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Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC

[4/19/2024]



DEAN'S MESSAGE

The Spring 2024 Trimester is now squarely in our rearview mirror as most in our community take some much-deserved rest and relaxation, and others — our soon-to-be graduates (and our expert faculty members) — take advantage of the downtime to complete patient care requirements in anticipation of finishing their studies here at Ostrow. We're in the homestretch for our upcoming graduates, and I am sure they are eagerly anticipating their own break. Keep up the good work, and we all look forward to celebrating your

accomplishments later this spring at Commencement.

Speaking of this year's graduates, our **DDS/ASPID Class of 2024** students were recently treated to a party at the Elevate Lounge in Downtown L.A. for their exceptional performance on the National Board Dental Exams (NDBE). Every year, we make a pact with our students that, if collectively they earn above a certain percentage on their NDBEs, we will host a party for them. This year's class did remarkably well — surpassing the goal, in fact — so we were thrilled to celebrate their achievements. The classes were even surprised by a beatbox performance by their talented classmate, **Amir Shaaban DDS '24**, which you can [watch here](#). Thank you to our **Office of Student Life and Well-Being** for their work in putting together this event for our students.

In late March, we held our annual Friends of Dentistry Scholarship Recognition Dinner, where our scholarship recipients get a chance to meet and dine with their generous donors. This year, we awarded 141 students with scholarships totaling more than \$2 million. The Scholarship Dinner is such a unique and special event, where the commitment of the Trojan Dental Family is fully on display, with alumni and friends supporting our promising, young dental professionals. The event took place at the beautiful Majestic Downtown. Thank you, **Friends of Dentistry**, for your continued support of our students as well as all the other scholarship donors and recipients who took time out of their weekend to attend. I'd like to thank the **Office of External Relations and Student Life** for their efforts — particularly **Christie D.C. Van Paepeghem** for her tireless work — in putting together this terrific event. Check out the Scholarship Dinner's [event highlight reel](#). Also, Scholarship Dinner pictures are available for viewing on [Ostrow Connect](#).

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RESEARCH DAY RECAP

Earlier this month, we held our annual Research Day, one of the only days devoted exclusively to scientific discovery at USC. At Research Day, Ostrow students, residents and faculty, including from the USC Chan Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy and the USC Division of Biokinesiology and Physical Therapy, present their research abstracts to their peers and compete for awards. Last year, we proudly shared that we had more research posters than ever before. But, then this year came along, where we shattered even that number, with 150 research abstracts shared, helping to showcase Ostrow's research prowess. We were joined by keynote speakers **Drs. Mark S. Humayun, Mark Handelsman** and **Leah Stein Duker**, who shared with us their fascinating research and perspectives. It was a great event, as usual, and the energy and excitement were palpable, walking through the poster gallery. Thanks to faculty members **Yang Chai** and **Parish Sedgizadeh**, staff members **Donna Castillo, VyVy Nguyen, Kimi Nakaki** and **Nicole Tam** as well as the **Student Research Group** (pictured above) for their efforts in putting together another successful event as well as *The Explorer*, an

award-winning journal that chronicles all the research taking place at Research Day and beyond. Make sure to check out [*The Explorer*](#).

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Next week, we welcome our incoming **ASPID Class of 2026** for their Orientation Week, so if you see them in the hall, give them a smile to make them feel at home here at the Norris Dental Science Center.

With that, I wish you a relaxing weekend and remainder of trimester break.

Fight On!

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