

2026

Commencement



University of California, San Francisco

School of Dentistry
Commencement

May 28, 2026
Palace of Fine Arts Theatre

“Our intensive program
has challenged you to
push beyond your limits,
and you have risen to
the occasion with grace,
determination, and a
commitment to excellence.”

@UCSFDentistry #UCSFgrads2026

Dear Graduating Class of 2026,

Congratulations on reaching this incredible milestone in your lives! Graduating from the UCSF School of Dentistry is no small feat, and today we celebrate your hard work and dedication.

Throughout your DDS program, you have met the academic requirements, but more than that, you have lived the core values that define UCSF: Professionalism, Respect, Integrity, Diversity, and Excellence. These values were part of your daily actions and decisions.

This program pushed you to your limits and sometimes may have asked more of you than you thought possible. In response, you showed resilience and a commitment to excellence. Each challenge became an opportunity for growth, and you met each one with determination and grace.

Your education has prepared you to be skilled clinicians and also advocates for oral health and champions for your communities. You now carry with you the knowledge, empathy, and ethical foundation to lead the dental profession into the future.

As you step into the next chapter of your journey, we are confident that you will continue to represent UCSF with distinction. Always remember that you are a part of our community, and we hope you will stay connected, seek opportunities for continued growth, and inspire the next generation of dental professionals.

On behalf of the faculty and staff at the UCSF School of Dentistry, congratulations. We are proud of all you have accomplished, and we look forward to seeing all that you will achieve in the years ahead.

Michael S. Reddy, DMD, DMSc
Dean, UCSF School of Dentistry
Associate Vice Chancellor,
Oral Health Affairs



Program

Processional

Guo-Hao (Alex) Lin, DDS, MS, Grand Marshal, Associate Professor, Clinical Orofacial Sciences, and Director, Postgraduate Periodontics Residency Program

Dean's Welcome

Michael S. Reddy, DMD, DMSc, Dean, UCSF School of Dentistry

Commencement Address

Janet Reilly, Chair, University of California Board of Regents

Student Address

Samhita Joshi, DDS, UCSF School of Dentistry, Class of 2026

Presentation of the Dental Class of 2026

Michael S. Reddy, DMD, DMSc, Dean, UCSF School of Dentistry

Chancellor's Address and Conferral of Degrees

Sam Hawgood, MBBS, Chancellor, University of California, San Francisco

Hooding Ceremony of the Dental Class of 2026

Melissa Tuft, DDS, Health Sciences Assistant Clinical Professor, Department of Preventive and Restorative Dental Sciences

Julia Vu, DDS, Assistant Clinical Professor, Clinics Administrator, Department of Preventive and Restorative Dental Sciences

Reader of Graduates' Names

Diana Nguyen, DDS, Health Sciences Assistant Clinical Professor, Department of Preventive and Restorative Dental Sciences and Chief of Clinical General Dentistry

Doctor of Philosophy
Oral & Craniofacial Sciences
and Doctor of Dental Surgery
Class of 2026



Lea Sedghi
Pediatrics Residency
Boston University
Boston, Massachusetts

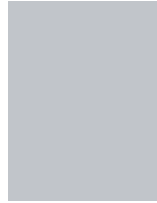


Jihee Yoon
Orthodontics Residency
University of California,
San Francisco
San Francisco, California

Doctor of Dental Surgery
Class of 2026



Mary Abdelnour
Private Practice
Los Angeles, California



Hussein Al-Zubieri
Private Practice
California



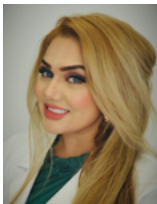
**Mariam Akram
Abusharar**
Pediatric Dentistry
Residency
Loma Linda University
Loma Linda, California



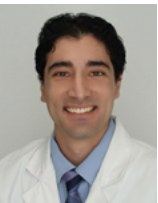
Yousef Alqasieer
Private Practice
San Francisco, California



Ardeshir Adhami
Endodontics Residency
University of California,
San Francisco
San Francisco, California



**Mashal Arif
Waheed**
Private Practice
San Jose, California



Samuel Aguilar
Advanced Education
in General Dentistry
Residency
Arizona School of
Dentistry and Oral Health
Mesa, Arizona



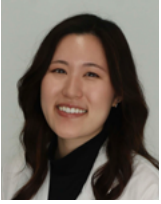
Christine Bach
Private Practice
San Francisco, California



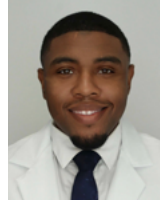
Amanda Baier
Private Practice
Seattle, Washington



Amara Nichole Brooks
Prosthodontics Residency
University of Tennessee
Health Science Center
Memphis, Tennessee



Danika Banh
Orthodontics Residency
Oregon Health and
Science University
Portland, Oregon



Zachary Ray Byrge
General Practice Residency
Harbor - UCLA Medical
Center
Torrance, California



**Bianca
Romana Biala**
Private Practice
San Francisco, California



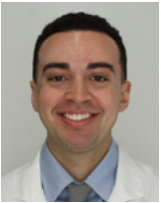
**Edwin Calzada
Nguyen**
Community Clinic
Los Angeles, California



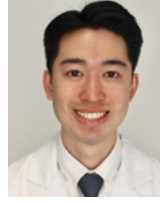
**Betty Getachew
Birbo**
Orthodontics Residency
University of California,
San Francisco
San Francisco, California



Maria Cerlat
Private Practice
Los Angeles, California



**Miguel
Brito-Mariani**
Private Practice
Wheat Ridge, Colorado



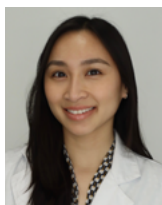
**Justin Christopher
Chau**
Orthodontics Residency
University of the Pacific
San Francisco, California



Pierre Brizuela
General Practice
Residency
Alameda Health
System
Oakland, California



Caroline C. Chen
Periodontics Residency
Columbia University
New York, NY



Lillian Chung
Private practice
San Jose, California



Isabel Gutierrez
Advanced Education in
General Dentistry
Veterans Affairs Long Beach
Healthcare System
Long Beach, California



**Cristina Maria
Corral**
General Dentistry
Northern California



**Euneece
Eunbe Hong**
Navy Dentist
South Carolina



**Ana Luisa Dela
Cruz Dela Vega**
Private Practice
Seaside, California



**Audrey Min-Chen
Hsieh Kang**
Advanced Education in
General Dentistry Residency
Roseman University of
Health Sciences
Henderson, Nevada



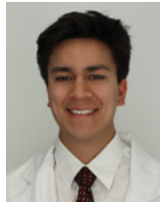
Sara Ehsan
General Practice
Residency
New York



Kieran Jacobsen
General Practice Residency
Veterans Affairs Palo Alto
Health Care System
Palo Alto, California



**Selsabeel
Elghandour**
Community Clinic
Bay Area, California



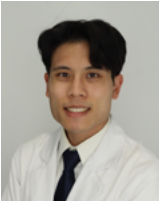
Sean Jergensen
FQHC Community Clinic
University of California,
San Francisco, California



Aiman Fatima
Private Practice
Seattle, Washington



Samhita Joshi
General Practice Residency
Alameda Health System
Oakland, California



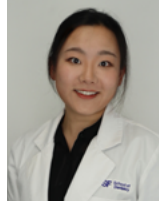
Kecheng Kao
Advanced Education in
General Dentistry
Residency
Arizona School of
Dentistry and Oral Health
Mesa, Arizona



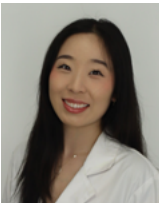
Kristi Lan
Advanced Education in
General Dentistry Residency
University of California,
Los Angeles
Los Angeles, California



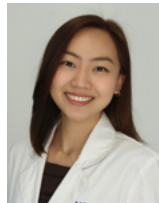
**Joseph
Kazancioglu**
Advanced Education in
General Dentistry
Asian Health
San Leandro, California



Heyang Liu
Private Practice
San Jose, California



Nayoon Kim
Periodontics Dentistry
Residency
University of California,
San Francisco
San Francisco, California



**Elaine
Nguyen Luu**
General Practice Residency
University of California,
Los Angeles
Los Angeles, California



**Supriha
Komarisetty**
Private Practice
Vernon, Texas



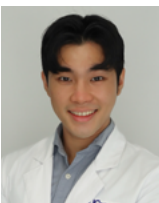
Shireen Mann
Private Practice
Wilmington,
North Carolina



Puja Kukreti
Private Practice &
Teaching
San Jose, California



Michelle Martinez
Private Practice
Los Angeles, California



**Ansen
Zhi-Han Lai**
Pediatric Dentistry
Residency
University of Rochester
Rochester, New York



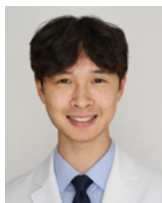
**Elizabeth Moreno
Galvez**
Advanced Education in
General Dentistry
NYU Langone La Clinica
de La Raza
Pittsburg, California



Emma Nedley
Prosthodontics
Residency
West Los Angeles VA
Hospital
Los Angeles, California



Nisha Paudel
Private Practice
Apex, North Carolina



Andrew Nguyen
Periodontics Residency
Columbia University
New York City, New York



**Marlene Suhail
Putros**
Advanced Education in
General Dentistry Residency
Native American Health
Center
San Francisco, California



Michelle Nguyen
Periodontics Residency
University of
Washington
Seattle, Washington



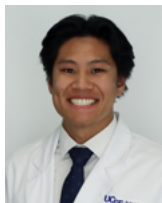
Devyani Rana
Private Practice
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania



Smriti Nijhawan
Private Practice
North Carolina



Pallak Razdan
Private Practice
Pennsylvania



**Noah Soo
Palencia**
Prosthodontics Residency
Army Graduate Dental
Education
Fort Gordon, Georgia



Shahrzad Sadeghi
Orthodontic Residency
University of Connecticut
Farmington, Connecticut



Abha Patkar
Pediatric Dentistry
Residency
University of California,
Los Angeles
Los Angeles, California



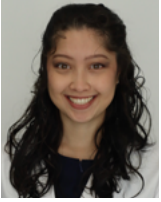
**Leopold
Mombly Samba**
Oral & Maxillofacial
Surgery Residency
Air Force
San Antonio, Texas



**Amanda Bethany
Yuzon Santa Maria**
Private Practice
San Francisco, California



Garima Shrestha
Private Practice
Bakersfield, California



Liana Santos
Pediatric Dental Residency
University of California,
San Francisco
San Francisco, California



Evelyn Silvas
Private Practice
Modesto, California



Sakshi Sharma
Private Practice
Wisconsin



**Gurpreet Kaur
Sokhal**
Private Practice
Westminster, Colorado



**Vijaylaxmi
Sharma**
Private Practice,
Teaching and Research
Tracy, California



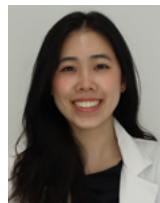
Raghdah Taha
Community Clinic &
Teaching in California
Northstate University
Sacramento, California



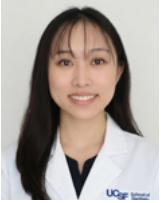
**Olivia Palma
Shearin**
General Practice
Residency
Alameda Health System
Oakland, CA



Sneha Tammineedi
Private Practice,
General Dentistry
Kennewick, Washington



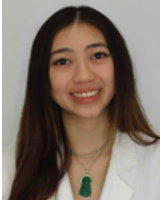
Hanna Y. Tang
Community Clinic
California



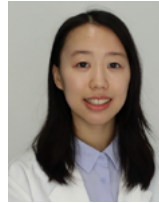
Adonia Thai
General Practice
Residency
West Los Angeles VA
Medical Center
Los Angeles, California



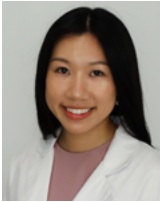
Andy Velazquez
Advanced Education in
General Dentistry
United States Army
Lawton, Oklahoma



Thanh Tieu
Private Practice
Garden Grove
(Little Saigon),
California



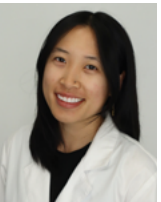
Ashley Wang
Advanced Education in
General Dentistry
VA Medical Center
Sepulveda, California



Michelle Tong
Periodontics Residency
University of California,
Los Angeles
Los Angeles, California



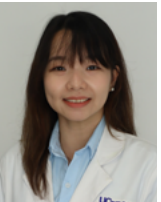
Anny Yang
Orthodontics Residency
University of Illinois,
Chicago
Chicago, Illinois



Victoria Hoa Tran
General Practice
Residency
San Francisco Veterans
Affairs Hospital
San Francisco, California



Tiffany Yu
Orthodontics Residency
New York University
New York, NY



Vy Phuong Tran
Private Practice
Manteca, California



Sophie Zhang
General Practice Residency
West Los Angeles Veterans
Affairs Medical Center
Los Angeles, California



Purnima Vadla
Private Practice
Pacific Dental Services
Visalia, California



Byron (Lihan) Zhao
OMFS Internship
University of California,
San Francisco
San Francisco, California

Student Government

Dental Class of 2026 Student Officers

2022–2026

President: Abha Patkar

Vice President: Emma Nedley

Treasurer: Tiffany Yu

Secretary: Danika Banh

Social Chairpersons:
Betty Birbo & Marlene Putros

Technology Officers:
Joseph Kazancioglu & Miguel Brito-Mariani

Class Historians: Andy Velazquez & Ansen Zhi-Han Lai

International Dentist Pathway (IDP) Representatives:
Sara Ehsan & Maria Cerlat (2023–2026)

About the Commencement Speaker

Janet Reilly

Chair, University of California Board of Regents

Janet Reilly chairs the UC Board of Regents. She is the co-founder and board president of Clinic by the Bay, a free, volunteer-powered health clinic for the working uninsured in San Francisco and San Mateo counties.

A former executive producer and on-air television host for NBC Bay Area – KNTV, Reilly and her husband own the San Francisco Examiner and the Nob Hill Gazette. Reilly earned a BA from UCLA and an MS in journalism from the Northwestern University Medill School of Journalism.

As Chair of the UC Regents, her priorities have included ensuring students' basic needs are met. One way she did this is by spearheading the Aggie Fresh supplemental nutrition pilot program at UC Davis.

She has also been instrumental in the establishment of the UC Student and Policy Center in Sacramento, which creates opportunities for students and strengthens the relationship between the UC and policymakers in the Capitol.

Regent Reilly was just reappointed to a term on the Board that will end in 2038.



Alumni Note

Congratulations, UCSF School of Dentistry Class of 2026!

It is an honor to celebrate this moment with you as you join the lifelong community of UCSF alumni. Today, you become part of a remarkable tradition—one shaped by generations who have carried UCSF's commitment to excellence, innovation, and service into communities around the world. I remember standing where you are today, filled with pride, excitement, and a deep sense of possibility. You have worked incredibly hard to reach this milestone, and it is one to be proud of.

As graduates of the UCSF School of Dentistry, you are entering a profession that is both deeply meaningful and profoundly impactful. Each day brings the opportunity to care for others, restore health, and improve lives. The values that define UCSF—compassion, integrity, and a commitment to advancing health for all—will guide you wherever your path leads.

The UCSF Dental Alumni Association is here for you. We are proud to support you, celebrate your achievements, and walk alongside you as you continue to grow and lead.

I encourage you to stay connected to one another and to UCSF. The relationships you've built here are part of a powerful and enduring alumni community, one that will support, challenge, and celebrate you throughout your journey. You will find many resources at alumni.ucsf.edu

Your future is bright, and we cannot wait to see all that you will accomplish.

Welcome to the UCSF dental alumni family.

Neshat Rezai, DDS '94

President, UCSF Dental Alumni Association

Historic Background: Academic Regalia

Academic dress was worn daily by university faculties of the late Middle Ages and the Renaissance. Today, the use of the complete academic regalia is reserved for ceremonial occasions. In Europe, universities exhibit considerable variations in academic dress, while in the United States, a standard pattern has been established.

Gowns are generally black. The most important element of academic regalia is the hood. The field of learning in which the degree was awarded is shown by the color of the edging of the hood and, in some cases, by the color of the facing and cross bars on doctors' gowns. Some of the colors are:

- Golden yellow (*Science*)
- Light blue (*Education*)
- White (*Arts and Letters*)
- Green (*Medicine*)
- Lilac (*Dentistry*)

Colors lining the hood are those of the institution that awarded the degree. For example, the University of California colors are blue and gold. The actual hooding ceremony is usually reserved for the doctorates; however, in the United States, each university has the option to hood the recipients of bachelors' degrees.

The type of gown and the width of the edging of the hood reveal an individual's degree.

Designs are of three kinds:

1. **Bachelors' gowns** have full, pointed sleeves with no trimming, and the hoods have a two-inch edging.
2. **Masters' gowns** have full sleeves with no trimming, and the hoods have a three-inch edging.
3. **Doctors' gowns** are of silk, with rounded sleeves, velvet facing down the front, and three velvet crossbars on each sleeve. Hoods have side panels and a five-inch edging.

Tassels are properly worn on the left side of the front of the mortarboard. Tassels on bachelors' and masters' caps are ordinarily black, but they may be of the color of the field in which the degree was awarded. Doctors' tassels generally are gold.



A vertical photograph of the Golden Gate Bridge tower in San Francisco, taken from a low angle looking up. The sun is positioned directly behind the top of the tower, creating a bright silhouette and a lens flare effect. The sky is filled with dramatic, golden-hued clouds, and the city lights are visible in the distance. The overall mood is celebratory and inspiring.

Congratulations 2026 Graduates!

UCSF School of
Dentistry