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Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC

[5/26/2023]



DEAN'S MESSAGE

Dear USC Dentistry Community:

Yesterday, we celebrated our full-time, part-time and volunteer faculty at our annual Faculty Appreciation Awards and Dinner. We are all so indebted to our faculty members. Every day, they share their real-world experience, hard-earned knowledge and invaluable wisdom with our students. And, whether it was the pandemic or this spring's accreditation process, they are always willing to roll up their sleeves and get

their hands dirty to help us in our educational mission. It was wonderful to spend some time with them outside the school at the ceremony, where we celebrated years of service up to 50 years (congrats, **Karen Refkin!**), and enjoyed dinner. Thank you to all who took the time out of their busy schedules to attend and congratulations to all years-of-service award winners. Thank you to **Kelley Randle** and the **Faculty Affairs team** for all you do to support this group. I offer a special thanks to the **Office of Development and Student Life** (especially **Christie D.C. Van Paepeghe**m) for your hard work every year in holding this event for our educators.

(Continued below)



CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2023

It was my great misfortune to have been under the weather and miss the opportunity

to celebrate the accomplishments of the Class of 2023. I'd like to congratulate you all on your Commencement. Your talent, ambition and perseverance will take you far in life. It has been an honor to be a part of your professional journey. I'd like to thank all who helped out with both the Senior Awards and Banquet as well as Commencement (**Office of Development and Student Life, Office of Admissions, our Student Ambassadors** and our **Facilities** team), especially **Mahvash Navazesh** who stepped in for me to lead the events. Thanks to **Kerolos Khalil** for snapping this selfie with Mahvash and the graduating class.

(Continued from above)

Earlier this month, Ostrow's Omicron Kappa Upsilon held its induction ceremony. Every year, the national honor society inducts the top 12 percent of the DDS and ASPID Class. This year, OKU inducted more than 20 students from the Class of 2023. They also welcomed **Sunny Fereshteh** as a faculty inductee and **Amy Merrill-Brugger** as an honorary faculty inductee along with 21 alumni inductees. Additionally, they awarded seven scholarships to deserving students. Congratulations to all the new inductees as well as the scholarship recipients!

Under the leadership of our Assistant Dean for Diversity, Inclusion and Access **Kim Austin**, Ostrow's **Search Committee Work Force Team** recently developed a Search Committee Resource Directory, a diversity guide for sending job announcements out to the public. The directory's goal is to help recruiters diversify the applicant pool for faculty, staff, students and postdocs. During an annual meeting with the NIDCR staff involved in managing T32/T90/R90 grants, the document caught the attention of Anissa Brown, who is the NIDCR Chief of Research Training and Career Development Branch. Brown asked if we would be willing to share the document with training grant recipients nationally, which we were happy to do. This is very exciting news and a testament to the work of our Search Committee Work Force Team that our document is setting the parameters surrounding DEI recruiting efforts nationally. You can find this document on the school's intranet. Congrats to the team, which consisted of **Janice Bea, Corey Berry, Kelley Randle, Maria Revillame** and **Carlos Sanchez**.

With that, I wish you all a safe and relaxing Memorial Day Weekend!

Fight On!

Avishai Sadan, DMD, MBA

Dean

G. Donald and Marian James Montgomery

Professor of Dentistry

Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC



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