

**Contact: Janet Ryan 314-614-7408
Priscilla Visintine 314-422-5646**

**A First for Women in Orthodontics
*USC School of Dentistry Sets Record with First All-Female Class***

Los Angeles (September 29, 2015) -- The orthodontic residency program at [Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry at the University of Southern California \(USC\)](#) is making history.

For the first time since the program was established in 1934, the current class is comprised of all women.

Dr. Glenn Sameshima, head of the orthodontic program for nine years, is impressed with the group. "We are pleased to see the growing interest in orthodontics among women and USC is proud of this important 'first' in our dental school's history."

The first all-female orthodontic class at the University of Southern California includes (left to right) Bethany Chong, Amanda Budiman, Heather Stephens, Natalie Dang, Nicole Ranney, and Kristina Sakas.

Bethany Chong is a native to Wichita Falls, Texas. She attended the University of Texas at Austin and the Texas A&M University Baylor College of Dentistry.

Amanda Budiman is from Walnut, CA as is a graduate of University of California, San Diego and attended dental school at New York University.

Heather Stephens is from Martinez, CA. She received her BS in Biology from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, CA and graduated from dental school at the University of Southern California.

Natalie Dang's hometown is Yorba Linda, CA. She attended college at UC San Diego and dental school at UCLA.

Nicole Ranney of Alta Loma, CA attended the University of San Diego (USD) and dental school at the University of Southern California (USC).

Kristina Sakas is from Northbrook, IL. She is a graduate of Indiana University Bloomington and of the dental school at USC.

Information is provided by:

Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry at the University of Southern California (USC) and the American Association of Orthodontists

#

About the American Association of Orthodontists

Founded in 1900, the American Association of Orthodontists (AAO) is the world’s oldest and largest dental specialty organization. It represents more than 18,000 orthodontist members throughout the United States, Canada and abroad. The AAO encourages and sponsors key research to enable its members to provide the highest quality of care to patients, and is committed to educating the public about the need for, and benefits of, orthodontic treatment.

Orthodontists are uniquely qualified specialists who diagnose, prevent and treat dental and facial irregularities to correctly align teeth and jaws. Orthodontists receive an additional two to three years of specialized education in orthodontics beyond dental school at an accredited orthodontic residency program. Visit the AAO’s websites, mylifemysmile.org and aaoinfo.org, for information about orthodontists, orthodontic care and to locate nearby orthodontists.

-

Media Contacts:

Priscilla Visintine Visintine & Ryan Public Relations 314-422-5646 priscilla@visintineandryan.com	Janet Ryan Visintine & Ryan Public Relations 314-614-7408 janet@visintineandryan.com	Pam Paladin American Assn. of Orthodontists 314-993-1700. ext. 524 ppaladin@aaortho.org
--	---	--