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## Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of **USC**

**7/29/2022**



### **DEAN'S BI-WEEKLY MESSAGE**

Dear USC Dentistry Community:

Our largest capital construction project (the complete renovation of Sim Lab A) in nearly two decades is well underway, with demolition largely completed. As of now, the space is nearly empty as workers begin the process of replacing the 150 benches with sleek, modern workspaces as well as the installation of all new computers, mobile units, manikin heads and 5 x-ray machines. I'm very excited to see the project move

forward and will keep you informed along the way.

*(continued below)*



## ICE CREAM SOCIAL

On Tuesday, Ostrow's **Office of Human Resources** held its first in-person staff appreciation event since the pandemic with an ice cream social. The event was almost postponed when the team that was supposed to come to USC and scoop ice cream were impacted by a COVID outbreak. But our HR team stepped up, driving all the way to Huntington Beach to get the supplies and serving it up themselves to our staff members. I would like to thank the whole team (pictured here with me and Senior Vice President for Health Affairs **Dr. Steven Shapiro**) for their efforts. They are (L-R) **Mr. Fabian Castro**, **Ms. Marielle Revillame**, **Ms. Renee Abumalhi**, **Mr. Jose Garcia** and **Ms.**

Irma Hernandez.

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*(continued from above)*

This week, we welcomed 51 undergraduate students to Ostrow's virtual Dental Explorers program. The three-day program is meant to introduce traditionally underrepresented students to the dental profession. Students took part in a number of presentations focused on different areas of dentistry and got hands-on experiences with indirect vision activities, tooth sketching, suturing and soap carving. They ended their program with an admissions presentation to better understand the process of getting into dental school. While the program went virtual out of necessity due to COVID-19, the change has allowed its geographical footprint to expand significantly. This year, our participants hailed from 23 universities, logging in from six states as well as Canada. Nearly half of all the participants were first-generation college students whose horizons have been expanded by participating in this program. I would like to thank the **Office of Admissions**, particularly **Ms. Rebeca Diaz** and **Ms. Christine Wade**, for their hard work reviewing applications, selecting qualified applicants and spending three full days on Zoom with these students. I can imagine the Explorers are especially grateful for your efforts.

Looking ahead, I would like to wish our students the best of luck on your finals and a relaxing trimester break thereafter.

Stay safe, stay healthy and Fight On!

*Avishai*

Avishai Sadan, DMD, MBA

Dean

G. Donald and Marian James Montgomery

Professor of Dentistry

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