

FINLANDIA

UNIVERSITY

Commencement

SUNDAY, MAY 1, 2022, 1:30 P.M.
HIRVONEN AUDITORIUM

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

2022 Commencement Speakers

Student Representative – Artsiom Puntus

The 2022 Student Representative, Artsiom “Arty” Puntus, is a nursing major from Minsk, Belarus. Puntus will be graduating Summa Cum Laude.

An active member of Finlandia’s student leadership and nursing programs, Puntus has served as Student Senate President since 2020, a Student Ambassador with Finlandia Admissions, an ALD Honors Society Member, the V.P. of FinnU’s Student Nurses Association and an Orientation Leader.

“I value people over any financial stability or any achievements,” Puntus said. “And being able to make those relationships and translate them later on in life, and being able to keep those friendships with the people after graduation is what’s probably the most valuable and my main goal after graduation.”

His journey has been nourished by his love for people and his ambition to provide a second-to-none experience for FinnU students. Puntus values and embodies the principles upon which Finlandia dedicates its mission, and for those who come after him, he leaves his advice.

“For some people, [happiness] doesn’t mean that you have to be successful as long as you’re happy with what you’re doing, that’s what really matters to you. But in order to achieve those skills, you need to get out of your comfort zone and develop specific skills that will help you to get there.”

After graduation, Puntus will be joining the workforce on the medical surgery floor of a Level I trauma hospital in South Carolina. The Optional Training Program (OPT) is made available for international students looking to pursue meaningful careers and life in the United States.



Commencement Speaker – Vance Blackfox



Vance Blackfox, a citizen of the Cherokee Nation, serves the churchwide organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) as the Director of Indigenous Ministries and Tribal Relations. An alumnus of Texas Lutheran University (TLU) and the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (LSTC), Vance has previously served the ELCA in multiple capacities, from being elected and serving as National President of the Lutheran Youth Organization during his TLU days, to later working as a diversity and cultural education professional for the Women of the ELCA, Augsburg Fortress Publishers, California Lutheran University, ELCA Youth Gathering, and LSTC’s Youth in Mission. In addition to serving numerous ELCA and ecumenical teams and committees throughout the years, he is at present the Indigenous Theologian and Coordinating Team Member for the ELCA’s Theological Round Table, as well as creator and producer of the Vine Deloria Jr. Theological Symposium hosted at LSTC.

Vance is also the founder and director of Other+Wise (www.otherwise.red), a multi-site cultural education and cultural immersion program for youth and student groups from across the country, and also previously served as the Director of Communications at the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition, as the Director of Communications for Native Americans in Philanthropy, and has held executive director positions at the Haskell Foundation, which supports Haskell Indian Nations University, and the Oaks Indian Mission. Vance teaches about many things Indigenous as founder and primary of Blackfox Institute, he has served as the Guest Curator of the Indian Museum at the University of Texas at San Antonio Institute of Texan Cultures, and presently serves as the Indigenous Theologian for the Faith-Based Initiative for the City of San Antonio, where he currently resides.

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Instrumental	<i>Pomp and Circumstance</i>
Invocation	Sarah Semmler Smith Campus Pastor
Welcome and Remarks	Dr. Philip Johnson President
Student Representative	Artsiom Puntus Bachelor of Science, Nursing
Board of Trustees Faculty Award	Dr. Fredi de Yampert Vice President for Academic Affairs
Introduction of Keynote Speaker	Dr. Philip Johnson President
Commencement Address	Vance Blackfox Director of Indigenous Ministries & Tribal Relations, ELCA
Presentation of the Class of 2022	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 (Finlandia)</i>

Candidates for Graduation

ASSOCIATE IN APPLIED SCIENCE

Criminal Justice

Megan Corrigan

Physical Therapist Assistant

Kyle Brian Berryman **+

Billie Lee Brunk +

Jackson John DeAugustine *+

Tam Dinh *+

Tabin Filizetti +

Matthew Leonard Peterson #

Taylor Talerico *+

Gabriele Voisin *+

Zachary Wichman +

ASSOCIATE IN GENERAL STUDIES

General Studies

Riley Anne Burton (H)#

Adriana Rose Gemignani #

Johnnie Pietila #

Briana Alexis Saari #

Antonio Ryan Sandefur-Hartfield

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Art Therapy

Jillian Yvonne Foster

Criminal Justice

Haley Jo Bianucci

Katelyn Marie Brown

John Wilmer Brundage *** (H)^

Marcus Richard Gloss

Jeremy Michael Huuki #

Blaec A.C. Rowden

Shane Katherine Voldarski

Liberal Studies

Mariah Verlynn Austin

Jamie Macfarlane **

Matthew Peterson

Lucas Edwin Vick

Psychology

Rheanna Bain

Jacob Thomas Clark +

Kyndell Marie Coffman #

Cassandra Rayhleen Lopez

Dylan Robert Paavola ***^

Briana Elise Portice ***^

Kristin Marie Savedes

Sociology

Mialy Rose Brooks ***

Frannette Fernandez Ramirez

(H)

BACHELOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Accounting

Carsyn Rosemary Osterman

Lee Edward Pietila

Anders Jari Saarela **^

Michael James Stuber *

Art Management

Skylar Lancour #

Healthcare Management

India Marie Charles +

Tabin Filizetti +

Jaden Danielle Matthews

Victoria Nagy **^

Bryanna Verhoven +

Zachary Wichman +

International Business

Oswaldo Cruz

Kevin T. Danks ***#

Management and Entrepreneurship

McEwen Christopher Stapleton

**

Marketing

Noah M. Raisanen *

Sports Management

Sheridan James Brady

Joshua Eve

Christian Frederick

Frankie Garcia +

Connor Hannon **

Ronnie Davon Keener III #

Hunter Thomas Krause

Carsyn Rosemary Osterman

Bradley St. Fort

Taylor Talerico *+

Tyler Dale Watungwa ***^ (H)

BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS

Ceramics

Ramona Deborah-Rose Kuhn

** (H)^#

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Biology

Rebecca Helen Lilly (H)

Nursing

Addie Norma Budzinski ** (H)

David John Carlson *** (H)

Dillion David Farmer ***

Jeri Lynn Freeman **#

Bailey Ann Froberg ***

Harlee Marie Froberg **

Dariya Goin *

Dylan Kristopher Harden *

Malone May Hiebert ** (H)

Sarah Anne Johnson +

Emily Rose Josephine Lawrence #

Taylor Lock

Katherine Rose Loman ***

Jacob Allan Martin

Courtney Mayo **

Casey Marie Mleko **

Kristi R. Muonio ***

Katelyn Elizabeth Plesiewicz ***

Artsiom Puntus *** (H)^

Taylor Lyn Saari *

Frankie Jane Stukel *

Erika Kristine Tollefson ** (H)

Haley Ann Wright **

Psychology

Kylee M. Dyni

Marcus Richard Gloss

***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 2021 Graduate

+Summer 2022 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.
Fred de Yampert, Ph.D., R.N.
Sami Dowling, P.T.A., C.T.R.S.
Mark Miron, M.S.N. Ed., R.N.
Renee O'Neill, M.S.N., R.N.
Marnie Polkky, M.S.N., R.N.
Nicole Polakowski, B.S., P.T., P.T.
Aliina Radcliff, M.S.N., B.S.N., R.N.
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.
Melanie Thurmond, P.T., D.P.T.

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF ART & DESIGN

Denise Vandeville, M.F.A.

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Gary Kruzich, M.S., M.B.A.
Kevin Manninen, M.B.A.
Steven Nordstrom, M.A.
Nathan Perreault, M.B.A.
Laura Sieders, M.S.A.

SUOMI COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

Judith Budd, Ph.D.
Rebecca Daly, M.L.I.S.
Carolyn Dekker, Ph.D.
Richard Gee, 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,

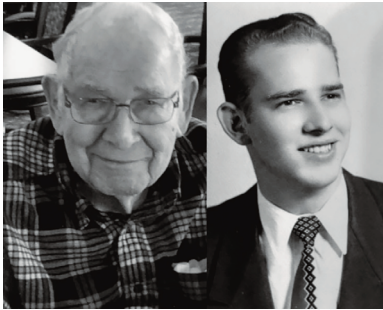
here are my hopes, my dreams, my ho - ly shrine;
 and skies are ev - 'ry - where as blue as mine.
 and hearts u - nit - ed learn to live as one.

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.

Special Recognition

In Honor of Ray Hirvonen



Ray Hirvonen served with distinction on the Finlandia University Board of Trustees for 15 years. Subsequently he continued to serve as trustee emeritus until his death at the age of 93 on December 30, 2021.

Today, Finlandia's College of Health Sciences bears the name of Ray and Peg Hirvonen in honor of Ray's lifelong commitments to Finlandia, his 33 years as trustee, and in recognition of the family's legacy of leadership and generosity.

Additional Donors of Hirvonen Hall

John & Roma Siller

Rachel Hetico

Davide & Gladys Wiitanen

Rudy & Darley Kemppainen

Waino Wahtera

Roger & Karen Mattson

Samuel L. Westerman

Steven Richard Vanstrom

& many other alumni and friends

Land Acknowledgment

Finlandia University was founded as Suomi College by Finnish Lutheran immigrants in 1896 on land ceded by the Anishinaabe people in the Treaty of 1842. We seek to honor and respect the sacred and enduring kinship of the Anishinaabe people with this land. We reject the ongoing injustices of colonization and bear witness to the dignity of all Indigenous peoples.

Finlandia University expresses its appreciation to:

THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2022 AND THOSE WHO SUPPORTED THEM

THE 2022 COMMENCEMENT SPEAKERS

THE FINLANDIA UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

FINLANDIA UNIVERSITY FACULTY, STAFF AND ADMINISTRATION

MARK RIUTTA, DEFINED VISUALS