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Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC

[10/28/2022]



DEAN'S MESSAGE

Dear USC Dentistry Community:

This past weekend, we held our Friends of Dentistry (FOD) Celebration, an annual event where we welcome new members to Ostrow's premier support group. This year, we welcomed the following individuals as new Friends of Dentistry members:

- Dr. Arleen Azar-Mehr (DDS '95, ORTHO '98) and Dr. Mehdi Fotovat

- **Dr. Ara Jil-Agopian** (DDS '03, ORTHO '06) and **Ms. Lusine Lalabekyan**
- **Dr. Dan Banh** (ORTHO '95) and **Ellen Banh**
- **Dr. John Trotter** (DDS '91, ORTHO '94) and **Mrs. Irene Trotter**
- **Dr. Patricia Sing** (ORTHO '99) and **Dr. Robert Choi**
- **Dr. Honsheng Tong**

We also recognized **Dr. Santos Cortez** (DDS '76) and **Dr. Ruth Kawakami** (DDS '90) (who wasn't able to attend) as new Friends of Dentistry board members. The event was presided over by the outgoing FOD Chair **Dr. Derick Tagawa** (DDS '68, ORTHO '71), who is being succeeded by **Dr. Brian Hong** (DDS '89, PEDO '96, MS '97) as FOD Chair. At the end of her three-year term as Ostrow's Board of Councilors (BOC) Chair, **Dr. Carol Gomez Summerhays** (DDS '78) stepped down from the Chair position but will remain on the BOC. Dr. Summerhays is being succeeded by Dr. Tagawa as the new BOC Chair. We are forever indebted to these three powerhouses for their longtime dedication, expertise and leadership. I look forward to working with them all well into the future. Thank you to all the Friends of Dentistry members who attended. It was just so nice to be able to see you all and spend time together. I'd also like to recognize the **Office of External Relations and Student Life** who helped to put the event together.

(continued below)

FRIENDS OF DENTISTRY CELEBRATION





At the end of her three-year term, **Dr. Carol Gomez Summerhays** has stepped down as Board of Councilors (BOC) Chair but will remain on the BOC. She is succeeded by outgoing FOD Chair **Dr. Derick Tagawa**.



Outgoing Friends of Dentistry Chair **Dr. Derick Tagawa** passes the baton to **Dr. Brian Hong** who takes the helm of Ostrow's premier support group.

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You might have seen the USC Good Neighbors Campaign table in the East Lobby. Every fall, the University challenges faculty and staff to make a donation to the initiative,

which annually provides more than \$26 million in neighborhood grants, including to the USC Dental Screening Initiative for Foster Children and the USC Neighborhood Mobile Dental Van Prevention Program. This year, the drive lasts until Nov. 11 (though you can donate year-round), and Ostrow's goal is to reach a 30 percent participation rate (up from 24 percent last year). Be on the lookout for news about an upcoming event on Nov. 3 with a demonstration on how to donate as well as raffles and prizes. And thank you to **Dr. Rebecca Ortiz Bodensteiner**, **Mr. Fabian Castro** and **Mr. Jose Garcia** for spearheading our school's efforts.

Last week, we held our annual Great ShakeOut, an earthquake drill meant to prepare us for the eventual temblor. While our faculty, staff and students dropped, covered and held on for 30 seconds, our emergency response teams sprung to action, practicing what they would do to ensure community safety and maintain continuity despite all the challenges a major quake could bring. I would like to thank **Ms. Jill Yoshimi** (Business Continuity Recovery Leader), **Mr. Michael Navarrete** (Business Continuity Recovery Planner), the **Recovery Team Members** as well as the **Building Emergency Response Team** for their actions. We're in good hands with these individuals should nature decide to strike.

(continued below)

Great ShakeOut 2022





Meet the Great ShakeOut Team! While the rest of us were dropping, covering and holding on for the earthquake drill, this team sprung to action practicing what they would do in the event of an actual quake.

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Finally, this past weekend, USC hosted its second annual Minority Serving Institutions Graduate and Professional Recruitment Conference, a two-day event meant to provide students from universities around the country, including historically Black colleges and universities and Hispanic-serving institutions, a glimpse into what life at USC is like. After an initial kick-off at Annenberg, students were sent to tour schools and learn about programs of their choice. The Norris Dental Science Center was home base for all the healthcare programs, including occupational science and occupational therapy, biokinesiology and physical therapy and pharmacy. Students from the **Student National Dental Association (Ms. Oluwaferanmi Balogun and Ms. Erika McLean)** and the **Hispanic Student Dental Association (Mr. Luke Aguilar, Mr. Alexis Cadena, Ms. Stephanie Lopez and Ms. Olenka Portugal)** joined forces to meet the prospective dental students and tour the facilities. **Dr. Kim Austin** and **Mr. Corey Berry** gave them more information about applying to Ostrow and what makes for a competitive application, before the whole group went to lunch. This is a really important endeavor, meant to further diversify our profession, and I am so thankful to all who participated.

With that, I wish you a nice, relaxing weekend.

Stay safe, stay healthy and Fight On!

Avishai

Avishai Sadan, DMD, MBA

Dean

G. Donald and Marian James Montgomery

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