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## Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of **USC**

**[5/17/2024]**



# DEAN'S MESSAGE

Dear USC Dentistry Community,

Last week, we celebrated the many accomplishments of Ostrow's graduating **Class of 2024** as they tossed their caps into the air and took the momentous, symbolic step of completing their studies here at USC. I couldn't have asked for a better ceremony to end my 15-year tenure. We had arguably one of the biggest "celebrities" on campus, with Father Greg Boyle, of Homeboy Industries, delivering the keynote address to our graduates. For those of you who might not know, **Malcolm Snead** gifted me a book, *Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion* written by Fr. Boyle, near the beginning of my time at Ostrow. So, in some ways, having Father Boyle at Commencement served as the perfect bookend to my time as Dean. Congratulations to all our graduates! I'd like to thank all the faculty and staff members who attended. I'd especially like to acknowledge the student speakers — ASB Immediate Past President **Deena Fatehi**, ASPID Class of 2024 President **Pablo Garcia Escriva** and DDS Class of 2024 President **Daniel Kohanghadosh** (pictured below with his classmates in a Commencement stage selfie) — for sharing words of inspiration and excitement with our graduates as well as all the faculty and staff who helped with the ceremony itself. I'd also like to acknowledge the **Office of External Relations and Student Life** (especially **Kim Eeles** and **Vianca Marquez**), the **Office of Admissions** as well as the **Office of Faculty Affairs'** **Lizette Chavez** for all their help planning, coordinating and producing the event.

The night before Commencement, we celebrated the Class of 2024 at the Senior Awards and Banquet at the Omni Hotel Los Angeles in Downtown L.A. It was a terrific event, and the pre-Commencement excitement was palpable as we honored a number of students, residents (and faculty members) with awards. Congratulations to all who took home an award! And once again, thank you to the **Office of External Relations and Student Life** and the **Office of Admissions** (especially **Christine Wade** and **Marlin Banuelos**) for their help producing the event.

*(continued below)*



## Commencement Selfie!

DDS Class of 2024 President **Daniel Kohanghadosh** with graduates in background for the annual stage selfie.





## Welcome, ASPID Class of 2026!

We recently welcomed the newest cohort of **ASPID Class of 2026** students to the Trojan Dental Family. The class is composed of 65 percent female students and 35 percent male. They hail from 24 different countries, spanning five continents. Please join me in welcoming them to the community.

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Earlier this month, **Omicron Kappa Upsilon (OKU) Zeta Chapter**, USC's chapter of the national dental honor society, held its annual convocation where it awards scholarships to our dental students and recognizes new faculty and alumni members. This year, scholarships were awarded to **Sabrina Alterman, Jason Chang, Stephanie Chai, Ara Hartounian, Daniel Kohanghadosh, Greg Park** and **Eman Rafalian**. Faculty and honorary inductions included those for **Loris Abedi, Nissim Benbassat, Jianfu "Jeff" Chen** and **Daniel**

**Romo.** Additionally, the group celebrated the achievements of the **DDS and ASPID Class of 2024**, inducting more than 20 alumni from both cohorts into their ranks. You can see all of them below in the event photos. Congratulations to all who earned scholarships and were inducted into OKU!

*(continued below)*



## 2024 OKU Scholarship Recipients

OKU Zeta Chapter President **Reyes Enciso** and OKU Zeta Chapter Past President **Linda Brookman** with scholarship recipients (L-R) **Ara Hartounian**,



**Jason Chang, Eman Rafalian, Stephanie Chai, Greg Park, Sabrina Alterman and Daniel Kohanghadosh.**



## **2024 Faculty/Honorary Inductees**

Associate Dean of Research **Yang Chai**, OKU Zeta Chapter President **Reyes Enciso**, OKU Zeta Chapter Past President **Linda Brookman** and OKU member Jin-Ho Phark with faculty/honorary inductees (L-R) **Loris Abedi**, **Jianfu "Jeff" Chen**, **Nissim Benbassat** and **Daniel Romo**.



## DDS Class of 2024 Inductees

OKU Zeta Chapter President **Reyes Enciso** and OKU Zeta Chapter Past President **Linda Brookman** with (L-R) **Karnjit Sarai**, **Chau Nguyen**, **Kenneth Okuda**, **Le Wen Ma**, **Hanvin Kang**, **Faith Lovcik**, **Srimanth Alluri**, **Ai-nhi Tran**, **Luke Aguilar**, **Wen-Hsin Liu**, **Jennifer Yedigarov**, **Ying-ju Lu**, **Nabil Momin**, **Vahe Nahapetyan** and **Mazal Sarafian**. (Not pictured: **Parinaz Esteghamat Tehrani** and **Jaebeom Lee**)





## **ASPID Class of 2024 Inductees**

OKU Zeta Chapter President **Reyes Enciso** and OKU Zeta Chapter Past President **Linda Brookman** with (L-R) **Emary Climacosa**, **Gemma Rizi**, **Luz Gentile Eraso** and **Emma Villamizar Duenas**.

*(continued from above)*

With that, I wish you a relaxing 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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