

TRODENT

Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC

OSTROW IS HELPING BRIDGE ACCESS TO CARE—

ONE SMILE AT A TIME

pgs 9-12

PLUS

SECRET LIVES: MIKE SEASTROM DDS '76 pg 6

WHERE ARE THEY NOW: LISA KEDERIAN DDS '06 pg 19



“It is immensely gratifying to volunteer my time for the benefit of a school that has been so instrumental in my life and career.”

—Scott Adishian '75, DDS '79, PROS '82 (pictured with Mitchell Lew '83, MD '87) on the Widney Alumni House Award he took home from this year's USC Alumni Association Volunteer Recognition Dinner

DEPARTMENTS

By The Numbers/Calendar **3**

Dean's Letter **4**

Image Gallery: White Coat Ceremony **5**

Secret Lives: Mike Seastrom DDS '76 **6**

Image Gallery: Hiking Scholarship 2012 **7**

Image Gallery: TGIF **14**

Image Gallery: AAP 2012 Annual Meeting **17**

Where Are They Now: Lisa Kederian DDS '06 **19**

Memorials and Tributes **20**

FEATURES

SEASON OF LOVE **8**

Arash Panah DDS '00 inspires with his sense of community outreach. Find out how he's helping those without access to dental care smile brighter than ever before.

THE JOURNEY TO REFINEMENT **13**

With help from our Union Rescue Mission clinic, Ben Condit has managed to turn his life around and aims to help others. Read all about his inspiring transformation.

A SUMMER I WON'T FORGET **15**

Dental student Sumeet Srivastava DDS '13 shares his experiences in the community through his externship at La Maestra Community Health Centers.

A LEGEND RETIRES **16**

After almost 50 years, Richard Kahn DDS '64 is ready to pass the torch on to the next generation.

EVERYBODY LOVES RAMÓN **18**

See how one Ostrow faculty member protects the smiles of footballers facing the rough-and-tumble life on the gridiron.

TRODENT



THE ROAD TO ORAL HEALTH CARE **9-12**



With a fleet of mobile clinics, an array of fixed-site locations, and more than a few community partnerships, Ostrow's Community Oral Health Programs help bridge the gap to access across Southern California.

ostrow.usc.edu

THE OFFICIAL ALUMNI PUBLICATION OF THE OSTROW SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY OF USC | FALL 2012

DEAN
AVISHAI SADAN

CONTRIBUTORS
GRACE COOPMAN
BETH DUNHAM
JOHN HOBBS
KENI NOONER
SUMEET SRIVASTAVA
HEATHER VECCHIARELLI

PHOTOGRAPHY
BETH DUNHAM
LOGAN FRICK
JOHN HOBBS
GLENN MARZANO
BILL PATTERSON
JOHN SKALICKY

DESIGN/PRODUCTION
GARETT YOSHIDA

PRINTED BY
COLORNET PRESS,
COLORNETPRESS.COM

COVER PHOTOGRAPHY BY
JOHN SKALICKY,
SKALICKYPHOTO.COM

HAVE A QUESTION OR COMMENT
REGARDING **TRODENT**?
WANT TO SUBMIT A STORY OR A
PHOTO FOR PUBLICATION?

CONTACT US AT
OSTROW.ALUMNI@USC.EDU

TRODENT
OSTROW SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY
OF USC
925 W. 34TH STREET, DEN 202
LOS ANGELES, CA 90089-0641

(213) 740-0428

SEVEN MILLION

Number of Californian adults who not do have any form of dental insurance, as reported by the CDA

719,034

Number of individuals who've received free or reduced-cost oral health care by Ostrow students and residents since 2000—
That's enough to fill up the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum nearly 8 times.



1,849

NUMBER OF OSTROW DDS STUDENTS IN THE PAST DECADE WHO'VE WORKED IN UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES AS PART OF THEIR OFFICIAL STUDIES



62 percent

Increase in number of patients seen—across all mobile clinics, community partnerships, and school-based programs—over the past decade. With more patient demand than ever before, our community oral health programs must continue to help underserved communities get access to oral health experts.

CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 9

DENTAL SCHOOL TOURS, 9 a.m. & 11:30 a.m., Norris Dental Science Center East Lobby. Start off Reunion Weekend with a 40-minute tour of the Ostrow School of Dentistry. Not only can you reminisce as you walk through the halls of your alma mater, you can also see some of the state-of-the-art upgrades we've made and meet some of our best and brightest students. Sign up at usc.edu/esvp and use code "Reunion2012".

CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSE, 10-11:30 a.m., Century Club Auditorium. Stick around for "The Adhesive Revolution in Restorative Science—Has Bonding Supplanted Retention and Resistance Form Principles?" a two-credit course taught by Ostrow's own Pascal Magne. Sign up at usc.edu/esvp and use code "Reunion2012".

DEAN'S RECEPTION, 1-2 p.m. Dean's Suite. If you're an alumnus celebrating a five-year milestone, you've made the dean's list for an afternoon meet-and-greet with Avishai Sadan, the man steering the Ostrow School of Dentistry into the future. Sign up at usc.edu/esvp and use code "Reunion2012".

CLASS REUNION RECEPTION & DINNER, 6-8 p.m., Millennium Biltmore Hotel, 506 S. Grand Ave., L.A. Grab a cocktail or two with dental school classmates during the first hour of this event for all classes celebrating a five-year milestone. Afterward, take a seat for your individual class reunion where over dinner you can catch up with your classmates

and relive those D-school memories. Sign up at usc.edu/esvp and use code "Reunion2012".

NOVEMBER 10

HOMEcoming PICNIC, 3 hours before kick-off, Allan Hancock Foundation Building's southwest lawn. You've got to stay hydrated when taking on the Sun Devils. Grab a beer and some grub, and spend time with team Ostrow before marching off to the Coliseum to watch the Trojans scorch Arizona State. Sign up at usc.edu/esvp and use code "Homecoming2012".

NOVEMBER 17

USC VS. UCLA, Rose Bowl Stadium, Pasadena. Cross-town rivals take it 'cross town for the Trojans' penultimate match-up.

NOVEMBER 9

CASINO NIGHT, 8 p.m.-11 p.m., Millennium Biltmore Hotel, 506 S. Grand Ave., L.A. You can bet it's going to be a good time when the entire USC dental community comes together for Casino Night. Whether you're into cards, dice, or just the vicarious thrill of watching your high-rolling colleagues betting it all, this event's the perfect way to end Friday's line-up of alumni events. Sign up at usc.edu/esvp and use code "Homecoming2012".



NOVEMBER 24

USC VS. NOTRE DAME, Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum. USC goes toe-to-toe with the Fighting Irish on our own turf.

JANUARY 26—FEBRUARY 9

ANTARCTICA AND SOUTH AMERICA CRUISE, All aboard the L'Austral yacht for a globetrotting jaunt from Los Angeles to Buenos Aires, Argentina where cruisers can enjoy three summer days in the "Paris of South America" before bundling up in their winter wear and heading south to the picturesque expanse of Antarctica.

Dear Trojan Dental Family,

Welcome back to the *TroDent*!

I hope 2012 has been a great year for all of you thus far.

This issue of the *TroDent* celebrates the Ostrow School of Dentistry's decades-long commitment to serving our community. What began more than 40 years ago with the formation of our pioneering community dentistry program has grown into one of the largest and most robust health care efforts of any dental school, providing more than \$7 million in care to underprivileged individuals of all ages and backgrounds each year.

When the school first began providing care to disadvantaged individuals, it was neither easy nor popular. It was a tumultuous time for Los Angeles, and the critical need for access to health care, including dental care, had come into sharp focus. At a time when many professional and educational organizations had serious reservations about offering care to those in need on a large scale, we boldly took the initiative to help our city and region become healthier and began what would become our Community Oral Health Programs.

Since then, our commitment to service has made a lasting mark on the profession and has set examples for similar efforts at dental schools throughout the United States. Most importantly, it has shown our students that providing a hand-up to someone in need is one of life's most rewarding learning experiences. At the Ostrow School of Dentistry, we provide this care to our community not because we are forced or otherwise bound to do so, but because it is simply the right thing to do.

The faculty, staff, and students involved in our Community Oral Health Programs are amazing individuals who have done the right thing for our community year after year. I want to thank all of them as well as all of the dedicated supporters who make our outreach possible.

Fight On!



Avishai Sadan, D.M.D.
Dean
G. Donald and Marian James
Montgomery
Professor of Dentistry



PHOTO BY JOHN SKALICKY

White Coat Ceremony More than 300 students from points across the globe filed into Bovard Auditorium to take the first step—putting on their Ostrow-emblazoned white coats and taking a professional oath—in their paths to dental careers. PHOTOS BY GLENN MARZANO

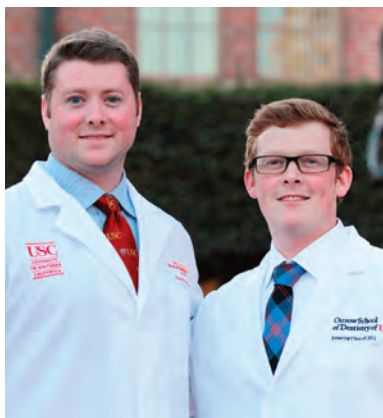
For more White Coat photos, go to tinyurl.com/ostrowwhitecoat



Ostrow students flash their pearly whites—and Fight On! spirit—in front of Tommy Trojan.



New students take an oath to maintain Ostrow's ethics and level of care before putting on their white coats.



Brandon Angus DDS '15 & Nathan Angus DDS '16



Diane Melrose MA '12, Avishai Sadan, & Sandi Bolivar



Monique Douglas DDS '16 and her proud parents



Omar Kholaki DDS '16, Poria Edalat DDS '16, Sarah Borghei DDS '16, Heung Yoo DDS '16, & Travis Cope DDS '16



MIKE SEASTROM

DDS '76



BY JOHN HOBBS

In some circles—er, squares—Mike Seastrom DDS '76 has one of the most powerful voices around. All he has to do is demand a curtsy, a promenade, or a do-si-do, and entire rooms full of men and women, dressed to the nines in western wear, do exactly what he says. If only his day job were so easy.

By day, Seastrom runs a Tarzana, Calif.-based dental practice called Life Smile Dental Center, which he started in 2001. After hours, Seastrom loses the white coat, mask, and loupes, and brings smiles to a whole new set—including some of his patients—as a square dance caller. Seastrom got his start in the world of square dancing the same way someone might be forced to cut all his hair off or to pay a handsome ransom: He lost a bet.

"I didn't want any part of it, and I dug my heels in on the issue," says Seastrom whose mother started square dancing in the 1950s and cajoled her husband and then her son to join her on the dance floor.

"We always had one-dollar bets within our family on the Rose Bowl. I always bet on the Pac 8 team and my mother was always betting on the Big 10 teams. She made her side of the bet one dollar, plus I had to try square dancing three times. If I liked it, I could continue."

With preconceived notions of the corniness of square dancing, Seastrom begrudgingly gave it a try. The boy's physiology got the best

Ostrow alumnus Mike Seastrom has been the life of the party for more than 40 years—making sure partygoers have a blast, swinging their partners 'round and 'round throughout the night.

of him, and he was hooked.

"I was dancing with lots of girls, and I liked that a lot!" says Seastrom, who was a lot taller than other boys his age, which meant he got paired up with girls twice as old as him. In sixth grade—nearly three years into his square dancing career—Seastrom called out his music teacher who had been passing off a contra dance—one line dancing with another—as a square dance, telling her it was not a true square dance. She challenged him right back. "Why don't you teach a square dance to the class then?"

Seastrom borrowed a record from his club caller—one side was instrumental, the other had the actual calls—and taught his class. "They loved it. They wanted to learn even more dances so I began buying records and teaching them."

It wasn't long before Seastrom took over for his club caller making \$20 a night. "That was pretty good money for a 12-year-old working only a couple of hours a week."

His side job continued throughout high school and college. When Seastrom's classmates were doing lab work for extra money during dental school, Seastrom was behind a

mic, singing out lyrics—contrary to the staccato delivery many experienced in their gym classes, the square dance calling Seastrom does is much more melodic.

He also clarifies another common misconception about square dancing: It's not hokey. "I use modern music that I download onto my laptop and, although some dancers still wear the traditional 'costume,' many of us don't. I wear a dress shirt and slacks and occasionally a sport coat."

After nearly a half-century in the square dancing game, Seastrom has 3 CDs and nearly 30 singles under his tasteful, modern belt. He's called all over the United States as well as Canada, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, and Japan and continues to teach weekly classes in the San Fernando Valley.

While it keeps him busy into the late nights, Seastrom wouldn't have it any other way. "It's a good way to clear your head after a long day at the office," he says.



Wanna see Seastrom in action?
Check out these video clips at:
tinyurl.com/seastrom

Hiking Scholarship 2012 Nearly 150 Ostrow students raced to the top of Black Star Canyon on Oct. 6 to take part in the second annual Hiking Scholarship competition started by Ostrow alumnus David Eggleston DDS '70, PROS '72. In total, students hiked away with almost \$30,000 to help pay for their dental education. PHOTOS BY LOGAN FRICK

For more Hiking Scholarship 2012 photos, go to tinyurl.com/ostrowhike12



Ostrow students were all smiles, having gotten out of Norris Dental Science Center for a sun-soaked day on the trails.



A steady stream of cardinal tanks made their way up and down the paths of Black Star Canyon.



Team Ostrow!



Harvey Luu DDS '15, David Kim DDS '15, Dustin Le DDS '15, & Andrew Nguyen DDS '15



Hee Yin Jim DDS '14, Esther Schara DDS '14, & Ash Foroughi DDS '14



PHOTO BY BILL PATTERSON

BY GRACE COOPMAN

Season of Love

When Arash Rastegar-Panah DDS '00 graduated from the Ostrow School of Dentistry, he took his clinical skills and built two successful practices in the South Bay. But that's not all he took with him into his professional career. During his time at dental school, he developed a desire to treat those who are unable to afford dental care—a passion he still holds today.

Since December 2010, Panah has treated almost 300 patients for free—no payments collected, no insurance claims processed, nothing. It's a simple concept he calls "Dentistry with Love."

Panah got the idea when he noticed a decline in his patient numbers a couple of years ago. "The economy had tanked, and my patients had been complaining about losing their dental coverage and not being able to afford dental care. I started thinking, 'Why can't we do this [provide free dental services]?' he says.

"It just so happened I attended a seminar in Las Vegas soon after, and one of the speakers had actually provided a day of free dental care in his home state. When I heard his story, it was exactly what I had envisioned," explains Panah. "He gave me a few pointers, I chose a date and started seeing patients." His team treated more than 120 people that day.

Throughout the day, word of mouth brought more people. Radio stations called, and news crews came and interviewed Panah and those waiting for free dental care.

With a line snaking down the sidewalk, the

volunteer dental professionals couldn't do anything that required a lot of time or needed follow-up work. Extractions, simple fillings, and cleanings were the bulk of the dentistry provided.

"We spent about 25-30 minutes with each patient. The cleanings were quick—no deep scalings."

He also told patients if they wanted to have more work done, they had to get back in line. There were patients who needed time-consuming procedures—root canals, crowns, etc. "I told those patients to go to USC."

The following year, there were close to 350 people in line. The first patient showed up at 12:50 a.m. Dr. Panah and his team worked quickly, but they could only treat about 170. He wanted to see more patients, but he only has four operatories.

Panah estimates he has performed close to \$100,000 in dental services. If he and his team treat the same number of patients this year, they will have provided more than \$160,000 in dental care. In addition, local businesses and major corporations have donated various items from

In response to a down economy, Ostrow alumnus Arash Panah DDS '00 started an annual free dental health care event that, in its third year, he expects will have provided nearly \$160,000 worth of dental services to those in the community who couldn't otherwise afford it.

fillings to coffee to pizza.

This year's "Dentistry with Love" will take place Dec. 14. Panah's office has already received inquiry calls. They also collected names and numbers of those patients who attended the event last year but were too far back in the line to be seen. There are more than 250 names on that list alone.

Everyone at the event volunteers their services, and his staff doesn't receive any pay that day. In fact, many of the people who volunteer are his current patients. They take the day off work and help with the lines, passing out numbers and collecting paperwork. The day has even become a family affair. Panah's parents and his wife—also a dentist—help out. This year, his 3-year-old will be there too.

Panah has already considered the future growth of this day. "We have been thinking of hosting another day mid-year and then progressing to hosting several each year, but it's such a big event with a lot of legwork and involvement. It will be some time before it will be done."



Meet Thor, the Community Oral Health Programs' logo. The late Charlie Goldstein, who headed up the mobile clinic from 1970 to 1982, was inspired by the B.C. comic strip character, Thor, and doodled a toothbrush-wielding version, which was redone by B.C. creator Johnny Hart and given to Goldstein to use as the friendly face of our mobile clinics.

THE ROAD TO ORAL HEALTH CARE

With a fleet of mobile clinics, an array of fixed-site locations, and more than a few community partnerships, the Ostrow School of Dentistry's community oral health programs have taken their fight to promote oral health into the most underserved neighborhoods across Southern California.

BY BETH DUNHAM

Following the 1965 riots, which helped bring to light enormous disparities in health care access in Los Angeles, Ostrow began its pioneering Community Oral Health Programs

with the installation of a dental clinic at the USC Neighborhood Health Center in Watts.

More than 45 years later, Ostrow's community programs provide more than \$7 million each year in free oral health care and education to South-

ern Californians. The school's clinical and educational outreach programs for the underserved is among the most diverse and most comprehensive of any dental school and provides Ostrow students an unparalleled experience in caring for those in need.



COMMUNITY
ORAL HEALTH
PROGRAMS

SERVING LOS ANGELES— AND BEYOND



“Having been a part of the Community Oral Health Programs since its inception, I’m extremely passionate about the service and care the dental school provides. I’ve witnessed faculty, staff, and students touching the lives of so many patients. In turn, they’ve been moved by their own impact. This is a program that continues to grow not only because of our desire to help but also due to current demand. We are in the community, not because we have to be, but because it’s our duty. Your support of our program is appreciated and makes an impact on so many. Thank you, and Fight On!”

—Roseann ‘Nan’ Mulligan, MS, DDS
Chair, Division of Dental Public Health and Pediatric Dentistry
Associate Dean, Community Oral Health Programs and Hospital Affairs



MOBILE CLINICS

Established in 1968 as the Dental Ambassadors program, the **USC MOBILE DENTAL CLINIC** has become the Ostrow Community Oral Health Program’s flagship program. Five specialized trailers travel throughout Southern California, serving populations ranging from preschool children to migrant farm workers and military veterans. Because the Mobile Clinic covers regions outside of the L.A. metropolitan area, many locations aren’t shown on the map.

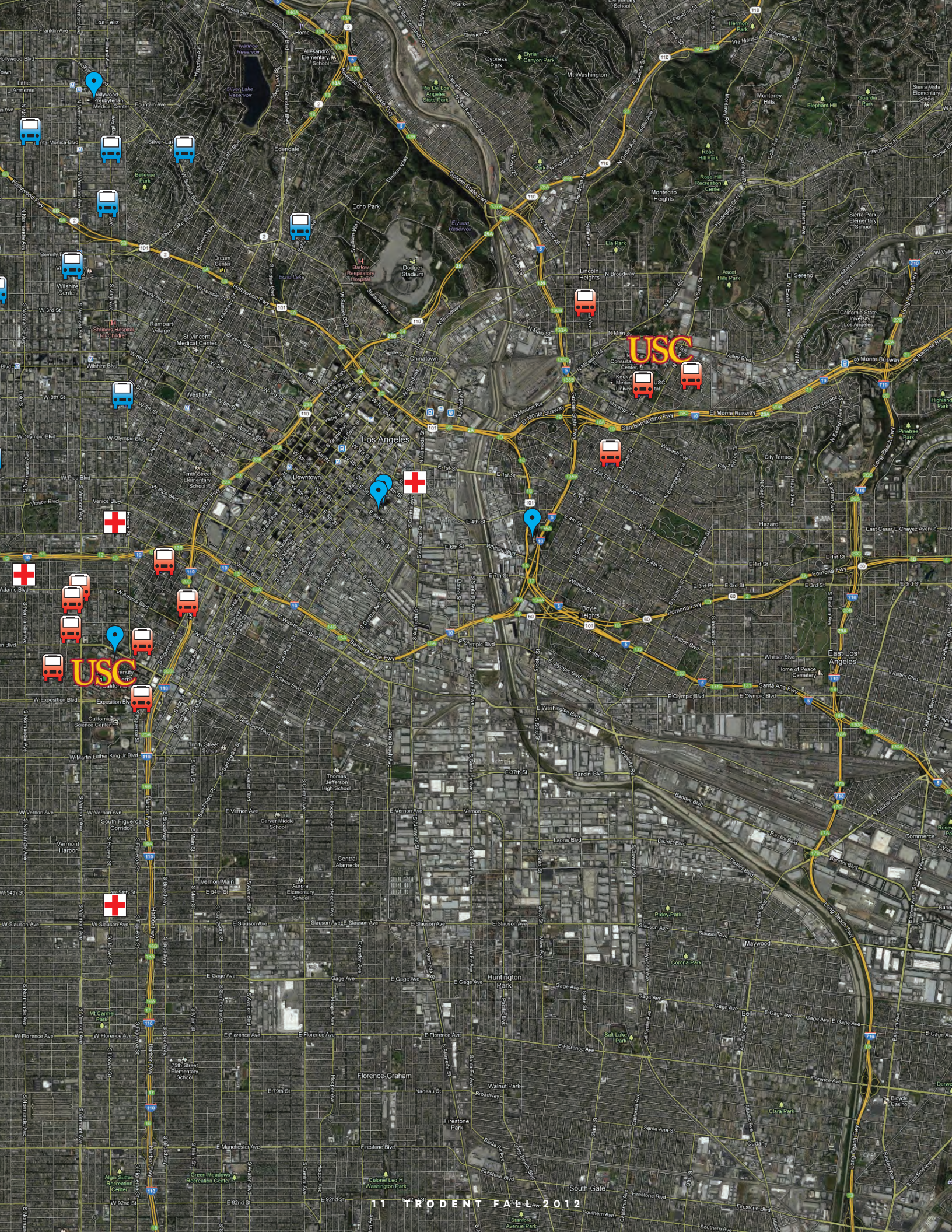


To serve Hollywood’s elementary school students, Ostrow partnered with QueensCare, a non-profit health care provider for low-income Angelenos, to create the **USC/QUEENSCARE MOBILE DENTAL PROGRAM**. The clinic’s two vehicles travel to schools and provide free care.



Started in 2002 and run by dental hygiene students and faculty, the **NEIGHBORHOOD MOBILE DENTAL CLINIC** consists of two vehicles that travel to USC-adjacent schools. The clinic provides children with dental screenings, oral health education, and preventive sealants.







STATIONARY CLINICS

The **USC Dental Clinic at the Union Rescue Mission** makes Ostrow one of the only dental schools to operate a clinic specifically targeting the homeless. The eight-chair clinic serves both Union Rescue Mission residents and referred patients and has provided free care since 2000. (See one URM patient's story on page 13.)

Ostrow designed the dental clinic within the **USC+JWCH Center for Community Health** facility. The program has provided comprehensive dental care to Skid Row's homeless population since 2009.

The **Special Patients Clinic** located in the Norris Dental Science Center opened in 1985 and is designed to serve patients who are mentally, physically, or medically compromised. The clinic also features a surgical suite for patients who require sedation for their dental care.

Since 2001, Ostrow has provided care at **Hollenbeck Palms**, a non-profit retirement community in Boyle Heights. Under faculty supervision, doctoral dental and dental hygiene students provide care specifically tailored to the oral health needs of Hollenbeck's elderly residents.



COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS AND HOSPITAL AFFILIATIONS

At **ST. JOHN'S WELL CHILD AND FAMILY CENTER AT MAGNOLIA PLACE**, fourth-year dental students provide general dentistry treatment to children and families in an urban integrated health system, which includes medical, mental health, pharmacy, and nutrition services.

The **DR. LOUIS C. FRAYSER CLINIC** in South Los Angeles is a second St. John's Well Child and Family Center Clinic, hosting Ostrow students delivering care to local pediatric patients.

Select students rotate to the **COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS OF THE CENTRAL COAST** clinics for four to six weeks. During that time, fourth-year dental students provide general dentistry treatment to people of all ages within an integrated health system in multiple Central Coast communities.

In order to offer experiences providing culturally and linguistically competent prevention, treatment, chronic disease management, and essential support services in San Diego's most culturally diverse and lowest income communities, select students rotate to **LA MAESTRA COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER** (See one student's story on page 15) for four to six weeks.

Ostrow Community Oral Health Programs are also affiliated with several hospitals in Los Angeles and Orange County, with students and residents providing care at **CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL LOS ANGELES, RANCHO LOS AMIGOS MEDICAL CENTER, LONG BEACH MILLER MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL ORANGE COUNTY, LONG BEACH VETERANS ADMINISTRATION MEDICAL CENTER, LOS ANGELES COUNTY + USC MEDICAL CENTER**, and the **DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES VETERANS ADMINISTRATION CLINIC**.



HEALTH FAIRS AND SCREENINGS

Ostrow dental hygiene students and doctoral dental students volunteer to promote oral health, providing free oral screening exams, preventive care instruction, and educational materials at **MORE THAN 20 HEALTH FAIRS** each year.

"GIVE KIDS A SMILE!" DAY is a national children's oral health awareness event that takes place each February. Ostrow offers preventive treatment and services to children at a neighborhood elementary school each year.

Ostrow students and faculty reach out to infants, children, and their families at **WOMEN, INFANT, CHILDREN (WIC), EARLY HEAD START**, and **HEAD START** centers throughout L.A. County in order to screen for oral health problems and educate families about health and nutrition.

OTHER EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES

Through several programs, Ostrow Community Oral Health faculty educates other dental care providers, school nurses, and health professionals regarding complex dental issues including dental care and HIV and dental risk assessment for school children.

Ostrow students and faculty also work with high school and college students at medical magnet schools and at USC in order to help promising students learn more about and prepare for the dental profession.





PHOTO BY JOHN HOBBS

The Journey to Refinement

With a new outlook on life and a new set of dentures, Ben Condit has gone from desperately living on the streets to planning a career where he can use his experience to help others out of similar situations.

BY KENI NOONER
ANNENBERG SCHOOL FOR
COMMUNICATION & JOURNALISM '15

Walking hopelessly down more than 30 miles of California freeway one night after a drug-fueled fight with his wife, Ben Condit never imagined life would get much better.

More than 15 years of meth addiction had taken its toll on Condit. His ex-wife and children had lost all hope he'd ever get clean.

The agonizing walk from Hesperia to Fontana helped put life into perspective for Condit. "I was sick and tired of being sick and tired," he says, remembering his rock-bottom moment.

After walking all night, Condit collapsed alongside the freeway. Seeing him on the ground, a stranger pulled up alongside him and generously offered him a five-gallon bucket of water. That water might've saved his life.

He couldn't have known it at the time, but Condit's life was about to change in ways unthinkable to the man whose life was so wrapped up in meth he had lost all his teeth to the drug.

Condit grew up in El Monte with an older brother who took him as his own, without a mother or father in the picture.

Upon graduating from high school, he married, had two children, and lived a seemingly normal life—until he and his wife began facing irreconcilable challenges in his marriage. After 14 years, the marriage hit the skids due to

his drug use. Condit was kicked out of his house and began living on the streets.

A week after his breakdown under the freeway, he says he heard about the Union Rescue Mission, an organization that would drastically change the course of his life.

Union Rescue Mission offers shelter and rescue services to men, women, and children in downtown Los Angeles. From medical and dental services to providing an education, Union Rescue Mission reaches out to more than 2,000 homeless people on Skid Row on a weekly basis.

Condit got word of the shelter and began to see it as his new home, where he could start a new life away from the streets. He proudly says, "I would have never imagined myself walking into those doors when I was all torn up."

This being his first and only help program, Condit says that he was ready to leave on the third day, but committed himself to a new manifesto that would help him redefine himself only through what he claimed to be the grace of God.

One of Condit's many excitements about joining this new program was being rewarded with a new set of dentures. The Ostrow School of Dentistry has eight operatories inside the Union Rescue Mission, giving students an opportunity to provide dental services to those who might

not otherwise have access to a dental chair.

Upon asking Condit how he was fairing with his new set of teeth, he responded cheerfully saying, "Oh! I can smile again! I love the work done."

He praises the Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC for its prized work, saying how much he adored the department's staff. In fact, he says they are like family to him. Condit hopes his new smile will help him get a job.

The Christian-based program in which he is currently enrolled provides free housing and education in exchange for his volunteering at the Mission. Twenty hours a week, Condit works as a dental clinic escort for visitors who have appointments.

In November, Condit will graduate from his year-long program at the Union Rescue Mission, and plans to start an apprenticeship in the dental office while attending Bible College at the Urban Ministry Institute of Los Angeles.

From there, he says he aims to use his experience to be a drug counselor for others who lived just like him. Condit hopes his story will inspire those he works with who have trouble imagining a better life for themselves, just like he did 11 months ago.

"Back in the day, I just wanted to die," he says. "Now, I just want to live."

TGIF Students, faculty, and staff started their weekend a couple of hours early with the school year's first Friday fête. Under the enormous Ostrow banner, TGIFers ate tacos and ice cream, danced to the beats of a live DJ, and enjoyed each other's company for one sunny summer afternoon. PHOTOS BY BETH DUNHAM & JOHN HOBBS



Delmi Perez & Griselda Sanchez



Jessica Ostroff, Nasrin Bahiri, Kristine Hong DDS '16, & Eugenia Chan DDS '16



Dental students enjoy soft tacos and horchata provided by the University Club.



Poria Edalat DDS '16, Dan Shaer DDS '15, Evalina Josefsen DDS '15, & Sina Edalat DDS '15



Nehikhare Ogbevoen DDS '15 & Mahvash Navazesh



PHOTO BY JOHN HOBBS

a Summer *I won't forget*

Ostrow dental student Sumeet Srivastava DDS '13 was one of a select group of students who spent two months last summer at San Diego's La Maestra Community Health Centers, providing dental care to impoverished clientele for his externship. We asked Srivastava to share his experiences of being on the frontlines of the war against poor oral health care.

BY SUMEET SRIVASTAVA

“I was truly blessed to have been given the opportunity to work with Dr. Tran. It is my hope that all students in the future will get the same experience.”

My externship is over! It is hard to believe how quickly the months of June and July passed. There is truth in the saying that time flies when you are enjoying doing what you're doing and learning more than you could ever imagine. That is exactly how my externship experience went—especially considering the first week we treated more than 20 patients a day. The term “busy” doesn't even give justice to the actual experience.

I'm so thankful to have had the opportunity to gain such valuable educational experience. With nearly 800 experience units from USC and almost all of my graduation requirements completed prior to starting the externship, it was the perfect time for me to transition into a dental practice setting where I could be given the chance to build on the foundation built thus far and be able to “show off” the skill set the Ostrow School of Dentistry has provided me. My time at La Maestra—a community

hospital located in San Diego that treats more than 100,000 impoverished patients a year—provided me not only with hands-on education but also showed me areas I needed to improve, primarily providing high-quality treatment while keeping up with a high quantity of patients.

I am so glad I signed up for the externship. It was an experience I'll never forget. It has changed me for the better, and I hope I represented USC with the high standards and integrity the Ostrow School upholds. Only Pauline Tran DDS '96 and the other exceptional staff can confirm or deny that.

I grew incredibly close to Dr. Tran, the other doctors, and the staff. From the moment I walked in the door to the day I left the externship, they treated me with great respect, kindness, and, most importantly, made me a part of the La Maestra family. My educational experiences with Dr. Tran are ones that will remain with me for a long

time. Dr. Tran and the staff took the time to be patient with my transition, understanding of the areas I needed to improve, and encouraging my efforts. I could not have asked for a better mentor or learning environment this summer.

From teaching kids how to improve their diets with healthier foods to learning to deal with cranky children, Dr. Tran sought out cases that pushed my comfort levels and helped build my confidence. I did everything from dentures and crowns—gold, porcelain, and stainless steel—to pulpotomies, extractions, and fillings. As busy as Dr. Tran was as La Maestra's dental director, she took the time to discuss cases with me, share her experiences with me, and answer my questions.

I was truly blessed to have been given the opportunity to work with Dr. Tran. It is my hope that all students in the future will get the same experience.

A LEGEND RETIRES, PASSING THE TORCH TO THE NEXT GENERATION

In a recent letter to the Ostrow community, Richard Kahn DDS '64 announced his retirement from the Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC after more than half a century of being involved as a student and a faculty member. In honor of his leadership and commitment to dental education, alumni and friends of the school have established the Richard Kahn Professorship in Restorative Dentistry to ensure Dr. Kahn's clinical leadership and commitment are continued in perpetuity. Their goal is to raise \$1 million to support the establishment of this endowed professorship.

DEAR OSTROW SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY OF USC COMMUNITY MEMBERS,

I have discussed with Dean Avishai Sadan that, effective Jan. 1, 2013, I will be retiring. This was not an easy decision for my wife Judy and me to make, however I have always said that I wanted to retire while I am still healthy and making positive contributions to our school, profession, and my students. After more than 48 years of full-time teaching at the Ostrow School of Dentistry, I think it is time.

I know I will look back at my years on the faculty at our school and remember all of the extremely bright and gifted faculty and staff I have been fortunate to have worked with. I certainly could not have achieved some of the things that I have achieved without their guidance, support, and friendship.

Certainly, I will miss my students. During my tenure at USC, I have directly or indirectly taught more than 6,000 dental students. They are the main reason I taught and have always been my primary concern. I have learned much more from my students than I have been able to teach.

I am retiring confident that our school is moving in the right direction under Dean Sadan's leadership.

The other day my daughter sent me the retirement speech given by Thomas Hudnut, the headmaster at my granddaughter's school, Harvard-Westlake, I believe the last paragraph from the speech sums up my thoughts:

Whether it's early or late, inevitably, inexorably, Fall always comes. The trees turn, the flowers wither, the grass stops growing, the birds head south. Fall always comes—it does for all of us and, like the geese and the loons, we need to know when it's time to leave.

January is my Fall.

Thank all of you for making the past 48 years a wonderful experience. I could not have wished for a better professional life.

—Richard Kahn DDS '64

Rex Ingraham Chair of Restorative Sciences

Should you be interested in supporting the Richard Kahn Professorship in Restorative Dentistry, please contact the Office of Development & Alumni Relations at (213) 740-0428. You may also send in a gift via the enclosed envelope or at giveto.usc.edu.

AAP 2012 Annual Meeting The American Academy of Periodontology held its 98th annual meeting in Ostrow's backyard this year—the L.A. Convention Center—with four days chock full of continuing education courses, presentations, and hands-on workshops. On Oct. 1, USC alumni got to mingle at a special reception held at L.A. Live.



Giles de Quincey PERIO '90, Hee-Joo Lee DDS '88, PERIO '91, Imella Sanchez, David Levine DDS '86, PERIO '90, Klaus Yi DDS '02, PERIO '05, Cara Batson, & Kevin Lee DDS '03, PERIO '06



Yun Wang PERIO '15, Ivy Wu DDS '10, PERIO '13, Homa Zadeh, Sarah Bushehri PERIO '14, & Shoko Sato PERIO '14



Homa Zadeh, Yun Wang PERIO '15, & Fengyuan Zheng PROS '13



Fashid Ariz, Alexandre-Amir Aalam PERIO '03, Scott Woodbury-Stewart, & Sara Tanavoli DDS '01, PERIO '04

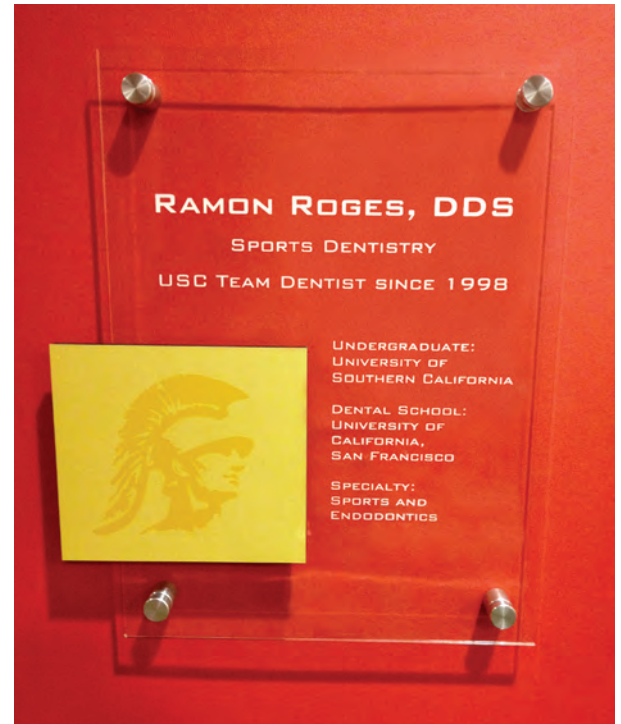


Justin Braga PERIO '09, Kevin Lee DDS '03, PERIO '06, & Alon Frydman PERIO '06

EVERYBODY LOVES RAMÓN

BY HEATHER VECCHIARELLI
ANNENBERG SCHOOL FOR
COMMUNICATION & JOURNALISM '12

Win, lose, or draw—the Trojan football team can always flash killer smiles thanks to the work of Ramón Roges '80, ENDO '05 who continues to serve as the team dentist after more than a decade.



It's the Friday morning before the USC football team jets off to Seattle to defeat the Washington Huskies, and team dentist Ramón Roges has only a half-hour to spare for an interview before dashing off to the airport.

Winded from having just run back from the John McKay Center, the friendly full-time faculty member apologizes for being late and sits down to talk about his ongoing stint as dentist for the USC football team.

On his desk sits a large Ziploc bag full of orange-and-yellow mouth guards. Behind his office, there's a smaller room.

"That's where I make the mouth guards for the football team," says Roges in his distinct Cuban-American accent as he points to the tight office where hundreds of dental impressions are nestled in individual compartments along the wall.

Patients visiting the nearby emergency dental clinic might never guess the otherwise nondescript office is the place where the Trojan football team's smiles are kept healthy every day.

For the past 12 years, the full-time faculty doctor—an expert in sports dentistry and dental trauma—has spent hours of his time, molding hundreds of mouth guards for the football team.

"Every year, I make sets for practice, for team trainers, and for games," he says.

The mouth guards protect the football team from serious injury and lip lacerations on the

field where collisions and pile-ups happen more often than on an L.A. freeway.

While his signature mouth guard is the cardinal-and-gold fronted by a USC logo, he's been known to change things up.

In October, when rival teams crouched down in the three-point stance across from the Trojans, they were greeted by bright-pink mouth guards, made by Roges in observance of National Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

When Roges isn't in his office working on mouth guards, he's on the sidelines cheering for his team. At home or away games, Roges is poised to spring to action if anyone on the team has a dental emergency.

"Every year there are at least a few injuries that require emergency dental care," he explains.

Though it keeps him incredibly busy, you won't hear a complaint from the good-natured doctor who also makes mouth guards for USC's men's and women's basketball teams, men's and women's water polo team, and the women's lacrosse team.

"The collaboration with other physicians and interaction with the student athletes is very rewarding," he says of his work with the teams.

And Roges does all this in addition to being a full-time faculty member.

Roges is an associate professor and director of the emergency clinic where he teaches students the fundamentals of dealing with dental trauma.

Having attended USC in the '70s as an undergraduate alongside current athletic directors Pat Haden and J.K. McKay, Roges says he's never doubted one thing—that the hard work of his father, a former dentist, would be the driving inspiration for his own career.

"I respected him for all the hard work he did and how much he loved his profession," he says.

Just as Roges was inspired by the previous generation, he has some words of encouragement for the next generation of USC dental professionals: "Follow your heart, follow your dreams, never give up, and you'll be successful in whatever you do in your life."

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Lisa Kederian DDS '06

In just six years, Ostrow alumnus Lisa Kederian has built a successful private practice—starting with a three-operatory clinic before expanding to seven operatories and adding another dentist—in West Los Angeles. We asked Kederian to share with us the secret to her success.

BY JOHN HOBBS



How did you first get your private practice off the ground?

After graduating, I worked as an associate for almost two years before realizing I wanted to start my own practice. While working as an associate I also learned how the business side of dentistry worked. Things like business plans, building leases, insurance, and dealing with banks, accountants, and lawyers and managing staff weren't exactly taught in dental school. I took a big leap and built an office from the ground up. Today my practice averages more than 100 new patients a month, and we're busier than ever.

You've only been in private practice for a handful of years. To what do you attribute your practice's success?

I have an amazing team, and we

always make sure to focus on our patients. We want them to feel welcome, pampered, and taken care of. Some patients come in and let us know immediately how deathly afraid they are of dentists. It's especially gratifying when they come out saying this was the best dental experience they've ever had. It's nice to know we have that effect on our patients.

What were your favorite classes while studying at USC's dental school?

Hands down, it would be my composite pre-operative clinic. I am so glad that composite restorations were emphasized at USC. When I graduated, I was sincerely amazed at how advanced my skill level for composite fillings were compared to the general dentist population.

What would you say was the most valuable lesson or knowledge you picked up while in school?

I learned not to take any shortcuts when doing dentistry. It costs you more time—and therefore more money—in the long run.

What's your best memory from school?

My freshman year I remember sitting alone in the dim light late at night, waxing up my first set of teeth thinking, "Wow, I'm really going to be a dentist." It was such a profound moment for me. I realized it was going to be a long journey of sleepless nights and hard work, but it was going to be OK, because I also realized how much I liked doing dentistry.

What's the biggest lesson you've

learned since leaving dental school?

Success is truly driven by hard work and good ethics. There are no substitutes. Even when you work really hard and do the right things, you still might not succeed unless you have a great team around you. I've learned from really great mentors and was lucky enough to build a great team.

What advice would you give to current students that you wish someone had given you when you were here?

I would tell the students not to be afraid to fail! There isn't any single person out there who can naturally do dentistry on their first try. The only way you can become a great dentist is by putting in long and hard hours of repetition and practice in order to perfect your work.

THE FOLLOWING ARE GIFTS MADE IN HONOR OR TRIBUTE TO INDIVIDUALS WHO'VE MADE A LASTING IMPACT ON THE OSTROW SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY COMMUNITY.

In Honor of Parviz Azarmehr
Dr. and Mrs. Victor Sands

In Memory of Patricia Barrett
Dr. and Mrs. John J. Lytle

In Memory of Frank C. Blair
Ms. Ruth C. Blair
Ms. Barbara Joujon-Roche

In Honor of Sandra Bolivar
Dr. Justin Do

**In Memory of
Martin Joe Brockman**
Dr. George Mayol

In Memory of Rose Wong Chan
Dr. and Mrs. Richard Kahn

In Memory of Anatol Chari
Dr. and Mrs. Carl Rieder
Dr. Christopher P. Travis

In Memory of Dennis Chee
Dr. Allen King Wong

In Memory of Val Clark
Dr. Edward K. Lew
Dr. Derick T. Tagawa

In Honor of Wanda Claro
Dr. Will M. Wong and Dr. Mary Jew

In Memory of William Crawford
Dr. Daniel Stringer

**In Memory of
Charles William Curland**
Dr. and Mrs. Dennis
and Julie Saffro

In Memory of Donald Curnutte
Dr. William M. Dern
Dr. M. Marlene Godoy

**In Memory of
Bruce Edward Dahlberg**
Dr. and Mrs. John J. Lytle
Ms. Jane Watanabe

In Memory of Robert C. Davies
Dr. Keith A. Anderson

In Memory of Jane Davis
Dr. Stan Hanes
Dr. and Mrs. John J. Lytle
Marsh Robinson Academy of Oral
and Maxillofacial Surgeons, Inc.
Dr. Dennis-Duke Yamashita

In Memory of Robert Denny
Dr. Derick T. Tagawa

In Memory of Clifton Dummett
Dr. Scott R. Adishian
Dr. and Mrs. Jack F. Conley
Dr. Carol Gomez Summerhays

**In Honor of David Eggleston's
Hiking Scholarship**
California Community Foundation
Komet USA LLC
Dr. Laura E. Wittenauer
Dr. Richard C. Wittenauer

In Memory of Clinton Emmerson
The Dentists Insurance Company
Dr. Henry K. Kawamoto
Dr. and Mrs. Edward R. Serros

In Memory of Brandon Ezaki
Dr. and Mrs. Ernest Dovidio

In Memory of Sylvia Fenberg
Dr. and Mrs. Dennis
and Julie Saffro

**In Memory of Jean E.
and Clayton L. Fraker**
Dr. Steven D. Fraker

In Memory of Alfred Friedman
Drs. Barbara and Donald Kornblau
Ms. Cyndi Nazarian
Dr. Lawrence J. Warner
Ms. Jane Watanabe

In Memory of Rafael Gamboa
Dr. Santos Cortez
Dr. Nolan Maehara
Ms. Raquel Cortez Savage

In Honor of Bahar Ghafouri
Dr. Will M. Wong and Dr. Mary Jew

In Memory of Doreen Hambleton
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel M. Brigham Jr.

In Honor of Gary Harmatz
Mr. Stanley Black
Dr. Mark A. Collons
Dr. Parto Ghadimi
Dr. Richard Kahn
Dr. Edward K. Lew
Dr. Maurice Masliah
Mr. Tony Sedler
Dr. Abdi Sameni
Mr. and Mrs. Dennis E. Weiss
Mr. Arthur S. Wiederman

In Memory of George J. Higue
Ms. Michelle Higue Brenner

In Memory of Hanna Hoesli
Dr. Janice M. Sugiyama
and Dr. Robert J. Berkenmeier

In Memory of Barry Jones
Dr. Richard A. Mays

In Honor of Richard Kahn
Dr. Scott R. Adishian

**In Honor of Richard and
Judy Kahn's 50th Wedding
Anniversary**
Dr. and Mrs. Sigmund Abelson

In Honor of Ronald Kaminishi
Dr. Peter Stone

In Memory of Edith Karkowski
Dr. and Mrs. Dennis
and Julie Saffro

In Memory of Shigeru Kawanami
Dr. Edward K. Lew

In Memory of Leon Levi
Dr. and Mrs. Dennis
and Julie Saffro

In Memory of Suzanne Lim
Dr. Allen King Wong

In Memory of Darrin McClintock
Dr. Ernest Casares

In Honor of Scott and Kim Morita
Ms. Lianne Y.T. Morita

In Honor of Roseann Mulligan
Dr. Kimberly Hiroshige-Okumura

In Memory of Martin Y. Ono
Dr. George Kawakami
Dr. Derick T. Tagawa

In Memory of Richard Polachek
Ms. Lucille M. Polachek

In Memory of Dean Rankin
Dr. William E. Tonge

In Memory of Robert Reeves
Dr. Albert R. Grosnick

In Memory of Betty Romero
Dr. and Mrs. Robert K. Avakian

In Memory of Eldor Sagehorn
Ms. Margaret K. Barker
Ms. Norma H. Burch
Ms. Marge H. Closson
Dr. and Mrs. John Gauger
Mr. Richard Lampert
Ms. Margaret W. Mahannah
Ms. Marjorie Sagehorn McKee
Mr. and Mrs. John Penrod
Dr. and Mrs. Ralph M. Simonian
Ms. Mary E. Strawn
Ms. Betty J. Sunofsky
Mr. and Mrs. Bob White
Ms. Dorothy G. Wise
Mr. Mark Zaplin

In Honor of Abdi Sameni
Dr. and Mrs. Gary Harmatz

In Honor of Tony and Yana Sedler
Dr. and Mrs. Gary Harmatz

**In Honor of Tony Sedler's
50th Birthday**
Dr. Richard Kahn

In Memory of Hiroyoshi Shimono
Dr. Edward K. Lew

**In Memory of Clemens W.
Stoeckle**
Ms. Elsie Wann Bree
Mrs. Brenda Cotton
Dr. and Mrs. Harry Douglas III
Ms. Nancy W. Kirshberg
Ladera Presbyterian Women
Ms. Lillian Lee
Ms. Marianne B. Lindsay
McKinley Alumni Association of
Hawaii - GLAC Chapter
Masumi and Agnes Nitta
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Ono
Ms. Peggy Toy
Mr. and Mrs. Alan Z. Wann
and Family
Ms. Dora Wong
Mr. Paul Wong

In Honor of Peter Stone
Dr. Jeffrey Sugar

In Memory of Daniel Y. Sullivan
Dr. and Mrs. Carl Rieder
Dr. Christopher P. Travis

In Memory of Patricia Swearinger
Dr. and Mrs. Dennis
and Julie Saffro

In Memory of Hal Taines
Dr. and Mrs. Dennis
and Julie Saffro

In Memory of Sue Taines
Dr. and Mrs. Dennis
and Julie Saffro

In Memory of Toshiaki Takeyasu
Ms. Sandy M. Takeyasu

In Honor of Sakae K. Tanaka
Dr. David Phoon Choe

**In Honor of
Frank Takashi Tofukuji**
Dr. and Mrs. Ralph B. Allman

**In Honor of Hillard Torgan's
80th Birthday**
Dr. and Mrs. Jim Beller

In Memory of Robert Tripp
Ms. Diane Melrose

In Memory of Diane Weiss
Dr. and Mrs. Dennis
and Julie Saffro

In Memory of Earle G. Wolfrom
Dr. William B. White

This list reflects gifts made September 2011-September 2012. Although every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of these tributes, errors or omissions may occur. Please notify the Office of Development & Alumni Relations at (213) 740-0428 with any corrections.

Ostrow School
of Dentistry
of USC

University of Southern California
925 W. 34th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90089.
ostrow.usc.edu

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
University of
Southern
California



SUPPORTING THE Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC

Be a part of the **GiveBack Program**, where a portion of the processing fees charged go back to your school.



ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS. SIMPLY!

- Retail, Web & Mobile Payments
- Lower Fees, Guaranteed
- No Hardware, No Software Needed
- **FREE** Setup
- 24/7/365 Live Customer Service
- Fast, Simple Payments
- Direct Deposit of Funds
- Dedicated Customer Service