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Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC

5/27/2022



DEAN'S BI-WEEKLY MESSAGE

Dear USC Dentistry Community,

This past week, we have been hard at work conducting a mock site visit in preparation for the actual Commission on Dental Accreditation site visit in 2023. It takes a tremendous amount of work to prepare for this site visit. In fact, we have conducted 15 one-hour virtual rehearsal sessions, which have included 71 faculty, staff and students. I would like to acknowledge all who are taking part in

this effort, with a special thanks going out to **Ms. Robin Fox, Ms. Sharon Bautista** and **Dr. Mahvash Navazesh**. Thank you all very much for all of your hard work.

A few weeks ago, **Dr. Carol Folt** sent out a message outlining the steps her administration has taken to position USC to be among the best medical and research enterprises. As you might know, in 2019, the university established the USC Health System as a subsidiary of the university and established a new Board of Directors to oversee it. We also adopted a new leadership structure, including naming **Dr. Steve Shapiro** as our first Senior Vice President for Health Affairs. In her most recent message, Dr. Folt announced that in the coming months, the deans of USC's health sciences schools will report directly to Dr. Shapiro. This includes the Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC, the Leonard Davis School of Gerontology, the Keck School of Medicine of USC, the USC School of Pharmacy and the Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work. This exciting reorganization will give each of our schools a louder voice when it comes to addressing the critical issues facing the health sciences, while allowing us to maintain our current autonomy and academic missions. I am excited for this synergy, which is rife with opportunities for greater collaboration, interdisciplinary research and interprofessional education.

Last weekend, we held our CDCA WREB dental licensure exam for our Class of 2022. Every year, this becomes an all-hands-on-deck operation. We're always complimented by the board examiners and their staff for how thoroughly we are prepared to meet their every need. It's a testament to the work of so many individuals, in particular **Dr. Michael Mulvehill** and **Ms. Socorro Gutierrez**. But there are so many others! Staff members from the **Dispensary, Facilities, Community Health, Radiology, Urgent Care** and **Instrument Management Services** all put their time and effort into this annual event. So thank you all for your hard work in helping this class take the next step in their professional journeys by becoming licensed. I'd also like to thank you all in advance for your work on the ADEX exam next weekend.

Last week, our **Associated Student Body** held its annual Road to Residency, where our DDS students (including ASPID) learn more about applying to residencies. This year was really well attended (up to 80 attendees, including

some forward-thinking first- and second-year students attended). The annual event is a great opportunity for our students to learn how to be competitive candidates for residencies. They learn everything from how to put together a CV to how to write a compelling essay to advice from current residents about what program directors are looking for and how they were successfully matched to a residency. Congratulations to the ASB Executive Board (**Ms. Natalie Black, Ms. Kristen Gallub, Ms. Isatu Malekani and Mr. Berdj Odabachian**) as well as **Ms. Talar Mardouryan, Mr. Adeeb Shalabi and Mr. Corey Berry** for putting together such a successful event.

Last week, we held our first in-person Faculty Appreciation Awards and Dinner since 2019. It was so terrific to get to spend some quality face-to-face time with our faculty — outside of the clinic — to celebrate their steadfast commitment to providing the profession with the nation’s finest dental practitioners. Additionally, we honored faculty members with Years-of-Service Awards. The evening’s longest Years-of-Service Award went to **Dr. Ralph Allman**, who has put in 60 years of hard work in our classrooms. Congratulations to Ralph and all who celebrated a milestone year. I’d also like to thank the **Office of External Relations and Student Life** for planning this event as well as **Ms. Kelley Randle** and the **Office of Faculty Affairs** for their part.

Finally, I would like to congratulate **Dr. Stefan Zweig**, who recently became the president of the American Association of Endodontics. It’s just the latest leadership position for Stefan, who also served as president of the California Association of Endodontists and the Southern California Academy of Endodontists. We are all really proud to have a Trojan in this national leadership position.

With that, I wish you all a restful, relaxing Memorial Day Weekend! Remember, COVID transmission in Los Angeles County is experiencing an uptick, so stay vigilant with whatever the weekend has in store for you.

Stay safe, stay healthy and Fight On!

Avishai

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