



PRESS RELEASE

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253 earn degrees at University of Guam graduation

The University of Guam conferred degrees to 253 students today at its Fanuchånan 2019 Commencement Ceremony held at the UOG Calvo Field House. Crossing the stage were 176 undergraduate and 77 graduate students. The number of master's degrees conferred is 30% higher than last year.

The largest number of graduates came from the School of Business and Public Administration, which conferred 102 undergraduate and graduate degrees. The business school and the School of Education graduated the most master's students, conferring 33 degrees each.

Biology major Natasha D. Hagans was named the class valedictorian, and Annmarie T. Muña, general manager for AM Insurance and a 1983 UOG alumna majoring in management and business administration, delivered the commencement address.

Quotes from the ceremony:

“You don't have to know what you want to do after you graduate. I thought I knew what I wanted to do when I first started college, and now I am ending in a very different direction. ... No matter where life takes us after we leave here today, I just wanted to say that I am proud of each and every one of you and have no doubt that you will all go on to do amazing things.” — *Valedictorian Natasha D. Hagans*

“If there's one thing that I strived to master throughout the years, it's to build and maintain lasting relationships — because people matter. ... Whenever I'm doing

anything, I try to make friends along the way and look for any opportunities to network wherever I can.” — *Annmarie T. Muña, commencement speaker*

“I learned very early on that no matter what job you’re going to do ... you’re going to have to be willing to do the hard work. You need to show up, even if you don’t want to. You’re going to have to stay late. ... You have to do all the tasks assigned to you.” — *Annmarie T. Muña, commencement speaker*

“It feels surreal. When I was a freshman, I didn’t think I would make it this far, and I’m so excited to see what’s in store for me in the future.” — *Isabella A. Alvia, Bachelor of Arts in journalism and mass media studies*

“The best part about my UOG experience was growing my network of peers. It’s a great way to meet people from all walks of life and the people who will be prominent figures in the future. It’s a great way to grow your network now so you can improve yourself and your community.” — *Christian Punzalan, Bachelor of Business Administration in marketing*

Photos and video

The ceremony was streamed live and is viewable on UOG’s Facebook page. Photos from the ceremony, including portraits of each graduate, will also be available for download this week at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/uogtritons/albums>.

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Attached:

- Commencement booklet
- Biography of Commencement Speaker Annmarie Muña
- Photos with captions below



UOG 1: (From left) President Thomas W. Krise; Anmarie T Muña, commencement speaker; Natasha D. Hagans, valedictorian; Senior Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs Anita Borja Enriquez; and Lee S. Yudin, dean of the College of Natural and Applied Sciences.



UOG 2: President Thomas W. Krise gives opening remarks at the University of Guam commencement ceremony on Dec. 22.



UOG 3: Natasha D. Hagans, valedictorian of the Class of Fanuchânan 2019, addresses her fellow graduates at the commencement ceremony on Dec. 22.



UOG 4: Anmarie T. Muña delivers the UOG commencement address on Dec. 22 at the Calvo Field House.



UOG 5: (From left) UOG graduates Jun Chester DeAtley, Argee-Philip Ba Nabas, Keanu Mondina, and Ezzel Garcia.

Photos courtesy of the University of Guam