

## UPCOMING CAMPUS EVENT

### December Commencement Ceremonies



Sunday, December  
19, 2021



9 a.m.  
2:30 p.m.



Chapel of the Resurrection

Dear Faculty,

The December Conferring of Degrees for undergraduate and advanced degrees is **Sunday, December 19, 2021 in the Chapel of the Resurrection**. This year, we will be hosting two commencement ceremonies — a “make-up” commencement ceremony for the Class of 2020, whose in-person ceremonies were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, AND our normal mid-year commencement ceremony for August and December 2021 graduates. Please refer to the schedule below.

#### December Commencement

**Sunday, Dec. 19, 2021**

#### Chapel of the Resurrection

9 a.m. – Commencement Ceremony for Class of 2020, Chapel of the Resurrection

Post-Commencement Reception, Harre Union Ballroom

11:30 a.m. – Worship Service, Chapel of the Resurrection

2:30 p.m. – Commencement Ceremony for mid-year graduates, Chapel of the Resurrection

Post-Commencement Reception, Harre Union Ballroom

Visit [valpo.edu/commencement](https://valpo.edu/commencement) to stay updated on commencement information.

Colette Irwin-Knott will serve as commencement speaker for both commencement ceremonies. Colette is a dedicated servant leader with more than 30 years of experience in public finance. Having served as a member of the Valparaiso University Board of Directors since 2009, Colette took on her biggest role at Valparaiso University as interim president-elect and served in that capacity from September 2020 to March 2021.

Two overdue honorary degrees will be awarded at the upcoming ceremonies. James C. Prosser will be awarded an honorary Doctorate of Public Service (D.P.S.) at the 9 a.m. ceremony. Carl J. Grapentine will be awarded an honorary Doctorate of Music (D. Mus.) at the 2:30 p.m. ceremony.

A number of faculty members will also be recognized during the commencement ceremonies:

#### **9 a.m. Commencement Ceremony**

- **Robert W. Clark, Ph.D.**, VUAA Distinguished Teaching Award Recipient
- **Jeffrey Scott Doeblar '87 M.M., Ph.D.**, VU Excellence in Teaching Award Recipient
- **Sara Gundersen, Ph.D.**, VU Excellence in Teaching Award Recipient
- **Carlos Miguel-Pueyo, Ph.D.**, VU Excellence in Teaching Award Recipient

#### **2:30 Commencement Ceremony**

- **Joseph A. Bognar '94, Ph.D.**, Fredrick A. and Mazie N. Reddel Professor of Music
- **Lydia K. Brauer '88**, VUAA Distinguished Teaching Award Recipient
- **Sunghee Kim, Ph.D.**, Kruse Organist Professor
- **Lara Pudwell '03, Ph.D.**, VU Excellence in Teaching Award Recipient
- **Timothy J. Tomasik, Ph.D.**, Phyllis & Richard Duesenberg Chair in French Language and Culture
- **Luke J. Venstrom '07, Ph.D.**, Paul H. Brandt Professor of Engineering

Members of the faculty are asked to consider participating in at least one of the academic processions for the upcoming commencement ceremonies. Faculty planning to participate in the procession should line up down the spiral staircase in the Chapel of the Resurrection 30 minutes prior to the beginning of each ceremony. A faculty marshal (Chris McQuillen) will be there to direct you to your place in the procession. The procession will proceed into the chapel at approximately 10 minutes prior to the start of each ceremony.

A reception in the Harre Union Ballrooms will immediately follow each ceremony. We hope that you will be able to attend and congratulate Valpo's graduates.

#### [COVID Precautions](#)

Masks are optional for vaccinated individuals, while masks are required for unvaccinated individuals in all spaces. Those who have specific concerns may certainly continue to wear masks on campus in any environment. Off campus situations may not share our campus' same high vaccination rates, so we strongly encourage all to wear masks and make proactive personal health decisions while out in the community.

The commencement ceremonies will be live streamed for those not able to attend in person. A link will be provided on the [commencement website](#).

If you have any questions, please contact University Marshal Ken Luther at [ken.luther@valpo.edu](mailto:ken.luther@valpo.edu) or ext. 5181.