



CENTURY CLUB ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



THE HERMAN OSTROW SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY OF USC's

CENTURY CLUB ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

WAS EXCITED TO WELCOME HOME DENTAL ALUMNI AT THE
2023 HOMECOMING TAILGATE!

Ostrow alumni, students, faculty, staff and friends celebrated together while enjoying an open bar, amazing buffet, lawn games, photo booth, DJ and great company.

The Ostrow CCAA helps alumni continue to develop professionally, network with fellow Trojan dental professionals and stay connected to the school that paved their way to a successful dental career.

To stay engaged with classmates, faculty and alumni, please visit ostrowconnect.usc.edu

To view the 2023 Ostrow Homecoming Tailgate
Highlight Video, scan the QR code.



FRONT DESK

OSTROW'S GOT TALENT,
FIVE THINGS,
GAMES AND MORE!



ORIGAMI
STRAWBERRY

OSTROW'S GOT TALENT

Jessica Kim
DDS '24

ORIGAMI ARTIST

PHOTO BY NATE JENSEN



ORIGAMI
BUTTERFLIES

From Cranes to Crowns

Jessica Kim's synthesis
of creativity and science
promises enduring smiles.

PHOTO BY NATE JENSEN

BY COURTNEY MCKINNON

In the short amount of time it takes the average person to brush and floss their teeth, Jessica Kim DDS '24 can transform a lifeless sheet of paper into an exquisite rose. "I was 4 when my mother taught me origami," Kim recalls. "She gave me a square of paper and told me to follow her instructions. I didn't know what to expect, but I remember enjoying the process. The complexity of the folds, each serving a purpose, immediately piqued my interest in the art of paper folding."

The end result of that memorable experience with her mother was a paper crane, a symbol of longevity and good fortune. Throughout elementary school, Kim honed her craft, creating trees and butterflies — eagerly awaiting her father's return from his trips to Korea with a fresh supply of origami paper. After all, Kim points out with a laugh, "We didn't have Amazon back then."

For birthdays, special occasions or just an average day, Kim dedicated herself to the art of fashioning bespoke origami gifts. "I was able to make people happy," she explains. "In return, I felt rewarded by their smiles. I loved how the gift of origami gave me the opportunity to share joy and happiness with others."

She also showcased her masterpieces at exhibitions, held workshops at a retirement home and taught classes at the Korean school she used to attend.

Though origami didn't come naturally to Kim, the challenges of the unique folds are what made it enjoyable. "It sparked my interest in the STEM field, as it involved a great deal of math and engineering," she says. While you don't often hear the words origami and dentistry in the same sentence — for Kim, the two are intertwined.

The traits it takes to be a skilled origami artist — attention to detail, patience and persistence — seamlessly fold into the world of dentistry. But, Kim says, the creative aspects of dentistry are also quite similar. "It involves using your hands and artistic skills to design something enduring for a person," she explains. "Your work remains with them throughout their life, and that is pretty cool."

Kim witnessed the combination of science, art and innovation come

together during her first shadowing experience involving a partial restoration — and it evoked the same indescribable sense of satisfaction she receives when she completes an origami piece. "When the dentist showed me a 3-unit bridge, it looked so realistic and beautiful, like natural teeth," she recalls vividly. "Although it was a masterpiece, he was hesitant, as the connection between the bridge and the patient's gum did not correspond aesthetically. He interacted with his team and the patient to decide on an unconventional addition of pink porcelain in one area of the bridge to fabricate a functional and aesthetically pleasing smile. It was the process of patience and diligence that contributed to the greatest patient satisfaction."

Driven by her unwavering passion, Kim plans to continue using her hands to create lasting works of art for people — via origami and dentistry. "I want to open an origami jewelry store," she explains. "I make a lot of miniature pieces, like cranes and flowers — they're very small, like the size of a fingernail. I add crystal beads to give the pieces a little sparkle, then I put them on earrings or necklaces and give them away as gifts."

As she nears graduation, Kim has her sights set on pursuing a PhD in the biology of aging at USC, with the ultimate goal of leveraging her unique blend of artistry and dental expertise to make a meaningful impact in the field of geriatric dentistry. "I think there's a great need in that niche," she says. "I worked at a retirement home for many years, and the standard of care becomes different for older patients due to certain medications they take or physical limitations."

ORIGAMI
ROSES

FRONT DESK



The Associated Student Body Class of 2026 shot and edited a 10-minute video welcoming the incoming students of the DDS Class of 2027. In the video, the students share what brought them to USC (shout out to the renovated SIM Lab!), where the best places to study are (Leavey Library! — presumably because our very own library was being renovated this past year) and generally getting them up to speed about life at the Norris Dental Science Center. You can watch the video at tinyurl.com/WelcometoOstrow



FLASHBACK 1988

The Summer 1988 issue of *TroDent*'s cover story honored Guy Ho DDS '40, whose life journey took him from the Yangtze region in China, where he worked as a teen for his father — a prominent dentist in the area — to studying at Nanking University before moving to the United States to study at the USC School of Dentistry. Ho taught dental anatomy and prosthodontics from 1940 to 1965 at USC. In his message, Dean William Crawford noted the passing of Fred Olds DDS '24, who is credited with starting USC's first support group, the Century Club — today called the Century Club Alumni Association. Another notable mention, with reverberations still felt today, was the naming of the recently renovated second-floor clinic to the Rex Ingraham Clinic.



IN THE NEWS



"If it wasn't for them, there would be a lot of vets like myself that would not be able to get dental work done."

—Veteran **Brian Uptgraft** on the dental treatment he received at a USC Mobile Clinic event that took place earlier this year. The event represents a partnership between Ostrow and Village for Vets, a nonprofit focused on filling critical gaps for homeless or at-risk veterans. Watch at tinyurl.com/USCDentistryforVets



"My mentor ... once said to me that I should always be involved in education in some role because it would expand my thought process, keep me updated, keep me engaged and allow me to give back to my specialty. I think about what he told me every day as I work with intelligent and inspirational students ..."

—Associate Professor of Clinical Dentistry **Stefan Zweig** DDS '86, ENDO '92, MHA '26, sharing words of wisdom in a *Medium* article about building a successful career in endodontics. Read more at tinyurl.com/ZweigInMedium



"We're all aging everyday, and there's something so humanistic to it. It's a perfect way to blend science and empathy."

—**Somkene Okwuego** '21, MA '22, DDS '26 in an *L.A. Times* article about how her educational background in gerontology will help her be a better geriatric dentist in the future. Read more at tinyurl.com/OkwuegoInLATimes