

MECHA DE UCLA'S

43RD ANNUAL

RAZA

GRADUATION



JUNE 12, 2016

# MESSAGE FROM CHAIR

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Welcome to MEChA de UCLA's 43rd Annual Raza Graduation! We are pleased to present to you UCLA's Class of 2016! Now at its 43rd year, MEChA de UCLA continues to provide our communities a cultural empowering ceremony. As we reflect on the efforts of our parents, families and community members, we understand the necessity and ability to use education as a form of liberation for our communities. Congratulations to the many parents who are seeing their child graduate with a Bachelor's degree for the first time, to the young children in the audience who have a role model to look up to, to the individuals graduating today working to make this world a better place.

Congratulations Class of 2016, we did it!

Sincerely,  
Harvey Peralta



## THEME

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"De sus raíces crezco, de sus esfuerzos florezco"

This year's theme "De sus raíces crezco, de sus esfuerzos florezco" addresses the importance of staying connected to our Latinx/Chicanx roots. Being connected to our families/histories reminds us where we come from and allows us to remain humble. We would like to recognize each and every single one of you for your support that has led to this culminating moment in our lives. With each accomplishment, we honor your efforts throughout our personal journey.

El tema de este año, "De sus raíces crezco, de sus esfuerzos florezco" se refiere a la importancia de estar conectado a nuestras raíces Latinx/Chicanx. Estar conectado a nuestras familias / historias nos recuerda de dónde venimos y nos permite permanecer humilde. Nos gustaría reconocer a todos y cada uno de ustedes por su apoyo que ha conducido a este momento culminante en nuestras vidas. Con cada logro, honramos sus esfuerzos a lo largo de nuestro camino personal.





# PROGRAM



5:00 pm - Doors Open -

Performance by Tres Souls

5:30 pm - Welcome -

Danza + Grads Walk-In

Welcome Class of 2016

M.E.C.h.A. Chair- Erineo Garcia

Raza Grad Chair- Harvey Peralta

Student Speaker- Miguel Rodriguez

6:10 pm - Intermission -

Performance by Fuego Y Sabor Latino

Performance by Sandy Vasquez

Performance by Grupo Folkorico at UCLA

6:25 pm - Intermission Ends -

Keynote Speaker- Adelina Anthony

Graduate/Ph.D Students Speeches

Undergraduate Students

Congratulations Class of 2016

Performance by La Sonora Dinamita



# STUDENT SPEAKERS



## MIGUEL RODRIGUEZ



Miguel Rodriguez first attended UCLA in 2001 as an undocumented student. This was before AB540 and the Dream Act was passed. Rodriguez was ashamed to leave UCLA because it became impossible to afford the international student fees. 15 years later, Rodriguez will be graduation with a Bachelors of Arts in Spanish. Rodriguez was selected as one of the original dreamers by Congressman Luis Gutierrez who was hosting town hall meetings to bring attention to the Dream Act.

## SANDY VAZQUEZ



Sandy Vasquez will be graduating with a Bachelors of Arts in Dance and Chicana/o Studies. Throughout her time at UCLA, Vasquez has worked with The Word through the Cultural Affairs Commission and competed spoken-word on a national level. She uses spoken-word to address social issues and liberate the mind and soul. Vasquez has also danced and performed on various venues, including with Versa-Style Dance Company. She uses her skills and passion to motivate and support the youth through MEChA Xinachtli.





# KEYNOTE SPEAKER



## ADELINA ANTHONY

ADELINA ANTHONY is a critically acclaimed and award winning two-spirit Xicana lesbian multi-genre artist, cultural activist, teaching artist, theater and film director/producer. The themes in her work address colonization, feminisms, traumas, ancestral memorias, gender, health, race + ethnicity, immigration, sexuality, land + environment + issues generally affecting our two-spirit/queer/lesbian/gay/bisexual/ transgender/womyn of color/and people of color communities.

She has over 20 years of artistic experience and has garnered Best Actress nominations/awards. She most recently wrote the short film, *Get the Life*, which screened at the 2016 L.A. Film Festival. She is a 2015 Lambda Literary Award Finalist in LGBT Drama for her play, *The Beast of Times*. She was also a 2014 Lambda Literary Award Finalist in Drama for her first published work, *Las Hociconas* (both published by Kórima Press). In 2014 she was invited to participate in the Sundance Institute Screenwriters Intensive. The year prior, she was awarded the Sony Pictures Diversity Fellowship. Her first short film as writer-director, *Forgiving Heart*, premiered in 2013 at the Outfest Fusion LGBT People of Color Film Festival Gala.



# PERFORMERS



## Vilma Diaz y La Sonora Dinamita

Vilma Diaz es una cantante Colombiana y leyenda de la música tropical. Exponente en el ámbito internacional del ritmo de la cumbia que la ha hecho acreedora desde muy temprana edad y junto con su brillante voz a varios galardones y reconocimientos Internacionales. Nació en Medellín, ciudad Colombiana que le preparó su camino para lograr alcanzar posiciones importantes en el mundo artístico y convertirse en vocalista líder a ritmo de Cumbia de importantes agrupaciones lo que le permitió recibir el reconocimiento internacional como "La Diva de La Cumbia".

## Fuego Y Sabor Latino

Fuego y Sabor Latino is a Dance production company and Nonprofit specialized in Latin rhythms. The only company of Colombian Salsa style on all of the West Coast. Fuego y Sabor Latino es una empresa de producción y danza y una organización sin ánimo de lucro especializada en ritmos latinos. También son la única compañía de Salsa estilo Colombiano en toda la costa oeste.

## Tres Souls

Tres Souls is a trio from Los Angeles specialized in bolero, a genre of slow paced Latin music where emotions are released through song.

## Grupo Folklorico at UCLA

Since its inception in 1966, the Grupo Folklorico de UCLA remains committed to the celebration of the Mexican heritage through the regional music and traditional dances of Mexico. With our membership base of UCLA students, alumni, and other community members, our goal is to create positive Chicana/o role models, promote cultural awareness throughout our surrounding communities, and encourage the youth of Los Angeles to celebrate their cultural roots and to continue on to institutions of higher learning, like UCLA.



# RAZA GRAD COMMITTEE



Harvey Peralta- Chair  
Erineo Garcia- Community Service Coordinator + Liaison  
Alexandra Barba- Community Service Coordinator  
Dailyn Rodriguez- Funding Coordinator  
Maria Marquez- Publicity Coordinator  
Lupe Perez- Aesthetics  
Clarissa Gomez- Aesthetics  
Viridiana Flores- Liaison  
Yarima Fuentes- Funding  
Jackelyn Travis- Funding  
Paulina Sepulveda- Outreach  
Angelica Castillo - Outreach  
Yomara Alcalá- Outreach  
Janeth Lopez- Programing  
Madelinn Ornelas- Programing  
Jose Madrid- Publicity

## GRATITUDES

We would like to give a special thanks to MEChA de UCLA, our alumni, USAC Funding, Mick Deluca, Eleuteria Hernandez, Orlando Luna, Janina Montero, Adelina Anthony, all performers, and our community.

"De sus raíces crezco,  
de sus esfuerzos florezco"

C O N G R A T U A T I O N S  
C L A S S O F 2 0 1 6 !