

Baccalaureate Service

Friday, May 13, 2022



Ursinus College Land Acknowledgement Statement

Ursinus College respectfully acknowledges that our campus rests on Lenapeboking, the ancestral and spiritual homelands of the following five nations: Delaware Tribe of Indians, Delaware Nation, Eelūnaapèewii Labkèewiit (Delaware Nation at Moraviantown), Stockbridge-Munsee Community, and Munsee-Delaware Nation (Ontario).

Our community carries names derived from the Lenape language - names holding spiritual and cultural meaning while also bearing the remembrance of the systematic removal of the Lenape people over 250 years ago by European colonial powers, whose legacy still reinforces and benefits from the Lenape's disenfranchisement.

Ursinus College commits to collaboration, representation, and inclusion as we work together with the Lenape people to bring about healing and reconciliation between and among all our communities.

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Musical Prelude.....

Land Acknowledgement Statement

InvocationRev. Terri Ofori,
*College Chaplain and Director,
Office of Religious and Spiritual Life*

Reading from Jewish Tradition Aaron Edwards '22

Reading from Christian Tradition Zainab Williams '22

Reading from Muslim Tradition Simba Kanjanda '22

Reading from Hindu Tradition Jennifer Berrios '22

Reading from Native American Indigenous Tradition Abigail Coachi '22

Musical Interlude 1 “The Blessing”
*Composed by Steven Furtick,
Cody Carnes, & Chris Brown
Performed by the Gospel Choir*

Senior Recognition

The Office of Academic Affairs Awards

Awarded by Rev. Terri Ofori
College Chaplain and Director, Office of Religious and Spiritual Life

The Ursinus Quest Award..... Brandon Winfield '22

Words of Wisdom from Quest Award Winner..... Brandon Winfield '22

The Office of Religious and Spiritual Life Awards

Awarded by Dr. Alexandria Frisch

Visiting Assistant Professor of Jewish Studies / Coordinator of Jewish Life

Service Award..... Jennifer Berrios '22

Chapel Award..... Brandon Winfield '22

Spirituality Award..... Zainab Williams '22

Hillel Award..... Aaron Edwards '22

Senior Alumni Awards

Awarded by Heidi Jensen '14

Assistant Director of Alumni Relations

Senior Alumni Awards..... Abigail Coachi '22
Simba Kanjanda '22

Welcome to Alumni Community & Induction Pinning..... Jake Kohler '13

Musical Interlude 2 "I Need You to Survive"
Composed by Hezekiah Walker
Performed by Praise in Motion

Introduction of Speaker Benjamin Antill '22

Baccalaureate Address..... Vai Sikahema

Benediction..... Rev. Terri Ofori,
College Chaplain and Director,
Office of Religious and Spiritual Life

End of Service

Please join us after the ceremony for a celebratory reception in Olin Plaza.

Thomas J. Watson Fellowship Finalists

The Thomas J. Watson Fellowship, named for Thomas J. Watson, the founder of IBM, is a post-baccalaureate fellowship that invites liberal arts college students to create and execute an international research project that takes them abroad for an entire year. Ursinus is one of 41 colleges nationwide that compete for the Watson Fellowship. Finalists and Fellows demonstrate leadership, courage, independence, resourcefulness, and resilience.

Watson Fellowship Finalist Kristen Cooney '22

Watson Fellowship Finalist Simba Kanjanda '22

Watson Fellowship Finalist Neva MacGowan '22

Watson Fellowship Finalist Gabrielle Pitt '22

Ursinus Inclusion and Equity Awards

The Ursinus Inclusion and Equity Awards, awarded annually, honor a student, staff member and member of the faculty who have demonstrated an exceptional commitment to advancing inclusion and equity on our campus.

Inclusion and Equity Award Jennifer King
Assistant Professor of Biology

Inclusion and Equity Award Michael Thompkins
Assistant Director of Residence Life

Inclusion and Equity Award Sophie Louis '24



Vai Sikahema

Ursinus College is honored to have Vai Sikahema deliver the baccalaureate address to the Class of 2022. He is a graduate of Brigham Young University and currently serves as a General Authority Seventy of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Sikahema played in the NFL for eight seasons, including two with the Philadelphia Eagles, and was a sports and news broadcaster for NBC 10 Philadelphia until his retirement in 2020.

He has served in several church callings, including full-time missionary in the South Dakota Rapid City Mission, ward Young Men president, bishop, counselor in a mission presidency, and stake president. In recognition of his service, Ursinus College is proud to award Sikahema with the honorary Doctor of Divinity during the commencement ceremony.



Ursinus College