
Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC



Dear USC Dentistry Community:

It has been really refreshing to have so many of our DDS students back on campus, picking up where they left off with in-person training. As you know, we re-opened our DDS Clinics this past Monday, and those who are able to are using the remainder of August to catch up on some of what they've missed these past few months. On behalf of all the faculty and staff, I can tell you we have really missed you and are so happy to have you back.

Next week, we welcome an entire new cohort into the Trojan Dental Family, and I'm really excited to get to meet a whole new group of students during their (mostly virtual) orientation week. As you know, orientation weeks always end on one of the highest notes in a future Trojan dental professional's educational journey — the White Coat Ceremony. This year, our incoming class understandably shared with us that they would prefer to hold this really proud moment in person. So, for now, we have decided to postpone the 2020 White Coat Ceremony until we can do it safely in-person to truly celebrate the success of this incoming class and all they've sacrificed to get here.

We recently added an oral and maxillofacial surgeon to the dedicated team in our Division of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery working primarily out of LAC+USC Medical Center. Dr. John Costandi earned his doctor of dental medicine degree with high honors from the Boston University Goldman School of Dental Medicine and his doctor of medicine degree with honors from the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York City. Since then, he completed an internship in general surgery as well as a residency in oral and maxillofacial surgery — both at Columbia University

Medical Center's New York Presbyterian Hospital. Before joining our faculty, which he will do in October 2020, Costandi has been treating patients at multiple sites across Los Angeles. We are fortunate to have him join our faculty ranks. Please join me in welcoming him to the Trojan Family.

Finally, as I'm sure you saw from this past weekend, we lost a beloved faculty member. Dr. Leon Unterman passed away at the age of 87 (in fact, he would've been celebrating his 88th birthday today). Anyone fortunate enough to have known Dr. Unterman knew he was a truly special individual, who mentored generation after generation of students and even inspired many to become educators themselves. He was a kind, gentle soul, who made an impact on most everyone he came in contact with. We all owe a debt of gratitude to Dr. Unterman for all he did here at Ostrow, winning three division awards at our Faculty Appreciation Awards and Dinner and serving as a faculty mentor to Alpha Omega. May he rest in peace, and his memory be a blessing to all who knew him. His family has asked that any donations made in his name be directed to the [USC Richard Kahn Endowed Professorship Fund](#).

Reflecting on the impact that Dr. Unterman made on all those around him reminds me of the selflessness, loyalty and tireless work ethic of our faculty members who have shown such devotion to our classes during this pandemic. Whether it's by ensuring our Class of 2020 got through their licensure exams, empowering our Class of 2023 to perform exceptionally well on all their examinations in their first year or getting our DDS Classes of 2021 and 2022 back onto the clinic floor, our faculty have really made a huge difference to make sure we ran as seamlessly as possible throughout this year's massive interruption. And what's more? Our students have done a tremendous job to move forward, despite all the trials and tribulations, to keep their studies on track. We're very lucky to have such a terrific community devoted to dental education.

With that, I will leave you this week. Please enjoy your weekend. Stay safe, healthy and, as always, fight on!

Avishai

Avishai Sadan, DMD, MBA

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G. Donald and Marian James Montgomery Professor of Dentistry

Coronavirus (Covid-19) Updates



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