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Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC

1/13/2023



DEAN'S MESSAGE

Dear USC Dentistry Community:

Happy New Year, and welcome back for the Spring 2023 Trimester. I hope everyone had a relaxing and restorative time with your loved ones and are energized to resume your academic pursuits at Ostrow.

We returned to the Norris Dental Science Center, with a number of renovations having been completed while we were away. One of the largest projects — which led to the week-long work-from-home period in mid-December — was the repair of some major plumbing issues in the building's lower level, which meant water had to be turned off throughout the building. You'll remember these plumbing issues led to the temporary closure of the Jennifer Ann Wilson Dental Library's physical footprint — though students were still able to access the educational resources they needed throughout the closure. With these repairs completed, the space should be able to re-open in late spring or early summer.

Other building improvements included the installation of 92 loudspeakers throughout the building, allowing us to modernize our paging system. We also remodeled the third-floor locker room as part of our upgrade to the Sim Labs, replacing lockers that had been in bad repair. In the Higue Student Lounge, we removed the student mailboxes to better utilize the space, with plans being crafted already for further improvements. On the first floor, we renovated DEN 102, giving staff proper workstations so they can better serve our patients as well as our residents in the advanced specialty programs. Finally, we replaced the compressor in the building's lower level (one of three throughout the building) to allow for greater continuity in patient care should one of the others go down.

So, even though we were enjoying a much-needed break, the Norris Dental Science Center was teeming with activity, ensuring we continue to take care of this precious building our school calls home. I'd like to thank **Marshell Miller-Barber** and **Jill Yoshimi**, who reported to the school throughout the break to make sure that the work would be completed by the time we all returned on January 3.

With that, I wish you a relaxing holiday weekend. Happy Martin Luther King Jr. Day to all!

Stay safe, stay healthy and Fight On!

Avishai

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