

Charge to the Graduating Class of 2025
University of the Pacific, Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry
Masonic Auditorium, San Francisco, California
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Dean and Vice Provost

To the proud parents, family members, friends, faculty, staff, administrators, and most importantly... to the extraordinary graduates of the Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry – congratulations! – what a joy it is to share this special moment for the Class of 2025! We celebrate not only the culmination of your years of hard work, but the beginning of your lives as leaders in one of the most vital fields in all of health care.

I am so proud of all that you have accomplished to reach this moment... and of all that your Dugoni School family has done to help you reach this important milestone.

Your time at the Dugoni School has demanded intellect, resilience, precision, hard work, and heart. You have not only gained deep knowledge and honed critical skills – you have also embraced the values that define a true healthcare professional, including **integrity, compassion, and courage**.

In every patient you treat, every colleague you support, and every decision you make, these values will distinguish you – not just as providers of care, but as agents of positive change in our profession and our world.

I know you will carry forward the very highest standards that the Dugoni School is known for across the profession and beyond.

Your training equips you not just to restore smiles – but to transform lives. Oral health is inseparable from systemic health. Increasingly, our profession is being recognized as a critical pillar of whole-body wellness. You, our newest graduates, will not merely participate in this transformation – you will lead it.

As Dugoni School graduates, we are uniquely prepared to lead this change. You have learned to treat the whole person – not just the teeth, gums, or the symptoms. That is the essence of **humanism** in healthcare, and it will set you apart.

And as you begin your careers, I urge you to remain guided by **courage** – the courage to innovate, to speak up, to challenge outdated models, and to stand firmly for what is right. With this courage...let **integrity** be your constant compass. In a world that sometimes prizes shortcuts, choose the path that serves your patients best. You will never regret leading with honesty, fairness, and compassion.

You are not only the next generation of clinicians – you are educators, advocates, and pioneers. Your patients, your peers, and your communities will look to you not just for expertise, but for inspiration. Embrace your role as a leader with clarity, pride, and confidence.

On a personal note, today's ceremony is especially meaningful for me – it marks my final commencement as Dean of the Dugoni School and serving our students for thirty years. Being here with you... graduating with you... at this important crossroads in your lives – makes this moment deeply personal and profoundly rewarding. I am truly grateful to have shared in your journey and growth during your time here. Thank you for letting me be a part of it. Our Dugoni School family...all of you... fill my heart with pride, gratitude, joy, and love...

Congratulations, Class of 2025. We cannot wait to witness the impact you will have – on your patients, your profession, and the world. Go forward boldly, and always remember that your Dugoni School family is cheering you on.

Congratulations to the best and brightest graduates anywhere in the world... the doctors and dental hygienists of the Class of 2025!

Thank you.

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