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Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC

[9/3/2021]



DEAN'S BI-WEEKLY MESSAGE

Dear USC Dentistry Community:

Welcome back from the trimester break. As you've seen, the University Park Campus has sprung to life after 18 desolate months, with the resumption of in-person courses. It's definitely exciting to see so much activity all around us

once again, but of course, we've been here all along, navigating our way through everything the pandemic managed to throw at us. I am so proud of this community and how we were able to weather this once-in-a-generation storm. I believe it has brought our community together in ways I could have never imagined. So thank you all once again for your hard work, professionalism and, above all else, resilience. I look forward to a terrific Fall Trimester!

Last week, we welcomed the **DDS Class of 2025** to the Trojan Dental Family. A few demographic points about this group: It is 52 percent female and 48 percent male, ranges in age from 21 to 37 and comes to us from 10 states and four nations. They are academically diverse, with 47 different undergraduate majors — and 20 of them have already earned a master's degree. We officially inducted them, along with the **ASPID Class of 2023**, into the profession on Friday evening (see below). I'd like to acknowledge **Dr. Anita Tourah** and the **Office of Admissions** — including **Dr. Arek Horozyan**, **Mr. Corey Berry**, **Ms. Vianca Marquez** and **Ms. Christine Wade** — for their tireless work in recruiting this group of talented students and holding a successful hybrid online/on-site Orientation Week.

(continued below)





WHITE COAT CEREMONY 2021

Last week, we officially welcomed the **DDS Class of 2025** and the **ASPID Class of 2023** to the profession with their White Coat Ceremony, one of our first in-person events since the pandemic began. Thank you to the **Office of External Relations** and the **Office of Admissions** for your efforts in putting together and working this event. We will have a second White Coat Ceremony this year to make up for last year's event, which was postponed due to the pandemic. On Oct. 15, we will honor the **DDS Class of 2024** and the **ASPID Class of 2022**.

(continued from above)

You might remember back in April 2020, we did a “Smarter at Home” Continuing Education series. The series was so successful that we thought we would do it again to coincide with the start of the school year. This week-long series — aptly titled the “Back to School Continuing Education series” — wraps up this evening, with a presentation by the advanced operative residents. There were many really great presentations, touching upon a number of topics, each hosted by residents from our advanced prosthodontics, endodontics, pediatric dentistry, orthodontics and periodontics programs. It was a great way to highlight our specialties. I’d like to thank all the brilliant and talented residents for sharing their work with our community, and I’d like to thank the advanced specialty directors for bringing out the best in their residents. I’d also like to acknowledge **Dr. Alon Frydman**, who is doing a terrific job as the Director of Continuing Education, and **Ms. Danielle Barr** and the **Office of Alumni Relations and Events**, who helped organize the event. Be on the lookout for future continuing education offerings in the near future.

With that, I wish you all a great Labor Day weekend.

Stay safe, stay healthy and, as always, fight on!

Avishai

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