
Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC

[12/6/2024]



COMMUNITY MESSAGE

FROM THE DESK OF INTERIM DEAN YANG CHAI

Dear Trojan Dental Community,

The end of the trimester is upon us. As we begin our preparations for the holiday break, I have a few news items to share with you in this, our second to last Dean's Message of the year.

First is a reminder that the USC Culture Journey team will be holding discussion sessions in the coming weeks for both faculty and staff to discuss the 2024 Culture Journey Survey results. Earlier this week, there was a report-back session, where our Culture Journey colleagues shared with us an overview of the results from the survey conducted in early 2024. If you missed that report-back session, you can [review those results here](#). The upcoming discussion sessions are an opportunity to further discuss the results and for your voice to be heard as we continue to work improving our culture at USC. The first session is for staff, and it takes place on Tuesday, December 10 from 10:30 to 11:45 am. Staff members can [register here](#). The faculty discussion session is scheduled for Tuesday, December 17 from 10:30 to 11:45 a.m. Faculty members can [register here](#). These sessions are optional, but I encourage you to attend if you can. Thank you to all who attended the report-back discussion and those who plan to attend the upcoming discussion sessions. Also, thank you to **Kim Austin** and **Corey Berry** for their continued efforts on this initiative.

December's CDA Student Spotlight — a monthly highlight of students attending one of California's seven dental schools — features fourth-year DDS student **Iwona Drabik**. In the minute-plus clip, Iwona shares her most memorable moment during dental school, a challenge she's had to overcome and how she unwinds after a long day. You can [watch her spotlight here](#). Fight on, Iwona!

(continued below picture boxes)





Thanksgiving Potluck Celebrations

Recently, Ostrow was home to two Thanksgiving Potluck celebrations. Here at the Norris Dental Science Center, the **Office of Human Resources** organized a Potluck Thanksgiving Feast for Ostrow's staff, while on the HSC campus, the **CCMB staff and faculty** brought their own Thanksgiving dishes to celebrate. Both offered great chances to catch up with our community while enjoying Thanksgiving favorites. I'd like to thank the Human Resources team for putting together the staff event, and thank everyone else who took the time to prepare something at home to share with your community. I hope your Thanksgivings were warm and wonderful.



It's a Match!

We recently commemorated Dentistry Match Day 2024, where our DDS students looking to continue their education with advanced specialty training celebrated their acceptance into their favored programs/schools. It's such a wonderful time to celebrate the accomplishments of these bright students — and there's more acceptances to come in mid-January. I would like to congratulate all of our students who matched so far, and thank the **Office of Student Life and Well-Being** for putting together a photo opportunity to share with our community on Instagram.



Dog Days of the Trimester

Finally, earlier this week, the **Office of Student Life and Well-Being** held a Coffee and Canines event, where students were treated to a cup of joe, donuts and more than a few tail wags on the West Lawn. Meant to help students de-stress in the face of finals, the event was hosted by the Humane Society of USC and FIGS. I'd like to thank all who attended — on two and four legs — as well as Ostrow's FIGS Ambassador **Sasha Iraniha**, who helped organize the event.

(continued from above)

With that, I'd like to wish all of our students best of luck on your final exams.

Yang Chai, DDS, PhD
Interim Dean

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