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Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC

[11/19/2021]



DEAN'S BI-WEEKLY MESSAGE

Dear USC Dentistry Community:

Last week, students from our **DDS Class of 2025** and **ASPID Class of 2023** were selected to represent Ostrow with the American Dental Education Association (ADEA), American Student Dental Association (ASDA) and the California Dental Association (CDA). Being involved in organized dentistry is an

important part of one's dental education, giving students the opportunity to network with other oral health care professionals, develop leadership skills and make an impact in the dental profession. Our organized dentistry representatives collaborate with other students and professionals throughout the country to promote, protect and advance the dental profession.

Please join me in congratulating:

Ms. Stephanie Chai

DDS Class of '25
ADEA Representative

Ms. Ashley Park

DDS Class of '25
ASDA Representative

Dr. Aravindhan Karunakaran

ASPID Class of '23
ASDA Representative

Ms. Steffi Chen

DDS Class of '25
CDA Representative

Dr. Sneha Sharan

ASPID Class of '23
CDA Representative

These individuals join a group of bright and talented students from Ostrow's other DDS and ASPID classes to represent us with these organizations. Thank you all — both new and existing representatives — for your time and effort with these all-too-important endeavors.

Additionally, I would like to acknowledge **Dr. Jenny Son**, who, beginning

January 2022, will represent Ostrow within the ADEA Council of Faculties, a group consisting of one faculty member from each U.S. dental school that represents and advocates on behalf of dental educators nationwide. We are in terrific hands with Dr. Son, who takes the reins from **Dr. Yaara Berdan**, our exceptional Ostrow representative since 2016. “It has been such a wonderful experience,” Berdan said. “I met so many incredible educators who continue to inspire and mentor me.” Dr. Berdan will go on to serve as Councilor for ADEA’s Endodontics Section. We can’t thank Dr. Berdan enough for her years of service as our ADEA faculty representative. Best of luck to both Drs. Berdan and Son in their new roles with ADEA!

(continued below)



GREAT AMERICAN SMOKEOUT 2021

Yesterday, Ostrow took part in the Great American Smokeout, an annual event that encourages faculty, staff and students to give up smoking and vaping. In the past, this event has been solely Ostrow-centric, but this year we were so happy to partner with the USC Center for Work and Family Life, USC Student Health, USC Environmental Health & Safety, USC Employee Health Plans, USC Chan Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy, USC School of Pharmacy, USC Premier Care and USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center Adolescent and Young Adult Program to provide a fully comprehensive experience. Special thanks to **Ms. Diane Melrose, Ms. Hayley Botwin, Ms. Cindy Chung** and **Mr. Ryan Pham** who provided faculty, staff and students information about smoking and vaping's impact on oral health, made referrals for oral cancer screenings in our clinics and hosted giveaways.

(continued from above)

Earlier this month, we held the 34th annual USC Ruth Ragland Dental Hygiene Symposium — virtually, this year — which featured an outstanding series of professionals discussing issues impacting dental hygienists during the COVID-19 pandemic. Topics ranged from information about the COVID-19 vaccine to how a COVID-19 diagnosis impacts oral health to how to safely scale while remaining vigilant against potential COVID-19 transmission. We would like to thank presenters **Ms. Linda Brookman, Dr. Jeffery A. Goad, Ms. Anna Pattison** and **Dr. Parish Sedghizadeh** for taking time out of their busy schedules to share their expertise with our dental hygiene community. Additionally, I'd like to thank **Ms. Diane Melrose** who was instrumental in putting this event together as well as **Dr. Alon Frydman**, who heads up our Office of Continuing Education, and finally **Mr. DeJuan Parrish** who helped so many of our faculty members avoid technological issues and log on successfully. In March 2022, we will hold our next dental hygiene event, with a Dental Hygiene Celebration, recognizing the faculty, staff and alumni who made our dental hygiene program the best of its kind.

Ostrow recently joined 12 other schools across USC for the first-ever Minority Serving Institutions Graduate Information Session, a graduate fair meant to

foster the active recruitment of students from minority serving institutions. After the opening session, which featured comments from USC President **Dr. Carol Folt**, USC Provost **Dr. Charles Zukoski** and USC Vice President and Chief Inclusion and Diversity Officer **Dr. Christopher Manning**, students broke out into individual graduate schools for further information about the admissions process. Thank you to **Dr. Kim Austin**, **Dr. Mahvash Navazesh** and **Mr. Corey Berry** for their work on this presentation to prospective students from minority serving institutions. I'd also like to thank **Ms. Abiola Oladele** and **Ms. Taylor Schmelz** for representing the Student National Dental Association and the Hispanic Student Dental Association respectively. This work is so important, and we are incredibly proud to be part of USC's ongoing DEI efforts.

And finally, the CODA reports for Distance Learning for the DDS, GPR, Orofacial Pain, OMFS, Ortho and Pedo programs are completed and ready for submission. The deadline for submission is December 1, 2021. We thank **Ms. Robin Fox** for expediting and facilitating this process and the program directors for their contributions.

With that, I wish you all a safe, relaxing weekend and, beyond that, a very happy Thanksgiving with your families, friends and loved ones. I am incredibly grateful to have all of you on our team here at Ostrow.

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

Avishai

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