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Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC

[9/24/2021]



DEAN'S BI-WEEKLY MESSAGE

Dear USC Dentistry Community:

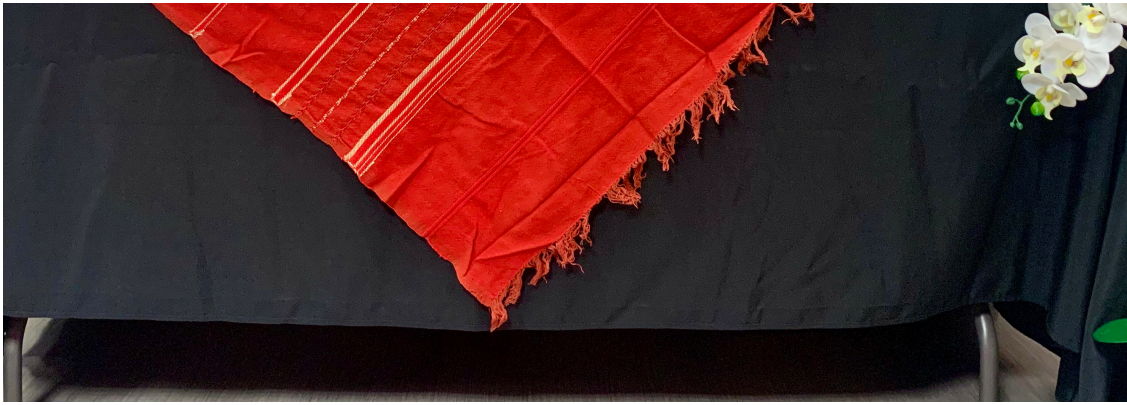
We're nearly a month into the Fall Trimester, and I don't have to tell all of you just how abuzz the school is with patient care, research and educational activities. Earlier this week, the General Practice Directors and I had our first

meeting of the trimester, where we discussed all of our ongoing efforts to ensure we attend both to the needs of our patients as well as those of our students, delivering the world-class education for which Ostrow is known. I'd like to thank all of our General Practice Directors for their hard work, dedication and continued resilience in all you do everyday.

Speaking of ramping up activities, our USC Mobile Clinic has set up shop at Lennox Middle School in South Los Angeles, where over the next week, they will provide much-needed dental treatment to 125 Lennox School District students and their family members. During the week-long clinic, sponsored by the nonprofit To Help Everyone (T.H.E.) Wellness Center, our students and faculty will be providing comprehensive treatment — including root canals, pulpotomies, restorations, extractions, sealants, etc. as well as dental education — to the area's underserved population. I'd like to thank staff members **Ms. Epifania Juarez, Mr. Edwin Santiago, Mr. German Hernandez, Mr. Anthony Santiago** and **Mr. Chan Chan** for their always reliable help in coordinating these clinics. I'd also like to thank **Dr. Daniel Romo, Dr. Nineli Zadourian, Dr. Rebecca Kim** and **Dr. Gardner Beale**, who under the leadership of **Dr. Sunny Fereshteh** and **Dr. Roseann Mulligan**, truly inspire our students to do their best work for our patients and engender in them a desire to give back to their communities long after their dental studies are done.

(continued below)





LATINX HERITAGE MONTH

The **Office of Student Life and Well-Being** set up a table in the East Lobby to commemorate Latinx Heritage Month, which began on September 15 and ends October 15. The display features items from a traditional Latin American coffee table. Thank you to **Ms. Mariam Agazaryan**, **Dr. Mariela Padilla** and **Dr. Mario Alvarez** for their efforts in putting together this table, celebrating the contributions of our Latinx community members.

(continued from above)

Two weeks ago, we held our annual Board of Councilors (BOC) retreat (which we skipped last year due to the pandemic). It was really refreshing to spend time with so many of our board members — not only catching up with them on their lives, but also getting to hear their ideas and advice as we move beyond the pandemic. In addition to updates for our Board provided by **Dr. Mahvash Navazesh** and **Dr. Yang Chai**, we were joined by a mindfulness expert as well as **Dr. Marko Vujicic**, who is the American Dental Association's Chief Economist and the Vice President of the ADA's Health Policy Institute. Dr. Vujicic gave a very interesting presentation about four big trends facing dentistry (in 5 years, 10 years and even 20 years from now), including intensified consumerism, shifting demographics within the dental workforce, emerging technology and payment reform. It was truly an inspiring presentation. Immediate Past President of the BOC **Dr. Ralph Allman**

delivered a presentation about the utilization of evolving technologies in the orthodontic module for our DDS and ASPID students. Additionally, we held a panel discussion, featuring **Ms. Anna Adjei** and **Ms. Taylor Purks**, regarding improving Ostrow's diversity efforts and how diversity played a role in their choosing Ostrow.

I would like to thank BOC President **Dr. Carol Gomez Summerhays** for setting the retreat agenda and overseeing the event. Her vast experience and knowledge as a global leader in organized dentistry are such an asset to our school. I'd also like to thank the BOC members who joined us — whether in-person or remotely — as well as our faculty and student presenters and the staff members who worked so tirelessly to put this event together.

You might have seen that the Office of Continuing Education put out its latest *Louped In* podcast episode, titled "Hiring, Getting Hired and Selection," where **Dr. Alon Frydman** interviews **Dr. Anita Tourah**. The two cover a lot of ground surrounding Ostrow's admission process, what really makes prospective students stand out and how to shine during an interview. Both did a tremendous job, and I urge you to give it a listen the next time you have a free hour. [You can listen to it here.](#)

Finally, we are about three weeks out from our second White Coat Ceremony of the year — this time celebrating our **DDS Class of 2024** and our **ASPID Class of 2022**, who were forced to forego their ceremony last year due to the pandemic. I am really excited to honor this patient, resilient and hard-working group of students. If you are a member of this class, remember that you must register your guests (you can invite up to four) by visiting [this webpage](#). As was true of our earlier White Coat Ceremony, this is a limited attendance event, open only to our students and their guests. All attendees (ages of 12 and up) will be required to show either proof of vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test result no older than 72 hours.

With that, I wish you all a great weekend.

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

Avishai

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