The Baccalaureate Ceremony of the Class of 2023
Saturday, May 20, 2023

The flowers on the podium honor the friends and loved ones who have died during this time at Tufts.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

As we join together today,
we recognize that the land
on which the Tufts community has lived and learned for over 170 years
is on the traditional, unceded lands of the Massachusetts tribe.
We acknowledge with gratitude that the Massachusetts tribe and the Aquinnah and Mashpee Wampanoag peoples still steward this beautiful land.
We acknowledge in sorrow the countless injustices yet to be repaired.
We acknowledge in solidarity that they live today by their own strength and traditions.
*Processional

BACCALAUREATE JAZZ QUARTET
Nico Daglio Fine, A24, Drums
Matthew Gomez, A24, Bass
Jonah Kreitner, A25, Violin
William Randall, E25, Piano

SENIOR CLASS BANNER BEARERS
Isadore Lobin, A23
Faizah Wulandana, E23

THE CLASS OF 2023

THE SENIOR BACCALAUREATE LEADERS
Jason Evers, A23
Nitya Nadgir, A23
Micah Thode, A23

THE WENDELL PHILLIPS SPEAKER
Isabelle Charles, A23

FACULTY AND STAFF GREETERS
Led by David Proctor, Senior Lecturer, Department of History

THE PLATFORM PARTY
Najiba Akbar, Muslim Chaplain
Preea Banerjee, Hindu Chaplain
Daniel Bell, Protestant Chaplain
Naftali Brawer, Jewish Chaplain and Executive Director, Tufts Hillel
Anthony Cruz Pantojas, Humanist Chaplain
Lynn Cooper, Catholic Chaplain and Associate Director,
   University Chaplaincy
Dayna Cunningham, Dean of Jonathan M. Tisch College of Civic Life
Schri Fultineer, Dean of the School of the Museum of Fine Arts
Caroline Genco, Provost and Senior Vice President ad interim
James Glaser, Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences
Jess Keiser, Chair of the Committee on Student Life and Associate Professor,
   Department of English
Kyongbum Lee, Dean of the School of Engineering
Camille Lizarríbar, Dean of Student Affairs
Anthony P. Monaco, University President
Elyse Nelson Winger, University Chaplain
Ji Hyang Padma, Buddhist Chaplain
Chris Swan, Dean of Undergraduate Education

*Please rise in body or in spirit.
ORDER OF THE CELEBRATION

Words of Welcome and Greetings of Peace
Elyse Nelson Winger, University Chaplain

Senior Interviews
Mark Lannigan, A23
Astrid Larson, A23
Fatima Lawan, A23
Joseph Lim, A23
Jaden Pena, A23
Mariel Priven, A23
Lee Romaker, A23
Jane Romp, A23
Malvika Wadhawan, A23

Introduction of the Wendell Phillips Speaker
Camille Lizarríbar, Dean of Student Affairs

The Wendell Phillips Address
Isabelle Charles, A23

Musical Performance
TUFTS STRING QUARTET
Logan Chin, A23, Violin
Julia Huckaby, E23, Violin
Danyoung Kim, A23, Viola
Eric Zaks, E23, Cello

Introduction of the Baccalaureate Speaker
Micah Thode, A23

The Baccalaureate Address
Anthony P. Monaco, University President
In this moment, we offer thanks and joy for our years together in this place and for the values that Tufts University, at its best, imparts: a love of learning, a commitment to service, civic engagement, and advocacy; an understanding of the unity of humankind; a sense of community, self-respect and respect for others; an appreciation of friendship, creativity, and beauty; and a reverence for those who have accompanied and supported us:

We give thanks and joy!

We offer thanks and joy for the intellectual and creative skills that Tufts hones and sharpens: the ability to think critically and imaginatively, to willingly question our own beliefs and challenge accepted wisdom, to move from theory to practice and from action to reflection, to listen with openness and compassion, and to understand and engage with diverse historical and cultural contexts:

We give thanks and joy!

We offer thanks and joy for all of the ways we have each discovered our own passions and callings as scholars, leaders, and advocates. For the times when we felt our studies and aspirations aligned with our deepest values; for the times when we used our voices and took action for equity and justice; for the opportunities that challenged us, allowing us to learn from our mistakes; and for all of the experiences that illuminated who we are and who we are becoming:

We give thanks and joy!

We offer thanks and joy for the conversations that helped us understand ourselves and connect with those around us, both the moments that made us laugh and those that were challenging, which allowed us to evolve and broaden our perspectives. For all the conversations—in classrooms, dining halls, coffee shops, identity centers, student events, leadership meetings, and random hallways—that led us to mature and grow:

We give thanks and joy!

We offer thanks and joy for the trips we have taken together, each time with new confidence and insight to explore our neighborhoods and discover the world. We offer thanks for studying abroad and exploring new places that intrigued our curiosity, as well as for returning to familiar places that made us feel at home. For walks to Davis Square; hiking in the Fells; art outings to the MFA; delicious food in the North End and Chinatown; and (finally!) riding the Green Line Extension into Boston:

We give thanks and joy!

*Please rise in body or in spirit.
We offer thanks and joy for the memories of this place that will forever flash in our minds—late-night dining on weekends, watching the sun set from Tisch roof, painting the cannon, screaming together before finals, cheering on our athletes, picnicking and sledding down President’s Lawn, appreciating artists at galleries and on the stage, and organizing on the quad. For these and all gatherings that brought us together:

**We give thanks and joy!**

We offer thanks and joy for all those who have helped us on our way: for the guidance and support of our faculty and advisors, for the compassion and encouragement of our coaches, chaplains, and mentors, and for the innovation and perseverance of every person who helped us adjust to a completely different life during the COVID-19 pandemic. We offer thanks for the often unsung heroes across the Tufts community who have made our lives possible day by day: staff and administration, dining workers and custodians, testing center staff, counselors, and health-care workers. For the love and patience of our families and friends, including those no longer with us but present in spirit and love:

**We give thanks and joy!**

Finally, we offer thanks and joy for the resilience and vision that our class and the entire community has shown in our time at Tufts. For our perseverance in continuing our education; for times we offered care and healing in the midst of grief; for each act of kindness and creativity that enabled us to connect and uplift; and most importantly, for the times to hope and dream together about our futures.

**For all these things and more, we offer thanks and joy!**
Musical Performance and Senior Class Photos

TUFTS STRING QUARTET
Logan Chin, A23, Violin
Julia Huckaby, E23, Violin
Danyoung Kim, A23, Viola
Eric Zaks, E23, Cello

Words of Blessing and Sending

Najiba Akbar, Muslim Chaplain
Preeta Banerjee, Hindu Chaplain
Daniel Bell, Protestant Chaplain
Naftali Brawer, Jewish Chaplain and Executive Director, Tufts Hillel
Lynn Cooper, Catholic Chaplain and Associate Director, University Chaplaincy
Anthony Cruz Pantojas, Humanist Chaplain
Elyse Nelson Winger, University Chaplain
Ji Hyang Padma, Buddhist Chaplain

*Recessional

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The Tufts University Chaplaincy uses the religious and philosophical symbols to represent traditions honored within the Tufts community.

For more information about the symbols, please visit chaplaincy.tufts.edu.

Om: Hinduism
Wheel of Dharma: Buddhism
Menorah: Judaism
Cross: Christianity
Crescent and Star: Islam
Flaming Chalice: Unitarian Universalism
Happy Human: Humanism
Nine-Pointed Star: Baha’i Faith

Torii: Shinto
Yin-Yang: Taoism
Li: Confucianism
Abhaya Mudra: Jainism
Khanda: Sikhism
Faravahar: Zoroastrianism
Feather: Native Traditions
Pentacle: Paganism

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commencement.tufts.edu