

University of California, Los Angeles
Department of Anthropology
2026 Commencement Ceremony

June 13, 2026

11:00AM

UCLA Dickson Court North



Excavation research in the Ifugao Rice Terraces. Ifugao, Philippines.

Photo by Paul Connor. © 2025

UCLA

College | Social Sciences
Anthropology

ANTHROPOLOGY COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY 2026 KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Jason De León



Jason De León is Lloyd E. Cotsen Endowed Chair of Archaeology, Professor of Anthropology and Chicana, Chicano, and Central American Studies, and Director of the Cotsen Institute of Archaeology at UCLA. He is also Executive Director of the Undocumented Migration Project, a 501(c)(3) arts, research, and education collective committed to raising awareness about our global migration crisis and amplifying the voices of migrants of all ages. He is the author of two award-winning books, "The Land of Open Graves: Living and Dying on the Migrant Trail" and "Soldiers and Kings: Survival and Hope in the World of Human Smuggling." The latter won the 2024 National Book Award for nonfiction. De León is a 2017 MacArthur Fellow. He plays bass in the band War Pigs, a kid political punk band featuring his two young children.

ANTHROPOLOGY COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY 2026

PROCESSION OF THE FACULTY AND STUDENTS

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Laurie Kain Hart, Ph.D., *Department Chair*

FACULTY SUBFIELD SPEAKERS

Caitlin O'Grady, Ph.D.	Archaeology
Susan Perry, Ph.D.	Biological
Paul Kroskrity, Ph.D.	Linguistic
Susan Slyomovics, Ph.D.	Sociocultural
Heather Loyd, Ph.D.	Lemelson Honors

STUDENT SPEAKER

Taposi Nila

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Jason De León

PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATES

Jessica Cattelino, Ph.D. & Monica Smith, Ph.D.
Laurie Kain Hart, Ph.D. & Abigail Bigham, Ph.D.

MOVING OF THE TASSEL

White	Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)
Gold	Bachelor of Science (B.S.)

CONCLUSION AND RECESSIONAL

UCLA Lemelson Anthropological Honors Program

The UCLA Lemelson Anthropological Honors Program was founded in 2011 with a generous gift from our own Professor Robert Lemelson to support the development of research and mentoring partnerships among undergraduate and graduate student anthropologists and faculty. This program has helped enable UCLA's Anthropology Department to provide inspiration and top-notch research training to the next generation of research anthropologists, while nurturing the culture of collaboration for which UCLA is renowned.

The UCLA Lemelson Anthropological Honors Program is widely regarded as among the finest Departmental Honors programs in the country, and this year's seniors represented the department with great distinction during Undergraduate Research Week, which took place in May 2026. Our scholars' research presentations can be viewed at:
lemelson.anthro.ucla.edu.

Special thanks to our faculty and graduate teaching assistant who taught the senior cohort throughout the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 academic years:

Professor Linda Garro

Professor Doug Hollan

Professor Koji Lau-Ozawa

Professor Heather Loyd

Professor Tritia Toyota

Graduate Teaching Assistant:

Emilia Holmbeck

2026 Lemelson Anthropological Honors Scholars

Jennifer Carmean

Voices of Hope: Survival Within Domestic Violence

Subreen Dhaliwal

Coping with Mental Distress: Community Engagement and Resources Among South Asian Migrants in West London

Caroline Elliott

Life off the Track: Immigrant Labor and the Invisible Expertise Behind Horse Racing

Peyton Hawkey

Transformations: How Transgender Adults in Cork, Ireland Utilize Their Community Spaces

Mila Mucic

Careers of Care: Social Reasoning and Economic Outcomes of Gendered Marine Responsibility

Mason Ng

Organizing Against the Algorithm: Motivations and Strategies Amongst Unionizing Rideshare Drivers in Los Angeles

Luce Parkyn

Queer Distortion: Agency, Risk, and Resistance in the Los Angeles Metal Scene

Riya Prabhakar

From Ragas to Mantras: The Purpose of Sound and Music for Therapeutic Practices in Bengaluru, India

Andrea Roman

Culture of Milk: Genetic Prevalence and Socio-cultural Effects of Lactase Persistence in Mexican Populations in Los Angeles

Jericho Tran-Faypon

"If I Could Be Straight, I Would": Hegemony and Belonging in the Experiences of Non-Heterosexual Fraternity Brothers

Xela Vargas

'Soy de Aquí, Soy de Allá': Second Generation Mexican Americans on 'Return'

Undergraduate Anthropological Association

The Undergraduate Anthropological Association (UAA) at UCLA is the bridge between the undergraduate student body and the wider anthropological community. The mission of the UAA, which was founded in 2010 and reinvigorated in 2023, is to provide support to its members in every sense of the word. The UAA is uniquely designed to ensure success for all its undergraduate students in their academic, professional, and social endeavors.

The Department of Anthropology would like to congratulate the 2025-2026 UAA Board members, and thank them for their incredible service to our anthropology community.

Mila Mucic	<i>External President</i>
Ria Bagga	<i>Internal President</i>
Vienna Vipond	<i>External Academic Liaison</i>
Giada Leggero	<i>Internal Academic Liaison</i>
Subreen Dhaliwal	<i>Social Media Director</i>
Fia Andersen	<i>Finance Director</i>



2026 Degree Candidates

Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology

Rachel Abad Abalos	Diego Crawford
Ayub Abdul-Cader	Koko Crawford
Brooke Abess	Sophie Day *
Meredith Christine Adame	Jenny De Alba
Joseph Conrad Fisher Adams	Rafael De Sena
Gabrielle Ahdoot	Julia Desser
Alana Akiwumi	Dolores Diaz
Emma Aliano	Nicole Doan
Elijah Allen	Aida Ebrahimi ***
Nina Ambriz	Mai Ederi
Bella Aquino	Logan Edwards
Gare Arai	Hailey Mae Ellingson
Inkawat Athawibunwong	John Estrada
Ria Bagga	Evan Evans
Natasha Bayrooti	Charles Henry Fairtlough
Allyn Yajayra Beltran	Leila Farhi *
Adin Bernhard	Mia Rose Fernandez
Emma Bertoutian	Justin Flores
Jaden Thomas Bigley	Emmanuel Flores Diaz
Seth Bohn	Yandery Flores Pineda
Cheyenne Melissa Bowley	Omid Fouladpouri ***
Jennifer June Carmean ^L	Jenna Fredregill
Rajana Chhin	Tess Gallagher ***
Ekta Chilukuri	Alexis Garcia
Leah Choi	Jacqueline Adiana Garcia
Linnea Christensen	Enrico Rafael Gaxiola-Melson III
Emily Christian	Sharis Gharibian
Jordan Cooper	Angelina Gonzalez

2026 Degree Candidates

Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology

Monserrat Gonzalez	Kyle Lee
Vivien Gordon ***	Sophia Lee
Rhian Gribble	Rachel Cao Lei
Ingrid Elise Gruber	Isabella Lipstein
Melanie Guerra	Greer Little ^{L*}
Stacey Gutierrez	Vendela Satine Lloyd
Emily Haddad ***	Audrey Colony Loeb
Michael Hanasab	Angel Lok Yung Yong ^{H*}
Ryan Hannani *	Nicholas Andrew Lopez
Max Coyne Hanson	Helen Lopez Alvarez
Peyton Hawkey ^L	Andrew Loustalot
Grace Henkle	Isaiah Lytle Hernandez *
Ivanna Renee Hernandez	Guadalupe Madrigal Soria
Priscila Hernandez Cordero	Chloe Martinez
Adrian Hindu	Dylan Mayhue
Jean Huang	Beatrice Mcalister
Katherine Anne Hummingbird Hughes	Lily Mcfarlin
Ruby Jantzen **	Nathan Mclain
Sally Jebory	Cassie Mcneil
Jessica Jimenez	Roza Meghrazi
Kaila Jung	Adriana Mercado *
Emma Josephine Kalb	Maximilian Meylor
Sidney Kaplan Kopp	Alanna Spring Miller
Shoshana Karp *	Astrid Minjarez Sugich *
Ryan Kim	Kailyn Missaghi
Zoe Rachel Klein	Alexis Molina
Connor Leach	Adriana Monroy
	James Moon

2026 Degree Candidates

Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology

Shi Morgan

Mila Stephanie Mucic ^{L**}

Katherine Navarro

Mason Koonchoo Ngo Ng ^L

Taposi Nila

Adan Adrian Ornelas Blas Jr

Naomi Ornstein

Heidi Pallares

Evreluce Parkyn ^{L***}

Haroutyun Perchemyan

Nicole Petersen

Gabrielle Mia Plascencia

Emma June Poff

Oliver Donald Jacob Porter

Ethan Quan

Katherine Quintero Rodriguez

Amaranta Rios-Leon

Louna Bea Guylaine Ripart

Lea Saab

Mariam Saab

Maedeline Meer Salazar

Maya Jamal Salman

Jessica Sanchez

Alexa Scharlin

Jacob Serrano

Emily Nicole Shakhmalian

Emma Josephine Smith

William James Smith III

Benjamin Sperow

Summer Ann Syed

Pilar Marie Taylor ^{***}

Rae Taylor

Vanessa Torres

Jericho Tran-Faypon ^{L***}

Liz Keiry Trejo

Stephany Urueta

Jesus Gabriel Valdez

Aztaxelli Vargas ^L

Diana Villegas

Nathan Vu

Dejanay Wallace ^{*}

Wenyan Wang

Mya Ward

Sophia Wargo

Owen Woods ^{**}

Kelly Zhang

Matthew T Zhou ^{*}

2026 Degree Candidates

Bachelor of Science in Anthropology

Princess Winifred Abeka	Chloe Keshishian ***
Anibea Obeng	Sofia Bok Young Kim
Maegan Abutin Salunga	Me'ahni Lomas-Wilcox
Ava Marie Adlao	Catherine Luong
Stephanie Amadi	Mufaddal Mamujee
Ernesto Gabriel Avalos	Marcella Marcelino
Bernard Ayran	Meylin Menjivar Chavez
Leela Babakhyi	Giancarlo Munoz
Christina Baez	Jessica Ojukwu
Karla Baltierra Zamora	Nicole Uloaku Onyeagoro
Christopher Michael Bekeredjian	Jaclyn Nellie Padilla
Nicholas Bekeredjian	Dev Patel
Jessie Blattner	Hermylie Melina Polanco-Ortiz
Sophia Danis	Riya Prabhakar ^L
Takiera Darrow	Keira Prouty
Subreen Dhaliwal ^L	Meena Rao
Caroline Elliott ^L	Darlene Rodriguez
Nicole Fentzke	Luna Bravo Rodriguez
Heleena Getahun	Jose Ismael Rodriguez Navarro
Ashley Guerra Escobar	Andrea Roman ^L
Katie Gabriella Guzman	Arianna Serna
Isabella Hawthorne	Brandon Sofer
Amelia Hoyle	Vana Soghomonian
Ugonna Justice Ikejiofor	Angel Jia Chi The
Sophie Karroum	Lucy Valdez-Valdez
Aastha Kashyap	Diana Julissa Vicencio
Sanvir Kaur	

2026 Degree Candidates Minor in Anthropology

Isabella Nicole Aguilar *	Ana Gonzalez
Claire Brown Alonso	Carrie Hester
Nicholas Alvarado	Alexis Hinkle
Aarushi Anil	Madeline Louise Hoekstra
Eliana Artenyan	Sydney Holland
Sophie Ashley	Yarisa Huerta Lopez
Isabella Barron *	Tess Kaefer *
Sofia Brown *	Ashley Kaloustian
Kelly Burdick *	Jan Kasen
Kamila Bustos	Shristi Keni
Clayton Cabot	Casey Jihye Kim *
Marisa Calarco	Jared Lasky *
Christabelle Cruz Canonizado	Joey Qiao Lee
Rose Cheng ***	Kyla Letko **
Brendon Jing-Git Chow	Carmen Zhen Lo
Michael Derouin Jr	Grace Lu
Valerie Ding	Nicholas Lumidao
Leslie Dominguez	Marlen Mata
Sydney Reese Douglas	Alana Milanese
Emily Foster	Mya Mitchell
Fitz Freeby	Jenna Montgomery-Concha
Emme Frutos	Catherine Elena Nguyen
Vicky Gao	Honna Hong-Anh Nguyen *
Isabella Eileen Garcia	Lilian Hong An Nguyen
Hannah Gardos	Serenity Maria Nunes
Aleena Kaur Gill	Sarah Diane Paredes
Sofia Gilmore	Christopher Perez Escobedo
Juliana Giroto *	Allison Pham

2026 Degree Candidates Minor in Anthropology

Grace Phan	Sophia An Steele
Jonathan Pilares	Chanelle Tan
Bryn Richards	Pearl Tawadros
Louisa Richardson	Sofia Christina Thanopoulos *
David Jesus Rivera	Jaylen Thatcher
Jordan Robinson	Hayleigh Tinker
Jayden Rodrigues	Harper Tzou **
Athena Rodriguez	Mercury Vesper
Denise Paloma Rodriguez	Mia Agpalsa Villegas
Nicole Rollinson	Vienna Vipond H***
Nicole Maged Samaan *	Kathleen Bao Anh Vo
María Belén Santelices Lubiano	Naomi L. Walker
Yuna Shegai	Rista White
Diana Shidaeva	Maya Jasmine Wynter
Anna Shin	

The presence of degree candidate names in this program is not an official record of each student's graduation status. The Registrar's Office is responsible for the official verification of each student's degree completion after the student's declared candidacy term.

WHAT IS A FOURRAGÈRE AND WHO WEARS ONE?

The decorative braid, called a fourragère, is worn to recognize achievement. Students receiving either College Honors, Latin Honors or both wear a gold fourragère on the left shoulder.

HOW ARE LATIN HONORS DETERMINED?

Latin Honors are awarded according to a student's cumulative University of California units and GPA at graduation.

(Note: Honors notations in this program are based on units and grades as of Winter 2026.

Honors statuses may change upon graduation.)

Fall 2025 through Summer 2026 GPA Requirements:

CUM LAUDE	3.923 minimum cumulative GPA
MAGNA CUM LAUDE	3.968 minimum cumulative GPA
SUMMA CUM LAUDE	3.988 minimum cumulative GPA

THE DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY THANKS

Abel Valenzuela, Ph.D.

Dean, Division of Social Sciences

Robert Lemelson, Ph.D.

Adjunct Professor of Anthropology

Laurie Hart, Ph.D.

Department Chair

Abigail Bigham, Ph.D.

Vice Chair, Undergraduate Studies

Norma Mendoza-Denton, Ph.D.

Vice Chair, Graduate Studies

Kimberly Webster

Department Manager

Kassi Gooch

Staff & Academic Payroll Coordinator

Myrna Dee Castillo Kikuchi

Undergraduate Student Advisor

Jason Liang

Technology Analyst

Jenn Lobato

Graduate Student Advisor

Drew Patterson

Academic Personnel Analyst

Kristina Petruff

Fund Manager

Victor Sepulveda

Front Office Coordinator

**Anna Georges, Tahmul Qureshi,
& Shea McAuliffe**

Student Assistants