
Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC

[4/4/2025]



COMMUNITY MESSAGE

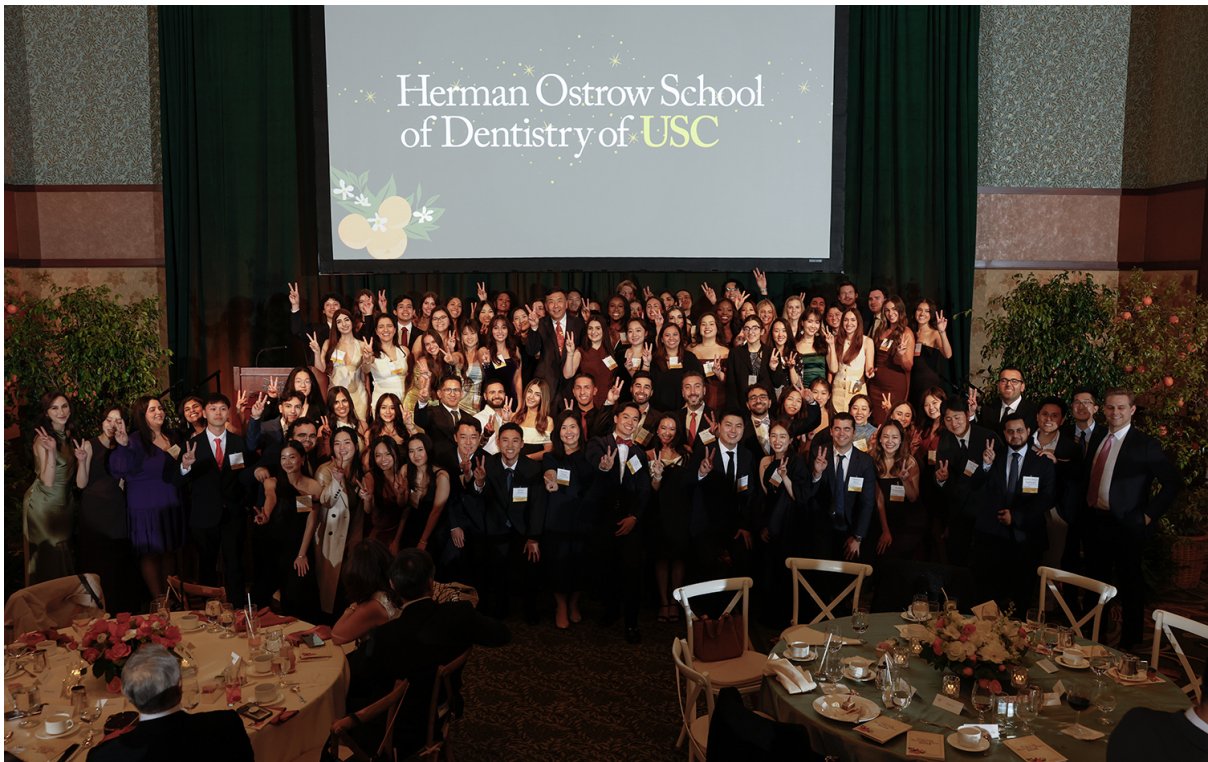
FROM THE DESK OF INTERIM DEAN YANG CHAI

Dear Trojan Dental Community:

Believe it or not, it's already April, and we are in the thick of our spring trimester. It's an exciting time at Ostrow, with so much activity, excitement and anticipation for Commencement.

Last weekend, we held one of our annual signature events, the Friends of Dentistry Scholarship Recognition Dinner. On its face, the Scholarship Dinner is an incredibly special event, bringing together scholarship recipients and their donors for a night of gratitude and celebration of all that is USC Dentistry. But this year's event was even more magical, taking place in the shadow of Disneyland at the Grand Californian Hotel — even Mickey and Minnie were in attendance, taking pictures with our guests! I had such a wonderful time catching up with so many in our community that evening. This year, we awarded nearly \$2.5 million in scholarships to 159 students — an accomplishment we hope to outdo over and over again as we continue to prioritize student scholarships in our fundraising efforts. To that end, we made an announcement during the program about a recent gift of \$7 million from King Richter for scholarships, an exciting development! It is truly inspiring to have such strong support from our Trojan network so we can continue to recruit the best and brightest students to our school. I'd like to thank all who took the time to drive to Anaheim for this event, particularly the **Friends of Dentistry** for hosting this event and continuing to support our school in ways big and small. I would also like to thank the **Office of Development**, particularly **Christie D.C. Van Paepeghem**; the **Office of Admissions**; and our **student ambassadors** for their tireless work in organizing and staffing this event.

(continued below picture)



SCHOLARSHIP DINNER: IN PICTURES

Last weekend, we celebrated the nearly \$2.5 million in scholarship funds that went to 159 students. You can see even more photos from the evening below:

[Pre-Dinner Reception](#)

[Mickey and Minnie Portraits](#)

[Dinner Program](#)

(continued from above)

The **USC Mobile Dental Clinic** recently concluded a stop in Lindsay, Calif., a small town in Tulare County with a primarily agriculture-based workforce.

During the multi-day stop — an event that represents a partnership between Ostrow and our community partners Healthy Start Family Resource Center and Migrant Education Region 24 — our students and faculty provided comprehensive treatment to 70 individuals, ranging in age from 3 to 20 years old. Treatments included prophylaxis, scaling, comprehensive exams, X-rays, oral surgery procedures, pulpotomies and restorations. Many of the children — particularly the younger ones — were in need of urgent care, having never seen a dental professional before. I'd like to thank all who participated in this event, helping to bridge this critical gap to oral healthcare. Thank you to faculty members **Sunny Fereshteh, Nineli Zadourian, Daniel Romo, Rebecca El-Khoury, Elizabeth Brummel** and **Justin Urbano** as well as the students and staff who participated. These clinics are a lifeline to so many of our neighbors in the Golden State, and I'm so proud of the work Ostrow does out there in the community.

Next week, we will hold our annual Research Day, one of the only days on campus devoted exclusively to scientific investigation. The event will take place at the USC Galen Center on Wednesday, April 9. Registration has closed, but if you RSVPed, make sure to drop in for a fun day of learning from your colleagues both here in dentistry as well as those from occupational science/occupational therapy and biokinesiology/physical therapy. You can see the [day's rundown here](#). I look forward to seeing you there! *(Note: The event will take place on the first floor [Founders Room and Hall of Fame]; you can enter at the corner of Figueroa Street and Jefferson Boulevard.)*

With that, I wish you all a nice, relaxing weekend.

Stay safe, and fight on!

Yang Chai, DDS, PhD
Interim Dean

Associate Dean of Research
George and MaryLou Boone Chair in Craniofacial Molecular Biology
Director, Center for Craniofacial Molecular Biology
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Medicine, and Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery



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