



# 23rd annual Foundation Gala raises more than \$1.3 million for LLU Children's Hospital

By James Ponder

Thanks to the generosity of Inland Empire donors, the 23rd annual Foundation Gala, presented by Hard Rock Hotel in Palm Springs, raised a grand total of \$1,312,165 to benefit the patients of Loma Linda University Children's Hospital (LLUCH).

The event, which was titled, "Illuminate: The Path to Vision 2020," was held Thursday, February 11, at the Riverside Convention Center.

According to Jillian Payne, executive director of Loma Linda University Children's Hospital Foundation, this year's event marked a significant increase in the number of guests and attendees.

"Each year, we are both amazed and blessed by the outpouring of support from our community for our Gala," Payne observed. "Our event has grown from 800 guests to 1,000 in the past two years—a change we welcome as it translates into more Inland Empire members knowing what takes place at Loma Linda University Children's Hospital every day. The immense generosity of our guests also allows us to continue supporting the work of Children's Hospital, fulfilling both our mission and vision of providing a healthier tomorrow today."

As guests entered the convention center, they were escorted to registration tables where they were given an engraved LLUCH flashlight, instructions on how to use their smartphone and a personalized link for bidding. Additional devices were available so guests without a smartphone could participate in the dash and auction.

Once everyone was seated, the Mount Rubidoux Children's Choir burst into the auditorium singing a spirited arrangement of "This Little Light of Mine," followed by a rousing rendition of "The Star-Spangled Banner." Their polished performance, laced with enthusiasm and exuberance, set the stage for the high-powered evening that followed.

After the invocation by Payne, Kerry Heinrich strode onto the stage on crutches. The CEO of Loma Linda University Medical Center quipped that next year, they will put him in a body cast to generate sympathy for hospitalized children. Heinrich welcomed attendees to the event and thanked them for coming out to support the children of the Inland Empire.

Andy Carpiac, owner of Hard Rock Hotel Palm Springs, followed Heinrich's remarks by noting that the staff and ownership of his organization is honored to be affiliated with Loma Linda University Children's Hospital and to serve as presenting sponsor for the 23rd annual Foundation Gala. Carpiac spoke passionately about the



The Silhouettes, a group made famous by their success in NBC's America's Got Talent, was on hand to help with the celebration as Loma Linda University Children's Hospital Foundation leaders announced a record-setting grand total of more than \$1.3 million raised during the evening.

importance of strengthening the community by building a stronger, healthier, and happier future for children.

Charity auctioneer Jim Nye, who has been a regular feature at the Gala for many years, took the stage following Carpiac's appearance and led the audience in the dash auction. As volunteers wheeled several platform boards into the arena—each one crisscrossed with blocks designating different monetary amounts—Nye encouraged members of the audience to come up and select a block containing a gift amount they were willing to donate. His steady repartee paid off: after a few minutes, he announced that each block had been filled, and that the dash had just raised \$20,000 for Children's Hospital.

Heather Froglear, the K-FROG 95.1 and 92.9 FM radio personality who served as emcee for the evening, joined Scott Perryman, senior vice president for LLU Children's Hospital, in recognizing and thanking sponsors for supporting the event.

They mentioned several by name, including:

- ♥ Andy and Kelley Carpiac, whose Hard Rock Hotel of Palm Springs was the presenting sponsor of the event for the second year
- ♥ Patrick Peterson, project manager for

McCarthy Building Companies and MPS JV for sponsoring the Shirley N. Pettis Award

- ♥ Dan Anderson, CEO and President of Riverside Community Health Foundation, which offered a matching gift of \$200,000

- ♥ The four chapters of the Big Hearts for Little Hearts Guild—Desert, Loma Linda, Riverside and Temecula Valley—for sponsoring the Outstanding Clinician Award, and

- ♥ The more than 70 organizations and individuals that served as Radiant, Luminous, Vivid, Brilliant, Shining, and Glowing sponsors.

In addition, Froglear and Perryman noted that more than 100 individual volunteers donated their time to make the event run smoothly.

Perryman introduced Candace Ransom, winner of the 2015 Hometown Hero Award. Ransom lost her son, Lucas, to a shark attack off the Santa Barbara County coast in October 2010. To honor his legacy, she began collecting medals from marathon and triathlon runners and donating them to the patients of Loma Linda University Children's Hospital. Since young hospital patients face great challenges, she hoped the medals would encourage them to fight for a victorious outcome in

their struggles with illness and disease. To date, Medals of Courage, the charity Ransom founded, has donated thousands of medals to hospitalized children around the country.

The inaugural 2015 Outstanding Clinician Award went to Antranik Bedros, MD, who developed the first pediatric hematology/oncology program in the Inland Empire at Children's Hospital decades ago. Throughout his career, Bedros has treated thousands of pediatric cancer patients and witnessed groundbreaking changes in the profession. "Dr. Bedros," as the mother of one of his patients wrote, "is brilliant, caring, and the best there is. He cared for my son for eight years and I thank God daily that he was given Dr. Bedros as his doctor."

Richard Hart, MD, DrPH, president of Loma Linda University Health, presented the 2015 Light the Path Award to James and Rowena Ramos. Hart pointed out that the Ramos' have dedicated their lives to helping others. Through the James and Rowena Ramos Endowment, the philanthropic couple has led the way to enable Children's Hospital to provide the best possible care for hospitalized children from the Inland Empire and Desert communities. Hart also commended Mr. and Mrs. Ramos for supporting the annual Seeds of

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## Many Strengths. One Mission.

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## Doctors perform unprecedented facial re-implantation surgery on 2-year-old dog bite victim

By Briana Pastorino

**M**ariah Salomon is like any other two-year-old—she loves to play and is very outspoken, although she may be a little shy at first.

Her mom, Veronica Peña, refers to

her as “a little princess” who has everyone “wrapped around her finger.”

And thanks to doctors at Loma Linda University Children’s Hospital (LLUCH), everyone is still wrapped around her finger!

A team of specialized surgeons

successfully re-implanted a portion of a Mariah’s face after she was attacked by a dog.

The incident occurred in August last year. The dog had removed a large portion of her face – from the top of her nose to the top of her lip, including part

of her left cheek. Her story was shared at the 23rd annual Loma Linda University Children’s Hospital Foundation Gala, presented by Hard Rock Hotel Palm Springs, on Feb. 11.

Mariah Salomon was airlifted from a  
*Continued next page*



Veronica Peña held her daughter, Mariah Salomon, at the Loma Linda University Children’s Hospital Foundation Gala alongside Paul Walker, MD, on Thursday, February 11.



Nathaniel Peterson, MD, visits with Mariah Salomon and her mom, Veronica Peña, at a checkup at LLUCH after the incident.

## 23rd annual Foundation Gala raises more than \$1.3 million for LLU Children’s Hospital ...

*Continued from page 1*

Hope event, which allows Loma Linda University Behavioral Medicine Center to provide mental health care to Inland Empire youth, and for supporting Shawnee’s Smile, a program established in recognition of the care their granddaughter received at Children’s Hospital. In praising these “outstanding pillars of our community,” Hart said it is an honor to recognize James and Rowena Ramos for their admirable dedication and lifetime of distinguished service to the children of the Inland Empire.

Patrick Peterson presented the 2015 Shirley N. Pettis Award to Clare Sheridan-Matney, MD. In noting that Sheridan-Matney has made the prevention and treatment of child abuse and neglect her life’s work, Peterson noted that the pioneering physician has spent the majority of her career at Children’s Hospital since joining the team during her pediatric residency 33 years ago. He added that Sheridan-Matney examines the wounded children with time, tenderness, care, and love.

Sheridan-Matney has directed the Child Abuse and Neglect Team for Riverside University Health System and served as medical director of the child abuse and neglect teams at both LLUCH

and the San Bernardino County Children’s Assessment Center.

After the story of Mariah Salomon was shared with the audience—for details, see the article above by Briana Pastorino in this edition of Today—Jim Nye returned to chair the silent auction. He introduced Chef Robert Irvine, who hosts a number of culinary shows on the Food Network. Irvine himself issued a \$10,000 challenge for the audience to match, and Trevor Wright, MHA, quickly took the challenge, matching his gift and doubling the contribution.

At the end of the auction, the live entertainment troupe known as The Silhouettes brought their fascinating and uplifting presentation to the screen (or rather, behind it).

The group rose to prominence after a landmark performance on “America’s Got Talent.” Their inspirational story lines and breathtaking imagery have captivated the hearts of audiences all over the world and helped raise money for organizations helping homeless children and people in need.

At the end of The Silhouettes performance, Nye returned to center stage with Peyton, the charming daughter of Heather Froglear, and a former LLUCH patient herself. After congratulating

Peyton for winning the Super Bowl—and subsequently acknowledging his error in confusing her with a certain Mr. Manning who plays quarterback for the Denver Broncos—Nye lead out in the Fund-a-Vision program.

When the final penny was counted, it was announced that the event had raised a record \$1,312,165. As the number flashed across the top of the screen, The Silhouettes suddenly reappeared beneath it, their motions celebrating the donation in their inimitable style.

Moments later, Peyton and Nye called for LLUCH Foundation Chair Mary Ann Xavier, Perryman, and Froglear to join them on stage as a boy and a girl

paraded into view holding a giant check.

In reflecting on the event, Payne spoke of the importance of volunteer involvement in planning and executing the successful Gala, which she called “a very financially successful event.”

She concluded by noting that “at this year’s Illuminate: The Path to Vision 2020 gala, we were delighted by our guests’ feedback of the event—of the many children’s stories that they saw, of The Silhouettes’ custom performance, and of Chef Robert Irvine’s openhandedness. It is our honor to be able to create an event that shares our passion with the community and, in turn, provide them with an amazing night out.”



The Mount Rubidoux Children’s Choir entered convention hall singing a spirited arrangement of “This Little Light of Mine,” followed by a rousing rendition of “The Star-Spangled Banner.”



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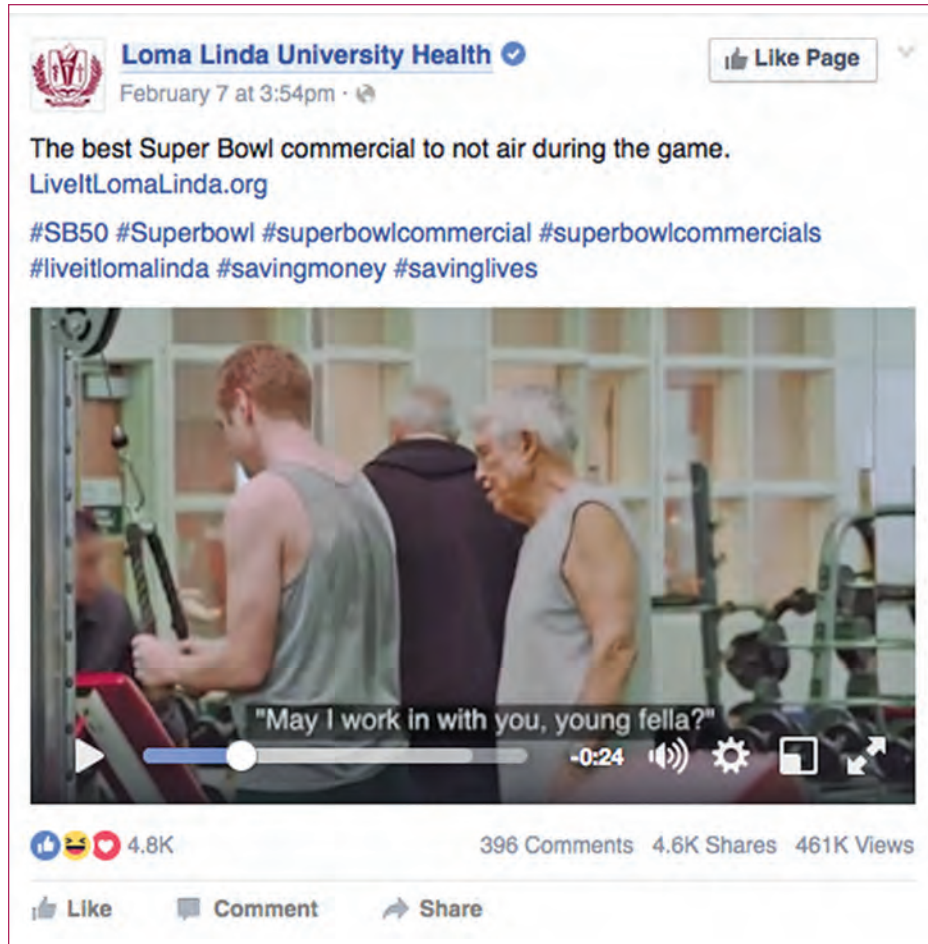
**MANY STRENGTHS. ONE MISSION.**



LOMA LINDA  
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HEALTH

# 'LIVE IT' commercial goes viral on Facebook

By Nancy Yuen



A commercial for "LIVE IT: The Online Health Show," produced by advancement films, has gone viral. As of February 23, the ad, a light-hearted portrayal of a senior "living it," has received 461,000 Facebook views; 4,084 shares and 4,631 likes. The commercial may be viewed there.

"Knowing that Super Bowl weekend was around the corner," says Cosmin Cosma, director, advancement films, "and wanting to capitalize on the buzz surrounding Super Bowl commercials, we decided to release an ad promoting the 'LIVE IT' show on the Loma Linda University Health social media platforms on game day."

He adds, "The social media team suggested that we promote the ad as 'The best Super Bowl commercial to not air during the game.'

"The 30-second commercial focuses on one of the healthy, active seniors our community is known for," Cosma continues. "It shows a senior outdoing a 20-year-old at the Loma Linda University Drayson Center and ends on a text slide that says: 'Learn secrets to living

healthier, longer. LIVE IT: The Online Health Show,' linking back to the show website: [LiveItLomaLinda.org](http://LiveItLomaLinda.org)."

"We contacted Drayson Center," says Cosma, "asking them to suggest an active senior in the community. They identified Don Prior as a good candidate for the commercial. We met with him and he agreed to star in the commercial. Don has a good sense of humor and didn't mind us taking a few minutes of his time to film the commercial."

Both the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists and the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists shared the post with their Facebook fans.

## Doctors perform facial re-implantation ...

*Continued from previous page*

Coachella Valley hospital to LLUCH where a team of specialists, including otolaryngologists Drs. Nathaniel Peterson and Paul Walker, acted immediately to develop a plan to re-implant Mariah's face.

While not knowing if it would be successful, the doctors knew that attempting to re-implant Mariah's face was their only chance at giving her a bright future. They simply had to hope for the best and risk putting her under anesthesia, despite extensive blood loss caused by the initial injury.

"This was something that had to be completed in a matter of hours," said Dr. Alfred Simental, chair, otolaryngology/head neck surgery.

The procedure, which took five hours of intensive work under a surgical microscope, is unprecedented for a patient so young.

Walker said the size of her facial injury was very unique. "Given her age," he said, "and the size of the evulsion injuries successfully re-implanted on a patient this young."

Peterson and Walker worked together to put the arteries back together on each side. They assisted each other, which was key due to the size and difficulty. Post surgery, the team relied on leeches for a week to assist with blood flow until Mariah's veins grew back.

The pediatric intensive care teams were also critical in keeping Mariah alive, keeping her on a ventilator to assist her breathing and replacing her blood volume many times over.

Three weeks after the accident Mariah was able to go home. Aside from some minimal scarring, she is expected to have a full recovery and be able to have the life she was born to live.

"The nurses, doctors, everybody who helped her out—I'm very thankful for everything they did for her," said Peña. "I think Loma Linda University Children's Hospital is the best hospital any parent could ask for."

While it is too early to tell if Mariah will get full sensation back, she is already beginning to get some movement back. Her sense of smell is intact, and she can eat and drink whatever she wants.

"Re-implanting Mariah's facial tissue was probably the most intrinsically rewarding case we have ever done," said Peterson.

The team hopes it will inspire other teams across the country to consider similar interventions.

Simental added, "This reminds us of the joy of why we went into medicine."

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LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY HEALTH

## Adventist Health Study-2 anticipates significant findings in 2016

By James Ponder

New discoveries about the links between diet and health will be announced this year through the Adventist Health Study-2 (AHS-2), a project of Loma Linda University School of Public Health.

According to Michael J. Orlich, MD, PhD, co-investigator, investigations on the following topics are anticipated for publication in research and scientific publications in 2016:

- Calcium and dairy consumption and colorectal cancer
- Calcium and dairy consumption and prostate cancer
- Soy consumption and breast cancer
- Eating specific meats and colorectal cancer
- Meal timing and weight gain
- Tomato consumption and prostate cancer

Orlich says the findings will also be reported to the general public. That's what happened last year when the May 2015 edition of JAMA Internal Medicine published an article he wrote reporting that vegetarians have

22 percent fewer instances of colorectal cancer than non-vegetarians. Nearly 200 media outlets, including several international news agencies, carried the story.

Funded by the National Cancer Institute, Adventist Health Study-2 is based on data gathered from 96,000 members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America, beginning in 2002. It follows earlier studies of health among Adventists stretching back to the 1950s. The collected data is extensive enough that researchers are able to ask specific questions about many aspects of dietary practice and arrive at quantified answers in terms of specific foods and nutrients and their relationship to various cancers.

Orlich says 2015 was a breakthrough year in that the first AHS-2 analyses addressing the risk of specific cancers were published. In addition to his article, Yessenia Tantomongo-Bartley, PhD, published an article on prostate health in the November 2015 edition of the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition. Her analysis showed a 35 percent reduced risk association of prostate cancer in vegans compared to non-vegetarians.

Orlich concludes on a note of gratitude. "We appreciate the extremely



Michael J. Orlich, MD, PhD, co-investigator of the Adventist Health Study-2 at Loma Linda University School of Public Health, says a number of articles are anticipated in research and scientific journals in 2016 exploring links between diet and improved health. The building behind him is one of the original campus cottages dating from the time of Ellen White.

valuable participation of all of our AHS-2 study members," he says. "After years of collecting data on cancer risk, in 2015 we published our first scientific articles from AHS-2 linking diet patterns to the

risk of cancer. We expect 2016 to be an important year with multiple publications relating specific foods and the risk of common cancers, particularly colorectal, breast, and prostate cancers."

## Nearly \$36,000 raised during Ontario Reign's LLU Children's Hospital Night

By Briana Pastorino

The Ontario Reign once again hosted a night dedicated to Loma Linda University Children's Hospital (LLUCH) on Saturday, February 6.

During the game, Reign team members wore custom jerseys boasting the LLUCH logo. Immediately following the game, players signed the jerseys and each was auctioned off with proceeds benefiting the hospital.

All 26 jerseys were auctioned off and sold, as well as a large banner signed by all the players.

Between the auction, a 50/50 drawing

and ticket sales, nearly \$36,000 was raised for the hospital. The Reign has raised over \$160,000 for LLUCH over the last seven years.

Scott Perryman, LLUCH administrator attended the event and thanked the audience. "Tonight we have nearly 200 children receiving care at Loma Linda University Children's Hospital," he said. "Not only are they fighting to get better, but everyone here is fighting with them through their support. Thank you for making a difference in their lives and the thousands of others that we treat."

The evening also featured various LLUCH patients including two who were honored. Kannan Harrington, 11,

from Rancho Cucamonga, was honored as the "Hero of the Night."

Emily Stauffer, 11, from Redlands was chosen to kick off the game with the

first puck drop.

Select patients in attendance also had a chance to ride the Zamboni on the ice between periods.

In addition to celebrating the children at LLUCH, the Reign celebrated another victory, defeating the San Jose Barracudas 3-2 in front of a packed arena.



LLUCH patient, Emily Stauffer, shook hands with Reign player Vincent LoVerde after dropping the first puck of the night during Ontario Reign's LLUCH night, Saturday, February 7.

## Faculty are invited to the first annual Service Learning Spring Colloquium

Contributed report

Loma Linda University Health has been engaged in the community for decades. The benefits to both students and the community are known throughout the region and country, and extend internationally.

Alumni of Loma Linda University Health (LLUH) often tell us that opportunities provided through volunteering, internships, Students for International Mission Service (SIMS) and Community-Academic Partners in Service (CAPS) inspired them to continue in a lifetime of service.

In 2013, a project that built on the existing nature and character of Loma Linda University Health was initiated to officially designate courses requiring community-engaged work as service learning courses. While many programs and departments at Loma Linda University offer service learning courses, there was no official definition of service learning. There also was no way to measure the impact of service

throughout the institution.

This was discovered when LLUH applied for Carnegie Community Engagement Classification, a national and international standard for higher education service learning. LLUH was not awarded the classification and will reapply in 2019, when the next applications will be accepted.

The group overseeing the reapplication process is the academic service learning committee, under the office of educational effectiveness, along with representatives from Loma Linda University's eight schools.

In 2014, they authored the definition of service learning for LLUH to read: "Service-learning is a structured learning experience that combines community engagement with academic preparation, reflection and ongoing assessment."

### Course review process

How does the LLUH service learning review begin? The easiest question to answer in the service learning course

*Continued on page 5*



Service learning takes place in each of the eight schools at Loma Linda University Health. All faculty are invited to the first annual Service Learning Spring Colloquium April 18, 2016, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon in the Wong Kerlee International Conference Center.

# Representatives from Mexican Consulate in San Bernardino meet with Loma Linda University School of Public Health

By Susan Onuma

Representatives from the Consulate of Mexico in San Bernardino, California, met with Loma Linda University School of Public Health dean, Helen Hopp Marshak, and Sam Soret, executive director, Center for Community Resilience, and associate dean for research.

Consul Hugo Rene Oliva presented

a check for \$36,000 in appreciation and continued support of Loma Linda University's management of the "Ventanilla de Salud" (Health Window).

Graciela Molina, MA, a faculty member of LLU School of Public Health, has managed the daily operations of the "Ventanilla de Salud" (Health Window), San Bernardino, as coordinator, for five years. During that time, the program has seen significant growth, in both its

service offerings and in usage.

The Ventanilla de Salud is a program designed by the Government of Mexico and developed through the U.S. Department of Health and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to improve the physical and mental health of Mexican nationals living in the United States and to increase access to primary and preventive health insurance coverage and ensure culturally sensitive services in order to reduce the use of emergency services.

The program has been implemented through 50 Mexican consulates in the

United States and each state's local health organizations.

"The government of Mexico and Mexican Consulate has been very supportive of our work with the Ventanilla de Salud," stated Dr. Hopp Marshak. "We look forward to supporting and managing this program for as long as they will have us."

The Ventanilla de Salud provide reliable information on health topics, counseling and referrals to health services available and accessible in local communities.



Members of the Mexican Consulate in San Bernardino met with representatives from LLU School of Public Health, including, from left: Tammy Garcia Chiang, community affairs coordinator, Consulado de México en San Bernardino; Graciela Molina, MA, LLU School of Public Health and coordinator for Ventanilla de Salud (Health Window), Consulado de México; Helen Hopp Marshak, PhD, dean, Loma Linda University School of Public Health; Hugo Rene Oliva, Consulado de México; and Sam Soret, executive director, Center for Community Resilience, and associate dean for research, LLU School of Public Health.

# Big Hearts for Little Hearts Loma Linda Guild treats patients to Valentine's Day craft and book party

By Briana Pastorino

Patients at Loma Linda University Children's Hospital (LLUCH) were treated to hearts and crafts courtesy of the Big Hearts for Little Hearts Loma Linda Guild, which recently hosted the annual Loving Hearts Loving You Valentine's Day party.

Guild members along with LLUCH child life services staff worked together to make a therapeutic environment where the patients could create crafts

and read books. Each child received an age appropriate book and a Valentine's Day teddy bear provided by the Loma Linda Guild.

"This event is part of the Loma Linda Guild's mission to enhance the overall experience of the precious children at Loma Linda University Children's Hospital," said Guild president, Dixie Watkins.

In addition to the usual fare of the Valentine's Day celebration, a few fairy  
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# Faculty are invited to the first annual Service Learning Spring Colloquium ...

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review process is the first one: "Does this course require students to engage with the community?"

To receive official service learning designation, the course must answer in the affirmative with evidence from their course description or syllabus. This often begs the question: what is community?

For the purposes of the courses under review, the community may be many things: grass roots groups, non-profit organizations, government offices, individuals in neighborhood groups, and community partners of Loma Linda University Health.

Community engagement is synonymous with service learning; students are

at the site of a community partner while completing their coursework through their service assignment (as defined by the partner often in collaboration with the faculty).

It is impossible to pass a service learning course without sufficient time in the community, understanding the needs of the community and communicating professionally to accomplish the objectives of the community partner.

This in-context experience gives the student the opportunity to navigate

some of their assumptions, and finishing their community engagement experience with a better understanding of people who have a different situation or objective than their own.

How is community engagement by service learning different than merely volunteering? At LLUH, students who are under the umbrella of an educational experience, are able to reinforce what they are learning in the classroom with what they learn as they perform community engagement hours.

During service learning courses, faculty members academically prepare them for their service sites and review their structured critical reflections. This process enhances the student's learning experience.

This educational continuum works as a thread—from classroom, to community, to final assignments. While service learning and volunteering both provide the benefit of service to the community, it has been found that students who are completing service learning engage more with course material as they "live it" in real life situations.

Loma Linda University Health students receive an excellent education in a variety of health professions. The university is actively fulfilling its vision—transforming lives through education, health care and research—by offering service learning experiences that help form good practices which continue in service, both professionally and in the community.

To learn more, LLUH faculty are invited to attend the First Annual Service Learning Spring Colloquium April 18, 2016, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The colloquium will be held in the Wong Kerlee International Conference Center. A light breakfast will be included; RSVP by March 25, 2016, to [bspoelstra@llu.edu](mailto:bspoelstra@llu.edu).

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## LLUSM Basic Sciences department hosts 3rd annual family day awards banquet

By James Ponder

A total of 61 Loma Linda University School of Medicine (LLUSM) students were honored during the 3rd annual family day awards banquet, which was hosted by the department of basic sciences on Friday, February 12, in Wong Kerlee International Conference Center.

After opening remarks by Penelope Duerksen-Hughes, PhD, associate dean for basic sciences and translational research, a prayer by John Jeppson, basic science student council religious vice president, and a welcome from Henry Lamberton, PsyD, associate dean for student affairs, Roger Hadley, MD, LLUSM dean, offered a tribute titled, "Loma Linda—A Historical Perspective."

"LLU began as an inspiration of one woman—Ellen White," Hadley said. "She instructed her faithful assistant, John Burden, to buy a bankrupt hotel for \$50,000 and turned it into a healing place where individuals could regain their health, both physically and mentally.

"Ellen White wrote that 'the medical school at Loma Linda is to be of the highest order,'" he continued. "One hundred and ten years later, those words drive our mission every day."

Hadley also noted that the genesis of the Adventist emphasis on health began in tragedy when two of Ellen White's sons, one 16 and the other still in infancy, died within a few months of each other from infectious diseases. "The death of those two children prompted her to push for Adventists to become involved in health," Hadley said.

Hadley displayed the headline and opening paragraph of an October 22, 2014 Wall Street Journal article by Douglas Belkin to draw his conclusion that spirituality is value-added to the quality of an LLUSM education:

"At \$201,000 a year, Harvard Law School alumni earn more than those of

any other U.S. graduate school by the midpoint in their careers," the article said, "and Loma Linda University graduates are the most confident that they are making the world a better place."

Leah Rowland, president of the basic science student council, introduced Michael Samardzija, PhD, JD, associate vice president of research development, as the keynote speaker.

Samardzija began his speech, titled "The Business of Science," by noting that the presence of more than 20,000 infectious diseases in the world, along with continuing sharp cost increases, have combined to create a crisis of perfect storm proportions in the world of health care delivery.

"It takes between \$1 and \$4 billion to bring a new biological product to market over a period of 10 to 14 years," Samardzija continued. "Obviously, nobody is going to fund that unless they can make a profit."

He then gave aspiring scientists and researchers a three-tier formula for developing the kinds of innovation and communication skills necessary for them to make an impact in today's highly monetized world of health science.

"First," he said, "learn to be a storyteller." He said the ability to craft a compelling story is the most effective way to convince investors, collaborators, big pharma and big health care to get behind a new cure or treatment that could conceivably bring enormous dividends to humanity.

"Let them see your enthusiasm, your confidence, and your desire communicated in the form of a story," he continued. "Stories are less likely to be resisted than other forms of communication; telling stories is a far more effective way to get your message across than all the facts and figures in the world."

For his second point, Samardzija told the students to develop a diverse network. "The more connections you

have, the better," he said. By way of illustration, he told the story of how the cancer drug Taxol was discovered by researchers studying an extract of the Pacific yew tree.

"They could never have brought their product to market," he observed, "without telling their story to everyone in their network. It took a very wide network of people to bring it to market."

Samardzija's third point encapsulated and combined the first two. "Share your story with the people in your network." He recalled the story of how Watson and Crick, the people credited with discovering the double helix structure of the DNA molecule, were only able to determine the correct structure after sharing their story with a wide network of friends, colleagues and acquaintances.

"Share that compelling story with your diverse network," Samardzija concluded, adding that by following these three principles, they can make an impact in the world of science and health.

Following Samardzija's remarks, Tammi Thomas, MD, vice dean for academic affairs, announced the heart of the 3rd annual program, the presentation of the white coats. She then called on: Ben Nava, PhD, vice chair of anatomy; Penelope Duerksen-Hughes, PhD, vice chair of biochemistry; Charles Wang, MD, PhD, MPH, professor of microbiology and molecular genetics; John Buckholz, PhD, vice chair of pharmacology; John Zhang, MD, PhD, vice chair of physiology; and Suzanne Phillips, PhD, chair of earth and biological sciences, to help put the white coats on the following students:

### Anatomy

Jonathan M. Baio

### Biochemistry

Nate Matei

Nicholas Sanchez

John B. Tan

Carson D. Whinnery

### Earth and Biological Sciences

Emilia Belia

Tyler Dos Santo

Grace Esebanmen

Ana M. Martinez

Amanda Meacham

Lance R. Pompe

Christian Sarfo-Poku

Sandra Waresak

Summer Rose Weeks

### Physiology

Justin R. Camara

Richard J. Camara

Naomi Jackson

Others honored at the event were first-year students and students who are advancing to candidacy in their respective academic programs. First-year students:

Samuel A. Abdala

Ezinne R. Aja

Hameed S. Alenazi

Ivana M. Alicea-Polanco

Evgeny A. Chirsev

Tiantlan Liu

Zebedayo N. Masongo

Nicole U. Mavingre

Karina Mayagoitia

George T. Mukosera

Greisha L. Ortiz-Hernandez

Janviere Kabagwira

Jonathan V. Wooten

Julia Kim

Marsha K. Wright

Mary Beth J. Yu

Students advancing to candidacy:

### Anatomy

Jonathan M. Baio

Amber Gonda

### Biochemistry

Leah K. Rowland

Yan Chen Wongworawat

### Earth and Biological Sciences

Emilia Belia

Carlos Cerna

Richard Cochran

Jamey Cooper

Jankel Coronado

Kenneth Coulson

Grace Esebanmen

Gerad Fox

Matthew McLain

Sarah Maithel

Ana Martinez

Amanda Meacham

Carl Person

Lance Pompe

Christian Sarfo-Poku

Sandra Waresak

Summer Rose Weeks

### Microbiology

Billy A. Watson

### Pharmacology

Petreena S. Campbell

### Physiology

Brandon J. Dixon

Lara Durrant

Jacque C. Mbongue

Andrew Song

To conclude the meeting, Thomas and Duerksen-Hughes distributed business cards to the student physicians, Duerksen-Hughes administered "The Scientist's Oath" to the group, and Leonard Brand, PhD, professor of earth and biological sciences, offered the benediction.



Michael Samardzija, PhD, JD, associate vice president of research development, delivers the keynote address at the 3rd annual family day awards banquet, hosted by the Loma Linda University School of Medicine department of basic sciences. The event was held February 12 in Wong Kerlee International Conference Center.

## Big Hearts for Little Hearts Loma Linda Guild treats patients to Valentine's Day craft and book party ...

Continued from page 5

tale princesses also stopped by to visit with the children.

The Big Hearts for Little Hearts Loma Linda Guild was created in 1999

and is committed to raising funds to ensure critical medical care for the children at LLUCH. The organization has raised over \$1.4 million since its inception.



Gina Harlow, 6, from Bloomington, enjoyed hearts and crafts with one of the visiting princesses at the 'Loving Hearts Loving You' Valentine's Day party at Loma Linda University Children's Hospital.

## Marckini honored by National Association of Proton Treatment (NAPT) with a Lifetime Achievement Award



Bob Marckini receives a Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Association of Proton Therapy, at their annual conference held in New Orleans, LA, January 2016. Pictured above are, from left: Steve Jacobs, special assistant to President Richard Hart, Loma Linda University Health; Bob Marckini; Lynn Martell, director of special services, Loma Linda University Health; Len Arzt, NAPT founding executive director; and Todd Ketch, current NAPT executive director.

By Susan Onuma

The National Association of Proton Therapy recognized Bob Marckini with its Lifetime Achievement Award at the annual conference held in New Orleans, Louisiana, last month.

When the National Association of Proton Therapy (NAPT) chose to honor Bob Marckini, founding executive director, Len Arzt said, "Next to Dr. James M. Slater, Bob Marckini has done more to increase patient access to proton therapy than anyone else."

He continued, "As the founder of the Brotherhood of the Balloon, the only patient advocacy group that can claim the majority of patients treated with a particular modality as members, Bob has provided thousands of prostate cancer patients with objective information that enables them to make informed choices about their care."

Author of the bestselling book "You can beat prostate cancer, and you don't



Bob Marckini

need surgery to do it," Marckini has been an advocate for proton therapy since his own experience with the treatment method back in 2000.

After his personal experience, Marckini and a few other patients of the James M. Slater, MD, Proton Treatment and Research Center at Loma Linda University Medical Center established an organization called the Brotherhood of the Balloon (BOB).

This group is composed of prostate cancer patients who elected to receive proton therapy as treatment for their cancer.

Today, the Brotherhood has more than 8,000 members from all 50 states and 39 different countries. Members represent all nineteen operating proton centers in the U.S. as well as four proton centers in Europe and Asia.

Marckini's daughter Deb Hickey, who shares leadership responsibilities of the BOB organization with her father, says of her dad, "Helping others learn about proton therapy and calming their fears became his life, and he sacrificed much to keep it going. My dad has made a huge difference in this world because of his compassion for others. I'm overjoyed that he is being recognized for his work in such a meaningful way."

When Slater and his team launched the first clinical proton center in the world at Loma Linda University Medical Center in 1990, it was referred to as "a beam of hope."

Through the efforts of his son, Jerry Slater, MD, chair of the department of radiation medicine at Loma Linda, that beam of hope is even brighter today, 26 years later.

Marckini has carried that message of hope to men around the world. While some in the medical community speak guardedly about the benefits of proton therapy for certain disease sites, all of the Loma Linda patients, and the members of the Brotherhood of the Balloon, are the proton community's strongest advocates.

Marckini's personal mission is to bring health, healing, and wholeness to those persons with cancer and other diseases through the clinical application of proton therapy.

The National Association of Proton Therapy has validated this mission, and has extended its greatest honor to Marckini for his work in this area.

The National Association for Proton Therapy (NAPT) is the voice of the proton community, providing education and awareness for the public, professional and government communities.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS



Big Hearts for Little Hearts Desert Guild invites you to join them for

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Tuesday  
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## Desert Guild hosts second sold-out Lunch & Learn Cooking Demonstration

By Briana Pastorino

The Big Hearts for Little Hearts Desert Guild hosted its second sellout event of the season benefiting Loma Linda University Children's Hospital (LLUCH).

The second of three Lunch & Learn Cooking Demonstrations took place at Hideaway Golf Club, located in La Quinta, California, on Monday, January 25.

The sold-out event welcomed more than 100 guests who were entertained by the skills of the golf club's restaurant's executive chef, Brian Bennington, who prepared a three-course vanilla-infused lunch.

Guests started with butternut squash soup, followed by poached apple and vanilla stuffed breast of chicken, and ended on a sweet note with vanilla scented chocolate crême brûlée.

Prior to the cooking demonstration, Adrian Lavery, MD, MPH, a neonatologist at LLUCH, spoke to guests about the highly specialized neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) at the hospital, which serves more than 2,000 kids from the Coachella Valley annually.

Lavery emphasized how imperative the support of the guild is to the patients treated at the hospital.

"Thank you for making my job worthwhile," he said. "The doctors and nurses at Loma Linda University Children's Hospital can't do what they do without the support of the Desert Guild."

Two Coachella Valley children who were recently treated by Lavery and his team at LLUCH were a testament to that specialized care.

Nineteen-month-old twins, Callia and Matthew Castleberry, were treated in the NICU at LLUCH after being born two months prematurely.

Prior to their birth, Matthew had had complications that affected his kidney, which ultimately led to their early delivery.

Despite the challenges they faced, they are now healthy and active toddlers. Callia and Matthew spent two months and five months (respectively) in the NICU. The family shared their story with guests, expressing their gratitude to the medical team that cared for them and their children.

"Our faith in God and the faith the doctors had in our family is why we are here today," said Angelina Castleberry. "Through all the troubles, everyday is a good day. Our family breathed hope from the moment we walked in to Loma Linda University Children's Hospital."

Angelina and her husband Matthew were told their son's prognosis was bleak with failed kidney functions, and the doctors did whatever was possible for their twins.

Angelina added, "The time in the NICU was an incredible experience. The doctors and nurses are still our family and we visit often."

Matthew is still receiving dialysis four times a week.

While their children were in the NICU, the Castleberry family learned about Big Hearts for Little Hearts Desert Guild and the resources the guild had donated to the hospital, such as the satellite pharmacy that provided medications for their children.

At the conclusion of the event, Desert Guild president Terry Seigel thanked

guests for attending, acknowledging that their participation benefits patients at LLUCH like Callia and Matthew.

"They are living proof of what we do," Seigel said. "It's the generosity of our members that allows the Guild to provide for the NICU at Loma Linda University Children's Hospital."

The Desert Guild is committed to supporting the children at LLUCH by developing and supporting projects that address the critical needs of hospitalized children from the Coachella Valley and their families.

For more information on the Big Hearts for Little Hearts Desert Guild, call 909-558-5384 or visit [lluch.org/guilds](http://lluch.org/guilds).



Children's Hospital neonatologist Adrian Lavery, MD, MPH, had a private moment with former patient Matthew Castleberry who is held by his dad, also Matthew Castleberry, at a Desert Guild fundraiser on January 25. Photo courtesy Don Finch

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## Loma Linda University Health and the Bear Valley Community Healthcare District enter into an affiliation agreement

By Susan Onuma

Loma Linda University Health and the Bear Valley Community Healthcare District have entered into an affiliation agreement in order to enhance community access to high quality care in the Bear Valley.

The two parties met at Bear Valley Community Hospital on February 10, to kick off the affiliation.

“Loma Linda University Health is focused on improving the health status of communities and individuals throughout the expansive four county region it serves,” said Kerry Heinrich, CEO of Loma Linda University Medical Center and executive vice president, hospital services, Loma Linda University Health. “We are delighted for this new opportunity to expand our services in this community and work in collaboration with the Bear Valley Community Healthcare District.”

Under this affiliation agreement, Loma Linda University Health will provide resources to district-run Bear Valley Community Hospital, enhancing medical and hospital services to the Bear Valley community. Additionally, on-site specialty care in selected service areas will be developed, where feasible, at Bear Valley Community Hospital and the Bear Valley Community Hospital

Rural Health Clinic.

The affiliation will provide a streamlined system for patient referrals for those in need of specialty care not available at Bear Valley Community Hospital, such as oncology, cardiology, endocrinology, and neurosurgical services.

A plan is also being developed to conduct regularly scheduled specialty services and consultations via telemedicine using telecommunication and information technologies that will provide clinical health care from a distance. The partnership is also investigating the establishment of a program where Bear Valley Community Hospital will serve as a rural training site for Loma Linda University medical students and residents.

David Faulkner, chief executive officer of Bear Valley Community Hospital, said,

“The mission of the Bear Valley Healthcare District is to deliver the highest quality healthcare to the residents of and visitors to Bear Valley through the most effective use of available resources. The affiliation with Loma Linda University Health is an exciting opportunity for us and for the community we serve.”

“This affiliation with Bear Valley Community Healthcare District and Bear Valley Community Hospital is another



An event announcing an affiliation agreement between Loma Linda University Health and Bear Valley Community Healthcare District was held at Bear Valley Community Hospital Feb. 10. Pictured at the event, from left to right are: David M. Faulkner, interim CEO, Bear Valley Community Healthcare District; Barbara Wiley, 1st vice president, board of directors; Donna Nicely, president, board of directors; David Caretto, mayor of Big Bear Lake; Trevor Wright, COO, Loma Linda University Medical Center (LLUMC); Peter Baker, vice president, business development, LLUMC; and Andrew Hibbert, manager, business development, LLUMC.

step in fulfilling our strategic plan for establishing a clinical integration network that increases our ability to provide quality healthcare to local communities while also offering easy access to tertiary, quaternary

and advanced specialty care for the vast four-county area that falls within our area of responsibility,” stated Loma Linda University Health president, Richard Hart, MD, DrPH.

## Farmer Boys raises more than \$100,000 for hospital from ‘Give a Helping Hand’ fundraiser

By Briana Pastorino

Farmer Boys presented Loma Linda University Children’s Hospital (LLUCH) with a check for more than \$100,000 on Tuesday,

Feb. 16, which was raised during their 15th annual “Give a Helping Hand” fundraiser. The fundraiser has raised \$540,657 for LLUCH since 2001.

“Farmer Boys has been a true Champion for Children through

their continued commitment to our patients,” said LLUCH administrator, Scott Perryman. “We appreciate their ongoing support.”

Over the years, Farmer Boys has impacted many areas including the cardiac intensive care unit and the neonatal intensive care unit. They have also been a supporter of the hospital’s annual Children’s Day, which has impacted thousands of the community’s children.

The “Give a Helping Hand” fundraiser, held October 12–November 8,

2015, invited guests to make a donation by purchasing a paper “Be a Champion for Children” icon for \$1 or more. The Farmer Boys restaurants in Mira Loma, Grove and Rialto were the top three, respectively, highest earning restaurants for the fundraiser.

During the presentation, Farmer Boys CEO, Demetris Havadjias, talked about his love for children as his motivation for giving back. “I have great admiration for Loma Linda University Children’s Hospital,” he said. “I hope and wish no parent or child has to experience the hospital, but if they do, this is the place to be. It is the best hospital in the world, and I’m very proud to be a sponsor.”



LLUCH patient, Jacob Nelson, 8, from Apple Valley, proudly held the check presented from Farmer Boys alongside Farmer Boys President and COO, Karen Eadon (left), and CEO, Demetris Havadjias, on Tuesday, February 16.



Representatives from Spirit Stores presented a check to LLUCH on Tuesday, February 2.

## Child life program benefits from \$54,100 Spirit Stores gift

By Briana Pastorino

Patients at Loma Linda University Children’s Hospital (LLUCH) were filled with spirit after a generous check for \$54,100 was presented to the hospital from Spirit Stores Tuesday, February 2.

“Spirit stores and their employees are passionate about this fundraiser, and it shows through their hard work,” said Jillian Payne, executive director, LLUCH Foundation.

Spirit Stores hosted their annual “Spirit of Children” in-store fundraiser in all of their Southern California locations throughout the Fall 2015 season, which is only a six-week period. Spirit customers were encouraged to donate funds to support LLUCH child life program.

Jose Lopez, district manager, Spirit Stores, said he is glad to be a part of the effort to raise funds for the hospital, and is eager to keep the momentum going. “We are driving to move forward,” he

said, noting that, “every year we’ve raised more money than the previous.”

Over the past six years they have successfully raised and donated over \$242,000 to LLUCH, which will directly support the child life program at the hospital. Child life specialists work to minimize fears and stress experienced by children, adolescents and families during hospitalization and develop age appropriate activities for patients ranging in age from birth to young adult.

LLUCH administrator Scott Perryman expressed his gratitude to Spirit Stores for their generosity to the child life program. “Child life is of incredible value to the kids and their healing process,” he said. “I am blown away by the six-year contribution Spirit has made.”

One LLUCH patient who was able to attend the presentation was Mikel Pleasant, 8, from Homeland, who also provided brief musical entertainment on the keyboard for those in attendance.

## Elaine Hart, MD, receives Kinzer-Rice award for excellence in university teaching

By James Ponder

**E**laine Hart, MD, assistant professor and director of the obstetrics and gynecology (OB/Gyn) student clerkship program at Loma Linda University School of Medicine (LLUSM), received the 2016 Kinzer-Rice award for excellence in university teaching during an evening ceremony on Thursday, February 4 in the Centennial Complex.

Hart—whose children used to tell inquirers that, “Yes, we are related to Dr. Hart, but not the one you’re thinking of”—was nominated for the honor by a recent former student. Her teaching philosophy grows out of a natural love for people and her enthusiasm for her chosen profession.

“I like to get to know my students, to find out what brought them into medicine, and to learn what is their passion,” she says. “I know they don’t all want to

choose OB/Gyn for their careers, but I want this to be a great rotation for them. I want them to refer back to what they learned in OB/Gyn and be able to better care for pregnant or lactating patients as a result.”

According to an online article at <http://home.llu.edu/academics/academic-resources/faculty-development/kinzer-rice-award>, the purpose of the biennial award is to “call attention to the importance of teaching in the life of Loma Linda University and to honor a full-time faculty member every two years who exemplifies the finest traditions of education.” Faculty members from all eight Loma Linda University schools are eligible for the award, but only one is selected to receive the \$1,000 cash gift and commemorative medallion. The award is named after two deceased LLU School of Dentistry faculty members, Drs. Robert Kinzer and Bruce Rice.



Elaine Hart, MD, watches as Roger Hadley, MD, prepares to place the Kinzer-Rice award for excellence in university teaching around her neck. Hart, an assistant professor and director of the OB/Gyn student clerkship program at Loma Linda University School of Medicine, is the 2016 recipient of the award, which is bestowed biennially on one individual from the entire university. Hadley is dean of the school.

Hart became a physician later in life. “I was 40 when I went to medical school,” she discloses. “I’ve been a physician for 16 years including my residency. I’m very homegrown: I graduated from LLUSM in 2000 and did my residency here. Then I was asked to stay on as an attending physician. I was delighted, because I love teaching.”

Caring for OB/Gyn patients was a passion of Hart’s long before she became a physician.

“I went to medical school after a career in nursing,” she reveals. “I did two years of medical/surgical nursing and telemetry, and the rest of my 19-year nursing career was spent in labor and delivery and home care of high-risk pregnancy patients.”

Medical school is hardly the easiest course of study, but two extenuating circumstances added to the challenges for Hart.

“I worked as a nurse through medical school until my residency,” she reports, “and I had three teenagers while I was back in school. I even became a grandma during my residency.”

Hart met her husband, Jim, while they were both attending a grief recovery class after their first spouses passed away. They discovered mutual interests in road biking and travel. In fact, they got engaged during a biking tour of France, Germany and Switzerland. “It was amazing,” she recalls. “The guy who ran the tour said that had never happened before.”

“Better say I’m a bicyclist,” she clarifies, “because I would never ride a motorcycle. While I was in medical school, we spent a day in the morgue and there were two 18-year-olds there who both died in motorcycle accidents. But I love going on 25- to 30-mile bicycle rides. It’s a great way to stay in shape and enjoy the fresh air and beauty of the great outdoors.”

“I also love to travel,” she continues. “Hawaii, the Caribbean, Europe. I love my bike! It’s just really fun. I also love snorkeling. In fact, we’re leaving on a Caribbean cruise Thursday night and I can hardly wait! I like hiking; anything that gets me to scenic places.”

Hart maintains an active family life. With a total of five children—three of whom grew up to be nurses—five grandchildren “and two more on the way,” life is never boring. Right now, she is excited because one of the two grandchildren scheduled to enter the world this year is a boy; the first in the family. And although she would rather have a dog, Hart has a cat named Piglet. “She snorts,” she explains. “Someone else named her.”



When she isn’t inspiring students to care for pregnant and lactating women with compassion and skill, Elaine Hart, MD, assistant professor and director of the OB/Gyn student clerkship program at Loma Linda University School of Medicine (LLUSM), loves to ride bicycles with her husband, Jim. She was recently revealed as the 2016 winner of the Kinzer-Rice award for excellence in university teaching—the first clinician to receive the award.

## New scholarship established to honor the legacy of Matthew Lynn Schrader at LLU School of Allied Health Professions

By James Ponder

**A** new scholarship fund at Loma Linda University School of Allied Health Professions (SAHP) aims to help students in the physical therapy assistant (PTA) program offset the cost of their education while perpetuating the legacy of one of the school’s most enthusiastic graduates.

After Matthew Lynn Schrader graduated from the program in 2001, he went to work in the Murrieta and Temecula area. According to his parents, Mike and Jeanne Schrader, Matthew loved helping patients recover their fullest potential.

“Matthew had a passion for helping people,” Jeanne reflects. “He didn’t see his work as a PTA as a job—he really enjoyed the patients he worked with and took great joy in getting to know them personally. Working as a PTA was more than providing a service. For Matthew, it was an opportunity to spend quality time with his patients.”

“One patient told us about how nervous she was to receive physical therapy,” Jeanne shares. “But he told her, ‘I am not here to hurt you, but to help you.’ Matthew also worked with a quadriplegic patient with whom he grew quite close. Because he was limited in what he could do for this patient physically, he

would spend quality time watching football with him. Another patient is now going into the field of sports medicine because of the impact Matthew made in

her life. She stated he was her greatest inspiration.”

Mike recalls that Matthew was also a wonderful son, husband, and father.



The first fundraising event ever held on the campus of California Polytechnic State University (Cal Poly) in San Luis Obispo to benefit a scholarship fund at Loma Linda University School of Allied Health Professions turned out to be a really big deal. Not only did the daylong festivities raise approximately \$11,000 for the Matthew Lynn Schrader Memorial Scholarship Fund, but it also brought out Cal Poly President Jeffrey D. Armstrong (in the green shirt) and his dog, Musty. (Left to right, front row): Avery and Briley Schrader. (Back row): Jeanne Schrader, Armstrong, Musty, Natalie Kopp, and Mike Schrader.

“As long and as hard as he worked, he always took the time to be with his family and stay connected,” Mike adds.

“Yes,” Jeanne agrees. “He was very passionate about his family and his work and always attributed his success to Loma Linda.”

Matthew’s concern for the health of others went beyond the boundaries of his profession.

“Our hearts were filled when we recently learned that Matthew’s bone marrow helped someone regain their quality of life,” Mike adds. “We are amazed how he helped people while he was alive and how he continues to do so today.”

Tragically, Matthew was killed in a motorcycle accident on January 21, 2014, ironically, while he was en route to the home of one of his patients. In addition to Mike and Jeanne, he left behind two adorable daughters, Avery, now 8, and Briley, now 6, as well as his wife, Sarah.

After the family absorbed the initial waves of disbelief, shock, and grief, they began to think about ways they could memorialize Matthew’s legacy. Since Mike and Jeanne both work at California Polytechnic State University (Cal Poly) in San Luis Obispo, Jeanne discussed the situation with a friend in the

*Continued next page*



Michael Samardzija, PhD, JD, associate vice president for research development, brings an extensive background in both research and legal affairs to his position.

## New associate vice president for research development joins research affairs

By James Ponder

**M**ichael Samardzija, PhD, JD, recently joined the Loma Linda University Health department of research affairs as associate vice president for research development.

Samardzija, who says to pronounce his name “Sam-AR-jia,” began work at Loma Linda on Monday, February 1, although he has been actively consulting on a number of issues for the university since January.

He brings an extensive background to the position. As an intellectual property attorney with over 28 years’ experience

in the life sciences and clean technology sectors—equally divided at 14 years each as a research scientist and an attorney—Samardzija is uniquely poised to spearhead the move to take research findings from the laboratories of Loma Linda to the markets and consumers of the world.

The focus of Samardzija’s career has been to assist life sciences and clean technology companies in securing, transferring, commercializing, and asserting the rights to their innovations.

His experience in patent prosecution and strategy, technology transfer, licensing, technology and product development, acquisition, strategic alliance,

product distribution, and related matters will enhance the university’s effectiveness in bringing research products to market and protecting the interests of the organization and its researchers.

“As Loma Linda University Health’s new associate vice president of research development,” Samardzija says, “I will seek to develop an innovation culture on campus and improve on industry collaborations.”

Prior to moving to Loma Linda, Samardzija served as:

▣ Partner and counsel for Dentons US LLP, the world’s largest law firm

*Continued on page 12*

## How Rodney Roath fits Grow Together into his very busy schedule

By James Ponder

**R**odney Roath, MBA, is one busy man. By day, Roath manages the laboratory education cost center at Loma Linda University Medical Center and chairs the clinical laboratory sciences department at Loma Linda University School of Allied Health Professions.

Chairing the department involves both teaching and managing courses in clinical laboratory science, cytology and phlebotomy. By night and on weekends, Roath juggles studying for a PhD in higher educational administration from Claremont Graduate University and keeping up with family activities.

So when he heard that employees can support a favorite cause by payroll deduction through the Grow Together Employee Giving Program, it sounded like a great idea, especially since it wouldn’t take very much of his precious time.

“I’ve had a payroll deduction for the United Way since the early 1980s,” Roath shares. “I started with that when I first graduated and started working full-time.”

Three years ago, Roath decided to transition his monthly giving to Grow Together. “I wanted to update my giving to keep it within the institution,” he says.

When it came time to pick the specific program he wanted to support through his monthly gift, Roath designated a clinical laboratory science student scholarship fund at the School of Allied Health.

“I was impressed that we should do our part to help,” he recalls, noting that participating in Grow Together allows employees to demonstrate their faith in the organization’s mission and vision for the future.

“My opinion is that it’s not about the money, because most employees can’t afford to give a lot,” Roath observes, “but the engagement is really important. It’s rewarding to feel like you’re part of something and it’s beneficial to the institution to know that the employees feel that way.”

Roath comes from what he describes as “a real Loma Linda family.”

“My wife and I have two grown sons,” he shares, “who are both alumni of Loma Linda. In fact, my wife and I and both of our fathers and our kids are all alumni

from different LLU programs.”

Darin West, director of Grow Together, says it only takes a few minutes for employees to get hooked up to the payroll deduction plan or by using a physical form. Interested employees are invited to go online at <http://advancement.lluhealth.org/grow-together> and click on payroll deductions on the left side of the screen to get started.

“Over the last few months, I have been lucky enough to meet various employees who, like Rodney Roath, participate in Grow Together,” West informs. “Many of us do not view our gifts as giving to our employer, but giving through our employer to support something we believe in. Individually, our gifts might be small, but collectively, they can make a big impact. As someone who grew up in Loma Linda, I am excited to participate in the campaign and see the changes it will bring to the community.”

As for Roath, he’s looking forward to relaxing a little bit when he finishes up the doctoral program.

“I want to take a vacation,” he notes, “catch up on things around the house and spend time with the family. It’s been way too long since I had a vacation!”



Rodney Roath, MBA, keeps extraordinarily busy in his work at Loma Linda University Medical Center and at Loma Linda University School of Allied Health Professions. In his spare time, he’s pursuing a doctoral degree from Claremont Graduate University. Roath appreciates the fact that the Grow Together Employee Giving Program allows him to support scholarships for students, but jokes about needing a vacation.

## New scholarship established to honor the legacy of Matthew Lynn Schrader at LLU School of Allied Health Professions . . .

*Continued from previous page*  
advancement department. He, in turn, suggested the family consider launching a scholarship fund at Loma Linda University in Matthew’s name to help other students afford the quality education Matthew enjoyed so much.

“Have you considered doing something public to recognize Matt’s memory,” the friend asked. “My fundraiser brain got engaged overnight, and I had an idea . . .”

The rest is history. Mike and Jeanne loved the idea and a few days later, reached out to Natalie Kopp, development officer for SAHP.

“Jeanne called me,” Kopp says, “and told me about the family’s desire to start a scholarship. We discussed different options, including the basic requirement for an endowed named scholarship, which is a \$50,000 contribution in five years. They’re going to do that and so much more. They have dedicated 100 percent of their trust to the Matthew Lynn Schrader Memorial Scholarship Fund. They intend on attending the scholarship award ceremony each year

and hope their family will continue to do so after they are no longer able.”

So far, Kopp reports that the Schrader’s have raised approximately \$33,000 from a combination of their own funds as well as a special event they hosted last July.

“The Matthew Lynn Schrader Memorial Softball game, barbecue, and silent auction at Janssen Field was held on the baseball field on the Cal Poly campus,” Natalie reports.

At the July event, a large group of friends and supporters from the San Luis Obispo community turned out, including Jeffrey D. Armstrong, president of Cal Poly SLO, and his dog, Musty. Kopp represented Loma Linda University at the event and said the affection and love of the Schrader’s for their deceased son electrified the day with positive joy.

“It was kind of ironic,” Kopp noted, “the way the people of Cal Poly turned out to support a fundraiser to benefit Loma Linda University. It was inspiring! The whole community supported them. Beside the baseball game, there were

special games for kids, including a base-running competition, balloon making, and face painting. The family is planning to host similar events in the future, and is considering doing something like this in Loma Linda as well.”

In reality, the Schrader’s held a luncheon in 2014 at Mu Restaurant in Redlands right after they announced the start of the scholarship. Craig Jackson, JD, SAHP dean, and a number of other people from the school attended. For Mike and Jeanne, one of the highlights of the day was the opportunity to get together with Michael Dia, the first recipient of the scholarship.

“They really hit it off,” Kopp informs. “They have had Facetime conversations and they stay in touch by email from time to time.”

Dia recently sent Jeanne an email in which he expressed his personal thanks and said the scholarship fund “is such a blessing for future PTAs coming out of Loma Linda University.” He concluded by saying, “Thank you so much again for the scholarship award and I can’t wait to start my career and make you

guys proud.”

Kopp concludes with a philosophical assessment of the impact of the scholarship fund.

“On the surface, the Schrader story is one of loss and grief,” she observes, “but take a closer look and you’ll see that it is full of love, passion, and strength. Jeanne and Mike wanted to give others something to aspire to, so they created a scholarship in Matthew’s name to not only encourage students to provide whole-person care, but also to show his daughters that their daddy was someone who still inspires people. Jeanne and Mike brought together two communities, two universities. When they are able, the Schrader’s volunteer to help other parents who have recently lost children. Although they are in need of strength themselves, they have found a way to give it to others. They have a love that will endure for generations.”

For information about the Matthew Lynn Schrader Memorial Scholarship Fund, please contact Natalie Kopp by email at [NKopp@llu.edu](mailto:NKopp@llu.edu) or by phone at 909 558-1000, extension 33271.

## New program improves patient care by sending nurses back to school

By James Ponder

A new program offered by Loma Linda University Children's Hospital and Loma Linda University School of Nursing is helping to improve patient care by sending staff nurses who do not have a baccalaureate degree back to school.

According to Helen Staples-Evans, DNP, chief nursing officer, says "hospitals that hire predominantly baccalaureate degree nurses have better outcomes."

She backs up her comments with a 2010 report issued by the Institute of Medicine and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Based on a study of 134 acute care hospitals in Pennsylvania, the report concluded that:

- ✓ For each 10 percent increase in the proportion of nurses with baccalaureate degrees the risk of mortality and of failure to rescue decreased by 5 percent
- ✓ Surgical patients in hospitals with higher proportions of baccalaureate degree nurses experienced a higher survival advantage
- ✓ If all participating hospitals had increased their proportion of baccalaureate degree nurses by 10 percent during the seven-year study, an estimated 500 deaths might have been prevented



Maureen Hokama, night shift charge nurse on the Leonard Bailey Pediatric Cardiac Intensive Care Unit at Loma Linda University Children's Hospital, and Helen Staples-Evans, DNP, chief nursing officer, celebrate the fact that Hokama was the first person to apply for a new program designed to send staff nurses who do not have a baccalaureate degree program back to school.

The report recommends that hospitals increase the percentage of baccalaureate degree nurses to at least 80 percent of total nursing staff by the year 2020.

Staples-Evans notes that Loma Linda University Children's Hospital recently implemented two new policies to achieve

that goal and improve patient outcomes.

First, all hiring of entry-level registered nurses is now limited to those with baccalaureate degrees. Second, current staff nurses with an associate of science degree may apply to obtain a baccalaureate degree through Loma Linda University

School of Nursing. Employees who are accepted into the program are eligible for complete funding of the upgrade.

Staples-Evans notes that the program is not limited to Children's Hospital nurses, but is open to associates degree nurses from any Loma Linda University Health entity including, but not limited to, the Behavioral Medical Center, Surgical Hospital, East Campus, University Hospital and Murrieta facilities. So far, she says 38 nurses have been approved by the hospital and school and are enrolled in the program. Another 19 are awaiting approval by the school.

Maureen Hokama, night shift charge nurse on the Leonard Bailey Pediatric Cardiac Intensive Care Unit, was the first to apply. As a full-time nurse, wife and mother of three, Hokama wondered how she could squeeze the program into her schedule. But after beginning her studies, she says things are actually working out quite well.

"I can go at my own pace," Hokama reports. "The good part is that I can mix face-to-face courses with online classes. I'm very grateful for this opportunity and I appreciate the flexibility to fit it into my life commitments."

Staples-Evans says enrollment will remain open until December 31, 2017, and will be limited to a total of 90 participants.

"We're very excited about the opportunity to offer this to our staff," she concludes. "We want to develop knowledgeable, strong, risk-taking nurse leaders who are able to provide visionary leadership. This will help us do that."

## Large group graduates from process improvement course

By James Ponder

A group of 51 Loma Linda University Health employees graduated from a 10-week process improvement course on Friday, December 18, 2015, in the Wong Kerlee International Conference Center.

According to Yolanda Arroyo, manager for process improvement and patient safety at Loma Linda University Medical Center, the course, which consists of classroom presentations and online e-modules, is part of Six Sigma, a program that seeks to improve the quality and output of business processes.

"The program teaches students to define, measure, analyze, improve and control projects," Arroyo observed.

Several Loma Linda dignitaries spoke at the ceremony. After offering the invocation, Brenda Bruneau, MBA, chief quality and patient safety officer for Loma Linda University Medical

Center, thanked the graduates for all their hard work.

"I know you did this concurrently with all your other roles," Bruneau said, "and I know that at times, it seemed like a lot of work. Loma Linda is committed to process improvement. So far, we've had more than 250 participants in this program and we are celebrating 51 of you today."

James Pappas, MD, associate dean for quality and patient safety at Loma Linda University School of Medicine, addressed the graduates when Bruneau concluded.

"Process improvement is the goal part of your jobs," he told attendees. "There are three top priorities in any job: safety, keeping the doors open, and finance. It's getting harder and harder to make money in health care, and in the years to come, process improvement and cost containment will help to ensure the profitability of our operations. We

have a moral obligation to do process improvement."

In introducing Ken Mitchell, course instructor, Bruneau noted that, "if we could clone Ken, that would be wonderful. It takes a certain amount of energy to teach and unless you absolutely love it, you can't fake it. Ken brings that kind of energy to the task."

Mitchell reciprocated Bruneau's compliment by calling her "the central light in the quest for process improvement at Loma Linda University Health." Then he announced, to a chorus of groans from the crowd, that he was about to launch into a 45-minute, highly detailed review of the class. The groans turned to applause moments later when he revealed he was only kidding.

"I am so thankful to hand out these certificates," Mitchell noted, calling graduates to the front of the room to receive their certificates.

In assessing the importance of the program, Arroyo noted that, "In educating and empowering process improvement within the departments and wards of LLUH we not only promote safer care, we also identify and eliminate waste. It is a very common practice in healthcare to work around the hurdles or, to apply a quick fix."

Arroyo explains that the program is designed to help participants go beyond the quick fix approach and uses the Six Sigma methodology represented by the acronym DMAIC, which stands for define, measure, analyze, improve, and control.

"It teaches students to define the problem and goals, to identify measures to establish baseline and utilize data to determine success," she continued, "to analyze beyond the surface chatter, getting to the root causes and focusing

*Continued next page*



Some of the 51 Loma Linda University Health employees who graduated from a 10-week process improvement course gathered for a group photo with program staff members and instructors at the culmination of graduation ceremonies on Friday, December 18, 2015. Some of the graduates were unable to attend due to work responsibilities.

## New associate vice president for research development ...

*Continued from page 11*

- ▣ Partner for Bracewell & Giuliani, LLP, of Houston, Texas
- ▣ Director of intellectual property at University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center
- ▣ Director of intellectual property and legal affairs at NeurogesX, Inc.
- ▣ Associate at Skjervern Morrill MacPherson of San Francisco, CA
- ▣ Judicial extern for the United States District Court in San Diego, CA
- ▣ Senior research scientist at Alliance Pharmaceutical, Inc.
- ▣ Postdoctoral fellow at University of California, San Diego; and as
- ▣ Postdoctoral fellow at Bockus Research Institute, the Graduate

Hospital and the Department of Physiology at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine in Philadelphia.

Samardzija holds a PhD degree in physiology from Loma Linda University School of Medicine, and a JD degree from University of San Diego School of Law. While working on his PhD, he served as President of the Student Body Association and as a columnist for the Courier, student newspaper.

He is married to Maya, a real estate broker. The couple has three sons: Luka, 13, Marko, 11, and Filip, 5. "We all enjoy reading, swimming, hiking and bicycling," Samardzija concludes.

## Why Shirley Macaulay loves giving back to Loma Linda University Health

By James Ponder

Shirley Macaulay points to a jade horse carving in her light-diffused living room and tells the story of how she and her late husband acquired it.

"In 1969 and '70, Grant and I went around the world as representatives of La Sierra University," she says, "and everywhere we went, we picked something up. The horse is from China. We stayed at Adventist schools and hospitals to keep the costs down, and Grant taught for a year in Beirut, Lebanon. In 1972, we returned to Beirut and he taught for another semester. We had a wonderful time."

A look around the room reveals a host of other treasures—paintings from China and Thailand, carved wooden tables from Kashmir, European tapestries, an ancient vase rescued from a shipwreck in the Mediterranean, a wood camel saddle from Lebanon, and a display case full of small Roman artifacts.

Like the art, Shirley is cosmopolitan and graceful. At 93 years of age, she has lived a full and fulfilling life, raised her family, enjoyed several interesting careers, and seen the world. She has absolutely no intention of slowing down any time soon.

Shirley met Grant in the early 1940s while she was studying at Loma Linda University School of Nursing. In those days, married students were prohibited from attending the school since officials felt marriage would impede their ability to concentrate. The regulation created a problem for Grant and Shirley.

"He asked me to marry him while I was still in nursing school," she recalls. "I turned him down because I would have gotten kicked out. I was afraid he wouldn't come back and ask me again."

Shirley was certain of her feelings for

Grant, but wondered if his love would be strong enough to handle her rejection.

"He did come back," she smiles. "We were in love and he came back the next year. This time, I said yes."

The couple began making plans, and the very day Shirley finished her studies in 1944, they got married.

"Right after that, they changed the rules," she laughs.

Shirley went to work as a nurse while Grant eventually started a long and distinguished career in education, ultimately working his way up to the rank of professor in the School of Education at La Sierra University. Prior to that, he served as principal of La Sierra Academy for eight years.

"In many ways, those were the happiest years of his career," she recalls. "People there still hold him in the highest esteem as one of the finest leaders they ever had."

For her part, after working in nursing for a number of years, Shirley decided to try her hand at teaching in the California public school system. "I loved it," she says.

She soon became concerned for the learning disparities that hinder some students on the basis of ethnicity or race. After awhile, she realized she wanted to work as a counselor with minority students.

"Eventually I was hired as a counselor and teacher at Perris Junior High," she recalls. "I wanted to work with disadvantaged students. I enjoyed it so much."

In the meantime, Grant and Shirley had started their family. Dennis, who today works as a dentist in Northern California, was the first to arrive. "He and his wife are planning to retire next year and move to Costa Rica," she notes.

Diane came on the scene next. "She has a PhD from Claremont and is retired from teaching at the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor," Shirley reveals. "Something to do with business and finance. Before that, she taught at La Sierra University."

The couple's third child, son Doug, teaches music in Missoula, Montana. "He offers large classes and private lessons and is very happy with his work," she shares.

A family situation brought Shirley's career at Perris Junior High School to an end.

"Grant's father developed an advanced case of Alzheimer's," she says. "He was a wanderer. So I quit work to stay home and take care of him and make sure he didn't wander off down the road."

Not surprisingly, she soon became

bored. Nevertheless, she managed to parlay the time into a moneymaking business.

"I started buying little rental properties," she discloses. "I'd buy them and Grant and I would paint them and fix them up on Sundays. That became my retirement income. I did my own court work. After awhile, I had lots of little rentals."

The rental business allowed Shirley to get out of the house and contribute to the family income. "It was a lot of work," she admits, "but it was a real blessing."

In 1993, Grant died. The couple had enjoyed 49 wonderful years of marriage, and Shirley sharply felt his absence. But after taking stock of the new circumstances, she realized she still had the rentals to manage. That kept her busy and gave her something to do.

But as the years went on, Shirley slowly accepted the fact that she no longer had the stamina to run around town collecting rents, and going to court. That's when she decided to deed some of the properties to Loma Linda University Health.

"I have a great feeling of belonging to Loma Linda," she says. "I took nursing there and I go there for medical appointments. They take really good care of me."

In setting up her charitable remainder trust, Shirley designated that the proceeds be split between the Gayle Saxby endowed scholarship fund at the LLU School of Religion, and Loma Linda University Children's Hospital Foundation. "I knew Gayle," she says of the beloved teacher for whom the scholarship is named. "She was very dear to me; a wonderful girl."

Olivia Seheult, senior development officer for the LLU School of Religion, and Todd Mekelburg, director of planned giving, collaborated in setting up Shirley's gift.

"Shirley was wonderful to work with," says Todd. "She had worked so hard on those rental properties over the years, and it was a very humbling experience to help her through the planned giving process. In the end, Shirley was able to transition her properties so she doesn't have to worry about day-to-day management issues. She'll continue receiving a stream of income, plus she has provided a generous gift for the School of Religion and Children's Hospital."

Shirley says her family appreciates the fact that after she passes away, the income she currently receives from the arrangement she made with Loma Linda will go to them. "That was important to them," she adds.



As she reflects on her life, Shirley Macaulay is grateful to God for the blessings He has given her: longevity, the love of her family, and the privilege of knowing Him. "I thank Him every day," she says, "for the happiness and health I've enjoyed."

More than anything else, Shirley appreciates the spiritual emphasis at Loma Linda.

"I am so devoted to Loma Linda," Shirley continues. "They highly regard God and follow His directives. Their motto is 'to make man whole.'"

These days, with the rental responsibilities taken off her hands, Shirley loves to hang out with friends. She belongs to a group of ladies called, "The Second Row Gals," because they sit on the second row at La Sierra University Church.

"I have the Second Row Gals over to my home on Monday evenings and weekends," she reveals. "We have fun and often watch a movie. And whenever there's a musical program at the church or the university, we're always there. Socializing is very important to people my age."

Looking back, Shirley reflects on her life with a heart full of gratitude. "I attribute my longevity to God and my genes," she says. "I thank Him every day for the happiness and health I've enjoyed. I know Him better than I ever did, and talk to Him all the time."

Shirley says her understanding of God has changed over the years.

"I used to see Him sitting up in heaven doing this," she says, wagging a scolding finger behind an angry frown. "Now I see Him like this."

This time, Shirley's face relaxes into an inviting smile, her hands beckoning to an outstretched embrace.

"I want everyone to see God like that," she concludes.

## Large group graduates from process improvement course . . .

Continued from previous page

on improving. I would have to say this is a favorite phase of most participants and very much a time of 'aha moments.' Finally, the control phase teaches how to keep the improvements viable, and to ensure accountability.

"We hope to eventually expand the program," Arroyo adds, "to offer the course to all interested participants. However, currently the courses are only available to Loma Linda University Health employees."

Arroyo said process improvement courses will be available to Loma Linda University Health employees via the OWL portal each quarter of 2016.

"Find them by searching for key words 'Process Improvement Gold-Level Training,'" she advises. "The next sessions begin March 31 and April 7. We also offer a shorter, one-day course for physicians and residents that can be found by searching 'Process Improvement Silver-Level Training.' That course is designed specifically to prepare them to identify and eliminate waste in the processes and costs of health care."

## How a group of visiting Chinese health care professionals found adventure in Arizona

By James Ponder

Calvin Thomsen and I are wending our way through a grove of sycamore trees at Montezuma Castle National Monument enjoying a rare moment of quiet contemplation on this, the final day of the first trip this year coordinated through the Global Health Institute.

The five visiting Chinese health professionals we are escorting around the Southwest don't notice the stillness of the riparian morning. Instead, they're hanging out in the parking lot near one of the sycamores, laughing like schoolgirls,

posing like supermodels, and snapping pictures of each other left and right.

The tallest of the group, an orthopedic nurse manager from Sir Run Run Shaw Hospital (SRRSH) in Hangzhou, China, arches her willowy frame into an evocative pose. Her given name is Li Yunxia, but during her two-month mentorship program at Loma Linda University Health, she goes by the English name of Kelly.

Kelly pouts for the camera and asks, "How was that?" A gaggle of giggles signals her peers' ardent approval. If the goal is to amass the best selection of selfies against a variety of wilderness

backdrops, I'd hate to be the judge. They've done this every place we've stopped.

The seven of us—Kelly, Janelle, Emily, Sherine, Wendy, Calvin, and I—are finally getting warm. We spent much of our energy at Las Vegas, Grand Canyon, Petrified Forest, and Sedona fending off colder-than-average winter temperatures.

Right now, though, it's beautiful down here among the trees. The gnome-like clusters of rounded trunks, mottled white branches, and russet leaves impart an aura of mystery and antiquity. They

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# The story of Autumn

By James Ponder

Autumn Hokulani Ginn looked great when she was born on February 6, 2009.

“It was a perfectly normal pregnancy and delivery,” her mom recalls.

But 12 hours later, a nurse at Antelope Valley Hospital Medical Center discovered that her oxygen levels were dangerously low and an X-ray revealed a serious heart malformation.

Shortly before dawn, Baby Autumn was airlifted to Loma Linda University Children’s Hospital.

This was frightening, heartbreaking news for her parents, Tony and Starr Ginn, both NASA engineers at Edwards Air Force Base. Starr says the saddest part was driving to Loma Linda with an empty baby seat in the car.

“The doctors, nurses and staff at Children’s Hospital were very compassionate,” she reports. “They spent a lot of time talking to us.”

“Yes,” Tony agrees. “And we appreciated the fact that they respect other people’s religion. We spent a lot of time in the chapel.”

Born with seven congenital heart defects, Baby Autumn’s tiny heart was riddled with deformities. In addition to double outlet right ventricle, she was diagnosed with large atrial septal defect, large ventricle septal defect, moderate right ventricular hypertrophy, severe hypoplasia of the pulmonary valve, and severe stenosis of the main pulmonary artery.

Five days after Baby Autumn’s arrival at Loma Linda University Children’s Hospital, legendary surgeon Leonard

L. Bailey, MD, performed the operation that saved her life. She was discharged home on Valentine’s Day.

Under her parents’ watchful care, she thrived and recovered. But with so many heart defects, she needed a second procedure six months later. One year after she was born, she had a third operation.

Fast-forward to February 6, 2015, when Autumn, no longer a baby, received a Melody Valve. According to Brent Gordon, MD, who performed the installation, the device is “a replacement pulmonary heart valve that is used to replace a non-functioning pulmonary valve.”

Tony and Starr hoped it meant she wouldn’t need any more open-heart surgeries.

“They told us she would need a week to recover,” Starr says, “but she went skipping out to the car when we left the next day.”

Because she felt so good, Autumn joined Tony, Starr, and her younger brother Lake on a train ride to San Luis Obispo and spent the rest of the week playing at the beach. Four weeks later, she went hiking at Mammoth Lakes with her family, trudging through the snow at 10,000 feet.

Today, Autumn is a beautiful, courageous and energetic 10-year-old who loves to laugh and tell jokes with her brother, build intricate toy villages with her Lego set and paint realistic pastel art. “I am an artist,” she announces.

Autumn and her family are grateful for the blessings of God and the skill and expertise of the physicians and staff of Loma Linda University Children’s Hospital.



Born with a serious heart malformation, Autumn Hokulani Ginn received a series of life-saving surgeries at Loma Linda University Children’s Hospital. Fortunately, she is a healthy 10-year-old today who enjoys painting and creating small villages with her Lego set. Tony and Starr Ginn, her parents, are NASA engineers at Edwards Air Force Base.

## Visiting Chinese health professionals ...

*Continued from page*

seem sentient; like wizened scribes who know the secrets of the ages, but reveal nothing at all. Love these trees, I do, I do.

It’s a pretty sure bet that few, if any, of the 600,000 visitors to this crown jewel of Arizona’s Verde Valley each year come to see the trees. Instead, they flock to see the centuries-old ruins in the high limestone walls of Beaver Creek. Archaeologists say the structures were constructed around 1100 CE and abandoned by 1450. One thing is certain: the gifted architects and stonemasons of the Southern Sinagua Culture, a prehistoric band of Native American Indians, built for permanence. Nine hundred years after they laid the first stone, their high rise still hugs the cliffs.

This trip marks the first time our guests have been to the United States and they seem determined to make the most of every moment. Whether trying Mexican food for the first time or talking to a raven out at Blue Mesa, they approach each new situation with zeal and glee. They are also consummately grateful, remembering, several times a day, to thank Calvin and me for driving them here. Last night, when he suggested they might rather hike up Oak Creek Canyon in the snow than tour Montezuma Castle this morning, I set the issue before them.

“Tomorrow, we can either visit Montezuma Castle or explore Oak Creek Canyon,” I said. “We don’t have time for both.”

“What is Montezuma Castle?” asked Janelle Jiang Yuan, MD, a pediatrician at Zhejiang University Children’s Hospital, in Hangzhou.

“A prehistoric apartment house the

Indians built on the side of a cliff several hundred years ago,” I explained.



With Montezuma Castle, a 12th century Southern Sinagua Culture ruin looming up behind them, a group of visiting Chinese health professionals pauses to commemorate a January trip to several Southwestern destinations with Calvin Thomsen, PhD, professor at Loma Linda University School of Religion, and James Ponder, writer and editor in the department of public relations. The group—from left, Emily, Kelly, Sherine, Calvin, Emily, and Janelle—also toured Las Vegas, Hoover Dam, Grand Canyon, and the Petrified Forest.

“Let’s go there,” Janelle replied. “Yes,” the others agreed, “let’s go there.”

A minute ago, the ladies finally meandered over to look at the ruins. After a few gasping exclamations of wonder, they resumed snapping pictures. Sherine leaped into the air as Wendy captured her ephemeral levitation for posterity. Janelle smiled warmly with the ancient ruin towering behind her. Kelly struck a demur pose to prove to the folks back home that she was, in fact, right here.

Last night over dinner at Red Chopstick Restaurant in Sedona, Emily Chen Wenjun, a physical therapist from

SRRSH, suggested we dine Chinese style. Basically, it means that instead of ordering separate meals, we choose a variety of dishes and share them communally around a Lazy Susan revolving server.

Calvin and I reminded our guests that as good Loma Linda boys, we don’t eat pork, seafood, or beef. They responded by ordering a huge bowl of fresh vegetable soup, several vegetarian entrees, and a steaming platter of rice. Then they asked for our selections. Calvin opted for curry and I selected tofu sizzling rice with vegetables.

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## Prayer notes photo contest winners announced

Nancy Yuen

For the past 13 years, the department of employee spiritual care at Loma Linda University Health has created an annual set of prayer notes to be used in patient care.

Each prayer notes card, similar to a postcard, has a beautiful nature photo printed on one side and an encouraging verse of scripture printed on the back. The photos promote feelings such as peace, strength, hope or joy. There is also a note that says, "I prayed for you today and asked God to bless you."

Forty-three photographers submitted 261 photos to the 2015 contest.

Congratulations to the photo contest winners. They are:

- First place: James Ponder, Aspens, Ouray, Colorado
- Second place: Satoshi Sakamoto
- Third place: Michael Woodruff

The honorable mention winners are (in alphabetical order):

Carlene Drake, Terry Hansen

(three images), Danny Wongworawat (two images) and Michael Woodruff (three images).

The winning photos, as well as photos from the past six years, may be viewed at: <http://bit.ly/1p5PtUI>



**First place (left): "Aspens"**  
By James Ponder

**Second place (above top): "Lotus"**  
By Satoshi Sakamoto

**Third place (above):  
"Hummingbird"**  
By Michael Woodruff

## Visiting Chinese health professionals . . .

*Continued from previous page*

The ladies consulted in Chinese before Janelle ordered something verboten in Loma Linda, but famous in China—sweet and sour pork. Since Chinese New Year was two days away, they felt it imperative to order the signature holiday food in honor of the Year of the Monkey. That, of course, prompted Calvin and I to trade jabs about which one of us lent the New Year its name. It had to be Calvin.

When Sherine Xu Qunil, a neurology, stroke, and trauma nurse from SRRSH, praised the restaurant's décor, Calvin asked whether she thought the food would taste authentically Chinese, or mimic faux Chinese cuisine, replete with excessive fat and sugar to suit the American palate. "Wait and see," Sherine replied.

The soup arrived first and we all took turns helping each other to generous servings of the savory broth with colorful chunks of Chinese cabbage, carrots, onions, and mushrooms floating in the clear liquid.

The delicate flavor, pungent with the sweetness of natural ingredients, prompted me to inquire what was in the soup base. "Salt," Emily replied. "Salt and water. That's all."

Wearing her black sweatshirt with "Goodbye Bad Luck, Good Riddance" in white letters across the front, Wendy He Biyun, a neonatal nurse manager from ZUCH, waited until all the dishes had arrived before subjecting the food to a discriminating culinary evaluation.

"Oh," she pronounced, a grin spreading across her face. "This is very good!" "Yes," the others joined in. "This is

CHINESE Chinese food!"

The seven of us soon fall into the serious task of devouring this blissful Asian feast. While we dine, I reflect on the value of the trip. The ladies have enjoyed a much-needed break from their studies and seen many wonderful sites.

When we return to Loma Linda tomorrow, they will pick up the rigorous demands of their studies with renewed enthusiasm. Calvin and I will resume our responsibilities at the School of Religion and Office of Public Affairs, respectively, with a new kick in our steps.

Although this unique volunteer project may seem a lot of fun, there's also a serious purpose. Not only are Calvin and I goodwill ambassadors for the United States of America, we also serve our international visitors as representatives of the God of heaven and the mission and people of Loma Linda University Health.

Right now, we have a tough project to complete. We have been commissioned by the ladies to personally sample every delicacy on the Lazy Susan—except the pork—to determine which best evokes the culinary image of the Orient.

Calvin's been rhapsodizing about the wondrous spices in the curry, but after biting into the brittle crunchiness of the tofu sizzling rice, I'm certain I've found the winner.

But since the task calls for the strictest principles of scientific integrity, I take a drink of water to cleanse my palette. Then I fill my bowl with heaping portions of the exotic concoctions and order my taste buds to prepare for the challenge.

Everything falls into focus as I snap open the fortune cookie to devour its timeless words of wisdom.

"Moments like this," the fortune cookie informs, "demand total commitment."

## VA secretary visits Loma Linda to discuss efforts to help homeless veterans . . .

*Continued from page 16*

of the class of 2016 at the school—to share the story of his interventions on behalf of a particular homeless veteran.

"I saw a man," Thorp recalls, "wearing a 'Vietnam Veteran' hat. I approached him, came to his level and said, 'Thank you for serving this country.' At which point he burst into tears and said, 'I have never heard those words in my life.'"

For the next half hour, the man poured out his life story to Thorp, sharing how he had moved from one transitional house to another, transient and unable to work due to severe mental illness and a lifetime of substance abuse exacerbated by post-traumatic stress disorder.

"He had lost his wife and children due to his struggle with alcohol," Thorp continues. "Now, he was on the streets. He had been homeless for about 2 years, although he had spent most of that time in shelters."

Life on the streets had not been good for the man's health. His diabetes and hypertension needed frequent monitoring, but although eligible for health care through the VA system, he had difficulty securing transportation to doctor's

appointments. As a result, many of his medical conditions had been chronically neglected.

"He had not seen his primary care physician in over a year," Thorp explains. "We did our best to temporize his health needs, given the limited circumstances. We provided prescriptions for his medications and information about smoking cessation."

Thorp says the experience was cathartic for both men.

"The man left grateful for someone addressing his medical, social, and spiritual needs," he reports. "We left humbled by providing care to one of our nation's heroes. Quality medical care can be done on the streets, but our goal is to help our patients access better care through more traditional avenues. Street medicine, an outreach of Loma Linda University School of Medicine, takes the mission of 'making man whole' to San Bernardino. By continuing the healing ministry of Christ, we as students are also transformed and inspired to engage in service."

Thorp added that he met the man again a few months later and was

delighted to discover that he is continuing to receive care through the street medicine clinic.

A visibly touched Secretary McDonald thanked Thorp, Hart, and other members of the Loma Linda team

for providing such excellent care for veterans.

Following the meal, McDonald and Hart convened a closed session meeting on strategies for achieving the goal of serving the needs of homeless veterans in the Inland Empire.



Caring for homeless veterans in the Inland Empire was the topic of a January 25 luncheon hosted by the Honorable Robert A. McDonald, secretary, U.S. Department of Veteran's Affairs, and Richard H. Hart, MD, DrPH, president, Loma Linda University Health. At the meeting, Stephen Thorp, (second from right), told Secretary McDonald and his entourage about a street medicine clinic Thorp leads under the auspices of Loma Linda University School of Medicine.

## Flag for Hope project team returns to Loma Linda, awards a 'star' to Leonard Bailey, infant heart transplantation pioneer

By Susan Onuma

On Monday, February 1, the Flag for Hope project returned to Loma Linda University Children's Hospital, where Leonard Bailey, MD, received one of 50 "stars" honoring his accomplishments and his contributions to medicine and mankind.

The Flag for Hope team is led by artist and U.S. Army veteran Marcos Antonio, and the executive director, Chris Cavedon.

This epic mission was started at the

Indianapolis 500 on May 23, 2015. The goal is to collect approximately 3,000-4,000 American hand and finger impressions on a giant canvas to create the United States of America National Flag. This is being accomplished by going to more than 150 cities and roughly 300-400 locations.

The 50 stars on the Flag for Hope are being awarded to iconic Americans that have greatly contributed to the strength and well being of our country. These individuals have inspired, empowered, and encouraged their fellow citizens

through their actions as pioneers, role models, and leaders in our society. They come from all backgrounds and embody the essence of the American spirit.

Bailey joins other outstanding Americans such as General Colin Powell, Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, philanthropist Alan Hasenfeld, sports legend Muhammed Ali, and others.

The Flag for Hope signifies appreciation and gratitude for those individuals who serve in our communities such as teachers, police, fire fighters, doctors and nurses, and honors and respects the men and women that have proudly worn a United States military uniform and fought for our freedoms. It calls us to remember all Americans who have made the ultimate sacrifice at the hands of both foreign and domestic enemy attacks, and those who have dedicated their lives for the benefit of humanity.

The Flag for Hope, once completed, will be on display in the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, DC.



Leonard Bailey, MD, paints his "star" on the Flag for Hope, awarded to him for his accomplishments and his contributions to medicine and mankind.

## VA secretary visits Loma Linda to discuss efforts to help homeless veterans

By James Ponder

The Honorable Robert A. McDonald, secretary, U.S. Department of Veteran's Affairs, visited Loma Linda University Health on Monday, January 25, to meet with President Richard Hart, MD, DrPH, and a group of national and regional leaders and university officials on ways to enhance collaborative efforts to care for homeless veterans in the Inland Empire.

Under the watchful eye of the United States Secret Service and Loma Linda University Health security department, Hart hosted Secretary McDonald and members of his staff along with the following guests for a lunch meeting in the administrative conference room of Chan Shun Pavilion:

- ◆ Gregory C. Devereaux, CEO, County of San Bernardino
- ◆ Philip F. Mangano, president and CEO of the American Roundtable to Abolish Homelessness
- ◆ Rusty Bailey, mayor, City of Riverside, California
- ◆ Barbara Fallen, director, VA Loma Linda Healthcare System
- ◆ Ron Carter, provost, Loma Linda University
- ◆ Kerry Heinrich, CEO, Loma Linda University Medical Center
- ◆ Rachelle Bussell, senior vice president for advancement, Loma Linda University Health
- ◆ Rick Williams, vice president for enrollment management and student services, Loma Linda University

- ◆ D.P. Harris, vice president for information systems, Loma Linda University Health
- ◆ Rod Neal, senior vice president for financial affairs, Loma Linda University Health
- ◆ Nancy Young, President and CEO, Social Action Community (SAC) Health System
- ◆ Kevin Shannon, MD, advisor to street medicine clinic, Loma Linda University Health
- ◆ Stephen Thorp, student leader of street medicine clinic, Loma Linda University Health
- ◆ David Wren, senior vice president for faculty practice, Loma Linda University Health
- ◆ Daniel Handysides, associate dean for public health practice, Loma Linda University School of Public Health

With the launch of the Homeless Veterans Initiative as announced by President Barack Obama in 2009, the Department of Veterans Affairs undertook the first-ever federal strategic plan to end veteran homelessness. According to Kristen Hall, acting public affairs office, the plan has been very successful in the Inland Empire.

"As of this date," Hall noted, "752 Homeless Veterans in the Inland Empire have been housed with HUD-VASH vouchers by the Healthcare for Homeless Veterans program at Loma Linda VA."

The acronym stands for Housing and Urban Development/Veterans Affairs



Richard H. Hart, MD, DrPH, president of Loma Linda University Health, makes a point to the Honorable Robert A. McDonald, secretary, U.S. Department of Veteran's Affairs, during Secretary McDonald's January 25 visit to the campus. The two leaders hosted a luncheon for national and regional leaders and university officials on collaborative efforts to care for homeless veterans in the Inland Empire.

Supportive Housing, and Hall says the program is a partnership between the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development through the Public Housing Authority, and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

"Homeless Veterans who are eligible, are able to obtain a housing voucher which provides rental assistance to help Veterans afford to pay for permanent housing," Hall continues. "San Bernardino and Riverside Counties Public Housing Authority provide the Housing and Urban Development-Veterans Administration Supportive Housing [HUD-VASH] vouchers and Loma

Linda VA provides the case management services for each veteran, helping them to find and stay in permanent housing."

Hall quotes Caron Baylor, HUD-VASH program coordinator at VA Loma Linda, as saying that, "The HUD-VASH program can change lives, allowing Veterans to regain dignity and improve their quality of life."

At the January 15 meeting, Hart asked Thorp—who, in addition to serving as the de facto leader of a street clinic Loma Linda University School of Medicine operates under the aegis of SAC Health System is also vice president

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