



President Thomas W. Krise Commencement Remarks

University of Guam
Fañomnåkan 2019 Commencement Ceremony
May 26, 2019 | Calvo Field House

Buenas yan Hafa Adai todos hamyu. Welcome to this happy celebration of achievement! Congratulations to the graduates of the Fañomnåken Semester 2019, and a warm welcome to your family and friends who helped you on your journey! We are also very honored to have as our Commencement Speaker, the Hon. Lou Leon Guerrero, I Maga'Hagan Guahan. It means a lot to all of us Tritons to be graced by your presence and your words of advice for our graduates.

As we celebrate the graduation of this class, we also honor and renew our commitment to University of Guam mission of **Ina—Deskubre—Setbe**—To Enlighten, To Discover, and To Serve. Our enlightenment begins with the more than 3000 years of CHamoru culture in this island of Guam and our other cultures of Micronesia, **and from** nearly 1000 years of European-style universities, **and from** nearly 500 years of welcoming people and cultures from the world over to this island, **and from** more than 100 years of being American, **and from** more than 65 years of this institution, where we teach and learn to discover new knowledge and share that with our communities, and where we practice how to serve others for the betterment of us all. Today's ceremony—with our academic gowns and formal processions—symbolizes your place in all of this history and calls on you to continue To Enlighten, To Discover, and To Serve.

Today is also a celebration of the hard work and dedication of the more than nine hundred employees of the University of Guam – the faculty, staff, administrators of UOG. As I have learned more and more about this great institution, I continue to be impressed by the love and care that our employees give to this University. Could I ask that all of our faculty, staff, and administrators of the University of Guam stand and be recognized? On behalf of all of the employees at UOG, I thank our graduates for learning with us, for challenging us to think in new and different ways, and for your commitment to making the world a better place for all of us and for those who come after us.

Most of you in the audience are here today to celebrate the achievement of a graduate who means a great deal to you. Many of you are uncles, aunts, brother, sisters, or close friends of a graduate. There is one very special group of guests, however, that

should be acknowledged this afternoon. The parents, guardians, and spouses of these graduates have provided encouragement at the most important times, praise when it is deserved, continuous love and support, and, occasionally, **money** when it was needed. If you are a parent, a guardian, or a spouse of one of today's graduates, please stand and let us thank you for supporting them.

Now, I would like to ask our graduates to reach out to family or friends who can't be with us today. Please take out your phones—I know most of you have them!—and take a selfie and send it to someone you're grateful to who can't be here today.

The 10th President of UOG, Dr. Robert Underwood, sends you all congratulations on your achievement today. He was honored to preside over most of your time as students here at UOG. I'd like to close my remarks today by quoting President Underwood's closing pledge from his final commencement as president last May:

He said,

“We have a CHamoru tradition to protect; we have a multicultural society to strengthen; we have a service to provide; we have patients to attend to; we have students to inspire; we have islands and sea to take care of; we have a business to build; we have families to love, and we will do all of these things in the spirit of fairness and social justice and ethical standards that speak to all of us not just as holders of degrees, but as educated Tritons ready to engage the world, ready to shape the future, holding the *Fisga* and always ready to say Biba UOG, Biba UOG.”