



Maurice H. Kornberg School of Dentistry Commencement Ceremony

2026

FRIDAY, MAY 15, 2026 | ACADEMY OF MUSIC



Maurice H. Kornberg School of Dentistry

FRIDAY, MAY 15 / 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

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Mary Grace Rizzo-Fryzel, DMD, '14

FACULTY ADDRESS

Shari J. Sklar, DMD '93, Assistant Professor

STUDENT SPEAKER

Joseph Michael Brigidi, DMD '26

CONFERRAL OF DEGREES AND SPECIALTY CERTIFICATES

Amid I. Ismail, BDS, MPH, MBA, DrPH

Kellyn W. Hodges, DMD '92, '94, Board of Trustees

ALUMNI ADDRESS

Michael Bydalek, DMD '89, President, Alumni Association

PRESENTATION OF SPECIALTY CERTIFICATES

Amid I. Ismail, BDS, MPH, MBA, DrPH

Louis DiPede, DMD, Associate Dean of Graduate Education

PRESENTATION OF DIPLOMAS AND AWARDS

Amid I. Ismail, BDS, MPH, MBA, DrPH

Maria Fornatora, DMD, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs

RECESSIONAL*

“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.

Our Mission: The Maurice H. Kornberg School of Dentistry promotes health and wellness through the comprehensive education of diverse general and specialty dentists utilizing inter-professional collaboration; providing compassionate, comprehensive, patient-centered, evidence-based and outcome-driven oral health care; engaging in research and scholarly activities; and serving the community.

Our Vision: The Maurice H. Kornberg School of Dentistry endeavors to distinguish itself as a dynamic teaching and learning community in which dental students and residents are inspired to become progressive healthcare practitioners, proactive public health advocates, inquisitive life-long learners, and innovative leaders in addressing present and future healthcare challenges.



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 2026!

Today marks more than the end of your time at Temple. It marks the beginning of your life in the profession you've worked so hard to join.

When you first arrived, you brought ambition, curiosity, and a willingness to learn. Over time, those qualities grew into something stronger—confidence, judgment, and a clear sense of purpose. You are leaving here not only with clinical skills, but with the ability to care for people in a way that truly matters.

Dentistry is about more than procedures. It is about trust. It is about listening closely, acting thoughtfully, and treating every patient with respect and compassion. Those are the habits you've built here, and they will define the kind of professional you become.

The path ahead will challenge you. There will be moments that test your judgment and your resilience. In those moments, remember what you've already accomplished and the foundation you've built. You are ready for what comes next.

As you move forward—whether in practice, public health, research, or education—stay connected to one another. The relationships you formed here will continue to support and strengthen you throughout your career.

On behalf of the entire Temple Dental community, we are proud of you. Congratulations, Class of 2026.

Alumni Association Message

To the Class of 2026 - As a graduate, you join a community that extends far beyond this moment—the [Kornberg School of Dentistry Alumni Association](#).

Your connection to Temple does not end today. It continues through a network of more than 7,000 alumni who are shaping the future of oral health across the country and around the world. Each graduate carries forward the values and spirit of Kornberg in the care they provide and the communities they serve.

Our alumni play a vital role in the life of the school—through mentorship, engagement, and support of future students. In return, the Alumni Association is here to keep you connected, informed, and involved as your career grows.

There are many ways to stay engaged—whether by reconnecting with classmates, supporting students, or participating in alumni events and initiatives. We encourage you to remain an active part of this community.

To learn more and stay connected, visit:

dentistry.temple.edu/alumni

Mary Grace Rizzo-Fryzel, DMD '14



Dr. Mary Grace Rizzo-Fryzel, DMD is a 2014 graduate of the Maurice H. Kornberg School of Dentistry. Dr. Rizzo-Fryzel worked as an associate in a few offices throughout Northeast and North Central Pennsylvania until 2017 when she founded Electric City Dentistry. Electric City Dentistry experienced tremendous growth and added its first associate in 2018 and then launched the development of a state-of-the-art office in what was once an iconic retail mall in Scranton Pennsylvania. The initial construction spanned more than 7000sq ft and 15 operatories. Her office received notoriety across broad media platforms including the cover story of *Dentaltown Magazine* in June 2019.

The integration of a large medical arts facility in a struggling shopping mall demonstrated Dr. Rizzo-Fryzel's strategic understanding of opportunity and economic catalyzation by using a stable enterprise such as dentistry to regentify city centers. The mall subsequently added multiple national health facilities and corporate tenants, in part due to the amenity feature of Electric City Dentistry.

Today, Electric City Dentistry's primary location in Scranton has grown to 15,000 square feet and will grow an additional 12,000 square feet in 2026-2027. It currently features 29 operatories and two oral maxillofacial surgery suites. Dr. Rizzo-Fryzel acquired two other offices in 2025 and joint ventured into a \$30,000,000 land development project that will see her construct an 18,000 square foot dental facility and serve as the anchor tenancy.

Dr. Rizzo-Fryzel is also in the process of acquiring a full prosthetic laboratory that currently does business in most continental states and will also further embolden her business model of vertical integration. The full professional staffing compliment is currently 10 dentists and an oral surgeon, with an additional two general dentists and another oral surgeon joining by year's end. Additionally, she employs a board-certified physician anesthesiologist and three certified registered nurse anesthetists. Of note, most of Electric City Dentistry's dentists are also Temple Dental alumni. She has been particularly instrumental in the development of Temple's new dental campus in Tamaqua, PA

Dr. Mary Grace Rizzo-Fryzel's greatest accomplishments are however, her three children, Adelyn, Aloise, and Elliott who she shares with her husband, Dr. David Fryzel. She is an avid skier and title sponsor for her local mountain's race league and junior development program. She also enjoys running, working out, and her Giant Schnauzer dogs, Hans and Otto. She currently resides in Waverly, PA with her family.

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.

Certificate of Dental Specialties

Advanced Education in General Dentistry

Anahita Ahmad Pour Zabarjad
Rana Elhag
Shaymaa Elshaer
Mohab Gawish
Hakyoun Kim
Saranya Murukutla
Saru Santhosh
Samaneh Sarshar
Rituja Shah

Dental Public Health

Surya Dinavahi
Bhava Tharani Doddi

Endodontics

Jennifer Douedi+
Leena Shah+
Shahriar Shahami+
Jin Yong Sim+
Emily Su+

Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

Aarti Patel

Orthodontics

Colton Brown+
Paige Hodges+
Elizabeth Noel+
Marielisa Otero Henao+
Anwar Radwan+
Eamon Whelan+

Periodontology

Sarah Alurifan+
William Jeong+
Virginia Perez+
Michelle Zou+

Prosthodontics

Sugandha Narula
Namitha Shetty

Master of Science

Chinmaya Agarwal
Ammar Alattar
Tayseer Albustami
Adotela Babalola
Omar Kmala

+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

Mohammad Abbas
Mina Abdelmalek
Liza Catherine Adinolfi
Rayan Al Hasan
Mohammad Abdallah Albondogji***
Ayoub Alqumani***
Mahdy Y Y A H Alsayegh**
Sarang A. Amin
Emma June Anderman***
Bryan Daniel Armas Flores
Sonal Arora
Harpreet Kaur Ashta
Bradford Benjamin Azizi
Shaun Bach
Jazmine Bandala Solis***
Donte Bennett
Priyanky Bhatt***
Karan Chandrakant Bhut
Jasmine Bishop
Sarel Johannes Botha***
Joseph Michael Brigidi***
Taylor Kate Brown***
Eric Steven Bunting
Majed Buresly
Nihal Capan
Alexis Michelle Cappel
Abigail J. Ceriani
Maaz Chaudhry
Chloe A. Cohen
Justine Maria Czop
Bailey Kathleen DeLeo
Ruth Delli Carpini
Justin Derk**
Erick Xavier Diaz***
Theodora Dini
Matthew Kai Doyle
Kirah JoAnn Dreisbach
Alexandra Grace Duffin
Britney Duong
Sharmil N. Gadhya***
Madison E. Gerbsch***
Anuj Ghimirey
Daniel Young Go***
Isaac Goldenberg
Inna Sophia Gorelik***
Aekum Singh Grewal***
Summer Paris Hartley*
Carson M. Hassel
Miguel Hernandez
Stephanie Lynn Horne***
Jun Teak Hwang***
Regina Seo Young Hwang

Omoyemwen Rita Igiebor**
Shelby Imhoff***
Lauren M. Infantolino
Yasser Iskandarani
Connor Michael Ivanoff
Anne Kesline Jean
Irene John
Taylor Jones
Evelyn Rachel Kandov**
Sukhprit Kaur
Yeshi Khando Huen
Sophealyta Kheang
Jenni HaetNim Kim
Walter Michael Konrad
Catherine Kwon
Colleen I. LaMagna
Andrew Hoan Le
Michelle Seunghyun Lee**
Wen Lei**
Kyle Lieberman***
Sarah Dea Llogoni
Vi Cam Ma
Rachel Maawad
Sohail Maiwand
Aisha Mansoori Malik
Maria Martin**
Dean Mashali**
Brendan Paul McCabe**
Lauren Marie McCarthy
Daniel Fleming McGarry
Dana Erin Meilach***
Joseph Merlo
John Michael Mills
David Mo
Ishani A. Modi
Allison Jean Morettini**
Jaskaran Singh Multani
Kaitlyn Mary Mundackal
Gianni Angelo Murano
Fady Nageeb
Jackson Tamunoiemiete Ngo***
Tam Thuc-Dang Nguyen
Nathan Nordone
Alona Nosalska
Courtney Gabriella Nurse
Abigail Mackenzie O'Neill**
Zeynep Ozcan
Carly Marie Pandit
Krupa Kamleshkumar Pandya
Tanvi Shyamsundar Pangam**
Sandeep Pannu*
Areeba Aleem Paracha*

Leah Park
Anand Jaydeep Patel
Ankur Patel
Devesh Alpesh Patel
Jarmi Rajchandra Patel**
Shalin Y. Patel
Shiv Patel
Yash D. Patel
Kayla Elizabeth Paulson***
Minh Quang Phan***
Jacob Tanner Plowman
Isam Quraishi
Neha Konreddy Reddy
Marcelo Roldan
Parmida Sadeghi*
Serhat Sakarcian
Ronit Sharma*
Noah I. Shin
Harneet Kaur Sidhu**
Aleksi Sidorenko
Manpreet Singh
Grant Sisk
Leanne Ellen Sneeringer
Carly Jean Sopuch*
Nico Suwardi***
Eric Svetnikov
Ladan Taheri
Xin Tang
Gurkaran Toor
Rana Totonchi Afshar
Michelle Tran*
Milton Ramon Troche Rodriguez
Jack Thomas Venneri
Jeremy Vogel***
Isaac Wagner***
Morgan Renee Williams
Nicole Anne Wilson***
Darcy Maria Wonsick***
Rachel Wynings
Yilin Yu***
Anna Marie Zalepa
Mei Lin Zhao
Tony Zhao
Eric Mark Ziegler

*** 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

ALEXIS MICHELLE CAPPEL
REGINA SEO YOUNG HWANG

Allen L. Finkelstein D.D.S. Tree of Peace Award

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

AYOUB ALQUMANI

American Academy of Esthetic Dentistry Student Award

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

SHARMIL N. GADHIYA

American Academy of Implant Dentistry Award

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

YILIN YU

American Academy of Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology Award

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

TAYLOR KATE BROWN

American Academy of Oral & Maxillofacial Radiology Award

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

JOSEPH MICHAEL BRIGIDI

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

YILIN YU

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

DANA ERIN MEILACH

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

NICO SUWARDI

American Association of Endodontists Award

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

MILTON RAMON TROCHE RODRIGUEZ

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

DARCY MARIA WONSICK

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

SOHAIL MAIWAND

Award Recipients

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

JOSEPH MICHAEL BRIGIDI

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

JOSEPH MICHAEL BRIGIDI

American College of Prosthodontists Award

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

DARCY MARIA WONSICK

American Dental Society of Anesthesiology "Horace Wells" Award

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

JUN TEAK HWANG

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

MICHELLE SEUNGHYUN LEE

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

ISAAC GOLDENBERG

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

KAYLA ELIZABETH PAULSON

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

PRIYANKY BHATT

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

DARCY MARIA WONSICK

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

YILIN YU

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

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

ERICK XAVIER DIAZ

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

EMMA JUNE ANDERMAN

Award Recipients

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

TAYLOR KATE BROWN

Dr. Anthony A. Campanella Scholarship Award

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

PRIYANKY BHATT

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

ABIGAYLE J. CERIANI

Dr. Gregory A. Kurman Award for Compassionate Care

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

INNA SOPHIA GORELIK

Dr. Jay H. Eshleman Award

presented to the 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

JUSTIN DERK

Dr. Jeanne Craig Sinkford Student Leadership Award

for demonstrating effective leadership and a commitment to serving diverse communities

JOSEPH MICHAEL BRIGIDI

Edward B. & Arnold R. Cook Prize in Dentistry

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

**BRENDAN PAUL MCCABE
CARLY JEAN SOPUCH**

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

ANAND JAYDEEP PATEL

**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

NICO SUWARDI

**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

DANA ERIN MEILACH

**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

SHARMIL N. GADHIYA

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

SHELBY IMHOFF

Award Recipients

Isadore Auerbach Memorial Award

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

DARCY MARIA WONSICK

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

presented to the student displaying excellence in clinical ability

EMMA JUNE ANDERMAN

Middle Atlantic Society of Orthodontists

presented to the student who has displayed exemplary aptitude and achievement in Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics

ANNA MARIE ZALEPA

Northeastern Society of Periodontists Award

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

DANIEL YOUNG GO

Omicron Kappa Upsilon Dental Honor Society Award

For scholastic achievement and exemplary character

Ayoub Alqumani, Emma June Anderman,
Sarel Johannes Botha, Joseph Michael Brigidi,
Taylor Kate Brown, Justin Derk, Daniel Young
Go, Stephanie Horne, Shelby Imhoff,
Kyle Lieberman, Dana Erin Meilach,
Jackson Ngo, Nico Suwardi, Isaac Wagner,
Darcy Maria Wonsick, Anna Marie Zalepa

Philadelphia County Dental Society Student Award

presented to the most outstanding member of the Class of 2026, as determined by the faculty

JOSEPH MICHAEL BRIGIDI

Pierre Fauchard Academy Student Award

presented to the student who has displayed excellent character, leadership, and professionalism

JEREMY VOGEL

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

SOHAIL MAIWAND

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

EMMA JUNE ANDERMAN

Sigma Epsilon Delta Dental Fraternity's Dr. Leon S. Brenner Award

presented to a student who has excelled in operative dentistry

BRENDAN PAUL MCCABE

Sigma Epsilon Delta Dental Fraternity's Dr. Reuben Matzkin Award

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

EMMA JUNE ANDERMAN

TAYLOR KATE BROWN

U.S. Public Health Service Dental Award of Excellence

presented to the student who is committed to public health dentistry and the US Public Health Service core values of leadership, service, integrity, and excellence

REGINA SEO YOUNG HWANG

dentistry.temple.edu



MAURICE H. KORNBERG
Class of 1921

“Life’s burdens weary us,
but oh, its happy days are sweet.”

