



**COLLEGE OF DENTAL
MEDICINE-ARIZONA**

2026 COMMENCEMENT



College of Dental Medicine–Arizona
2026 Commencement

Midwestern University • Glendale Campus

Monday, the First of June
Two Thousand and Twenty-Six



ORDER OF CEREMONY

Processional: *Pomp and Circumstance*

THE AUDIENCE WILL PLEASE STAND

Introduction: Kaila Dougherty, O.D., D.H.A., FAAO
Chief Operating Officer

National Anthem: *The Star-Spangled Banner* by F.S. Key

Opening Reflection: Vijay Parashar, D.D.S., M.S.
Associate Dean

President's Address: Joshua C. Baker, O.D., M.S.
President and Chief Executive Officer

Dean's Welcome: Sheri A. Brownstein, D.M.D., M.Ed.
Dean, College of Dental Medicine–Arizona

Oath of a Dentist: Steven Call, D.D.S.
Associate Dean

Presentation of Graduates: Dr. Brownstein

Conferral of Degrees: Dr. Baker

**Presentation of Midwestern University Coin
Honoring our Military Graduates**

Student Remarks: Luke Ty
Valedictorian, Class of 2026

Closing Remarks: Dr. Brownstein

Closing Reflection: John Mitchell, Ph.D.
Associate Dean

Recessional

Announcer:

Gary Johnson, D.D.S.

Student Marshals:

Gina Agostini-Walesch, Ph.D.

Melanie Bauer, D.M.D.

Alexandra Pierre-Bez, D.M.D., M.P.H., M.Ed.

Rachel Shaw, D.M.D.

Faculty Marshals:

Russ Cyphers, D.D.S.

David Hancock, D.D.S.

Jeremy Poll, D.M.D.

Mace Bearers:

David Dodell, D.M.D.

Teresa Pulido, D.D.S., M.S.





DOCTOR OF DENTAL MEDICINE CLASS OF 2026

Allan Abayev

Omicron Kappa Upsilon Honors
Phoenix, AZ

Faiza Abid

El Segundo, CA

Breanna Aikens

Omicron Kappa Upsilon Honors
Program of Distinction in Clinical Research
Briercrest, Saskatchewan, Canada

Sundos Alani*

Orange County, CA

Grace Albertson

Winston Salem, NC

Bighdad Ali

Program of Distinction in Clinical Research
Phoenix, AZ

Hiba Ali

Bakersfield, CA

Arefeh Ali Cheshmeh Alaei

Milwaukee, WI

Trevin Anderson

Green River, WY

Michael Ang

Elgin, IL

Mandy Anglin

Glendale, AZ

Spencer Asay

Nampa, ID

Lyka Bajana

West Monroe, LA

Daniel Benvenuto Da Costa

Phoenix, AZ

Damir Besirevic

Gilbert, AZ

Niharika Bhooi

Troy, MI

Gary Boni

Omicron Kappa Upsilon Honors
Program of Distinction in Clinical Research
Ringoes, NJ

Matthew Boyce

Palm Coast, FL

Danbi Byun

Palo Alto, CA

Roxana Caceres

Miami, FL

Paige Campbell

Eagar, AZ

Jackeline Castro Torres

Miami, FL

Austin Chan

Pflugerville, TX

James Christiansen

Elizabeth, CO

Mikala Cooper

Safford, AZ

Bridger Cowley

Snyder, TX

Trisha Crawford

Omicron Kappa Upsilon Honors
Tucson, AZ

Abraham Dabbas

Petaluma, CA

Ahmed Dakouche

Dearborn, MI

Vi Dao

Mesa, AZ

Heather Dasher

Key Largo, FL

Katelyn De La Montanya

Petaluma, CA

Christopher Elmer

Coquille, OR

Joshua Foster

Denton, TX

Colten Frost

Program of Distinction in Clinical Research
Mesa, AZ

Madison Fulbright

Fort Collins, CO

Andrea Gallion

Plano, TX

Emily Ghena

Omicron Kappa Upsilon Honors
Bremerton, WA

Matthew Gong

Visalia, CA

Alena Graves

Marshall, MI

Ethan Groen

Program of Distinction in Clinical Research
Bountiful, UT

Jesus Guerrero**

Program of Distinction in Clinical Research
San Antonio, TX

Tawn Gurnsey

Winter Haven, FL

Erica Hanisch

Gig Harbor, WA

Tate Hansen

Alpine, UT

Nathan Heiden

Draper, UT

Karina Heilbron

Santa Fe, NM

Katie Huynh

Chicago, IL

Amber Ikeler
Honolulu, HI

Ammon Ingersoll
Highland, UT

Phiphone Inthalangsy
Clearwater, FL

Alina Jaafar
Dearborn, MI

Rand Jaafar
Omicron Kappa Upsilon Honors
Program of Distinction in Research
Glendale, AZ

Jesse Jauhal
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Jonathan Jiroudi
Visalia, CA

Payton Judy
Gunnison Valley, UT

Remy Karp
Oxford, FL

Kimia Kashani
Roseville, CA

Loveleen Kaur
Glendale, AZ

Joyce Kim
San Francisco, CA

Lucy Kim
San Jose, CA

Theodore Lefeber
La Porte, IN

Elsa Leighton
Madison, SD

Karin Lim
Irvine, CA

Warren Lim
Baltimore, MD

Jacqueline Lindley
Pocatello, ID

Rance Lockhart
Omicron Kappa Upsilon Honors
Program of Distinction in Clinical Research
Texarkana, TX

Trinity Loeb
Happy Valley, OR

Christian Lombardi
Morris, IL

Cooper Luke
Program of Distinction in Clinical Research
Mesa, AZ

Anna Malinowski
Omicron Kappa Upsilon Honors
Corsicana, TX

Nicholas Malinowski
Dupont, WA

Dannie Mathew
Beaverton, OR

Tasha Mathew
Bakersfield, CA

Mariah Mauro
Los Alamos, NM

Collin McClellan
Kinder, LA

William McInnes
Chandler, AZ

Daniel Mendez
Glendale, AZ

Christopher Micu
Fullerton, CA

Leanne Miele*
Program of Distinction in Clinical Research
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

Roxana Mogharrabin
Everett, WA

Michelle Mukhtar
Bloomfield Hills, MI

Spencer Myler
Eagle, ID

Jonathan Nelson
Vancouver, WA

Johnny Nguyen
Gilbert, AZ

Preston Nguyen
San Jose, CA

Quang Nguyen
Houston, TX

Lelyan Odeh
Frankfort, IL

Rachael Ogbuagu
Lawrenceville, GA

Todd Oldroyd
Flagstaff, AZ

Matthew Olguin
Sugar Land, TX

Yazmin Ortiz Verdecia
Miami, FL

Caroline Owens
Bloomington, IL

Albert Park
Los Angeles, CA

Kayvon Parsa
Omicron Kappa Upsilon Honors
Program of Distinction in Clinical Research
West Hills, CA

Deep Patel
Mississauga, Ontario, Canada

Danisley Perez
Havana, Cuba

Chase Petersen

Omicron Kappa Upsilon Honors
Quincy, WA

Elizabeth Pham

Program of Distinction in Clinical Research
Houston, TX

Paulina Pham

Tempe, AZ

Davit Poghosyan

Omicron Kappa Upsilon Honors
Los Angeles, CA

Risa Regalado

Laguna Niguel, CA

Katelyn Reilly

Omicron Kappa Upsilon Honors
Stoughton, WI

Austin Rigby

Rexburg, ID

Nicole Rizzuto

Saratoga Springs, NY

Oscar Rodriguez Miramontes

Tijuana, Mexico

Karson Rush Briones

Gilbert, AZ

Danielle Sage

Fernandina Beach, FL

Caitlin Samplawski*

Horicon, WI

Brittney Shaw

Program of Distinction in Clinical Research
Surprise, AZ

Savannah Shetterly

Mesa, AZ

Cindy Staples

Omicron Kappa Upsilon Honors
Sacramento, CA

Luke Stokes

St. George, UT

Monte Stone

Calumet, OK

Griffin Stroyan

Chewelah, WA

Leah Swayze

Omicron Kappa Upsilon Honors
Lakeland, MN

Erin Szara

Northville, MI

Sarah Teitelbaum

Briarcliff Manor, NY

Tanner Thompson

Bartlesville, OK

Rita Tompkins

Omicron Kappa Upsilon Honors
Catskill, NY

Thuy-Vi Tran

Houston, TX

Zachary Trost

St. Anthony, ID

Ewelina Tung

Phoenix, AZ

Djian-Luke Ty

Omicron Kappa Upsilon Honors
Irvine, CA

Levi Ulmer

Omicron Kappa Upsilon Honors
Cave Creek, AZ

Bailey Upleger

Flushing, MI

Hena Usmani

Austin, TX

Mindy Vu

Garden Grove, CA

Yousef Wagih

Phoenix, AZ

Kelvin Waiganjo*

Santa Clarita, CA

Virginia Wang

Plano, TX

Easton Webb

Gilbert, AZ

Alexis White

Rochester Hills, MI

Dennis White

Cranbury, NJ

Joshua Woodrum

Celina, TX

Alexandra Wyluda

Southington, CT

Georg Yachoa

Upland, CA

Irene Yang*

Cottonwood, AZ

Sureya Yilixiati

Dallas, TX

Hsiang Yin

Bellevue, WA

Suha Zelawar

Centreville, VA

Anthony Zhen

Redlands, CA



OATH OF A DENTIST

At this time of being admitted as a member of the dental profession, I affirm my loyalty to the profession I am about to enter and solemnly pledge myself to the service of humanity.

I shall dedicate myself to render, to the best of my ability, the highest standard of oral healthcare to my patients.

I will accept responsibility only for those matters for which I am competent, maintain a relationship of respect and confidences so all patients may come to me safe in the knowledge that their total health and well-being are my first considerations, and never take advantage of the patient-provider relationship.

I will not permit consideration of religion, nationality, race or social standing to intervene between my duty and my patients.

I will value the knowledge and wisdom of the healthcare professionals who have taught me and endeavor to contribute to the traditions of my profession.

I will recognize my weaknesses and my strengths and strive to develop those qualities that will earn the respect of my patients, my colleagues and my family.

I shall accept the responsibility that my competence rests on my continual attainment of knowledge and skill in the arts and science of dentistry.

I make these promises solemnly, freely and upon my honor.



COLLEGE OF DENTAL MEDICINE-ARIZONA FACULTY

Gina Agostini-Walesch, Ph.D.	Jonathan Frost, D.D.S.	Vijay Parashar, D.D.S.
Erika Araujo, D.D.S., Ph.D.	Bradley Gettleman, D.D.S.	James Pashayan, D.D.S.
Hargrow Barber, D.D.S.	Aseel Ghazala, D.M.D.	Jeffrey Perry, D.M.D.
Melanie Bauer, D.M.D.	Wayne Greenwood, D.M.D.	Allen Peyghambarian, D.D.S.
Doug Beals, D.D.S.	Christine Halket, D.D.S.	Alexandra Pierre-Bez, D.M.D.
Karen Berrigan, D.M.D.	Brent Hall, D.D.S.	Jeremy Poll, D.M.D.
William Brachvogel, D.D.S.	David Hancock, D.D.S.	Teresa Pulido, D.D.S.
Sheri Brownstein, D.M.D.	Mahasin Hangalay, D.D.S.	Sabita Rao, D.M.D.
Steven Call, D.D.S.	Alexander Hellge, D.D.S.	Monica Ravula, D.M.D.
Thomas Caspers, D.D.S.	Richard Holley, D.D.S.	Monica Salazar, D.M.D.
Yong Peter Cha, D.D.S.	Amy Jensby, D.D.S.	Greg Schuster, D.D.S.
John Cianciola, D.D.S.	Larry Johns, D.D.S.	Rachel Shaw, D.M.D.
Marc Cohn, D.D.S.	Gary Johnson, D.D.S.	Trever Siu, D.M.D.
Cara Copeland, D.M.D.	Robert Kramer, D.M.D.	Marlon Smith, D.D.S.
Stan Covington, D.D.S.	Randy Krebs, D.D.S.	George Spine, D.M.D.
Russell Cyphers, D.D.S.	Austin Lau, D.D.S.	Olysia Takla, D.M.D.
Janece Davis, D.D.S.	Jon Lindsay, D.D.S.	Lauren Tang, D.M.D.
David Dodell, D.M.D.	Geoffery Lines, D.M.D.	Ivan Tovar, D.D.S.
Amber Downing, D.M.D.	Jared Little, D.D.S.	Tatiana Trowbridge, D.D.S.
William Elza, D.M.D.	Jason Lowry, D.D.S.	Daphne Velazquez, D.D.S.
Todd Erickson, D.D.S.	Ashley Madern, D.M.D.	Mark Voigt, D.D.S.
Nancy Fitzgerald, D.M.D.	Jacquelyn Mathews, D.M.D.	Tarianne Wachtel, D.M.D.
Greig Florento, D.D.S.	Thomas McDaniel, D.M.D.	Brad Wall, D.M.D.
Anita Fountain, D.D.S.	John Mitchell, Ph.D.	Nick Wall, D.D.S.
John Francis, D.D.S.	Alan Moltz, D.D.S.	Dominic Wenzell, D.M.D.

ACADEMIC REGALIA AND PROCESSIONAL

Gown

The gown is the cornerstone of the academic costume that has its origins in 12th and 13th century Europe, a period when universities were being formed. Today, Midwestern University follows guidelines established by the American Council on Education. All graduates wear black gowns, with the front panels of the doctoral gown trimmed in black velvet. Each sleeve of the doctoral gown is adorned with three bars of black velvet with bell-shaped wrist ends. The master's gown is unadorned, with the wrist ends of the sleeve open oblongs that extend beyond the hand.

Arizona College of Optometry

Discipline Color: Seafoam
Liner Color: Navy
Chevron Color: Gold

Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine

Discipline Color: Kelly Green
Liner Color: Navy
Chevron Color: Gold

Arizona College of Podiatric Medicine

Discipline Color: Nile Green
Liner Color: Navy
Chevron Color: Gold

College of Dental Medicine—Arizona

Discipline Color: Lilac
Liner Color: Navy
Chevron Color: Gold

College of Graduate Studies Biomedical Sciences Program

Discipline Color: Gold
Liner Color: Navy
Chevron Color: Gold

College of Graduate Studies Precision Medicine Program

Discipline Color: Gold
Liner Color: Navy
Chevron Color: Gold

College of Graduate Studies Public Health Program

Discipline Color: Salmon
Liner Color: Navy
Chevron Color: Gold

College of Health Sciences Cardiovascular Science Program

Discipline Color: Gold
Liner Color: Navy
Chevron Color: Gold

College of Health Sciences Clinical Psychology Program (Doctor)

Discipline Color: Royal Blue
Liner Color: Navy
Chevron Color: Gold

College of Health Sciences Clinical Psychology Program (Master)

Discipline Color: Gold
Liner Color: Navy
Chevron Color: Gold

College of Health Sciences Nurse Anesthesia Program

Discipline Color: Apricot
Liner Color: Navy
Chevron Color: Gold

College of Health Sciences Nursing Program (Doctor)

Discipline Color: Apricot
Liner Color: Navy
Chevron Color: Gold

College of Health Sciences Nursing Program (Master)

Discipline Color: Apricot
Liner Color: Navy
Chevron Color: Gold

College of Health Sciences Occupational Therapy Program

Discipline Color: Sage Green
Liner Color: Navy
Chevron Color: Gold

College of Health Sciences Physical Therapy Program

Discipline Color: Teal
Liner Color: Navy
Chevron Color: Gold

College of Health Sciences Physician Assistant Program

Discipline Color: Gold
Liner Color: Navy
Chevron Color: Gold

College of Health Sciences Speech-Language Pathology Program

Discipline Color: Crimson
Liner Color: Navy
Chevron Color: Gold

College of Pharmacy, Glendale

Discipline Color: Olive
Liner Color: Navy
Chevron Color: Gold

College of Veterinary Medicine

Discipline Color: Gray
Liner Color: Navy
Chevron Color: Gold



Hood

The hood, a commencement accessory placed around the neck that drapes down the back of the graduate's gown, signifies achievement in higher education. Its velvet top layer is the discipline color of the program of study. Both the lining and the chevron trim colors are those of the college or the program. The doctoral hood is four feet in length; the master's hood is three and one-half feet in length. At Midwestern University, the hood is carried over the right arm of the graduate in the processional and is placed on the graduate during the ceremony.

Tam

All Midwestern University graduates wear black velvet tams with black (master's programs) or gold (doctoral programs) tassels that hang to the right front side.

Honor Cords

The honor cord, nearly six feet in length, is worn around the graduate's neck and drapes down the front of the gown. The different cord colors designate the academic achievement or honor status in a national academic/professional society. A graduate can wear multiple cords if he or she qualifies for individual honors.

Midwestern University Coins

A custom minted coin is a military tradition to recognize achievement, create incentive, improve safety, or show appreciation for duty, dedication, or a job well done. Midwestern University proudly presents graduates who are in the military or entering the military following graduation with a coin to honor their service to our country.

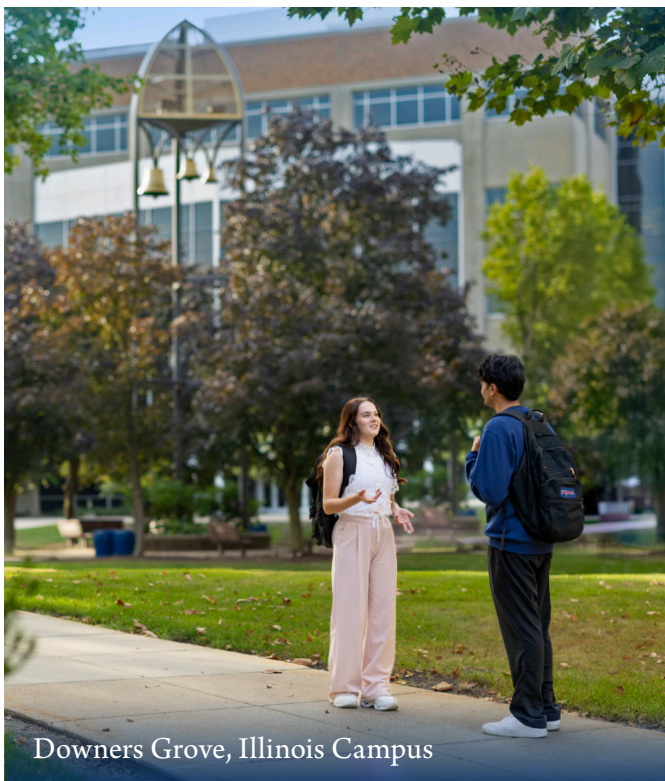
HISTORY OF MIDWESTERN UNIVERSITY

Founded in 1900 as the American College of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery in Chicago, Illinois, Midwestern University began with a clear mission to educate healthcare professionals in a not-for-profit, student-centered environment. Early leadership and faculty built a strong reputation for academic excellence and hands-on clinical training, helping shape the future of osteopathic medicine.

The University's growth reflects both vision and responsiveness to the needs of healthcare. In 1986, the institution relocated to Downers Grove, Illinois, creating space for expanded programs across the health sciences. In 1995, Midwestern University established a second campus in Glendale, Arizona, significantly broadening its reach and impact. Over time, the University expanded to include programs in pharmacy, dental medicine, optometry, health sciences, podiatry, nursing, biomedical science, and veterinary medicine.

Today, Midwestern University is a comprehensive graduate university with two campuses, multiple colleges, and a wide range of healthcare programs. Students learn in modern facilities and gain valuable experience through interprofessional education, clinical education, and community-based clinics. The University's One Health initiative further emphasizes the connection between human, animal, and environmental health, preparing students to collaborate across disciplines to address complex global challenges.

Throughout its history, the University has remained committed to its founding principles of academic excellence, compassionate care, and student success, preparing our graduates to thrive in a rapidly changing healthcare environment.





ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP TEAM

Joshua C. Baker, O.D., M.S.
President and Chief Executive Officer

Thomas A. Boyle, D.O., M.B.A., FACEP, FACOEP
Dean, Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine

Sheri Brownstein, D.M.D., M.Ed.
Dean, College of Dental Medicine-Arizona

Jared Chamberlain, Ph.D.
*Dean, College of Health Sciences,
Glendale Campus*

Megan Dallianis, Ed.D.
Dean of Student Services, Downers Grove Campus

Mitchell R. Emerson, Ph.D.
*Dean, College of Pharmacy,
Downers Grove and Glendale Campuses*

Alicia E. Feis, O.D., FAAO
Dean, Arizona College of Optometry

Carla Gartrell, D.V.M., J.D., DACVIM
Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine

Harold J. Haering, Jr., D.M.D.
Dean, College of Dental Medicine-Illinois

Brianne N. Hobbs, O.D., Ph.D., FAAO
Dean, Chicago College of Optometry

Sandra E. Inouye, Ph.D.
*Dean, College of Graduate Studies,
Downers Grove and Glendale Campuses*

Jeffrey L. Jensen, D.P.M., FACFAS
Dean, Arizona College of Podiatric Medicine

Lori A. Kemper, D.O., M.S., FACOFP
Dean, Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine

Coretta C. Patterson, D.V.M., DACVIM-SA
Dean, Chicago College of Veterinary Medicine

Sarah Radtke, Ed.D., ATC
*Dean, College of Health Sciences,
Downers Grove Campus*

Shannon Sesterhenn, Ed.D., M.S.
Dean of Student Services, Glendale Campus

Yir Gloria Yueh, Ph.D.
Provost



SAHUARO HALL



Tomorrow's Healthcare Team

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