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Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC

[6/16/2023]



DEAN'S MESSAGE

Dear USC Dentistry Community:

I hope the Summer Trimester is treating you all well.

This week, we welcomed our advanced specialty residents to the Trojan Dental Family. The group of residents is 70 percent female and 30 percent male and ranges in age

from 24 to 44 years old. As part of their orientation, they received training in information technology tools, infection control, campus safety, research tools and treating the LGBTQ+ community. I'd like to thank **Anita Tourah** and **Corey Berry** for their efforts in orienting this group as well as **Kim Austin** for putting together the LGBTQ+ panel as part of her role as Assistant Dean for Diversity, Inclusion and Access. I'd also like to acknowledge the support of the **IT Team**, who were incredibly helpful throughout the orientation.

We recently found out that Associate Dean of Research **Yang Chai** has been selected to receive the 2023 Paul Goldhaber Award from the Harvard School of Dental Medicine. This honor — the most prestigious given by Harvard's dental school — goes to recipients who are held in the highest international esteem in their field relating to oral and systemic health. Harvard cited Chai's many outstanding national and international contributions to teaching and research in oral health science. Please join me in congratulating Chai on this very well-deserved award!

(Continued below)





HAPPY PRIDE MONTH!

You might have noticed in the East Lobby, the student club Proudly Recognizing Inclusion and Diversity in Dental Education (PRIDDE) put together a table in celebration of Pride Month, which is the month of June. The table deconstructs the acronym LGBTQ+, with information and fun facts about each letter and gives the backstory to the genesis of Pride Month. I'd like to thank PRIDDE for educating us about the LGBTQ+ community and letting us celebrate Pride Month with you.



ONTO RETIREMENT

Last week, we bid farewell to two Ostrow institutions. **Wendy Whitfield** began her tenure at the USC dental school in 1978, and **Mary Thompson** joined USC Dentistry in 1986. Both worked in multiple areas of the school throughout their time here at USC. We are so thankful to these two amazing Trojans who have contributed to the school's mission and vision for decades. While it might be sad for those of us here who will miss them, I wish both of them a very happy retirement. Enjoy your free time and your family, and please don't become strangers. Drop by to say hello anytime.



(Continued from above)

You might have seen a recent *L.A. Times* article featuring Ostrow's own **Somkene Okwuego**. The article, meant to chronicle the ways in which young people are addressing the needs of the world's aging population, detailed Okwuego's journey

toward geriatrics. Before coming to Ostrow, Okwuego earned both a bachelor's and master's degree from the USC Leonard Davis School of Gerontology. The article showcases just how accomplished Okwuego is, and I look forward to seeing all the great things she does as she continues her studies at Ostrow. If you didn't see the story, you can [read it here](#).

With that, I wish you all best of luck on your midterms next week.

Fight On!

Avishai Sadan, DMD, MBA

Dean

G. Donald and Marian James Montgomery

Professor of Dentistry

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