

FINLANDIA

UNIVERSITY

Commencement

THURSDAY, APRIL 29, 2021, 6 P.M.
HIRVONEN AUDITORIUM

*A learning community dedicated to academic
excellence, spiritual growth, and service*

2021 Commencement Speakers

Student Representative – Ramona Kuhn

The 2021 Student Representative, Ramona Kuhn, is a ceramics major from St. Cloud, Minn. Kuhn earned a 4.0 grade point average and will be graduating Summa Cum Laude.

"I remember the first time I touched clay and took a clay workshop as a kid was when I was eight, and I got to throw on the wheel and I was hooked," said Kuhn. "I absolutely loved it. And from then on my love for it has grown. I've branched off and explored other mediums and have strengthened my proficiency in other areas because it's a value of mine to be a well-rounded artist."

Kuhn's most renowned project was the 2019 Illuminarie Mug Project - a limited series of 100 cups to raise awareness for suicide prevention after losing a high school classmate to suicide.

Kuhn has been an active member of Finlandia's servant leadership programs and art and design program. As a resident of the Koskela Servant Leadership House, she has participated in numerous community service programs.

"What I love about Ramona is how intentionally she lives," said Dr. Rene Johnson, Assistant Professor of Religion and Philosophy and the Director of the Koskela Servant Leadership House. "She takes advantage of every available opportunity to grow in her craft as an artist. As house leader at the Koskela Servant Leadership House, I could count on her to consider carefully the needs of the household and create an atmosphere that felt like family for all the gals. Ramona does not passively wait for things to happen - she does things on purpose and with purpose."

Her studies have also taken her outside of the U.S. In the spring of 2020, she studied abroad in Florence, Italy for a few months until the COVID-19 pandemic cut that opportunity short.

"Every time I leave the country it broadens my world view and makes me refocus on my life and how human beings in other countries are not as different we think they are," said Kuhn.

After graduation, Kuhn plans to go back to Minnesota and is hoping to pursue an assistantship in ceramics in Italy. For commissioned pieces, reach out to Kuhn on Instagram at [ramona_kuhn1](#).



Commencement Speaker – Phyllis Fredendall



Born in the Upper Peninsula, Phyllis Fredendall began her career at Suomi College/Finlandia University in 1991, when she served as the Assistant Director of the Finnish-American Heritage Center and gallery director. In 1993, she began teaching as an adjunct instructor for the art department. Fredendall was instrumental in the establishment of the four-year Bachelor of Fine Arts degree program and the International School of Art and Design at Finlandia in 1996. Upon completion of her Master's of Fine Arts from Goddard College in 2006, she was promoted to Assistant Professor of Fiber and Fashion Design and then achieved full professor status in 2011. She taught weaving, spinning and off-loom structures; garment design; jacquard design using CAD software; dyeing and printing; and two- and three- dimensional design fundamentals.

Along with her amazing students, Fredendall established the annual Student and Alumni Fashion Show. She served as the advisor of the Young Women's Caucus for Art since 2013 traveling with them to New York and Chicago for conferences.

Fredendall has studied weaving in Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota, California and British Columbia; garment design in New York City; and felt making and printing and dyeing in Finland. She has had the privilege to serve as visiting lecturer in Finland, Estonia, and Canada and has enjoyed artist residencies on Isle Royale National Park, Xanadu in Eagle Harbor, Michigan, and at the Huopakeskus (felt center) in Petäjävesi, Finland. Her works have been exhibited and are in collections across the country and internationally including in Chicago, New York City, Portland, Phoenix, Vancouver and Finland.

Fredendall is currently enjoying retirement at her home outside of L'Anse, where she continues to make art (artists never retire) and graduation tassels for all Finlandia BFA candidates.

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Instrumental	<i>Pomp and Circumstance</i>
Invocation	Sarah Semmler Smith Campus Pastor
Welcome and Remarks	Dr. Philip Johnson President
Honor Awards	Dr. Hilary Virtanen Assistant Professor of Finnish & Nordic Studies
Student Representative	Ramona Kuhn Bachelor of Fine Arts Ceramics
Board of Trustees Faculty Award	Dr. Fredi de Yampert Vice President for Academic Affairs
Introduction of Keynote Speaker	Dr. Philip Johnson President
Commencement Address	Phyllis Fredendall
Presentation of the Class of 2021	Dr. Fredi de Yampert Vice President for Academic Affairs
Conferring of Degrees	Dr. Philip Johnson President
Awarding of Diplomas	Dr. Fredi de Yampert Vice President for Academic Affairs
Benediction	Sarah Semmler Smith Campus Pastor
Congratulations	<i>This is My Song</i> (Finlandia)

Candidates for Graduation

ASSOCIATE IN APPLIED SCIENCE

Criminal Justice

Michael John Biddinger #

Physical Therapist Assistant

Megan Rose Burton +**

Rachel Ann Haataja +

Maia Elise Haske +**H

Joe Heinonen +

Ellie Jeanne Kastamo +

Kaitlyn Rose Lundeen +**

Jamie Christine Macfarlane +**

Victoria Anne Nagy +*

Taylor Ann Paul +*

Matthew Leonard Peterson +

Abigail Senia Roth +**

Kristin Elizabeth Stacy +

ASSOCIATE IN GENERAL STUDIES

General Studies

Madelyn Johnson

Marin Yasuda

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Biology - Bachelor of Science

Benjamin Loya, Jr. #

Criminal Justice

Bryant Allen Bouchard +

Austin Roemello Green

Victoria Ann Illig #*

Abigail Rose Kolek *H^

Elijah Colby Ingerson Marshall

Parker J Shilling **

Jacob Thomas Oom

English

Brenna Lyne Ceglar

Liberal Studies

Seth Randall Dahl **H

Harold Allan Noble

Psychology

Kyndell Marie Coffman

Daniella Gonzalez

Cassandra Rayhleen Lopez +

Samantha Jean Lutz

William Clay Thompson +

Sociology

Jessica Leslie Ramirez

BACHELOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Accounting

Harlie Jade Caster

Rebecca Lynn Showers +

Ethan St. Germain **^

Healthcare Management

Sara Bendix #

Erika Lambert +

Kaytlin Marie Richardson

International Business

Santeri Juhani Seppinen **^

Management and Entrepreneurship

Connor Steven Bates *

Devontè Ray Fleming #

Nikolaus William Geiser

Lillian Elaine Johnson #***^

Nathaniel Robert Johnson *

Sawyer Lee Murrell *

Marketing

Maegan Lynn Kraft

Julia Myra Nordstrom ***

Dylan Thomas Underwood

Sports Management

Connor Hannon **

Joseph Edward Illig *

Ronnie Keener +

Ashton Knutson **

BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS

Ceramics

Ramona Deborah-Rose Kuhn

***H^

Graphic Design

Emma Lee Mackey

Intermedia

Caroline Allise Kenwood *H

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Nursing

Jody Lee Baeten #

Madelyn Mae Ball *

Taylor Thomas Bonetti

Shayla Christine Cornish *H

Elizabeth Joy Hauglie

Hannah Nicole Hendra

Carolyn J. Kariniemi

Allyson Solka

***summa cum laude (3.9-4.0 gpa)

**magna cum laude (3.7-3.89 gpa)

*cum laude (3.5-3.69 gpa)

(H) Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society

^Sampo Society

#Fall 2020 Graduate

+Summer 2021 Graduate

Commencement Information

Graduating with Honors

Finlandia University recognizes the exceptional academic achievements of graduation candidates at an annual Honors and Awards Banquet. During this celebration students receive the regalia representing the degree of honor that they have achieved. The regalia — tassels, cords and medals — is worn during the commencement ceremony and graduates are identified as honor students when their names and degrees are announced. The three levels of honor are:

Cum Laude – Students have earned an overall 3.50 to 3.69 grade point average. They wear a gold honors tassel.

Magna Cum Laude – Students have earned an overall 3.70 to 3.89 grade point average. In addition to the honors tassel, these graduates also wear a gold honors cord.

Summa Cum Laude – Students have earned an overall 3.90 to 4.0 grade point average. In addition to the honors tassel and gold honors cord, these graduates wear a medal with royal blue and white ribbon.

The Sampo Society

Each spring semester, faculty members nominate graduating students for the Sampo Society, the university's honor society established in 1930. Nominees must have earned an overall grade point average of 3.70 to 4.0 and demonstrated exceptional leadership, commitment, achievement, initiative, and involvement in the cultural and

intellectual life of the campus and community. Four to six of the most outstanding nominees are selected for lifelong Sampo Society membership by the university's Academic Achievement Committee. Sampo Society members are recognized at the Honors and Awards Banquet, and they wear a special pin on their graduation gowns.

Academic Attire

How did it all start? Academic attire has endured for centuries, and is still widely worn by graduates during commencement ceremonies all over the world. It had its origins in the 12th and 13th centuries during the early formation of universities in Europe, and it had a practical aspect back then: the long robes and hoods provided warmth to the scholars and clerics who roamed the unheated buildings. The "one size fits all" academic robe discouraged "excess" in apparel. Though no longer worn regularly, academic attire continues to lend both uniformity and identity during commencement exercises.

Today, the different types of academic attire, though still deeply traditional, have evolved into something quite different. Though not exactly stylish with its billowing, tent-like design, academic attire can be colorful, ornate and highly symbolic.

During commencement, Finlandia faculty who have earned master's and doctoral degrees will wear gowns that reflect their academic achievements. The black master's gown sports elongated sleeves, while the distinguished doctoral robe is identified by its more elaborate design and velvet stripes on its voluminous sleeves. Hoods are also worn with the master's and doctoral robes and bear colors representing the degree earned and institution from which the individual graduated. The medal worn by President Philip Johnson during commencement represents the office that he holds at Finlandia.

Colleges and universities develop their own traditions. Finlandia graduates wear blue gowns, to represent the blue and white school colors. Some Finlandia faculty wear a special white velveteen cap, which replicates a Finnish graduation hat.



Finlandia University Faculty

COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES

Cindy Blake, M.S.N., R.N.
Pam Brown, M.S., P.T.
Fredri de Yampert, Ph.D., R.N.
Melissa Helppi, B.S.N, R.N.
Mark Miron, M.S.N. Ed., R.N.
Marnie Polkky, M.S.N., R.N.
Nicole Polakowski, B.S.P.T., P.T.
Theresa Rajala-Halsey, M.S.N., R.N.
Irina Sergeyeva, M.S.N. Ed., R.N.
Lori Sullivan, D.N.P., R.N.
Johnna Therrian, M.S.N., R.N.

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF ART & DESIGN

Tom Adolphs, Ph.D.
Denise Vandeville, M.F.A.

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Kevin Manninen, M.B.A.
Steven Nordstrom, M.A.
Nathan Perrault, M.B.A.
Laura Sieders, B.S.

SUOMI COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

Judith Budd, Ph.D.
Rebecca Daly, M.L.I.S.
Carolyn Dekker, Ph.D.
Richard Gee, Ph.D.
Patricia Grosse, Ph.D.
Philip Johnson, Ph.D.
René Johnson, Ph.D.
Christa Meingast, Ph.D.
William Knoblauch, Ph.D.
Mark Lounibos, Ph.D.
Juan Marin, Ph.D.
Jason Oyadomari, Ph.D.
Jeff Pettibone, Ph.D.
Michael Reay, Ph.D.
Hilary Virtanen, Ph.D.

"This is My Song" (Finlandia)

1 This is my song, O God of all the na - tions,
2 My coun - try's skies are blu - er than the o - cean,
3 This is my prayer, O God of all earth's king - doms,

a song of peace for lands a - far and mine.
and sun - light beams on clo - ver - leaf and pine.
your king - dom come; on earth your will be done.

This is my home, the coun - try where my heart is;
But oth - er lands have sun - light too, and clo - ver,
O God, be lift - ed up till all shall serve you,

here are my hopes, my dreams, my ho - ly shrine;
and skies are ev - 'ry - where as blue as mine.
and hearts u - nit - ed learn to live as one.

but oth - er hearts in oth - er lands are beat - ing
So hear my song, O God of all the na - tions,
So hear my prayer, O God of all the na - tions;

with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.
a song of peace for their land and for mine.
my - self I give you; let your will be done.

Finlandia University expresses its appreciation to:

THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2021 AND THOSE WHO SUPPORTED THEM

THE 2021 COMMENCEMENT SPEAKERS

THE FINLANDIA UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

FINLANDIA UNIVERSITY FACULTY, STAFF AND ADMINISTRATION

MARK RIUTTA