WELCOME
Melissa Wood Bartholomew
Associate Dean of Diversity, Inclusion, & Belonging
Harvard Divinity School

INVOCATION OF QUEER ANCESTORS
Members of HDS Queer Rites

KEYNOTE
Porsha Olayiwola
Boston Poet Laureate

STUDENT ADDRESS
Harry Chiu, JD '22

PRESENTATION OF THE EVELYNN HAMMONDS AWARD FOR EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE TO BGLTQ+ INCLUSION
presented by James Gethyn Evans, AM '20, AM '22 & Malinda McPherson, PhD '22

RECOGNITION OF HARVARD CLASS OF 2022 GRADUATES

READING OF NAMES
Claire Geruson, SHARE Clinician
Office for Gender Equity
Olivia Sevey, Education Project Manager
Office for Gender Equity
PRESENTATION OF STOLES
Mohan Boodram
Dean for Admissions and Financial Aid
Graduate Schools of Arts and Sciences

Sam Bersola
Dean of Students
Graduate Schools of Arts and Sciences

Sheila Thomas
Dean for Academic Programs and Diversity
Graduate Schools of Arts and Sciences

CLOSING REMARKS
Sherri Ann Charleston
Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer
Harvard University
HARVARD UNIVERSITY

LAVENDER GRADUATION CEREMONY

TUESDAY MAY, 24 2022

SPEAKERS

Porsha Olayiwola is a native of Chicago who writes, lives and loves in Boston. Olayiwola is a writer, performer, educator and curator who uses afro-futurism and surrealism to examine historical and current issues in the Black, woman, and queer diasporas. She is an Individual World Poetry Slam Champion and the founder of the Roxbury Poetry Festival. Olayiwola is Brown University’s 2019 Heimark Artist -In -Residence as well as the 2021 Artist-in-Residence at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. She is a 2020 poet laureate fellow with the Academy of American poets. Olayiwola earned her MFA in poetry from Emerson College and is the author of i shimmer sometimes, too. Olayiwola is the current poet laureate for the city of Boston. Her work can be found in or forthcoming from with TriQuarterly Magazine, Black Warrior Review, The Boston Globe, Essence Magazine, Redivider, The Academy of American Poets, Netflix, Wildness Press, The Museum of Fine Arts and elsewhere.

Harry (he/him) is a graduating HLS student and the child of Hong Kong immigrants from Vancouver, Canada. He was an English teacher in Japan before law school and cares deeply about education, LGBTQ+ rights, peer mentorship, and strategic communications for progressive causes. Harry will begin a two-year fellowship in education policy at the Southern Poverty Law Center and the Southern Education Foundation in Atlanta this September.
Sherri Ann Charleston serves as the first Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer (CDIO) at Harvard University. She is one of the nation’s leading experts in diversity and higher education, and assumed her role in August 2020.

Dr. Charleston is a historian trained in U.S. history with a focus on race, women, gender, citizenship, and the law, and an attorney with a specialization in constitutional and employment law. Most recently, she served as the Assistant Vice Provost for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and Chief Affirmative Action Officer at the University of Wisconsin (UW)-Madison. She was responsible for evaluating progress toward the goals of a campus-wide strategic diversity plan. During her leadership, she also oversaw the Office of Employee Disability Resources and undergraduate scholarship programs focused on recruiting and retaining students from historically underrepresented communities.

As an academician and administrator, she has expertise in affirmative action, Title IX, and Americans with Disability Act enforcement and compliance. Her focus is on translating diversity and inclusion research into practice for students, staff, researchers, postdoctoral fellows and faculty of color. She also held faculty affiliations with the Departments of Gender and Women’s Studies, teaching courses on women, inequality, and policy analysis at UW-Madison. In 2019, Diverse Issues in Higher Education magazine named her one of the “Top 35 Women in Higher Education.”

Dr. Charleston received a B.A. from Columbia University in history and African American studies, a M.A. and Ph.D. in history from the University of Michigan, and J.D. from the University of Wisconsin Law School.
Melissa Wood Bartholomew (she/her), MDiv ’15, is the Associate Dean of Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging at Harvard Divinity School. She is a Christ-centered minister and a racial justice and healing practitioner committed to a multifaith, multidisciplinary, Afrocentric approach to healing justice rooted in the African philosophy of Ubuntu, restorative justice, and love.

Melissa’s passion for racial and social justice was cultivated at Howard University where she received her undergraduate and law degrees. She is an attorney with nearly a decade’s experience in public interest law. Through her experiences in Seattle practicing law as an Assistant Attorney General, as a legal aid attorney with the Northwest Justice Project, and working as a mediator in King County Superior Court, it became clear to Melissa that the law could not facilitate the heart changes required to eradicate racism and oppression from individuals and systems. Her call to ministry led her to pursue her MDiv at HDS. Melissa is earnestly committed to eradicating racism and oppression and advancing healing and societal transformation through spiritually-engaged, heart-centered multifaith and multidisciplinary strategies rooted in love. She is a restorative justice practitioner and has studied restorative justice in Rwanda, transformational leadership in Ghana, and has published various articles exploring racial justice and healing. Melissa received her MSW from Boston College where she received her PhD in social work. Her research interests include the impact of racism, incarceration, and other systems of oppression on the mental health of Black people and the role of religion and spirituality in their resistance. She serves as part-time faculty at Boston College where she teaches restorative justice at the School of Law and has taught diversity in the School of Social Work.
MEMBERS OF THE CLASS OF 2022

DANIEL AKIKIE
Master of Liberal Arts in Extension Studies • Harvard Extension School

Recognition of Friends, Supporters, & Family, Chosen or Given
Thank you to my parents and my amazing partner Franck! All your love and support has led us here! Love you all! Bisous

MARTHA AMAYA
Master in Public Policy • Harvard Kennedy School of Government

OSWALDO AMBROSIO
Bachelor of Arts • Harvard College

JOHN ANDERSON
Master's in Education • Harvard Graduate School of Education

Notes of Gratitude, Words of Inspiration
“There will not be a magic day when we wake up and it’s now okay to express ourselves publicly. We make that day by doing things publicly until it’s simply the way things are.”
United State Senator Tammy Baldwin

Recognition of Friends, Supporters, & Family, Chosen or Given
To my friends, both new and old, and family: thank you, thank you, thank you for always encouraging me to be brave, stay open, and embrace my authentic self. Finishing a graduate program would not have been possible without my wonderfully supportive community. I am forever grateful for your constant support and love.

HENRY ASHWORTH
Doctor of Medicine • Harvard Medical School

ALEX AZEVEDO
Master of Public Health • Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health

Notes of Gratitude, Words of Inspiration
“We need, in every community, a group of angelic troublemakers.” Bayard Rustin

GERAUD BABLON
Master in Urban Planning & Master in Public Policy • Harvard Graduate School of Design & Harvard Kennedy School

Recognition of Friends, Supporters, & Family, Chosen or Given
With gratitude to the mentors who have shown me where I could go - Neil, Sai, Dayna, Ron, Terry - and love to the village of friends who make me whole - Anthony, Arielle, Ben, Coco, Dana, Elizabeth, Sage, Zoe, and so many more. Geoffroy and Maëlys for holding my hand, and my parents and grandparents for giving all of this to me. The world has put such gems in my path.
MEMBERS OF THE CLASS OF 2022

STEPHEN BARBER
Master's in Education • Harvard Graduate School of Education

JOSHUA BEDNORZ
Master's in Education • Harvard Graduate School of Education

MORGAN BENSON
Master in Public Policy • Harvard Kennedy School of Government

Notes of Gratitude, Words of Inspiration
Abolition. Feminism. Now.

Recognition of Friends, Supporters, & Family, Chosen or Given
You are always in my heart.

DANIELA BETANCOURT
Bachelor of Arts • Harvard College

Notes of Gratitude, Words of Inspiration
¡Amor es amor!

DARREN BIGGART
Master's in Education • Harvard Graduate School of Education

Notes of Gratitude, Words of Inspiration
"This is for you, The ones who know how powerful we are, who know we can sound the music in the people around us simply by playing our own strings." (Andrea Gibson)

“The war of an artist with his society is a lover's war, and he does, at his best, what lovers do, which is to reveal the beloved to himself and, with that revelation, to make freedom real.” James Baldwin

Recognition of Friends, Supporters, & Family, Chosen or Given
Thank you, mom and dad, for loving me unconditionally. Thank you, Darby, for supporting and celebrating me fully. Thank you Jeanine, for seeing me better that I see myself. Thank you to my friends - queer folks and allies - for welcoming my expansiveness and exploration, and for bolstering my curiosity and joy... and for pretending that you think my wordplay is funny.

MADELINE BRANCEL
Master's in Education • Harvard Graduate School of Education

Notes of Gratitude, Words of Inspiration
Veritaaaas, queen! We did it!

Recognition of Friends, Supporters, & Family, Chosen or Given
Thank you, Alex, for being the wind beneath my wings, and to both of our families for your beautiful love, support, and humor.
MEMBERS OF THE CLASS OF 2022

NICK BRENNER
Master in Public Administration • Harvard Kennedy School of Government

Recognition of Friends, Supporters, & Family, Chosen or Given
Thank you Mom, Dad, and Jameson for your unending, unconditional love and support from the beginning. Alex, thank you for helping me put things in perspective, appreciate my time in school, and for keeping me sane and happy over the past 2+ years. And thank you to my classmates and friends from home and college who have encouraged me every step of the way.

MERIDA BRIMHALL
Master of Public Health • Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health

ZOE BULGER
Master in Public Policy • Harvard Kennedy School of Government

RACHEL CASPER
Juris Doctor • Harvard Law School

WILMER CHAVARRIA
Master's in Education • Harvard Graduate School of Education

Recognition of Friends, Supporters, & Family, Chosen or Given
I dedicate this milestone to my students from the Espanola Valley and Readsboro, my mother, Petronila Gonzalez, my brothers and sisters, and my husband Cyrus Dudgeon.

ABRAHAM CHELOFF
Doctor of Medicine • Harvard Medical School

NANCY CHEN
Master's in Education • Harvard Graduate School of Education

TANAT CHINBUNCHORN
Master of Public Health • Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health

Notes of Gratitude, Words of Inspiration
“If you believe you can do. You can do it” My Mom

Recognition of Friends, Supporters, & Family, Chosen or Given
Shoutout to my mom, dad and my brother who have supported me throughout the journey. I could not have been here without your love and support

MARGARITA CHIQUIZA
Master of Business Administration • Harvard Business School

HARRY CHIU
Juris Doctor • Harvard Law School
MEMBERS OF THE CLASS OF 2022

PETER CHOI
Master of Bioethics • Harvard Medical School

EDWARD CLIFF
Master of Public Health • Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health

*Notes of Gratitude, Words of Inspiration*
David France's "How to Survive a Plague" articulates so well the heart-wrenching journey of HIV/AIDS: “Plague! We are in the middle of a plague! And you behave like this! Plague! 40 million infected people is a plague! Until we get our acts together, all of us, we are as good as dead.” Larry Kramer

*Recognition of Friends, Supporters, & Family, Chosen or Given*
Thanks to my beloved parents, brother and friends for their support.

TURNER COOPER
Master's in Education • Harvard Graduate School of Education

PEDRO COSTA CUNHA
Master of Public Health • Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health

*Notes of Gratitude, Words of Inspiration*
Pride: a feeling of deep pleasure or satisfaction derived from one's own value and honor. A feeling of self-respect, self-love.

*Recognition of Friends, Supporters, & Family, Chosen or Given*
I couldn't have done this without the love and support from my parents, family, and friend. I am truly blessed and lucky to have you on my side on this journey. And I will be forever thankful. I love you.

CELINE CUADRA
Bachelor of Arts • Harvard College

CHRISTIAN CUELLAR
Master in Public Administration in International Development • Harvard Kennedy School of Government

*Notes of Gratitude, Words of Inspiration*
The most gratifying elements from Harvard are intangible: the shared experience, the personal growth, and the meaningful relationships.

*Recognition of Friends, Supporters, & Family, Chosen or Given*
I was blessed to have two moms teaching me the values that rule my day-to-day actions. Thanks for sharing your infinite love with me.

DAVY DENG
Master of Science • Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health
MEMBERS OF THE CLASS OF 2022

JULIA DESMAR AIS
Master's in Education • Harvard Graduate School of Education

Notes of Gratitude, Words of Inspiration
So grateful for the family, friends, students, colleagues, teachers, and peers who have been (and continue to be) part of my journey and who have let me be a part of theirs. My heart is full of love.

JONATHAN DE WOLFF
Master in Public Administration • Harvard Kennedy School of Government

COURTNEY DOUGHERTY
Juris Doctor • Harvard Law School

KATIE DUDZIK
Master of Divinity • Harvard Divinity School

SAM ELGHANAYAN
Master in Public Administration in International Development • Harvard Kennedy School of Government

VICTORIA ENNIS
Master's in Education • Harvard Graduate School of Education

Notes of Gratitude, Words of Inspiration
The happy you is always the real you

PHILIP FAHN-LAI
Doctor of Philosophy • Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

AJ FARIS
Master of Theological Studies • Harvard Divinity School

Notes of Gratitude, Words of Inspiration
"i kneel into a dream where i am good & loved. i am good. i am loved. my hands have made some good mistakes. they can always make better ones." Natalie Wee, "Least of All," Our Bodies & Other Fine Machines

Recognition of Friends, Supporters, & Family, Chosen or Given
I would not have made it here without the love and support of my friends and family and although they cannot be here, I'm holding them with me as I celebrate today.

DARIEN FIORINO
Master's in Education • Harvard Graduate School of Education

JARED FOX
Master's in Education • Harvard Graduate School of Education
MEMBERS OF THE CLASS OF 2022

SARAH FRANDSEN
Master in Public Administration • Harvard Kennedy School of Government

ALEXANDER FURLEIGH
Master of Business Administration • Harvard Business School

JAMES GARAVITO
Bachelor of Arts • Harvard College

DIEGO GARCIA BLUM
Master in Public Policy • Harvard Kennedy School of Government

EDGAR GARCIA SAIZ
Doctor of Medicine • Harvard Medical School

SAM R.M. GAUNT
Master of Liberal Arts in Extension Studies • Harvard Extension School

MEGAN GIANNINY
Master of Liberal Arts in Extension Studies • Harvard Extension School

Eli Glen Godwin
Master of Public Health • Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health

Notes of Gratitude, Words of Inspiration
I'd rather learn from one bird how to sing than teach ten thousand stars how not to dance
e.e. cummings

Recognition of Friends, Supporters, & Family, Chosen or Given
Thank you to:
...the Women, Gender, and Health concentration at HSPH for creating a community of intellectual and social support for people of all genders.
...Drs. Sabra Katz-Wise and Brittany Charlton for giving a mid-life career changer a chance and sharing your knowledge so generously!
...my family and friends for all your support these past few years!

RAYMOND GONZALES
Master's in Education • Harvard Graduate School of Education

Recognition of Friends, Supporters, & Family, Chosen or Given
I would like to thank my husband who has been there for me through all of my endeavors!
NAKUL GROVER
Master's in Education • Harvard Graduate School of Education

Notes of Gratitude, Words of Inspiration
“I hold this to be the highest task of a bond between two people: that each should stand guard over the solitude of the other.” Rainer Maria Rilke

Recognition of Friends, Supporters, & Family, Chosen or Given
To my friends who stood by me, thank you. I couldn’t have done it without you. To my loving family, for loving and respecting me unconditionally. To those who came before me to allow me to stand with pride today.

CLAYTON HACKNEY
Juris Doctor • Harvard Law School

RYAN HERMAN
Master's in Education • Harvard Graduate School of Education

ALYSSA HERNANDEZ
Doctor of Philosophy • Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

Notes of Gratitude, Words of Inspiration
Favorite Quote: "For small creatures such as we, the vastness is bearable only through love" Carl Sagan

Recognition of Friends, Supporters, & Family, Chosen or Given
To my family, friends, and wife Victoria...thank you so much for supporting me always. I could not have done this without all of you.

MASON HILL
Master's in Education • Harvard Graduate School of Education

ANTOINE PO-HAN HO
Master of Public Health • Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health

Notes of Gratitude, Words of Inspiration
"Everyone you meet is fighting a battle you know nothing about. Be kind. Always." Brad Meltzer

Recognition of Friends, Supporters, & Family, Chosen or Given
I would like to thank my parents, and all my friends from Taiwan and over the world, who have supported me along this challenging journey: Barbara Wei, Sheng-Wei Chang, Meng Meng Xu, Apoorva Gomber, Naya Mohan, Ana Lucia Rosado, Sarah Tsay, Ada Hsieh, David Wu, Cythia Kachmar, Sakol Rattanasekson, Yu-Hsuan Lin, Fang-Ying Wang, and Chia-Hua Lin

To my beloved cousin Shang-Yen Lee who passed away during my stay in Boston, we love you and will miss you forever.

INGA HOLMDAHL
Doctor of Philosophy • Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
MEMBERS OF THE CLASS OF 2022

CODY HOOKS
Master of Divinity • Harvard Divinity School

Notes of Gratitude, Words of Inspiration
I’ve come to HDS and the shores of the Northeast from the desert of New Mexico, a fabulous and sometimes harrowing trek into the work of dreams and divination. I’m offering my deepest blessings for all of y’alls journeys. May we remember Octavia Butler’s guidance that “All that you touch, you Change. All that you Change, Changes you” and that, truly, “Kindness eases Change.”

Recognition of Friends, Supporters, & Family, Chosen or Given
I am grateful for the web of beings and chosen family who’ve held me up along this path, especially my beloved, Andrew, and our partner, Michelle, as well as our cats, Yoda and Scully. I am thankful for my teachers and elders. All my gratitude for the kinships here at HDS and among an older circle of friends. And I offer my deepest thanks to the queer ancestors who are with me “with us” always.

JACOB HUNTER
Master’s in Education • Harvard Graduate School of Education

NADIA ISSA
Master of Theological Studies • Harvard Divinity School

Notes of Gratitude, Words of Inspiration
Modupué to the spirits that all brought us here in our sacred Queerness! We did it!

Recognition of Friends, Supporters, & Family, Chosen or Given
Modupué ("thank you" in Yoruba) Egún ("ancestors" in Yoruba), Mi Cuadro Espiritual, Orishas, Lwas, mi Ilé (Ilé Yemayá), Dara Bayer for your Kinship/Siblinghood, Chris Tinson, John Murillo, Roosbelinda Cárdenas, Deborah Goffe, Amy Jordan, and Dasha Chapman, Dr. Jacob K. Olupona, Dr. Teren Sevea, Dr. Mayra Rivera, Dr. Todne Thomas, Modupué my Mother and Sister!

JEREMY JICK
Master in Public Policy • Harvard Kennedy School of Government

JOHN JOANINO
Master in Public Policy • Harvard Kennedy School of Government

Notes of Gratitude, Words of Inspiration
“My mission in life is not merely to survive, but to thrive; and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humor, and some style.” Maya Angelou
May our queer identities be a source of strength in our continued fight for freedom. May we use our education in service of liberation and justice. It is a privilege to have been on this Harvard journey with you all.

Recognition of Friends, Supporters, & Family, Chosen or Given
I am forever grateful to the village that encouraged me to dream big and follow my heart. Thank you to my family, especially my mother and sister, for their unconditional love every step of the way. Thank you to my friends for helping me step into my power. Lastly, thank you to my father in heaven, for teaching me that the sky is the limit. I love you all!
**MEMBERS OF THE CLASS OF 2022**

**SHILPA JOSHI**  
Master in Public Administration • Harvard Kennedy School of Government

*Notes of Gratitude, Words of Inspiration*  
"Being queer saved my life. Often we see queerness as deprivation. But when I look at my life, I saw that queerness demanded an alternative innovation from me. I had to make alternative routes; it made me curious; it made me ask, ‘Is this enough for me?’"  
Ocean Vuong

*Recognition of Friends, Supporters, & Family, Chosen or Given*  
thank you naike. i love you every day in every way.  
aai and baba, thank you for your unending love and support.

**CHALISA KAEWLA**  
Master's in Education • Harvard Graduate School of Education

*Notes of Gratitude, Words of Inspiration*  
Harvard's high, low, ebb and flow, are all my rainbow.

*Recognition of Friends, Supporters, & Family, Chosen or Given*  
I would like to thank and celebrate my achievement with:  
Kaewla Family- for all the endless love, trust, and motivation  
Life mentor, Pearl-for being inspirational and always igniting my potential  
My best friend Pat and GSSE friends- for emotional recoveries and being the best listeners.  
HGSE Professors, friends, and my partner, Glenda- for the joy, laughters, and tears during our HGSE days.

**SAMANTHA KAHN**  
Master in Public Policy • Harvard Kennedy School of Government

*Notes of Gratitude, Words of Inspiration*  
I never could have done this without Alaina and Jibby who have supported me in my queer journey from the beginning. And immense gratitude to our queer family at school - all have made it all worth it.

**DYLAN KAHN**  
Master's in Education • Harvard Graduate School of Education

*Recognition of Friends, Supporters, & Family, Chosen or Given*  
I am indebted to my loving family and friends. Thank you to those who came before me and made this kind of celebration possible.

**LANE KANTOR**  
Master of Public Health • Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health

**BERNARD KOH**  
Master's in Education • Harvard Graduate School of Education

*Notes of Gratitude, Words of Inspiration*  
“One is always nearer by not keeping still.” Thom Gunn, ‘On the Move’
MEMBERS OF THE CLASS OF 2022

LUBA LE
Master's in Education • Harvard Graduate School of Education

Notes of Gratitude, Words of Inspiration
This ceremony is my way of coming out to my community. As a Vietnamese who grew up in Russia, I didn't want to come out as a pansexual, afraid to be rejected, bullied, or come off as performative. Now, working with youth in the U.S. and Vietnam, I want them to know - it's ok to be queer. I'm here and I'm with you.

Recognition of Friends, Supporters, & Family, Chosen or Given
Thank you to my family and friends who believed in me and affirmed me even when I was spending whole days snacking and binging TV. Most importantly, thank you to my partner who held me patiently through this crazy year.

NIA LEWIS
Master's in Education • Harvard Graduate School of Education

LAURA LIN
Master of Public Health • Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health

ANDREW LOH
Master in Public Administration • Harvard Kennedy School of Government

DIANA MARIN
Master of Divinity • Harvard Divinity School

PETER MCLAUGHLIN
Master of Liberal Arts in Extension Studies • Harvard Extension School

ANDREINA MESALLES
Master in Public Administration • Harvard Kennedy School of Government

GONZALO JOSE MONGE MORALES
Master of Laws • Harvard Law School

Notes of Gratitude, Words of Inspiration
“Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, 'Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous?' Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God. Your playing small does not serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you. We are all meant to shine, as children do. We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It's not just in some of us; it's in everyone. And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others.” Marianne Williamson, A Return to Love: Reflections on the Principles of "A Course in Miracles".

Recognition of Friends, Supporters, & Family, Chosen or Given
Thanks to my parents, friends, professors, and everyone who made this possible! It is a dream come true. Many thanks to my dear friend Felipe Marotta for being an amazing person, ally, and source of inspiration. Also thanks to Professors Bonauto and Chen for inspiring and challenging lessons.
MEMBERS OF THE CLASS OF 2022

SARA MUENCH
Master's in Education • Harvard Graduate School of Education

HILDA NALWANGA
Master's in Education • Harvard Graduate School of Education

JARITZA NÚÑEZ
Master's in Education • Harvard Graduate School of Education

Notes of Gratitude, Words of Inspiration
We did it!

Recognition of Friends, Supporters, & Family, Chosen or Given
Cuando me vean volar, recuerden que ustedes me pintaron las alas. Para mi familia, que todo es por ustedes. <3

FELIPE NAPOLITANO MAROTTA
Master of Laws • Harvard Law School

Notes of Gratitude, Words of Inspiration
I know being queer is sometimes hard, but by being true to yourself, one day you get tired of counting your blessings.

Recognition of Friends, Supporters, & Family, Chosen or Given
Gonzalito, you have been a great friend and one of the most pleasant surprises Harvard gave me! Also shout out to Victoria, Diego and Cosmo, you are living proof that JDs and LLMs can indeed become friends. Keep on being so brilliant! Lastly, I am so proud that my family and I have come to terms, loving each other like never before.

MAURO MORABITO
Master in Public Administration • Harvard Kennedy School of Government

NAM NGUYEN
Master's in Education • Harvard Graduate School of Education

Notes of Gratitude, Words of Inspiration
"Love isn't a state of perfect caring. It is an active noun like struggle. To love someone is to strive to accept that person exactly the way they (he or she) are (is), right here and now."
Mister Rogers

Recognition of Friends, Supporters, & Family, Chosen or Given
Thank you, mom (Nguyễn Thị Từ) the bravest woman I know, for your unconditional love

ARMANDO OLEA ROMERO
Master's in Education • Harvard Graduate School of Education
Notes of Gratitude, Words of Inspiration
As a first-gen queer student of color, I know this university was not built for me, but I carry my parents' dreams everywhere I go. Walking the stage at Harvard is one of those dreams. I send you loving and healing energy to others who couldn't have their parents present today for whatever reasons. Much love! May queer and trans folx be protected at all times!

Recognition of Friends, Supporters, & Family, Chosen or Given
Thank you to my partner, Britt Bass, who loved me, supported me, and cared for me during this year. Your love and support meant the world and I cannot wait to spend more quality together to celebrate ourselves. I love you. #MOBProductions

Mary's in Education • Harvard Graduate School of Education

JULIA PAOLILLO

KIMBERLY PARRA-GUERRERO

Master's in Education • Harvard Graduate School of Education

GLENDA PEREZ

Master's in Education • Harvard Graduate School of Education

Notes of Gratitude, Words of Inspiration
“No pride for some of us without liberation for all of us.” Marsha P. Johnson

Recognition of Friends, Supporters, & Family, Chosen or Given
Thank you to my mom and dad - Glenys and Benedicto, my siblings Glenvelis and Benedikt, and my partner Chali for being my support system through grad school. I'm so grateful to the friends I've made at HGSE and hope to continue the connections into the future!

MARY PEREZ

Master of Divinity • Harvard Divinity School

Notes of Gratitude, Words of Inspiration
I am so grateful for all my queer pals at HDS, both students and staff. Thank you friends for loving me in all my me-ness. I will hold you in my heart forever!

MICHELLE POULIN

Master in Public Policy • Harvard Kennedy School of Government

Recognition of Friends, Supporters, & Family, Chosen or Given
Thank you to my parents, Jen and Carol! Your support has meant everything!
MEMBERS OF THE CLASS OF 2022

MICHAEL RADY
Master's in Education • Harvard Graduate School of Education

Notes of Gratitude, Words of Inspiration
"When you remember who you are, it's like you have a group of people behind you all the time." Racheli Yaso-Ngatu

Recognition of Friends, Supporters, & Family, Chosen or Given
Thank you to my HGSE queer family for all the Gutman rooftop lunches - a solid laugh with a side of tea always lifted me up between classes. Thank you Mom, Dad, and Sam, for supporting my 30+ year long journey, including my decision to go back to school. Lastly, thank you Andrew, for making sure I didn’t stay up too late working and for understanding when I lost my engagement ring at Club Cafe.

AMINA RAHIMI
Master's in Education • Harvard Graduate School of Education

SHANKAR RAVI
Master's in Education • Harvard Graduate School of Education

JULIA REIMANN
Master of Divinity • Harvard Divinity School

Notes of Gratitude, Words of Inspiration
Fellow HDS queers, congratulations and thank you all for your love and support in these three years of becoming together! I am so grateful to have been a part of such a loving, vibrant, beautiful community in this moment of life and am so honored to know you and receive your love. I love you! We did it! <3

Recognition of Friends, Supporters, & Family, Chosen or Given
Mary, Margaret, Kate, Katie, Eva, Diana, Cody, and family, thank you for loving me into being. <3

CHRISTOFER RODELO
Doctor of Philosophy • Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

Notes of Gratitude, Words of Inspiration
"Not bad for a girl with no talent"- Kim Kardashian

Recognition of Friends, Supporters, & Family, Chosen or Given
Thank you to my fiancé, friends, family, and mentors for their support of my graduate education!
WARNER SANTIAGO
Master's in Education • Harvard Graduate School of Education

Notes of Gratitude, Words of Inspiration
"Los jóvenes tienes el deber de defender su patria con las armas del conocimiento." - Pedro Albizu Campos

Recognition of Friends, Supporters, & Family, Chosen or Given
Gracias a mi amada familia por su apoyo incondicional, porque sin ustedes nada de esto hubiera sido posible. Abuela Nancy y Abuelo Juan, esto va por ustedes! Su lucha incansable por llevarnos a realizar nuestros sueños nunca ha sido ni será en vano.

A Pedro, gracias por ser mi roca, mi fuente de amor y de apoyo.

Los amo a todos con locura infinita!

LINDSAY SANWALD
Master of Divinity • Harvard Divinity School

Notes of Gratitude, Words of Inspiration
“Some people go to priests; others to poetry; I to my friends, I to my own heart, I to seek among phrases and fragments something unbroken” ‘The Waves' by Virginia Woolf

Recognition of Friends, Supporters, & Family, Chosen or Given
Deep gratitude to the Elements and Gut Friends -- my found and forged families who continue to nourish me in all my glorious Queer ways.

MINI SAXENA
Master of Laws • Harvard Law School

Notes of Gratitude, Words of Inspiration
Let your choices be dictated by love, not fear.

Recognition of Friends, Supporters, & Family, Chosen or Given
My parents, for always supporting me, even when they disapproved of my choices. My chosen family of partners and friends for showering me with more love, strength, and warmth than I imagined possible: Aaron, Asha, Charitha, Aarushi, Jeevan, Josh, Raghav, Siddharth, and Samith. It has been a difficult year. There is no way I would be where I am after this year without their constant support.

JONATHAN SCHNEIDERMAN
Master of Public Health • Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health
MEMBERS OF THE CLASS OF 2022

GAREN SCRIBNER
Mid-Career Master of Public Administration • Harvard Kennedy School of Government

Notes of Gratitude, Words of Inspiration
"Everybody say love!" RuPaul Charles

Recognition of Friends, Supporters, & Family, Chosen or Given
Thank you to my sunshine, Geoffrey, for his unwavering support and love through this journey we've taken together. Thank you to the rest of my beautiful family - Justin, Ben, Diane, Dean, and Holly whom have supported and encouraged me endlessly - I love you!

I stand on the shoulders of so many brilliant LGBTQ+ mentors, most of whom I never met because of the AIDS pandemic. This is for them and with them.

EVA SELIGMAN
Master of Divinity • Harvard Divinity School

FRANCESCO SERGI
Master of Public Health • Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health

Notes of Gratitude, Words of Inspiration
“Please try to remember that what they believe, as well as what they do and cause you to endure, does not testify to your inferiority, but to their inhumanity.” James Baldwin

Recognition of Friends, Supporters, & Family, Chosen or Given
Congratulations to my fellow LGBTQ friends/graduates, thank you for making this year at Harvard so full of joy and love! To my loved ones, thank you for your unending support.

NEMO SHI
Master's in Education • Harvard Graduate School of Education

KACEY SHORT
Master in Public Administration • Harvard Kennedy School of Government

Notes of Gratitude, Words of Inspiration
Toni Morrison told her students, “When you get these jobs that you have been so brilliantly trained for, just remember that your real job is that if you are free, you need to free somebody else. If you have some power, then your job is to empower somebody else.” This is what inspires me every day.

Recognition of Friends, Supporters, & Family, Chosen or Given
Thank you to my amazing spouse, William, and my magical queer family from HKS: Garen, Shilpa, Mauro, Harsh, Leandro, Justin, Francisco, and everyone else (I’m sure I missed a few)
MEMBERS OF THE CLASS OF 2022

DANIEL STEFANUS
Master of Business Administration • Harvard Business School

Notes of Gratitude, Words of Inspiration
"We need, in every community, a group of angelic troublemakers." Bayard Rustin

Recognition of Friends, Supporters, & Family, Chosen or Given
I want to thank my parents, Janice and Steve, for supporting and loving me through it all

LÖRE STEVENS
Master of Divinity • Harvard Divinity School

Notes of Gratitude, Words of Inspiration
Don't get stuck in comfortable homonormativity. Always side with those still yearning to be free.

Recognition of Friends, Supporters, & Family, Chosen or Given
I am grateful to my family and Alpha Gamma Delta sorority for accepting me when I came out as bi 11 years ago. Joy for the Unitarian Universalists, who always side with love. Blessings all over my HDS classmates for your friendship and camaraderie!

JARVIS SUBIA
Master's in Education • Harvard Graduate School of Education

Notes of Gratitude, Words of Inspiration
won't you celebrate with me / what i have shaped into / a kind of life? i had no model. / born in Babylon / both nonwhite and woman / what did i see to be / except myself? / i made it up / here on this bridge between / starshine and clay, / my one hand holding tight / my other hand; come celebrate / with me that everyday / something has tried to kill me / and has failed. - Lucile Clifton

Recognition of Friends, Supporters, & Family, Chosen or Given
Thank you to my family, my friends made here, and who carried me from afar, thank you to my queer community for striving together. I would not have made it here without the many shoulders I stand on.

MAYZE TEITLER
Juris Doctor • Harvard Law School

NICHOLAS TIMMINS
Master's in Education • Harvard Graduate School of Education

MICHAEL ANGEL VAZQUEZ
Master of Arts • Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
BRIAN VENTURA  
Master of Business Administration • Harvard Business School  

*Notes of Gratitude, Words of Inspiration*  
“Not today, Satan. Not today.” Bianca del Rio  

*Recognition of Friends, Supporters, & Family, Chosen or Given*  
Thank you to my family “biological, chosen, and by (upcoming) marriage” for the support and encouragement. Thank you to my fiancé Chris Rodelo GSAS ’22 for his support as well; in the words of Elle Woods, we did it.

HEATHER WAKEFIELD  
Master of Divinity • Harvard Divinity School  

*Notes of Gratitude, Words of Inspiration*  
“Be yourself; everyone else is already taken.” Oscar Wilde  

*Recognition of Friends, Supporters, & Family, Chosen or Given*  
I have been blessed to know many wonderful people at HDS. I am grateful to you all.

AUSTIN WARD  
Master in Public Administration • Harvard Kennedy School of Government

ARIANNA WILLIAMS  
Master's in Education • Harvard Graduate School of Education

SARAH WILLIAMS-HABIBI  
Master's in Education • Harvard Graduate School of Education  

*Notes of Gratitude, Words of Inspiration*  
This year I have learned that - To be vulnerable is to be courageous. To need is to be human. To love is to be  

*Recognition of Friends, Supporters, & Family, Chosen or Given*  
Thank you to Allison, Saeid & Cameron. Grandma & Gramps, my HGSE moms, and everyone I have met this year. Thank you to Dr. Fox-Robichaud, to Kate Brown, to Deewa, to Simon, to Heidi P, to 109 Longwood, to Dani, and to Gretchen. You inspire me every day to show up, to feel and to change. Thank you.

DAK WILLIS  
Master's in Education • Harvard Graduate School of Education  

*Recognition of Friends, Supporters, & Family, Chosen or Given*  
I'm grateful for the opportunity to present myself authentically, but am even more appreciative for the community of colleagues and faculty have have worked hard to respect, protect, and support my holistic self. My gratitude extends to the community of CPAR researchers I worked with this year and to my loving partner who has supported me and created a safe space for me to be my true self.
MEMBERS OF THE CLASS OF 2022

JUSTIN WITWICKI
Mid-Career Master of Public Administration • Harvard Kennedy School of Government

NICK WROBLESKI
Master of Theological Studies • Harvard Divinity School

Notes of Gratitude, Words of Inspiration
“We are more alike, my friends, than we are unalike” Maya Angelou

Recognition of Friends, Supporters, & Family, Chosen or Given
Mom - I will never have a better supporter than you
Caitlin – I’m so glad we’re gay and fun after all these years

MIRAH XU
Master in Design Studies • Harvard Graduate School of Design

AFRODITI XYDI
Master of Business Administration • Harvard Business School

ANDY YU
Master of Liberal Arts in Extension Studies • Harvard Extension School

Notes of Gratitude, Words of Inspiration
I want to recognize everyone's resiliency to get to where they are today, and to celebrate each and every accomplishment we have made, big and little.

Recognition of Friends, Supporters, & Family, Chosen or Given
I want to thank my partner, Liam, who was beyond supportive throughout my time here at Harvard. We celebrated the highest of highs and overcame the lowest of lows.

KARIM ZEIN
Master of Laws • Harvard Law School

Notes of Gratitude, Words of Inspiration
I am very grateful to Harvard Law School for the extensive teaching it provided me on LGBTQIA+ rights. If I have learned one thing at HLS, it is that our silences will never protect us: if you want a change, go be the troublemaker it takes to be to make it happen for you and your community.

Recognition of Friends, Supporters, & Family, Chosen or Given
I want to thank my better half, Alban, for his constant emotional and psychological support throughout the year! Although 5 528 km away, my experience at HLS would not have been the same without him.
MIKE ZHANG
Master's in Education • Harvard Graduate School of Education

Notes of Gratitude, Words of Inspiration
"Let time be patient and let pain be gracious." Adele

Recognition of Friends, Supporters, & Family, Chosen or Given
I would like to thank my family for always supporting me throughout my education journey. I will not be here without your love. Today, I am proudly graduating from Harvard and will be heading to California to continue chasing after my dreams. Cheers!
Love,
Mikey

SAM ZURN
Master's in Education • Harvard Graduate School of Education

Notes of Gratitude, Words of Inspiration
"And you too have come into the world to do this, to go easy, to be filled with light, and to shine."
-from Mary Oliver's "When I Am Among the Trees"

Recognition of Friends, Supporters, & Family, Chosen or Given
Marty, Tom, and Kylie, your unconditional love from the beginning continues to shape how I move through the world. Andrew, your love, thoughtfulness, and shoulder rubs keep me steady. To my queer HGSE classmates: the Gutman lunches, drag nights, and Mount Rushmore convos will stay fondly in my heart. <3
HARVARD UNIVERSITY
LAVENDER GRADUATION CEREMONY
TUESDAY MAY, 24 2022

THANKS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Harvard University Office for Equity, Diversity, Inclusion & Belonging

Harvard Divinity School

Harvard University Commencement Office

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Sam Bersola
Sheila Thomas

And a very special thank you to the Hingham Pride Project for their donation of flags