

CIVIC ACTION FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

The program's latest news and announcements



IMPORTANT DATES

May 5:

April 18 - May 1 Timesheet Due

May 19:

May 2 - May 15 Timesheet Due

May 14 - May 22:

CSULA Finals Week

May 21:

Fellow Training #8

May 28 - 29 :

CSULA Spring Graduation

June 4 :

Fellow Graduation Celebration
(look out for invite from us soon)

Congratulations Fellow Graduates!

A round of applause for our graduating Fellows is in order! This month, we celebrate you and your hard work and dedication. Your efforts have payed off and we wish you luck on your future endeavors!

We are continuing on strong with the program with the addition of 12 new Fellows who will be assisting in the COVID vaccination efforts as well as 3 new supervisors who are also Cal State LA's very own assistant professors- Dr. Kimberly Kisler Pisca, Dr. Nan Martin and Dr. Evelyn Alvarez!

The COVID Outreach team will be focusing on community outreach and education campaigns that are designed to encourage and support the eligible populations to receive the vaccine by sharing up-to-date, factual, and clear information. Cal State LA's outreach and education plan will target southeast and east Los Angeles communities via social media, interactive websites, and print materials such as informational flyers, brochures and infographics.

The Civic Action Fellowship program welcome the new additions to the team as well as congratulate our 2020-2021 graduates!



May Birthdays

Always look for reasons to celebrate! Feel free to send the following fellow(s) a congratulatory message for completing another year around the sun!

Happy birthday!

Ashley Ann Averion Baguio- May 5

Maribel Duarte- May 6

Kenya Ruiz Toscano - May 17

Adriana Landeros - May 26

*"Take pride in how far you've come.
Have faith in how far you can go.
But don't forget to enjoy the journey."*

- Michael Josephson

"Your certification is in your degree. You may think of it as the ticket to the good life.

Let me ask you to think of an alternative- think of it as your ticket to change the world."

- Tom Brokaw

Graduation Occasion Recipe!

Lemon Mousse

Prep: 10 min. Servings: 4 Chill time: 1 hour

Ingredients:

- 12 ounces (340g) cream cheese, softened to room temperature
- 1 cup (225 g) confectioners sugar
- 1 lemon, juiced (about 1/4 cup)
- pinch kosher salt
- 1 cup (238g) whipped topping, plus more for garnish
- lemon wedges, for garnish
- 1 cup finely crushed shortbread cookies, plus more for garnish, optional step

Directions:

1. In a large bowl, beat cream cheese until it is light and fluffy.
2. Add in the powdered sugar, lemon juice, and salt and beat until everything is combined.
3. Gently fold in the whipped topping.
4. IF YOU ARE ADDING THE SHORTBREAD CRUST:
Divide crushed shortbread cookies between 4 dessert cups. (This step is optional)
5. Equally, divide lemon mousse into cups and refrigerate uncovered until thickened, (about 1 hour up 24 hours).
6. When ready to serve, top with remaining whipped topping and lemon wedges.



NOW TO CELEBRATE THE GRADS!

WE ASKED THE 2020-2021 GRADUATES

How are you celebrating your success?

What comes next after graduation? What will your next chapter look like?

What was the most rewarding thing about your academic adventure?

If you attended CSULA on campus prior to the pandemic, what was your favorite place to hang out?

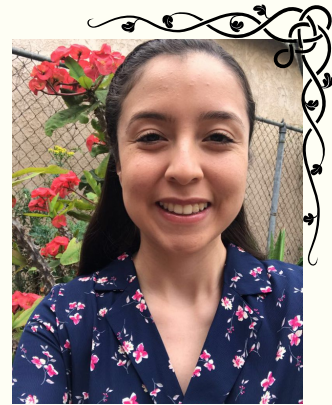
Did you have any role models/motivators who helped drive your ambition to graduate?

Here's what they said...



Ashley Ann Averion Baguio
B.A. English, Minor in Creative Writing

"With COVID, it's hard to plan gatherings but I hope to celebrate with my family. After graduation, I want to get back into the groove of writing and writing poems. Once the pandemic is over, I hope to travel freely but for now, I will be staying at home to play games on my Switch or have game nights with my cousins! Prior to the pandemic, my favorite place to hang out was the library! I miss the library so much! Libraries are my favorite places in general, so our campus library was the spot I gravitated toward the most. The most rewarding thing about my academic adventure is seeing how proud my parents are. Without the support of my family and of my professors and their words of encouragement, I wouldn't be where I am today. Professor Jenny Hicks is my favorite professor ever; she helped me publish my first poem and rekindled my love for poetry when I was very unsure of where my career was headed. Professor Jenny is also one of my professors who helped me through rough times. Professor Deborah Conway and Professor Leone Hankey were also role models who were attentive and helpful when we switched to online schooling. These professors are lifelong advisors to me as they have helped me grow into the student I am today. And, of course, my family- they are my day ones, and the people I know will always be there even if I make mistakes. My family, especially my cousins, are the greatest support system I could ever ask for."



Yesenia Banuelos
B.S Public Health

"I am planning to celebrate my success with a small family gathering. Every time one of my siblings or I graduate, we have a tradition where we gather, and my dad cooks his famous chicken fajitas with rice, beans, and homemade tortilla chips. After graduation, I am considering doing a nursing program to become a registered nurse or continue my path in the Public Health field. However, I am still exploring my options. I plan on gaining more work, internship, and volunteer experience in hospital settings and within my community before making a final decision. Moreover, I want to travel, explore, and give myself some time to reflect on life. The most rewarding thing about my academic adventure was meeting amazing people and creating connections with them in and outside of academia. My parents, my older sister, and my younger brother were the motivators who helped drive my ambition to graduate. They were always by my side, encouraging me never to give up. Moreover, my great friend Guadalupe Ramirez whom I met in college, is also one of the motivators who drove my ambition to graduate. We always helped each other out, making sure no one was left behind. My professors also helped and supported me throughout my journey, provided great advice, and prepared me for life after graduation. If I had good times or bad times during my academic journey, they all never left me."



Maribel Duarte
Business Administration in Marketing Management

"I plan on celebrating my success with my family since they are part of my success. After graduation, I plan to take a two day break! It has been the most intense weeks with work, being a full-time student, being the Vice President of the Marketing Club, and being a full-time mom of three beautiful girls. The most rewarding thing about my academic adventure was finishing my degree, meeting amazing people, and meeting my professors that were very supportive in every step. Prior to the pandemic, I attended CSULA but was only there for classes. When I did spend some time on campus, it was usually at the library, in the small meeting rooms. It was a nice place to be and study. Not a lot of people knew about the study rooms. My daughters were my motivation to finish my degree. "

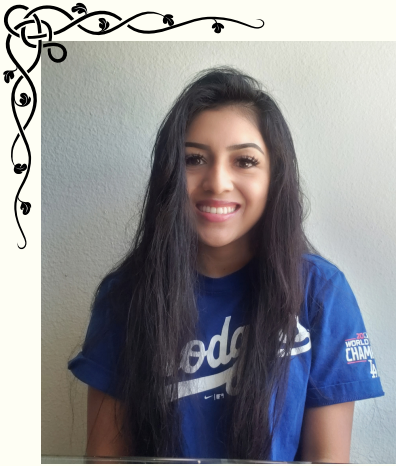


Citlali Gonzalez-Arellano
B.A. Communication with emphasis in social justice

I am planning to celebrate it with my family the day of graduation and then go to Puerto Vallarta a couple of weeks after to soak up some sun. I will be starting to look for a job and travel as much as I can.... If COVID-19 allows it. I want to travel with friends and family anywhere I can and make memories. My goal was to get the best grades I could get and my hard work made me one of the students that received the 2020's Deans List Award. It was nice to get recognized. I loved to go to the tables in front of the MLK building to eat lunch. There was usually enough shade and a little bit of sun to get the best combination.

My sister Alejandra is my biggest motivator to graduate. She went to CSULA and took a break in the middle due to our family's financial needs. However, she went back and now has her Master's degree! She always inspired me to finish no matter how long it took.

2020-2021 Graduates



Mariela Hernandez

B.S. Nutritional Science, Sports Nutrition Certificate

"I am planning on celebrating my success with my family and some friends. After graduation, I plan on continuing my education to become a sports dietitian. Prior to the pandemic, my favorite place to hang out was in the library.

My biggest motivators to graduate are my ambitions which are always fueled by my desire to succeed."



Cristal Mejia

B.S. Public Health

I plan to celebrate with my loved ones at home (safely) and take some time to relax after a long 5 years. After graduation, I plan on continuing my work with community outreach programs. I want to continue giving back to my community and fighting for them. The most rewarding thing about my academic experience, I would say using my experience at CSULA to help lower classmen around. I worked as a college counselor and being able to help younger students made me feel great. I became friends with most and in a way, some type of mentor- it's made me really happy.

My favorite place to hang out was La Kretz hall! On a lucky day I was able to get a seat with a view of the baseball field and the mountains behind it. I would stay on campus late so from that view I was able to see the sun go down and it was amazing!

Someone who pushed me constantly to succeed and graduate was my little brother Alex. He was my favorite person in the whole wide world and I wanted to continue on for him. My graduation is dedicated to him.



Brooke Mero

B.A. Sociology

My mom is visiting L.A. for the first time since I moved here 6 years ago to celebrate my graduation. I can't wait to spend some time with her and show her around the city. My girlfriend and I will probably have a nice dinner, and I may throw some kind of party with friends to celebrate since everyone is getting vaccinated now. I also envision myself crying happy tears in my cap and gown at some point.

I'll be starting CSULA's MSW program next Fall which lasts for two years. I'm very excited for the internship portion of the program and I'm hoping to be placed in a clinical position. Other than that, I sense that my next chapter will be full of surprises - I'm better off not trying to anticipate.

The most rewarding thing about my academic adventure will be finishing my degree (it's been a long time coming) and getting to know various professors who have pushed me intellectually and believed in me. Getting involved in student government and programs like AmeriCorps has also made being a commuter student more fun. My favorite place to hangout at CSULA is definitely the library!

I have so many motivators! My mom was a huge role model for me, since she was the first person in our family to attend college. I've been motivated by a desire to prove to myself I could get my degree after so many setbacks, to help others, and to achieve a better future for myself.



Lizette Mendez

B.S Public Health

Currently, because we were still in the middle of the pandemic, my family ended up planning a small lunch celebration at home. Earning my degree was the most rewarding thing about my college journey at Cal State LA. After graduation, I have been focusing on getting a job and eventually looking at returning to school for a Master's in Public Health Program.

I am a first-generation college student; therefore, this was an inspiring and joyful event for my family and me.

I use to always like being in the library. My favorite spot was on the third floor. I'd sit in the back, put my AirPods on, eat lunch, nap, do homework. It was my favorite spot because it was on the "silent floor."

My biggest motivators were my parents. Being the first to attend a four year university can be scary and stressful. My parents were always there to listen, encourage, and motivate me. I truly appreciate the patience they had with me, from the ups to the downs.

I wouldn't have made it through many stressful nights without their love and support.

2020-2021 Graduates



Guadalupe Ramirez
B.S Public Health

I plan on celebrating my success with a small barbeque with family and close friends. After graduation, I plan to take a year off to gain some experience before applying for my master's. The most rewarding thing about my academic adventure was being able to use the knowledge I learned from my classes and apply them in real world scenarios with the internship. Along with the internship, something else that was rewarding was being able to meet and network with my classmates in my Public Health classes. We all were each other's support systems and I met some of my best friends within the program.

My favorite place to hang out at CSULA was the the library and the tables outside around on campus to enjoy good weather days.

One of my role models who helped drive my ambitions is my older sister. She is also a 2021 graduate but from the Anthropology Masters Program at CSULA. She has accomplished so much and has taken down any barriers that were in her way. She has also given my helpful advice and supported me throughout my 4 years at CSULA.

I hope to accomplish my goals with Public Health and help make a difference in the world.



Sophia Raygoza
B.S Public Health

I plan on celebrating my success by having dinner with my close family and friends. I want to continue to serve Los Angeles area communities by being a health educator and advocate. I will definitely apply to a master's program within the next 5 years! The most rewarding thing about my academic adventure has been meeting like-minded individuals and being able to work with them to help others.

My favorite place was the ASI office. I worked there as front desk and it was always a fun space where students would meet-up and goof around.

My mom has been a big motivator for me. She's always been supportive of my decisions even when I wasn't completely sure what I was doing.

I feel really lucky to have her as my support system!



Natalia Uscanga
B.S Business Administration, Option: Marketing Management

I am the first one in my family that is graduating from college so I would love throw a big graduation party. I am currently applying for jobs within the city and would love to get an entry-level position and work my way up to work in the marketing/communications department. There are many positions within the city that has caught my attention like a program coordinator or Director of parks of recreation. With time I hope to gain experience and knowledge to be a good candidate for a position like that.

The in-person graduation will be the most rewarding thing about my academic adventure. Being the first to graduate in my family I was sad about the possibility of not having an in-person graduation. After receiving the email about the decision for graduation, I am happy that mom will be seeing her youngest daughter walk the stage.

My favorite place to hang out on campus would be the library. During long hour gaps between class the library was my go-to place to get ahead on some assignments. I would also meet up other classmates to work on group projects. I did have a couple of professors that made me realize I have to step up in my game in my classes. It was because of their advice that I pushed through.

One of the biggest advice I took from them was to never let one assignment grade determine my overall grade for the semester.



Pamela Vanegas
B.S Public Health

I plan to celebrate my success by catching up on sleep, spending time in nature, and going on a graduation trip with my immediate family. After graduation, I will study and take the GRE, finish my volunteering hours, and complete a few more pre-requisite courses for graduate school.

I plan to get my master's in occupational therapy!

The most rewarding thing about my academic adventure was the ability to apply what I learned in my courses to real life through the pandemic and my internship. It gave me opportunities to teach others what I learned and help others understand the importance of equity.

Honestly, I loved hanging out in the library! The student union building is a close second, though.

My family and friends never failed to encourage and motivate me to succeed. When things would get tough, they always offered words and prayers of encouragement!

They surely gave me the determination I needed to graduate.



CONGRATULATIONS
CLASS
OF
2020 - 2021

