



2023

UNIVERSITY
OF NEW ENGLAND

COLLEGE OF DENTAL MEDICINE
GRADUATION CEREMONY



COLLEGE OF DENTAL MEDICINE
CLASS OF 2023
GRADUATION CEREMONY

May 19, 2023
10 a.m.

Girard Innovation Hall | Portland, Maine

ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND

The University of New England is Maine's largest private university, with two beautiful coastal campuses in Maine, a one-of-a-kind study-abroad campus in Tangier, Morocco, and an array of flexible online offerings. In an uncommonly welcoming and supportive community, we offer hands-on learning, empowering students to make a positive impact in a world full of challenges. We are the state's top provider of health professionals and home to Maine's only medical and dental colleges, a variety of other interprofessionally aligned health care programs, and nationally recognized degree paths in the marine sciences, the natural and social sciences, business, the humanities, and the arts. Visit www.une.edu

THE DENTIST'S PLEDGE

I, (Dental Student's 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 wellbeing are my first consideration.

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 of 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.

COLLEGE OF DENTAL MEDICINE

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the UNE College of Dental Medicine is to improve the health of Northern New England as well as rural and underserved areas while shaping the future of dentistry through excellence in education, discovery, and service.

CORE VALUES

- Excellence
- Professionalism
- Patient-Centered Care
- Social Responsibility
- Diversity
- Scholarship
- Leadership

VISION

The College of Dental Medicine will:

- Be a premier institution in the United States for educating dental professionals who will fulfill their obligations to improve the oral health, overall health, and quality of life of people in their communities with integrity, compassion, and respect.
- Provide outstanding didactic and clinical education in a humanistic environment that embraces scientific and technological advances and supports patient-centered, evidence-based, comprehensive oral health care in a group practice model.
- Cultivate and support the richness of diversity in the development of professionalism, ethical behavior, communication, and leadership by encouraging and supporting diversity of faculty, students, and staff.
- Develop dental professionals who are leaders of their own oral health care teams and partners in the interprofessional health care delivery systems of the future.
- Educate dental professionals to understand and apply relevant clinical practices to the connections between oral health and overall health.
- Advance its commitment to community health and service of underserved populations.
- Promote scholarship, innovation, and lifelong learning for faculty, staff, and students.

THE POMP BEHIND THE CIRCUMSTANCE

Academic Regalia

THE GOWN

The history of the academic gown goes back to the 12th century. During this period, everyone — both men and women, royalty, lay folk, clerics, tradesmen, students — wore long flowing robes. The apparel varied in elegance according to the rank and wealth of the owner, from simple rough worsteds to rich gold brocades wrought with tassels and trimmed with colorful velvet and rich furs. It was in this period that the first organized bodies of learning were formed. From the gowns worn in the “universities” of the period have evolved the academic costumes of today.

The bachelor’s gown is a simple design falling straight from a rather elaborate yoke with long pointed sleeves. The gown worn by a master has long, closed, somewhat fuller sleeves, which reach nearly to the wearer’s knees. The arms go through slits at the elbow, giving the appearance of short sleeves. The doctoral gown is cut much fuller and has large bell-shaped sleeves. The gowns are usually, but not always, black, and those of bachelors and masters are generally devoid of ornamentation. The doctoral gowns are distinguished by the five-inch velvet panel around the neck and down both sides of the front as well as by three-inch velvet bars sewn on each sleeve. The color of the velvet trim may be black or may indicate the nature of the degree. For example, the color designating a Doctor of Dental Medicine is lilac.

THE HOOD

The hood seems to have had a somewhat practical origin. Medieval monks used their hood for two purposes: to protect their shaved heads in the winter and as a container in which to collect alms.

Today the hood serves as the most symbolic part of the academic regalia by which the observer can ascertain the wearer’s level and kind of degree. The bachelor’s hood is the smallest, being three feet long. The velvet trim along the edges, indicating the nature of the degree, is two inches wide. The master’s hood is six inches longer and bears a three-inch velvet trim.

The doctoral hood presented today is a full four feet long and exhibits a five-inch, lilac trim indicating the Doctor of Dental Medicine degree.

The colorful interior of the hood, visible from behind, indicates by hue the degree-granting institution. The University of New England’s colors are blue and grey.

THE CORDS AND STOLES

The cord in graduation ceremonies is used to signify a special designation or membership in an honor society. The origin of the cord is from the Catholic and Anglican churches, where cords were used to distinguish between the varying levels of clergy members. The stole featuring navy blue with lilac trim and the gold insignia of OKU represents membership in the Omicron Kappa Upsilon National Dental Honor Society.



GRADUATION SPEAKER
NORMA DESJARDINS, D.M.D.
President of the Maine Dental Association

Norma Desjardins hails from Cyr Plantation (Van Buren) in Aroostook County in northern Maine. She says she is blessed to have had a charmed childhood growing up on a potato farm with her seven siblings, where she learned life lessons of faith, family, and fun. Norma cut seed potatoes after school, picked rocks in the spring, and potatoes during school harvest break in the fall, worked on the harvester, and eventually earned her PHD (Potato House Degree), all before leaving home for college.

Desjardins graduated from the University of Maine and then attended Tufts University School of Dental Medicine where she earned her dental degree in 1992. She has practiced in Aroostook County for 30 years, in both private and nonprofit offices.

While serving on the Health Services Advisory Committee of the Aroostook County Action Program, Desjardins developed an acute awareness of how thousands of county children were not receiving routine preventive and restorative dental care. She recruited the help of her husband and several community members and, in 2012, they founded a private nonprofit dental office, St. Apollonia Dental Clinic, in Presque Isle. Desjardins currently serves as executive director of the clinic.

Norma and her husband Paul enjoy traveling and hiking in as many national and state parks as possible and spending family time with their two adult children, a son-in-law, and three grandchildren.

Desjardins said, "The profession of dentistry has been good to me. I love the profession and I love the patients. I've been deeply humbled by the trust patients place in us as providers of care. Having been an owner in private practice for 20+ years, I now work in the nonprofit arena. I'm determined to help as many children as possible avoid preventable dental disease. Involvement in the Maine Dental Association and the American Dental Association has been an extremely rewarding part of my career. I love to spend time with young people talking about their goals and career plans, planting seeds of dentistry as an excellent career and life choice."

ORDER OF CEREMONIES

PROCESSIONAL

Platform Party, Faculty, and Graduate Class of 2023

OPENING REMARKS

Nicole S. Kimmes, D.D.S., *Dean, College of Dental Medicine*

UNIVERSITY WELCOME

Gwendolyn Mahon, M.Sc., Ph.D., *Provost*

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Norma Desjardins, D.M.D., *President of the Maine Dental Association*

HOODING PROCESSION

Reader of Student Names: Eileen Dunfey, M.S., RDH, *Associate Clinical Professor*

Caribou Group Practice

Hooder: William Benson, D.M.D., *Assistant Clinical Professor*

Denmark Group Practice

Hooder: Jay Beauchemin, D.D.S., M.S., *Associate Clinical Professor*

Eastport Group Practice

Hooders: Oliver Keefer, D.D.S., *Assistant Clinical Professor*; Jeffrey Finegold, D.M.D., *Associate Clinical Professor*

Farmington Group Practice

Hooder: Courtney Schapira, D.D.S., *Associate Clinical Professor*

CLASS PRESIDENT REMARKS AND THE DENTIST'S PLEDGE

Joshua Philip Golden, D.M.D. Candidate, *President of the Class of 2023*

CLOSING REMARKS

Nicole S. Kimmes, D.D.S., *Dean, College of Dental Medicine*

RECESSIONAL

Platform Party, Faculty, and Graduate Class of 2023

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COLLEGE OF DENTAL MEDICINE
GRADUATION CEREMONY



UNIVERSITY OF
NEW ENGLAND

INNOVATION FOR A HEALTHIER PLANET