

Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC



Dear USC Dental Community:

This week, we were very excited to welcome the DDS Class of 2024 with a hybrid online/on-campus Orientation Week, during which we introduced them to the various facets of life at Ostrow. As I mentioned previously, we would typically mark this group's passage into the dental profession with a White Coat Ceremony, but this year — at the class' request — we will postpone that momentous occasion until we can do so in person. In the meantime, please join me in

welcoming them to the Trojan Dental Family. By way of introduction to this class, here are some statistics on the group that we published on Instagram earlier this week.

- The class is composed of 56% women and 44% men.
- The DDS Class of 2024 comes from 21 states. We received applications from all 50 states.
- The incoming ASPID Class (who started earlier this summer) represents 16 nations, spanning four continents.
- The incoming class comes from 61 undergraduate majors, with biology, dentistry, psychology and other fields among the most common.
- Twenty-one of our incoming students have earned a master's degree.

Naturally, all have earned bachelor's, a prerequisite for our program.

As most of us have returned to the Norris Dental Science Center, we've quickly had to adapt to the new safety protocols, both inside and outside the clinic. Just to get access to the building includes completing the USC Trojan Check questionnaire every day to get a campus day pass, walking to the east end of the building (for faculty and staff) to have temperatures taken and, until recently, answering a number of additional questions about any potential

COVID exposure. (We altered that protocol since it was redundant with what was already necessary for USC Trojan Check). Pivotal to this process are the staff members who screen, and essentially contact trace, all faculty, staff, students and patients who enter our building. I want to thank these individuals who, until recently when the weather became unbearably hot and muggy, sit outside everyday in full PPE, to ensure that we can work, learn and study in a safe and healthy environment. Those staff members are:

Claudia Contreras

Liliana Contreras

Eileen Guzman

Itza Martinez

Tre’Nica Munerlyn

Aide Parra

Vanessa Payan

Rosie Robles

Alma Ruiz

Vanessa Vargas

Brenda Vazquez

Antwanette Washington

Since mid-March, I have been sending out these weekly memos, knowing the importance of keeping our community informed, engaged and connected through what has been one of the most difficult times in recent history. In fact, this is the 23rd such message! It was also incredibly important that I acknowledge the tireless work, innovative thinking, selfless actions, dedication to learning, never-ending fortitude and positive energy that our community has demonstrated throughout this crisis. I’ve been so humbled by all of you — our faculty, staff, students and friends — for your efforts these past few months. Even when things seemed the bleakest, I felt my resolve strengthened by this community. Together, we are a force to be reckoned with. Together, there’s nothing we can’t accomplish.

While the pandemic is far from over, this will be the last Weekly Dean’s Memo for the time being since so many of us have been fortunate enough to return to what we love doing at the Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry. But just because you’re not receiving a weekly message from me doesn’t mean I’m not still here, ready to catch up or answer any questions or concerns you might have. As I’ve

always stated, my door is always open. In times of a global pandemic, that “door” might be metaphorical, but the sentiment remains the same.

I look forward to seeing you in the clinics, labs and classrooms at the Norris Dental Science Center — from a six-foot distance and with proper PPE on, naturally.

Stay safe, healthy and as always fight on!

Avishai

Avishai Sadan, DMD, MBA

Dean

G. Donald and Marian James Montgomery

Professor of Dentistry

Coronavirus (Covid-19) Updates



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