



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES

Department of History

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

JUNE 15, 2025

LETTER FROM THE DEPARTMENT CHAIR

Dear History Graduates,

On behalf of the UCLA Meyer & Renee Luskin Department of History, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to you and your families, guardians, and friends on this special day. I know that you have worked hard to achieve this goal--you should be proud of yourselves. A degree from a highly regarded History department in the nation's best public university will serve you well in the future. History teaches us to think and read critically, to speak and write effectively, to do careful research, to evaluate sources of information, and to seek the truth. These are valuable skills for any profession, and for global citizens in a democratic nation.

History is so much more than a vocational major. You have also learned that we cannot understand the present world without studying the past, and that History can teach us lessons about how to proceed in the future. History does not repeat itself, as the old saying goes, but people who fail to learn from history are prone to repeat mistakes of the past. In 1905, George Santayana wrote "those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it," a quote that Prime Minister Winston Churchill adapted in 1942 for a historic speech in the House of Commons, when fascism threatened peoples worldwide. Then and now, remembering the past is so important.

And perhaps in the course of your studies you have learned something about your ancestors and yourselves. Let us reflect on our family history, think about those who came before us and made so many sacrifices to make our success possible. Like Bob Marley said in a famous song: "if you know your history, then you would know where you're coming from." Know your history.

We're very proud of you and wish you the best of luck now and in the future. Go Bruins!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Terraciano".

Kevin Terraciano
Professor and Robert Burr Chair of History
UCLA BA 1985, MA 1989, Ph.D 1994

COMMENCEMENT SCHEDULE

PROCESSION OF THE CLASS OF 2025

CHAIR'S WELCOME

PROFESSOR KEVIN TERRACIANO

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

VALERIA DE GONZALEZ,
LAW PARTNER, HADSELL STORMER RENICK & DAI LLP

RECOGNITION OF DEPARTMENT STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS AND HONORS

PHI ALPHA THETA ♦ HISTORY UNDERGRADUATE ADVISORY BOARD ♦ HONORS THESES
PROFESSOR MICHAEL MERANZE, VICE CHAIR FOR UNDERGRADUATE AFFAIRS

RECOGNITION OF DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS

CAREY McWILLIAMS AWARD

MARY RITTER BEARD AWARD

PROFESSOR MICHAEL MERANZE, VICE CHAIR FOR UNDERGRADUATE AFFAIRS

PRESENTATION OF THE BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE

PROFESSOR ANDREA S. GOLDMAN ♦ PROFESSOR NILE GREEN

CLOSING REMARKS

PROFESSOR KEVIN TERRACIANO

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER



Valeria De Gonzalez

Law Partner, Hadsell Stormer Renick & Dai LLP

Valeria De Gonzalez is a law partner at Hadsell Stormer Renick & Dai LLP. As an immigration attorney, she has provided advice and counsel to hundreds of families from around the world on U.S. immigration matters. Ms. De Gonzalez is a San Diego native and daughter of working-class immigrant parents. She earned her undergraduate degree in history from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) and received her law degree from Columbia Law School.

Ms. De Gonzalez began her legal career at the Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice, where she advocated for survivors of domestic violence. Currently, she represents hotel and restaurant workers throughout the LA area in their immigration matters. Ms. De Gonzalez specializes in complex adjustment of status, consular processing, and naturalization cases. She is the proud mom to two young daughters who inspire her commitment to justice and to making the world a better place.

RECOGNITION OF DEPARTMENT STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

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Isabella Brannon	Ellen Lu
Allison Bushong	Kurt Christian Lyle
Carter Castanha	Catherine Hope Martinez
Yuyang Chen	Celia Minas
Emma Joy Chuidian	Jessica Naghi
Kareen Cohen-Sadik	Alicia Minji Park
Michaela Esposito	Talin Popovic
Cecelia Fischer	Clara Prideaux
Lauren Elizabeth Follis	Simon Rahban
Grace Elisabeth Funk	Victoria Raquel Salcedo
David Garcia	Niloufar Shiralian
Nicolas Greamo	William Spotts
Isabella Grace Greenberg	Zipeng Tang
Tate Heinse	Daniel Zhang

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Glenda Alisson Lechuga

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Pamela Vega Rivas

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HONORS THESES – HIGHEST DEPARTMENTAL HONORS

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Cecelia Fischer

Lauren Elizabeth Follis

Tate Heinse

Ellen Lu

Talin Popovic

Fernando Rodriguez

York Kuk Yue

Daniel Zhang

Jeremy Noah Zwick

RECOGNITION OF DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS

CAREY MCWILLIAMS 2024 AWARD RECIPIENT

Zipeng Tang

"Li Zubai and the Theory of a Western Christian Origin of Chinese Civilization"

Advisors: Andrea S. Goldman & Stefania Tutino

CAREY MCWILLIAMS 2025 AWARD RECIPIENTS

Cecelia Fischer

"Abraham Joshua Heschel and the Rejudaization of Christianity: The German Intellectual Provenance of Jewish-Christian Encounters After the Holocaust"

Advisor: David Myers

Ellen Lu

"Laundry Swindlers & Lost Sisters: The Gendered Dimensions of Anti-Chinese Activism, 1868-1905"

Advisor: Katherine Marino

MARY RITTER BEARD 2025 AWARD RECIPIENT

Ellen Lu

"Laundry Swindlers & Lost Sisters: The Gendered Dimensions of Anti-Chinese Activism, 1868-1905"

Advisor: Katherine Marino

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