Plans:** Regarding the near future, I'll be continuing under the Department of Community Health Systems at UCSF researching the intersectionality of identity and healthcare. The ultimate plan is to attend medical school and make medicine more approachable as well as accessible for vulnerable populations.

**Advice:** As one of my professors once said, 'put your darlings in a drawer'. Push yourself to be uncomfortable and reset your boundaries. Never back down in the face of opportunity for change and growth. Always remember to do what you love with the people you love.

**Thank You:** Thank you to my incredible family- Mom, Dad, Ate Pia, and Ate Isa! I would not have made it without you. Shout outs to PAA Core 46, PCN CT 39, and the rest of this beautiful community that has helped shaped me! Shout outs to my Danceworx family as well as to the Berkeley Dance Community! Thank you for reminding me to stay passionate. Lastly, this is dedicated to my grandmother, Rosario Antonio. Nanay, this has all been for you.



## OLIVER G. ZERRUDO

**B.A. Ethnic Studies**  
**B.A. Political Science**

**Hometown:** Iloilo City & San Francisco, CA

**Goals & Future Plans:** Work in policy advocacy/social justice. Get involved in politics. Grad School. Greater connecting with my family in the Philippines.

**Advice:** Intern at the Multicultural Community Center. Be an Ethnic Studies major. Read work written by incarcerated/formerly incarcerated scholars. Decolonial Methodology

**Thank You:** I really appreciate my family, peers, and those who have supported my through my years here.



## PAMELA GAIL LAGERA

**B.A. Molecular and Cell Biology**

**Hometown:** Fresno, CA

**Goals & Future Plans:** I'm applying to medical school in June, and during that time, I'll be continuing to do research at the UCSF Sandler Neurosciences Center, travel around Asia in the Fall, and prep to compete in Miss Philippines USA 2017!

**Advice:** Push yourself to try new things during your time here at Cal! Both the network you make and the opportunity and knowledge that you take from here is unlike anywhere else.

**Thank You:** I want to thank my family- my mommy, my daddy, Justin and James- for ALWAYS believing in me and motivating me to never give up on my goals. Thank you PAAmily Royale for making me fresh, FIERCE and continuously inspired. Thank you PAHC Fam for giving me a "home away from home" and keeping me passionate in becoming a future healthcare leader. & Major shout out to Ashley, Dino and Kim for being my rocks in finishing senior year strong!





## RANDALL JOE ORTIZ

**B.A. Media Studies**

**Hometown:** Hayward, CA

**Goals & Future Plans:** In whatever I dedicate my talents to, I will strive to increase representation for people of color in the workplace. Also, I aspire to learn more about Philippine cultural dances by joining a dance company (#TinklingKing)

**Advice:** No matter what happens, internalize and reflect on your experiences. Build your resilience and always keep moving forward.

**Thank You:** First and foremost, thank you God for all your blessings. To Grandpa Felix, I love you, and I kept my promise, RIP. Thank you Mama, Papa, Ryan, Jennifer, Janelle + the Manuel & Ortiz family for teaching me how to pursue my dreams - I love you all. Thank you PAHC, PCN, PAA, & PASS for connecting me to my identity and for providing me a space to grow & become a leader. To my Favoritez, Pretty Gang, Sussex Squad, and PAAmily: thanks for being my social support systems throughout undergrad, and also thanks for increasing my alcohol tolerance (lol). Finally, thank you Nicki Minaj for telling me to hit the books and stay in school - this one is for you!



## RANNA RICCI SAMSON IGLESIAS

**B.A. South and Southeast Asian Studies**

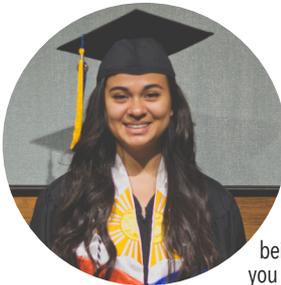
**B.S. Nutritional Science Physiology**

**Hometown:** Pangasinan, Philippines & Pinole, CA

**Goals & Future Plans:** For this summer, I will work to teach UC Berkeley's Filipino online courses and support consulting operations at Informing Change. After 7 years, I will also be returning home to the Philippines. Ultimately, I hope to improve medical and nutritional health services of children and mothers in my community. For how that will be, God will pave the way.

**Advice:** Live to inspire and be inspired, to work hard for what is truly worth, to share your beliefs and learn a new, to wonder, to experience and be surrounded by those who challenge and bring out the best in you.

**Thank You:** To God for all my strengths, to mommy Weng and daddy Jun for nourishing my life with joy, to Ricco & Ricca for making me a proud Ate, to my extended families whose roots were planted in PI and still thrived here amidst all trials and tribulations, to these supports- PAA #corefortyfly45 #fortysexy46 #PCNembark #foreveryoungPAAmily #thirstyears #bluetas #mares #bbluvs, to my travel buddies in Belize, Europe and NY, and to my strongholds Apong Juling and Apong Paeng whose sunkissed skin is tanned by sacrifices and wrinkled by forgiveness- thank you all so much for the inspiration to go further. Nakaya ko ito dahil sa inyo- salamat ng sobra.



## RENE BELL

**B.A. Public Health**

**Hometown:** San Diego, CA

**Goals & Future Plans:** Researching how inequity is reproduced in health systems and making plans to pursue my MPH!

**Advice:** The universe has a calling for you. It may not be grand, but it will be important & it will make sense and probably arise after you've exhausted what you think you should be doing & give what you actually love a try.

**Thank You:** Thank you to the women who taught me the value of being a strong, educated Pilipina: Ninang, Auntie Flora, Ate Mea, and mama, you have done nothing but support me and ensure I did not face the adversity that comes with crossing a sea. To Hannah, Michelle, Priyanka for sharing laughter and tears. To Elioth, for loving me; I know you will land amongst the stars. To Kuya Mark, you guided me. To my sister and father, I know we always care for each other. To all of you, thank you, because without you I wouldn't have believed in me.

## ROBIN ROXAS

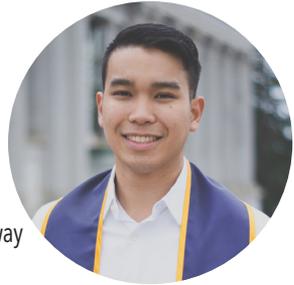
**B.S. Business Administration**

**Hometown:** Fairfield, CA

**Goals & Future Plans:** I will be working as an internal audit consultant next year for Protiviti in the San Francisco office. I hope to eventually start my own business.

**Advice:** Put yourself in situations that make you feel uncomfortable. For me, this is the most effective and rewarding way to grow.

**Thank You:** Thank you to my parents who provided all the opportunity and support I could ask for and enabled me to get to where I am now.



## ROSE FABILLAR

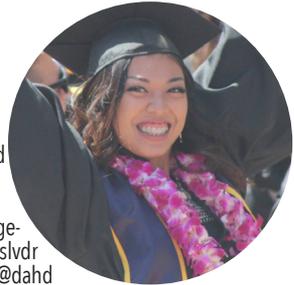
**B.A. Cognitive Science**

**Hometown:** Vallejo, CA

**Goals & Future Plans:** I plan to continue work in Applied Behavior Therapy while pursuing a masters in Speech Pathology.

**Advice:** "You miss 100% of the shots you don't take" -Wayne Gretzky' -Michael Scott" -Rose Anne Fabillar"

**Thank You:** Thank you to the amazing family and friends that God has blessed me with. I love you all! @Ma @Pa @r\_zelly @jeane\_rae @Shashi @cityofzion14 @pjbouncer @merlynney @brunomarselys @mahsheriamor @schmedfly @dirfdirdirf @selia.lucero @coacholley @gerardine @milesdevallejo @kj\_slvdr @duuueeeel @kuya\_ton @tito&tita\_slvdr @manansala126 @natalie\_corpuz @kweestuh @leshhlieeee @mahm @dahd @gabe\_santiago @raffyki @carlosmaureen&beary



## SVEA JOAQUINO

**B.A. Cognitive Science**

**B.A. Integrative Biology**

**Hometown:** Quezon City, Philippines & Sacramento, CA

**Goals & Future Plans:** My current goal is to pursue a Masters in Public Health after taking a few years to learn more about how I want to improve the healthcare system through work experience. After that, I want to eventually work my way to making large strides in patient experience and outcomes through research/projects.

**Advice:** Don't freak out if you feel like you don't have your life figured out or you feel like everyone's doing more exciting things than you are. Everyone's gone through failures and moments of self-doubt, most don't talk about it. What's important is doing what you're passionate in and personally fulfilling.

**Thank You:** Parents: I don't thank you enough, I can never thank you enough. Thank you for always smacking sense into me when I need it, caring about me too much and making me laugh when I'm stressed out. Everyone else: I like to pretend this was all me, but this accomplishment is a compilation of every moment of support, affirmation, asking me how I'm doing, waving at me on campus, etc. Berkeley can be unrelenting, but you all -- my support systems -- have made this journey not only BEARable but a time of growth and probably one of the best times of my life.





## SYLARA MARIE CRUZ

**B.A. Political Economy**  
**Minor: Chinese**

**Hometown:** Suwanee, GA

**Goals & Future Plans:** Make it back to the Philippines!

**Advice:** Find an org or job on campus where you can help with programming and events and be in charge of the food so you can always get Pilipino food.

**Thank You:** Shout out to all my friends for putting up with all my senior year whining. And my family for not stressing me out more about it.



## SYNEQUEEN ALASA-AS

**B.A. Ethnic Studies**

**Hometown:** Stockton, CA

**Goals & Future Plans:** Grad school

**Advice:** Enjoy your time here.

**Thank You:** Thank you!

## TIMOTHY SEAN BALUYOT IGNACIO

**B.A. Political Economy**  
**Minor: Education**

**Hometown:** Ripon, CA

**Goals & Future Plans:** I will be working part time jobs in the Bay Area for the next two years, & after that, I plan on going to the Philippines for 2-3 years to live among an urban poor community in Metro Manila.

**Advice:** Learn more about yourself in community and have fun doing it. You don't have to save the world.

**Thank You:** Thank you Jesus for showing me more of Who you are in college. Thank you Ma, Lolo, and Lola for your prayers, home cooking, and free laundry. Thank you Kapwa for teaching me the beauty of a shared identity, story, and fight. Thank you House of Salazar for making me proud that I joined a PAAmilya. Thank you PCN 40: Balibayan Cast for restoring my love and hope for Cal's Pil Community while also reminding me how beautifully and wonderfully our people are made. And thank you to all of the friends I made in Berkeley. You all became my most cherished gift from college.



## VAN PIERRE DOLORITOS MANDIN

**B.A. Molecular & Cellular Biology: Neurobiology**  
**Minor: Disability Studies**

**Hometown:** Lombard, IL

**Goals & Future Plans:** I hope to matriculate into medical school and serve as a physician in a community where I am needed, and to continue living a Christ-centered life!

**Advice:** Remember where you come from, that in moments of difficulty, practice humility and virtues alike; Continue to show gratitude, for that attitude will keep your faith alive. Keep the Faith! Faith in God, faith in others, and faith in yourself. May Hope be at your side and for Love to inspire. Thus, Go and set the world on fire!

**Thank You:** I would like to thank the Pilipin@ Community; Many thanks to PAHC and to Tita Chat for teaching me what it means to be Pinoy. Thank you to my MCB Neuro folks. To all my brothers and sisters of #NewmanVillage and SMT, thank you for keeping the faith alive and giving me a home away from home. Thank you to my Roseville family: my Nin@ngs, Auntie Josie, Auntie Bebe, Uncle Sam. And of course to my family, my parents, for all your love and support: This is for you, we did it! Lastly, for our Heavenly Father, Thanks be to God! Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam!



## VINA-ISABEL PADILLA TEJADA

**B.A. Integrative Biology**

**Hometown:** Lompoc, CA

**Goals & Future Plans:** Currently on the path to attaining my M.D. Taking some time in between to work on myself, my application, and leaving room for life's surprises.

**Advice:** It's perfectly ok to say "no" sometimes. I know, FOMO, but being selective will allow you to reflect and grow greater with each "yes" you do make. Choose things that you love to do and that will fuel your passions for a better world. Take time for yourself and your wellness.

**Thank You:** Very special thanks to everyone in this community that kept me and others sane and driven. I wouldn't be this far without you all. The energy, accomplishments, and love that this community radiates are very inspiring and refreshing and is such a rarity. My paamily, cheers to being WYLD and making the little time we have together ALWAYS a great time. PAHC, for giving me a space to surround myself with the greatest of peers of who I greatly admire. Some of the greatest friendships I made have blossomed from this amazing org and I am very thankful.



Congratulations  
**CLASS OF 2016!**

Dear community, friends, family, and loved ones,

On behalf of UC Berkeley's Pilipinx Class of 2016, I would like to thank you for sharing this special day of celebration with us. The graduates are truly appreciative of the love and guidance you have provided throughout the years. Without you all, the 30th Annual Pilipinx Graduation would not have been possible. I would like to thank the following people specifically for their help and support that made it possible for us to reach today:

Class of 2016, thank you for being a support system and inspiration.

PASS Staff 31, thank you for keeping me grounded.

PASS Staff 32, thank you for already providing me so much hope.

Alyson De La Rosa, thank you for mentoring and supporting me no matter the distance.

Mary Falcon and Baltazar J. Dasalla, thank you for your beautiful programs and tickets.

Kayla Moreno, Ranna Iglesias, Ashley Villarta, thank you for the awesome senior gifts.

Jan Bautista and Molly Krost, thank you for outreaching to faculty, staff, and alumni and for helping find our keynote speaker and emcees for today.

Svea Joaquin and Nirvana Felix, thank you for beautifying the ceremony with your decorations.

Maria Mindanao and Randall Ortiz, thank you for creating both the slideshow presentations.

Corrina Calanoc, Angelica Patricio, Gorden Chang, and Carlo Saul, thank you for organizing this year's Grad Bash.

Dan Cabanero, Nicole Manalo, Van Pierre Mandin, Nicole Arca, & Adrian Maglaqui thank you for singing our National Anthems.

Loi Almeron and Corrina Calanoc thank you for being our graduate and undergraduate student speakers for this event.

Fia Castillo and Dominique Siquian, thank you for being charismatic Masters of Ceremony.

Donna Vivar, thank you for coming back to Berkeley and delivering our keynote speech.

Professors Aban, Tsuchitani, and Dong, thank you for taking part in this ceremony.

To all volunteers, thank you for helping out with today's ceremony.

To my interns - Christine Henson, Jay Mantuhac, and Randall Ortiz. Thank you for being constant reminders of why I work and commit so much time into this community. Your endless support and love for retention kept me going throughout this semester.

To Niko Martinez, congratulations for becoming next year's Retention Director! Wishing you the best of luck in the planning of next year's Pilipinx Graduation, you know I'll be here for you.

And finally one last note to the Class of 2016 again - CONGRATULATIONS! Thank you for allowing me to work with you all this whole year, I appreciate your understanding and patience. The image of you all walking the stage today will forever stay imprinted in my heart to remind me that this community is strong with those who came before me, and those who will come after. You all did it!

With love,

Nikki Acosta

Director of Retention 2015-2016

Pilipino Academic Student Services





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**XVI**  
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