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Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC

[10/06/2023]



DEAN'S MESSAGE

Dear USC Dentistry Community,

Last night, we held our 2023 Friends of Dentistry State of the School Address and Dinner. The event took place at the USC Hotel and offered our **Friends of Dentistry** members along with the **DDS Class of 2024, DDS Class of 2025** and **ASPID students** an opportunity to network before everyone had dinner

and I updated our premiere support group on all the happenings at the Norris Dental Science Center and beyond. It was such a lovely evening and a great chance to catch up with our Friends of Dentistry. Thanks to all who participated, and a special thanks to the **Office of External Relations and Student Life** for their tireless work in putting together this event. I look forward to our next Friends of Dentistry event.

At the Friends of Dentistry State of the School, we debuted the *Why USC?* video. In the video, Class of 2026 Associated Student Body members welcome the incoming DDS Class of 2027, introducing themselves, telling them why they chose Ostrow and generally bringing the incoming cohort up to speed on life on the USC campus. The endeavor was entirely voluntary, and it really showcases the care and connection that the Trojan Dental Family enjoys. It also showcases the talent and creativity of our students – **Michael Boulos** and **Dianne Bui** did a terrific job editing the video. You can [watch the video here](#).

Recently, we began holding our first in-person DDS interviews in three years (!). During the pandemic, for the safety of our faculty and staff members and prospective students, we necessarily moved to Zoom. It was so refreshing, though, to see the **Office of Admissions** stationed in the East Lobby to greet the incoming prospective students. Thank you to all the faculty and staff who participated in orienting and interviewing the prospective students.

The latest episode of *Louped In*, the official podcast of the Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC **Office of Continuing Education**, has dropped. In the episode, titled “Tastes Like Cotton Candy: How Legal and Illegal Drugs Affect Our Patients and Our Work,” **Alon Frydman** interviews Dr. Regina Dowdy, a board-certified dentist anesthesiologist, about the impact that legal and illegal drug use has on patient treatment. It’s a really interesting and thought-provoking episode, and I urge you to check it out when you have time. Congratulations, Alon, on another successful episode. You can [listen to it here](#) or wherever you listen to podcasts.

There will be another opportunity for Ostrow students and residents to get their flu shot here at the Norris Dental Science Center. Ostrow’s **Office of Student**

Life and USC Student Health have teamed up to host a flu vaccine clinic in the East Lobby on Thursday, October 12 from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Students and residents must have proof of flu vaccine compliance uploaded to MySHR by November 3, 2023. Medical and religious exemptions can be requested via MySHR. Thank you to Student Life and Student Health for making these vaccinations so easily accessible to our students.

Recently, our colleagues at the USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work featured our collaboration with them at the Dr. Roseann Mulligan Special Patients Clinic, the Pediatric Dental Clinic at the Los Angeles General Medical Center and the USC Dental Clinic at the Union Rescue Mission. For those of you who don't know, the master of social work students have the opportunity to participate in a nine-month practicum placement, where they work elbow to elbow with our dental students. The MSW students get the opportunity to apply in real time all that they've learned in the classroom. Our dental students get a better understanding of social determinants of health risk factors, including mental health disorders, medical conditions and comorbidities and how that might impact a patient's inability to come to an appointment or follow-through on compliance. You can [read all about the program](#), led by **Margarita Artavia**, who has a joint appointment with Ostrow; **Daniel Jacobs** and **Roseann Mulligan**.

Finally, you might have seen that the Good Neighbors Campaign has launched. This is an opportunity for our faculty and staff to give back to the communities we call home with either a one-time donation or a payroll deduction. Some of the Ostrow programs that receive this funding are the USC Dental Screening Initiative for Foster Children, the USC Neighborhood Mobile Dental Van Prevention Program and, on the physical therapy side, USC Fit Families. A big thank you to our campaign leaders **Fabian Castro** and **Rebecca Ortiz Bodensteiner** for volunteering your time.

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

Fight On!

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