



TODAY

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Five Loma Linda University Schools honor graduates

Reporting by James Ponder and Heather Reifsnnyder

With five ceremonies, the Loma Linda University (LLU) schools of Allied Health Professions, Public Health, Religion, Behavioral Health, and Nursing held commencement services on June 11, in the Drayson Center.

The largest school at the university, the School of Allied Health Professions, required two ceremonies for its 554 graduates. The School of Public Health's ceremony honored its 128 graduates.

School of Allied Health Professions

Two students were honored at the first Allied Health ceremony Sunday morning: Lakshmi Vijanderan and Aurianna Anobile. Vijanderan received the Dean's Award, and Anobile (whose bio is listed at the conclusion of the article) received the President's Award. Vijanderan was noted for academic and spiritual leadership, and Dean Craig Jackson, JD, cited her involvement in a mission trip to Zhejiang University Children's Hospital and her commitment to continued learning and personal growth. At the second service, Jonie Galvin received the school's Community Service Award. Galvin was commended for volunteering at orphanages and community outreach clinics, and was called "an exceptional leader" for living the values of Loma Linda University.

At both School of Allied Health Professions commencement ceremonies, Michael B. Kelly II, senior pastor at Mt. Rubidoux Seventh-day Adventist Church in Riverside, California, delivered the commencement address titled, "Turning the World Upside Down." Kelly encouraged graduates to be like the early Christians mentioned in Acts 17:8 who were accused of upsetting the world. "If we do not impact the world and turn it upside down, we are living mediocre lives," he said.

Kelly urged the graduates to adopt a zero-tolerance attitude when they encounter racism, bigotry, sexism, and lack of economic parity in the world. Quoting Popeye the Sailor Man from the legendary cartoon series, he said the right attitude to take is expressed in Popeye's words, "I have had all I can stand and I can't stand no more!"

He shared a mishap that occurred when he was 17 and on a date with his girlfriend. He was carrying two beverages back to her when he bumped into someone else and spilled his drink all over that person.

"In life, we will bump into people and whatever is in us is what will spill onto them," Kelly pointed out, admonishing

the graduates to be filled with character, love, joy, peace, patience and other fruits of the spirit," he said. "Don't be satisfied with the things you see. Be filled with the right things and allow your difference to make a difference."

School of Allied Health Professions award winners include:

- ♦ **President's Award:** Aurianna Danielle Anobile
- ♦ **Alumna of the Year:** Marilyn R. Davidian, PhD
- ♦ **Trailblazer Award:** Donna Galuzzo, PhD
- ♦ **Faculty of the Year Award:** Ernie Schwab, PhD
- ♦ **School Distinguished Service Award:** Carol J. Appleton, MPH
- ♦ **Alumnus of the Year:** Steven D. Newton, DPT

School of Public Health

At the School of Public Health commencement ceremony, Richard Hart, MD, DrPH, LLU president, called attention to the fact that while the university is celebrating five separate graduations today, the School of Public Health ceremony is a special one because 2017 represents the 50th anniversary of the school.

Dean Helen Hopp Marshak, PhD, called Michael Bennett, who received an MBA degree later in the service, to the podium to be given the Dean's Award for MBA Programs. Marshak noted that Bennett was active in several professional organizations and had lent his talents to student ministries as well.

Hazel Alvarenga received the Dean's Award for MPH programs. Marshak cited Alvarenga for academic excellence in both global health and epidemiology and

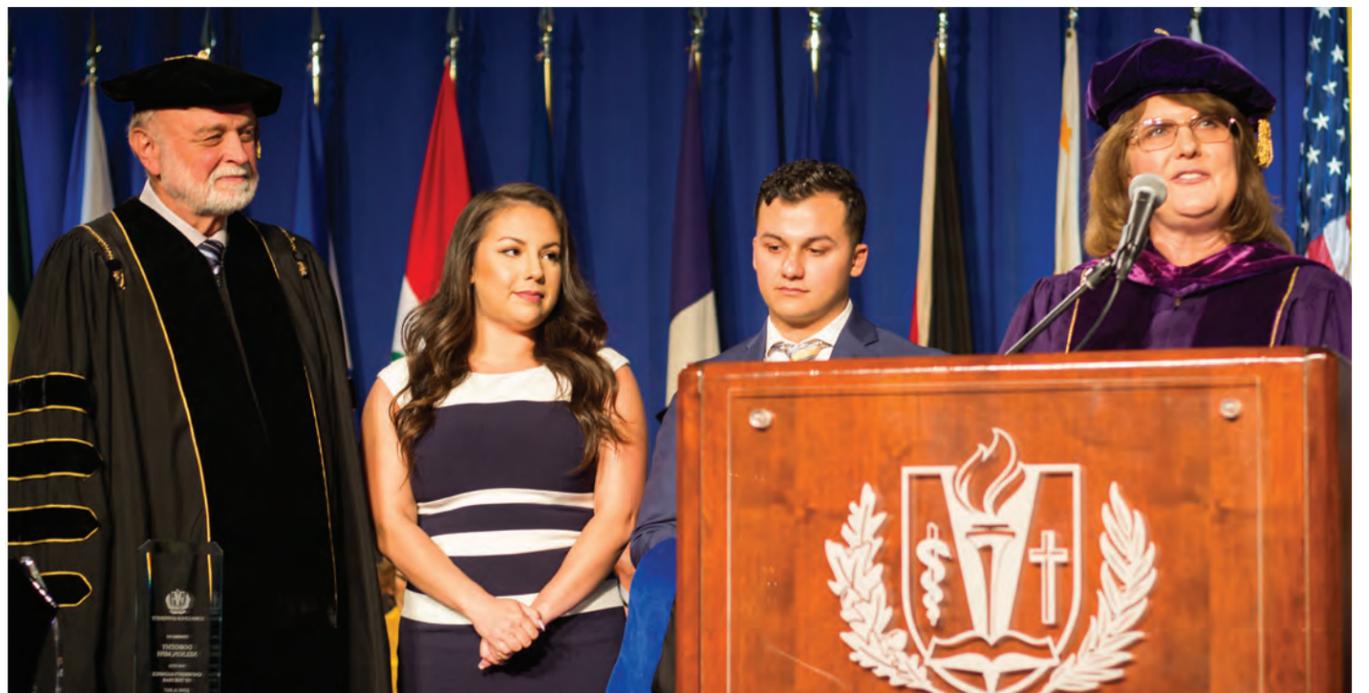
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Members of the Class of 2017, like this School of Nursing graduate, have exciting futures before them.



Faculty members from each school led their graduates into the various commencement ceremonies.



Helen Hopp Marshak, School of Public Health dean, announces that the school's Distinguished Faculty Award would go posthumously to Samuel Soret, PhD. His children, Carmen and Adam, accepted the award.

Many Strengths. One Mission.

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A. Ron Carter, provost, announced the School of Allied Health Professions' President's Award recipient is Aurianna Danielle Anobile.

B. Michael B. Kelly II, senior pastor of the Mt. Roubidoux Adventist church, addressed Allied Health graduates.

C. Graduates accepted their degrees from the deans of the schools.

D. The School of Nursing's Lifetime Service Award went to Maxine Darling, retired operating room supervisor at Loma Linda University Medical Center and a 1960 graduate of the school.

E. School of Religion graduates and faculty members gathered for a post-ceremony school photo.



said she has exemplified the commitment to mission, global service and compassion that reflects the mission and values of the school.

Edward Bitok received the Dean's Award for Doctoral Programs. He was present to receive his DrPH degree in nutrition. Marshak said Bitok was known for hosting hiking and social activities for students from other religious traditions, volunteering at a community food bank, and serving as the main clinician for a research project.

Dorothy N. Nelson, the famed "Flying Nurse of the Philippines," was honored as the University Alumna of the Year. Nelson, who received her pilot's license at the age of 45, has logged more than 30,000 miles in mercy missions to evacuate wounded or seriously ill people of that nation. When her exploits came to the attention of the Commander of the Philippine Air Force, he gave her a special commendation and provided free fuel for all her subsequent mission flights.

Jerry W. Lee, PhD, chair of the department of health promotion and education, received the Distinguished Investigator Award for his commitment to research, academic leadership, classroom instruction, and community outreach. For three decades, Lee has studied the relationship between religion and health, addictive behaviors, health behavior and cross-cultural research methodology.

Fred Hardinge, DrPH, associate director of health ministries for the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, delivered the commencement address, titled, "Three Hallmarks of Success." Hardinge is the son of the late Mervyn G. Hardinge, MD, DrPH, PhD, founding dean of the school. In his address, Hardinge outlined the three types of thinking that he believes will lead to a lifetime of meaning and service.

In citing the example of Apple Founder Steve Jobs, Hardinge adopted his motto, "Think Different," as the first hallmark of success. The second was, "Think Clearly," and the third was, "Think Biblically." Hardinge admonished his students to heed the counsel of former U.S. President Woodrow Wilson: "You are not here merely to make a living. You are here in order to enable the world to live more amply, with greater vision, with a finer spirit of hope and achievement. You are here to enrich the world, and you impoverish yourself if you forget the errand."

Hardinge also quoted Seventh-day Adventist Church cofounder Ellen White, who said God's ideal for His children is higher than any human thought can reach. He added that God is calling people to everything good and pure and noble and said God envisions higher goals for people than they have ever dared to dream.

Additional School of Public Health award winners include:

- ♦ **President's Award:** Kristi Cheng
- ♦ **School Distinguished Staff Service Award:** Nona M. Grove
- ♦ **Alumna of the Year:** Gayle Hoxter
- ♦ **School Distinguished Faculty Award:** Samuel Soret, PhD (His children, Carmen and Adam, accepted the award on his behalf.)

School of Religion and School of Behavioral Health

Graduates of these schools shared a combined ceremony, during which commencement speaker Daniel S. Sandy, PhD, MPH, exhorted them to take an intersectional approach to their life's work and mission via partnering with people of different backgrounds and experience.

An attitude of openness to learn from others, rather than the mentality of sole authority, Sandy said, will accomplish more to solve the world's growing problems — and lead to a more fulfilling life.

"Focus on seeking ways to enhance empowerment," said Sandy, who is president of the Sierra Leone Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and program manager of the Adventist Development and Relief Agency Sierra Leone-USAID project.

He is also the 2017 Alumnus of the Year for the School of Behavioral Health, where he earned his PhD in family studies in 2015. The school honored him for his exemplary service and promotion of behavioral health, including his efforts to improve primary healthcare in underserved areas of Sierra Leone following the Ebola outbreak of 2014-2016 in West Africa.

Other awards bequeathed on graduates and faculty of the School of Behavioral Health were:

- ♦ **President's Award:** Serena Stevens, PhD, 2017 graduate with a PhD in clinical psychology
- ♦ **Dean's Award for Master's Degree Programs:** Gabriela Navarro
- ♦ **Dean's Award for Doctoral Degree Programs:** Laura Stiel
- ♦ **Distinguished Service Award:** Terrence Forrester, MS, professor emeritus in the School of Behavioral Health

There were three awardees from the School of Religion:

- ♦ **President's Award:** Ryan Marais, 2017 graduate with an MA in bioethics
- ♦ **Dean's Award:** Caroline Flanders
- ♦ **Lifetime Service Award:** Gerald Winslow, PhD, director of LLU Center for Christian Bioethics and professor in the School of Religion

School of Nursing

Commencement speaker Patricia Benner, PhD, welcomed the class of 2017 into the world of nursing, which she called the “most wonderful, diverse and, at times, terrifying profession.” Benner is professor emerita at the University of California San Francisco School of Nursing.

A career in nursing exponentially increases the capacity to care for others and an understanding of the incredible resilience, hope and strength of mankind, Benner said.

But she also warned the graduating nurses to avoid the temptation of getting lost in “the grandiosity of the rescue” by remaining aware that they, too, are vulnerable and finite. The nurse’s focus should be on providing care, not the talents of the caregiver, Benner said.

Our common humanity, she finally said, should be remembered in showing mercy, curiosity and conscientious communication.

Qualities of service, academic excellence and innovation were lauded in a number of graduates who received awards during the ceremony.

- ♦ **President’s Award:** Janelle Warren, 2017 graduate with a doctorate in nursing practice
- ♦ **Dean’s Award, Undergraduate Degree:** Rachel Tohm
- ♦ **Dean’s Award, Graduate, Master’s Degree:** Sandra Edpao
- ♦ **Dean’s Award, Graduate, Doctorate of Nursing Practice:** Stephanie Keeth
- ♦ **Dean’s Award, Graduate, PhD:** Shaunna Siler
- ♦ **Dean’s Award, Faculty of Graduate Studies:** India Medley, PhD

Additionally, the school awarded the **Lifetime Service Award** to Maxine Darling, MS, retired operating room supervisor at Loma Linda University Medical Center and a 1960 graduate of the School of Nursing. Faculty and students responded with a standing ovation.

Baccalaureate

Baccalaureate services for the five schools took place Saturday, June 10, in the Loma Linda University Church. Each service featured a focus on mission that quietly upstaged the colorful robes and regalia of academic tradition. Diverse fields, but common themes emerged as select graduates from each school shared his or her insights learned while studying at Loma Linda University: readiness for careers of service, enabled by Heaven.

Kenton W. Fritz, a graduating student from the School of Allied Health Professions, said his Loma Linda education had been a journey of growth and experience. Describing a mission trip to Honduras, Fritz noted that he became sick upon arrival and unable to serve. What astonished him was the way his classmates and the people,

especially the children, of Honduras attended his needs with great love and kindness. Fritz described the moment as a changing point in his life, and added, “We need to heal each other and heal ourselves first by sacrificing ourselves to God every day.”

Edward Bitok, a graduating student at the School of Public Health, revealed that studying at an Adventist college in his Kenyan homeland turned into the crucial transition of his life. Bitok’s faith pilgrimage led to his baptism his second year at the college. He later received a scholarship to attend Loma Linda University, and said he considers himself blessed to have studied at this great institution. “I am proud to be an alumnus,” Bitok disclosed.

Tevita Palaki-Muti, a student from the School of Allied Health Professions, described a student-led mission trip to wash the feet of the homeless in San Bernardino and provide them with clean socks. “I thought I was coming to serve them,” Palaki-Muti observed. “But they were serving us. One of them said, ‘I have never seen a Christian like you. I thought you go to that school up there and you think you’re better than us. But you came here and washed my feet.’” Palaki-Muti drew a chorus of applause and heartfelt “Amen’s” when he announced, “I am passionate about ministry.”

“We are good enough to do the job that God has called us to do,” said Alix Chen, who earned a master of arts degree in bioethics from the School of Religion.

Similarly, said Gabriela Navarro, “He has prepared you for whatever you’re about to encounter.” She graduated with a master’s of social work from the School of Behavioral Health.

Nursing graduate Leroy Henry, who earned his bachelor’s degree, said, “I was never alone on this journey, and I honestly believe I would not have made it to this point without divine intervention.”

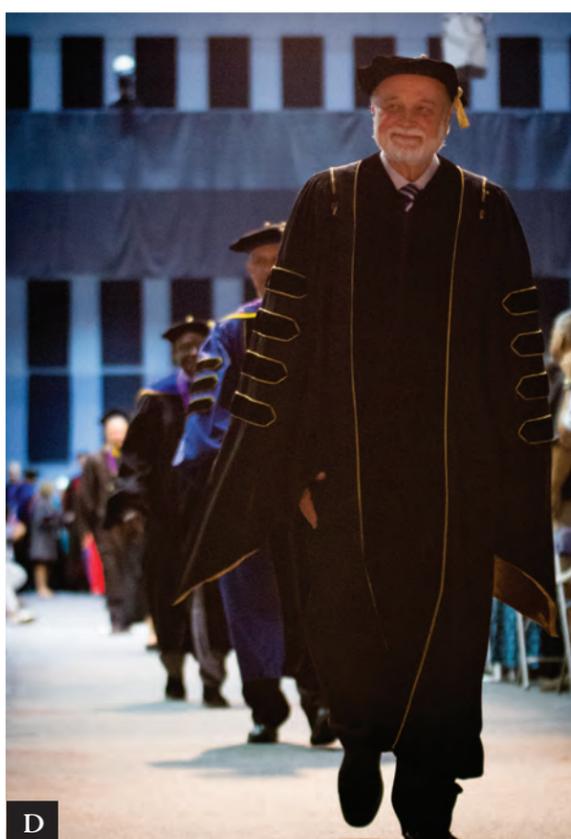
“Truly we are so proud of you,” said Provost Ronald Carter, PhD. “You are prepared to serve mankind.”

Randy Roberts, vice president for spiritual life and mission for Loma Linda University Health, in his homily said the answer to the question “What helps determine your destiny?” is found in 1 John chapter 4. “What you believe at your core about God will determine the kind of life you live,” Roberts said. “First John 4:8 is the ground zero of your spiritual life: ‘God is love.’” Roberts added that the conception of God taught and modeled at Loma Linda University is of a God far grander, greater and more gracious than many students understood before coming here to receive an education.

He went on to say that the image of Loma Linda University students kneeling to wash the feet of the homeless is one that defines the kind of God definition that leads to a meaningful life. “When I look at that image, I see that the one doing the washing is Jesus,” Roberts added. “We serve an invisible God, but He is made visible in the acts of service of His followers.”



- A. A School of Allied Health Professions graduate’s family reacts with joy.
- B. Kabbyodev Chawdhury performs “Thank You” during one of the Commencement services.
- C. Spontaneous celebrations from the graduates enliven the presentation of degrees.
- D. Richard Hart, president of Loma Linda University Health, enters the Drayson Center for one of the five Commencement services held June 11.
- E. Graduates pose for photos with family, friends, and classmates following the Commencement services.



Ceremony empowers first graduates of San Manuel Gateway College as 'community faculty'

By Heather Reifsnyder

At the site of what was a desolate patch of dirt less than three years ago, 34 students graduated from San Manuel Gateway College on June 7 — the first class to receive a Loma Linda University education in the city limits of San Bernardino. Twelve students received medical assistant certificates, and 22 received certification as community health workers.

San Manuel Gateway College was established to give young people in San Bernardino and the Inland Empire a future beyond high school that also empowers them to serve their underserved community.

Classes for the medical assistant program began in September 2016, just two months after the ribbon-cutting ceremony of its facility, Loma Linda University Health — San Bernardino, which is also home to affordable health-care provider SAC Health System.

Additionally, in February of this year, the Community Health Worker/Promotores Academy — a partnership between Loma Linda University and El Sol Neighborhood Education Center — moved its home to San Manuel Gateway College, leading to the combined graduation ceremony.

Commencement speaker Richard Hart, MD, DrPH, president of Loma Linda University Health, noted that San Manuel Gateway College was built without a blueprint, from scratch, in a world that had never used this educational model before.

A training ground like no other

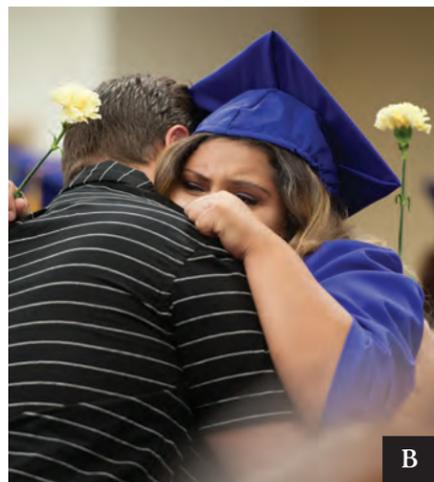
The unique didactic environment at the San Bernardino campus brings together San Manuel Gateway College entry-level learners with Loma Linda University graduate students and medical residents all training together to gain clinical skills through the SAC clinic — “the laboratory that makes this place go,” as Hart described SAC.

Joining in a long line of officials eager to shake each graduating medical assistant or community health worker's hand were Tribal Secretary Ken Ramirez, Chairwoman Lynn Valbuena and Treasurer Sabrina Le Roy from the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians. Without the Tribe, the college may not have come to fruition. They gave \$10 million to Loma Linda University Health to help bring San Manuel Gateway College into existence. Additional indispensable partners and dreamers in the project are San Bernardino City Unified School District and the city of San Bernardino.

But the evening's most celebrated stars were the future community health workers and medical assistants.

Neery Velazquez, one of the medical assistant graduates, said that the “Gateway” part of the college's name aptly describes the way it helps them: opening a passage to opportunities they couldn't have encountered any other way.

The students, though, took the hard steps of walking through that door.



A. The pioneering first graduates of San Manuel Gateway College cheer as Richard Hart MD, DrPH, president of Loma Linda University Health, pronounces them alumni of Loma Linda University.

B. Family and friends celebrate the accomplishments of the college's graduates.

C. Arwyn Wild, executive director of San Manuel Gateway College, congratulates a graduate.

D. Tribal Secretary Ken Ramirez, Treasurer Sabrina Le Roy and Chairwoman Lynn Valbuena from the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians offer their congratulations to the graduates.

They had to learn how to study for the first time in their lives, invest in spending all day at school, and learn to work with patients.

All the while, the struggles of real life continued. One graduate, for example, sustained a spine injury during the school year and had to take time off to regain walking. A young woman earned her certificate while also caring for her young daughter and son.

Filling a gap

Many of the students' experiences include growing up in tough areas. President Hart said that life has given them

scars they will carry with them.

“But scars also strengthen a person,” he told them. “And you all bring strength to what you are doing.”

Their life experience gives the new medical assistants and community health workers the ability to connect with patients from diverse, low-income backgrounds. The graduates can fill a gap in the healthcare continuum that the sick too often fall through, Hart said.

About 50 percent of patients, he explained, leave the doctor's office and then never follow through with orders, such as taking prescriptions or getting lab tests. These newest graduates of Loma Linda University can help provide the support that enables patients to comply with their care plans, Hart said.

“You are now community faculty of Loma Linda University,” he said.

One of the newly minted community faculty members is Ron Oden, a former mayor of Palm Springs, who received his community health worker certification in order to better equip him for his retirement personal mission: training other community health workers through the Desert Highland Gateway Estates Health and Wellness Committee, which exists to enhance opportunity for members of that historically Black, underserved community in the Coachella Valley.

Service, Oden said, is what life is really about.

Oden and his 33 fellow graduates acknowledged members of their families and communities who supported them throughout their training at San Manuel Gateway College. During the ceremony, the graduates presented yellow carnations, as well as hugs and

loving words, to their friends and family sitting in the audience.

Holding one of those carnations at the reception ceremony was Jaime Velasco, husband of community health worker graduate Adriana Valero. Watching the culmination of her effort, he said, "I actually felt something that I never felt before. ... It brought tears to my eyes."

The emotions spill out

Tears came to many an eye during the ceremony. San Manuel Tribal Secretary Ken Ramirez and Chairwoman Lynn Valbuena, along with Arwyn Wild, MA, executive director of San Manuel Gateway College, acknowledged the emotion of the evening.

"What uplifts me is the fortitude and tenacity of these students," Wild said. "To see and hear them talk about their dreams is so encouraging."

Secretary Ramirez and Chairwoman Valbuena helped usher the dream of the college into existence, seeing it grow from a concept to a construction project to this first graduation.

Ramirez recalled, "We started this dream with the community in mind, to offer an educational component like no other. Teaming up with Loma Linda University has helped us to do that. To see the graduates finish their program today was exciting. The safety net that we're trying to build in San Bernardino starts with the young people."

He continued, "As a Tribe, we value giving back to the community. It's not just about us or the reservation; it's to build the community as a whole. This is our home, and if anybody is going to be here for thousands of years to come, it will be us and Loma Linda University Health."

Tribal Chairwoman Valbuena described looking into the eyes of each graduate as she shook their hands to congratulate them.

"They were very, very happy but also serious about their achievements and futures," she said. "It was so nice to share that moment with them."

Many of the graduates said the evening was a beginning, not an ending. All 22 community health workers are staying on at San Manuel Gateway College to gain additional specialization, and the medical assistants expressed plans to gain working experience and take prerequisite courses for further education to become nurses or physical therapists or anything they want.

"We know that this is just the start," Wild said. "They can do so much more."

Concluding his commencement address, Hart charged the students: "Now you are health professionals, and let me tell you: we need help — big time. We need help."

"We need to stand shoulder to shoulder, all of us together, to provide that help. So thank you. Congratulations."

What's next for San Manuel Gateway College

The plans are fast growing for the college's expansion. Starting this fall are at least two new medical certification programs: nursing assistant and pharmacy technician, as well as the second cohort of medical assistant students. A surgical tech program will begin in January 2018.

Additionally, the college's Community Health Worker/Promotores Academy will continue to expand.

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"PRAYER & THE PLACE"

JULY 15
"PRAYER & THE PURPOSE"

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Loma Linda University honors 9 outstanding student leaders with 2017 President's Award

By Jim DeTar

A student from each of Loma Linda University's eight schools, and one in Faculty Graduate Studies, received this year's President's Award. Each embodies the university's shared values of compassion, integrity and excellence, and works to advance Loma Linda University's mission to continue the teaching and healing ministry of Jesus Christ.

The university has honored exemplary students with the award each year since 1960. It's awarded to students for high scholastic achievement and service in the student community, within the framework of Christian commitment.

Here are this year's recipients of the President's Award. They each received a certificate of merit and a \$1,000 scholarship.



Michael Siy

Michael Siy received the President's Award on May 16 at the School of Dentistry's Senior Banquet. In 2016, Siy received the Terry Tanaka Award from the Academy of Dentistry International. The academy said "the scope of Michael's achievements was over five times greater than the second place candidate." Among other service commitments prior to his time here, he taught migrant and Native American students and was a dental volunteer on the Navy's USNS Mercy. He also volunteered with Tzu Chi Medical Team at free medical clinics in the Central Valley.



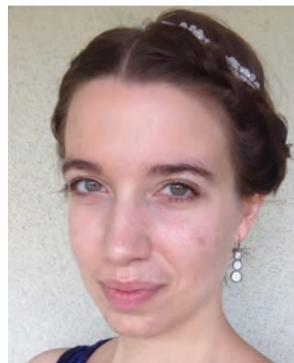
Kristi Cheng

Kristi Cheng accepted the School of Public Health President's Award at the school's Commencement on June 11. Cheng, who earlier received the university's Selma Andrews Scholarship, entered the School of Public Health Nutrition and Dietetics program in September 2015. She earlier graduated magna cum laude from University of California San Diego, where she earned a bachelor's degree in biochemistry and cell biology. While at Loma Linda University, Cheng was a research assistant for major studies. Among them was a literature review that added data to an ongoing study on the "Effect of Egg Consumption on the Risk of Type 2 Diabetes."



Emily A. Kutzner

Emily Kutzner received the 2017 President's Award on May 24 at the School of Medicine's Senior Banquet. Kutzner achieved Honors in 15 of 16 basic science courses. She earned Honors in all seven third-year clerkships. And based on her medical licensing exam and 99th national percentile ranking, she had the top score in the School of Medicine's class of 2017. She was also a volunteer tutor to needy students in nearby San Bernardino. Kutzner will now enter a residency program with Grand Rapids Medical Education Partners in Michigan.



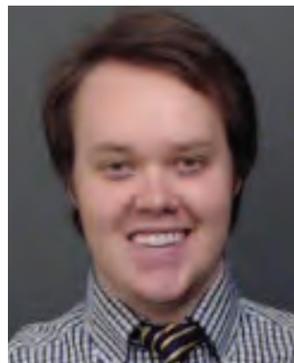
Serena Stevens

Serena Stevens on June 11 received the President's Award at the School of Behavioral Health commencement. Her doctoral work in clinical psychology expanded on her previous research on body weight, body image and societal perceptions. She identified ways of framing public health information to address obesity and poor health without increasing weight stigma. She has been active in Sylvia Herbozo's (PhD, MA) Body Image and Eating Behaviors Lab. She also had a number of her research papers published, and is an ad hoc reviewer for three peer-reviewed journals.



Brandon Dixon

Brandon Dixon received the School of Medicine's Faculty Graduate Studies President's Award at the school's Basic Sciences Consecration and Hooding Ceremony on May 26. Dixon came to Loma Linda University to join the laboratories of Jiping Tang, MD, and John Zhang, MD, PhD, where he studied neurosciences. He focused on therapies to help infants recover from an intrauterine stroke. He participated in a study that showed interferon beta treatment could help reduce damage caused by lack of oxygen to the brain. He was also active in the Student National Medical Association at local and national levels.



Ryan Marais

Ryan Marais received the President's Award at the joint School of Behavioral Health and School of Religion Commencement on June 11. He earned an MA in bioethics from Loma Linda University's School of Religion. While at Loma Linda University, Marais began research on health care delivery in the U.S. prison system. This summer he joins School of Religion faculty members Dr. Whitney Braun, PhD, and Alex Dubov, MDiv in presenting papers on that topic. They will present at the International Bioethics Retreat and the Cambridge Consortium for Bioethics Education in Paris, France.



Shawn Smith

Shawn Smith received the 2017 President's Award for the School of Pharmacy at the school's commencement ceremony on May 28. For four years he was class president, and for four years he earned a place on the Dean's List or Honor Roll every quarter. Smith said he chose Loma Linda University "because of the people who practically live out the teaching and healing ministry of Jesus Christ." Smith helped launch a mentoring program for School of Dentistry students and volunteered for Students for International Mission Service (SIMS) mission trips.



Janelle Warren

Janelle Warren received the President's Award on June 11 at the School of Nursing commencement ceremony. As an advanced practice nurse in Loma Linda University Medical Center's Urology Department, Warren continues in her leadership role. She completed her Nursing Practice doctorate in June. Earlier she earned an MS in nursing in 1997, and a BS degree in 1984, both at Loma Linda University. Warren codeveloped the medical center's palliative care consultation service. It provides physical, emotional and spiritual relief to patients with an incurable disease. Warren was inspired to pursue a medical career as a girl at the side of her father, a physician.



Aurianna Anobile

Aurianna Anobile is the President's Award winner for the School of Allied Health Professions. She received the award at the school's commencement on June 11. Anobile earned an MS in Speech Pathology and Audiology, maintained an overall GPA of 3.97, and was active in Community Academic Partners in Service. There she mentored and inspired high school students to attend college. She also served on the Campus Ministries prayer team to nurture her spiritual health and that of fellow students.

Toward a shared ethical identity in Adventist healthcare

By Heather Reifsnnyder

More than 2,300 years after Aristotle wrote in *The Nicomachean Ethics* "... the good has rightly been declared to be that at which all things aim," people still can't always agree on what is good. Particularly in the emotion-laden field of healthcare, the study of biomedical ethics leads to vastly different conclusions from different experts.

At Loma Linda University Health, the commitment to ethical healthcare and education is guided by its distinctive Christian denomination, the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Sharing this heritage are the four other health systems in the United States also affiliated with the Adventist Church.

Now these five systems are pulling together in a consortium to share bioethics resources and expertise, as well as jointly consider some of today's most urgent issues of ethics in medicine.

Named the Adventist Bioethics Consortium, the venture is coordinated by Gerald Winslow, PhD, director of Loma Linda University Center for Christian Bioethics.

The other members are Adventist Health System, Kettering Health Network, Adventist Health and Adventist HealthCare. This group comprises some 80 hospitals and 130,000 employees across the United States, making it the second-largest faith-based health system in the country.

"We have rich opportunities for collaboration on bioethical challenges facing this country through the lens of Adventist moral and ethical commitments," Winslow said.

Bioethics, Loma Linda and Baby Fae

It was a bioethical debate that brought Loma Linda University Health to the forefront of the news cycle in 1984, when pioneer surgeon Leonard Bailey, MD, transplanted a baboon heart into a newborn baby girl who came to be known as Baby Fae, trying to save her life.

That same year Loma Linda University Health established its Center for Christian Bioethics, which had been approved by the Board of Trustees in 1983. Initiated by founding director Jack Provonsa, MD, PhD, the center has given particular attention to the integration of religion, medicine and ethics.

The Adventist Bioethics Consortium was inaugurated during the second annual Adventist Bioethics Conference in April, held at Kettering Health



Dr. Gerald Winslow speaks at the Adventist Bioethics Conference. Adventist health systems in the U.S. inaugurated the Adventist Bioethics Consortium during the meetings. Winslow, director of the LLU Center for Christian Bioethics, is coordinating the group.

Network in Ohio and attended by about 100 representatives of the different systems.

Better patient care will result from this collaboration, said Paul Crampton, Adventist Health assistant vice president for mission and spiritual care.

"Advancements in medical technology open up new possibilities for positive health outcomes and more compassionate, personalized care," he said. "At the same time, there are ethical implications that demand our attention. The more we are able to collectively examine these implications in the light of our mission and values, the more likely we are to provide the highest quality of care."

Crampton, Winslow and other health system leaders hope the consortium will strengthen discourse with the Adventist Church.

"What do faithful answers look like?" Winslow said. "We need to help each other, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to address issues of medical ethics in our society and avoid mission drift away from our Adventist heritage."

"The outcomes produced through this process will help inform the church as it produces position statements on these important topics," Crampton said.

Moving forward with the consortium, the annual Adventist Bioethics Conference will continue, with broad appeal for Adventist clinicians, ethicists, church leaders and healthcare administrators, and feature national and international thought leaders in bioethics.

Additionally, the consortium will form interest groups on specific issues such as palliative care for patients who are unable to consent. Other practical helps offered through the consortium will include webinars, self-directed online courses and continuing education seminars (with credit offered by Loma Linda University Health).

The Adventist Bioethics Consortium website, though still in development, offers more information.

Issues in biomedical ethics

Today, key bioethics debates surround topics including physician-assisted suicide, gender dysphoria and stem-cell research.

But for Winslow, the biggest bioethics issue we face comes down to basic human fairness: equal access for all people to quality healthcare.

"In Christianity," he said, "the commitment to protect the most vulnerable members of society is not optional. We must find a sustainable way to provide medical care to everyone, especially those who are least likely to get a fair shake."

Winslow points to the parable of the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25, in which Jesus describes the life well-lived, going beyond Aristotle's "good" to "righteous." Jesus said: "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me."

Reading day camp now enrolling for summer

By Heather Reifsnnyder

Loma Linda University School of Allied Health Professions' Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders will hold an intensive Phonological Awareness and Literacy Day Camp at Loma Linda Academy from July 17 through July 28.

The program assists incoming kindergarten through third-grade students who have, or at risk for, difficulty with reading and language skills.

"Participants will have fun while focusing on the building blocks of reading: literature awareness, syllable awareness, rhyme awareness, segmenting and blending," said Jennifer St. Clair, MS, assistant professor and director of clinical education, Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders.

The cost is \$100 per child for the two-week-long camp. Register at <https://campscui.active.com/orgs/LomaLindaUniversity>.

Parents can choose between the morning or afternoon schedule; morning sessions run from 9 a.m. to noon, while afternoon sessions take place from 1–4 p.m.

For more information, e-mail jstclair@llu.edu.



New cancer treatment offerings bring hope during the 26th Annual Celebration of Life

By Nancy Yuen

New treatments offer expanded possibilities for cancer therapy, the director of Loma Linda University Cancer Center told a gathering of cancer survivors, their families and members of the community during June.

The center's director, Mark Reeves, MD, PhD, said that for the first time a drug to treat cancer has been approved not based on where in the body the cancer started, but based on what mutations the cancer has.

The new drug Pembrolizumab, which was approved by the FDA last month, targets certain mutations, Reeves said.

He also revealed that the Loma Linda University Cancer Center is performing research with the National Cancer Institute to dramatically expand this paradigm to multiple mutations and many drugs to target those mutations through the institute's ongoing MATCH trial. The center is also participating in approximately 75 other clinical trials, he said.

Reeves made his remarks during the 26th annual Celebration of Life, which is an annual event that takes place in June. Judy Chatigny, MSN, Executive Director, Loma Linda University Cancer Center, served as emcee for the June 4 program, which was held in the Wong Kerlee International Conference Center.

Services and treatment

During the celebration, Reeves shared news about new programs in the Loma Linda University Cancer Center.

The first adds radiosurgery capabilities to those already offered, increasing the ability of cancer specialists at Loma Linda



Two nurses, Kimberly Watson and Deanne Sparrow, were honored with Courage to Care Leadership Awards.

University Health to treat brain tumors.

"We're adding to those capabilities so we can treat a wider variety of patients with brain tumors," he said.

Reeves also announced that the adult bone marrow transplant unit at the Cancer Center is open. The unit complements ongoing transplant treatment for pediatric patients.

The final program Reeves highlighted was the creation of a comprehensive low-dose CT scanning lung cancer screening program. The

process includes screening with low-dose CT, providing counseling focusing on smoking cessation and treatments available at the Loma Linda University Cancer Center, a multidisciplinary treatment center.

In the first few weeks of the program, nearly 40 patients have completed the screening process.

"This means that of the people who completed the screening process, one fifth of those patients at risk of dying who complete the program are

not going to die," Reeves said.

Living with resiliency and hope

Following Reeves' presentation, Chatigny, MSN, introduced Vickie and Jeffrey Manz, a couple who both have received cancer treatment at Loma Linda University Cancer Center.

The Manzes explained why they chose to travel to Loma Linda from Florida for treatment — Jeffrey Manz for proton therapy after being diagnosed with prostate cancer 15 years ago, and more recently Vickie Manz for breast cancer treatment.

While the Manzes could have chosen other top cancer centers, "The treatment at Loma Linda is different," she said. "The treatment across the board takes into consideration the whole person. Loma Linda has been wonderful; it is a place where the staff celebrate life."

Participants also learned how to create resilience in their lives as Barbara Hernandez, PhD, LMFT, RN, director of physician vitality at Loma Linda University Health, spoke about living a joyful life. "We can actually nurture joy in our own lives by dedicated efforts that foster gratitude, optimism, practicing spiritual disciplines such as prayer, and by intentionally adding value to other peoples' lives," said Hernandez.

Two nurses at Loma Linda University Health—Kimberly Watson and Deanne Sparrow—were honored with the Don Kroetz Courage to Care Leadership Award, highlighting their whole person care for oncology patients.

Jan Kroetz, MN, RN, NE-BC, chief nursing officer at Loma Linda University Medical Center, established the award 20 years ago to honor exceptional oncology nurses after her son Don's passing.

Pediatric heart patient gives back to kids like her



Codi Pelton, 11, of Desert Hot Springs, made a delivery of toys and games to the Loma Linda University Children's Hospital cardiac unit during May.

By Briana Pastorino

Codi Pelton is often making trips from her Desert Hot Springs home to Loma Linda University Children's Hospital for various doctor appointments because she was born with a rare heart condition known as hypo plastic left heart syndrome. Her most recent visit to the hospital, however, included a special delivery to the playroom on the cardiac unit.

The 11-year-old brought \$3,500 worth of games and toys for other patients like her to enjoy while they were being treated.

How'd a kid her age score all that loot?

"I just asked people for money and they gave it to me," the young philanthropist said.

It was also part of a school called "Change the World." Pelton's parents helped by setting up a GoFundMe page, but she did a lot on her own including selling hot dogs at school.

Pelton went shopping three times to buy all the toys and fulfilled a wish list that was provided to her by the hospital's child life department.

She attracted quite the audience when she delivered the goodies to the cardiac unit on May 18.

"Look what difference one person makes," said Sharon Robie, RN, nurse manager on the cardiac unit.

Pediatric critical care physician, Shamel Abd-Allah, MD, just happened to be walking by when he saw the commotion and praised Pelton for her good work. "Your dedication is commendable."

Meet the baby snugglers

By James Ponder

Linda Hunt reaches into a crib and picks up Baby Conor, a week-old infant boy in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) at Loma Linda University Children's Hospital. He was acting fussy before she arrived, but Hunt's soft voice and the gentle way she holds him have an immediate calming effect. In a matter of moments, he relaxes in her arms and falls asleep.

Born five weeks prematurely, Baby Conor lacks a crucial survival skill that comes naturally to babies born later in gestation: knowing how to eat. Fortunately for him, the staff of the NICU takes care of his nutritional needs intravenously or with a feeding tube. Equally fortunate is the fact that Hunt is there to help meet his needs for bonding and human contact.

One of a carefully screened, highly trained group of volunteers known as baby snugglers, Hunt gets to do things she absolutely loves: holding babies, snuggling them, talking to them, and loving them. She also gets the satisfaction of knowing she is giving the babies a scientifically-validated head start in life. "I just love the feel of babies," Hunt says. "I feel good knowing they will be able to handle stress better because of snuggling."

Raylene Phillips, MD, first brought the volunteer snuggler program to the NICU in the mid-1990s, and personally trained the first 100 volunteer snugglers on the policies involved in being a baby snuggler and how to be responsive to the babies' behavioral cues of stress and relaxation. After leaving for medical school in 1999, she returned for her residency and fellowship programs and is now a neonatologist in the same NICU where the baby snuggler program she started continues. Some of the original volunteer snugglers she trained still come to the unit regularly to comfort babies.

The neuroscience of snuggling

Phillips, who holds a master's degree in developmental psychology, has studied the neuroscience of stress and stress management in infants. She points out that the way you comfort a premature baby is different from the approach to comforting a full-term baby.

"For a full-term baby, rocking and patting soothes them. But for babies born prematurely, that amount of stimulation can add more stress," she says. "Prolonged periods of elevated cortisol levels due to long periods of stress are actually neurotoxic, but snuggling helps reduce stress."

Phillips adds that parents are the best antidote for stress in infants, but snugglers are a good second best. "Just having someone to hold them and comfort them really lowers their stress," she says. She reports that human newborns, like infants of all primate species, expect to be in direct body contact with their mothers at all times. When that isn't possible, babies still need to be held close by someone who cares for them.

Snuggling is mutually beneficial

Vicki Stalker, who has been snuggling for just under a year, finds snuggling to be therapeutic for snugglers as well as babies. "No matter how bad a day you've had, you come in and pick up these babies and hold them and soothe them and calm them and it makes a big difference in your day," she says. Stalker learned first-hand about the difficulties faced by parents of NICU babies after her niece was born with congenital defects and had to be admitted to a hospital in Oregon. The girl's mother had to work full-time at a job four hours away in order to keep the insurance that paid for her baby's care.

Baby Conor's mom, Lorena Watson, would love to hold him all day long, but logistics get in the way. Watson works as a licensed vocational nurse in the High Desert and has other children at home. Although she comes to see Baby Conor every day, she

admits it can be difficult. She is grateful, for the love he receives from the snugglers. "I think it's pretty awesome that you have the baby snuggler program here," Watson says. "That way, they get the individualized attention they need even when parents can't be here."

Some babies aren't as fortunate as Baby Conor. Some are experiencing withdrawal from opioids they were exposed to during gestation if their mothers were addicted to narcotics; others are victims of abuse and will be going into foster care once they're discharged. Donna Hadley, who has been snuggling for two years, says working with babies withdrawing from intra-uterine opioid exposure is difficult emotionally. "You just cuddle them and cuddle them," Hadley says. "Even their cry is different. It's very high-pitched. They sneeze a lot, too. Tears start flowing when I hear of babies that come from abusive situations."

A homecoming

One recent morning, Hadley held Baby Adree, a bright-eyed, 7-month-old girl who has lived in the NICU all her life. She was born with gastroschisis — an increasingly common condition in which the intestines protrude through an opening in the abdomen and develop outside the body during pregnancy — and has required several surgeries. Nevertheless, her traumatic circumstances have done little to dampen her enthusiasm. She smiled broadly at Hadley and reached out to touch her face.

Hadley says volunteering on the NICU is something of a homecoming; she worked as a nurse on the unit 38 years ago. "I love being a snuggler," she says. "I really do!"

Linda Hunt says she feels a profound spiritual connection to the babies she snuggles. Once she settles in with a baby, the first thing she does is pray for them and the nurses. Then she softly sings the song, "Jesus Loves You." Hunt also prays for every one of those babies every single day.

"I'm still praying for the first babies I snuggled here seven years ago," she says. "It's really an honor to do that. It's an honor to snuggle, too."



Linda Hunt, shown here with Baby Conor, feels profoundly connected to every baby she snuggles.



Angela Lalas

Leading national health industry publication honors Angela Lalas

By Briana Pastorino

For the second year in a row, Loma Linda University Health senior vice president of finance, Angela Lalas, has been recognized as a "Rising Star in Healthcare" by Becker's Hospital Review, a leading publication highlighting business, legal news and analysis for the hospital industry.

Becker's Hospital Review recognized in its latest issue its 2017 list of healthcare leaders under the age of 40. The list includes physicians, hospital and health system executives and healthcare company innovators.

Loma Linda University Health president, Richard H. Hart, MD, DrPH, said this latest honor bestowed upon Lalas is a testament to her knowledge and ability to handle the financial challenges in the field of health care.

"Angela is a true leader who exemplifies excellence, integrity and professionalism in all that she does," Hart said. "She is a valued asset to this organization, and we are proud of her accomplishments. She is indeed a rising star."

The Becker's Hospital Review editorial team accepted nominations and conducted an internal review process to select members of this year's list. The list seeks to highlight the accomplishments of outstanding individuals who climbed the ranks within their organizations or founded their own innovative businesses.

"I am humbled with this recognition to be able to represent and honor Loma Linda University Health," Lalas said, "especially the outstanding mentors and role models who have supported my professional journey thus far. I am a recipient of Loma Linda University Health's commitment to embracing and nurturing diversity, for which I am most grateful."

Lalas was previously recognized by Becker's in 2016 as a "Rising Star" and one of the "150 Hospital and Health System CFOs to Know."

Lalas has served as senior vice president of finance for Loma Linda University Health since 2015. She oversees financial operations for the six hospitals within the system, including analysis and reporting for the Loma Linda University Medical Center and its affiliates. Before taking on her current role, she was vice president of finance for the system.

Lalas earned her MBA from Claremont (Calif.) Graduate University and her undergraduate degree in accountancy from the Adventist University of the Philippines. She is also a licensed CPA in California.

Five new Emergency Department treatment rooms opened to serve Murrieta community

By James Ponder

Loma Linda University Medical Center – Murrieta unveiled five new treatment rooms — also known as “flex care spaces” — in its Emergency Department on Monday, June 19, a move that will help meet growing demand for emergency services at the hospital.

The Emergency Department currently provides care to more than 130 patients per day, or more than 45,000 patients per year. With the five new treatment areas, the department now has 23 beds. Two more are expected to be added in the next few months.

Jared Horricks, MBA, executive director of facilities management, said the hospital has experienced significant year-over-year increases in Emergency Department visits since the hospital’s opening in 2011. In response to the community’s need for local health care services, Murrieta added the five new treatment areas, along with other emergency medicine service enhancements.

“This five-bed addition is expected to make a major impact on the hospital’s ability to provide timely patient access to medical providers,” Horricks told a gathering at a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Monday. “Loma Linda University Medical Center – Murrieta remains committed to providing the best emergency service care, and is thrilled to bring this new space and its benefits to the community.”

Horricks thanked several individuals for playing key roles in seeing the project through to completion: Kristin Butler, BSN, RN, manager of Emergency Services; Linda Soubirous, MSN, MPA, RN, chief nursing officer; Kevin Flaig, MD, medical director of Emergency Services; Chad Youngquist, construction manager; Sebastian Ortiz, project engineer; Rene Tovar, MSN, executive director of Outpatient Services; the entire Emergency Department staff and physicians; and Mascari Warner Architects.

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Officials of LLUMC – Murrieta cut the ribbon on one of five new Emergency Department treatment rooms. From left, Linda Soubirous, MSN, Jared Horricks, MBA, Kevin Flaig, MD, Kristin Butler, BSN, Andrea Bolton, LVN, and Sarah Wallencheck, RN.

Kappa Sigma Fraternity donates money and toys to LLU Children’s Hospital

By Briana Pastorino

Kappa Sigma Fraternity, located on the Cal State San Bernardino Campus, recently donated over \$7,600 and toys to Loma Linda University Children’s Hospital (LLUCH) through “penny wars,” a competition amongst the sororities on campus to support Vision 2020 – The Campaign for a Whole Tomorrow.

Six members from the fraternity stopped by LLUCH Tuesday, June 6, and presented a check and a variety of toys to Children’s Hospital staff and patients, Justin Correa, 9, of Bloomington and Tiffany Borrego, 9, of Lake Elsinore.

“Our campus became involved in competing to see who could raise the most coins, and it was powerful to see everyone’s involvement,” said Danny Razo, philanthropy chair of Kappa Sigma. “Many of us have had personal experiences and family members who have been treated here.”

Giovanni Barreto and the fraternity’s executive committee shared their personal connections with the children’s hospital through siblings who were born and treated at LLUCH. They wanted staff and patients to know that their fraternity plans to make this an ongoing project. “We have no plans on stopping now, we’re just getting started,” Barreto said.

Helen Staples-Evans, chief nursing officer of LLUCH, emphasized the difference the fraternity is making in building the new hospital tower as part of Vision 2020.

“You have raised money for children whose faces you’ve never seen, and they’ll go to kids who you will never meet,” Staples-Evans said to the fraternity, “but you make a difference, and for that we are very grateful.”

Joanna DeLeon, director of the LLUCH foundation said she felt inspired by the fraternity. “This is an amazing testament to how a community can work together to improve the lives of our smallest patients.”



LLUCH patients, Justin Correa, 9, of Bloomington and Tiffany Borrego, 9, of Lake Elsinor accepted the \$7,600 check from the Kappa Sigma Fraternity in the LLUCH lobby Tuesday, June 6, on behalf of all patients at the hospital.

High school students get scientific with research

By Briana Pastorino

Upon graduating high school, most young adults have one of two choices to make — go to college or get a job (if they don't already have one). The latter usually entails a job in retail, the food industry or some other minimum wage-paying environment.

However, a handful of students at Indian Springs High School are getting a leg up whether they pursue their secondary education or enter the labor pool.

A Title I school in San Bernardino — meaning at least 40 percent of the students in the school are from a low income family — Indian Springs offers a biotechnology course to juniors and seniors interested in health science. Taught by John Arient, the course is an integrated class with Loma Linda University School of Pharmacy and gives students hands-on experience in the lab setting at the college level.

According to Arient, the students are working with experimentation, lab procedures and skills typically taught in the third year of college. “The goal is to give these kids knowledge of biotechnology beyond the textbook so they learn how science really works,” he said.

The 13 students enrolled in the course this year — two juniors and 11 seniors — spent a good portion of their time at the School of Pharmacy but did all of their research in the lab located at their high school.



Tyerae Jackson, a high school senior, shares details of the research project he and his cohort worked on for the School of Pharmacy research day.

Their research project, Exploring the Oral Microbiome, studied different types of bacteria found in the mouth.

Sara Solak, principal lab assistant

at the School of Pharmacy, said the students obtain a college level skillset in the program. “They graduate high school with proficiency in staple lab skills like extracting DNA, that will enable them

to get a job in a lab setting making up to \$17 an hour.”

Still, most of these kids have plans for college and careers in science or health care.

Moises Silva, 18, a senior and Indian Springs is headed to Cal State San Bernardino in the fall. “Completing the lab work and research makes me feel proud, and confident,” he said.

Another senior, Letty Fernandez, 18, plans to study molecular biology at Cal State Fullerton in the fall, with an end goal of going into forensics. “It’s amazing being able to do what a junior in college is doing,” she said. “It puts us ahead of the game.”

The School of Pharmacy started working with Indian Springs High School in 2014 as part of an after school program, but it has grown into a curriculum course.

According to Willie Davis, PhD, chair and associate professor for the department of pharmaceutical and administrative sciences at LLU School of Pharmacy, the Indian Springs project was one of 32 posters presented at the annual event.

The research activities include basic science research, research in administrative and outcomes sciences, research in missions and outreach, as well as research in the science of teaching and learning,” he said. “We have maintained a steady record of publications, presentations and grant submissions over the past several years and we welcome the involvement of students in our research.”

LLU Children’s Hospital patients help celebrate Luke the Lion’s birthday

By Briana Pastorino

The Loma Linda University Children’s Hospital (LLUCH) lobby was filled with birthday fun this week as the honorable mascot Luke the Lion celebrated another birthday.

The Big Hearts for Little Hearts Loma Linda Guild treated LLUCH patients and their families to an afternoon of crafts, entertainment and even birthday cake on Monday, June 19.

Guild member and longtime friend of LLUCH, Carol Troesh, has been dedicated to the annual event since its inception seven years ago.

“The entire month of June is Luke’s birthday month,” Troesh said. “This is truly a special event where kids can get out of their hospital room and forget for a minute about their treatment.”

Sticking with the traditional 1950s theme for the party this year, youth singing group Lioness performed doo-wop style songs in poodle skirts and ponytails.

In honor of his birthday, Luke gave gifts to patients, including each child in attendance got a stuffed lion and a book of their choosing to take home.

The Loma Linda Guild is committed to supporting the children hospitalized at LLUCH by developing programs and projects that address the critical needs of these children and their families. The Loma Linda Guild was the first and original chapter of Big Hearts for Little Hearts that formed in 1999. Since its inception, the guild has raised over \$1.6 million for the hospital.



While some celebrate their birthdays on a single day, Luke the Lion celebrates his birthday with Loma Linda University Children’s Hospital patients (above) for the entire month of June! Carol Troesh, Big Hearts for Little Hearts Loma Linda Guild member and longtime friend of the Children’s Hospital (left), also stopped by to wish Luke a great birthday.

Employee Earnest Daniel honored for 60 years of service to organization

By Nancy Yuen

Earnest Daniel, senior animal technician in the animal care facility at Loma Linda University School of Medicine, walked to the stage at the Drayson Center to thunderous applause on May 31. Loma Linda University Health administrators shook his hand and camera shutters clicked as he accepted a pin marking his 60 years of service to Loma Linda University Health (LLUH).

Daniel was recognized during the Employee Service Recognition Banquet for Loma Linda University the evening of May 31.

Earnest Daniel began working at the College of Medical Evangelists (CME) in 1957, four years before it was renamed Loma Linda University. He, his daughter Valerie Downs, son William Daniel and grandson Zachary Downs represent three generations in the same family now working at LLUH. Valerie is an accountant in University Printing Service, and William and Zachary both work for animal care — William as an assistant lab animal technician and Zachary as a registered lab animal technician.

Over the six decades Daniel has worked for the School of Medicine he has taken care of dogs, cats, mice and birds; he also supervised care of baboons that were used in research that led to Baby Fae's heart transplant in 1984. He's never taken care of snakes, however. "I'm afraid of snakes," he says, recalling a rattler that found its way into the yard next to the family's log cabin when he was a boy.

Daniel was hired by the late Mervyn Hardinge, MD, PhD, chair of the college's department of pharmacology and experimental therapeutics. His starting salary was \$1.35 an hour. "Dr. Hardinge hired me because I was a farm boy," says Daniel. "He was a beautiful Christian; every week he invited his employees to have worship in his office."

One of Daniel's first assignments was to inject plant extracts acquired from countries outside of the United States into mice to try to find a cure for cancer. In the early 1960s, funding for the project ran out and in 1964 fire struck Risley Hall where he worked.

Twenty-three firefighting units fought the blaze as LLU and Loma Linda Union Academy students risked their lives to rescue animals from a building next door, according to a Feb. 14, 1964 University Scope report. One thousand mice, 1,000 rats, 100 dogs, many birds and other animals were passed through windows to safety. Before the building's walls crumbled, faculty and students searched for research papers authored over months and years of intense study.

As a part-time firefighter, Daniel helped to distinguish the flames; he recalls water three feet deep in the building's basement after the flames were extinguished. While Risley Hall was rebuilt, the top floor was not and the building became two stories instead of three.

"I was taking care of the three ostriches, a male and two females at the time," Daniel says. "While they weren't injured by the fire, the females didn't survive because of stress after we moved them to their new location."

Daniel worked for Charles Hunter, DVM, who consolidated animal care in at LLUH in 1964; Hunter promoted him to supervisor. He later reported to David Wolf, DVM. "I've outlived four or five bosses," says Daniel, who retired in 2003 and continues to work 30 hours a week.

Without referring to notes Daniel recalls key dates and stories beginning in 1932, the year he was born. He and his seven brothers and sisters were raised by his mother and stepfather (his dad died when he was 3 years old) on a 100-acre farm in Missouri where he helped farm corn, cotton, soybeans and tended cows and pigs. "I learned more from my stepfather, who had a third-grade education, than anyone else I met," he says. When they needed supplies, the family relied on a horse-drawn wagon to travel seven miles to the town of Brosley, Missouri, with the horses traveling at four miles an hour.

Daniel joined the Air Force on Dec. 10, 1952, to avoid being sent to Korea. He was stationed in Texas where he completed basic training and become certified as a jet fighter mechanic.

Following training, on July 7, 1953, he was stationed at March Air Force Base in Riverside County. Just two months later, while celebrating Labor Day at a Riverside park, he saw a young woman with her friend near the lake. "Her name was Shirley Saxby and I sat on the swing next to her, got her address and wrote her a letter to ask her for a date," he says.

Saxby turned him down, stating that she couldn't date anyone who drank, smoked or danced. He responded: "I don't drink or smoke and I think we could have fun."

The couple courted for 10 months and were married by G.T. Dickinson on July 11, 1954. "Her mother talked me into Bible studies," says Daniel, who was baptized July 10 by Elder Dickinson at the Campus Hill Church of Seventh-day Adventists.

"Shirley and I were together over a month when they shipped me to Newfoundland," he says. He remembers being despondent as he traveled by boat, watching the Statue of Liberty fade into the fog. "I didn't know if I'd ever come back." In Newfoundland he was a mechanic on T33 jet fighters and parked B47s. "Three jet fighters at a time would land while 15 were in the sky doing exercises," he says.

Six months later he left the base to pick up Shirley, making the trip from Newfoundland to Loma Linda on \$5. From Chicago, and wearing his Air Force uniform, he hitchhiked to Loma Linda on Route 66, catching a ride in a two-year-old '47 Chevy, treating his new friends to a \$2.50 round of hamburgers.

Three of their four children were born in the Loma Linda Sanitarium, and the youngest was born at the new hospital, the Loma Linda University Medical Center.

After leaving the Air Force, Daniel found a job in San Bernardino selling and installing refrigerators for \$1.50 an hour, working there until 1957. "After I was laid off, I went to all of the local air bases to try to find work before Dr. Hardinge hired me," he says.

In order to make enough money to raise his family, Daniel worked part-time for the Loma Linda Fire Department for 32 years; he also mowed lawns and trimmed trees with his brother in Loma Linda and Redlands.

"The Fire Department wanted me to work full-time, but I would've had to retire in my 60s. I didn't want to retire that early and I wanted to be with animals — I'm 84 and still working," Daniel says.

"Loma Linda University Health means everything to me," he says. "God has blessed me because of it."



Earnest Daniel, right, was recognized for 60 years of service to Loma Linda University Health. Ronald L. Carter, PhD, left, executive vice president, university affairs, presented highlights of Daniel's career.



Earnest Daniel's son, William Daniel, was recognized for his 30 years of service to Loma Linda University Health on the same evening as his father.



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