



School of
Theater, Film & Television

2021 GRADUATE CELEBRATION



GRADUATE CELEBRATION PROGRAM

Friday, June 11, 2021

CLASS OF 2021 DEPARTMENT OF THEATER MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

WHEN I GROW UP, FROM MATILDA THE MUSICAL

MUSIC AND LYRICS BY TIM MINCHIN

PERFORMED BY WALKER BRINSKELE, RIVA BABE BRODY, KIARAH DAVIS, TALIA GLOSTER, JOI MCCOY,
CAROLINE PERNICK, HANNAH ROSE, ABE SOANE

WELCOME AND RECOGNITION OF MARSHALS

BRIAN KITE

INTERIM DEAN, UCLA SCHOOL OF THEATER, FILM AND TELEVISION

2021 SPEECHES

GENE BLOCK

UCLA CHANCELLOR

STEVE ANDERSON

INTERIM CHAIR, DEPARTMENT OF FILM, TELEVISION AND DIGITAL MEDIA

DOMINIC TAYLOR

ACTING CHAIR, DEPARTMENT OF THEATER

DEMI RENEE KIRKBY

VALEDICTORIAN, DEPARTMENT OF THEATER

TIFFANY MARGARET ROWSE

VALEDICTORIAN, DEPARTMENT OF FILM, TELEVISION AND DIGITAL MEDIA

LATIN HONORS RECOGNITION

BRIAN KITE

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

NILO CRUZ

PULITZER PRIZE-WINNING PLAYWRIGHT

RECOGNITIONS

BRIAN KITE

CELEBRATION VIDEO

UCLA SCHOOL OF THEATER, FILM AND TELEVISION

PRESENTATION OF DEGREE CANDIDATES

BRIAN KITE

FINAL REMARKS

UCLA SCHOOL OF THEATER, FILM AND TELEVISION ACKNOWLEDGES THE GABRIELINO/TONGVA PEOPLES AS THE TRADITIONAL LAND CARETAKERS OF THE LOS ANGELES BASIN AND SOUTHERN CHANNEL ISLANDS. AS A LAND GRANT INSTITUTION, UCLA ALSO PAYS RESPECT TO TONGVA ANCESTORS, ELDERS AND RELATIVES - PAST, PRESENT AND EMERGING.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

MICHAEL V. DRAKE, M.D.



Congratulations, UCLA Class of 2021!

It is my honor to join your family, friends, and the entire University of California community in celebrating you and your wonderful accomplishment. Amid historically challenging circumstances across the globe, you have worked hard, persisted and persevered, in pursuit of your UC education.

I hope you will always take great pride in what you have achieved at the University of California, and in being a part of the UC family for life. This great university will always be a part of you, and UC will always be indelibly better for your time here as students.

UCLA alumnus and American hero Jackie Robinson once put it this way: “A life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives.” You leave UCLA with the knowledge, skills, and confidence you need to go out into the world and create your future – and to change our planet for the greater good of all.

Your graduation is a milestone reflecting your resilience, your strength, and limitless hope for the future. The world faces unprecedented challenges. You are the leaders who will help heal what is wounded and right what is wrong. As you embark on this journey, know that you are ready. We are behind you, cheering you on, and wishing for ease, joy, and fulfillment in the path ahead of you.

Go forth, Bruins, and make the world a better, brighter place. Fiat lux – let there be light!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael V. Drake, M.D." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

MICHAEL V. DRAKE, M.D.
P r e s i d e n t

LETTER FROM THE CHANCELLOR

GENE D. BLOCK



Congratulations, Class of 2021!

Graduation is the culmination of many years of determination, diligence and hard work. I hope you are proud of all that you have accomplished, and that your time at UCLA has broadened your horizons, deepened your relationships, strengthened your skills and helped you grow as people.

I also encourage you to take time to honor those who helped you on your journey and have been rooting for you from the start — your family, friends, mentors and peers.

You are entering an era that needs your creativity, brilliance and passion. This pandemic has taught us important lessons about vulnerability and inequality, but also about service, empathy and community. As we recover from the pandemic, you are well-equipped to contribute to the creation of a more prepared, more resilient and more just society.

At UCLA we affirm values of compassion and inclusion, careful research and thoughtful analysis, innovation and collaboration. Those are the very virtues that will serve you as you make your way through this challenging moment and beyond.

This UCLA community you have been a part of, the community you helped create, and the broader alumni community you are now joining will be with you always. May they give you strength and inspiration.

Congratulations once again. We can't wait to see where you'll go from here.

Fiat lux.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gene D. Block". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line underneath the name.

GENE D. BLOCK

C h a n c e l l o r

LETTER FROM THE DEAN

BRIAN KITE



Dear Class of 2021,

Congratulations on your incredible UCLA TFT journey!

This has been an extraordinary year through which you have demonstrated creativity, flexibility and resilience. You and your peers are quite remarkable. You got it done. You are a UCLA graduate.

Though your current time at UCLA may be coming to a close, I hope that you will stay connected to each other and to us as Alumni. You will always be a Bruin! You have walked the halls of Macgowan and Melnitz, you have rehearsed your scenes by the benches, you have backed a truck up to the equipment loading zone, you have navigated your way through Melvyl and you've eaten Grapes with Egg at the once thriving Stage Canteen.

But it turns out that was just a beginning; the first act of your screenplay. Many adventures lie ahead. Go out into this challenging world and be bold, do good, live with empathy and embrace kindness.

We have always been and will continue to be incredibly proud of you and your accomplishments — past, present and future. What's next? Everything. Go Bruins!

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Kite". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

BRIAN KITE
I n t e r i m D e a n

CHANCELLOR'S MARSHALS

Recognized for outstanding academic achievement and identified by the Blue and Gold Fourragere:

THEATER

JOSH CONCEPCION
DEMI RENEE KIRKBY
LIAM N. P. KUHN
EMMA ROSE LUKE
EVA ZAPATA

FILM, TELEVISION AND DIGITAL MEDIA

BUCK GODDARD
SARAH HAWBAKER
MOLLY MIELKE
CASEY PARTRIDGE
TIFFANY MARGARET ROWSE

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

THEATER

Degree Conferred

DANIELLE ALEXANDRA DAVIS HOWARD

Making Moves: The Performance of Black Bodies and the Function of Aesthetics in American Basketball

Degree Candidates

GUILLERMO AVILES-RODRIGUEZ

Moving Performances: Site-Based, Transit-Oriented Performance In and Through Chicana/o Spaces in Los Angeles and Beyond

CARLA ESTELLE NEUSS

Staging Mysteries: Transnational Medievalist Performance in the Twentieth Century

FILM, TELEVISION AND DIGITAL MEDIA

Degree Candidates

MICHAEL MURRAY REINHARD

The American Diva: Gender, Branding, and Celebrity in Cultural Industries, 1880-2020

MICHAEL STOCK

Always Crashing: Automobility and the Cinema

DANIEL AMSLER ZWEIFACH

Social Media Marquee: Marketing and Film

MASTER OF FINE ARTS

THEATER

Degrees Conferred

CYNTHIA SOPHIA ALVAREZ

JACOB LOUIS GARCIA

DAVID KEPNER

TAJI CAPRICE SENIOR

TIARA THOMPSON

JESSICA TOLTZIS

KENDALE WINBUSH

ZIHAN ZHAO

Degree Candidates

MARGARET ANNE COLVIN

BEIBEI HU

JUSTINE GA-YEE LAW

SALONI MAHAJAN

MADELINE EVAN MAHRER

KYLE JOSEPH MCCLOSKEY

DAYSHA VERONICA OMOREGIE EDEWI

ZHONGBO REN

KEREN ORIT ROSENTHAL

ELI JOSEPH SHERLOCK

HALEY BROOKE SILVER

MASTER OF FINE ARTS

FILM, TELEVISION AND DIGITAL MEDIA

Degrees Conferred

KATHLEEN ADAMS
HENA ASHRAF
DJ AZUL
OWEN BOULD CAMPBELL
CARLO COSIO
NISSRYNE RIFAA DIB
BOYOON HA
JUN HEE HAN
YUE HUANG
JESSICA LEE KLEARMAN
CONGYING LI
CHELSEA ELIZABETH LINDSAY
YASHNA MALHOTRA
SERGIO DAVID MARQUEZ HERNANDEZ
LOURDES STEPHANIE MERCADO
MURONG MI
HAILONG NIU
JACLYN PARKER
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ANDREW JAMES RIEGER
KATHERINE ROCHE
DUSTIN JOSEPH ROMERO
MARNIE DAWN SALVANI
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EMILY TRUESWELL
DASHA ALEXANDRA TSEMA
KARLA D. VARGAS GASTÉLUM
AIDAN WEST
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KIMBERLY ALEXIS ACOSTA
ELENA AKSENOVA
KRISTEN GIOVANNA ANGONESE
JERONIMO ARELLANO
ZACHARY JORDAN ARTHUR
OLIVIA CAROLYN BAGAN
ZAINAB OYINDAMOLA-IFE BAKARE
PAYTON NICOLE BERNHARDT
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GIULIA CARDAMONE
BEATRIZ CELANI DE MACEDO
ADAM HARTMAN DEIBERT
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MATTHEW DIAMANTE JENNINGS
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CAITLIN CHRISTINE WOLF
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DONALD DREW YOAKAM
YICHI ZHANG
JENNIFER FENGYING ZHAO

MASTER OF ARTS

FILM, TELEVISION AND DIGITAL MEDIA

Degrees Conferred

KYLIE MARIE HARRIS

ALISON LOURDES OSES

JUSTIN REED WILLIAMS

Degree Candidates

JADE IMANN ABSTON

NICHOLAUS EDUARDO GARCIA

ASHLEY LYNN HAWKINS

MICHAEL GIOVANNI MAZZACANE

ISABEL EPIFANA OCHOA-GOLD

LI-WEN WANG

BACHELOR OF ARTS

THEATER

Degrees Conferred

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| TATUM LYNN ANDERSON [^] | MARY ALEXANDRA DANIELS [^] |
| JAROD EDWARD ANGST [‡] | ELIZA E. DILLON |
| MERCEDES ELENA APONTE | STEFANI MARIE HESTER |
| CARL KNOX BALLANTINE | DEMI RENEE KIRKBY [§] |
| JAHANNA JANIECE BLUNT | SOPHIA ANANDA LANDECK |
| DANIELLE LYNN BONGIOVANNI | EBONY JORDAN PRIDDIE |
| ELIZABETH CAROL BOYD | OLIVIA LYNN ROBERTSON |
| BEATRICE CAITLIN BROWN | ISABELLA SABRINA URDIALES GUZMAN |
| CASEY MICHAEL CONVEY | |

§ SUMMA CUM LAUDE ‡ MAGNA CUM LAUDE ^ CUM LAUDE

Degree Candidates

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| MICHAEL AGHASARYAN* | LIAM N.P. KUHN |
| WALKER BRINSKELE | PAYTON KEO LACEBEL |
| RIVA BABE BRODY | EMMA ROSE LUKE |
| STEPHEN GEORGE BUSH | JOI DEAWNA MCCOY |
| MADISON KATHERINE CHMIELEWSKI* | ANDREW NABI |
| JOSH CONCEPCION* | ALISON PARK |
| KIARAH NICOLE DAVIS | CAROLINE JOSEPHINE PERNICK |
| FRANK PHILIP DEMMA | JOSHUA MATTHEW POON* |
| ISAAC JOHN EDEJER | HANNAH A. ROSE |
| GABRIEL SEAN ELISAVETSKY | CAMILA ROZO |
| AEMON BEAU EDWARDS FRAZER* | BENJAMIN GABRIEL SCHECTER |
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| ROSE KROL | EVA ZAPATA* |

*LATIN HONORS (SPRING OR SUMMER 2021 CANDIDATES WHOSE CURRENT GPA QUALIFIES THEM FOR LATIN HONORS. LEVEL OF LATIN HONORS IS DETERMINED BY FINAL GPA.)

BACHELOR OF ARTS

FILM, TELEVISION AND DIGITAL MEDIA

Degrees Conferred

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ASHA REYMA IRANI†

NICHOLAS MEDAVOY

§ SUMMA CUM LAUDE † MAGNA CUM LAUDE

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CHRISTIAN CUEVAS CARO*

JIMI BEAR GLEITSMAN*

BUCK GODDARD*

MATTHEW GONZALEZ*

MOLLY MIELKE*

EVAN JOHN MINICUCCI*

AUSTIN CHARLES NOLL

ADLYN OGUDE

CASEY PARTRIDGE*

ELISE ROSE REYES

TIFFANY MARGARET ROWSE*

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ASHER SINAIKO*

LESLIE SOTO*

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TAMI TEDESCO*

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LEADERSHIP

UCLA SCHOOL OF THEATER, FILM AND TELEVISION

BRIAN KITE, Interim Dean

SEAN METZGER, Associate Dean, Faculty and Students

ELLEN C. SCOTT, Associate Dean, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

SUSAN MARCANO, Assistant Dean, Chief Administrative Officer

FREDERICK E. A. BUSH, Assistant Dean, Development & Alumni Affairs

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Perry Daniel

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Tony Fanning

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Julia Flores

John Garofalo

Jill Gold

FACULTY 2020-21

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ACADEMIC COORDINATOR

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FACULTY 2020-21

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Eric Marin

Dan McDermott

Zachary Medow

Tracy Mercer

Howard Meyers

FACULTY 2020-21

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Vivian Sobchack
Howard Suber

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Mark McCarthy

ACADEMIC ADMINISTRATOR

Doug Ward

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Darren Star

Nadja Swarovski

Bruce Vaughn

Paula Wagner

Elizabeth Reiko Kubota Whitney

Deborah Widener

Richard Wolpert

PAST HONOREES

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKERS

| | |
|------|----------------------------|
| 1990 | June Wayne |
| 1991 | Bella Lewitzky |
| 1992 | Jack Valenti |
| 1993 | James Earl Jones |
| 1994 | Peter Guber |
| 1995 | Quincy Jones |
| 1996 | Debbie Allen |
| 1997 | Warren Littlefield |
| 1998 | John Frankenheimer |
| 1999 | Annette Bening |
| 2000 | Joe Roth |
| 2001 | Eva Marie Saint |
| 2002 | Martha Coolidge |
| 2003 | Terry Semel |
| 2004 | Sherry Lansing |
| 2005 | Fay Kanin |
| 2006 | George C. Wolfe |
| 2007 | Larry Gelbart |
| 2008 | Colin Callender |
| 2009 | Oliver Stone |
| 2010 | Peter Guber |
| 2011 | U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer |
| 2012 | Ron Meyer |
| 2013 | Cathy Schulman |
| 2014 | Jane Fonda |
| 2015 | Kevin Beggs |
| 2016 | Channing Dungey |
| 2017 | Ava DuVernay |
| 2018 | Carl Franklin |
| 2019 | Pierce Brosnan |

COMMENCEMENT DEDICATION

| | |
|------|---------------------|
| 2012 | Gilbert Cates |
| 2015 | Samuel Goldwyn, Jr. |

UCLA MEDAL

| | |
|------|------------------------|
| 1985 | Carol Burnett |
| 2009 | Haskell Wexler, A.S.C. |
| 2017 | Peter Guber |

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

| | |
|------|-----------------|
| 2017 | Nadja Swarovski |
|------|-----------------|

ALUMNI HONOREES

| | |
|------|-----------------------|
| 2000 | Army Archerd |
| 2001 | Louis J. Horvitz |
| 2003 | Moctesuma Esparza |
| 2004 | Gregory Nava |
| 2005 | Geoffrey Gilmore |
| 2007 | Gene Reynolds |
| 2008 | Fred Roos |
| 2009 | Ellen Geer |
| 2010 | Felicia D. Henderson |
| 2010 | John Rando |
| 2011 | Charles Burnett |
| 2011 | Mariska Hargitay |
| 2012 | Shirley Jo Finney |
| 2012 | Penelope Spheeris |
| 2013 | Dustin Lance Black |
| 2013 | Kristin Hanggi |
| 2014 | Wendy C. Goldberg |
| 2014 | Darren Star |
| 2015 | Donna Deitch |
| 2015 | Sarabeth Grossman |
| 2016 | Robert L. Friedman |
| 2016 | Gina Prince-Bythewood |
| 2017 | Justin Lin |
| 2017 | Michael Stuhlbarg |
| 2018 | Judy Kaye |
| 2018 | Allison Anders |
| 2019 | Julie Dash |
| 2019 | George Takei |
| 2020 | Patricia Cardoso |

CHANCELLOR'S MEDAL

| | |
|------|----------------------|
| 1993 | James Earl Jones |
| 1994 | Francis Ford Coppola |
| 1995 | Quincy Jones |
| 1996 | Neil Simon |
| 1998 | Edie Wasserman |
| 2002 | Kirk Douglas |
| 2005 | Sir Anthony Hopkins |
| 2006 | Samuel Goldwyn, Jr. |

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

2021 GRADUATE CELEBRATION

CELEBRATION PRODUCERS

Dean Dacumos, Crystal Santana

ANNOUNCER

Jeff Wachtel

AUDIO SUPERVISOR

JPS

STAFF VOLUNTEERS

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Ana Gonzalez

Rosa Graziano

Catherine Hernandez-Shibata

Noela Hueso

Amanda Kibiloski

Barrett Korerat

Cheri A. Smith

Camille Tsalik

Christina Vacchiano

Natalie Xavier

Miebaka Opuiyo-Yohannes

SPECIAL THANKS

Academic Personnel

Business Office

Dean's Office

Department of Film, Television and Digital Media

Department of Theater

Information Technology

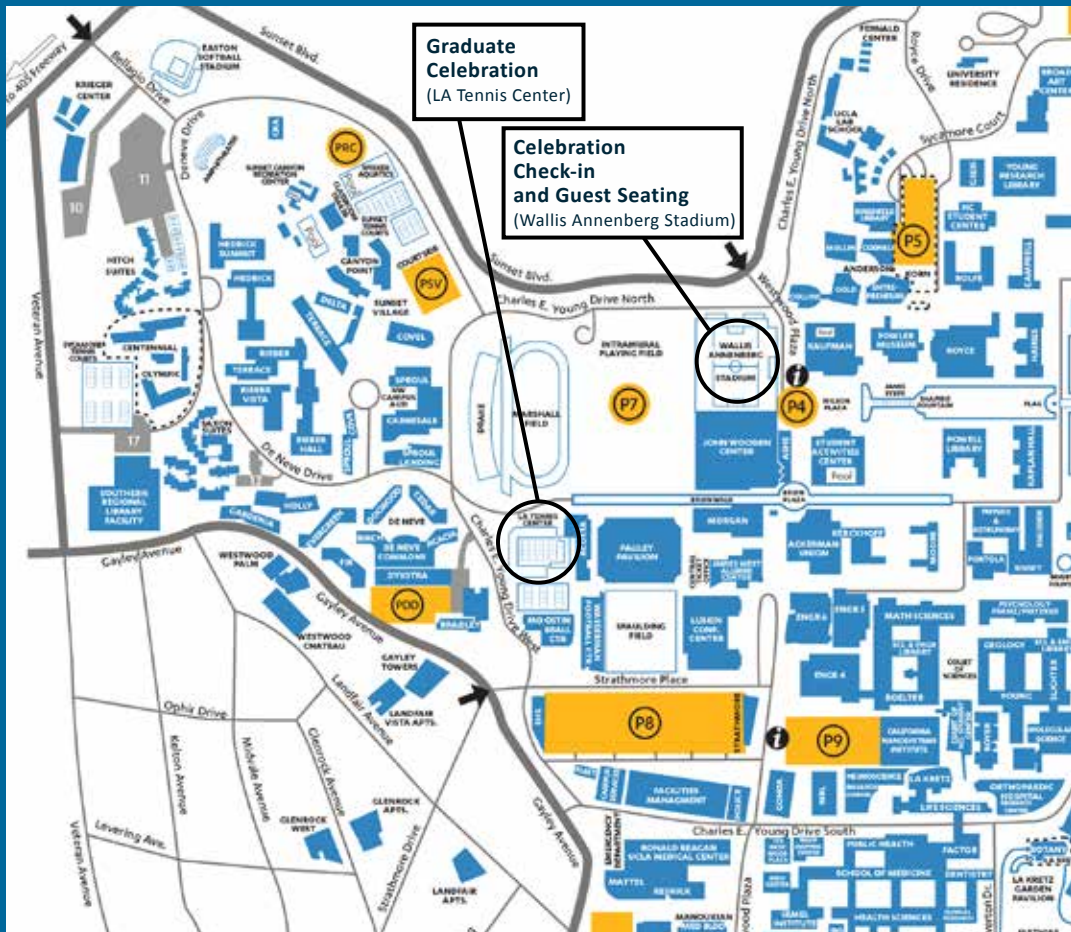
Marketing and Communications

Office of Development & Alumni Affairs

Office of Special Events & Protocol

Production Management

Student Services



“Hail to the hills of Westwood
 to the mighty sea below;
 Hail to our alma mater,
 she will conquer every foe.
 For we’re loyal to the Southland,
 her honor we’ll uphold,
 We’ll gladly give our hearts to thee,
 to the Blue and to the Gold.”

– Jeane Emerson '29

WELCOME NEW UCLA TFT ALUMNI!

FRIDAY, JUNE 11, 2021

Welcome to the UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television (UCLA TFT) alumni family! I am so excited to have you join the thousands of alumni who have come before you; I truly hope that you keep us updated with what you are working on — and we'd love to continue to have you come back to a variety of programs and events, as well as take advantage of UCLA TFT alumni resources. Be sure to connect with us to get the most out of being a part of our alumni community:

- Email us at alumni@tft.ucla.edu with your current non-university email address so we can send you our UCLA TFT newsletter.
- Join our UCLA TFT alumni network on Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/TFTAlumniAffairs
- Sign up for UCLA ONE, www.uclaone.com, our interactive, online gateway for alumni-to-alumni mentorship, professional networking, peer-driven career advice and exclusive job leads.

Your graduation marks the start of your next great adventure! Keep in touch because we want to hear all about your accomplishments in the days, months and years ahead. Congratulations!

FREDERICK E. A. BUSH

Assistant Dean, Development & Alumni Affairs



The logo features the word "UCLA" in white, bold, sans-serif font, centered within a solid blue rectangular box. The background of the entire page is a pattern of thin, parallel blue lines that create a sense of depth and movement, with the lines being more densely packed on the left and right sides and more widely spaced in the center.

UCLA

School of

Theater, Film & Television