

Tufts University  
Medford/Somerville  
Massachusetts

# Tufts

## UNIVERSITY

The Baccalaureate Ceremony

Saturday, May 17, 2025



## **The Baccalaureate Ceremony of the Class of 2025**

Saturday, May 17, 2025

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 Massachusett tribe.*

*We acknowledge with gratitude that the Massachusett 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

Josiah “JoJo” Martin, A25, *Piano*

William Randall, E25, *Tenor Saxophone*

Jake Rubenstein, A25, *Drums*

Lucas Steinberger, A25, *Bass*

SENIOR CLASS BANNER BEARERS

Kyle Hammond, A25

Sophia Nunez, A25

THE CLASS OF 2025

THE SENIOR BACCALAUREATE LEADERS

Carlos Pulido Escalante, A25

Apurva Iyengar, E25

Nessren Ourdyl, A25

Eva Sheedy, A25

THE WENDELL PHILLIPS SPEAKER

Ayomide Oloyede, A25

FACULTY AND STAFF GREETERS

Led by David Proctor, *Senior Lecturer, 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*

Sunil Kumar, *President of the University*

Kyongbum Lee, *Dean of the School of Engineering*

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

Vineetha Mahayaye, *Buddhist Chaplain*

Anthony Cruz Pantojas, *Humanist Chaplain*

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

Khan Asfandiyar Shairani, *Muslim Chaplain*

Florina Tseng, *Commencement Presenter*

Elyse Nelson Winger, *University Chaplain*

*\*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**

Julia Appel, A25  
Kate Beveridge, A25  
Dechen Chokey, A25  
Richard Diamond, E25  
Ananya Gita, A25  
Kyle Hammond, A25  
Langston Harris, A25  
Apsara Khaliq, A25  
Katie Lew, E25  
Krystal Mutebi, A25  
Jesulagbarami “Joel” Omolade, A25  
Lia Portillo, E25  
Liam Randall, A25  
Nikhil Vootkur, A25  
Aliyah Weiss, E25

### **Introduction of the Wendell Phillips Speaker**

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

### **The Wendell Phillips Address**

Ayomide Oloyede, A25

### **Musical Performance**

TUFTS STRING QUARTET

Faith Campbell, A24, *Viola*  
Amelia Colafati, A25, *Violin*  
Matthew Seliger, A27, *Violin*  
Sam Thomas, A25, *Cello*

### **Introduction of the Baccalaureate Speaker**

Eva Sheedy, A25

### **The Baccalaureate Address**

Sunil Kumar, *President of the University*

## **\*A Time for Thanks and Joy**

Carlos Polido Escalante, A25

Apurva Iyengar, E25

Nessren Ourdyl, A25

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: love of learning; commitment to service, civic engagement, and advocacy; understanding of the unity of all living beings; sense of community; respect for ourselves and others; appreciation of friendship, creativity, and beauty; and deep gratitude for those who have accompanied and supported us:

***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 imaginatively; to 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, collaborate, and work with new tools:

***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 our deepest values; for the times we then used our voices and took action for equity and justice; for the times we asked for help and received it; for the opportunities that challenged us, allowing us to learn from our mistakes; for the ways we have each explored our passions as scholars, leaders, and community members; and for the questions we are still asking about our callings and vocations:

***We give thanks and joy!***

We offer thanks and joy for the conversations that helped us understand ourselves and connect with those around us. For the people who uplifted us in difficult moments, and for those who pushed us to broaden our perspectives and gave us feedback; for the moments of love and laughter and the feelings of kinship; and for all the conversations—in classrooms, labs, and studios; dining halls, dorms, and apartments; identity centers, fields, and makerspaces; hallways and benches—that led us to mature and grow:

***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 independently, each time with new confidence and insight to explore our neighborhoods and discover the world. We offer thanks for exploring new places that intrigued our curiosity, both at home and abroad, and for Tufts becoming a place to call home. For walks to Davis Square; hikes in the Fells; outings to the MFA; delicious food in the North End and Chinatown; riding the Red and Green Lines in and out of Boston (finally!); and for all of the wisdom and generosity of our host communities:

***We give thanks and joy!***

We offer thanks and joy for the memories of this place that will remain imprinted on our minds—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 friends in line for Late Night at Commons; cheering on our athletes and being dazzled by our friends who light up the stage; picnicking on and sledding down Prez Lawn and listening to live music on the quad; and seeing the sun come up while studying a little and laughing a lot. For these and every gathering 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, lecturers, advisors, and peers; 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 college life during the pandemic. 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, healthcare workers, and staff. 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:

***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 offered care in the midst of pain and uncertainty; for each act of kindness that enabled us to uplift one another; 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 and acquaintances we've made along the way:

***For all these things and more, we give thanks and joy!***

## **Musical Performance and Senior Class Photos**

### **TUFTS STRING QUARTET**

Faith Campbell, A24, *Viola*

Amelia Colafati, A25, *Violin*

Matthew Seliger, A27, *Violin*

Sam Thomas, A25, *Cello*

### **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 Asfandiyar Shairani, *Muslim Chaplain*

Elyse Nelson Winger, *University Chaplain*

### **\*Recessional**

#### **BACCALAUREATE JAZZ QUARTET**

Josiah “JoJo” Martin, A25, *Piano*

William Randall, E25, *Tenor Saxophone*

Jake Rubenstein, A25, *Drums*

Lucas Steinberger, A25, *Bass*

*\*Please rise in body or in spirit.*

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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](http://chaplaincy.tufts.edu)**.

<b>Om:</b>	Hinduism	<b>Torii:</b>	Shinto
<b>Wheel of Dharma:</b>	Buddhism	<b>Yin-Yang:</b>	Taoism
<b>Menorah:</b>	Judaism	<b>Li:</b>	Confucianism
<b>Cross:</b>	Christianity	<b>Abhaya Mudra:</b>	Jainism
<b>Crescent and Star:</b>	Islam	<b>Khanda:</b>	Sikhism
<b>Flaming Chalice:</b>	Unitarian Universalism	<b>Faravahar:</b>	Zoroastrianism
<b>Happy Human:</b>	Humanism	<b>Feather:</b>	Native Traditions
<b>Nine-Pointed Star:</b>	Baha'i Faith	<b>Pentacle:</b>	Paganism

For more information about the Tufts University Chaplaincy, please visit **[chaplaincy.tufts.edu](http://chaplaincy.tufts.edu)**.

**[commencement.tufts.edu](http://commencement.tufts.edu)**

