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Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC

[6/18/2021]



DEAN'S BI-WEEKLY MESSAGE

Dear USC Dentistry Community:

Earlier this week, I had the honor of attending the virtual Faculty Appreciation Event. As you know, we were unable to hold one last year (so this year celebrates achievements from 2020 and 2021). If ever there were a time to truly express our appreciation for everything our faculty members do, day in

and day out, it's now. It's directly because of your collective efforts over the past year and a half that we were able to graduate two classes under the anxiety, worry and confusion caused by a once-in-a-century (hopefully) pandemic. I feel like I have become a better person, working alongside each of you and seeing the sacrifices you've made in these most trying of times. If you missed the Faculty Appreciation Event, you can [see it here](#). But allow me to say once again: You are so valued by all of us, and we couldn't do what we do, creating some of the profession's leading minds, without your loyalty, dedication and hard work. A special congratulations to **Dr. David Good**, who hit the half-century mark in years of service and all of the other faculty members who are celebrating milestone years of service in 2020 and 2021. And a special thanks to the **Office of Faculty Affairs** and the **Office of Alumni Relations** for their work in putting this event together.

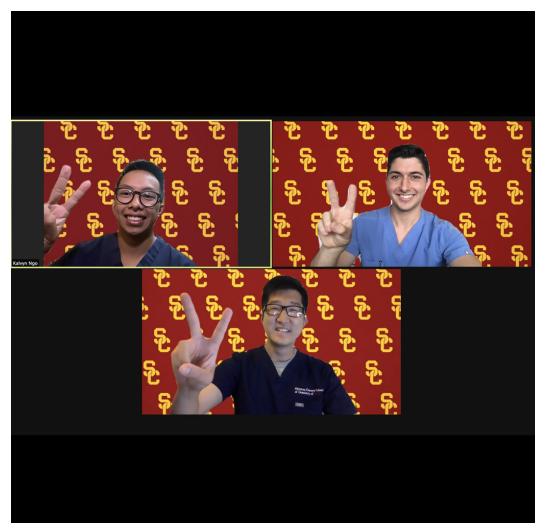
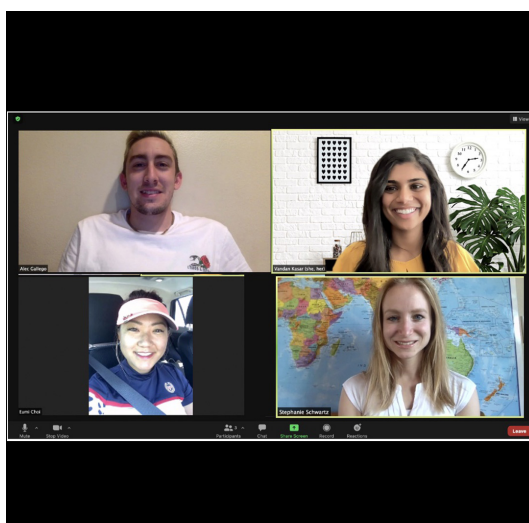
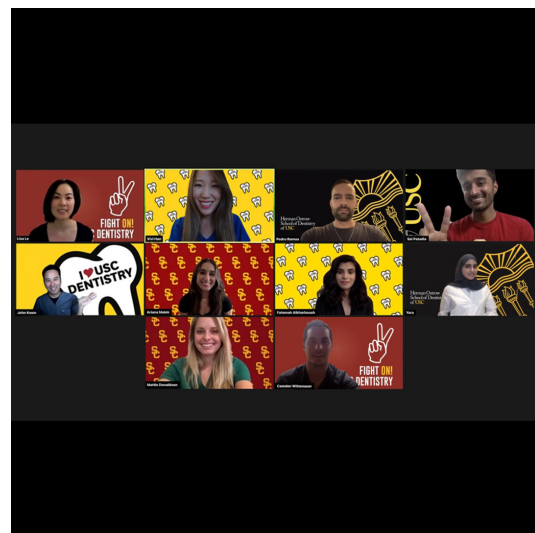
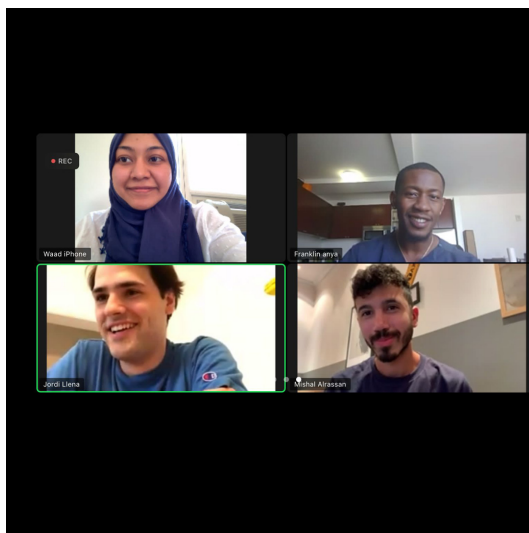
You might have seen my memo last week about **Dr. Michael Paine's** decision to step down as the director of our master's and PhD programs in craniofacial biology after 14 years at the helm. Words cannot express how grateful we are to Dr. Paine for his hard work, steady leadership and many contributions that have led the program to become one of the nation's most preeminent. While Dr. Paine plans to turn his focus to research and teaching at Ostrow, **Dr. Jianfu "Jeff" Chen** will take the program's reins, effective July 1. Dr. Chen, who joined Ostrow in 2017, is widely recognized as a leading authority on fetal neurologic consequences of maternal Zika infection and other systemic diseases, and is also known for his ability to collaborate with other scientists by working at the intersection of scientific disciplines. I am confident that under his leadership, we are in incredibly capable hands. Thank you, Dr. Paine for your leadership throughout the years, and congratulations to Dr. Chen on the new appointment.

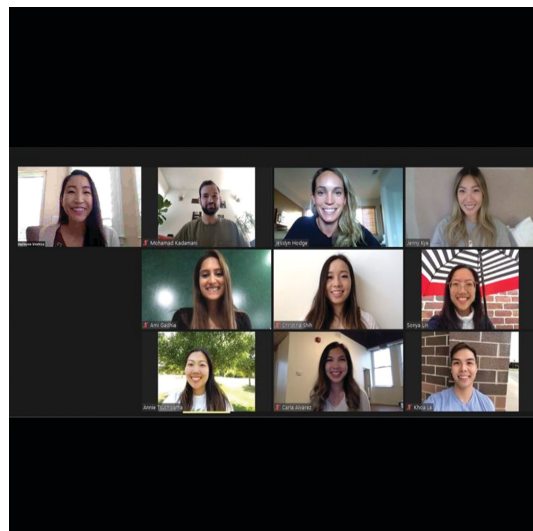
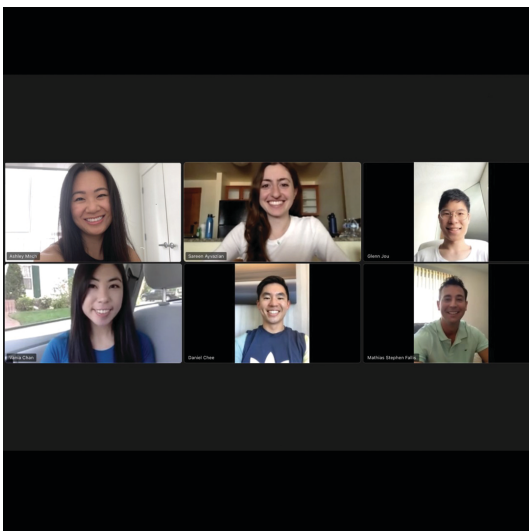
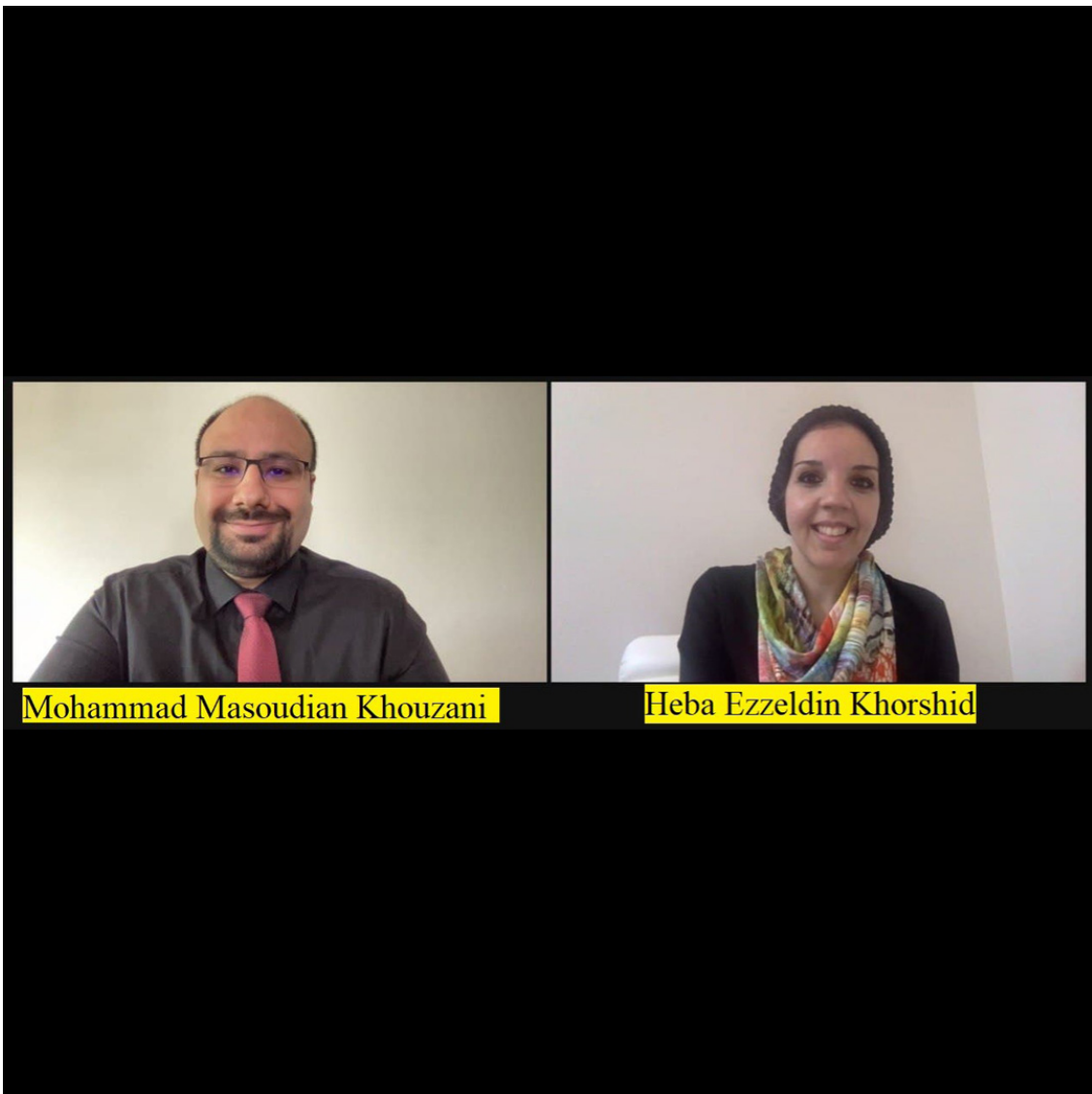
We were very excited to find out recently that our very own **Dr. Amy Merrill-Brugger** received a 5-year National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) grant to support her study, titled "Developmental regulation of tendon-bone connectivity in the jaw." The study's goal is to identify how tendon-bone attachments form in the developing jaw, a process that currently is not well-understood. Information gained from this study could guide future developmentally inspired strategies to promote tendon-bone attachment repair in those with temporomandibular joint disorders. As we've announced before, we are currently the No. 4 funded

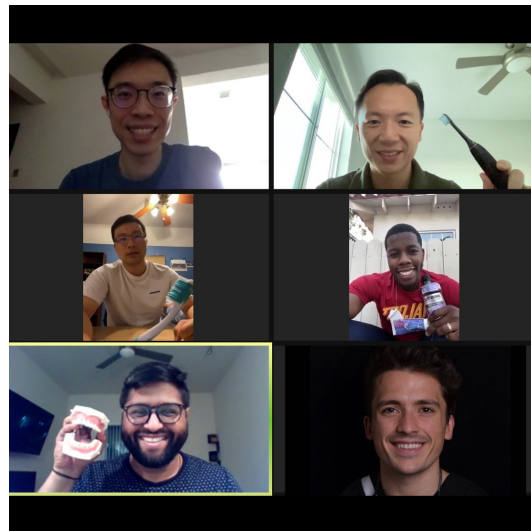
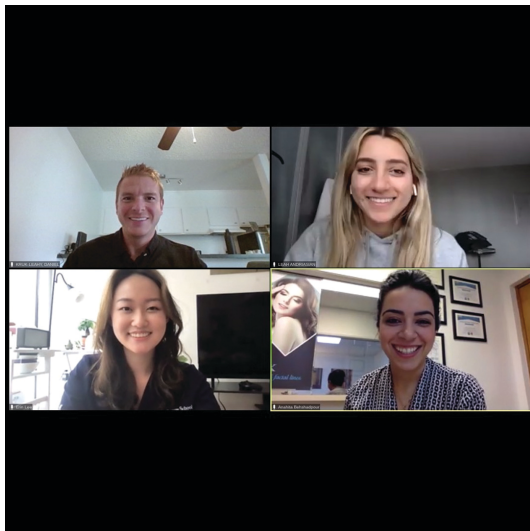
dental institution in the nation by the NIDCR, truly symbolizing the trust that this federal agency has in researchers, like Dr. Merrill-Brugger. We are incredibly proud of all the discoveries that our scientific investigators continue to provide our profession, constantly pushing dentistry into new, unexpected directions.

(more below)

WELCOME ADVANCED EDUCATION RESIDENTS!







This week, we welcomed our Advanced Education Residents to Ostrow! Pictured here in row one: **Advanced Operative and Adhesive Dentistry** and **Endodontics**; row two: **General Practice Residency** and **Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery**; row three: **Orofacial Pain**; row four: **Orthodontics** and **Pediatric Dentistry**; and row five: **Periodontics** and **Prosthodontics**.

(continued from above)

We recently were able to complete the ADEX licensure exam, administered by the Commission on Dental Competency Assessments. As with the WREB licensure exam, pulling off this exam (even in non-pandemic times) is a heavy lift. I would like to offer my thanks to **Ms. Jill Yoshimi**, **Mr. Tom Sirikulbut** and **Ms. Tami Oshiro** (of the Dispensary, Shipping and Receiving), **Ms. Marshall Miller-Barber** (of Facilities), **Mr. Chris Camacho** (of Instrument Management Services) and the scores of employees they oversee, all of whom never cease to impress with their willingness to help. Our Class of 2021 (and of course, our faculty) owe you a large debt of gratitude for your efforts in getting this class licensed and ready to begin the next chapters of their lives.

Finally, you might have seen an email from **Mr. Michael Navarrete** (who alongside **Mr. Dan Cheock** are our Workday Finance Change Leaders), reminding you to take by July 1, 2021 the two required micro-

trainings, [Workday Financial Management Overview](#) and [Workday Financial Management Part 2](#). This is all part of the University's move from Quali to Workday Financials. You must complete both of these short trainings before you can attend any further trainings or gain access to Workday Financials, which could impact departmental spending beginning next fiscal year. So please, take a moment to complete both trainings at your earliest convenience.

With that, I wish you a great weekend.

As always, stay safe, healthy and Fight On!

Avishai

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