



MAURICE H. KORNBERG SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

FRIDAY, THE SIXTHTENTH OF MAY
TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY FIVE



ACADEMY OF MUSIC
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

Maurice H. Kornberg School of Dentistry

FRIDAY, MAY 16 / 4:00 p.m.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC / 240 SOUTH BROAD STREET, PHILADELPHIA, PA

AMID I. ISMAIL

Dean and Laura H. Carnell Professor

PROCESSION*

"Pomp and Circumstance" by Sir Edward Elgar

"THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER"*

by Francis Scott Key

WELCOME AND ADDRESS

Amid I. Ismail, BDS, MPH, MBA, DrPH, Dean and Laura H. Carnell Professor

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Jennifer Unis Sullivan, JD, DMD '86

ALUMNI ADDRESS

Ronald D. Silverman, DDS '72, President, Alumni Association

FACULTY ADDRESS

Aaron Segal, DDS, Chair, Department of Restorative Dentistry

STUDENT SPEAKER

Dikshitha Shankar, DMD '25

CONFERRAL OF DEGREES AND SPECIALTY CERTIFICATES

Amid I. Ismail, BDS, MPH, MBA, DrPH, Dean and Laura H. Carnell Professor
Chip Marshall, Esq, '75, '79, Board of Trustees

PRESENTATION OF SPECIALTY CERTIFICATES

Amid I. Ismail, BDS, MPH, MBA, DrPH, Dean and Laura H. Carnell Professor
John A. Fry, President
Louis DiPede, DMD, Associate Dean of Graduate Education

PRESENTATION OF DIPLOMAS AND AWARDS

Amid I. Ismail, BDS, MPH, MBA, DrPH, Dean and Laura H. Carnell Professor
John A. Fry, President
Maria Fornatora, DMD, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs

RECESSIONAL*

Amid I. Ismail, BDS, MPH, MBA, DrPH, Dean and Laura H. Carnell Professor
"Stars and Stripes Forever" by John Philip Sousa

**Audience, please stand if you are able.*

Maurice H. Kornberg School of Dentistry

The Temple University Maurice H. Kornberg School of Dentistry has a rich history rooted in a commitment to excellence in dental education and community service. Established in 1863, it is one of the oldest dental schools in continuous existence in the United States. Originally founded as the Philadelphia Dental College, it became part of Temple University in 1907.



The "Tree of Peace" sculpture by UNESCO Artist for Peace Hedva Ser.
Donated by alumnus Allen L. Finkelstein.

*"Through dentistry, and our respect for one another,
we will show the world what the true definition of peace is."*

- Allen L. Finkelstein, D.D.S., '69

Amid Ismail

Dean



Welcome and congratulations, Class of 2025!

Today is more than a ceremony. It's a turning point.

You came to Temple Dental as students with big goals and a lot of questions. You leave as professionals with purpose, skill, and a deeper understanding of who you are and what kind of difference you want to make.

Over the last few years, you've done more than learn how to treat teeth. You've learned how to treat people—with care, with empathy, and with integrity.

This moment is not just about looking back at all you've achieved. It's about looking ahead to what's next. Whether you go into private practice, public health, research, or teaching, the real work begins now. And it's not just clinical. It's about showing up for your patients, earning their trust, and being the kind of healthcare professional who listens, learns, and leads.

You'll face tough days. You'll make difficult calls. But you are ready. You've proven that again and again.

Lastly, remember the value of staying connected. Lean on your fellow Owls, support one another, and continue creating a community that is welcoming, compassionate, and fair for all.

On behalf of the entire Temple Dental community, congratulations!

Joseph W. (Chip) Marshall III, Esq

Trustee

Mr. Marshall is a proud Temple alumnus, earning both his undergraduate and law degrees in 1975 and 1979 respectively. Chip serves on the university's Board of Trustees and on Ambler's Board of Visitors, as well as serving on the Rome Board. Currently Chip is the vice chairman of Stevens & Lee, a professional consultancy with nearly 200 lawyers and 40 non-lawyer business and consulting professionals. Prior to his time at Stevens & Lee, Chip was the chairman and CEO of the Temple University Health System. He and his wife Phyllis serve on a variety of boards and non-profits in the Philadelphia region.



Jennnifer Unis Sullivan, DMD, JD, FCLM

Keynote Speaker

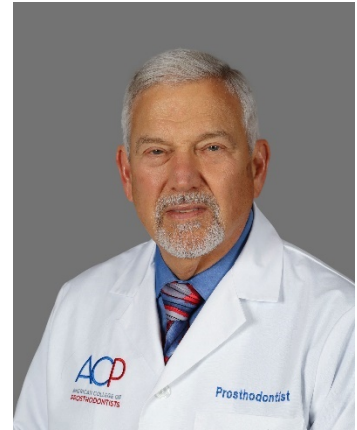


Dr. Sullivan is the first female dentist in Pennsylvania to earn a law degree and pass the bar. She received her D.M.D. from Temple University Kornberg School of Dentistry in Philadelphia, and J.D. from the Thomas Kline School of Law at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. She co-founded Unis Dental Associates and continues to practice general and cosmetic dentistry as she has over the past 39 years. She has been routinely named one of Pittsburgh's "Top Dentists" in Pittsburgh Magazine as voted by her patients and dental peers. She was appointed to the Pennsylvania State Board of Dentistry by 2 Governors and currently serves as Chair of the State Dental Board. She is an Adjunct Assistant Professor at Temple University Kornberg School of Dentistry, and in 2024 she was the recipient of the Temple Kornberg School of Dentistry Outstanding Alumni Award in Leadership. Dr. Sullivan currently serves as the 55th President of the American College of Legal Medicine (ACLM), the first female dentist, and the third dentist to serve as President. She is a recipient of the ACLM Gold Medal Award, the highest award given to an ACLM member. She is the first female dentist, and only the second dentist to receive this highest honor.

Aaron Segal, DDS

Faculty Speaker

Dr. Segal completed a 3-year residency in Fixed, Removable and Maxillofacial Prosthodontics at the Veterans Administration Medical center in Wilmington, Delaware in 1983. Dr. Segal had a private practice on Long Island, NY and taught part time at the SUNY at Stony Brook, School of Dental Medicine from 1985 through 2009. In 2009, he accepted a full-time position in the Division of Prosthodontics of the Department of General Dentistry, at the School of Dental Medicine. A year later he was named the Division director. In 2010 he successfully challenged the American Board of Prosthodontists exam. He was given the task of developing a curriculum and preparing the CODA documentation for a postdoctoral program. In 2013 he was named the director of the Advanced Education Program in Prosthodontics and was promoted to Clinical Associate Professor.



In 2015 he accepted a full-time position at the Temple University Kornberg School of Dentistry. At Kornberg he directed several courses and became the interim Chair of the Department of Restorative Dentistry in 2018. He became the Chair the following year and in 2024 he was awarded the Donald and Cecilia Platnick Endowed Chair in Restorative Dentistry.

Dikshitha Shankar, DMD '25

Student Speaker



Dikshitha Shankar was raised in South Florida. She attended the University of Florida for her undergraduate studies and received her Master's in Biomedical Sciences from Barry University before starting at Temple in 2021.

During her time at Temple, Dikshitha has been involved with the Student Council as Class President for her D1 and D2 years and most recently as the 2024-2025 Student Body President. She also served as a mentor through the Kornberg Peer Mentor Program and was the ASDA District 3 Wellness Chair. After graduation, Dikshitha will pursue a GPR in the DC Area.

Alumni Association

As a graduate, you are now a member of the [Kornberg School of Dentistry Alumni Association](#)! Your Kornberg experience doesn't stop at graduation. More than 7,000 of our alumni are redefining the field of oral health. Kornberg School of Dentistry alumni are an integral asset to our school community and the communities they serve through the practice of dentistry. Kornberg values the support alumni provide through contributions of time and charitable donations. We strive to foster the ongoing connection between alumni, current students and the dental school. There are many ways for alumni to reconnect or strengthen existing bonds to the school and our students.

Alumni Association Officers

President: Ron Silverman, DDS '72

President Elect: Michael Bydalek, DMD '89

Past President: Rachel Bresler, DMD '14

Treasurer: Cynthia Jetter, DMD '86

Secretary: Tom Howley, DDS '81

Young Alum Rep: Varun Solanki, DMD '21

Assistant Dean, Development and Alumni Affairs: David C. Leach, M.Ed.

Ron Silverman, DDS '72



Major General Ronald D. Silverman was the first U.S. Army officer to command all above-division-level medical forces in a combat zone, serving in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom from 2006 to 2007. Born in Philadelphia, he earned a BA in History from the University of Wisconsin in 1969 and a DDS from Temple University in 1972.

He served on active duty as a Dental Corps Officer from 1972 to 1975, then joined the Army Reserve in 1976. His assignments included roles at the Pentagon, the Army Surgeon General's office, and the U.S. Army Personnel Command. He commanded the 804th Medical Brigade from 1998 to 2002, overseeing medical missions in the U.S. and abroad.

In 2004, he became commander of the 3rd Medical Command, a deployable theater-level medical headquarters. While deployed, he led Task Force 3d MEDCOM, overseeing medical care for over 150,000 personnel, building combat hospitals, and establishing medical training centers in Iraq.

Dr. Silverman's service contributed to a battlefield survival rate of over 90%. His awards include the Distinguished Service Medal (with Oak Leaf Cluster), Legion of Merit (with Oak Leaf Cluster), Bronze Star, and Meritorious Service Medal.

Decorated with multiple military honors, including the Distinguished Service Medal and Bronze Star, Dr. Silverman has over 40 years of military service. He continues to serve as a mentor and forensic dentistry consultant. He lives in Florida with his wife, Miriam, and is part of a three-generation legacy of military service.

dentistry.temple.edu/alumni

Certificate of Dental Specialties

Advanced Education in General Dentistry

Mohand Alruwaili+
Shaymaa Elshaer
Melina Good
Omar Kmala+
Sreedatta Mahavadi
Anette Mirabal
Teresa Tho O'Brien
Ria Shah
Brianna Yusiewicz

Dental Public Health

Srikanth Reddy Karra
Maheeya Pakki
Kumaran Chowdary Parachuri

Endodontics

Nadia Hossain+
Sarah Langer+
Eugene Lee+
Varun Solanki+
Samantha Tsai+

Orthodontics

Rayane Farah+
Jessica Ho+
Hyangseong Jo+
Daniel Markel+
Jordyn Middleberg+
Matthew Wittstein+

Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

Thomas Anthony Adel

Periodontology

Chan Kwon Chung+
Aljowhara Faraidy+
David Sabbah+
Kenneth Tang+

Master of Science

Rusul Albazi
Tayseer Albustami
Aayush R. Deb
Amal Fatima
Khushi Nileshbhai Gandhi
Kumari Akshara Gandikota
Sanika S. Gokhale
Christine Ibrahim
Tariq Mirza
Leela Sivaraj
Arianna Vacio
Katie Yang

+Master of Science

PLEASE NOTE: As final action cannot always be taken by the time this program is printed, lists of candidates are only tentative. Any errors or omissions are inadvertent, and the university cannot be held responsible. The student's transcript is the official record of the university.

Doctor of Dental Medicine

Farhan Safayet Ahmed
Sharv Ahuja *
Zahraa E H A M Alabdullah ***
Alireza Alizadegan
Omar Alqushaibi ***
Joydeep Arneja *
Mutahara Azeeza
Kamarveer Singh Baidwan
Sahana Bajracharya **
Mason Edward Bennetch ***
Christopher Bentz ***
Meera Boghara
Radin Bonakdar
Erika Dorothy Book **
Laura Macalister Brown *
Juan P. Castillo Tavaréz **
Abdullah Chaudhry
Lydia Cho ***
Jiseon Choi
Abigail Ciach
Megumi Corley **
Shaili Dave
Eliakim Isiah Pallasigüe Deguzman
Nabiel Ahmad Dehyar
Joseph C. DiGregorio
Alexandru Donos **
Marina Duka *
Angela L. Duong
Robert Elkind
Nicholas Emmi
Olivia Lauren Evans ***
Asaad Farooqi
Robyn Tran Ferraro
Cody James Fitzpatrick **
Julian Flys
Ryan Franks **
Christopher Frazzette
Bassent Gabr
Summer Gavin **
Jake David Gilardi ***
Dominique Gnatowski *
Abigail Leigh Goldstein *
Melissa Gomez **
Austin Gordon
Amanda Sitha Gross
Kent Ha
Nafis Haque
Riham Harmouch ***
Nicole Harrison
Peter John Heckman **
Jessica Kay Heister *
Hoaithuong Thanh Ho
Noah James Horvath **

Abdulaziz Hussain
Rahim Hussain
Justin Anh-Kiet Huynh
Omer Ilus ***
Chun Ming Ip
Seiya Ishikura
Brendan J. Jahr
Sung Won Jeong
Chendi Jiang ***
Rudi Michelle Johnson
Lana Catherine Kalinowski **
Ki Youn Kil
Andrea Kim *
Chairin Kim
Evan Kitchen
Andrew Young Ko
Hyeok Jin Kweon **
Cameron Adam Kwiatkowski
Jacob Hyunwoo Lee
Seong Hyun Lee
Munair Lewis-Francis **
Guo (Harvey) Li ***
Fernando Jose Lores **
Simona Loshi *
Lisanne L. Lyle
Dipal Mahajan
Hardikkumar Mansukhlal Makadia *
Grace Nicole Mann
Nolan Patrick Manning **
Theodhor Marko *
Mohsen Masoomi **
Shannon Brooke McTaggart
Vanessa Medina
Rahul Mehta
Noah Spenser Miles
Angela Marie Misch ***
Lindsay Suzanne Moran ***
Sara Deanna Mourtada
James Donald Dunham Nelson
Dieu X. Ngo
Bao Tran Nguyen
Shannon Noroozi ***
Cali Olson
Twisha Padodara
Abhi Biren Parikh *
Reeti Parikh ***
Ha yeon Park
Mehul Patel
Nand Patel ***
Neil K. Patel
Pruthvish J. Patel *
Rishi Patel
Sahil Patel

Shaily S. Patel *
Surya Patel
Matthew Anthony Pettoruto
Steven Plouffe
William Poon
Sue Pride Quan
Saad A. Qureshi **
Marwan Rajha
Ebrahim Y. Rampuri ***
Pranjali Shreyas Ranadive *
Nupur Moranganti Reddy *
Victoria Richardson
Peter Joseph Rittenhouse ***
Rachel Lauren Rosen ***
Evangelos Rossis ***
David V. Saakov
Rishi Raghav Saincher ***
Jonathan Salim Saliby
Ayesha Salim
Amea Bhaskar Savani
Anvi A. Savani
Sean J. Scott ***
Anup H. Shah
Dikshitha Shankar **
Nidhi Shankar **
Grace Shei
Beenish Siddique
Gurpreet Singh
Philip Smith
Annie Son
Maitry Sonagra ***
Jianing Song
Maria Nagy Sous *
Clayton Edward Stevenson
Matthew Stuart
George Tadros
Arpita Talwar **
Kassie Ly Truong
Brijai Nangir Varma
Aleksandra Velickovic ***
Isabella Villano
Kristian Paul Voulopos
Mirel Wanis
James Samuel Whitaker
Thomas Zareba

* * * summa cum laude ** magna cum laude * cum laude

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Award Recipients

Academy of General Dentistry

presented to two students who have shown the greatest promise of being outstanding general practitioners

ALEXANDRU DONOS
NOLAN PATRICK MANNING

Academy of Osseointegration Outstanding Student

in Implant Dentistry Award

presented to the most outstanding student in implant dentistry

RISHI RAGHAV SAINCHER

American Academy of Esthetic Dentistry Student Award

for outstanding achievement in the pursuit of excellence in the undergraduate study of esthetic dentistry

AMEE BHASKAR SAVANI

American Academy of Implant Dentistry Award

presented the student for outstanding achievement, both academically and clinically, in implant dentistry

SHANNON NOROOZI

American Academy of Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology Award

presented to the student for exemplary aptitude and achievement in oral and maxillofacial pathology

LINDSAY SUZANNE MORAN

American Academy of Oral & Maxillofacial Radiology Award

presented to the student who has shown exceptional interest and accomplishment in oral and maxillofacial radiology

LINDSAY SUZANNE MORAN

American Academy of Oral Medicine Award

presented to the student who has shown the greatest achievement, proficiency and promise in the field of oral medicine

MUNAIR LEWIS-FRANCIS

American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry Award

presented to the student who is the most outstanding in the field of pediatric dentistry as chosen by the faculty

MEGUMI CORLEY

American Academy of Periodontology Dental Student Achievement Award

presented to the student who has displayed the highest level of academic and clinical excellence in periodontics

MOHSEN MASOOMI

American Association of Endodontists Award

presented to the student demonstrating exceptional ability in the area of endodontics

EVANGELOS ROSSIS

American Association of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons Dental Student Award

presented to a student for outstanding performance in undergraduate study and clinical training in the area of implant placement

PRUTHVISH J. PATEL

American Association of Public Health Dentistry Award

presented to the student who has demonstrated special interest and achievement in community dentistry and dental public health

LAURA MACALISTER BROWN

American College of Dentists Outstanding Student Leader Award

presented to the student who has displayed outstanding leadership, scholastic performance, and potential for impact on the profession of dentistry while a dental student

DIKSHITHA SHANKAR

American College of Prosthodontists Award

presented to the student who has shown high academic and clinical proficiency in prosthodontics

RYAN FRANKS

American Dental Society of Anesthesiology

“Horace Wells” Award

presented to the student who has demonstrated proficiency in the field of dental anesthesiology

RAHUL MEHTA

American Prosthodontic Society Student of Merit Award

presented to the student who has demonstrated the highest level of clinical proficiency and greatest interest in prosthodontic dentistry

CHRISTOPHER BENTZ

Award Recipients

Cary Klimen, D.D.S.

Class of 1966 Ethics Award

presented to the student who exhibits personal values and actions that demonstrate integrity and ethics

MATTHEW STUART

Dean's Award for Exemplary Care of Patients in Cluster 1

REETI PARIKH

Dean's Award for Exemplary Care of Patients in Cluster 2A

LANA CATHERINE KALINOWSKI

Dean's Award for Exemplary Care of Patients in Cluster 2B

RACHEL LAUREN ROSEN

Dean's Award for Exemplary Care of Patients in Cluster 3

RISHI RAGHAV SAINCHER

Delaware Valley Society of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons Award for Clinical Excellence

presented to the student who has displayed superior clinical excellence in the discipline of oral and maxillofacial surgery

SHAILI DAVE

Delaware Valley Society of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons Award for Implantology

presented to the student who has displayed clinical excellence in the area of oral and maxillofacial implantology

JESSICA KAY HEISTER

Dental Lifeline Network

Brian D. Stone Memorial Award

presented to the student who has exhibited a proven commitment to community volunteerism or helping people with special needs

NUPUR MORAMGANTI REDDY

Dr. Allen L. Finkelstein D.D.S.

Tree of Peace Award

presented to the student who embodies the spirit behind the Tree of Peace

OMER ILUS

Dr. Anthony A. Campanella Scholarship Award

presented to a graduating dental student from New Jersey who has demonstrated academic achievement and intends to practice general dentistry

MEGUMI CORLEY

Dr. Benjamin D. Homer Award

presented to the student who has demonstrated scholastic excellence and who exemplifies the qualities and ideals of integrity and civility by which Dr. Benjamin D. Homer lived

MUNAIR LEWIS-FRANCIS

Dr. Gregory A. Kurman Award for Compassionate Care

presented to a student who exemplifies compassion and empathy and who provides superior dental care

MELISSA GOMEZ

Dr. Jay H. Eshleman Award

presented to a student who demonstrated an exemplary lifestyle during their four years of study, taking into account scholarship, department ethics and pre-professional demeanor, in preparation to enter the profession of dentistry

HYEOK JIN KWEON

Dr. Jeanne Craig Sinkford

Student Leadership Award

for demonstrating effective leadership and a commitment to serving diverse communities

DIKSHITHA SHANKAR

Edward B. & Arnold R. Cook

Prize in Dentistry

awarded to two students who have demonstrated exceptional ability in the field of pediatric dentistry

MASON EDWARD BENNETCH

LAURA MACALISTER BROWN

Howard Carson, D.M.D., Award

for Excellence in Oral &

Maxillofacial Surgery

presented to the student who has excelled in oral and maxillofacial surgery, and will continue on to an oral and maxillofacial surgery residency

GUO LI

International College of Dentists,

USA Section Humanitarian Award

presented to the student who is an outstanding example of altruistic leadership in promoting and serving humanitarian projects

NAND PATEL

Award Recipients

International College of Dentists, USA Section Leadership Award

presented to the student who has demonstrated the greatest professional growth, development, and outstanding leadership during four years of dental school

SHANNON NOROOZI

International Congress of Oral Implantologists Student Achievement Award

presented to the student who displayed the greatest interest and commitment to oral implantology and implant dentistry

ANGELA MARIE MISCH

Irving P. Shire, D.D.S., Memorial Award

presented to a student who has demonstrated the highest level of clinical proficiency and integrity and who is entering one of the federal dental services

MUNAIR LEWIS-FRANCIS

Isadore Auerbach Memorial Award

presented to the student whose academic record, clinical excellence, and moral character most nearly exemplify Dr. Isadore Auerbach

RYAN FRANKS

Martin N. Kravitt, D.D.S., Class of 1944 Award

presented to the student displaying excellence in clinical ability

CHRISTOPHER BENTZ

Northeastern Society of Periodontists Award

presented to the student that has excelled in the field of periodontics

EVANGELOS ROSSIS

Philadelphia County Dental Society Student Award

presented to the most outstanding member of the Class of 2025, as determined by the faculty

ERIKA DOROTHY BOOK

R. Ralph Bresler, M.D., Memorial Award

presented to the student who has exhibited outstanding empathy for pediatric patients and a desire to put patients first

ANVI A. SAVANI

Sharon X. Wang, D.M.D., Memorial Dental Award

presented to a female student who has displayed academic excellence during her four years of dental school and plans to practice general dentistry

LINDSAY SUZANNE MORAN

Sigma Epsilon Delta Dental Fraternity's

Dr. Leon S. Brenner Award

presented to a student who has excelled in operative dentistry

NAND PATEL

Sigma Epsilon Delta Dental Fraternity's

Dr. Reuben Matzkin Award

presented to the student who has obtained the highest academic average over four years

ALEKSANDRA VELICKOVIC

Omicron Kappa Upsilon Dental Honor Society Award

for scholastic achievement and exemplary character

OMAR ALQUSHAIBI

MASON EDWARD BENNETCH

CHRISTOPHER BENTZ

JAKE DAVID GILARDI

PETER JOHN HECKMAN

OMER ILUS

CHENDI JIANG

ANGELA MARIE MISCH

LINDSAY SUZANNE MORAN

SHANNON NOROOZI

MATTHEW ANTHONY PETTORUTO

PETER JOSPEH RITTENHOUSE

RACHEL LAUREN ROSEN

EVANGELOS ROSSIS

DIKSHITHA SHANKAR

GRACE SHEI

ALEKSANDRA VELICKOVIC

The Dentist Pledge

I, (name), as a member of the dental profession, shall keep this pledge and these stipulations.

I understand and accept that my primary responsibility is to my patients, and I shall dedicate myself to render, to the best of my ability, the highest standard of oral health care and to maintain a relationship of respect and confidence. Therefore, let all come to me safe in the knowledge that their total health and well-being are my first considerations.

I shall accept the responsibility that as a professional, my competence rests on continuing the attainment of knowledge and skill in the arts and sciences of dentistry.

I acknowledge my obligation to support and sustain the honor and integrity of the profession and to conduct myself in all endeavors such that I shall merit the respect of patients, colleagues, and my community. I further commit myself to the betterment of my community for the benefit of all society.

I shall faithfully observe the Principles of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct set forth by the profession.

All this I pledge with pride in my commitment to the profession and the public it serves.

dentistry.temple.edu



MAURICE H. KORNBERG
Class of 1921

"Life's burdens weary us,
but oh, its happy days are sweet."

