

PEPPERDINE | SEAVER COLLEGE

LOOQUI

“when words come to fruition”

May 20, 2021

**CELEBRATION OF DIVERSITY AND
INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE**



A CELEBRATION OF DIVERSITY AND INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE

Loqui brings us together in a spirit of unity through diversity. A Christian university, Pepperdine roots its educational mission as a diverse learning community in the animating work of a triune God, whose perfect unity in diversity brings to us life abundant with meaning and significance.


By celebrating today, we recognize that multiple cultures shape the educational community we share as lifelong learners. When considering the signature themes of the institutional mission—purpose, service, and leadership—we pause to acknowledge the University's commitment to diversity and inclusion as part of our Christian witness. We honor our graduates and the distinct cultures that shape the Pepperdine experience and deepen our collective sense of belonging.

Loqui: "when words come to fruition." In Latin, ***loqui*** (lo-kwee) means "to speak." Each graduating senior represents the reality that words come to life when we live them. As we celebrate today, we are mindful of the life-giving power of God's own word: the hopes, values, and dreams our families have entrusted to us; the new ways of thinking and encouragement that faculty and staff members have shared; and the solidarity that comes through the lifelong relationships we have formed. Today in recognizing our graduates, we honor the words that made this day possible. Congratulations!

DISTINCTION IN DIVERSITY AND INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT

REBECCA Y. KIM is the Frank R. Seaver Chair in Social Science, a professor of sociology, and the director of the Ethnic Studies Program at Pepperdine University. She received her PhD in sociology from the University of California, Los Angeles, and has been teaching at Seaver College since 2003.

Kim's scholarship focuses on immigration, race, and religion. She is the author of several books, including *The Spirit Moves West: Korean Missionaries in America*. She recently served as a co-investigator for the Religious Leadership and Diversity Project, a nationwide study on faith, race, and leadership within multiethnic congregations, and is currently researching the diversification of the campus Christian landscape as part of the Landscape Study of Chaplaincy and Campus Ministry in the United States. Kim is also investigating how the scientific study of the changing dynamics of religious belief and participation in North America can help inform the practical ministry efforts of Christian organizations in connection with the Sustainable Faith Project and will also be participating in a Project on Lived Theology: "Race, Memory, Justice, and Reconciliation in Church-Related Colleges and Universities (2021–2023)," an initiative funded by the Lilly Endowment.





INVOCATION

Eric L. Wilson, Preaching Minister, University Church of Christ

WELCOME

Jim Gash, President

MUSICAL PERFORMANCE: "ALONE"

Miaomiao Gao, Integrated Marketing Communication

PRESENTATION OF DISTINCTION IN DIVERSITY AND
INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE AWARD

Rick R. Marrs, Provost

AWARD RECIPIENT

Rebecca Y. Kim, Frank R. Seaver Chair in Social Science,
Director of Ethnic Studies Program, and Professor of Sociology

REFLECTIONS

Natalia Escobedo, Theatre Arts

Amani McCaleb, Political Science and Sociology

POETRY: "FAIR"

Mary Buffaloe, Creative Writing

PRESENTATION OF BOWERS, DAVIS, AND TODD AWARDS FOR
LEADERSHIP IN DIVERSITY AND INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE

Michael E. Feltner, Dean of Seaver College

TRIBUTE TO RECIPIENTS

Faculty, Staff, and Students

AWARD RECIPIENTS

Sierra Bell, Psychology | **Juan Carlos Hugues**, Psychology and Religion

DANCE PERFORMANCE: PSALM 23

Erinn Heffes, International Studies Management

BENEDICTION

Justin Chai, Integrated Marketing Communication

Amy Zelaya, International Studies

RECESSIONAL: SENIOR SLIDESHOW






BOWERS, DAVIS, AND TODD AWARD FOR LEADERSHIP IN DIVERSITY AND INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE RECIPIENTS

SIERRA MONET BELL spent her early years in Cincinnati, Ohio, and moved to Pasadena, California, in the middle of fourth grade. Though Sierra spent her high school years living in Toronto, Montreal, New York, and Chicago, Los Angeles is the place she considers home. As a result of being exposed to the diversity of so many cities and being born into a large, multicultural family, Sierra's understanding of difference and her ability to bridge relationships between others in spite of them is heightened. After earning associate's degrees in psychology and human and behavioral sciences, IMDb credit as a writer and director, experience as a model for *Vogue Italia*, and a license from the TED organization, Sierra transferred to Seaver College in the fall of 2019. In her time at Pepperdine, Sierra has served as codirector of the Student Government Association's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Council, a delegate for the University's Model United Nations team, a peer-facilitator with the Body Project, a transfer mentor, and a Club Convocation leader. Now, as Sierra approaches the completion of her psychology degree at Pepperdine, she works as an intern for the International Rescue Committee, the world's largest refugee resettlement agency. Upon graduation, Sierra will pursue a law degree to further develop her commitment to human rights and international relations. She hopes that one day you'll recognize her as one of the country's top diplomats at the United Nations.

JUAN CARLOS HUGUES was born in David, Panamá, and at the age of five, he moved with his family to Spartanburg, South Carolina. Juan Carlos chose to attend Pepperdine University because of its faith heritage, academic excellence, and the Swiss French International Program. During his four years, Juan Carlos has been a part of the Latinx Student Association and the First-Gen Club, and served as president of Crossroads Gender and Sexuality Alliance. In connection with the latter, Juan Carlos created initiatives to raise money for HIV/AIDS research in Los Angeles, as well as held student-led dialogues on the intersectionality of queerness, race, and ethnicity. He has also been a part of the Waves Debate team, and as chair of the On-Campus Debate Program, Juan Carlos helped organize "Creating a World Without Bullying," a collaboration between Pepperdine and PACER's National Anti-Bullying Prevention Center chapter in Los Angeles. Most recently Juan Carlos served as a member of President Gash's Presidential Action Advisory Team to devise ways to promote equity, diversity, and inclusion at Pepperdine. With his bachelor's degrees in psychology and religion and French minor, Juan Carlos plans to study abroad and investigate ways to help make the LGBTQ+ community feel more loved and included in society through a ThinkSwiss Research Scholarship.





STUDENT PARTICIPANTS

ANNAH ANGUZZA	CYBELE JUNG
JUAN BARAJAS	SPENCER KEENE
JUSTUS BELL	IBUKUN LAGBENRO
SIERRA BELL	PAMELA LIM
KIMBERLY BROOKING	SHUYUE LUO
MARY BUFFALOE	MCKENZIE MAZEN
JUSTIN CHAI	AMANI McCALLEB
BLANCA CONTRERAS	TAYLOR MCSPADDEN
AMANDA CORNISH	KARLI MUELLER
AMARA CRAIG	OOREOLUWA OKEDIJI
UMEESHA DALWIS	KONNOR-ASHLEY RANDLETT
REBECCA DE COSMIS	NATALIA RAWJEE
MARISA DRAGOS	ALYSSA RILEY
JOSIAS ESCOBAR	HANNAH ROUSE
NATALIA ESCOBEDO	REBECCA SCHUBERT
AMANDA ESTORES	ANDREW SEGOVIA
WEI FANG	YI SUN
MIAOMIAO GAO	DESTINY TAYLOR
CINDY GUO	KARINA VALENZUELA
SAMUEL HE	JOSH VASQUEZ
ERINN HEFFES	KAYLA WASHINGTON
CHRISTOPHER HIDALGO	AMARA WEST
RACHEL HOGAN	BRIANNA WILLIS
HOPE HORN	ALI WINIESDORFFER
DANIELLE HOWARD	LOGAN WOOD
NATHAN HUANG	DEREK WU
JUAN CARLOS HUGUES	AMY ZELAYA
CHRISTOPHER JENKINS	CHENG ZHENG





GRATITUDE

Jim Gash, President
Rick R. Marrs, Provost
Michael E. Feltner, Dean of
Seaver College
Connie B. Horton, Vice President
for Student Affairs
Rebecca Campos, Director of
Intercultural Affairs
Shelly Cox, Administrative
Coordinator for Intercultural Affairs
and Spiritual Life
Rebecca Y. Kim, Frank R. Seaver
Chair in Social Science and
Professor of Sociology
Kelle L. Marshall, Associate
Professor of French Studies
Tomas E. Martinez, Professor
of Psychology
Danielle Minke, Campus
Programs Coordinator
Stacy Montgomery, Associate
Dean for Student Affairs
Steve V. Rouse, Professor
of Psychology
Brittany Skinner, Director
of Student Activities
Sharon Wakio, Assistant
Director of Residence Life for
International Students

Eric L. Wilson, Preaching Minister,
University Church of Christ
Sierra Bell, Graduating Senior
Mary Buffaloe, Graduating Senior
Justin Chai, Graduating Senior
Natalia Escobedo,
Graduating Senior
Miaomiao Gao, Graduating Senior
Erinn Heffes, Graduating Senior
Juan Carlos Hugues,
Graduating Senior
Amani McCaleb, Graduating Senior
Amy Zelaya, Graduating Senior
Marcia Orellana, Third-Year Student
Kenzi Bishara, Second-Year Student
Lisa Smith Wengler Center
for the Arts
Alumni Relations
Integrated Marketing
Communications
Printing Services