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Loma Linda University Health

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Final beam is placed for Loma Linda University Health – San Bernardino in topping-off ceremony

TODAY Team Report

On Friday, July 31, the final steel beam was hoisted high into the air over the San Bernardino skyline and placed on the building shell that is quickly becoming Loma Linda University Health – San Bernardino.

The event was marked by a “topping-off” ceremony, attended by Loma Linda University Health administrators and members of the construction crew.

“Placing the last beam on this important building is extremely gratifying as our San Bernardino campus becomes a reality,” says Richard Hart, MD, DrPH, president of Loma Linda University Health. “Both our Loma Linda family and the community at large have great expectations for this program that will be ready by next summer.”

The beam contained a number of signatures by administrators and crew. During the ceremony, held on ground floor, remarks were given by Hart; Nancy Young, president and CEO of the Social Action Community (SAC) Health System; Rodney Neal, MBA, senior vice president for financial affairs, Loma Linda University; and representatives of the various construction contractors involved.

Donning hard hats and vests, those attending the topping off were also given a guided tour of the site.

Loma Linda University Health – San Bernardino represents a new approach



The final steel beam is hoisted into position atop Loma Linda University Health – San Bernardino. The building, which already dominates the San Bernardino skyline east of the I-215, is scheduled for completion next summer. The beam was signed by a number of Loma Linda University Health administrators, as well as members of the construction crews, and was lifted by a massive crane high above the building and into position.

to improving the health of the city of San Bernardino and will serve as a model for communities across the nation.

The project involves three components: San Manuel Gateway College, a medical clinic, and a vegetarian restaurant. The facility is scheduled for completion in summer 2016.

San Manuel Gateway College, named

in recognition of a \$10 million gift from the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, represents a new and unique educational collaboration between Loma Linda University Health, San Bernardino City Unified School District, the San Bernardino Community College District, and other entities.

This initiative will provide

life-changing career opportunities for high school and adult students through six-to-12-month entry-level medical certification courses, such as phlebotomy, and medical and dental assisting.

These students will predominantly come from disadvantaged and impoverished communities of San Bernardino

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Loma Linda University Transplantation Institute leads all of Southern California in liver transplant survival

By Larry Kidder

Patients receiving a liver transplant at Loma Linda University Health have the best chance of survival for all programs in Southern California and the second-best in all of California, according to recent numbers released by the Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients — better known as SRTR.

SRTR is the organization tasked by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services with compiling these and other statistics related to transplantation. The recent numbers placed the Transplant Institute at 94.44 percent survival after one year (source: SRTR.org).

Michael de Vera, MD, director of the Transplantation Institute, calls these latest statistics very encouraging: “It tells us that our efforts over the last five years are paying off.”

Surgeons at the Transplantation Institute have performed more than 500 liver transplant surgeries to date. The

first such transplant at Loma Linda University Health was performed in 1993.

There are some key differences between the Transplantation Institute at Loma Linda and other similar centers around the country, and de Vera believes these have contributed to the organization’s success.

“All physicians and 50-plus staff members of our institute are physically located in one place,” de Vera points out. “This allows us to work in unison toward our goals and provide more coordinated care, in addition to being more convenient for patients.”

The Transplantation Institute also shares the Loma Linda concept of “whole-person care,” providing extensive counseling on diet and healthy lifestyle, as well as organizing support groups for patients and their caregivers in an environment that welcomes each person’s spirituality and individuality.

The transplant surgery team, in addition to de Vera, consists of Pedro Baron,

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Michael de Vera, MD, left, director of the LLU Transplant Institute and transplant surgeon, and Michael Volk, MD, medical director for the institute and hepatologist, lead out in the comprehensive care of their transplant patients, from surgery to pre- and post-surgery care, as well as support for patients and their families.

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

Cancer Center receives UniHealth Foundation grant

By James Ponder

Loma Linda University Cancer Center recently received a \$496,056 grant from UniHealth Foundation to enable the center to explore ways to make treatment pathways easier and smoother for cancer patients.

Mary Odell, president of UniHealth Foundation, says, "Life, for a patient diagnosed with cancer is physically and emotionally turbulent."

She also noted that the grant will enable the center to develop an inter-professional collaborative practice project of continuous, seamless care for cancer patients.

In expressing his appreciation for the grant, Mark Reeves, MD, PhD, medical director of the center, observed that "UniHealth Foundation has taken our ideals to try a different way of patient care quite seriously."

Judy Chatigny, MSN, executive director of the center, echoes Odell's language in noting that "Interprofessional collaboration improves coordination, communication and, ultimately, the quality and safety of patient care. It utilizes both the individual and collective skills and experience of team members,

allowing them to function more effectively and deliver a higher level of services

than each would working alone."

Albin Grohar, PhD, executive director

of philanthropy, says the award will be administered over a two-year period.



Project coordinators from Loma Linda University Cancer Center (LLUCC) and Loma Linda University School of Nursing (LLUSN) celebrate the news that UniHealth Foundation recently awarded the Cancer Center a \$496,056 grant to explore ways to make treatment pathways easier and smoother for cancer patients. From left to right: Gwen Wysocki, MN, manager of academic relations, LLUSN; Betty Winslow, PhD, professor of nursing, LLUSN; Patty Radovich, PhD, assistant clinical professor of nursing, LLUSN; Judy Chatigny, MSN, executive director, LLUCC; Rachel Garber, MBA, performance improvement analyst, LLUCC; and Ellen D'Errico, MS, assistant professor of nursing, LLUSN.

Final beam is placed for Loma Linda University Health – San Bernardino in topping-off ceremony ...



Richard Hart, MD, DrPH, president of Loma Linda University Health, signs the final beam that will momentarily be hoisted into position, signifying the official "topping off" of Loma Linda University Health – San Bernardino. Waiting their turn behind him are Nancy Young, president and CEO of SAC Health System; Rodney Neal, MBA, senior vice president for finance, Loma Linda University; and Kerry Heinrich, JD, Loma Linda University Medical Center CEO.

LLU Transplantation Institute leads Southern California in liver transplant survival ...

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MD, Philip Wai, MD, and Arputharaj Kore, MD.

Four hepatologists provide pre-transplant and post-transplant care. This group includes Lydia Aye, MD, Jason Cheng, MD, Khaled Selim, MD, and is led by Michael Volk, MD, MSc, who is also chief of gastroenterology. They look forward to a fifth member, Mina Rakoski, MD, who will join them in October.

In addition to the surgeons and hepatologists, the Transplantation Institute team includes clinical directors, nurse coordinators, social workers, transplant assistants, financial coordinators, dietitians, pharmacists, and others.

"Our staff are critical to our success," Volk adds. "It takes a team to care for each of our patients and we are committed to their welfare."

Another important feature of the

liver transplant program is the focus on community outreach. "We have a number of clinics that help us serve a wider area," Volk explains. "Our surgeons and hepatologists travel to these clinics, where we meet our patients and interact with their communities."

Outreach clinics in Southern California are centered in Rancho Cucamonga, Glendale, and Murrieta. A fourth clinic is located in Las Vegas, Nevada. A fifth is under consideration in East Los Angeles.

The Transplantation Institute oversees adult and pediatric heart transplants, adult liver transplants, adult and pediatric kidney transplants, adult pancreatic transplants, and pediatric bone marrow transplants. Combination transplants are performed as needed, including kidney/pancreas, liver/kidney, liver/pancreas, and heart/kidney.

Appointments can be scheduled by calling 1-844-LIVER-LL.

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and the surrounding area.

In the arena of health care, a clinic operated by the Social Action Community (SAC) Health System will offer affordable clinical care to underserved communities and more than double the space at the current SAC – Norton Clinic on the former Norton Air Force Base.

Organized by Loma Linda University students and faculty in the 1960s as a way to help those in surrounding communities who lacked basic health care, SAC Health System is now the largest single provider of MediCal services in

San Bernardino County.

The new space will expand this outreach and feature world-class health provided by Loma Linda University Health faculty, residents and students.

In addition, a gourmet, wait-service vegetarian restaurant will offer healthy foods to the community, while demonstrating that a plant-based diet can indeed be enjoyable.

The restaurant will provide an important dining option in the San Bernardino city center and offer another avenue for sharing the latest health advances made by Loma Linda University Health researchers.



Innerweave The Wholeness Story

By Wil Alexander, PhD
Emeritus professor of
religion and relational studies
School of Religion

Professor of family medicine
School of Medicine

There is currently a lot of conversation about "time." Listen to these words on passing time quoted from the book "Gates of Prayer."

"Days pass and the years vanish and we walk sightless among miracles. Lord, fill our eyes with seeing and our minds with knowing. Let there be moments when your Presence, like lightning, illumines the darkness in which we walk. Help us to see, wherever we gaze, that the bush burns, unconsumed. And we, clay touched by God, will reach out for holiness and exclaim in wonder, 'How filled with awe is this place and we did not know it.'"

When my beloved wife died in April, I received a message from a dear friend who said "Absence is always present." In a moment of great loneliness, I was reminded by the Holy Spirit that "Presence is never absent!"

Presence is never absent ...

Center for Health Disparities holds annual research symposium

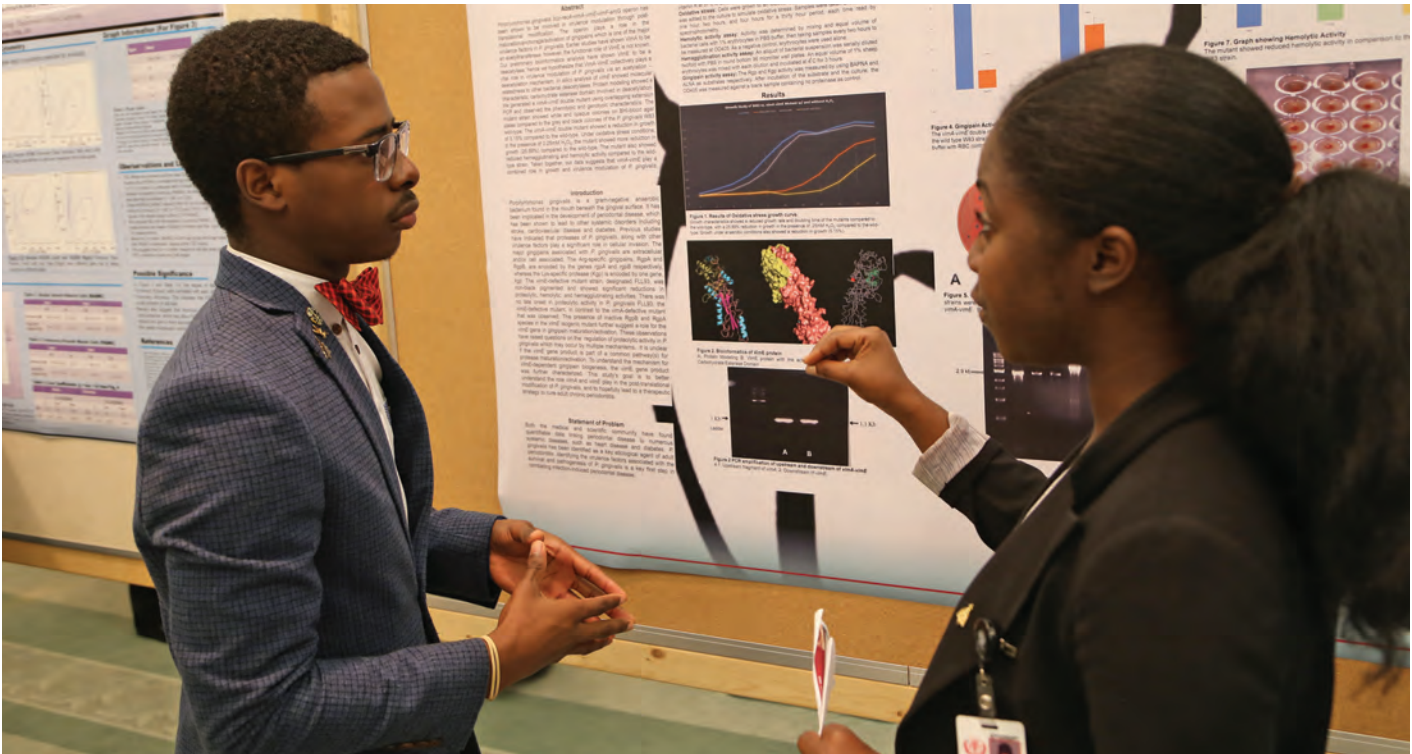
By Jiggs Gallagher

The Center for Health Disparities and Molecular Medicine presented its 15th annual Health Disparities Research Symposium on July 29. The focus of this year's program was Native American health and a poster session by this year's research fellows.

James N. Jarvis, MD, was keynote speaker. Jarvis is clinical professor of pediatrics at the State University of New York (SUNY) – Buffalo, and director of research, division of allergy/immunology and rheumatology at the Women and Children's Hospital of Buffalo, New York.

He presented an engaging lecture on "Toxic Stress and Health Disparities," focusing on how epigenetics informs understanding of the link between toxic stress and health disparities, using disease-specific epigenomes in juvenile arthritis as an example. While acknowledging the role of genetics, he said much of his research indicates environmental stressors can exacerbate rheumatoid arthritis in children.

Jarvis' humorous speaking style and



Samuel Bagley II explains his research on "Porphyromonas," presented in a poster, to a fellow attendee at the annual research symposium.

frequent references to pop culture kept his audience laughing and hanging on his every word, even as he presented

serious research on rheumatoid arthritis in children. He and associate researchers have found the growth of this type

of juvenile arthritis in joints mimics the action of cancer-like cells far more than previously suspected.

In his evening keynote address, Jarvis discussed his work with the American Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Native American Child Health, as well as his work with Native American students and how this work integrates into his role as a genome biologist. Jarvis himself is of both Native American and French-Canadian extraction, born in Vermont.


The afternoon poster session featured students like Samuel S. Bagley II, an undergraduate biochemistry major at Oakwood University in Alabama, who presented on "Porphyromonas." Another presenter was Carla Blum-Johnston, a pre-medical and theology double major at Walla Walla University in Washington. She leaves this month for a 10-month mission assignment to Malawi, Africa, before returning to Walla Walla to finish her degree.



James Jarvis, MD, was keynote speaker for the health disparities symposium. Jarvis is clinical professor of pediatrics at SUNY – Buffalo, and director of research, division of allergy/immunology and rheumatology, Women and Children's Hospital of Buffalo, New York.

If you thought you were dying, what would matter most?

Join **the Institute for Health Policy & Leadership and the Center for Christian Bioethics** to see the documentary *Being Mortal* which explores what matters most to patients and families experiencing serious illness.



"Hope is not a plan"
- Atul Gawande

FRONTLINE

BEING MORTAL

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12 | 6:00–9:00 PM
16th Street SDA Church
1601 W. 16th St., San Bernardino, CA 92411

The movie will be followed by a panel discussion in which experts answer questions from the audience and provide resources for completing an advance directive.



FREE EVENT - For more information, call 909-558-7022

Off to work ... one woman’s story of retirement

By Courtney Haas

Retirement is something that most people look forward to: a goal or promise made at the very beginning of one’s career that one will at some point take time to focus on what he or she wants to do with day-to-day life.

So think about it for a minute: what will you do when you reach that time of life where you have the ability to choose what you do for a day, a month, or maybe even a whole year?

Through the Loma Linda University Health’s Global Health Institute (GHI), there are more options than ever when it comes to filling one’s life with enriching, life-changing experiences.

Damaris Matthews, an English teacher for nearly 30 years at Crafton Hills College in Yucaipa, knew she had a passion for helping people and felt that she could still utilize her skills to help others after she retired.

With retirement right around the corner in July of 2014, she went through a series of steps to find a place where she could travel and share her expertise while helping to meet the needs of a community.

Starting with La Sierra University, she began asking questions and eventually found herself in communication with Loma Linda University Health, where she was connected to GHI. She was almost immediately placed with Sir Run Run Shaw Hospital, a partnering hospital to Loma Linda University

Health located in Hangzhou, China, and set up to serve as a teacher for an English Second Language (ESL) class called Conversational English.

“Two weeks after I contacted GHI, they called me back saying they would like for me to go and teach in China,” Matthews shares. “I was never nervous about it because I knew God was leading me and I just had to go in with an open mind.”

One of the challenges Matthews encountered was simply that classes are taught differently, with courses structured more as a lecture.

“I had difficulty getting my students to engage to begin with,” Matthews recalls. “Eventually they learned to accept how interactive the course was and started to enjoy it.”

Matthews incorporated everyday stories into her teaching style, finding ways to relate something happening in China to something in California, and allowing the students to complete projects, presentations and readings on these types of topics.

“Everyone in my class worked at Sir Run Run Shaw Hospital, so their medical expertise and understanding was far superior to anything I could teach them,” Matthews added. “They have been studying English since they were children so they understand, but what they lack is the conversational aspect when it comes to speaking English. That’s what I was there to teach them.”

One year later, Matthews is back at



Damaris Matthews, right, is a retired English teacher who just returned from spending a year as an English Second Language (ESL) teacher in Hangzhou, China, at Sir Run Run Shaw Hospital. Here she is posing with a Chinese local during one of her many weekends in the countryside.

her home in California and still filled with the same passion and vivaciousness that originally inspired her to look into mission work.

“I plan to go back,” Matthews submits. She goes on to express that some of the most meaningful results of this experience were the connections she made. “I don’t know what I really expected, but I can say I was pleasantly surprised by how accepting everyone was.”

The relationships she formed over the year, and the facts that her new-found friends treated her like family and still stay in contact with her since she returned in July 2015, are among the

factors that drive Matthews to want to serve again.

This lasting relationship between Loma Linda University Health and Sir Run Run Shaw Hospital through dedicated collaboration spanning across more than 20 years, creates a welcoming environment for any who choose to become involved in this type of volunteer work.

“The experience makes me appreciate the similarities of our cultures even though this was more than halfway around the world,” Matthews adds. “I could still see the hopes and desires of what people want in their lives.”

Cheng Family Foundation presents \$75,000 gift to Loma Linda University Eye Institute for children’s intervention program

By Susan Onuma

The Loma Linda University Eye Institute has received a gift of \$75,000 from the Cheng Family Foundation in honor of George P. Cheng, MD, Loma Linda University School of Medicine alumnus, class of 1946.

“The Cheng Family Foundation’s

\$75,000 gift will allow us to continue to provide vision screening for children ages 0-5 in San Bernardino and Riverside counties,” says Jennifer Dunbar, MD, program director for the George P. Cheng Vision Intervention Program, Loma Linda University Eye Institute.

“This program, sponsored by the Cheng Family Foundation, enables us

to further our work in the community,” she continues, “We are very grateful to the Cheng Family Foundation for its very generous donation.”

The George P. Cheng Vision

Intervention Program involves local Lions Clubs members who volunteer to be screeners as part of their Lions Kid-Sight USA program. These volunteer

Continued next page



The Cheng Family Foundation comprises the four adult children of George P. Cheng and Arlene Cheng: from left to right, Keith Cheng, MD, LLU School of Medicine class of 1982; Jennifer Cheng; Jeannie Ling; and Eugene Cheng, MD, LLU School of Medicine class of 1979.

NEW SEASON

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IndyCar racer visits Children's Hospital outpatient clinic

By Briana Pastorino

Verizon IndyCar driver Jack Hawksworth visited Loma Linda University Children's Hospital (LLUCH) hematology/oncology outpatient clinic in San Bernardino on Thursday, June 25.

Hawksworth met kids in the clinic, handed out Racing For Kids caps, signed autographs, posed for photos, and talked about his passion for racing.

One young patient eager to meet the racer was Samuel "Sammy" Ellis, 4, from Lucerne Valley. His mom, Christy Ellis, said Sammy loves everything related to cars. Sammy beamed in his new red cap when Hawksworth showed him a picture of his race car.

Hawksworth says he has been a part of Racing for Kids since 2013, visiting children's hospitals a couple times a year as his schedule allows. "I get to meet some amazing kids," Hawksworth states. "Visiting kids in these hospitals and seeing their faces light up really puts things into perspective. I'm glad I am able to be a part of Racing for Kids."

Racing For Kids is a Detroit-based national charity that uses the popularity of motorsports to focus public awareness and funding on the health care needs of children.

Hawksworth drove the No. 41 ABC Supply car for A.J. Foyt Racing in the MAVTV 500 at the Auto Club Speedway in Fontana on Saturday, June 27. Hawksworth finished 10th of 23.



IndyCar racer Jack Hawksworth is properly introduced to LLUCH patient Samuel "Sammy" Ellis, 4, at the hematology/oncology outpatient clinic on Thursday, June 25.

Loma Linda University Health reaches out to Adventist constituency at ASI convention

By James Ponder

The Loma Linda University Health booth at the Adventist Laymen's Services and Industries (ASI) convention, held August 5 to 8 at the Spokane Convention Center in Spokane, Washington, provided a focal point for hundreds of alumni, friends and prospective students eager to learn more about the academic health sciences center and the programs and degrees it offers.

ASI is a membership-based organization of Seventh-day Adventist laypeople eager to participate in the church's worldwide mission.

According to the convention website, www.asiministries.org/convention, the meeting provides opportunities for ASI members, supporters and friends to gather to encourage one another and exchange ideas vital to their lay-driven ministry goals.

Tricia Murdoch, senior development officer for Loma Linda University School of Medicine, has represented Loma Linda University Health at ASI conventions in Orlando, Florida, and Grand Rapids, Michigan, as well as this year in Spokane.

In calling the event "a friendly gathering of like-minded people," Murdoch pointed out that this year's convention

was not as well attended as others, likely because of its proximity in time to the recent 2015 General Conference Session, which was held in San Antonio, Texas, last month.

Wayne Atwood, ASI's vice-president for communications, substantiated Murdoch's observation.

"Attendance was a little lower this year than last," Atwood noted. He placed attendance at the Saturday morning worship service at 3,090 people, but noted that number was higher than expected.

While acknowledging that attendance could have been a lot lower, Frank Fournier, immediate past president of ASI who was in charge of the convention, was grateful for the way things turned out.

"Overall," Fournier noted, "I am surprisingly pleased with the whole adventure. Because we competed with the General Conference happening earlier, and having a smaller city and venue, I had steered my mind to accept a poor turnout and a smaller financial return. The Lord blessed my limited faith and I believe He gave us more than we asked for."

Atwood said that next year's convention in Phoenix, Arizona, will feature a virtual space for exhibitors to create a short video interview so offsite visitors

can continue to learn about the ministries and programs represented at the booths long after the event is over.

The allure of the Spokane urban environment played an important role in Murdoch's appraisal of the convention.

"The Spokane setting was perfect," she said. "Attendees could be seen enjoying

the walk through Riverside Park and the beautiful Northwest weather."

Murdoch concluded by noting that positive enthusiasm animated the convention.

"I really enjoyed talking to people who were working all over the world in missions that they were excited about," she reflected. "The last evening of the event had a great sense of energy, and those who came by the booth really wanted to engage with what is happening at Loma Linda University Health."



Tricia Murdoch, senior development officer for Loma Linda University School of Medicine, greets visitors to the 2015 ASI convention in Spokane, Washington. She cited the enthusiasm and energy of many attendees and participants as reasons the annual event is such a positive experience every year.

Institute for Health Policy and Leadership celebrates grand opening of new offices

By James Ponder

Continued from previous page
screeners use the Welch Allyn Vision Spot Screener, a portable device able to quickly screen for a number of vision issues in children 6 months of age and older. If the screening determines the child requires further evaluation and treatment, the child is referred to an optometrist or ophthalmologist in his or her area. The screenings are particularly useful in detecting amblyopia, a condition that can result in permanent vision loss if not treated early.

The George P. Cheng Vision Intervention Program will begin providing screenings in September, with trained volunteers visiting preschools and other similar sites.

The Loma Linda University Eye Institute is the leading provider of eye care in the Inland Empire. The mission of the institute is to excel in the areas of patient care, physician education and clinical research. Cutting-edge technology and innovative surgical techniques serve patients with whole person care within a Christian environment.

Loma Linda University Health celebrated the grand opening of one of its newest institutes — the Institute for Health Policy and Leadership — with an open house that drew more than 100 attendees on Tuesday, July 28.

It wasn't just the beauty of the day, bedecked with beautiful blue skies and colorful water-wise succulents at the front entrance of the institute, or the elegance of the renovated home that now serves as its headquarters.

If anything, the buzz in the air was more about the fact that the organization is now able, as never before, to work synergistically to create policies and programs that will help bring wholeness to individuals and communities.

According to Gerald R. Winslow, PhD, director, the institute strives to

integrate health policy research and education with leadership development. The goal is to improve the health of communities by building on Loma Linda University Health's strong heritage of health promotion and disease prevention.

In his welcoming remarks at the grand opening, Winslow told the crowd that the institute is "the realization of a dream shared by several of us in Loma Linda University Health. Built on the belief that healthy people flourish best in healthy communities, our institute desires to craft effective policies that enhance human wholeness."

In introducing members of the institute team, he noted that "It's an honor to work with a remarkably talented and passionate team of professionals." He then introduced Wonha Kim, MD, MPH, senior research scholar; Helen Jung, DrPH, MPH, senior health policy analyst; Andrejs Galenicks, MPH,

MArch, health policy analyst; and Mary-Jane Rasnic, MSA, executive assistant.

Winslow went on to cite the institute's partnership with the Adventist Health Policy Association, representing the five Adventist health systems in North America. He concluded by saying, "I believe we have unprecedented opportunities to provide both regional and national leadership for important health policies."

Mark Reeves, MD, vice president for institutes, was featured speaker for the event, and Jim Greek, DMin, director of chaplaincy services at Loma Linda University Medical Center, offered the invocation.

The institute's website (lluhpolicyinstitute.org) outlines the vision of the organization as providing "the highest level of service regarding policies aimed at preventing disease, promoting

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President's Award recipients represent the University's best

TODAY Team Report

Nine members of the graduating class of 2015 were honored with the highest award given to students during each of Loma Linda University's nine commencement ceremonies.

One member from each school was honored, with the exception of the Loma Linda University School of Allied Health Professions, which has two commencements — one for physical therapy and the second for the rest of the school. A President's Award was bestowed during each ceremony.

Recipients of the President's Award are recognized for more than academic excellence alone. Involvement in leadership, whole-person care, service to a local and global community, and research are also emphasized for those chosen.

Two recipients were highlighted in the July 2015 issue. In this issue, the remaining seven of nine President's Award recipients are featured.

School of Medicine recipient:

Nicholas Daniel Will, MD

By Larry Kidder

Nicholas Daniel Will received the 2015 President's Award for Loma Linda University School of Medicine.

"This year's recipient achieved an outstanding academic record," Ronald Carter, PhD, provost of the University, remarked as Will was introduced, "earning honors in every basic science course and in six junior clerkships."

Will remarks, "I never really felt like I was going above and beyond."

Carter continued, "This awardee's performance on both USMLE step 1 and step 2 [board exams] was the highest achieved by any student in the class, and at the 99th percentile nationally."

"I worked hard in my courses and clinical rotations," Will explains, "because I wanted to be an excellent clinician."

"This awardee has been active in community service," Carter added, "reflecting the mission of Loma Linda University." Will volunteered throughout his basic sciences classes with Community-Academic Partners in Service (CAPS), tutoring and mentoring local disadvantaged children. He also gave of his time to help his fellow medical students, working as a tutor for multiple courses in medical school.

"As far as extracurricular outreach, I got involved because I honestly enjoyed what I was doing," Will points out.

As a budding researcher, Will received the Alpha Omega Alpha (AOA) Carolyn L. Kuckein Student Research Fellowship. The AOA Honor Medical

Society invites top medical school graduates to join its ranks, along with other physicians who have distinguished themselves.

Will completed his research, which was published on the AOA website, during the summer of his freshman year.

The youngest of four brothers, most of Will's family lives in the Pacific Northwest. He graduated with his bachelor's degree from Walla Walla University. He and his wife, Ruth, have an 18-month little girl named Emily. Will recently began an anesthesia residency at the Mayo Clinic, in Rochester, Minnesota.

"I am planning to go on to complete a fellowship," he reveals, "and will likely stay in academic medicine, teaching and mentoring."

In his free time, Will enjoys hiking, backpacking, skiing, surfing, scuba-diving or playing board games.

"I think that my education at Loma Linda was exceptional — clinically and spiritually," he shares. "The training there, under the mentorship of Christian physicians, showed me the importance of being the best clinician I can be, and showing Jesus to my patients by treating the whole person."

School of Pharmacy recipient:

Sara Faheem Beshay, PharmD

By Larry Kidder

Sara Faheem Beshay was recipient of the 2015 President's Award for the School of Pharmacy.

Beshay graduated from the University of California, San Diego, in 2010, earning a bachelor's degree in microbiology. She joined the class of 2015 in the fall of 2011.

"She quickly emerged as a leader among her classmates," Provost Ron Carter, PhD, shared during the school's commencement ceremony on May 24. "Sara served as class president for three consecutive terms, and led her student pharmacist colleagues to numerous achievements."

"I've had a goal of getting into pharmacy residency since I started pharmacy school," she reveals. "Thus, I was determined to do everything in my power to stand out as a competent and leader pharmacist — as I believe every pharmacist should be."

While a student in the pharmacy program, Beshay received a number of awards, including the Novo Nordisk Excellence in Diabetes Care Award, the Dean's Scholarship for highest academic achievement, the Presidential Leadership Award, Phi Lambda Sigma Future Leader recognition, the school's Scholarship for Academic



Sara Faheem Beshay, PharmD, center, listens as Ronald Carter, PhD, right, introduces her as recipient of the President's Award from the School of Pharmacy's class of 2015. To her far left is School of Pharmacy Dean William Hughes, PhD, and to her immediate left, President Richard Hart, MD, DrPH, who presented her with the President's Award certificate.

Leadership, and the Dean's Honors for academic achievement.

"Even though it seemed hard initially," she submits, "it started to become more doable as my leadership characteristics took over with the guidance of my classmates, preceptors and faculty members."

Beshay married in July of 2011, just two months before school started. "It was the hardest phase of my life," she confesses, "to be a new student and a new wife." She adds, "The struggle seemed impossible initially, but with God's help, and the support of my husband, John, and his family, I was able to keep balance throughout school."

While at Loma Linda University, Beshay was heavily involved in outreach activities. She worked with TELACU Foundation, an organization founded in 1968 and initially funded through federal legislation authored by Senators Robert F. Kennedy and Jacob K. Javits to "revitalize urban, underserved communities throughout the United States." Beshay also took part in School of Pharmacy outreach activities during Market Night in the city of Redlands, as well as health fairs and other events.

She has joined a pharmacy residency program at the Veterans Affairs Healthcare System in Loma Linda through June 2016. She continues to be involved in community outreach, such as feeding the homeless.

What does she enjoy outside of school and work? "I like to travel," she points out. "I have been to many countries, such as France, Italy, Greece, Switzerland, Thailand, Egypt and many others. Alternatively, my ultimate fun is hanging out with family and friends."

Of her experience at school, Beshay says, "Loma Linda University made me a better leader, a competent clinician, and a pharmacist who looks at patient wholeness."

School of Dentistry recipient:

Laura Sherwin, DDS

By James Ponder

Laura Sherwin, who received her degree during Loma Linda University School of Dentistry's May 24 graduation service, received the Presidential Award from Richard H. Hart, MD, DrPH, president, because of her commitment to service.

Sherwin and her husband, Brent Sherwin, MD — who graduated from Loma Linda University School of Medicine the same day — moved to Columbus, Ohio, where he is taking a five-year general surgery residency. Once he completes it, the couple will

serve abroad under the deferred mission appointee (DMA) program, a joint venture of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and Loma Linda University.

Under the terms of the DMA program, medical and dental students receive a free education in exchange for agreeing to serve a specified period of time — usually 10 years — in mission service following graduation.

In Sherwin's case, it was all about the lure of overseas mission service. "I have really enjoyed going on mission trips for a long time," she reports, "and wanted a career that would provide skills that I could take and use on a mission trip, whether local or international, long- or short-term."

Growing up, Sherwin wasn't sure what she wanted to do with her life. She knew she wanted to help others and she felt one of the healing professions would be the way to go. But it wasn't until a nine-month mission trip to Peru during college that everything came into focus. On the trip, she learned basic dentistry, met her future husband, and found that she loved the opportunities dentistry affords to minister to the needs of people and share her love for Christ. "That mission trip was pretty helpful for me," she observes. "I also had several positive role models as dentists growing up, so that definitely helped, too!"

Although the couple won't know where they'll be serving abroad and won't

Continued next page



Nicholas Will, MD, is shown here with his wife, Ruth, and 18-month-old daughter, Emily.



Laura Sherwin, DDS, wasn't sure what she wanted to do with her life until a mission trip to Peru convinced her of the value of dentistry not only to help people, but to share her love of Christ as well.

Continued from previous page
until the date approaches, Sherwin isn't worried about it. "We'll be going overseas for a few years to serve at a mission hospital/dental clinic," she concludes. "I am excited to see how God continues to lead in my life as I use the skills He has given me to reach others for Him."

School of Allied Health Professions recipient: Jaclyn Caro, MS
By Heather Reifsnyder

Jaclyn Caro's choice to be a speech-language pathologist speaks to her desire to protect one of the things that makes us most human — the ability to express ideas, thoughts and affection. "I first gained interest in the field of speech language pathology when my older brother was involved in a life-threatening accident," she says.

As a witness to her brother's rehabilitation process, Caro observed him receive care from a speech therapist. It made a lasting impression on her.

"Giving an individual the ability to communicate and sustain life through eating orally (swallowing) is truly rewarding," Caro says.

It allows her to combine her passion for teaching with building relationships. "I love helping people and giving back to the community," she says. "I enjoy sharing my knowledge and skills while learning from others."

For these reasons, along with her academic excellence, Caro received the President's Award during her June 14 graduation from the School of Allied Health Professions with a master's degree in communication sciences and disorders.

"Jaclyn exemplifies the spirit of Loma Linda University and the highest ideals of the allied health professions, in general, and of speech-language pathology, specifically," her professors said in nominating her.

Throughout her undergraduate program at Eastern Michigan University and while studying at Loma Linda University, Caro volunteered for worthy causes and served as a student leader.

In fall of 2014, Caro's professors chose her as one of just six students in the communication sciences and disorders department to travel to China to provide education and training to medical and educational professionals on the management of neurogenic, voice, swallowing

and developmental disorders. This is an example of something Caro has valued from her education in the LLU School of Allied Health Professions.

"Loma Linda University has provided me with opportunities to expand my knowledge and clinical skills while serving others," she says. "I have grown as a person, student and clinician."

Up next, Caro is excited about returning to China with the communication sciences and disorders department to present on pediatric feeding and swallowing.

From Chino, California, Caro notes the importance of her family. "I wouldn't be where I am today without the love and support of both my parents," she says. "They provided me with a strong foundation of morals and values while teaching me what hard work and determination can accomplish."

She is proof of that.

School of Allied Health Professions recipient: Chelsea Hardesty, PA
By Heather Reifsnyder

Fame and fortune have no place in Chelsea Hardesty's ambitions. She dreams of service, not being served.

Hardesty's peers and faculty members took notice of her servant's heart, along with her high academic performance and leadership skills.

For these reasons, Loma Linda University recognized her with the President's Award during her June 14 graduation with a master's degree in physician assistant sciences.

"It is our belief that Ms. Hardesty's demonstrated commitment to service and our mission, along with her stellar leadership skills, will make her an agent of positive change in the future," said her professors in a letter nominating her for the honor.

Hardesty plans to begin working as a physician assistant while also earning a master's degree in public health (MPH) from Loma Linda University.

"After I pursue my MPH, I hope to find a project or job that can incorporate both my clinical background as well as the public health aspect," she says. "It would be a dream if that was combined with mission or international work."

Hardesty notes her respect for the way Loma Linda University encourages service. In fact, it influenced her from a young age, because she grew up in Loma Linda and saw it modeled all around her.

She was raised going on international

mission trips with her parents, and after graduating from Walla Walla University in Washington State, Hardesty spent 11 months in Thailand providing health care at three clinics and teaching second grade.

While studying for her physician assistant degree, Hardesty volunteered with LLU outreach programs, made the dean's list every quarter, served as class vice president and acted as student ambassador to the California Association of Physician Assistants.

"Chelsea has demonstrated a commitment to excellent scholarship and to the highest ideals of the School of Allied Health Professions," notes her nomination letter.

"Loma Linda University has given me the tools to incorporate service in my profession," Hardesty says.

She plans to live that out, supported by her adventurous attitude (and equally adventurous family) and her future husband. In a few months, Hardesty will marry her boyfriend of six years.

Bon voyage, Chelsea Hardesty.



A traumatic car accident changed the course of Anne Strong's life, and she decided to become a hospital chaplain.

School of Religion recipient: Anne Strong, MS
By James Ponder

Anne Strong was selected as winner of the President's Award for 2015 from Loma Linda University School of Religion.

Strong, who received her MS degree in chaplaincy, traces the genesis of her desire to serve God to an automobile collision.

"It was one of those life-changing events that sometimes defines your life," she recalls. "Right after I graduated high school, a year before Jeff did, we were in a serious car accident together, just kind of being wild teenagers. It left him a paraplegic since then. I think when you have an event like that you really look at life differently. It opened up space in our lives to realize we needed something more than ourselves. We needed God in our lives. So we invited God, who was already there with us, into our lives."

Fast-forward a few years and Strong found herself drawn to pastoral care. "I was doing Bible work for my local church in Michigan," she explains, "and decided I wanted to do some spiritual work that was different, so I thought of chaplaincy. I hadn't gone to college, so I finally went to Southern Adventist University and got my bachelor's degree in pastoral care in 2007."

After graduating, Strong did a

yearlong clinical pastoral education residency at St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Appleton, Wisconsin. As the program drew to a close, she started looking around for options in graduate education. At first, she considered an MDiv from Andrews University, but then she heard about the master's in chaplaincy at Loma Linda University.

"I was pretty excited when I found this program," Strong recalls. "But then I was asking my husband, 'Do you want to move 2,000 miles to California?' At first Jeff said, 'Are you crazy?' But then, after a really bad winter in Wisconsin, it was like, 'Well, maybe that California sun doesn't sound too bad.'"

In reading the text at the 2015 graduation ceremonies for the LLU School of Religion, President Richard H. Hart, MD, DrPH, recalled highlights of her journey so far.

"While attending Southern Adventist University," Hart observed, "Anne was on the Distinguished Dean's List and received Marine Corps Scholarships in 2009 and 2010. Anne was the 2014 recipient of the Gayle Saxby Memorial Scholarship, an annual merit-based scholarship awarded to a woman working toward a ministry degree in the School of Religion at Loma Linda University."

Although she never would have predicted this career path for herself, Strong is satisfied with the way things turned out. Currently, she is working part-time while following up on leads that will allow her to work in hospice care.

"As chaplains, we get to make space for people to share their stories, process their stories, maybe even grieve some of their life stories," she concludes. "I love to journey with people during their last moments of life. To come alongside families and help smooth over any spiritual issues they may have, to help them arrive at a more peaceful place."



Ladi Khoddam listens to the citation naming her 2015 recipient of the President's Award. To her left is Richard Hart, MD, DrPH, president of Loma Linda University Health.

School of Public Health recipient: Ladan Khoddam, MPH
By Heather Reifsnyder

Ladan (Ladi) Khoddam's professors wondered when she had the time to sleep while studying for master's degree in public health from Loma Linda University.

Why was this so? Because she maintained high scholastic performance while holding two prestigious fellowships, working two on-campus jobs,

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President's Award winner Jaclyn Caro stands with Richard Hart, MD, DrPH, president of Loma Linda University Health, as she receives the award during the June 14 commencement ceremony for the School of Allied Health Professions.



Chelsea Hardesty stands with Richard Hart, MD, DrPH, president of Loma Linda University Health, as she receives her award.

Loma Linda is the only place in Inland Empire for new treatment to eliminate 'double chin'

By Briana Pastorino

Loma Linda University Health System department of plastic surgery is now offering Kybella™ (deoxycholic acid) injection, the first and only FDA-approved injectable drug that contours and improves the appearance of moderate to severe submental fullness, also known as "double chin."

The LLUHS department of plastic surgery is the first and only facility currently offering Kybella in the Inland Empire.

"We are excited to be the first Inland Empire office to be able to offer Kybella to patients," says Subhas Gupta, MD, PhD, chair, LLUHS department of plastic surgery.

Gupta is currently one of only 25 doctors in the United States who has received specialized training on the use of Kybella and is able to purchase and administer the product, which was approved by the FDA in June. "I'm looking forward to making a positive impact on those patients who wish to experience this new and effective product," he shares.

Submental fullness is a common, yet under-treated aesthetic condition that is often resistant to diet and exercise

alone and is influenced by several factors, including aging, genetics and weight gain.

When injected into subcutaneous fat, Kybella causes the destruction of fat cells. Once destroyed, those fat cells cannot store or accumulate fat. After the desired aesthetic response is achieved, re-treatment is not expected as long as patient's weight is maintained.

"Essentially, Kybella will completely eliminate the fat from the area of

injection," Gupta states.

For one patient, that was exactly her hope. Highland resident Cherl Tidwell, 47, a patient of Gupta's, sought treatment for her double chin.

Prior to Kybella, liposuction — an invasive operating room procedure — was the most common and effective treatment to reduce or eliminate submental fullness. "Dr. Gupta suggested I hold off on doing anything, so I took his



Highland resident Cherl Tidwell, 47, received the first Kybella treatment in the Inland Empire on Monday, June 22 at the department of plastic surgery in Loma Linda, administered by Subhas Gupta, MD.

advice," Tidwell recalled.

Gupta, who was involved in the preliminary studies on Kybella, knew it would be something Tidwell might benefit from.

At her first opportunity after Kybella received FDA approval, Tidwell visited the plastic surgery clinic in Loma Linda and was the first patient to ever receive Kybella in the Inland Empire. Dr. Gupta administered the first series of injections on Monday, June 22.

"The process was simple and the pain was minimal," Tidwell explained after receiving Kybella. On a scale from one to 10, Tidwell measured her pain as never surpassing a three. "I had minimal swelling and some redness the day after the injections, but it was a seamless experience."

Each in-office treatment session with Kybella takes approximately 45 minutes, with a total injection time of about five minutes. "Patients can expect to see visible results within a month of the first treatment session," Gupta notes. He advises that each session be spaced at least one month apart. As many as six treatments may be administered to a patient.

Gupta continues, "Each patient's treatment with Kybella is customized so that their aesthetic goals are attained."

For more information on Kybella or for an appointment at the department of plastic surgery, call 909-558-5800.

Family medicine residents join Special Olympics World Games medical team

By Nancy Yuen

The 2015 Special Olympics World Games included athletes from 165 countries with intellectual disabilities. The games were held July 25 to Aug. 2, 2015, in Los Angeles.

Thirty-one members of the Loma Linda University family medicine department at Loma Linda University Health and affiliated Loma Linda – Inland Empire Consortium for Healthcare Education family medicine residency program volunteered July 31 as part of the team that responded to medical emergencies and medical needs of the athletes.

Stewart Wilkey, MD, a third-year family medicine resident at Loma Linda University Health, who often attends professional sporting events, including football and basketball games and championship events, recalls his experience.

"I volunteered with the family medicine residents," he recalls, "attending events on the University of California,

Los Angeles campus. As the day progressed, we rotated through the various events, including volleyball, football (soccer), tennis, judo, gymnastics and softball.

"During a judo match, I watched a story unfold that I will never forget," he says. "One of the athletes was nervous and unable to compete. With compassion, his opponent gave him a hug. The match paused until he calmed down and was able to compete." Wilkey later called his brother. "I told him the World Games was the best sporting event I'd ever attended."

During the week prior to the games (July 21 to 24), a number of Southern California towns hosted delegations from various countries.

Lauren Simon, MD, MPH, assistant program director, family medicine residency and director, primary care sports medicine, Loma Linda University, had met athletes from Austria and Liechtenstein while serving as "Host Town" team physician for the city of Redlands.

Simon orchestrated the participation of Loma Linda's family medicine residency program in the world games. According to Simon, everyone participated except those who were on duty at the hospital.

Prior to the games, they received training on how to assess athletes with intellectual disabilities for the "three H's" — heart, head and heat injuries, and other medical concerns that might be encountered.

Throughout the day the physicians input injury data on iPads and mobile

phones into a specialized, secure, injury-data-tracking program. Data collected from the various fields of play were transmitted electronically to a unified command center to be reviewed in real time.

When necessary, the doctors stabilized athletes for transport to higher-level care. One physician also stabilized a spectator's medical problem that occurred in the stands until emergency medical services (EMS) staff arrived.

Simon is fellowship trained in sports medicine, and used vacation time to volunteer at the games prior to July 31. According to Simon, Special Olympics

Continued next page

President's Award recipients represent the University's best ...

Continued from page 7

staying active in the student association and volunteering.

"Ms. Khoddam has stepped into her calling as a public health advocate, team player, team leader and community activist," her professors wrote in nominating her for the President's Award.

Khoddam "has superior scholarship, actively participates in the affairs of the student community and has demonstrated evidence of commitment to the highest ideals of the university," they said.

The President's Award was bestowed upon Khoddam during her June 14 graduation from the School of Public Health.

Khoddam's motivation stems from her belief system.

"Public health emphasizes that people matter, and I feel fortunate to have found a field that truly believes this to be the case," she says.

This career path allows her, she explains, to deploy her interests and passions as a community advocate fighting for social justice.

The two prestigious fellowships Khoddam held as a student prove that others took notice of her commitment.

As an Albert Schweitzer Fellow,

she executed a project that empowered HIV-positive homeless youth to voice their concerns and address the stigma they face through the use of the arts, specifically photography and writing.

While serving as a Randall Lewis Health Policy Fellow, Khoddam worked with the city of Grand Terrace to create opportunities for better health for city residents.

"My education at Loma Linda University has helped to shape what I know I've been put on this Earth to do — to serve my fellow human beings," she says.

Up next, Khoddam will move to San Francisco to work at an outpatient mental health clinic for people affected by HIV/AIDS as an assignment through San Francisco Community HealthCorps.

Service is a lifestyle, Khoddam believes, that creates ripples of positive change, draws people together and creates new insights.

"We believe that Ladan Khoddam will represent Loma Linda University well as she ventures into the world as an agent of change," her professors summed up in her nomination for the President's Award.



Lauren Simon, MD, MPH, assistant program director, family medicine residency and director, primary care sports medicine, Loma Linda University, was instrumental in involving the Loma Linda University family medicine department and family medicine residency program as volunteers during the 2015 Special Olympics World Games, in Los Angeles.



Members of the Loma Linda University family medicine department and LLIECHE family medicine residency program at Loma Linda University Health hold their arms in the air for “reach up,” a symbol of the Special Olympics at the UCLA venue of the World Games.

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athletes may have physical challenges and other medical conditions in addition to their intellectual disabilities, such as limb spasticity (e.g., in some athletes

with cerebral palsy), or seizure disorder, which can increase their risk of injuries. In addition, many of the athletes were tired from prolonged travel to get to Los Angeles from around the world.

Institute for Health Policy and Leadership celebrates grand opening ...

Continued from page 5
wellness and restoring human wholeness. The institute is built on the belief that healthy communities create

healthy people, and a community health approach is essential for the well-being of our society.”
The website also informs that, in



Julia Shayunussova, MD, standing on right, a family practice resident, volunteered during the Special Olympics World Games. She was pleased to meet the delegation of athletes and coaches from her home country of Kazakhstan.

More than 6,500 athletes from 165 countries participated in the games. The family medicine residents assisted with numerous interventions, caring for a range of injuries from minor scrapes to broken bones, falls, bee stings and other medical and cardiopulmonary concerns. “One of the added benefits that our family medicine residents and faculty provided to the athletes was

their multi-lingual skills,” says Simon, “with many languages spoken among our group. This talent enabled them to speak with many of the athletes in their own native language.”

Julia Shayunussova, MD, a family practice resident, says, “It was an unexpected and exciting surprise to find out that there was a big delegation at the Games from my country, Kazakhstan. It was an overwhelming, exciting experience as I met the great special athletes and their coaches. I wouldn’t have been able to meet them if it wasn’t for Dr. Simon’s work to get us there.” She adds, “I’m thankful to Loma Linda University, the family medicine residency program, and especially Dr. Simon!”

“It was saddening to learn statistics that many intellectually disabled individuals often do not receive adequate medical care,” says Simon. “This was highlighted during an ESPN feature about the Special Olympics by reporter Robin Roberts. As our medical residents provided care at the world games, they gained skills and a deeper understanding of treating athletes and others with intellectual disabilities that they can continue to implement in their own practices.”

Simon is inspired by the teamwork she witnessed, and the inspirational moments and sportsmanship seen in the games with athletes and dedicated volunteers.

“There was an amazing spirit of volunteerism,” she says. “Many of the residents approached me during and after the event and said that it was such a great experience that they want to do it again. As this takes place during their practices later on, it will continue to fulfill the mission of Loma Linda University Health ‘to continue the teaching and healing ministry of Jesus Christ.’”

Simon is grateful to Richard Hart, MD, DrPH, president, Loma Linda University Health, and Nancy Young, president and CEO of Social Action Community (SAC) Health System, headquartered in San Bernardino, for their support.

SAC clinics were closed July 31 so that residents could volunteer.

Family medicine residency program residents, core faculty and some family members attended the games. The event was the largest sports and humanitarian event held globally in 2015, and was the biggest event in Los Angeles since the 1984 Olympic Games.

According to Simon, at Loma Linda University Health, residents have many opportunities to provide global medical care. There are two family practice residency programs: a traditional three-year family residency program and a four-year combined family/preventive medicine residency. Residents have worked in the Congo, China, Nepal, Honduras and Malawi during or after they have completed the program.

Data specialist dons hula skirt after winning trip to Hawaii on ‘Let’s Make a Deal’



Angel Quinn, data specialist in the office of philanthropy, insists she is only channeling her inner hula girl and not modeling mandatory new Loma Linda University Health uniforms! Quinn recently won a Hawaii vacation on the “Let’s Make a Deal” television show. “The crowd was screaming and cheering for me, but I had to stay facing the camera,” she says. “I thought I had won patio furniture. When I got back to my seat, the people around me told me what I had won. Then I was super-ecstatic!” Quinn and her husband, Jon, look forward to visiting Hawaii in October. She hasn’t decided whether to wear the grass skirt or not. *By James Ponder*

Providing a Gateway to the health professions for 10 years

By David Hutabarat and Nancy Yuen

This year marks the 10th anniversary for Loma Linda Health's Gateway Program, formerly known as *Sí Se Puede*. Gateway is coordinated by the Institute for Community Partnerships.

The purpose of the Gateway Program is to introduce minority high school students to a variety of health care professions.

During the two-week program, students interact with faculty from each of the University's schools, as well as practicing health care professionals. The students participate in activities in medicine, dentistry, nursing and numerous allied health professions.

On July 26, the 2015 Gateway program culminated with a 10th anniversary celebration and graduation program held in the Wong Kerlee International Conference Center.

Juan Carlos Belliard, PhD, assistant vice president, community partnerships and diversity, welcomed the students, their families, alumni and more than 400 guests.

Richard Hart, MD, DrPH, spoke about the history and significance of the program, and keynote speaker Leslie Pollard, PhD, DMin, MBA, president of Oakwood University in Alabama, urged Gateway participants to “keep moving forward.” Pollard was vice president for diversity at Loma Linda University Health when *Sí Se Puede* began under

his leadership.

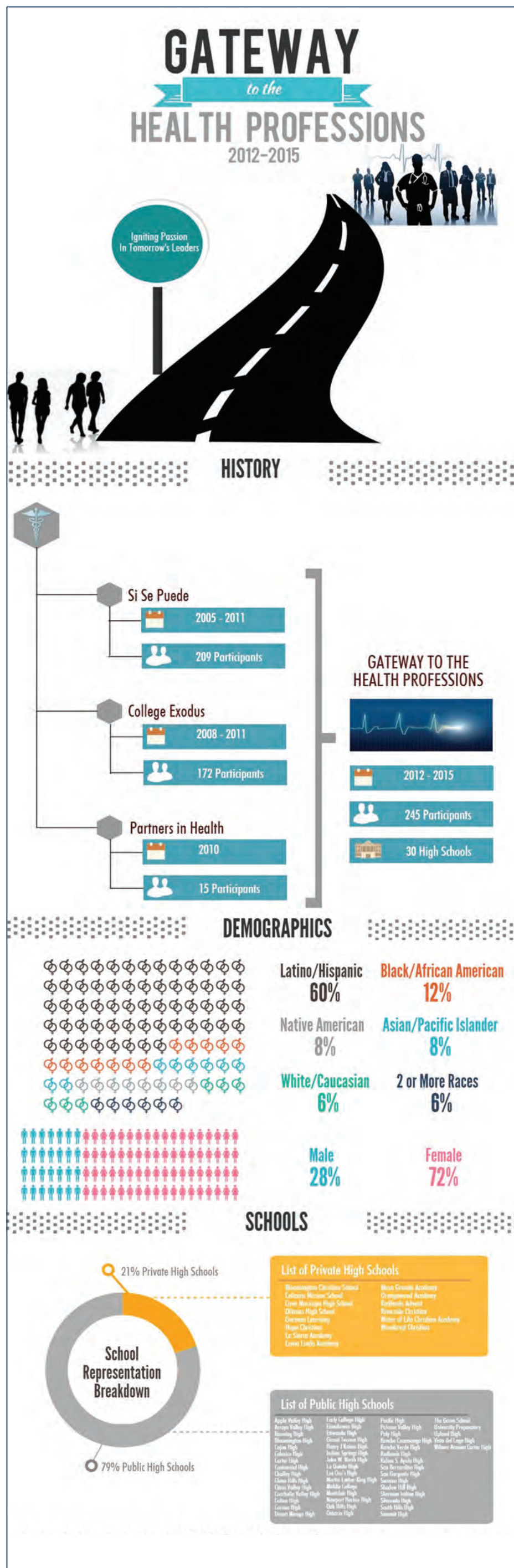
More than 600 Gateway alumni had been invited to the program, and they reminisced and posed for photos as they viewed posters with photos taken the year they participated.

The audience watched presentations of the current Gateway class as well as photos taken each of the previous nine years. The photos, accompanied by music, were powerful and depicted the first time students had been given the opportunity to learn about many of the career opportunities in the health professions.

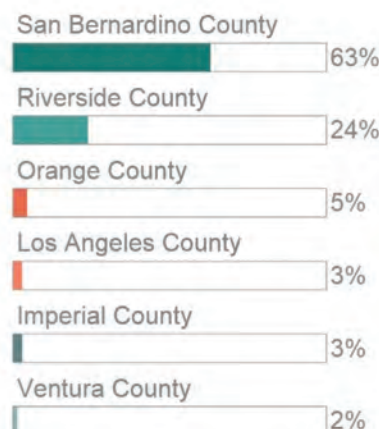
When the program began, 15 students were accepted for each class. The program now accepts more than 60 students, and has grown from a one-week program with one day of shadowing health care professionals to a two-week program with an extra week of shadowing and a day of service.

During the celebration, five Gateway alumni were awarded scholarships. They are: Daniel Samano, now in his fourth year of medical school at Loma Linda University; Sierra Sicairos, who has been accepted into the radiation technology program in the School of Allied Health Professions; Ruth Claros, a medical student at Wright State University, Ohio; Cinthia Palomino, a graduate of the Loma Linda University School of Nursing who is now working at the Behavioral Medicine Center; and Romario Garcia Bautista, who is

Continued next page



COUNTY DISTRIBUTION



Majority of the students in attendance reside in the inland Empire.

SCHOOL DISTRICT DISTRIBUTION



San Bernardino City Unified (41%) Sherman Indian High School (7%) Colton Joint Unified (6%)
Fontana Unified (3%) Riverside Unified (3%) Corona-Narco Unified (2%) Chino Valley Unified (2%)
Rialto Unified (1%) Upland Unified (1%) Other (24%) Private Schools (10%)

FOR MORE INFO, VISIT:
www.ltu.edu/caps

Above data encompasses Gateway Programs from 2012-2015

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Community-Academic Partners in Service



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Sixty-one students participated in the 2015 Gateway to the Health Professions, held July 12 to 26, 2015. They are pictured in front of the Mission Globe with Tina Pruna, MPH, Gateway coordinator, and volunteers Priscilla Larios, Maricarmen Martinez and Sierra Sicairos.



Gateway students prepare to participate in a chalk-carving exercise in the School of Dentistry.

Continued from previous page
studying journalism and business at the University of Oregon.
Over the past decade, Gateway has given 641 students the opportunity to

experience something they may never have had a chance to experience. Most of the students come from low socioeconomic backgrounds, and many were the first in their family to complete college.

Gateway is an example of building bridges between Loma Linda University Health and the community. As families began to engage in conversation with faculty, staff, students and

volunteers, relationships started that opened doors to share needs as well as hopes. As these connections are nurtured, change can continue.
As Gateway begins its 11th year, faculty and staff are invited to become involved. “Invite a student to shadow you at your workplace, be a host family for students taking part in programs like Gateway, or share your experience at school career days,” says Tina Pruna, MPH, Gateway coordinator.
“Everything you do can give students the chance to see possibilities they did not see before,” says Belliard. “As we continue building bridges between Loma Linda University Health and the community, we continue empowering students — the future of health care.”
Belliard emphasizes that interventions such as Gateway have a tremendous impact on wholeness that extends beyond its participants.
“We know that a higher level of education and income leads to better health outcomes,” he says. “So in a way, this is one of the most important things Loma Linda University Health can do to improve the health and future of our community.”
Note: co-writer David Hutabarat served as interim program coordinator, Community-Academic Partners in Service (CAPS) at Loma Linda University Health.

Loma Linda researcher given NIH grant to study benefits of rattlesnake venom . . .

Continued from page 12
“The venom does not cause hemorrhage or edema,” he observes. “In fact, it triggers the body’s autoimmune reaction against these things. It is given as three immunizations the three days before surgery.”
Preliminary results of tests Zhang and his colleagues conducted on animal models have been very encouraging. For one thing, they found that pre-surgical immunization reduces bleeding during surgery by as much as 30 percent. For another, they found it reduces post-operative brain swelling by up to 50 percent. That last finding is particularly inspiring.
“If you get a cut or scratch on your arm and it becomes infected,” he points

out, “the swelling is no problem because there is plenty of room for the tissue to expand. But lots of patients die from swelling in the brain because the skull prevents its ability to enlarge. Immunization prevents that. If we immunize patients before the surgery we can help to prevent post-oper al edema.”
Zhang coined the term “surgical brain injury” and introduced it in articles he published in scientific journals in 2004 and 2006. Although only in its first year, the study has already spawned another field of inquiry.
“We think venom might also be used to reduce brain hemorrhage after stroke,” he reports. “The animal model looks very good.”

With the study into rattlesnake venom showing promising results early on, Zhang and his associates are evaluating whether they should look into other types of reptile- and insect-derived venoms as well.
One of his colleagues, Cesar Reis Jr., MD, research assistant in anesthesiology, recently identified a Brazilian snake whose venom might be applicable for the study and Zhang authorized him to acquire it. The team is also contemplating the venom of spiders and scorpions.
As rich as the imagery might be, however, Zhang says not to expect to see him scouring the hills of Reche Canyon for snakes any time soon. He prefers to stay as far away as possible.

With that in mind, he buys rattlesnake venom for the study from a certified scientific supplier who captures and milks the animals for him.
But that didn’t stop him from “getting up close and personal” with a Southern Pacific Rattlesnake recently. As graduate student Chip Cochran hoisted a robust three-foot specimen of *Crotalus oreganus helleri* from its glass cage in the snake room of the department of earth and biological sciences at Loma Linda University School of Medicine, Zhang moved in for a closer look.
As Cochran returned the snake to its terrarium, Zhang asked for a copy of the picture. “Now, I’ll really have something to brag about,” he grinned.

CEO addresses state of the Medical Center

By Larry Kidder

It's been about a year since Kerry Heinrich, JD, officially became chief executive officer (CEO) of Loma Linda University Medical Center.

Much has happened in that short time, including the kick-off for Vision 2020: Campaign for a Whole Tomorrow, separate licensure for Loma Linda University Children's Hospital, major changes set in motion by the Affordable Care Act, and a host of other events and issues.

Despite the complexity of the organization, Heinrich made his entire presentation in less than an hour and a half. A number of leaders and other interested individuals were on hand, beginning at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, August 4, in the Medical Center's lobby-level amphitheater.

Loma Linda University Medical Center is composed of the Adult Hospital, Loma Linda University Children's Hospital, LLUMC – East Campus hospital, LLU Behavioral Medicine Center, LLUMC – Murrieta, LLU Surgical

Hospital, and a number of other entities.

The CEO began with a financial report, stressing that the organization is doing well financially but needs to ramp up revenues as it faces a billion-dollar-plus building project in the next few years. Heinrich emphasized that financial stability and predictability will be key as the Medical Center seeks major funding for the new adult and children's towers.

He referenced Project NOWW — an acronym for New Outstanding Ways to Work to better serve our patients — as a major way the Medical Center is improving the quality of patient care while finding ways to be more efficient and cost-effective.

The Affordable Care Act has required health care facilities across the nation to retool their reimbursement mechanisms and their strategic alliances.

The Medical Center is working to strengthen and streamline its relationships with such organizations as the Inland Empire Health Plan (IEHP), the county hospitals — Arrowhead Regional Medical Center (San Bernardino County) and Riverside University Medical Center (Riverside County), Epic Management (an MSO), and other important health care providers in the region.

The Medical Center is also working with IEHP on the redesign of California Children's Services (CCS). At present, the state is studying ways to combine the structures of managed Medi-Cal with the CCS program to better address the concept of whole-child care.

Heinrich took time to thank the staff and administrators in a number of areas for their outstanding performance. He especially thanked those involved in the separate licensing and accreditation of the Children's Hospital, pointing



During his State of the Medical Center address, Kerry Heinrich, JD, Loma Linda University Medical Center CEO, speaks candidly about the challenges and issues for the organization in the midst of a changing health care environment, as well as the opportunities ahead.

out that such a process, which can take months, was accomplished in just five days. He thanked the staff and leadership of both the LLU International Heart Institute and LLU Cancer Center for meeting major goals and milestones in 2015. He also recognized the LLU Transplantation Institute for achieving remarkable success in liver, kidney, pancreas and heart transplants.

Heinrich ended by giving an opportunity for questions and suggestions. Following some brief discussions, he concluded his State of the Medical Center address, which was greeted by applause.

"We have major opportunities," Heinrich emphasized. "Our challenges motivate us to enhance our quality of care, our efficiency, and our innovation. Our successes encourage us to keep building on what we're doing well."

Loma Linda researcher awarded NIH grant to study benefits of rattlesnake venom for brain surgery patients

By James Ponder

John Zhang, MD, is finding it hard to get excited about research grants these days.

It's not that the director of the NIH Center for Brain Hemorrhage Research at Loma Linda University School of Medicine doesn't appreciate grants — it's just that after receiving 10 R01 awards from the National Institutes of Health in the past 10 years, it takes something special to get his attention.

However, Zhang is excited about one particular grant he recently received. He even goes so far as to suspect that the NIH is excited about it, too, since the organization greatly accelerated the process of funding his research.

"The process of applying for a grant and having it reviewed by the NIH takes five to eight months," he reports. "Once a study is approved, it's usually another six months before the money is released. But we got our funding for this one in just one month. This is the first time that has ever happened in my life. I read the letter two times; I could not believe my eyes!"

The grant in question is a \$1.7 million allocation that will enable Zhang and associates to determine whether rattlesnake venom can be used as an immunizing agent to reduce bleeding and swelling in brain tissues during and after cranial surgery.

He received the acceptance letter in July 2014 and the funds in August. The R01 designation denotes research project grants the NIH uses to support health-related research and development in the United States. The five-year study

is slated for completion in 2019.

"Brain tissue is like Chinese tofu," he says, employing an analogy from the culinary traditions of his homeland. "It's very soft. The brain is the headquarters for the body, but when you cut the brain, it's very delicate. The tissue itself heals, but the connections between the brain and other parts of the body can't heal."

Zhang says that if the study succeeds, snake venom could potentially alleviate damage in the estimated 800,000 brain, neurologic or spine surgeries performed in the United States every year. He estimates those performed at Loma Linda University Medical Center alone at approximately 2,000 per year. The upshot for patients is that they would not be in danger of losing other important functions from complications of brain surgery.

When asked why the NIH sent the money so soon, Zhang responds with characteristic candor.

"We don't know," he replies. "Maybe it's because of what the findings could mean to medicine. We're studying surgical brain injury and right now, when a surgeon removes a brain tumor, the liver, or some other organ, is often damaged in the process. By immunizing with snake venom ahead of time, we can reduce the associated trauma when the patient is under the knife."

Zhang says the process of pre-conditioning the patient's brain through immunization with snake venom is effective against both bleeding and swelling, known to science as hemorrhage and edema.

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Arizona Wildcats fan Chip Cochran, a graduate student in the department of earth and biological sciences at Loma Linda University School of Medicine, holds a Southern Pacific Rattlesnake (*Crotalus oreganus helleri*) for John Zhang, MD, to see. Zhang is testing rattlesnake venom as an immunization against bleeding and swelling in patients who require brain surgery under the auspices of a \$1.7 million NIH grant.



Executive editor

Jiggs Gallagher, MS
jgallagher@llu.edu

Editor/art direction

Larry Kidder, MA
lkidder@llu.edu

CORRESPONDENTS

Courtney Beckwith Haas
chaas@llu.edu

Briana Pastorino
bpastorino@llu.edu

Doug Hackleman, MA
dhackleman@llu.edu

Heather Reifsnnyder, MA
hreifsnnyder@llu.edu

Shirley Neill
sneill@llu.edu

Kathryn Stiles
kstiles@llu.edu

Susan Onuma, MBA
sonuma@llu.edu

Tony Yang, MBA
thyang@llu.edu

James Ponder
jlponder@llu.edu

Nancy Yuen, MPW
nyuen@llu.edu

Have a story you think is noteworthy? Send it to pr@llu.edu

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