

Tufts University
Medford/Somerville
Massachusetts

Tufts

U N I V E R S I T Y

The Baccalaureate Ceremony

Saturday, May 16, 2026



The Baccalaureate Ceremony of the Class of 2026 Saturday, May 16, 2026

The flowers on the podium honor the friends and loved ones who have died during our 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

Aaron Bolonick, A26, *Tenor Saxophone*

Lucas Chua, A26, *Drums*

Melinda Tian, A27, *Piano*

Theo Gove Tringale, A26, *Bass*

SENIOR CLASS BANNER BEARERS

Sarah Grand, A26

Gabriela Mendez Martinez, A26

THE CLASS OF 2026

THE SENIOR BACCALAUREATE LEADERS

Louis Demetriades, A26

Trevor Hillier, A26

Shahadah Manzer, A26

Jose Armando Rodriguez Sanchez, E26

Trevor Wallace, A26

THE WENDELL PHILLIPS SPEAKER

Dhruv Sampat, A26

FACULTY AND STAFF GREETERS

Led by David Proctor, *Teaching Professor, Department of History*

THE PLATFORM PARTY

Daniel Bell, *Protestant Chaplain*

Naftali Brawer, *Jewish Chaplain and Executive Director, Tufts Hillel*

Bárbara Brizuela, *Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences*

Lynn Cooper, *Catholic Chaplain and Associate Director, University Chaplaincy*

Dayna Cunningham, *Dean of Jonathan M. Tisch College of Civic Life*

Scheri Fultineer, *Dean of the School of the Museum of Fine Arts*

Caroline Genco, *Provost and Senior Vice President*

Boris Hasselblatt, *Commencement Presenter*

Sunil Kumar, *President of the University*

Kyongbum Lee, *Dean of the School of Engineering*

Camille Lizarríbar, *Dean of Students and Chief Student Life Officer for AS&E*

Vineetha Mahayaye, *Buddhist Chaplain*

Magdalena Malinowska, *Associate Teaching Professor, Romance Studies
and Co-Chair, Committee on Student Life*

Anthony Cruz Pantojas, *Humanist Chaplain*

Prakruthi Ramesh, AG26, *University Chaplaincy Graduate Student Intern*

Khan Asfandyar Shairani, *Muslim Chaplain*

Elyse Nelson Winger, *University Chaplain*

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

ORDER OF THE CELEBRATION

Invocation

Elyse Nelson Winger, *University Chaplain*

Introduction of the President of the University

Jose Armando Rodriguez Sanchez, E26

Words of Welcome

Sunil Kumar, *President of the University*

Senior Interviews

Zara Ahmed, A26

CJ Burton, A26

Japora Chigabatia, A26

Omar Da'darah, E26

Connor DeBoda, A26

David Delvalle, A26

Lena Doodoo, A26

Fatima Eisa, A26

Jacob Gelber, A26

Asaf Grofman, A26

Aria Ma, A26

Laure Mandiamy, A26

Judelee Noel, E26

Ariana Olivares, E26

Luca O'Neil, A26

Carly Rothschild, A26

Nancy Yang, A26

Bisrat Yismashewa, E26

Jasmine Zoha, A26

Introduction of the Wendell Phillips Speaker

Camille Lizarríbar, *Dean of Students and Chief Student Life Officer for AS&E*

The Wendell Phillips Address

Dhruv Sampat, A26

Musical Performance

BACCALAUREATE STRING TRIO

Luisa Capetillo, A26, *Cello*

Kate Goldberg, A26, *Violin*

Jacob Kao, E26, *Violin*

Introduction of the Deans

Louis Demetriades, A26

Kyongbum Lee, *Dean of the School of Engineering*

Dean's Baccalaureate Address

Bárbara Brizuela, *Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences*

***A Time for Thanks and Joy**

Trevor Hillier, A26

Shahadah Manzer, A26

Trevor Wallace, A26

In this moment, we offer thanks and joy for our years together in this place, and for the values that Tufts seeks to impart: love of learning; civic engagement and advocacy; a respect for the rights and dignity of ourselves and others; appreciation of place; a deep gratitude for those who have accompanied and supported us; and an understanding of the unity of all living beings across time. For all the values that Tufts has taught us: we give thanks and joy.

We give thanks and joy!

We offer thanks and joy for the intellectual and creative aptitudes and skills that Tufts hones and sharpens: the ability to think critically and willingly question our own beliefs and assumptions; to listen with openness and compassion; to move from theory to practice and from reflection to action; to engage with diverse historical, scientific, and cultural contexts; and to analyze, create, collaborate, and work with new tools. For the safety and comfort to dream big: we give thanks and joy.

We give thanks and joy!

We offer thanks and joy for the experiences that clarified who we are and who we are becoming: for the times when we felt our studies and aspirations aligned with or challenged our deepest values; when we stood up and protected our friends and neighbors; when we used our voices and took action for equity and justice; when we asked for help and received it; when opportunities transformed us and allowed us to learn from our mistakes; and when we explored our passions as scholars, leaders, and community members. For the questions we are still asking about what our world can be: we give thanks and joy.

We give thanks and joy!

We offer thanks and joy for the memories of this place that will remain imprinted on our minds—enjoying evenings watching the sun set from Tisch roof and painting the cannon at night; sharing meals with new friends at Dewick and Carm, and reconnecting with old ones in line for late night; cheering on our athletes; being dazzled by our friends who light up the stage; celebrating Senior Thesis; picnicking on and sledding down Prez Lawn a few months ago when we got our first big snowstorm; marveling at the solar eclipse; dancing on the quad at Spring Fling; loving our prizes from bingo; and seeing the sun come up while studying a little and laughing a lot. For all the unexpected conversations—in classrooms, labs, studios, dining halls, dorms and apartments, identity centers, fields, makerspaces, hallways, and benches—that led us to mature and grow: we give thanks and joy.

We give thanks and joy!

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

We offer thanks and joy for the trips we have taken both together and solo, each time with new confidence to explore our neighborhoods and discover the world. We offer thanks for exploring new places that intrigued our curiosity, both on campus and abroad, and for Tufts becoming a place to call home—especially when the world felt unpredictable. For walks to Davis Square; hikes on New England trails; shuttle rides to SMFA; slow rides on the Red and Green lines; and for historic, storied Boston as a backdrop for our global education. For all of the wisdom and generosity of our host communities: we give thanks and joy.

We give thanks and joy!

We offer thanks and joy for the guidance and support of our faculty, lecturers, advisors, and peers; for the encouragement of our coaches, chaplains, and mentors; and for the innovation and perseverance of every person who helped us adjust to college life. We offer thanks for the often-unsung heroes across the Tufts community who have made our lives possible day by day: dining workers, custodians, counselors, facilities staff, health care workers, part-time faculty, and more. For the people who protected and uplifted us in difficult moments, and for those who broadened our perspectives and gave us feedback. We are especially grateful for the care and patience of our families and friends near and far as well as those no longer with us but present in spirit and love. To all those who have helped us on our way: we give thanks and joy.

We give thanks and joy!

Finally, we offer thanks and joy for the resilience and purpose that our class has shown in our time at Tufts. For all the ways we met the moment personally and communally; for times we cared for each other during pain and uncertainty; and most importantly, for all the people who will shape our futures forevermore: from our first friends of Pre-O and Orientation to those we're celebrating with this Senior Week and all the friends we've made along the way. For all these things and more, we give thanks and joy!

We give thanks and joy!

Musical Performance and Senior Class Photos

BACCALAUREATE STRING TRIO

Luisa Capetillo, A26, *Cello*

Kate Goldberg, A26, *Violin*

Jacob Kao, E26, *Violin*

Words of Blessing and Sending

Daniel Bell, *Protestant Chaplain*

Naftali Brawer, *Jewish Chaplain*

Lynn Cooper, *Catholic Chaplain*

Vineetha Mahayaye, *Buddhist Chaplain*

Anthony Cruz Pantojas, *Humanist Chaplain*

Prakruthi Ramesh, AG26, *University Chaplaincy Graduate Student Intern*

Khan Asfandyar Shairani, *Muslim Chaplain*

Elyse Nelson Winger, *University Chaplain*

***Recessional**

BACCALAUREATE JAZZ QUARTET

Aaron Bolonick, A26, *Tenor Saxophone*

Lucas Chua, A26, *Drums*

Melinda Tian, A27, *Piano*

Theo Gove Tringale, A26, *Bass*

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

The Tufts University Chaplaincy uses the following 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	Torii:	Shinto
Wheel of Dharma:	Buddhism	Yin-Yang:	Taoism
Menorah:	Judaism	Li:	Confucianism
Cross:	Christianity	Abhaya Mudra:	Jainism
Crescent and Star:	Islam	Khanda:	Sikhism
Flaming Chalice:	Unitarian Universalism	Faravahar:	Zoroastrianism
Happy Human:	Humanism	Feather:	Native Traditions
Nine-Pointed Star:	Baha'i Faith	Pentacle:	Paganism

For more information about the Tufts University Chaplaincy, please visit chaplaincy.tufts.edu.

