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## Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC

[5/14/2021]



### DEAN'S BI-WEEKLY MESSAGE

Dear USC Dentistry Community:

Here we are: Commencement Day 2021! I would like to congratulate the **Class of 2021** on all your accomplishments during your time at Ostrow. We are all so incredibly proud of you for making it through this past year and completing your studies as competent, confident dental practitioners. We know it's been an uphill climb as we dealt with COVID-19 mitigating protocols at every turn, but

you have all handled it with grace, perseverance and resilience. That you made it through this pandemic relatively unscathed — and one of only a handful of classes in USC Dentistry's entire 124-year history to do so — says so much about the type of unflappable dental professional you will be. I am honored to have worked with so many of you, side by side, on the clinic floor and look forward to all that you'll accomplish in the coming years.

Yesterday, we hosted a virtual celebration for the Class of 2021. If you missed it, you can still catch it on the [6connex hosting platform](#). You will need to register to get access simply by using your e-mail address and name.

Of course, today is really the big day, where we finally get to celebrate our Class of 2020 (!) as well as the Class of 2021 at a limited, in-person event at the L.A. Coliseum. You can live stream the ceremony, which takes place today at 3:30 p.m., by visiting [the 6connex hosting platform](#). During the ceremony, we will be celebrating alongside our colleagues from the USC Chan Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy, the USC Division of Biokinesiology and Physical Therapy and Bovard College. For those attending or live-streaming, the graduates will be called onto the stage in the order in which they arrive at the venue, so there is no distinctive portion just for dentistry. Regardless, I look forward to celebrating this very special day with all of our graduates and their loved ones. Getting to do so in-person makes it all the more exciting.

As we look back on this academic year, I want to thank all of the faculty and staff who so tirelessly supported this class, working long hours (often into the night and during weekends) to ensure the Class of 2021 finished their studies in a timely enough manner to move on to the next chapter of their professional journeys. You've had to do so under the weight of so many challenges. I am humbled to have such a hardworking community that is so devoted to our students and the future of the profession. *Thank you.* I also want to thank the **Office of External Relations and Student Life** for all of their efforts in helping us celebrate the accomplishments of both the Classes of 2020 and 2021 this year.

Finally, I'd like to invite all members of our community to the **Century Club Alumni Association's** first summer event of the year — virtual Bingo Night — taking place this Sunday, May 16 from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. The game night is free

for all Ostrow students, faculty, staff and alumni, and winners will collect a \$50 e-gift card from various retailers. Register on [Ostrow Connect](#) under the Events tab **by tonight, Friday, May 14 at 5 p.m.**

With that, I wish you all a great weekend.

As always, stay safe, stay healthy and Fight On!

*Avishai*

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