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## Loma Linda University Health family and surrounding communities invited to historic groundbreaking on May 22

By Heather Reifsnnyder

Inland Empire health care will never be the same after the first shovelfuls of dirt move at the May 22 groundbreaking of the new adult and children's hospital towers at Loma Linda University Health, which will open in the year 2020.

This new facility will usher in a new era of medicine for the region.

The public event runs from 2 to 5 p.m. A formal program, which will begin at 2:30 p.m., will include a preview of the new world-class facilities, followed by the ceremonial groundbreaking.

In addition to the ceremony, planners are making this a day of health and wholeness for the entire family. It will feature free activity areas for children, healthy cooking demonstrations, and a chance to win a family vacation. Food trucks will serve festive eats, and additional activities will include face painting, a petting zoo, and a sneak peak of the new Children's Hospital tower.

Come and experience the future of health care. For more information, visit [groundbreaking.lluh.org](http://groundbreaking.lluh.org).

What will that future look like? The new medical complex will feature a 16-story adult hospital tower and



The groundbreaking on May 22 represents the beginning of a massive building project that will lead to the rendering above.

a nine-story children's tower. It will be the second tallest building in the Inland Empire, but more notably it will offer whole person care with attention to people's physical, mental, and spiritual needs—the same compassionate care for which Loma Linda University Health is known. All rooms will be private with a healing atmosphere and space for family members.

Kerry Heinrich, JD, CEO of Loma

Linda University Medical Center, notes the monumental nature of this undertaking.

"There have been years of planning leading into where we are," he says. "We are just about to start moving dirt, and I am so excited about what is coming in the years ahead."

"In the next four years, this will be the largest hospital construction project in the state of California."

The new hospital will have its footprint in what, up until now, has been the guest and patient parking lot of the Medical Center. The two hospital towers will share a base, on the north end of which will sit the adult tower. South, the Children's Hospital tower will rise in shades of dichroic glass shimmering in the California sun.

"The children's tower will have some remarkable features that will make it uniquely appealing to children," Heinrich notes.

There will be some growing pains in the construction process, but Heinrich says, "We're trying to minimize that in every way we can for our patients and our employees."

The chief change thus far is reconfiguration of the front driveway to the Medical Center from Anderson Street to Prospect Avenue. All patients and guests will receive free valet service until the new six-story patient parking garage opens behind the Children's Hospital on Campus Street in June (see page 2).

Years in the planning, the new medical complex will set the standard in the region and nation for whole person care. Dirt is about to move, and, as Heinrich says, "Someday is now."

## Press conference highlights \$6.29 million NIH grant for hypoxia research at Center for Perinatal Biology

By James Ponder

Researchers from the Center for Perinatal Biology at Loma Linda University School of Medicine (LLUSM) held a press conference Tuesday, March 29, to announce a \$6.29 million program project grant (PPG).

The grant, awarded by the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), an NIH entity, will help researchers at the center continue groundbreaking studies into the effects of hypoxia, or oxygen deprivation, on pregnant women and their offspring.

In introducing "the world-renowned scientists of Loma Linda University" to reporters from ABC7 News and the San Bernardino Sun, Garrett Caldwell, DMin, executive director for public affairs, noted that "they strive to advance the understanding and care of human health in order to fulfill the institution's mission 'to make man whole.'"

Caldwell then introduced Lubo Zhang, PhD, director of the center and principal investigator (PI) on the PPG; Ravi Goyal, MD, PhD, assistant professor of pharmacology; William Pearce, PhD, professor of physiology; and Charles Ducsay, professor of physiology. After brief statements from each

of the four researchers, reporters asked questions and a lively exchange ensued, lasting nearly 45 minutes.

Although he was not able to attend the press conference, Representative

Pete Aguilar of California's 31st congressional district, said the grant is good news not only for the university, but also for the Inland Empire economy.

"Loma Linda University Health's role

as both a medical services provider and a leader in research and discovery puts our region at the forefront of the health care industry and the 21st century economy," said Rep. Aguilar.

The center has been continuously funded the past 20 years through five-year renewals of the original PPG. However, when center officials—including the late Lawrence D. Longo, MD, legendary founder of the center—applied for the next five-year renewal in May 2014, the NICHD informed them in December 2014 that the application had not received a fundable score.

Undaunted, Longo, Zhang, and the team carefully reviewed the NICHD comments and invested several months in revising the application, which was resubmitted in May 2015. In November of that year, they were informed that their 417-page revised application had received a score of 10 with a percentile ranking of 1; in other words, a perfect score.

"I never heard of anyone getting a perfect score for a PPG application before," Zhang said, adding that while he has personally received perfect scores on two R01 grant applications, achieving a perfect score on the much-larger PPG application is a very rare accomplishment. "I'm not saying there has never

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Lubo Zhang, PhD, director of the Center for Perinatal Biology at Loma Linda University School of Medicine, responds to a question from Jim Steinberg, a reporter for the San Bernardino Sun newspaper, during the March 29 press conference to announce the \$6.29 million program project grant recently awarded to the center. (From left): Ravi Goyal, MD, PhD, assistant professor of physiology; Garrett Caldwell, DMin, executive director of public affairs; Zhang; Steinberg; William Pearce, PhD, professor of physiology; and Charles Ducsay, professor of physiology; at the event.

# Many Strengths. One Mission.

LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY HEALTH : LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY | SCHOOL OF ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS | SCHOOL OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH | SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY | SCHOOL OF MEDICINE | SCHOOL OF NURSING | SCHOOL OF PHARMACY | SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH | SCHOOL OF RELIGION | LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER | UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL/ADULT SERVICES | LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL | LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER EAST CAMPUS | LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY BEHAVIORAL MEDICINE CENTER | LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY SURGICAL HOSPITAL | LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER-MURRIETA | HIGHLAND SPRINGS MEDICAL PLAZA

# Front entrance to adult and children's hospitals moved across from Prospect Avenue; patients and visitors receive free valet

By Briana Pastorino

As of April 12, patients and visitors to Loma Linda University Medical Center (LLUMC) and Children's Hospital are now being provided with complimentary valet parking due to the reconfiguration of the front entrance to the hospital.

The current patient parking area in front of the main hospital has been closed in preparation for the construction of the new adult hospital and Children's Hospital expansion projects. This has also closed the main entrance to Children's Hospital.

The patient parking structure located on the northeast corner of Barton Rd. and Campus St. is in the final stages of construction and is expected to open for self-parking in June. Complimentary valet service to patients and visitors will be offered until then.

For those coming to the LLUMC campus, vehicles must enter via Prospect Ave. and will be guided to either valet parking or the pickup and drop-off area in front of the adult hospital.

Valet attendants will be parking cars seven days a week while the main entrance doors to the hospital are open, 4:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. They will be retrieving

cars 24 hours a day.

Patients and visitors arriving at the hospital 9:00 p.m. to 4:30 a.m. can enter through the emergency department and self-park in the West Hall parking structure, both located on Campus Street.

Once the new patient parking structure is open, the patient pickup and drop off area will remain the same, and

valet service will be available for those who choose to use it.

Loma Linda University Health administration appreciates the community's patience and understanding in the coming weeks as preparations are made for the official groundbreaking of the new hospitals, which is slated for Sunday, May 22.

# Record number of high school students apply for summer research experience

By James Ponder

The largest group of Inland Empire high school students ever to apply to the Apprenticeship Bridge to College (ABC) program at Loma Linda University School of Medicine (LLUSM) turned out on Tuesday, March 29, at an invitation-only screening in the Wong Kerlee international conference center.

According to Marino De Leon, PhD, director of the Center for Health Disparities and Molecular Medicine (CHDMM), sponsor of the event, 73 juniors and seniors from several Inland Empire high schools were invited to interview for 10 to 15 openings in the popular summer research experience program.

"We had the highest number of students invited to interview in the history of the program," De Leon observes. "These students aspire to follow a career in the biomedical sciences."

Students selected to participate will spend two months this summer working on a research project with a member of the LLU faculty. De Leon hastens to add that this is not high school-level research, but university investigational studies.

"The intent of the program is to immerse accepted students in biomedical research to enhance their qualifications to finish a college STEM degree and consider applying to a biomedical doctoral program," he says, referring to the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics curriculum currently given strong emphasis by global educational leaders.

De Leon points out that the ABC program has been highly successful not only in helping students discover an interest in scientific careers, but also in retaining those who pursue graduate and postgraduate degrees.

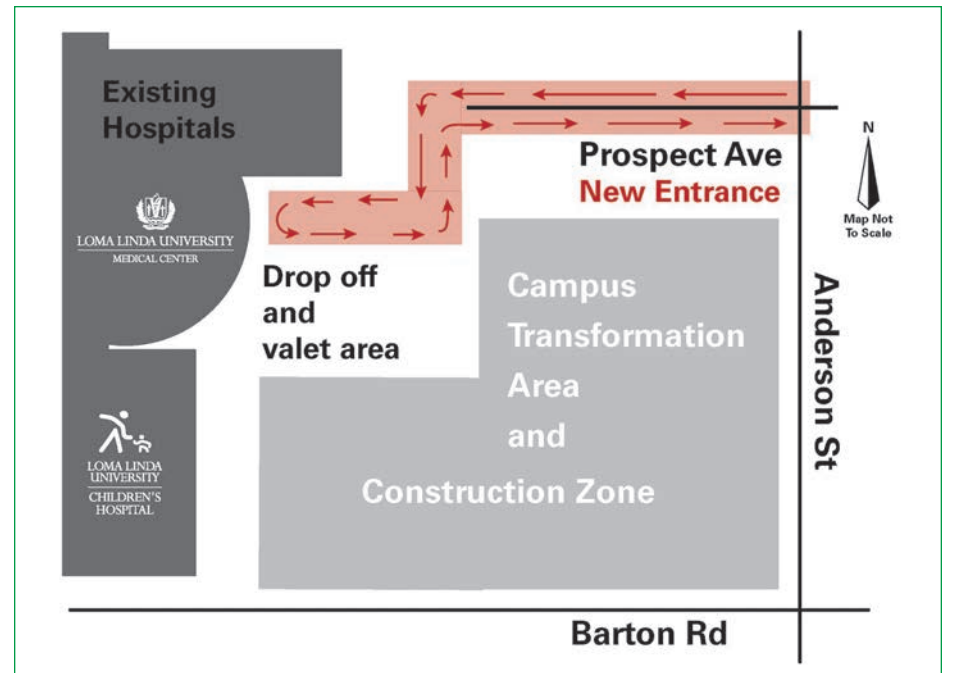
"More than 85 percent of minority students who aspire to finish a STEM discipline in college drop out by their third year," he reports. "But this program"—the ABC program at LLUMC—"is accomplishing the goal of retaining about 70 percent of them in a STEM career."

Looked at another way, the national average is approximately a 15 percent rate for all minority students who aspire to a STEM degree in college, while the Loma Linda program enjoys a 70 percent success rate.

After dinner, the brief program at the

March 29 event included general instructions about the program by Marino De Leon, Carlos A. Casiano, PhD, associate director for the CHDMM, and Daisy De Leon, PhD, assistant to the dean for diversity. Roger Hadley, MD, LLUSM

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## WE ARE GROWING TO MEET THE NEEDS OF OUR COMMUNITY!

MAY 22

2:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Celebrate the groundbreaking of the new towers.

Loma Linda University Health  
Corner of Barton Road and Anderson Street

A FREE family fun event!

Food Trucks

Kids Activity Zone

- Train ride
- Petting zoo
- Face painting
- Obstacle course

Free Giveaways

Sneak peek at the new Children's Hospital

groundbreaking.lluh.org

LOMA LINDA  
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## Record number of high school students apply for summer research experience ...

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dean, gave a short talk on “The role of research in health care.”

The program also included brief presentations on financing a scientific education by Juan Carlos Belliard, PhD, MPH, director of the Institute for Community Partnerships, and Frank Rendel, assistant director of the office of financial aid. Once the formalities were over, invitees were directed to interviewing

stations in adjacent rooms where they met LLU faculty and students to discuss their interest in the STEM disciplines and scientific career options.

Now that the event is over, De Leon says program officials are evaluating each applicant’s qualifications. The final decisions will be made in the next few weeks.

The ABC summer research experience is scheduled to begin on June 14.



Marino De Leon, PhD, welcomes



More than 200 people attended the Apprenticeship Bridge to College Invitational on March 29.

## Press conference highlights \$6.29 million grant for hypoxia research ...

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been a perfect score on a PPG before, but if there has, I’ve never heard about it.”

Zhang explains that PPGs differ from the far more common R01 grants in three significant ways. First, PPGs are awarded to multiple investigators at a recognized research center working on a cluster of multiple studies organized around a singular theme. R01s, on the other hand, are awarded for a single study and often involve only one or two investigators. Second, PPGs involve much larger budgets. Third, they are far more desirable and cost-effective for supporting large-scale research.

Fortunately, Longo learned of the perfect score two months before his death in January of this year. It was a fitting culmination to his remarkable career.

“Gestational Hypoxia and Developmental Plasticity,” the title of the PPG, refers to how oxygen deprivation during gestation alters a developing fetus’s ability to adapt to challenges imposed during processes of development and growth.

The grant will fund four separate but related projects, and while Zhang is the PI on the overall PPG, each of the four will have its own PI. The goal of the four studies is to collectively explore the fundamental physiological, biochemical, cellular, and molecular mechanisms triggered by gestational hypoxia on maternal health, fetal development, and chronic disease later in life.

Zhang explains the long-term implications of oxygen deprivation by pointing out that over the last several decades, several chronic diseases—including obesity, type II diabetes, insulin resistance, cardiovascular disease, and other metabolic, cognitive and behavioral disorders—have increased exponentially to reach their present epidemic levels in the United States.

“The concept of fetal stress and

developmental programming of chronic disease is well-accepted,” he explains, “but the mechanisms by which they work have long been missing links. Until now, we haven’t understood what switches in the developing fetus are turned on or off by the mother’s diet or stress levels during pregnancy. Nor have we known how they alter developmental plasticity and increase the risk of chronic disease for her child later in life. We hope to find out with this research.”

Zhang identifies developmental plasticity as the unborn fetus’s ability to adapt to less than ideal conditions, such as hypoxia from high altitude or maternal smoking.

He calls hypoxia “perhaps the most important and clinically relevant of all the stresses to which the fetus and newborn infant are subjected. Clinical hypoxia has profound adverse affects on maternal health and fetal development.

“Worldwide, more than 140 million people live at risk of hypoxia at high altitude,” Zhang observes. “For more than two decades, researchers at the Center for Perinatal Biology at Loma Linda University Health have conducted studies that examine systemic adaptations of the mother and fetus to high-altitude, long-term hypoxia.”

Roger Hadley, MD, dean of LLUSM, welcomed the grant that got the perfect score.

“I’m very pleased to share this exciting news,” Hadley remarked. “It’s external validation of the quality of our researchers and their work, placing us among the elite research institutions around the world.”

Representative Aguilar ended on a congratulatory note.

“I commend Dr. Zhang, his staff, and the entire Loma Linda University Health team on this important accomplishment,” Aguilar observed.

At Loma Linda University Health developing new pathways for a healthier tomorrow is why we live to discover. We have now made our innovative research easy to access with our new LIVE IT online health show.

Follow our **LIVE IT** online health show at [liveitlomalinda.org](http://liveitlomalinda.org).

#liveitlomalinda

MANY STRENGTHS. ONE MISSION.



Cameras from ABC7 News, the San Bernardino Sun, the department of Advancement Films, and social media at Loma Linda University Health record the March 29 press conference to celebrate the fact that an NIH entity recently awarded a \$6.29 million program project grant to the Center for Perinatal Biology at Loma Linda University School of Medicine.

# Leo's story: celebrating occupational and speech therapists during April and May

By Larry Kidder

When individuals suffer a catastrophic accident or illness, their lives often change in dramatic ways. Activities as simple as talking or sitting down at the table for a meal, taken for granted before the accident or illness, may become a distant memory.

That's where the therapists at Loma Linda University Health step in. The months of April and May, respectively, celebrate the efforts of occupational therapists and speech pathologists as they seek to help their patients recover as much of normal life as possible.

During Occupational Therapy Month 2016, the theme is "Solutions to the Challenges of Everyday Life." For Better Hearing and Speech Month, "Communication Takes Care" is the theme for 2016.

Meet Leonardo Juarez, better known to his family and friends as "Leo." Through the end of 2015, Leo was a musically gifted 17-year-old high school student attending Valley View High School in Moreno Valley, California.

He was a bass in the Madrigals, an elite choir at his school, which travels and performs regularly.

However, during the last week of December, Leo began to notice a tingling in his fingers and toes. He also realized that many of his natural reflexes were declining, and that he was having a difficult time moving.

On January 20, 2016, he was admitted to Loma Linda University Children's Hospital for tests. In the midst of his first hospital stay, Leo celebrated his

17th birthday on January 21. Family and friends were on hand. A group of nurses who had cared for Leo surprised him with a rendition of "Happy Birthday" and a birthday banner. He was released January 22 but was readmitted February 4 for more tests.

"On February 11, he was transferred to rehab at LLUMC-East Campus," Lorena Juarez, his mother, remembers. "But he became weaker and weaker while in rehab and was readmitted to Children's Hospital on March 2."

More tests led to a diagnosis of Lupus Nephritis Stage 5, an autoimmune disorder that damages the kidneys. But

the most dramatic impact came with a second diagnosis of Guillain-Barré syndrome, where Leo's immune system mistakenly attacked myelin coating his nerves, leading to paralysis.

On March 20, Leo became so weak that he was transferred to the intensive care unit (ICU). Too weak to breathe on his own, he spent three weeks in the ICU fully intubated. Physicians performed a tracheotomy to open an airway.

"We thought we were going to lose him," Leo's mother remembers. "I told him, 'Leo, you've got to fight.' And that's what he's doing."

Fortunately, his condition improved

and he was transferred to unit 5800 on April 8.

It's nearly a week later. Leo is visited by occupational therapists Carrie Jensen, OTR, and Jenny Liu, OTR, as well as Gary Lucas, MS, a speech pathologist. Jensen and Liu check Leo's ability to control his movement, as well as the feeling in his extremities.

Lucas introduces Leo to Casey Stadig, a sales consultant for TobiiDynavox which manufactures a communication tool using eye movement to control one's environment. Leo is trying it out for the first time.

"He'll even be able to text his friends," Lucas informs Leo's mother, Lorena. "Oh, great," she responds in mock parental annoyance. "And he can listen to his music too," Lucas adds.

In addition to his love for singing in the Madrigals, Leo also enjoys musical artists Mumford and Sons, Edward Sharpe and the Magnetic Zeros, and Eminem—which Lorena teasingly calls his "ugly music."

What's Leo's prognosis? "We are trusting God," Lorena says. His family, including father Rafael and older siblings Elliott and Olga, as well as Elliott's wife, Monica, and nephews Jude and Lenny, provide Leo with support during these trying days.

"Maybe he can rejoin his friends in the Madrigals one day," Lorena adds.

Whatever the outcome, therapists like Jensen, Liu, and Lucas are there to help life become as close to normal as possible for Leo, teaching him to adapt to his life as it is, being independent and able to communicate his feelings, needs, and desires to family and friends.

They are also there to cheer each success for Leo, however insignificant it might seem. For all of their efforts, they are celebrated this April and May.



Leo Juarez, age 17, is happy to be out of the intensive care unit, where he spent the past three weeks fully intubated and fighting for his life. A recent bout with a form of Lupus as well as paralysis due to Guillain-Barré syndrome, has left him weak and bed-ridden. From left, occupational therapists Carrie Jensen, OTR, and Jenny Liu, OTR, together with speech pathologist Gary Lucas, MS, are working to help Leo's life return to normal as much as possible and celebrating each tiny step toward recovery.

# Hero of Family Medicine for 2016 announced

By Heather Reifsnnyder

Many medical heroes work at Loma Linda University Health.

One was just given this special designation by a significant professional association. Favorite physician and School of Medicine faculty member Lauren Simon, MD, MPH, was named the California Academy of Family Physicians 2016 Hero of Family Medicine.

Simon, an associate professor in the department of family medicine, earned this distinction out of all 9,000 statewide members of the California Academy of Family Physicians.

Academy President Jay Lee, MD, MPH, says that "Dr. Simon is a stellar and steadfast advocate for patients,

colleagues and the family medicine specialty."

In addition to teaching medical students, Simon sees patients, directs family medicine residents and is a leader in the discipline of sports medicine at Loma Linda University Health. She is

also an alumna of Loma Linda University School of Public Health.

The award was a complete surprise to Simon. She says, "The importance of the family medicine profession to our community fuels my passion, and it's a natural fit with the Loma Linda University

Health calling to provide whole person care throughout the age spectrum.

"I have a strong desire to promote the future family medicine workforce through engaging students' and residents' interest in becoming involved, compassionate family physicians," she adds.

"I'm honored by this recognition  
*Continued next page*



Lauren Simon, MD, MPH

*Pathway to Health*

Services Needed

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 Pulmonary evaluation & respiratory care  
 Gastroenterology consultations  
 Rheumatology consultations  
 Women's health well woman exams with pap smears and STD screening  
 Mental health care with a focus on depression  
 Pediatric evaluation and consultation  
 Surgical services  
 General surgery with biopsies and excision of skin cancers and lumps and bumps  
 Podiatry consultations with ingrown toenail care and other procedures under local anesthetic  
 Wound care  
 Orthopedic consultations including injections, aspirations, and other office-type procedures

**COMPREHENSIVE DENTAL CARE**  
 X-rays  
 Cleanings  
 Restorative care with fillings & crowns  
 Endodontics  
 Extractions and oral surgery

**EYE CARE**  
 Comprehensive eye exams  
 Fittings for free glasses

**OTHER HEALTH CARE OFFERED**  
 Physical therapy evaluation and treatment with recommendations  
 Occupational therapy evaluation, treatment and recommendations  
 X-Ray  
 Ultrasound  
 Laboratory services  
 Pharmacy services  
 Hair styling  
 Nutrition and lifestyle coaching  
 Diabetes reversal  
 Weight loss  
 Smoking & Alcohol Cessation  
 Hypertension Control

**LA Convention Center**  
 Los Angeles, CA  
 April 27-29, 2016

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## Big Hearts for Little Hearts Desert Guild ends 2015–2016 season with evening of glamour

By Briana Pastorino

Beautiful weather, stunning views, lavish boutiques and goodies galore welcomed nearly 300 guests to the Toscana Country Club Tuesday, March 15 at the final event of the Big Hearts for Little Hearts Desert Guild 2015-2016 season.

An Evening of Girlfriends, Glamour & Giving was an opportunity to shop, sip and stroll in an effort to raise funds and awareness for the patients at Loma Linda University Children's Hospital.

The event's master of ceremonies was the desert's CBS channel 2 news anchor Jenifer Daniels, who is also a member of the Desert Guild. "I love the Desert Guild and all that they do," Daniels said.

Guests browsed more than 18 boutiques selling a variety of fine jewelry, clothing, accessories and even exotic orchids. As an added bonus, 20 percent of all boutique proceeds went to benefit Children's Hospital.

There were several opportunity drawings and silent auction items, including the top-bidding item, a Santa Barbara excursion, which went to the

highest bid of \$2,450.

Guests also enjoyed a complimentary photo booth stocked with silly props, beauty makeovers, informal modeling and delectable hors d'oeuvres.

To remind those in attendance of the importance of their giving, tables were set with toy centerpieces that had been donated by Mattel, Inc.

In addition to their signature event, the Desert Guild also hosted three Lunch & Learn Cooking Demonstrations, two of which were sold out. The final demo took place at Bellatrix Restaurant in Palm Desert on Thursday, February 18. Executive chef Gerard Brunett presented a decadent lunch to nearly 100 guests.

The first two demos were held at Ristorante Mamma Gina and The Hideaway in November and January, respectively.

"It is an honor and a pleasure to work with, and do fundraising for, the hospital to raise awareness in the Coachella Valley. It is an incredible institution and they do incredible work," said guild president Terry Seigel.

As part of the commitment to Loma Linda University Children's Hospital

and the precious patients it serves, the Desert Guild holds two Build-A-Bear Workshops® during the season. The last Hugs Help Healing workshop for the 2015-2016 season was held April 4 at LLU Children's Hospital. Members of the Desert Guild spent the afternoon personalizing Build-A-Bears with patients who were able to leave their units. Patients who could not leave their rooms had bears and accessories delivered to them so they too could customize their own stuffed animal.

"This was an opportunity for members of the Desert Guild to visit the hospital and see the result of our fundraising efforts," stated Seigel. "To some, a bear may seem so small, but the smiles and joy we see during this event makes all our hard work pay off at the end of the season."

The Desert Guild's fundraising season starts in September and ends in April.

Over the years there have been approximately 700 teddy bears and accessories from Build-A-Bear Workshop® donated through the Desert Guild, allowing the children at LLUCH to select their very own bears and outfits,



News anchor Jenifer Daniels shopped one of several boutiques during "An Evening of Girlfriends, Glamour & Giving" on March 15. Daniels, a news anchor in the desert, served as master of ceremonies for the event.

creating many beautiful smiles.

The Big Hearts for Little Hearts Desert Guild started in 2002 with a mission to raise funds to ensure critical medical care for the children of the Coachella Valley. Now, with over 120 members, the Desert Guild continues to do just that, having raised more than \$1.7 million since its inception.



A group of ladies who attended "An Evening of Girlfriends, Glamour & Giving" March 15 took advantage of the complimentary photo booth. The ladies enjoyed using various props to animate their picture.



LLUCH patient, Jesus Diaz, 8, from Fontana, gets a little help personalizing his bear from Super Girl during the Hugs Help Healing Workshop April 4.



Joan Woehrmann was one of more than 100 guests at the final Lunch & Learn Cooking Demonstration at Bellatrix on January 21. She fondly shared the appetizer that was demonstrated by the restaurant's chef.

## Adventist hospital in Haiti celebrates 35 years of service with the opening of a new state-of-the-art surgical suite

Contributed report

Haiti Adventist Hospital (HAH) celebrated its 35th anniversary with the inauguration of a state-of-the-art surgical suite, a new laboratory, a private clinic—and a pledge to keep sharing God's compassion.

The April 1 event at the hospital—known in French as Hopital Adventiste

d'Haiti and located near the Caribbean island's capital, Port-au-Prince—drew senior Haitian government officials; leaders from Seventh-day Adventist-operated Loma Linda University Health, Adventist Health International (AHI), and Florida Hospital; and Haiti's first lady, who worked at the hospital 30 years ago.

"The past 35 years of Hopital Adventiste d'Haiti's existence have not been

a sprint but a marathon, and I am here to tell you that through it all she is still standing," hospital administrator Edward Martin told the group of more than 100 guests.

The hospital has seen years of glory as well as years of pain, including when a powerful earthquake struck Haiti in 2010, killing 300,000 people, Martin said.

"During the devastating earthquake that struck the country in 2010, [the hospital] stood firm and prepared to receive those who were in need of care," he said.

The hospital provided months of care to thousands of people injured in the earthquake. It was able to treat the

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## Hero of Family Medicine for 2016 announced ...

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from the California Academy of Family Physicians."

Lee, the academy president, says, "Her efforts to grow and strengthen the family physician community through education, advocacy and leadership make her a true family medicine champion.

"In addition to being a superb family physician, Dr. Simon is an inspiring leader and excellent teacher."

She is a past-president of the

academy's Riverside-San Bernardino County Chapter and currently serves as a member of its statewide board of directors representing family physicians in District V, while also participating in legislative advocacy both in the Inland Empire and in Sacramento.

In 2014, Simon was named Educator of the Year by the California Academy of Family Physicians, receiving the Barbara Harris Award for Educational Excellence.



Haiti's first lady, Ginette Michaud Privert, cuts the ribbon at the new surgical suite as Hart, second left, and others watch. Photo by Libna Stevens

## School of Medicine alumnus takes on new role in Malawi

Contributed report

The Surgical Association of Malawi (SAM), at its April 1, 2016, meeting voted to elect Loma Linda University School of Medicine alumnus, Ryan Hayton, MD, class of 2005, as its secretary and treasurer.

Hayton grew up in a missionary family, living in Malawi for years, where he serves today as the chief of surgery at Malamulo Adventist Hospital — a facility that is both an Adventist Health International (AHI) site as well as the first field station for Loma Linda University Health.

Working as a general surgeon, Hayton showcases his ability to combine his God-given surgical skill with his desire to teach others to be competent, committed, and Christ-centered surgeons to work in low-resource settings.

“Ryan’s dream was always to return to the place of his childhood. Upon completing his surgical training, he headed to Malamulo Adventist Hospital in Malawi and started redeveloping the surgical services there,” says Richard

Hart, MD, DrPH, president of AHI and Loma Linda University Health.

In 2010, Hayton, along with his wife, Sharlene, and son Benson moved to Malawi as missionaries under Loma Linda University’s deferred mission appointee program. The couple has since been blessed with the additions of sons Hudson and Jett.

With his interest in medical education, Hayton made plans to establish a rotation for surgical residents from Loma Linda University, and in 2013, Malamulo Adventist Hospital was recognized by the Accreditation Council of Graduate Medical Education as its first international site. With support from AHI, Malamulo next became a training site for the Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons (PAACS), a program that focuses on training African surgeons to meet the ever-growing surgical needs of the continent.

Hart expressed his joy in the recognition, saying, “Ryan has been central to these efforts and I am delighted he is being recognized locally for the contributions he has made in Malawi.”



Ryan Hayton, MD, a 2005 alumnus of the LLU School of Medicine, was elected secretary and treasurer of the Surgical Association of Malawi. Hayton is chief of surgery at Malamulo Adventist Hospital.

The surgical team at Malamulo Adventist Hospital is currently training three African doctors through the Loma Linda-accredited PAACS program. Its goal is to add one additional resident to



Hayton, left, is joined by his wife, Sharlene, right, and sons Hudson, front left, Benson, front right, and Jett in Sharlene’s arms.

the program each year.

In accepting the position of SAM secretary and treasurer, Hayton said, “I think it will add recognition and awareness of Malamulo Adventist Hospital and Malamulo-PAACS in and among the surgeons and physicians in Malawi.”

## SIMS program returns to Mexico for first time since 2010

By Courtney Haas

At 4:30 a.m. February 27, a group of Loma Linda University Health students and faculty, piled into two eight-passenger vans outside of the Councilors Student Pavilion at Loma Linda University Health.

Where were they going so early in

the morning? Mexico. To the Mount of Olives Children’s Village in Ejido Urapan Ensenada, to be exact.

For many years Loma Linda University’s Students for International Mission Service (SIMS) offered students the opportunity to not only take part in short-term mission trips ranging from one week to three months, but

also the option of going on weekend trips to Mexico.

The trips were put on hold in 2010 when travel warnings were issued for Mexico due to safety concerns and drug cartel activity. But today, upon completing multiple site assessments and receiving Loma Linda University Health administrative approval, SIMS has made plans to restart the trips and rekindle

the relationships that were built so many years ago.

For this first trip, students and staff scouted a variety of locations. The group of 14 observed, took part in church services, played with the children living in the village, and evaluated the needs of the surrounding area, while also completing a site assessment for future trips.

*Continued next page*

## Adventist hospital in Haiti celebrates 35 years of service with the opening of a new state-of-the-art surgical suite . . .

*Continued from page 5*

patients thanks to its association with and support from Loma Linda, California-based Loma Linda University Health; Florida Hospital in Orlando, Florida; and Adventist Health International, a nonprofit corporation that provides governance, consultation and technical assistance to a number of affiliated Adventist hospitals around the world, hospital officials said. Loma Linda University Health and Florida Hospital have contributed funds and medical professionals to the hospital for years.

Incidentally, the hospital was constructed under California seismic building codes, which contributed to its withstanding the 2010 earthquake, said Elie Honore, a former administrator of the hospital who played a key role in its establishment in 1979. Honore currently is the president of Adventist Health Services Inter-America, which oversees the 14 hospitals and 24 clinics in the Adventist Church’s Inter-American Division.

### The new facilities

The new surgical suite at the 65-bed Haiti Adventist Hospital includes three fully equipped operating rooms with an in-line central medical air/medical oxygen system and a modern laboratory.

The new private clinic will be managed by a local insurer, Compagnie d’Assurance d’Haiti, in a rented, remodeled office on the premises of the hospital. The multi-specialty clinic will provide medical services onsite and refer its patients to the hospital for extended services such as lab work,

radiology, surgery, hospitalization, and emergency care.

The hospital’s staff of more than 40 physicians, nurses and other personnel has treated an average of 12,000 patients a year for the past two years.

At the ceremony, a senior Haitian senator, Carl Murav Cantave, who is an Adventist believer and medical doctor, congratulated the Adventist Church and the hospital for providing quality health care to people from all parts of society. He challenged hospital leaders to find ways to expand health care services.

“Many times people travel to the



Elie Honore, a former administrator of the hospital, who played a key role in its establishment in 1979, and current administrator, Edward Martin share in the celebration by discussing all that the hospital has overcome. *Photo by Libna Stevens*

United States or the Dominican Republic for better care, and HAH can be that hospital,” he said.

Richard Hart, MD, DrPH, president of Loma Linda University Health and Adventist Health International, promised that the two organizations would maintain their support of the hospital.

“Our commitment to keep this hospital the best hospital in Haiti continues,” he said.

### Pledge to Share God’s Love

Haiti’s first lady, Ginette Michaud Privert, spoke about her time working at the hospital in 1985 and 1986, and extended congratulations on behalf of the country’s president.

“I know that it has not been easy during the more than 30 years here, but thank you for providing quality services

for so many in Carrefour and at the national level,” she said.

Carrefour is the suburb of Port-au-Prince where the hospital is located.

Martin, the hospital administrator, mentioned that the hospital has five major projects that it needs to tackle: renovations to the emergency room, two communal rooms, the main floor, administration offices, and an outpatient services area. But he said Friday’s ceremony was not a time to discuss how much remained to be done but to celebrate “the small steps that the hospital has taken in order to be a better health care provider for people.”

“The hospital for many here symbolizes more than just a beautiful structure, more than a place to receive medication or another lab result. It represents hope and life,” Martin said.

“We want to be an institution that reflects God’s love and His compassion to all — patients, partners and visitors,” he said.



Three state-of-the-art operating rooms, including the one above, were celebrated by the ribbon-cutting. *Photo by Libna Stevens*

# Earth and biological sciences professor organizes animal encounter for community

By Larry Kidder

Creatures of the night were on hand Saturday, April 2, at Loma Linda University Church, wowing a near-capacity audience of all ages. Similar encounters with animals have been taking place two times a year for the past several years.

This year's event, titled "Creatures of the Night," featured a menagerie of animals that become most active at twilight, pre-dawn, or during the dark of night. Among the smaller animals were scorpions and cockroaches. A full-grown timber wolf and a 600-pound Alaskan Kodiak bear were among the largest animals.

William "Bill" Hayes, PhD, professor of earth and biological sciences, Loma Linda University School of Medicine, is internationally known for his research with rattlesnake strikes and venom output. For the past several years, he has led in organizing the animal encounter programs for the community.

"It's important for children and adults alike to see animals up close to appreciate

their value to the world," Hayes suggests. "Many false preconceptions, ideas, and fears can be easily put to rest when a child—or adult—has a close encounter with an animal in a safe setting."

Hayes is an advocate for educating people around the world about the animals that share their environment, and encourages attitudes of appreciation and protection. He is particularly interested in researching why certain species have become threatened and endangered, and what can be done to educate people living in their habitat to understand and protect them.

Ron Carter, PhD, provost of Loma Linda University, who also took part in the April 2 program, has collaborated with Hayes on various research efforts, including one for an endangered species of Bahamian rock iguana, *Cyclura rileyi rileyi*, native to San Salvador Island. Together, they've identified the threats to the species and developed educational programs to help young people in the Bahamas appreciate and protect these rare lizards.

During the program, representatives

from a number of local animal rescue organizations brought their animals to be a part of the event. More common animals like bats and opossums were on display, and interesting facts and observations of their behaviors were shared.

For instance, a common brown bat will eat a mosquito or other insect every few seconds during flight. An opossum also eats insects and other small animals, keeping the pest population in check.

A number of snakes were handled—from pythons to rattlesnakes—and their important roles in their ecosystems were explained, including four of the seven species of rattlesnakes found in Southern California.

Following the program, the audience members were invited to visit with the various animal handlers on the church lawn, meeting the animals and learning more interesting facts about them.



William "Bill" Hayes, PhD, professor of earth and biological sciences, gives a quiz to three young volunteers about creatures of the night.



**Above:** Ron Carter, PhD, provost of Loma Linda University and a research colleague of Hayes, addresses the near-capacity crowd that gathered for the event. **Far left:** Hayes experiences a lemur firsthand after it nimbly hops to his shoulders from its handler's hands. **Left:** A handler explains some interesting facts about wolves, which are making a reappearance in the United States. A video about the positive impact of wolves on Yellowstone National Park was also shown.

## SIMS program returns to Mexico for first time since 2010 ...

Continued from previous page

"We hope that by re-establishing our partnerships in the Baja California area of Mexico, we can provide amazing opportunities for those students and staff who cannot necessarily afford to take a week, month or year off to experience service learning," Ed Drachenberg, director of SIMS, shares. "We want to reignite the flame that we once had with the SIMS Mexico mission service trips, and this scouting trip is just the beginning."

The trip was a success, according to Drachenberg. The group was able to work together to connect with the local community and determine the needs based on conversations, observations, and meetings with community members and facilitators at the Mount of Olives establishment.

"I was so happy when I heard that this trip was approved and many more Loma Linda students will get a chance to serve at this incredible site," says trip participant Arti Desai, MPH, a student in Loma Linda University School of Medicine as well as Loma Linda University Student Association president. "I strongly believe that my school and program can benefit from this trip by serving as mentors, advisors, friends and supporters of these children along with

providing care, counseling, ministry, and assistance in program implementation when and if the need arises for education or awareness on relevant topics."

Mount of Olives staff members spoke on behalf of the community and indicated that SIMS services are both desired and welcomed. They expressed that, by providing recurrent assistance,

these trips could bring about community resilience and contribute to positive health outcomes.

SIMS is well underway with planning upcoming trips, with the next departures taking place in August and September.

To learn more about these trips and more, please visit [luglobl.com/SIMS](http://luglobl.com/SIMS) and see how you can experience service.

**Right:** New friends were excited to show the SIMS group their box racing carts.



Mexico mission trip participants pose for one last picture with the local children before returning to Loma Linda.

## Faculty stage panel presentation at Lilly Conference

Contributed report

The Lilly Conference on evidence-based teaching and learning, Feb. 18–21 in Newport Beach, was enriched by several presentations by Loma Linda University faculty members. More than 300 college and university faculty members from across the United States and Canada attended.

Five Loma Linda University faculty members composed a panel facilitated by Gail Rice, EdD, professor, School of Allied Health Professions, and Richard Rice, PhD, professor, School of Religion. Each of the five gave a presentation. They are:

- “Opportunities for Failure as Integral Part of Course Design” by Willie Davis, PhD, chair of the department of pharmaceutical and administrative sciences, School of Pharmacy;
- “Transforming Teaching: Engaging Tomorrow’s Students Today” by Peter Gleason, PhD, assistant professor, School of Public Health;
- “Gaming in Education: A Use Analysis in Triage Training” by Ehren Ngo, MS, assistant professor, School of Allied Health Professions;
- “An Augmented Reality Terrain Map for Health Needs Assessment

Visualization” by Ryan Sinclair, PhD, MPH, assistant professor, School of Public Health; and  
 ➤ “Integrating Spirituality into Classroom and Clinical Care” by Jacqueline Williams-Reade, PhD, assistant professor, School of Behavioral Health.

Eric Johnson, DSc, professor, School of Allied Health Professions, also delivered a presentation, titled “Let’s Flip This Classroom,” and a poster titled “If You Only Flip, You Will Likely Flop.” He has been a leader at Loma Linda University in working with the pedagogical technique known as flipping the classroom, in which more class time is devoted to interaction between students and teacher.

Additionally, Rice presented two posters, titled “Formative Dialogues on Teaching: Non-Threatening Peer Coaching” and “Pausing the Lecture.”

Lilly Conference director Todd Zakrajsek, PhD — an associate professor in the department of family medicine at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill — worked with Gail Rice and the Loma Linda University faculty development committee to create the unique panel presentation mentioned above. The panel presenters were selected from the 2016 Loma Linda University Faculty Development Showcase.



Faculty members who presented at the Lilly Conference smile for a “selfie,” including, back row, from left, Peter Gleason, PhD; Ryan Sinclair, PhD, MPH; Ehren Ngo, MS; and Willie Davis, PhD; as well as front row, from left, Gail Rice, EdD; Eric Johnson, DSc; Jacqueline Williams-Reade, PhD; and Todd Zakrajsek, PhD, director of the Lilly Conference.

## 2nd annual Family Fitness Fun 5k and Expo termed ‘a rip-roaring success!’

By James Ponder

The 2nd annual Family Fitness Fun 5k and Expo, which was held Sunday morning, April 3, at the historic Burrage Mansion in Redlands, was called “a rip-roaring success” by Dixie Watkins, co-president of the Big Hearts for Little Hearts Loma Linda Guild, sponsor of the event.

“It was just amazing,” Watkins reports. “The weather was perfect and lots of people came out to join in the fun. Best of all, lots of children attended and had a great time.”

The event—which combined fitness activities such as the 5k run, an obstacle course and other games for the kids with a mini health fair with 29 exhibitors—was created, Watkins said, because the guild wanted to encourage families of the Inland Empire to take proactive measures to protect their health.

“The guild exists to raise awareness and funds for Loma Linda University Children’s Hospital,” she notes. “And while Children’s Hospital does a great job of taking care of sick children, we wanted to encourage people in our community to get involved in health and fitness to help them stay healthy.”

According to Penny Moores, treasurer of the organization, there was a significant upturn in the number of participants this year.

“Last year, we had a total of 163 people turn out to take part in the race,” she notes, “but this year the number leaped to 229, including five who signed up online this morning and a number of walk-ins. That’s a 40 percent increase over last year.”

One big reason for the hefty increase was the fact that radio station KFROG 95.1 and 92.9 FM ran a series of public service announcements throughout the days prior to the event. Moores said

she happened to be online checking the guild email inbox as one of the KFROG announcements aired, and within moments, several people had signed up. KFROG manned a booth with three on-air personalities at the event.

Before the run began, Adriana Plaza Cutler of Atelier Fitness Studio and Charlie Cutler of Cutler Insurance led participants in warm-up exercises designed to loosen muscles and joints to prevent injury. Jillian Payne, MBA, executive director of Loma Linda University Children’s Hospital (LLUCH), welcomed participants to the event and acknowledged the dozens of volunteers and Loma Linda University Health employees who were there to support the affair, asking them to raise their hands and receive a round of applause. She then welcomed Scott Perryman, MBA, senior vice president of LLUCH, who also thanked everyone for attending.

Kerry Heinrich, JD, CEO of Loma Linda University Medical Center, said a few words and offered an invocatory prayer. Redlands Mayor Paul W. Foster welcomed everyone to Redlands and got a laugh from the crowd when he said he promised not to give a long-winded political speech. True to his word, he kept it short.

Next up, Cheryl Slaton, one of the newest members of the guild board, introduced the guest of honor, 9-year-old Alex Miller. Slaton explained that Alex is a living example of the compassionate care the physicians and staff of Loma Linda University Children’s Hospital provide to the children of our community.

She shared that Alex almost didn’t make it to his first birthday, but thanks to the lifesaving interventions of Children’s Hospital, he enjoys robust health today. Slaton also introduced Alex’s

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## Patients enjoy crafts, basketball, and action heroes at Spring Community Day



Loma Linda University Children’s Hospital (LLUCH) patients were treated to a fun-filled afternoon away from the bedside. Local businesses and organizations joined forces for Luke’s Pride Spring Community Day, Tuesday, March 29, providing various crafts, games and live action heroes including Batman. In the photo, LLUCH patient Bryan Baraona, 18, got to meet some of his favorite action movie characters during the afternoon. He also took advantage of the games and arts and crafts that were available at the event. *By Briana Pastorino*



Runners bolt out of the starting gate at the 2nd annual Family Fitness Fun 5k and Expo, which was held Sunday morning, April 3, at the historic Burrage Mansion in Redlands. Sponsored by the Big Hearts for Little Hearts Loma Linda Guild, the event attracted 40 percent more runners this year than last.



## President's May 1 work bee will search for history

By Heather Reifsnyder

President Richard Hart will lead a volunteer work bee Sunday, May 1, to clear the area where the historic steps traveled from the Loma Linda train station to the original sanitarium over 100 years ago.

In the olden days of Loma Linda—more than 100 years ago—a grand staircase swept from the train station up the hill to the original Loma

Linda Sanitarium, founded in 1905, now known as Loma Linda University Health.

The staircase traveled between two stately rows of palm trees that still stand today on the north side of the hill, which is now home to Nichol Hall and Lindsay Hall.

Sunday, May 1, President Richard Hart, MD, DrPH, will lead volunteers from Loma Linda University Health in a half-day work bee to clear

this area between the trees and search for remnants of these historical steps. The departments of landscaping and construction will be present providing necessary tools and gear.

The day will begin at 7 a.m. in the hilltop gazebo above Lindsay Hall with a warm pancake breakfast provided by the student residence deans.

"Join us as we link past and present by coming together to restore a historic area," says Hart.

**Right:** The steps leading up to the old Sanitarium have been buried for many years but are still there.



## Loma Linda University researchers present four abstracts at San Diego conference

By Susan Onuma

Three abstracts submitted for peer-review and presentation by Lee Berk, DrPH, MPH, on research for which he serves as principal investigator, and a fourth abstract submitted by Gurinder Bains, PhD, principal investigator, on results of a pilot study conducted, demonstrating benefits of positive-affect laughter on reducing detrimental inflammatory blood biomarker levels, were presented at the 2016 Experimental Biology Conference, held in San Diego, April 2–7.

Berk's first two accepted abstracts outlined research results of human subject experiments and the consumption of dark "healthy" chocolate (70 percent cacao) to enhanced sensory response effects on brain frequency changes.

Both dark chocolate experiments offered evidence of positive association

between the consumption of 70 percent cacao and improvement in brain function and efficacy.

The third abstract of Berk's research, focused on the positive happiness benefits of humor associated mirthful laughter on the brain.

The fourth abstract on results of a pilot study, demonstrating the benefits positive-affect laughter on reducing detrimental inflammatory blood biomarkers levels, was presented by Bains, who worked with Berk on his laughter studies.

"Our research findings offer potential clinical and rehabilitative benefits that can be applied to wellness programs for the elderly," Bains says. "The cognitive components—learning ability and delayed recall—become more challenging as we age and are essential to older adults for an improved quality of life: mind, body, and spirit."

He adds, "Although older adults have

age-related memory deficits, complimentary, enjoyable, and beneficial humor therapies need to be implemented for these individuals."

Study co-author Berk, long-time psychoneuroimmunology researcher, adds, "It's simple: the less stress you have the better your memory."

He continues, "Humor reduces detrimental stress hormones like cortisol that decrease memory hippocampal neurons, lowers your blood pressure, and increases blood flow and your mood state. The act of laughter—or simply enjoying some humor—increases the release of endorphins and dopamine in the brain, which provides a sense of pleasure and reward."

He adds, "These positive and beneficial neurochemical changes, in turn, make the immune system function better. There are even changes in brain wave activity towards what's called the 'gamma wave band frequency,' which also amp up memory and recall."

Berk concludes, "So, indeed, laughter is turning out to be not only a good medicine, but also a memory enhancer adding to our quality of life."

Craig Jackson, MD, MPH, dean of Loma Linda University School of Allied Health Professions, says, "We have reached a new milestone in the growth of the Loma Linda University School of Allied Health Professions research culture, where all three research studies Dr. Berk submitted from our current research activities were accepted for presentation at the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology 2016 annual meetings."

Jackson continues, "In addition, a fourth research study submitted by Dr. Bains was also accepted for presentation. This is an unprecedented achievement for the school."

Dean Jackson also provided sponsorships for several of the school's doctoral students who have been involved in this research. Many were able to attend and jointly present the school's research findings during the conference poster presentation sessions.

The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology annual meetings are multidisciplinary, scientific meetings that feature lectures, pre-meeting workshops, oral and poster presentation sessions, and attendance of numerous large scientific companies as exhibitors showing their latest in new equipment, instruments and supplies for medical and scientific research, as well as publication vendors of medical and scientific journals and educational books and publications used in teaching and research labs for basic and human experimental studies.

The Experimental Biology Conference is an annual meeting comprising more than 14,000 scientists and exhibitors and representing six sponsoring societies (the American Association of Anatomists, the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, the American Society for Nutrition, the American Physiological Society, the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics and, the American Society for Investigative Pathology), and multiple guest societies from all parts of the world.

The typical number of health care professional and scientific researchers from all over the world ranges between 20,000 and 25,000 attendees.



Loma Linda University School of Allied Health Professions' Lee Berk, PhD, is joined by six of his graduate student researchers at the 2016 Experimental Biology conference, held in San Diego.

## School of Dentistry celebrates 40 years of implant dentistry

By Doug Hackleman

Loma Linda University (LLU) School of Dentistry's advanced education program in implant dentistry celebrated 40 years of service April 3 and 4, 2016, with a two-day symposium at the Damazo Amphitheater of LLU's Centennial Complex titled "Anterior Implant Esthetics: Preservation vs. Regeneration."

More than 500 oral health care professionals attended presentations by leading experts in the field of anterior implant esthetics that included lectures on current treatments and philosophies in soft and hard tissue preservation and regeneration, as well as prosthodontics management of occlusion and its complications.

Attendees received 16 hours of continuing education credit for their attention to presentations by 11 implant dentistry specialists.

The Robert A. James Society for Implant Dentistry hosted a fundraising dinner Sunday evening at the Mission Inn in Riverside. And after introductory remarks by Dean Ronald Dailey, PhD, Jaime Lozada, DDS, director, advanced education program in implant dentistry, shared his vision for the remodel of the LLUSD Implant Dentistry Center that will make the facility consistent with the quality of education and patient care that it already provides.

Renovations include an upgrade to the front desk and reception areas as well as all new dental chair units in each of the center's six operatories.

The "Anterior Implant Esthetics: Preservation vs. Regeneration" seminar was an enormous success as evidenced by the comments attending professionals left on their evaluation sheets, including, "Very informative. I will change my practice;" "The whole event was

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Giovanni Zuccelli, DDS, PhD, professor associato confermato, Università di Bologna, Italy, lectures at the Damazo Amphitheater on the "Esthetic treatment of soft tissue defects around teeth and implants."

## Loma Linda University faculty actively connecting to service learning

Contributed report

Each one of Loma Linda University's eight schools has been visited by staff from the Institute for Community Partnerships to provide information about the latest in service learning, the elements that must be included in a service learning course. Faculty members were also invited to officially designate additional courses as service learning courses.

The most recent course at Loma Linda University to receive the official service learning designation is the School of Public Health's integrated community development course, taught by Biblia Kim, MPH; Donn Gaede, DrPH; and J.C. Belliard, PhD. This course is part of the master of public health (MPH) global health degree program.

Integrated community development is offered in the summer. As part of the class, students travel abroad where they are able to experience what reciprocity means with a community partner, utilizing what they learned in class in collaboration with a service site. The components of this course have a clear connection to service learning.

To be officially designated as a service learning course, the academic service learning committee looks within the syllabus. From the service learning designation application, it asks: does the service-learning component have a clear connection with the course objectives?

Typically, there are multiple objectives for a course, and many have to meet institutional learning and course learning outcomes as well as meeting additional program requirements.

Service learning is usually woven into the objectives through assignments in the community, communication abilities with the community or how service learning itself is an objective.

In many cases an existing course objective that meets other program-required learning outcomes, shares service learning elements.

Beginning with a course objective, the instructor designs a framework for the course that assignments and assessments can be built upon, as well as what the instructor intends the student to learn within the service learning course.

By connecting service learning components to the course objectives, this keeps it a broadly conceived learning goal, yet, enough room for specific assignments and development of the students' learning experience through service. This is important because as the scholarship of a service learning course is maintained by the faculty, the students understand what the objectives are and how they correlate to service learning.

Many Loma Linda University students have participated in service learning during their undergraduate program and in high school. Therefore,



when students enroll in this type of course at Loma Linda University, they know they are enrolling in a service learning course. And by having course objectives connected with the service learning components of the course, it clearly communicates to students what the expectations are and helps them to self-evaluate during the course.

The course objectives are more than just an agreed-upon task list for the course. When it comes to service learning, the objectives maintain the integrity

*Continued next page*

## School of Dentistry celebrates 40 years of implant dentistry ...

*Continued from page 9*

top-notch;" "Amazing. Thank you very much for these two wonderful days;" and "Very impressive group of speakers."

During the banquet, Joseph Kan, DDS, MS, former student of the LLUSD implant program (1993) and member of its faculty since 1995, director of the "40 Years of Implant Dentistry" symposium, was feted with a surprise award for his efforts in putting the symposium together. John Kois, DMD, MSD, described the trajectory of Kan's career that included an affectionately humorous presentation of photos from his early childhood and education at Loma Linda University.

The occasion also provided an opportunity to honor the contribution made to the school's implant dentistry program by its laboratory technicians: Lui Calvillo, CDT (22 years); Satoshi Sakamoto, RDT (6 years); Mick Ilich, CDT (22 years); and Dennis Corydon, CDT (9 years).

The 40th Anniversary's third day of celebration (Tuesday, April 5) was devoted to the Robert A. James Society of Implant Dentistry's 3rd Alumni Symposium in Loma Linda University's Wong Kerlee Pavilion.

The symposium was organized by the Society's president, Aladdin AlArdah, DDS, assistant professor, advanced

education program in implant dentistry, and featured lectures by 13 LLUSD implant program alumni from all over the world — countries that included Canada, France, Greece, Italy, Japan, Korea, Lebanon, Spain, Taiwan, Thailand, Lebanon and the United States. The presenters shared with their colleagues the results of their professional activities and insights.

"What sets our program apart from so many others," says AlArdah, "is the sense of belonging to a bigger family with bonds of shared memories, friendship, and professional specialty."

AlArdah hosted a gathering of 90 implant celebrants for dinner at his home Monday evening.

A week after the event, Dr. Lozada said, "As of today I am still receiving emails of congratulations from those who attended the symposium and personal congratulations from many of our faculty in the School of Dentistry who attended the meetings, all of which reflects the outstanding work that Dr. Kan as a program chair, with the assistance of the continuing dental education staff, accomplished for this event.

"We are looking forward to the continuing collaboration with our former students and welcome their support that enriches the Robert A. James Society and future implant symposia."



Joseph Kan, DDS, MS, professor, Advanced Education Program in Implant Dentistry, LLUSD, responds to the recognition he was given for his contribution to the education and practice of implant dentistry.



Mike Pikos, DDS, founder and CEO, Pikos Implant Center, autographs a 40th anniversary of implant dentistry symposium poster.



Jaime Lozada, DDS, director, advanced education program in implant dentistry, Loma Linda University School of Dentistry (LLUSD), addresses the Robert A. James Society for Implant Dentistry fundraising dinner at the Mission Inn in Riverside.

## 2nd annual Family Fitness Fun 5k and Expo termed 'a rip-roaring success!' ...

*Continued from page 8*

Linda University School of Pharmacy, brother Chase, who will turn 3 in just a few days.

The run got underway at approximately 8:00 a.m. after Officer Chris Mead of the Redlands Police Department instructed the runners and walkers to be mindful of their surroundings as the course ran along several neighborhood streets. Then he and Alex led runners to the starting point where Alex blasted the air horn starting the run.

The beautifully manicured grounds of the Burrage Mansion served as the perfect location for the event. Built in 1901 by mineral magnate Albert Burrage, the palatial estate was purchased in 2007 by entrepreneur Tim Rochford as a safe haven of play and enrichment for disadvantaged children.

Joanna Reyes, a student at Loma

Linda University School of Pharmacy, finished the run ahead of everyone else. On her LinkedIn page, Joanna describes herself as an elite runner. Because of the family nature of this event, the run was not timed, but people who saw her cross the finish reported that Joanna was moving very fast.

Perhaps five or ten minutes later, Alex Miller came running up the long driveway to the finish line, holding the hand of his mother, Alecia.

After receiving his heart-shaped medal on a red, white and blue lanyard, Alex described the race as, "A little bit long, but a lot of fun!" Alecia's husband, Michael Miller, followed a short time later with Chase. When asked how Chase had done in his first 5k run, Michael said he ran quite a bit and had to be carried some as well.

## Public health alumna wows international community, wins awards

By Heather Reifsnnyder

**S**tellar could describe the past year for Sakena Yacoobi, MPH, alumna of the School of Public Health.

A humanitarian nonprofit leader in her native Afghanistan, she has received three notable recognitions in 2015–2016. She is founder and CEO of the Afghan Institute of Learning.

First, she was a featured speaker at TEDWomen 2015, sharing about how she prevented the Taliban from shutting down her schools for women and children. Watch her moving speech at [bit.ly/1kl9qoz](http://bit.ly/1kl9qoz).

Yacoobi also won the 2015 WISE Prize for Education, an initiative of the Qatar Foundation, led by Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser of the same country.

WISE stands for World Innovation Summit for Education.

“It is our aim that this prize should raise global awareness of the crucial role of education in all societies, and create a platform for innovative and practical solutions that might help alleviate some of the challenges that education faces around the world,” the sheikha says.

Yacoobi says she felt honored and blessed to be chosen as laureate of the WISE Prize for Education.

“It is particularly meaningful because this is such a crucial time in Afghanistan,” she explains. “My people live in terror and poverty. They are suffering and feel hopeless. Yet, at this moment a light has appeared.”

“With this prize, we know that we can continue to educate more and more Afghans,” she says, “giving them hope and encouraging them to go forward no matter what they are facing. It is such a great gift to me, and I dedicate the prize to the Afghan Institute of Learning and all of the women, men, and children we are educating.”

The award carries a gold medal and \$500,000.

“Now, we can continue to educate more and more Afghans, giving them hope and encouraging them to go forward, no matter what they are facing,” Yacoobi says.

Most recently, Yacoobi won the 2016 Harold W. McGraw, Jr. Prize in Education (International Winner) from McGraw-Hill Education and Arizona State University.

The prize, which includes a bronze sculpture and \$50,000, was founded in 1988 and recognizes outstanding individuals who are making a difference by dedicating themselves to improving education through new approaches.

David Levin, president and CEO of



Sakena Yacoobi, MPH, works with young female students. Her humanitarian work in Afghanistan changes thousands of lives of women and children.

McGraw-Hill Education, says Yacoobi’s accomplishments and innovation deserve laud.

Of Yacoobi and her two fellow winners, he notes, “[They] have changed the lives of millions of students.”

“I am honored and elated to receive this prestigious award and at such a crucial time as this, when my country, Afghanistan, is at a tipping point,” Yacoobi says. “Winning this award not only gives me hope, it inspires me to keep working even

harder to bring transformation to the marginalized, oppressed, and unjustly treated in society,” she continues. “I am educating women and children, exposing them to modern knowledge so they can rebuild our country.”

Yacoobi concludes, “The women and young people are the ones who will recover global society from ignorance to a more progressive community that nurtures all people through love and compassion with wisdom and tolerance.”

## Loma Linda University nutrition researchers and students present posters at 2016 Experimental Biology Conference

By Marcus Chapman

**F**rom April 2–6, 2016 students and faculty from the Loma Linda University School of Public Health (LLUSPH) presented at the 2016 Experimental Biology (EB) Conference in San Diego.

EB is an annual meeting comprised of over 14,000 scientists and exhibitors representing six sponsoring societies and multiple guest societies. The EB is the top scientific conference in the field of Nutrition in the United States.

“On behalf of the Center for Nutrition Healthy Lifestyle and Disease Prevention faculty, I am very pleased to share that nutrition students and faculty

were significantly represented at EB this year,” said Sujatha Rajaram, PhD, program director for DrPH in nutrition at LLUSPH. “We are pleased and look forward to a productive and engaging conference.”

Twenty-two presentations were made at this conference. Nine nutrition doctoral students, three epidemiology students, two post-doctoral fellows, and seven faculty members from School of Public Health department of nutrition presented. Four student posters were selected for a competition in the session “Emerging Leaders in Nutrition.” Several LLUSPH doctoral students are recipients of the Selma Andrews Award for presentations at past EB conferences.



School of Public Health department of nutrition faculty and student researchers presented posters at the 2016 Experimental Biology Conference.

## Alpha Omega Alpha hosts 59th anniversary banquet at LLUSM

By James Ponder

**T**wenty-six of Loma Linda University School of Medicine’s best and brightest students and two house staff physicians were inducted into Alpha Omega Alpha, the national honor medical society, on Wednesday, March 16, during a special ceremony in the Wong Kerlee International Conference Center.

In addition to this year’s honorees, two members of the very first group inducted into AOA membership from the Loma

Linda University School of Medicine (LLUSM) Class of 1957—Ray Herber, MD, and Glenn Foster, MD—attended the banquet. Herber noted afterward that next year marks the 60th anniversary of the Epsilon chapter of California, as the LLUSM branch of AOA is called.

According to the Alpha Omega Alpha website, the group—which was founded in 1902—is “dedicated to the belief that in the profession of medicine, we will improve care for all by:

- Honoring gifted teaching

- Encouraging the development of leaders in academia and the community
- Supporting the ideals of humanism
- Promoting service to others”

“Election to Alpha Omega Alpha is an honor signifying a lasting commitment to scholarship, leadership, professionalism, and service,” the website adds. “A lifelong honor, membership in the society confers recognition for a physician’s dedication to the profession and art of healing.”

After a warm welcome by Janna Vasantachart, student president of the Epsilon chapter, and an invocation by Danny Wongworawat, MD, councilor for the chapter, Roger Hadley, MD, dean of LLUSM, introduced the guest speaker.

“Dr. Ralph W. Kuncl is the 11th president of the University of Redlands,” Hadley said. “He joined the university in August 2012, having served most recently as provost and executive vice president, as well as professor of

neurology and brain and cognitive sciences at the University of Rochester in New York.”

Hadley observed that he had been told that Kuncl is an outstanding speaker as well as a kind and innovative leader.

After thanking Hadley for inviting him, Kuncl told attendees that the options open to them are limitless. To illustrate the point, he said, “I became a university president. Go figure.”

He then offered four pearls of wisdom he has gleaned over the years:

- Play your best game at your best venue
- Do what you love
- Make an impact
- You can love an institution, but an institution can’t love you back. Focus on loving the people of the institution, not the institution itself

“It’s hard to be tolerant of the headstrong and unlovable,” Kuncl continued, “but you’d better learn it now. You’ll find

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## Loma Linda University faculty actively connecting to service learning ...

*Continued from previous page*  
of community partnerships, encourage reciprocity burgeoning within community engagement activities, and elevate the connection derived between service activities and learning.

As they address the coursework

presented in class, students have the opportunity to discover on their own what successful service in the community is. It’s the real-world context for learning; emphasizing that objective from the start gives the students a basis for successful service learning.

## For Leon Malméd, prostate cancer is nothing compared to the Holocaust

By James Ponder

Leon Malméd isn't the kind of guy to let a little thing like prostate cancer get him down. Five years ago, when his doctor told him he had prostate cancer and wanted to operate the following week, Leon didn't know what to think.

Since he has an oncologist friend at Stanford University Medical Center, Leon reached out to her and she referred him to physicians in Stanford's urology department.

"They looked at my Gleason score, which was 3 +2, and my PSA score, which was 4.6, and recommended that I go on an active surveillance program," he adds.

The measurements he mentions are numbers physicians monitor to see how far prostate cancer has advanced. Leon's numbers indicated that his was still at Stage 1, the least dangerous category.

"The Stanford doctor prescribed checking my PSA score every three months and conducting a biopsy every year," he remembers. "My PSA was stable for a year, then started to go up slowly."

But last November, when his PSA score went up to 9.03 and his Gleason score rose to 7, his physician became concerned. "He gave me all the treatment options but proton," Leon discloses. "He didn't know enough about it."

Leon first heard about proton therapy at Loma Linda University Health from a friend.

One of his biking buddies, a retired fire captain from Berkeley, told Leon that two of his colleagues had been treated at Loma Linda. The captain also said, "You can take your bike there and go riding every day after your treatment."

Leon thought that sounded better than surgery, so he investigated and chose proton therapy.

He started treatment at the James M. Slater, MD, Proton Treatment and Research Center at Loma Linda University Health in mid-March, and is very glad he did.

Not only can he still ride his bike, but he and Patricia, his wife of 35 years, are enjoying many of the beautiful sites of Southern California while the painless proton treatment continues. They've explored several bike trails, visited Joshua Tree National Park, and tried a variety of Inland Empire restaurants.

Patricia is so impressed with how well Leon is doing that she told her six brothers to get their prostates checked on a regular basis and to "go proton" if they need treatment.

Right now, life is very good for Leon in his 78th year. But it wasn't always that way. He vividly remembers the events of Sunday, July 19, 1942, when there was a knock on the door at 5:30 in the morning.

It was two gendarmes, French policemen from his hometown of Compiègne, France, who notified Leon's parents, Srul and Chana, that they were wanted for questioning at the police station.

Over the protests of the parents and screams of the children, the officers insisted that Srul and Chana come with them.

As they were leaving, Henri Ribou-leau, a next-door neighbor, promised Srul and Chana that he and his wife, Suzanne, would look after the children until their return.

About an hour-and-a-half later, Srul and Chana returned to the house accompanied by the officers. But despite

the children's hopes, their parents had been placed under arrest and were only home to gather a few belongings. Their only crime: they were Jews and France had recently fallen under the control of German Nazis, who had decided that

Jews and others were undesirable.

True to his word, Monsieur Ribou-leau, whom the children would come to call Papa Henri, and "Maman" Suzanne, faithfully kept Leon and Rachel as their own children for the next three



Leon and Patricia Malméd are enjoying a mini-vacation as he receives proton therapy for prostate cancer at the James M. Slater, MD, Proton Treatment and Research Center at Loma Linda University Health. Leon and his older sister Rachel were the only survivors from the 600-member Jewish community in his hometown of Compiègne, France, during the Holocaust.

years until World War II finally ended. Keeping that promise was not without risk: the Ribou-leau's and their two sons could have been sent to prison, extermination camps, or death for harboring Jewish children during the war. In addition, they selflessly paid the rent on Srul and Chana's apartment the entire time.

Tragically, the children would never see their parents again.

After reviewing the records at Auschwitz made public six decades later, Leon concluded that his mother was likely tortured and then gassed to death on July 29, 1942, and that his father, who was forced to work at hard labor as a slave, died or was murdered a few months before the end of the war. Altogether, the Nazis killed more than 6 million Jews, but Leon insists that doesn't begin to tell the whole story.

"I spoke in a Catholic Church about a month ago," he reports, "and I asked if anyone knew what the Holocaust was all about. I waited about five seconds and a girl said, 'The Nazis persecuted the Jews.' I said, 'Yes, but the Holocaust was the whole war. As a result of World War II, 72 million people—soldiers and civilians on all sides—died. Without Hitler, the Japanese would never have taken the West to war. They thought our country could not fight on two fronts at the same time.'"

Leon was silent for more than 60

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## Alpha Omega Alpha hosts 59th anniversary banquet . . .

*Continued from page 11*

them all over in your career."

After talking about his recent experiences as a patient at the Loma Linda University Cancer Center and singling out several as outstanding and compassionate practitioners, Kuncl talked about what he looks for in choosing leaders.

"The pedigree is interesting," he noted, "but it's not that important. Character is the one thing that matters. Being smart and being nice don't cut it. Having an inner light of character matters."

After Kuncl's remarks, Wongworawat joined Henry Lambertson, PsyD, associate dean for student affairs, in introducing the new members of the Epsilon chapter. As the new members were called to the podium to receive their membership certificates, brief vignettes of their personal and career history were read to loud cheers from the audience.

The vignette that garnered by far the most applause was for Steven Thorp, vice president of the class of 2016. After

his accomplishments were read, it was revealed that Thorp just became engaged to Cheryl Lynn Clayville, a nurse on unit 8300 at the Medical Center. Thorp and Clayville plan to marry on June 5 in Oliver, British Columbia, Canada, in his family's cherry orchard. They will then head to Grand Rapids, Michigan, where Thorp will take his residency in general surgery at Spectrum Health on the campus of Michigan State University.

### AOA initiates from the class of 2016:

Alayna Bosma  
Tyler Brown  
Corey Burke  
Justin Calvert  
Clarkson Crane  
Paul Davis  
Scott Epperly  
Ashley Fedusenko  
Aubrey Ferguson  
Benjamin Gerke  
Michael Giang  
Laurel Guthrie

Brielle Haggerty  
Abby Hibma  
Hannah Hill  
Michael Lee  
Elaine Lin  
Melissa McCormick  
Joshua McCoy  
Ji Kwan Park  
Lauren Parker  
Paige Stevens  
Steven Thorp  
Janna Vassantachart  
Denise Yeung  
Ji-Ming Yune

### AOA house staff initiates for 2016:

Djuro Petkovic, MD  
David Rajaratnam, MD

As the event drew to a close, the newest members of the Epsilon chapter of AOA were invited to stand and read together the Declaration of Geneva, a pledge of consecration to the highest ideals of the healing professions.



The newest members of the Alpha Omega Alpha honor medical society commemorate their induction into membership at the conclusion of a March 16 ceremony in the Wong Kerlee International Conference Center. While the society was founded in 1902, the Epsilon Chapter of California was established in Loma Linda in 1957. Ralph Kuncl, MD, PhD, the 11th president of the University of Redlands and guest speaker for the event, stands in the center of the front row.

## Spring Booknic brings together kids and Loma Linda University students

Contributed report

Loma Linda University Community-Academic Partners in Service (CAPS) office worked with local churches, community organizations and businesses to bring reading to the Inland Empire during CAPS annual Spring Booknic event.

Sixty-nine children between the ages of 3 and 12 attended the Spring Booknic on April 2. The kids enjoyed one-on-one reading with volunteers, face painting, watching puppet shows, and participating in games, skits, arts and crafts, and an egg scavenger hunt. More than 100 volunteers helped staff the event.

The warm spring weather was the perfect setting for the volunteers to interact with the kids. Everyone enjoyed a lunch of burritos, fresh vegetables, homemade lemonade and chocolate prune cupcakes; all sponsored by the Loma Linda University Student Association.

A highlight for the kids came when Kathryn Knecht, PhD, associate professor, School of Pharmacy and director, Community Kids Connection, led them in Easter-themed songs.

Spring Booknic was made possible through donations, and because of the generosity of local partners, each child chose several books to take home.



**Left:** During the Spring Booknic event, Loma Linda University students were among the more than 100 volunteers who read with local kids.

**Right:** During the April 2 event, each of the 69 children who participated chose several books to take home. They also participated in fun activities such as face painting, watching puppet shows, and participating in skits.

## University Church literature ministry offers Christian reading material at FMO

By James Ponder

The literature ministry outreach committee of Loma Linda University Church recently launched a new project at the Faculty Medical Offices (FMO) of Loma Linda University Health.

According to Mike Mahoney, vice president for clinic operations at Loma Linda University Health Care, the project involves the offer of free Christian literature in racks throughout the FMO.

"A new component in the delivery of Christ-centered care has been inaugurated at the FMO building," Mahoney noted. "Books and literature are being offered to our patients free of charge from the literature ministry group at Loma Linda University Church, and placed in the physician waiting areas as well as other common areas. It is encouraging to see patients reading about God's love while waiting to see their physicians."

The project represents a labor of love for many individuals, but the two men spearheading the work at FMO are Karmy Mina and Paul Damazo. Mina is retired from a career as a computer scientist at Eastman Kodak and Damazo, a long-time supporter of Loma Linda

University Health, is widely known for launching a number of successful companies throughout his career. Together, Mina and Damazo serve as enthusiastic leaders of the project.

How large an impact is the literature ministry having? Damazo says that in its first two months, the amount of literature being taken from the racks exceeded all expectations by a very wide margin. He shares what happened after he installed a literature rack in the lobby.

"I put it in," Damazo says, "and the next morning, I went back and found that a lot of the literature was already taken. Would you believe, over 300 pieces were taken the first day! It's averaged that much for two months."

While there are now literature racks offering Christian literature in doctors' offices at the FMO, the flagship rack is strategically placed in the waiting area next to the elevators on the first floor. Damazo says the location was selected because of the high volume of people who wait in that area for their elevators to arrive every day.

"When you give a piece of literature to somebody in a parking lot, they take it out of courtesy," he notes. "But here, on their own volition, they pick it up and



The literature ministry outreach committee of Loma Linda University Church recently installed racks full of Christian reading material in the Faculty Medical Offices (FMO) of Loma Linda University Health. (From left): Mike Mahoney, vice president for clinic operations at Loma Linda University Health; Paul Damazo, long-time Loma Linda University Health supporter and co-leader of the literature project; and Karmy Mina, retired computer scientist and co-leader of the project, proudly display the new literature rack in the FMO lobby.

take it with them. We've seen people reading it as they head out the door."

"Part of the reason it's so successful," Mina adds, "is that people know that in the elevators they cannot use their cell phones. We put books like 'The Desire of Ages' and 'Steps to Christ' there as well as magazines like Signs of the Times and other booklets and pamphlets. For us, it's a matter of growing into it, learning how to do it."

Mina shares the story of what happened one evening as he refilled the lobby rack.

"This guy comes up to me and says, 'Really, you mean I can have these?' He wanted 'The Desire of Ages' and he took it. Ten minutes later, he was back and asked for another copy. He had gone to see his brother and his brother didn't want to give it back."

While the main purpose of the project is to help patients learn more about the love of God as expressed in Christ during a stressful time in their lives, Mina reports that an unanticipated response is that people have been asking for Bible studies.

"The LLU Church has a database of people who want to give or receive Bible studies," he says. "This guy literally grabbed me and said he wanted to have Bible studies. He and his wife want to be baptized. Another time, this woman and her husband came up to me and started talking. They want Bible studies, too."

Damazo explains that all requests for

Bible studies generated by the literature racks are fed to Loma Linda University Church by a simple QR bar code.

"God has blessed this in so many ways," Damazo reports. "We thank Pacific Press [which publishes the religious materials distributed] for their quality products."

Damazo adds that Reed Webster recently accepted the position of chair for the LLUC literature ministry committee. "We look forward to growing under his dynamic leadership," he noted.

Both Damazo and Mina are equally appreciative for the support they have received from Mahoney and the senior leadership of Loma Linda University Health.

"Mike Mahoney has been an awesome person in helping us with this," Mina reports. "He is a kindred spirit."

"This thing started three years ago when they asked me to join the literature committee," Damazo explains. "Mike Mahoney came into the meeting and said, 'Damazo, we don't need this meeting. The only thing I need is a yes or no from you. The other thing I need is approval from administration.' I asked Mike if he would be willing to go with me."

Mahoney responds by thanking Damazo and Mina for stocking the literature racks and keeping the areas around them clean and orderly. He concludes by noting, "It is such a pleasure to work together in the delivery of care to those we are privileged to serve."

## For Leon Malmed, prostate cancer is nothing compared to the Holocaust ...

Continued from page 12  
years, but when he turned 70, he felt the time had come to share his story with the world. The book he wrote—"We Survived ... At Last I Speak"—was published by Zea Books of Lincoln, Nebraska, in 2013.

In 213 fast-paced pages, Leon tells first-hand the heart-wrenching story of what it was like to lose his parents, to live through the Nazi occupation, and to ultimately conclude that, once more, good had triumphed over evil.

The story of how he and Patricia first met is singularly fascinating. Patricia says she fell in love with him over the phone because of his French accent and charming, gentlemanly ways, but Leon has a totally different take on the subject.

This reviewer, however, will not disclose the unexpected incidents that transpired next. Instead, readers can listen to Leon narrating the book at [Audible.com](http://Audible.com) or order a paperback or

electronic version of the book from [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com).

"Too many on this beautiful Earth deny, or pretend to deny, that the Holocaust existed," Leon observes. "I am a witness of that era. And there are those who continue to perpetrate ethnic and religious hatred; genocides are happening today. We cannot be silent. Our religious leaders and educators must teach tolerance."

He says that once prejudice gains a foothold in society, the results can be deadly.

"It wasn't just Jews the Nazis were after," Leon concludes. "Three thousand Catholic priests were killed in Auschwitz along with Jehovah's Witnesses, Gypsies, resistance fighters, homosexuals, intellectuals, and anybody else they didn't like. At the end of the war, my sister and I were the only survivors of the 600 Jews in our town. It could happen here if we aren't careful. Hopefully, righteousness will prevail."

# Book event at Loma Linda University Church blends history, theodicy, literature, theater, and music

By James Ponder

From the moment it started until the lights went out two hours later, a special book event, held Friday, April 1 at Loma Linda University Church, delivered a stimulating look at the problem of evil.

Titled “God of Sense and Traditions of Non-Sense,” the program was timed to coincide with the release of the 404-page book of that same title by Sigve K. Tonstad, MD, PhD, professor at Loma Linda University School of Religion and assistant professor at Loma Linda University School of Medicine.

The program blended historical, philosophical, theodical, theatrical, and musical presentations by a panel of international scholars and Loma Linda University School of Medicine students. To open the event, students Nolan Kinne and Pedro Orta performed the theme from the movie “Schindler’s List” on piano and violin. Bernard Taylor, PhD, who recently retired as scholar in residence at Loma Linda University Church, welcomed attendees and offered the invocation.

Tonstad then took the podium to share his personal recollection of hearing a sermon by the late theologian Graham Maxwell about the rape of the concubine recounted in the Bible in Judges 19. “She lived in the days of the Judges, at the time when there was no king in Israel,” Tonstad shared, “and everyone did what was right in his own eyes. But she lives in our time, too. She lives and dies in our time—the victim in an era of apparent god-forsakenness on an industrial scale.” Tonstad concluded by saying that the 12 pieces of the concubine’s dead body, which were sent forth in the biblical narrative to the world, demand comment, “an answer, and a sunflower on her grave. She told me to tell her story; she ordered me to do it. I have done it in chapter 11 of my book, but the initial summons

came to me in this church—University Church—in 1980.”

Laura Oppegaard, an LLU student, read the first paragraph from Tonstad’s book titled simply “Holocaust.” The reading recalled the events of November 26, 1942, when Norwegian police and Nazi officials rounded up 302 men, 188 women, and 42 children, all Jewish, in Oslo, Norway. A week later, all the women and children were murdered in the gas chambers of Auschwitz. The reading set the stage for the rest of the presentations at the event.

Dragutin Matak, PhD, assistant dean of Adriatic Union College in Croatia, talked about the Holocaust as an almost palpable reality in his country despite the fact that it ended more than 70 years ago. He shared what it was like to grow up in close proximity to the Jasenovac extermination camp, where an estimated 77,000 to 99,000 Serbs, Jews, Roma, and other people termed “undesirables” by the state were put to death. Matak emphasized the Holocaust as a topic and subject for the present, and noted the need for theological engagement on a variety of issues it raises.

Ivan and Alyosha Karamazov—two central characters from Fyodor Dostoevsky’s epic novel, “The Brothers Karamazov”—appeared on stage portrayed by students Joshua Wendt and Bogdan Dumitriu. Their vignette, titled “Returning the Ticket,” has Ivan telling his brother that he would respectfully return the ticket to God rather than participate in an eternal life with a deity who had allowed the suffering and torture of children. The logic would echo, 80 years later, in the “Cancel my subscription to the Resurrection” lyric from the 1966 anthem, “When the Music’s Over” by the Doors.

The next vignette—“Utter Stupidity”—featured students Pedro Orta and Joshua Gentsler, with Orta as the philosopher Celsus in the second

century, and Gensler as the Christian apologist Origen, who died in 254 AD. Although unknown to many today, Origen of Alexandria had a fully developed cosmic conflict theology and a rare understanding of the role of freedom in God’s economy. “The students gave a riveting glimpse of the pagan criticism of the Christian God and God’s alleged weakness, and Origen’s closely reasoned defense,” Tonstad observed.

In his presentation, titled “Cosmic Conflict,” John Webster, PhD, professor of theology at La Sierra University, addressed two deficits he sees in contemporary reflections on the problem of evil: the neglect of the cosmic perspective; and the absence of a serious notion

of the demonic in discussions of unconscionable atrocities. He then introduced the work of Holocaust victim Etty Hillesum, whom he described as a figure of resilient hope amid unprecedented horror.

In “Job and His Friends,” Kenneth Wright, PhD, a professor and program director in the School of Medicine, joined students Luke Heyliger, Tessa Lambertan, Aaron Lerner, Jarred Rhodes, Philip Van Arsdale, and Garrett Lui in the biblical portrayal of the beleaguered patriarch and the three “friends” who, along with the youthful Elihu, have come to comfort him.

In “Bursts of Sense,” theologian

*Continued next page*



John Webster, PhD, professor of theology at La Sierra University, expounds his conviction that atrocities such as the Holocaust necessitate the presence of demonic forces working in human history. Webster made his remarks at an April 1 event at Loma Linda University Church.

## LLU Students receive free Vision 2020 T-shirts

By James Ponder

Loma Linda University Health students lined up on Friday, April 1, to receive free Vision 2020 T-shirts from a booth in the Councilors Student Pavilion operated by Jenny Favela, social media coordinator.

“The T-shirts were given away to bring awareness of Vision 2020 and the upcoming groundbreaking celebration for the new adult and children’s

hospitals, which will take place on May 22,” Favela noted.

She added that students who were not present can still receive a T-shirt by contacting her by email at [jfavela@llu.edu](mailto:jfavela@llu.edu). Currently, Favela only has small, medium, and large sizes available.

However, more T-shirts will be available in upcoming weeks.

Times and places to receive them will be announced on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.



Jenny Favela, social media coordinator for Loma Linda University Health, handed out free Vision 2020 T-shirts to students in the Councilors Student Pavilion on Friday, April 1.



Two Loma Linda University Health students react with joy to the gift of a T-shirt celebrating Vision 2020 and the groundbreaking celebration for the new adult and children’s hospitals, which will take place on Sunday, May 22.

### Reportable Crimes

The Crime Awareness and Campus Security Act of 1990 requires colleges and universities across the United States to publish interim reports on campus crime activities. Listed below are the crimes reported for Loma Linda University Health for the months of February and March 2016.

Type of Crime	Number of Crimes	Place of Crime
Burglary Motor Vehicle	2	Lot A; Mountain View Plaza
Auto Theft	4	LLUMC—East Campus; Lot A; North Parking Structure; Lot C
Burglary	4	Professional Plaza; LLUMC Adult Hospital; Farm Animal Care; Lot O
Assault/Battery	1	LLU Behavioral Medicine Center
Disturbing the Peace	2	LLUMC Adult Hospital; Lot C
Threats Report	1	LLUAHSC 101 Support Services
Sexual Battery	3	LLUMC—East Campus; LLUMC Adult Hospital; Nichol Hall
Fire	2	Prince Hall; Drayson Center
Trespassing	1	Emergency Department
Vandalism	2	Drayson Center; Caroline Street Clinics
Restraining Order	1	LLUMC Adult Hospital
Stolen Vehicle Recovery	1	Lot A
Narcotics	1	LLU Behavioral Medicine Center
Disorderly Conduct	1	LLUMC Adult Hospital

You can assist the Loma Linda University Health department of security in maintaining a safe and secure environment by notifying security immediately at extension 9-1-1 if you see or know about a crime taking place.

## Book event blends history, theodicy, literature, theater, and music ...

*Continued from previous page*

Bernard Taylor, PhD, described Tonsstad's book's engagement with the most important biblical stories. He talked about paying attention to the details of the text when reading the Bible, and maintaining an awareness of the context. He recounted Job's experience of being rejected by his friends who—unlike himself—did not think a human had the right to expect an explanation from God or believe that He would provide one.

In his thank you to the many individuals who helped in the publication of his book, Tonsstad expressed his appreciation to many people, but singled-out Farzaneh Alemozaffar, of the interlibrary loan department at the Del E. Webb Library, for her help in locating obscure books and manuscripts. He said he absolutely could not have brought the book to fruition without her assistance.

Student Faith Calaminos read a selection from the published prayers of Ety Hillesum, who cried out to God for deliverance, strength, and finally submission from the depths of her despair during the Nazi persecution of Jews. Marvin Ponder, who recently retired

from pastoral responsibilities at Loma Linda University Church, sang the poignant, if somewhat obscure hymn, "Come, O Thou Traveler Unknown." During the song, images flashed onscreen of the horrors of the Holocaust, including an image of a black locomotive train heading mechanistically down the rails on its garish mission to deliver victims to Auschwitz.

The final and one of the most dramatic presentations of the event was the recitation of a series of messages written on postcards and flung through openings in the cattle cars the Nazis used to haul Jews and other "undesirable minorities" to their death in the gas chambers. Not only did student Chelsi Green recite the lines with such power and pathos that it was easy to forget that she was not the original writer, but she also managed to leave the final notes of her presentation hanging loud and high on the air.

It was a fitting conclusion to a moving, inspirational, and somewhat disturbing—as the subject demands it must be—presentation that left many in attendance in a reflective and emotive state of mind.

## Mayor presents proclamation to LLUMC–Murrieta



Randon K. Lane, mayor of the City of Murrieta, presented Loma Linda University Medical Center–Murrieta (LLUMC–Murrieta) a proclamation at the April 19 City Council meeting. The proclamation honors LLUMC–Murrieta's commitment to the community, as well the innovations in medical technology that has set Loma Linda University Medical Center apart from other hospitals and medical centers. Pictured are, from left: Mayor Lane; Mark Spicer, MD, PhD, neurosurgeon, chair of cancer program, LLUMC–Murrieta; Greg Henderson, chief executive officer, LLUMC–Murrieta; Brad King, chief financial officer, LLUMC–Murrieta; Cheryl Allred, director, Cancer Center, LLUMC–Murrieta; Larry R. Becker, director, public relations, Loma Linda University Health; Tracy Bock, chief nursing officer, LLUMC–Murrieta; and Rachel Stokes, RN navigator, Cancer Center, LLUMC–Murrieta. *By Susan Onuma*

## Max the Singing Bear brings hugs, smiles, and music to patients ...

*Continued from page 16*

having a soft, cuddly teddy bear that would play Christian children's songs, something they could take to bed and go to sleep listening to," Mace discloses. "I was also thinking about the children in the hospital who could have a special friend to keep them company while they are all alone and away from home."

The day finally came when Mace brought the bear project to life. "My wife and I donated the first 100 Heritage Bears to Loma Linda University Children's Hospital," he shares. "We started sharing our idea of providing bears to children in the hospital with people at our concerts."

Concertgoers liked the idea and soon began supporting the bear project. Not only could they purchase a bear at the concert for a child or grandchild for \$39.95 plus tax and shipping, but for a donation of \$100, two adorable bears would be sent in their name to Children's

Hospital patients. In addition, they would get a tax-deductible receipt from Gospel Heritage Foundation and a thank-you letter from LLUCH.

The bears have been a big hit with patients like Megan. When she was born, Megan weighed only 2 pounds and 13 ounces. She spent three months at LLUCH.

Today, at the age of 9, Megan still requires two infusion treatments per week at Children's Hospital, each one lasting up to eight hours.

A few weeks ago, a volunteer from the department of child life services brought Megan a soft, cuddly Heritage Bear. Megan smiled. But when the volunteer squeezed the bear's paw and children's voices began to sing, Megan's eyes sparkled and she hugged the bear.

"The staff at the hospital has passed on a lot of wonderful comments," Mace shares. "We have had a number of letters and pictures from parents of children



The Heritage Singers recently visited Loma Linda University Children's Hospital to share the love of Jesus in the form of Max, the Singing Bear. They handed out cuddly teddy bears to 100 patients who received them with grins and smiles, hugs and kisses. From left: Art Mapa and Val Mace Mapa; Lucy and Max Mace; and Adriane, Bella, Amber, and Greg Mace smile moments before taking the bears to Children's Hospital patients.

who received bears, either given to them from a friend or purchased at a concert."

When Mace brought several members of his family and staff to Children's Hospital recently to deliver Heritage bears to the children, Val Mace Mapa, his daughter, handed a bear to 4-year-old Roberta Rice. Grinning from ear to ear, Roberta snuggled the bear with all her might, then gave him a great big kiss. Born with a very rare combination of Down Syndrome and mixed phenotype acute leukemia, Roberta has been the poster child three years running for Down Syndrome Association of Inland Empire.

Mace says he would like the Singing Bear project to be an ongoing program so that no child would ever be alone in the hospital. A special page on the Heritage Singers website dedicated to Max, the Singing Bear, features a photo and description of the dark brown musical ambassador and lists the 20 songs Max sings, which were originally recorded for a special children's album by the Heritage Singers titled, "All Are Precious in His Sight."

The page can be found online at [heritagesingers.com/max-the-singing-bear](http://heritagesingers.com/max-the-singing-bear).

There is also a link where viewers can click to donate two bears to patients of Loma Linda University Children's

Hospital. Viewers who scroll down the page find a gallery of nine adorable photographs of children and babies snuggling their Max Bears. The looks on their faces validate all the efforts required to bring the bear project from vision to reality.

Mace has several ties to the hospital. "We have several former Heritage Singers who are employed at Loma Linda University Children's Hospital," he notes, "and I have been impressed with the dedication and wonderful work that Dr. Bailey has done over the years."

Mace recently gave one of the bears to the man who cleans his swimming pool. "He adopted a little girl a few months back," he explains. "He was so excited to share that his little girl doesn't want to let it out of her sight."

Max continues, "They took it to Sunday School and all the little kids listened to the songs and wanted to take Max, the Singing Bear, home with them. So we never know what kind of outreach Max can make when he leaves our office."

Mace says the smiles on the children's faces when they are handed a bear makes it all worthwhile. "It just warms my heart," he concludes. "We want Max to be a comfort to children in the hospital and to continue to be a blessing when they take him home with them."

## Smartphone app enables public to help track endangered sea turtles ...

*Continued from page 16*

these valuable marine residents.

ProTECTOR Inc. oversees a number of sea turtle research and outreach projects in Honduras, with the aim of facilitating better decision-making for marine area management, as well as raising awareness of sea turtles on the part of both local residents and the visiting public.

"Human activities have tipped the scales against the survival of these ancient mariners," said Dunbar. "Nearly all species of sea turtle are classified as threatened or endangered.

He continues, "Slaughtered for their eggs, meat, skin and shells, sea turtles suffer from poaching and over-exploitation. They also face habitat destruction and bycatch or accidental capture in fishing gear, shrimp trawl nets, on longline hooks and in fishing

gillnets, which has been increasing in recent years."

Dunbar continues, "Climate change has an impact on turtle nesting sites, as well. It alters sand temperatures, which may then affect the sex of hatchlings."

Inventor and developer Baumbach has big plans for the next generation of the TURT app.

"Upgrades to the app will include the ability to upload multiple photographs simultaneously, as well as possibly having the ability to support photo identification," Baumbach shares. "To have developed something that will create a large-scale group of citizen-scientists, while at the same time contributing to the conservation of several endangered sea turtle species, is a dream come true."

To learn more about the TURT app, visit the following link: [play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.esri.TURT](http://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.esri.TURT).

## Smartphone app, developed by LLU doctoral student and his professor, enables public to help track endangered sea turtles

By Susan Onuma

Seven species of sea (or marine) turtles can be found in the world's ocean waters: Hawksbill, Leatherback, Green, Olive Ridley, Loggerhead, Kemp's Ridley, and Flatback.

Now a new app can turn people with smartphones into agents of science by allowing them to document sea turtles they spot anywhere.

While researching sea turtles in Roatán, Honduras, in 2014, a Loma Linda University professor and his doctoral student discussed the idea of developing a smartphone app that people around the world could use to upload photos and information about turtles that could actually help sea turtle conservation researchers.

Loma Linda University School of Medicine department of earth and biological sciences (EBS) professor Stephen Dunbar, PhD, has been studying sea turtles for the past nine years in Roatán and Utila, islands off the coast of Honduras.

Dustin Baumbach, one of his PhD students, has been part of his research team studying endangered sea turtles.

"We saw the need for people to be a part of the scientific process—to link up with us as researchers and become citizen-scientists," Dunbar says.

"So I set out to develop the app myself," explains Baumbach.

The app, named TURT (Turtles Uniting Researchers and Tourists), developed by Baumbach and Dunbar, consists of a mapping system that allows scuba divers snorkelers and beach-going tourists to upload photographs and information about the turtles they've just seen.

This is the first and only smartphone app available that can map sightings and photograph sea turtles seen anywhere in the world, and it debuted April 4. The app is available for both Android smartphones and Apple iPhones.

Sea turtles travel immense distances across the world's oceans, filling important roles in the balance of marine habitats and marine ecosystems. The turtles help maintain the health of sea grass beds and coral reefs.

Information captured by users of the app—photos, comments and observations, weather conditions, date/time stamps, and location information—are uploaded to a worldwide database, where researchers and conservationists can retrieve the information to analyze trends and sightings hotspots, and assess species distribution.

Dunbar's non-profit organization, Protective Turtle Ecology Center for Training, Outreach, and Research, Inc. (ProTECTOR Inc.), has a mission of ensuring the conservation, protection, and management of all sea turtle species found in the waters of Central and North America, with special emphasis on Honduras, through educational outreach, ongoing training, and scientific research.

Dunbar started the non-profit in 2006, in part to facilitate a positive working relationship between Loma Linda University and the government of Honduras.

ProTECTOR Inc. works hand-in-hand with Loma Linda University School of Medicine's EBS department.

Collaboratively, the program has involved six graduate students from the Loma Linda University School of Medicine department of Earth and Biological Sciences and approximately 18 interns



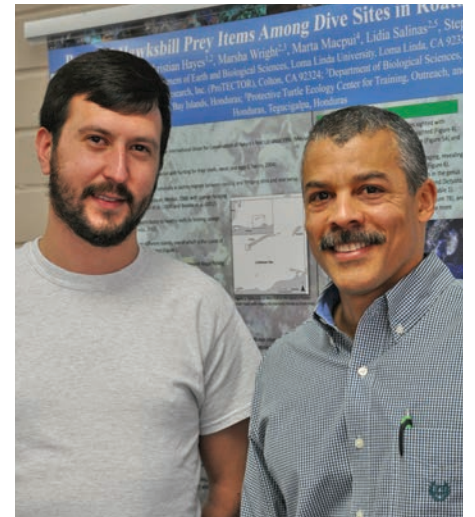
PhD student and researcher Dustin Baumbach swims alongside a sea turtle subject to photograph it. Baumbach has developed an app, TURT, that debuted in early April and is available for Android and iPhone smartphones, enabling smartphone owners to become citizen-scientists by documenting their encounters with sea turtles around the world.

and volunteers, along with in-country participants.

The organization was also formed because of a need for research on sea turtles in the region, and that research, linked with educational outreach and community involvement, can strongly influence management decisions about

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**Right:** Baumbach, left, and his professor and mentor, Stephen Dunbar, have been researching sea turtles near the islands of Roatán and Utila, Honduras, studying ways to help the populations rebound.



## Max the Singing Bear brings hugs, smiles, and music to patients at Children's Hospital

By James Ponder

What do you call a lovable teddy bear with a cuddly disposition who likes to be hugged and sing beautiful Christian songs to children?

If you're a patient at Loma Linda University Children's Hospital (LUCH), you call him Max the Singing Bear.

Max is the brainchild of Max

Mace, founder and director of the gospel singing group Heritage Singers. Although it was not Mace's idea to name the bear after himself, other members of the team thought it was a splendid name, so it stuck.

Like many worthwhile projects, the Singing Bear Project took a while to germinate.

"For 15 years, I had dreamed of

*Continued on page 15*



When 4-year-old Roberta Rice was handed her very own Max the Singing Bear by Val Mace Mapa from the Heritage Singers, the first thing she did was plant a great big kiss on her furry companion's nose. Then while Ollie, her mother, (pictured with Roberta and Max) pushed them around the halls of Loma Linda University Children's Hospital in a wagon, Roberta hugged her cuddly buddy and smiled from ear to ear.



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