

School of Dental Medicine

Diploma Ceremony

Heinz Hall for the Performing Arts Saturday, May 17, 2025

The University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine

DIPLOMA CEREMONY

The Seventeenth of May
Two Thousand Twenty-Five
One O'Clock
Heinz Hall for the Performing Arts
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

PROGRAM

ACADEMIC PROCESSION ENTRY OF CANDIDATES

GRAND MARSHAL Jodi Jasionowicz, DMD
Clinical Assistant Professor, Diagnostic Sciences

PRESIDING Marnie Oakley, DMD
Dean

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM Singulum
A Capella Student Organization, School of Dental Medicine

WELCOME Marnie Oakley, DMD
Dean

Nadine Robert, BDS, MS Graduate Student Representative, Oral and Craniofacial Sciences

Sara Marie Patterson, BS, DMD Resident Representative, Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics

Margaret Eleanor Peck, BS, DMD Valedictorian, Senior Dental Class

Jared Daniel Brown, BA, BS, DMD
President, Senior Dental Class

My Linh Hoang, BA President, Senior Dental Hygiene Class

Paulette Dietz, RDH, BS Instructor, Dental Hygiene Program Secretary, Dental Alumni Association

ADMINISTRATION OF THE DENTAL HYGIENE OATHVictoria Green, RDH, MPH, MEd Assistant Director, Dental Hygiene Program							
PRESENTATION OF THE DENTAL HYGIENE CLASS OF 2025							
PRESENTER							
READER							
ASSISTED BY							
ADMINISTRATION OF THE DENTAL OATH							
PRESENTATION OF THE DENTAL CLASS OF 2025							
PRESENTER							
READER							
ASSISTED BY							
HOODING							

 $\label{eq:Andrew Nigra, DMD} Assistant \ {\it Professor}, \ {\it Restorative Dentistry and Comprehensive Care}$

PROGRAM

PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATE AND ADVANCED DEGREE CANDIDATES

READERAnitha Potluri, BDS, DMD, MDcs Assistant Dean, Residency Education Chair, Diagnostic Sciences

ASSISTED BY Christine Wankiiri-Hale, DMD
Associate Dean, Student Affairs

Joseph Giovannitti Jr., DMD Professor Emeritus, Dental Anesthesiology

> Renato Silva, DDS, MS, PhD Senior Associate Dean Chair, Endodontics

Helen Giannakopoulos, DDS, MD Associate Dean, Hospital Affairs Chair and Program Director, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

Wellington Rody Jr., DDS, MS Chair and Program Director, Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopaedics

Halima Abukabbos, BDS, MPH Program Director, Pediatric Dentistry

Andrea Ravida, DDS, MS, PhD
Program Director, Periodontics

Thomas Kunkel, DMD Program Director, Prosthodontics

PRESENTATION OF MASTER OF SCIENCE AND DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY DEGREE CANDIDATES

PRESENTER
READER
ASSISTED BY
HOODINGElia Beniash, MSc, PhD Chair, Oral and Craniofacial Sciences
Dobrawa Napierala, PhD Program Director, Oral and Craniofacial Sciences
Charles Sfeir, DDS, PhD Associate Dean, Research Chair, Periodontics and Preventive Dentistry
CLOSING REMARKS
ALMA MATER
RECESSIONAL

DENTAL HYGIENE OATH

In my practice as a dental hygienist, I affirm my personal and professional commitment to improve the oral health of the public, to advance the art and science of dental hygiene, and to promote high standards of quality care.

I pledge continually to improve my professional knowledge and skills, to render a full measure of service to each patient entrusted to my care, and to uphold the highest standards of professional competence and personal conduct in the interests of the dental hygiene profession and the public it serves.

THE DENTAL OATH

I, realizing the privileges and opportunities that have been given to me in my study of the arts and sciences of dentistry and appreciating the significance of the Dental Diploma to be conferred upon me, do hereby willingly pledge:

That I will diligently uphold the dignity, honor, and objectives of the dental profession and, to the best of my ability, will contribute to its prestige, proficiency, and progress;

That I solemnly accept my responsibility to the patients to give them the best of my knowledge and skill, and to maintain an impeccable relationship with them that will warrant their trust and confidence;

That I will faithfully observe the principles of ethics set forth by the profession;

That I will lend my influence and support to dental education, to organized dentistry, and to all segments of the profession which contribute to the fulfillment of its purpose.

ALMA MATER

Alma mater, wise and glorious,

Child of Light and bride of truth;

Over fate and foe victorious,

Dowered with eternal youth;

Crowned with love of son and daughter,

Thou shalt conquer as of yore.

Dear old Pittsburgh, Alma Mater,

God preserve Thee evermore!

SEAL OF THE UNIVERSITY

The seal of the University of Pittsburgh combines the elements of the history and identity of the University. The shield is emblazoned with the checkered horizontal bar and three coins, which are heraldic symbols emblematic of William Pitt's family and fortune. The shield is taken from Pitt's coat of arms. The castle on the shield is a symbol of the concept of the city and is borrowed from the seal of the City of Pittsburgh. The banner below the shield is charged with the Latin words "veritas" and "virtus," "truth" and "virtue."

ACADEMIC HERALDRY: THE SYMBOL OF LEARNING

The college or university commencement procession today, in this country and abroad, is a pageant, alive and bright with the dress and ceremony inherited from the medieval universities of the eleventh and twelfth centuries.

Academic life as we know it today began in the Middle Ages with Bologna and Paris, Oxford and Cambridge, Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Louvain, first in the church, then in the guilds. The teaching guild was the Guild of the Master of Arts, where the Bachelor was the apprentice of the Master and the dress was the outward sign of privilege and responsibility. The dress made visible, in color and pattern, the unity of persons of like purpose. Twelfth-century records of Oxford University carry this justification for academic dress: "It is honorable and in accordance with reason that clerks to whom God has given an advantage of the lay folk in their adornments, within, should likewise differ from the lay fold outwardly in dress."

The principle features of academic dress are three: the gown, the cap, and the hood. Their design and heraldry were from as early as the eleventh and twelfth centuries in the great European universities as an outward sign of the bringing together of students and privileged persons under the same discipline.

To preserve their dignity and meaning it became necessary for these universities to set rules for academic dress. American universities agreed on a definite system in 1895 and set up a suitable code of academic dress for the colleges and universities of the United States. In 1932 the American Council on Education presented a revised code which for the most part governs the style of academic dress today.

THE GOWN: The flowing gown comes from the twelfth century. Many think it was worn in olden times as protection against the cold of unheated buildings. It has become symbolic of the democracy of scholarship, for it completely covers any dress of rank or social standing underneath. It is black for all degrees, with pointed sleeves. For the Bachelor's or Master's degree, the gown has no trimmings. For the Doctor's degree it is faced down the front with velvet and has three bars of velvet across the sleeves in the color distinctive of the college. For example, the trustees and administrative officers of the University of Pittsburgh wear gowns trimmed in blue velvet edged in gold faille.

THE CAP: Under Roman law, a freed slave won the privilege of wearing a cap. And so the academic cap is a sign of freedom of scholarship and the responsibility and dignity with which the scholarship endows the wearer. Old poetry records the cap of scholarship as square to symbolize the book, although authorities claim that the mortarboard is the symbol of masons, a privileged guild. The color of the tassel on the cap denotes the discipline.

THE HOOD: Heraldically the hood is an inverted shield with one or more chevrons of a secondary color on the ground of the primary color of the college. The color of the facing of the hood denotes the discipline represented by the degree. Some of the colors are gold yellow (Science), light blue (Education), white (Arts and Letters), green (Medicine), and lilac (Dentistry). The color of the lining of the hood designates the university or college from which the degree was granted.

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE

DENTAL HYGIENE CLASS OF 2025

Sydney Mae Adkins

Bristol, VT

Nicole Graciela Badilla Villalobos

Chesterfield, VA

Willow Elizabeth Boswinkle

Arlington, VA

Julia Margaret Casella, BS

Ohio University, 2021 Erie, PA

Megan Grace Denny

Butler, PA

Neena Rae Falcioni

Pittsburgh, PA

Jadyn Elizabeth Garbart

Belle Vernon, PA

My Linh Hoang, BA

Case Western Reserve University, 2022

Violet, LA

John Daniel Hoglund

Pittsburgh, PA

Hattie Johnson

Natrona Heights, PA

Dalton Thomas Kalbaugh

Allison Park, PA

Xiomara Chandenie Kanhai, BS

University of Pittsburgh, 2017

Wexford, PA

Gursimran Kaur

Greenwood, IN

Lila M. Levan

Mechanicsburg, PA

Tiffany M. Lieu

Havertown, PA

Makayla Amber Madden

Elizabeth, PA

Kaitlyn Nicole McClellan

Gibsonia, PA

Bridget Egan Millar

Ocean City, NJ

Yordanos Tizazu Negash

Aurora, CO

Megan Nicole Nixon

Brentwood, PA

Alyssa Ann Rick, BS

Mercyhurst University, 2022

Erie, PA

Caroline Eliese Rundle

Butler, PA

Rania Atef Sakhy, BS

Virginia Commonwealth University, 2023

Richmond, VA

Francesca Scaramucci

Rostraver Township, PA

Sophia Gabriella Startari

Murrysville, PA

Vi Diem Tran

Fairfax, VA

Elyza Mary Wiles

Glenshaw, PA

DENTAL CLASS OF 2025

NAME

UNDERGRADUATE

PROFESSIONAL ENDEAVORS

LOCATION

Mohamed Aarif Abdul Kareem, BA, MS

Boston University, 2018

Virginia Commonwealth University, 2020

Dental Anesthesiology Residency

Pittsburgh, PA

Alexis Brooke Adkins, BA, BS

Marshall University, 2021

Pediatric Dentistry Residency

Columbus, OH

Kareem M. Ahmed, BS

University of Maryland, 2021

Advanced Education in General

Dentistry Program Spartanburg, SC

Kirolos Fiedaie Bassile, BA, MOHS

Towson University, 2019 Boston University, 2020 Private Practice Baltimore, MD

Lauren Elizabeth Bell, BA

Duquesne University, 2021

General Practice Residency

Washington, DC

Zachary Kingsley Berman, BA, BS

Tulane University, 2015 University of Oregon, 2020 Private Practice Oahu, HI

Connor William Black, BS

The Pennsylvania State University, 2021

Private Practice Lancaster, PA

Antonio Joseph Blundo, BA

University of Pittsburgh, 2017

Orthodontics Residency

Pittsburgh, PA

Ava Borhani, BS

Toronto Metropolitan University, 2019

Dental Support Organization

Cincinnati, OH

Andrew C. Borrell, BS

University of Pittsburgh, 2021

Private Practice Houston, TX

Alexandra Katherine Borza, BS

Syracuse University, 2021

General Practice Residency

York, PA

Timothy Andrew Brannon, BS

Chatham University, 2020

Private Practice Morehead City, NC

Austin R. Brenner, BS

The Pennsylvania State University, 2021

Private Practice Titusville, PA

Jared Daniel Brown, BA, BS

University of Delaware, 2021

Orthodontic Fellowship Indianapolis, IN

Kaleigh Paige Brown, BA

University of Delaware, 2021

Orthodontics Residency

Chapel Hill, NC

NAME UNDERGRADUATE

PROFESSIONAL ENDEAVORS LOCATION

Makela Lynn Brown, BA, PBACC

San Francisco State University, 2015 Portland State University, 2020

General Practice Residency

Providence, RI

Mariah Amia Cason, BS

East Carolina University, 2021

Advanced Education in General

Dentistry Program Nashville, TN

Sonia Ysabel Chemerisov, BS

Farmingdale State College, 2021

General Practice Residency

Pittsburgh, PA

Sarah Fay Cole, BS Allegheny College, 2018 Private Practice

Mackenzie Kopas Colinear, BS

University of Pittsburgh, 2021

Orthodontics Residency Minneapolis, MN

Shane Michael Cooley, BA

Case Western Reserve University, 2017

General Practice Residency

Canton, OH

Jesse A. Cooper, BS, PBACC

Seton Hill University, 2016 Temple University, 2021

Private Practice Johnstown, PA

Sydney Nicole Cosgrove, BS University of Pittsburgh, 2020 General Practice Residency

Pittsburgh, PA

Rider Gustaaf Daas, BS, MBS

Washington and Jefferson College, 2019

Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine, 2020

Private Practice Pittsburgh, PA

Dawson Gene Dayton, BS

Brigham Young University, 2020

General Practice Residency

Salt Lake City, UT

Hannah Lynn Euphemia DuBois, BS

Salisbury University, 2025

Private Practice Pittsburgh, PA

KallanThomas Lee Elle, BS

University of North Carolina, 2018

Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Residency New Orleans, LA

Nathaniel Laird Fleck, BS

Indiana University of Pennsylvania, 2020

Private Practice Pittsburgh, PA

Jasmine Bree Gonzales, BA

San Diego State University, 2021

United States Navv Camp Lejeune, NČ

Jamie Cara Gorden, BS

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, 2019

Private Practice Chicago, IL

NAME

UNDERGRADUATE

PROFESSIONAL ENDEAVORS

LOCATION

Anya Lauren Mabel Grandison, BS

University of Central Florida, 2021

Benjamin Myers Harrison, BS

Wake Forest University, 2021

Caroline Elaine Henson, BS University of Georgia, 2020

Kirsten Rae Hertzog, BS

West Chester University of Pennsylvania, 2021

Max M. Hsiao, BS

University of the Pacific, 2020

Maya Nora Humeda, BS

Spring Hill College, 2021

Austin Mitchell Intrieri, BS

University of Pittsburgh, 2021

Jennah-Li Eulalia Jackson, BS

Georgetown University, 2014

Emily A. Justiniano, BS

Binghamton University, 2020

Negar Kianian, BS

Georgia State University, 2021

Kayla Patricia Kolodychak, BS

University of Connecticut, 2021

Sharath K. Kona, BDS, MBA

Government Dental College and Hospital, 2012

University of Findlay, 2015

Nathan Patrick Krug, BS

Virginia Military Institute, 2021

Alexis Rae Kuzemchak, BS

University of Pittsburgh, 2020

Nadeerah Alexandra Lamour, BA

Tufts University, 2017

Mathew M. Lipkin, BS

University of Pittsburgh, 2021

Orthodontics Residency

Atlanta, GA

General Practice Residency

Loma Linda, CA

Private Practice Naples, FL

Federally Qualified Health Center

Lancaster, PA

Dental Software Startup

Orthodontics Residency

Portland, OR

Orthodontics Residency

Jacksonville, FL

Advanced Education in General

Dentistry Program Snow Hill, NC

onow min, no

General Practice Residency York, PA

Private Practice

Atlanta, GA

General Practice Residency

Ann Arbor, MI

Private Practice

Brantford, Canada

Private Practice Altoona, PA

General Practice Residency

Pittsburgh, PA

Oral and Maxillofacial

Surgery Residency

Atlanta, GA

Orthodontics Residency

Portland, OR

NAME

UNDERGRADUATE

PROFESSIONAL ENDEAVORS LOCATION

Delisha Lobo, BDS

Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, 2014

Quade L. Lundberg, BS

University of Pittsburgh, 2021

Christine Isam Marar, BS

University of Pittsburgh, 2021

Rebecca Marie Markham, BA

Centre College, 2020

Connor Blake Medgaus, BA

University of Pittsburgh, 2015

Saania Mehrin, BDS

University of Peshawar, 2007

Casey Marie Morrow, BS

Bucknell University, 2021

Darius Lee Mozayan, BS

University of California Santa Cruz, 2021

Joseph T. Nguyen, BS

Villanova University, 2016

Shavla Phuoc Nguven, BS

University of Pittsburgh, 2019

Thomas M. Palumbo, BS

University of South Florida, 2020

Ruthvik Sai Panda, BS

University of Pittsburgh, 2021

Danielle SeeHyun Park, BBA

University of Notre Dame, 2011

Jasmin Sarina Patel, BS

Wilkes University, 2021

Kush T. Patel, BA

University of Pittsburgh, 2021

Mira Krishnakant Patel, BS

University of Pittsburgh, 2020

Shivangi D. Patel, BS

University of Pittsburgh, 2021

Private Practice Durham, NC

Private Practice Brockway, PA

Prosthodontics Residency

Memphis, TN

Federally Qualified Health Center

Private Practice

General Practice Residency

Reading, PA

Private Practice

Cranberry Township, PA

Dental Anesthesiology Residency

Stony Brook, NY

Prosthodontics Residency

Pittsburgh, PA

Private Practice Pittsburgh, PA

Private Practice

Cincinnati, OH

Oral and Maxillofacial

Surgery Residency Pittsburgh, PA

Private Practice

Richmond, VA

Pediatric Dentistry Residency

Philadelphia, PA

Pediatric Dentistry Residency

Richmond, VA

Pediatric Dentistry Residency

Philadelphia, PA

Endodontics Residency

Pittsburgh, PA

NAME UNDERGRADUATE

PROFESSIONAL ENDEAVORS LOCATION

Allison Jean Pavlan, BS Seton Hill University, 2021

Margaret Eleanor Peck, BS Juniata College, 2021

Emyli Peralta, BS University of Central Florida, 2019

Michael V. Piccirilli, BS The University of Akron, 2020

Bhawana Raghav, BDS Jaipur Dental College, 2010

Guru Prasad Ramani, BDSManipal College of Dental Sciences, 2020

Amruta Tryambak Sardeshpande, BDS, MDSDr. D. Y Patil Dental College and Hospital, 2016, 2020

Grace Elizabeth Savon, BS University of Pittsburgh, 2021

Emma Mary Schimansky, BS, MPH University of Pittsburgh, 2021, 2025

Mina Schultz, BS University of Georgia, 2021

Kristen Alexandria Mei-Nung Shen, RDH, BScOxford College of Business, Arts & Technology, 2017
University of Ontario Institute of Technology, 2021

Ankita Sibal, BS University of Pittsburgh, 2021

Bailey Anne Sisler, BS, MS University of Pittsburgh, 2019, 2021

Tyler Robinson Smith, BS University of Pittsburgh, 2021

Lamrot Solomon, BS Georgia State University, 2017

Neil Ranjan Sudan, BS University of Pittsburgh, 2021 Federally Qualified Health Center Pittsburgh, PA

General Practice Residency Pittsburgh, PA

Pediatric Dentistry Residency Columbus, OH

General Practice Residency Cleveland, OH

Private Practice Butler, PA

Periodontics Residency Rochester, NY

Private Practice Sunnyvale, CA

General Practice Residency Oakland, CA

Federally Qualified Health Center Washington, PA

Private Practice Columbia, SC

General Practice Residency Las Vegas, NV

General Practice Residency Newark, NJ

Federally Qualified Health Center Brunswick, GA

Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Residency Pittsburgh, PA

Private Practice Atlanta, GA

Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Residency Pittsburgh, PA NAME UNDERGRADUATE PROFESSIONAL ENDEAVORS LOCATION

Rohit Umeshchandra Sudrik, BDS, MDS

Government Dental College and Hospital, 2011 MGV KBH Dental College and Hospital, 2015 Private Practice Pittsburgh, PA

James Edward Thompson IV, BS

Clarion University, 2021

Private Practice Dayton, PA

Brianna Antoinette Walker, BS, MS

Eckerd College, 2019 Boston University, 2021 Dental Anesthesiology Residency

Pittsburgh, PA

Ani R. Wells, BA

West Virginia University, 2021

General Practice Residency

Spokane, WA

Christian Charles White, BS

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, 2021 Camp Lejeune, NC

United States Navy

Lauren Taylor Wiles, BA, MA

Washington and Jefferson College, 2019 West Virginia University, 2020 United States Navy Chicago, IL

ADVANCED RESIDENCY TRAINING PROGRAMS

CERTIFICATE — DENTAL ANESTHESIOLOGY

Taylor Chock-Wong, BS, DDS

Westminster College, 2019 University of Southern California, 2022

Alexander John DeBernardo, BS, DMD

Saint Joseph's University, 2014 Case Western University, 2020

Amit Khetan, BS, BSN, DMD

Stony Brook University, 2006 Nassau Community College, 2009 Midwestern University, 2021

Amy Sara Maya, BS, DDS

University of Connecticut, 2012 New York University, 2017

CERTIFICATE — ENDODONTICS

David Borota, BS, DDS

University of Washington, 2013 Virginia Commonwealth University, 2020

Caroline Kearney, BA, DMD

Franklin & Marshall College, 2017 University of Pennsylvania, 2022

Alexander William Edward Richter, BS, DMD

University of Pittsburgh, 2017, 2022

Kaliopi Kelly Tsimidis-Vukas, BS, DDS

University of Toronto, 1987 University of Buffalo, 1997

Bruno John Walkowiak, BS, DMD

Kings College, 2018 University of Pittsburgh, 2022

CERTIFICATE — ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY

Alex Jacob Romash, BS, DDS

Elon University, 2015 University of California, 2019

Alexander Lewis Sachs, BS, DMD, MD

Tulane University, 2014 Rutgers University, 2018 University of Pittsburgh, 2022

CERTIFICATE — ORTHODONTICS AND DENTOFACIAL ORTHOPAEDICS

Lauren Brooke Blum, BS, DDS

University of Maryland, 2016, 2022

Alyssa Nikole Kist, BS, DMD

Villanova University, 2018 Temple University, 2022

Sara Marie Patterson, BS, DMD

Saint Louis University, 2015 A.T. Still University, 2022

Kenneth III Lee Stephen, BS, DDS

Ohio State University, 2017, 2022

CERTIFICATE — PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY

Katherine M. Bigham, BSA, DMD

University of Georgia, 2018 Augusta University, 2023

Jacob Tyler Watts, BS, DMD

Rochester Institute of Technology, 2019 Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine, 2023

CERTIFICATE—PERIODONTICS

Mitchell Allen Hanson, BS, DDS University of Missouri, 2016, 2022

Jonathan Matthew Jackson, BA, DDS Princeton University, 2013

University of Maryland, 2021

Brady R. Skytland, BSc, DMD

North Dakota State University, 2018 Midwestern University, 2022

CERTIFICATE—PROSTHODONTICS

Moshe Menachem Berger, BTL, DDS

Ner Israel Rabbinical College, 2015 University of Maryland, 2022

Anusha Bontha, BS, DMD

University of Texas, 2017 Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine, 2022

Javier A. Cruz Saavedra, BS, DMD

University of Puerto Rico, 2018 University of Puerto Rico-Medical Sciences Campus, 2022

MASTER OF DENTAL SCIENCE— ORTHODONTICS AND DENTOFACIAL ORTHOPAEDICS

Lauren Brooke Blum, BS, DDS University of Maryland, 2016, 2022

Alyssa Nikole Kist, BS, DMD Villanova University, 2018 Temple University, 2022

Kenneth III Lee Stephen, BS, DDS Ohio State University, 2017, 2022

MASTER OF DENTAL SCIENCE—PERIODONTICS

Jonathan Matthew Jackson, BA, DDS Princeton University, 2013 University of Maryland, 2021

ORAL AND CRANIOFACIAL SCIENCES PROGRAM

MASTER OF SCIENCE — ORAL AND CRANIOFACIAL SCIENCES

Jamie Eakin, BS

California University of Pennsylvania, 2019

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY — ORAL AND CRANIOFACIAL SCIENCES

Mahdieh Alipour, BS, DDS

Tehran Farzanegan School, 2012 Tabriz University of Medical Sciences, 2018

Nursima Lacin, DDS

Bezmialem University, 2020

Nadine Robert, BDS, MS

Université d'Etat d'Haïti, 2012 University of Pittsburgh, 2020

Brent Preston Vasquez, BS, MS

Ramapo College of New Jersey, 2014 Rutgers School of Biomedical Sciences, 2016

Conferral of degrees of those listed is contingent on meeting academic requirements.



University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine

3501 Terrace Street Pittsburgh, PA 15261

dental.pitt.edu