Otieno Okatch, ’92  
President and CEO, PALS Inc.

Otieno Okatch is the founder and President of Per Ankh Life Skills, Inc., also known as PALS. The son of a Kenyan immigrant father and an American mother, Okatch grew up in Ventura County and attended Santa Clara High School in Oxnard before matriculating at UC Santa Barbara.

PALS, Inc. is a leading Southern California provider of therapeutic day services for adults with intellectual disabilities who have a history of trauma. For over 20 years, PALS’ specialty has been providing support for people who have challenges in daily living due to severe behavioral deficits or excesses.

After graduating from UCSB in 1992, Okatch served as a graduate intern for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in Nairobi, Kenya. He went on to obtain an M.A. in African area studies with a concentration in public health from UCLA, and an M.A. in clinical psychology from Pepperdine University.

Okatch founded Per Ankh Life Skills, Inc. to reflect his own philosophy and approach to behavioral consultation. The expression “Per Ankh” is from the ancient Egyptian language and translates as a “place of instruction” for life skills. The agency’s motto is “Behavior change begins with a SMILE!,” which reflects their commitment to beginning any intervention with a proactive, positive thrust.

Okatch remains proudly connected to UCSB through the Mable Lola Brown Fuller Endowment in Black Studies at UCSB, which Okatch created to emphasize the importance of increasing positives in the restoration of the traditional greatness of African culture.

This special day and ceremony celebrate a major achievement in your life.

The warm thoughts and good wishes of the faculty, the administration, and your many friends at UC Santa Barbara go with you as you pursue graduate or professional schooling, or your chosen career field.

All of us are confident that your time here has instilled within you the knowledge, skills and confidence to enrich the world around you, and that your future will be as challenging and fulfilling as your years at UC Santa Barbara. We hope that your involvement with your campus is only just beginning, as you now join a network of over 241,000 UC Santa Barbara alumni.
PROCESSION
The audience is requested to stand while the procession is entering.

Chloe Brooks, Standard Bearer
B.A. in Sociology

Susannah Scott, University Marshal
Divisional Chair, Academic Senate

PRESIDING
Charles R. Hale
SAGE Sara Miller McCune Dean of Social Sciences

Michael Miller
Dean and Associate Vice Chancellor of Undergraduate Education

NATIONAL ANTHEM
Maximiliano Jimenez
B.A. in Political Science

DEAN’S WELCOME
Dean Hale

GREETINGS
Henry T. Yang
Chancellor

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS
Otieno Okatch, ’92
President and CEO, PALS Inc.

STUDENT ADDRESS
Sarah Christine Burke
B.A. in Sociology

GRADUATE STAGE CROSSING

CONFERRING OF DEGREES
Chancellor Yang
University Marshal Scott

UNIVERSITY SONG
Maximiliano Jimenez

Hail to California

Hail to California, Alma Mater dear,
Sing the joyful chorus,
Sound it far and near,
Rallying ’round her banner,
We will never fail—
California, Alma Mater,
Hail! Hail! Hail!

RECESSION

Carillon Music from Storke Tower

Wesley Arai
University Carillonist

Displayed today are the flags of the United States, California, and the 34 countries in which the university offers international opportunities.

This event will be photographed and recorded.

#UCSB2023