

Theme Statement

The 2023 Asian and Pacific Islander (A&PI) graduation celebration theme centers our individuality with "Up Next, You Get To Decide." Music is a universal way that each and every one of us explores our individuality. When we create music playlists, we decide what is up next. We can shuffle the songs, skip songs, and more. Through our uniquely curated playlists, we showcase our ability to determine what is in store for us.

We chose LoFi aesthetics and muted color palettes to highlight the peace and serenity of expressing one's true self. The origins of LoFi are also symbolic of our graduating class, as the music genre originated with young people around the world recording their own music with what was available to them. In light of the challenges we faced, we did our best with what was available to us and adapted to make the most of our experiences.

The LoFi-themed bedroom cover reminisces on our time at the University of Michigan. From the sneakers laced over the power lines to the rooftops of Ann Arbor neighborhoods, we hope you can reflect on your growth and the memories you created here. The artwork throughout the booklet intends to evoke feelings of nostalgia as well as the many possibilities in your future in which you get to decide what's up next.

Artist Bio



Jenni Renas is a graphic designer with a specialty in identity programs for visual storytelling. She earned a BFA in Fine Arts at Savannah College of Art and Design with a major in Graphic Design and minor in Advertising. Jenni strives to create material that is witty + memorable and enjoys drawing, good socks, and learning from those around her.

Celebration Welcome Letter

Greetings,

It is with great pleasure that we congratulate our Asian & Pacific Islander Class of 2023. Congratulations on this tremendous accomplishment!

This annual celebration began in 2018 and continues to highlight the cultural significance of this diverse community and the impacts it has made on the greater University community and society.

As we honor you, we are excited about the opportunities that await each of you. You have demonstrated the skills, talent, drive and commitment to make a significant impact in your communities and in our world.

While the college process can be challenging for all students, you also have endured through one of the most challenging times in the history of the University and of our broader society. We are humbled at your demonstrated resilience as a U-M student, and we hope that you're able to draw on the strength, knowledge, and wisdom you've developed and gained to meet future life challenges.

While graduation often signifies the conclusion of an academic journey, the root of the word "commencement" is the act of beginning, starting, initiating. We wish you nothing but success and happiness as you now start the next steps of your life journey.

To be a Michigan graduate is not just joining the community of over 500,000 Michigan alumni spread around the globe -- half a million friends, colleagues, and mentors ready to help welcome you into your next chapter. Being a U-M graduate is also to embrace the idea that the knowledge and experiences you have cultivated and gained here are gifts to be used and shared.

Celebration Welcome Letter

So, go forth and do great things with what you have learned in whatever responsibilities and roles you take on -- personally and professionally. Do them well and with integrity and joy.

And whatever you do, and wherever your journey takes you -- Go Blue!



Xanta Ov

Santa J. Ono President

Sank. Mc Caly Laurie K. McCauley

Provost & Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

Martin el Martino Harmon

Vice President for Student Life

Jally M. Chavous

Tabbye M. Chavous Vice Provost for Equity & Inclusion and Chief Diversity Officer

Order of Program

Graduate Procession

Land Acknowledgement

Dr. Manan Desai मनन Associate Professor, American Culture College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

Welcome

Dr. Martino Harmon
Vice President for Student Life

Theme reading by:

Reika Fujiwara 藤原麗花 Senior, Literature, Science, and the Arts, Biomolecular Science; Asian Studies

> Karen Nguyen Tú Tú Senior, Public Health, Public Health

Introduction of Keynote

Dr. Ellen Meader 陳爱倫 Assistant Vice Provost, Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Keynote

Dr. Melissa Borja Assistant Professor, American Culture College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

Order of Program

Graduates Walk

Bachelor's Students Master's Students Hooding of Doctoral Students

Names read by:

Dr. Anne Cong-Huyen Digital Scholarship Strategist/Senior Associate Librarian University Library

Dr. Neeraja Aravamudan நீரஜா Director Edward Ginsberg Center for Community Service & Learning

> T Charles Yun 윤동영 Director of Computing School of Information

Acknowledgement of Graduation Celebration Committee

Julia J. Barron
Program Coordinator
Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives

Closing Remarks

Dr. Manan Desai मनन Associate Professor, American Culture College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

Graduate Recession

Land Acknowledgement

The University of Michigan is located on the territory of the Anishinaabeg people. The Ann Arbor campus currently resides on land ceded through the Treaty of Detroit in 1807. Additionally, in 1817, the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Bodewadami Nations made the largest single land transfer to the University of Michigan, ceded through the Treaty of Fort Meigs, with the agreement that their children would be educated in perpetuity.

We assert the sovereignty of tribal lands and acknowledge the painful historical and ongoing genocide, forced assimilation, and displacement of Native communities in the establishment of the University.

We affirm contemporary and ancestral Anishinaabeg ties to this land, the profound contributions of Native American peoples to this institution, and the University's commitment to educate the children of Native ancestors.

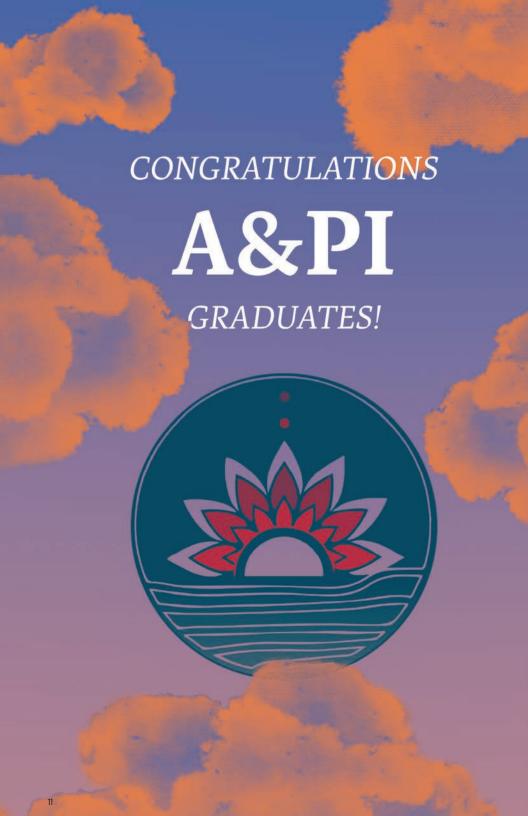
Acknowledging the land is an important first step towards healing that needs to be followed by further action. We invite all of you to think about how you can support Indigenous communities that surround you.

About the Keynote Speaker



Dr. Melissa BorjaAssistant Professor, American Culture
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

Melissa Borja is Assistant Professor of American Culture at the University of Michigan, where she is core faculty in Asian/Pacific Islander American Studies. Trained at Harvard, the University of Chicago, and Columbia, she is a historian of migration, religion, race, and politics and is the author of *Follow the New Way: American Refugee Resettlement Policy and Hmong Religious Change* (published in February 2023 by Harvard University Press). An active public scholar, Dr. Borja advises Princeton's *Religion and Forced Migration Initiative*, serves as the lead investigator of the Virulent Hate Project, and has contributed research to Stop AAPI Hate. For her research and advocacy on anti-Asian racism during the Covid-19 pandemic, USA Today honored her as one of its 2022 Women of the Year.



Christine Agpasa

College of Engineering; School of Public Health Chemical Engineering; Fundamentals of Public Health Supplemental Studies

Zannatun Alim জান্নাতুন আলমি Taubman College of Architecture & Urban Planning *Architecture*

Matthew Arteaga

College of Engineering
Computer Engineering

Janielle Alexis Calaunan

College of Engineering Computer Science

Katrina Catabian

School of Nursing Nursing

Shan Shan Chen 陈姗珊

Stephen M. Ross of Business Business Administration

Chloe Chodorow 龙心兰

School of Music, Theatre & Dance

Farhana Chowdhury

School of Nursing
Nursing

Farzana Chowdhury ফারজানা

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Gender and Health

Tayebah Chowdhury তয়ৈবা

School of Public Health

Public Health

Gia Minh-Trang Do 杜明莊

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Anthropology

Bo Dong 董博

College of Pharmacy Pharmaceutical sciences

Reika Fujiwara 藤原麗花

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Biomolecular Science; Asian Studies

Reginald James Galanto

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts *Political Science*

Mrinalini Gupta मृणालिनी

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts *Philosophy; Psychology*

Annabelle Ha 하이흔

School of Kinesiology Applied Exercise Science

Amy He 何丹

College of Pharmacy Pharmaceutical Sciences

Dalena Hoang

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Statistics; Sociology of Health and Medicine

Sandy Hua

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Biomolecular Science; Asian Studies

Heidi Huang 黄瑞乔

College of Engineering Computer Science

Elizabeth Hwang Jiwoo

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts History; Entrepreneurship

Lin-Ann Jian 簡伶安

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

History

Samara Kamal

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Organizational Studies

Nami Kaneko 金子奈美

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Biopsychology Cognition Neuroscience; Evolutionary Anthropology

Michelle Kao 高嘉欣

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Molecular, Cellular, Developmental Biology

Shreya Kashyap श्रेया कश्यप

College of Engineering Biomedical Engineering

Amara Khalid

Stephen M. Ross of Business; College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Business

Aditi Khare अदिती

College of Engineering Computer Science

Yoonjin Kim 김윤진

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy Public Policy

Jasmin Lee 李淑虹

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Creative Writing; American Culture

Angel Li 李柔賢

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Sociology and Social Work

Annie Li 李柔儀

College of Engineering Biomedical Engineering

Gina Liu 刘吉娜

School of Public Health Community and Global Health

Jing-Yi Liu 刘婧怡言亮

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Honors Mathematics; Creative Writing & Literature

Kristina Mallabo

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology; English

Eva Mason

College of Engineering Computer Engineering

Areeba Maysun আরবাি ময়েসুন

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

Neuroscience

Jenny Mei 梅婉瑩

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Biopsychology, Cognition, and Neuroscience

Christopher Moy 梅捷昀

School of Kinesiology

Movement Science

Kelly Nguyen Thanh

College of Engineering Chemical Engineering

Karen Nguyen Tú Tú

School of Public Health
Public Health

James Nguyen Minh Quan

College of Pharmacy
Pharmaceutical Sciences

Nana Otaka 大高菜々

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Music, Theatre & Dance Psychology; Dance

Chelsea Padilla

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Political Science; Creative Writing & Literature

Manasvi Parikh

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Computer Science; Economics

Esther Park 박지애

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

Organizational Studies

Gabriel Noel Pascua

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Biopsychology, Cognition, and Neuroscience

Joshua Peralta

College of Engineering Industrial and Operations Engineering

Jason Portugal

College of Pharmacy

Pharmaceutical Sciences

Kaveri Rai

College of Engineering Computer Science

Neya Ramprasad

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts English; Biology, Health, and Society

Ketan Revankar केतन

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts International Studies - Global Environment and Health

Angelina Reyes

College of Engineering Computer Science

Adrian Jules Rocha

College of Engineering Aerospace Engineering

Lisa Ryou 수민

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts History; American Culture (Ethnic Studies)

Erica Pauline Santos

College of Engineering Mechanical Engineering

Nellie Shih 施宇宣

Taubman College of Architecture & Urban Planning

Architecture

Mira Simonton-Chao

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Residential College American Culture (Ethnic Studies); Arts & Ideas in the Humanities

Jolene Soriano

School of Nursing
Nursing

Kate Sullivan

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Biology, Health, & Society

Lyza Victoria Sumayo

School of Nursing Nursing

Perry Sun 孙明

College of Engineering Industrial and Operations Engineering

Hillary Tran

School of Public Health Public Health Sciences

Meghana Tummala

Taubman College of Architecture & Urban Planning
Architecture

Adithi Voleti అదితి వోలేటి

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Biopsychology, Cognition, and Neuroscience; Biology, Health, and Society

lvy Wang 王雅雯

College of Engineering Industrial and Operations Engineering

Annie Wang 王亚航

Stephen M. Ross of Business Business Administration; Minor in Digital Studies

Sylvia Wei 魏聿萱

College of Engineering Computer Science

Peter Wu 吴伟荣

College of Engineering Computer Science

Lola Yang 杨一心

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

Asian Studies

Ceciel Zhong

School of Information; College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Information; Women's and Gender Studies

Edison Zhu 郑孝坚

College of Engineering

Civil Engineering

Anna Zhu 朱安娜

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Cognitive Science

Master's Graduates

Mallika Ajmani

School of Public Health Master of Public Health

Anthony Bui Bùi Phan Nam

Taubman College of Architecture & Urban Planning

Master of Urban and Regional Planning

Diana Curtis 이민지

School of Social Work

Master of Social Work; Program Evaluation and Applied Research

Justine D'Souza

Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy; School of Social Work

Master of Public Policy; Master of Social Work

Tiana Huang 黄洁瑩

School of Information; School of Public Health

Master of Health Informatics

Brittany Jerzowski

School of Social Work

Master of Social Work

Zhaoqianyi Ji 吉兆千一

School of Environment and Sustainability

Master of Science in Environment and Sustainability

Tiffany Lee 李少玲

School of Public Health

Master of Public Health; Population Health Sciences

Jessica Liang

Stephen M. Ross School of Business; Gerald R. Ford School of School of Public Policy

Master of Business Administration; Master of Public Policy

Master's Graduates

Claire Liu 刘珊珊

School of Public Health Master of Public Health; Health Behavior & Health Education

Yang Liu 刘阳

School of Education

Master of Arts with Secondary Teacher Certification

Sarah McNally

School of Public Health Master of Public Health in Health Behavior and Health Education

Tasnuva Tarannum তাসনুভা তারান্নুম

School of Public Health

Master of Public Health; Nutritional Sciences

Nate Tran

School of Information

Master of Science in Information (Focus: Data Analytics)

Jane Wei 魏子峻

School of Environment and Sustainability; Rackham School of Graduate Studies

Master of Environment and Sustainability

Tao Zhou 周涛

Rackham School of Graduate Studies

Master of Science in Computer Science and Engineering

Doctoral Graduates

Jacqueline Lin 林雨晴

Law School Juris Doctor

Ning Lu 卢凝

College of Engineering

Doctor of Philosophy in Biomedical Engineering; Scientific Computing

Thao Tran Trần Thị Phương Thảo College of Pharmacy Doctor of Pharmacy



About the Committee

The A&PI Graduation Celebration Committee is made up of involved students and a staff member from the Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives. This year, the committee came together to decide how to honor and celebrate students of Asian and Pacific Islander heritage.

The committee works together on several aspects of the celebration, including the theme, marketing and media, graphic design and booklets, decorations, day of logistics, speeches, and community involvement. If you are interested in joining the committee in the future, please contact the Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives at oami-uofm@umich.edu.



Tiffany Lee 李少玲 (Chinese - Simplified) Second-Year MPH Student It's been an honor to serve on this committee since its inaugural celebration. For the past few years, I've had the pleasure of working with such dedicated and passionate individuals. Seeing their personal growth as well as my own has been a heartwarming experience. I am endlessly grateful for the opportunity to learn what it means to celebrate oneself and the community. I cannot wait to see the graduating class blossom and flourish as they move onto the next chapter of their lives.



Karen Nguyen, Senior

I have had such a wonderful time as a part of this committee. Over the past four years, I've had the pleasure of working with passionate students to create meaningful celebrations for such a special community on campus. Our theme this year is especially significant as I recall stumbling across this opportunity as an eager freshman and am now finally walking across the stage myself. Thank you to my fellow committee members and our lovely coordinator, Julia, for an amazing last celebration. I will forever cherish my time as a part of this committee and cannot wait to see how it grows in the years to come.



Angel Li 李柔贤, Senior

It has been very exciting to see this year's theme come to fruition! I really appreciate everyone's hard work and wonderful ideas! I hope all the students and guests get to celebrate themselves and their loved ones!



Esther Park, Senior

I'm so eternally grateful to have worked on such a great committee for the past 4 years, and it's always so exciting to see the fruits of our labor from year to year. As my time at U of M comes to a close, I thank all the people in my life who have helped me on this journey in college, because I have felt firsthand the love and community that college has shaped me as a person.



Julia J. Barron, Staff

It has been an absolute pleasure working with this amazing group of students. Most of them have been on the committee for two, four, or six years! Working with them to create something thoughtful and beautiful to honor our 2023 graduates has been lovely. We are excited to have the graduates create a lasting memory through this year's Graduation Celebration. Thank you all for celebrating the A&Pl community and providing our graduates with love and support. I wish the graduates all the best as they decide what Up Next is and to the lovely possibilities!



Anna Zhu, Senior

It has been such an amazing opportunity to be part of this committee and learn from really dedicated and creative people! Although my four years at Michigan is coming to an end, being part of this passionate and driven community has taught me so much about perseverance and strength. Thank you so much to our members and coordinator Julia for her hard work and guidance throughout this creation process! I'm excited for what the future holds Up Next!

Recognition Statement

We would like to extend our gratitude and appreciation for all of the students, faculty, and staff who have provided input for this celebration. We are committed to educating ourselves and being more inclusive of other voices in the planning process of future A&PI graduations. The committee is continuously working toward intentionally including Pacific Islander voices in our planning and celebration. One step we have taken is to change the title from "Asian/Pacific Islander" to "Asian & Pacific Islander," recognizing the distinct communities. We are excited to present Pacific Islander graduates with leis.

We recognize that this graduation celebration may not include all experiences and perspectives of the A&PI community at Michigan. Our hope is that all A&PI graduates feel honored and celebrated for their accomplishments.

If you would like to have further conversations or are interested in learning more about the Committee's steps to be inclusive, please contact the Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives at oami-uofm@umich.edu.

Platform Guests

In Order of Speaking

Dr. Manan Desai मनन

Associate Professor, American Culture College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

Dr. Martino Harmon

Vice President for Student Life

Reika Fujiwara 藤原麗花

Senior, Biomolecular Science; Asian Studies College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

> Karen Nguyen Tú Tú Senior, Public Health School of Public Health

Dr. Ellen Meader 陳爱倫

Assistant Vice Provost, Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Dr. Melissa Borja

Assistant Professor, American Culture College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

Dr. Anne Cong-Huyen

Digital Scholarship Strategist/Senior Associate Librarian University Library

Dr. Neeraja Aravamudan நீரஜா

Director

Edward Ginsberg Center for Community Service & Learning

T Charles Yun 윤동영

Director of Computing
School of Information

Other Platform Guests

(ordered by last name)

Dr. Retika Adhikari रेतका

Assistant Professor, American Culture College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

Dr. Christine Asidao

Associate Director, Community Engagement and Outreach Counseling and Psychological Services

Sharon Burch

Associate Director, Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives

Gloria Derr Taylor

Director, Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives

Dr. Krishna Han ក្រិស្នា

Associate Director, Multi-Ethnic Student Affairs

Roland Hwang

Lecturer, American Culture
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

Dr. Kin-Yee lan Shin 冼健義

Assistant Professor, History; American Culture College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

Dr. Laura-Ann Jacobs 방

Postdoctoral Research Fellow; Dije Instructional Support and Professional Learning Specialist National Center for Institutional Diversity; School of Education

Dr. Amy Stillman

Arthur F. Thurnau Professor; Professor of American Culture and Musicology Director, Native American Studies

Dr. Marie Ting

Assistant Vice Provost, Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

(cont.)

Dr. Connie Tingson Gatuz

Associate Vice President, Student Life Division

Dr. Hitomi Tonomura

Professor, History
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

Dr. Deborah Willis

Assistant Vice Provost, Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Special Thanks

Gloria Derr Taylor Director, Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives

Sharon Burch

Associate Director, Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives

Reika Fujiwara 藤原麗花

Senior, Class of 2023

Dr. Krishna Han ក្រិស្នា Associate Director, Multi-Ethnic Student Affairs

Brendan Kirwin

Assistant Director of Marketing & Communications, Office of Academic Multiculural Initiatives

Gia Minh-Trang Do 杜明莊

Marketing Intern, Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives

Tiffany Lee 李少玲

Second-Year MPH Student, Class of 2023

Oceania Student Association

Dr. Marie Ting

Assistant Vice Provost, Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Staff of the Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives

Julia Barron, Program Coordinator and Success Coach
Hector Galvan, Assistant Director and Success Coach
Angela Espinosa, Administrative Assistant
Alan Hernandez, Program Coordinator and Success Coach
Erika Johnson, Assistant Director and M-Connect Program Director
Janice Jones, Assistant Director and SuccessConnects Program Director
Samrawit Kahsay, Program Coordinator and Success Coach

Nrupali Kulkarni, Data Manager

Terra Molengraff, Assistant Director of First-Generation Initiatives Gregory O. Thomas, Assistant Director and Success Coach

History of the Celebration

The Asian & Pacific Islander Graduation Celebration was first held in April 2018. The celebration is key in bringing together several communities, both made up of different ethnic and cultural identities and from across student-staff-faculty areas of the University of Michigan campus. The celebration brings together families and friends.

We, the University of Michigan Asian and Pacific Islander Student Committee, plan this annual celebration to honor students of Asian and Pacific Islander heritage here at the University of Michigan.

Graduation Celebration Mission

The Asian & Pacific Islander Graduation Celebration celebrates the commonalities and differences that characterize the experiences of Asian and Pacific Islander students, as well as other students at the University of Michigan and serves as an example of the University of Michigan's commitment to diversity.

The ceremony acknowledges the value and uniqueness of the Asian and Pacific Islander student experience and serves to commemorate the accomplishments of those students that participate in the celebration. The celebration recognizes faculty and staff who provide academic enrichments, research opportunities, programs, and activities that promote the communal striving and sense of accountability that help students to achieve.

The Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives (OAMI), in partnership with the Asian & Pacific Islander Graduation Celebration Planning Committee, institutes this annual celebration as an expression and tradition of valuing the University's cultural offerings and commitment to diversity.

Statement of Freedom of Speech and Artistic Expression

The University of Michigan strives to create an open form in which diverse opinions can be expressed and heard. Members of the University community, speakers, artists, and other invited guests have a right to express their views and opinions, and the University will protect that right. The University also supports the rights of those with differing views to express their opinions. In the interest of protecting these rights for all, University representatives may warn anyone unduly interfering with a speaker of performer's freedom of expression, and if the warnings are not heeded, may remove those individuals from the building. The policy extends and affirms University policies set forth by our Civil Liberties Board in our Student Handbook; and in the U-M Standard Practice Guide; Regents Ordinance Article XII, Section 1; and state statutes.

Statement of Affirmative Action

The University of Michigan, as an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer, complies with all applicable federal and state laws regarding nondiscrimination and affirmative action, including Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The University of Michigan is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination and equal opportunity for all persons regardless of race, sex*, color, religion, creed, national origin or ancestry, age, marital status, sexual orientation, disability, or Vietnam-era veteran status in employment, educational programs and activities, and admissions. Inquiries or complaints may be addressed to the Senior Director for Institutional Equity and Title IX/Section 504 Coordinator, Office for Institutional Equity, 2072 Administrative Services Building, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109-1432, 734-763-0235, TTY 734-647-1388. For other University of Michigan information call 734-764-1817.

University of Michigan Board of Regents

Santa J. Ono, ex officio, President Jordan B. Acker, Huntington Woods Michael J. Behm, Grand Blanc Mark J. Bernstein, Ann Arbor Paul W. Brown, Ann Arbor Sarah Hubbard, Okemos Denise llitch, Bingham Farms, chair Ron Weiser, Ann Arbor Katherine E. White, Ann Arbor



OFFICE OF ACADEMIC MULTICULTURAL INITIATIVES

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN













These symbols represent the cultural graduation ceremonies that are coordinated annually through the Office of Academic and Multicultural Initiatives (OAMI).

Top left to right:

Black Celebratory, Native American Graduation, La Celebracion Latina

Bottom left to right:

Middle Eastern & North African Celebration, First Generation Graduation, Asian & Pacific Islander Graduation

oami.umich.edu

