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Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC

[3/19/2021]



BI-WEEKLY DEAN'S MESSAGE

Dear USC Dentistry Community,

This past Monday, Los Angeles County moved from the most restrictive purple tier to the red tier, which allows for a loosening of restrictions and a little more normalcy in our day-to-day lives — a rare bit of good news in our continued fight against the pandemic. This move — coupled with more individuals getting vaccinated and our ongoing strict COVID mitigation protocols at the dental school — have made it

possible for us to ramp up operations in our DDS clinics by significantly increasing the number of operatories in use. With the wind at our backs now — as a result of this news — we are all committed to working hard over the next few months to ensure our students get the clinical experiences they need to complete their studies on time and move on to the next chapter of their professional journeys.

We also recently announced that, from April 19 to April 30, we will be opening up Sim Lab A to fourth-year DDS students and Sim Lab B to second-year ASPID students all day and after hours, Monday through Friday, as well as on the weekends to give them additional opportunities to prepare for their licensure exams. Like last year, the licensure exams will be manikin-based, so getting access to the Sim Labs, while our first- and second-year students are on trimester break, is an incredibly helpful step in preparing our students. Thank you to **Dr. Michael Mulvehill** for leading the students during their practice sessions and our dispensary staff, led by **Ms. Tami Oshiro** and **Mr. Tom Sirikulbut**, who have stepped up to work the extended hours to ensure our students are well-prepared for these consequential exams.



Nowruz Mubarak!

Our **Persian Dental Student Association** set up a haft-seen table in the East Lobby to celebrate Nowruz, the Persian New Year. Nowruz (or “new day”) is an ancient festival that marks the beginning of spring and celebrates the rebirth of nature. The haft-seen table is decorated with seven items, each beginning with the letter *sin* (s) in Persian, that are symbolic of spring and renewal.

The **Office of Admissions** — specifically **Mr. Corey Berry** — is currently planning the upcoming orientation for our ASPID Class of 2023, which will take place April 26-30. This incoming class of 34 students comes to us from 16 countries, is comprised of 50 percent male and 50 percent female students and includes a handful of students who deferred enrollment from last year due to travel restrictions surrounding the pandemic. I know we all look forward to welcoming them to the Trojan Dental Family in late April.

We just received notice that **Mr. Michael Navarrete** was recognized as the March Change Leader Spotlight for Ostrow's efforts in the ongoing transition from the current KUALI Financial System to Workday Financials and Cayuse Sponsored Projects, particularly during the recent IMAGINE Virtual Conference. Of course, Michael is not alone in these efforts, with support from the entire **Business Office**, including from our Chief Financial Officer **Mr. Dan Cheock** as well as team members **Ms. Vicky Dy** and **Ms. Karla Gonzalez**. Thank you all for your continued hard work and for representing Ostrow well across the university.

Finally, you might have seen a few e-mails circulating about the Friends of Dentistry Virtual Scholarship Recognition Event, taking place next Thursday, March 25 at 7 p.m. There is still time to join this free online event, where we will celebrate our 2021 scholarship recipients and bring them together with their donors. If you're interested, visit [Ostrow Connect](#), USC Dentistry's exclusive social media platform, and click on the Events tab for information on how to register.

With that, I would like to wish you all a nice, relaxing weekend. As always, stay safe, healthy and Fight On!

Avishai

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