

13 June 2019 UCLA Doctoral Hooding Ceremony Keynote

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Welcome, everyone, to the Centennial Year Doctoral Hooding Ceremony! This year, 616 students will earn their doctorates from UCLA. Congratulations!

To the graduates: On behalf of the UCLA faculty, I want to express our boundless delight and pride in all you have accomplished at our great university.

As teachers: you've inspired your students.

As scholars, you've forged new paths,
and pushed back the frontiers of knowledge,

And in the process, you have brought distinction to yourselves, and to UCLA.

To the many friends and family members: Welcome! We are so happy that you are here to celebrate the culmination of your student's graduate career: the conferral of the doctoral degree. Congratulations to all of you!

Let's take this opportunity to thank the many people who have given our graduates their love and support: the parents, the partners and spouses, the siblings and children, the grandparents, cousins and aunts, and the dear friends. And also --- the teachers and mentors – like those who are sitting behind me, beaming with pride.

Their support has taken many forms: financial, emotional, time, and personal sacrifice.... May I ask all of those who are being hooded today to please stand, turn and look to someone who is here for you today, and say "thank you." Let's all give them a round of applause.

Thank you. Please be seated.

UCLA doctoral degree recipients have engaged in extraordinary scholarship, made pioneering discoveries, and created work of great aesthetic value. You have heard from two of today's graduates, Angela and Raja. Through their leadership and research, they are already having a positive impact on our communities.

This Centennial Hooding Ceremony is special because it marks the beginning of UCLA's second century. Today is also special because we will award the first doctoral degrees to individuals who participated in the University of California partnership with Historically Black Colleges and Universities, AND... we will award UCLA's first doctoral degrees in Chicano and Chicana Studies. Congratulations to all of these pioneering scholars!

The first UCLA doctoral degree was awarded in 1938, and nearly 35,000 doctoral degrees have been awarded in UCLA's first century. Many of these alumni have achieved great distinction, even becoming household names that will be familiar to many of you. Here are just a few:

- Bruce Merrifield, who earned his PhD 1949, and Richard Heck, who earned his PhD in 1954, *both* were awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry
- Paul Terasaki, who graduated in 1956, made discoveries that have revolutionized organ transplantation. A UCLA building bears his name.
- Charles E. Young earned his PhD in Political Science in 1960, and went on to become the longest serving Chancellor at UCLA.
- Elinor Ostin earned her PhD in 1965 and was awarded the Nobel Prize in Economics.
- Edwin Krupp, also known just as Ed, has been the Director of the Griffith Observatory for 45 years. He earned his PhD at UCLA in 1972.

- Henry Samueli earned his PhD in Electrical Engineering from UCLA in 1980. A co-founder of Broadcom and the owner of the Anaheim Ducks, Samueli has made transformative gifts to UCLA. The School of Engineering bears his name.
- Etel Solinger, a 1987 doctoral alumna, is President of the International Studies Association. Her seminal work focuses on international peace and security.
- Mayam Bialik is known not only as an actor but as a PhD neuroscientist (her doctorate was awarded in 2007) and a philanthropist.
- And 2015 PhD alumna Jessica Watkins is now an astronaut candidate.

These accomplished individuals, as scientists, teachers, businessmen, administrators and artists, are inspiring examples of what doctoral education at UCLA makes possible.

Each of the more than 300 graduates who will be hooded today combines just such promise and potential, talent and tenacity, accomplishments and aspirations. Their work is creative, innovative, and meaningful to our communities. It's safe to say that the world *needs* our graduates' insights, discoveries and commitment to solving the problems facing humankind today. What these graduates do next will shape our lives for years to come.

Graduates: I speak for all of us on the stage in saying that it has been a privilege to have gotten to know you and help you reach this milestone. You have powered through plateaus and barriers, persevered, and have met and often exceeded our expectations. And now, here you are. Well done!

Our hearts are filled with joy and pride in your accomplishments, and with hope and best wishes as you continue on your journeys. We can't wait to see what you do next. Congratulations from the entire UCLA community to the Centennial Class of 2019. Let there be light, and Go Bruins!