

# Baccalaureate Service

Friday, May 14, 2021

**Aziz Nathoo** is a Muslim interfaith and peace activist hailing from East Africa, with intensive experience as an educator, service volunteer, leader, and preacher. He has presented on Islam and interfaith relations at multiple academic, civic, religious, and interfaith fora. He preaches on Islam at various churches, synagogues, and temples. He is the founder and president of UMMA Charities and currently serves on the charitable arm of the Aga Khan Foundation (AKF). He is a member of the United Nations Association (UNA) and works with the UN Refugee Relief Agencies, Amnesty International, and numerous nonprofit organizations in the Philadelphia area. Mr. Nathoo sits on the Mayor of Philadelphia's Interfaith Advisory Board, on boards of multiple interfaith, peace and houses of worship and works in interfaith mediation, conflict resolution and reconciliation.

He recently spoke on The Role of Peace at Peace Day Philly and at "Lights of Liberty" vigil for Immigrants and refugees as well as "Peace in the Park" in New York. He spoke at the Poor People's Campaign on the duty of all human beings and especially Muslims to protect the poor, vulnerable and disenfranchised. He offered prayers for peace and tolerance at the International Day of Peace at the United Nations. He is actively involved in assisting refugees and provides resources for employment, housing, medical and other humanitarian needs.

By profession, he is a cloud technology consultant and an investor with several business interests. He has an undergraduate degree from the University of Texas in Islamic Studies and pursued his MBA at Boston College. He also contributes as an advisor, interpreter, mediator, grief and crisis counselor and lay clergy with various faith communities.



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**Musical Prelude**..... String Ensemble directed by Charles dePasquale  
*“Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring”*

**Invocation, Christian Prayer and Reading**.....Rev. Terri Ofori,  
*College Chaplain and Director,  
Office of Religious and Spiritual Life*

**Islamic Prayer and Reading**.....Sheik Aziz Nathoo  
*Ismaili Interfaith Leader and  
Peace Activist (Limerick, Pa.)*

**Jewish Prayer and Reading**..... Dr. Alexandria Frisch  
*Visiting Assistant Professor of Jewish  
Studies/ Coordinator of Jewish Life*

## Senior Recognition

### 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.....Chase Opperman ’21

Chapel Award.....Valentino Alfonse ’21

Hillel Award.....Jess Greenburg ’21

### The Office of Academic Affairs

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

The Ursinus Quest Award.....Karen Herrera ’21

**Words of Wisdom from Quest Award Winner**.....Karen Herrera ’21

**Interlude**..... String Ensemble directed by Charles dePasquale  
*“Campus Song”*

## Senior Alumni Awards Presentation

Awarded by Mallory Stratton  
*Associate Director of Alumni Relations*

Senior Alumni Awards.....Hannah Merges ’21 and Nicole Schmallbach ’21

**Alumni Induction Pinning**.....Mallory Stratton,  
*Associate Director of Alumni Relations*

**Class Charge**..... Missy Bryant,  
*Dean of Students and  
Associate Vice-President for Student Affairs*

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

**Recessional**..... String Ensemble directed by Charles dePasquale  
*“March in D”*

## End of Service

### Thomas J. Watson Fellowship Finalists

Mary Margaret Baldy ’21  
Shelsea Deravil ’21  
Jadidsa Perez ’21  
Sianneh Vesslee ’21

*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.*

### Ursinus Inclusion and Equity Awards

Jalen Everette ’22  
Alvert Hernandez, Assistant Director of Residence Life  
Dr. Simara Price, Assistant Dean of Academic Affairs and Assistant Professor,  
Biology

*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.*