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Loma Linda University Health

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Loma Linda University celebrates 1,480 newest alumni

By Larry Kidder

Commencement weekends in May and June 2015 brought together thousands of family members, friends, and faculty to celebrate the accomplishments of 1,480 of Loma Linda University's newest alumni.

Ceremonies for the eight professional schools took place on the Sundays of May 24 and June 14. The first commencement Sunday took place on the campus mall, just north of Coleman and Chan Shun pavilions.

An article spotlighting university and school honorees is included in this issue. The following statistics are based on the official commencement program. Post-graduation totals typically vary slightly.

The university bestowed 66 certificates, 101 associate's degrees, 277 bachelor's degrees, 423 master's degrees, 514 doctoral degrees, and 99 post-professional degrees — totaling 1,480.

The School of Medicine ushered in the commencement season on May 24, graduating 192 — 164 with MDs, five bachelor's and six master's degrees, and 17 PhDs. A short time later, the School of Pharmacy awarded 77 PharmD degrees.

Ending the first day of commencement, the School of Dentistry graduated 208 in its dental hygiene, dentistry, international dentist program (IDP), and post-professional specialties — seven with associates and 44 with bachelor's degrees, 86 with the DDS, 24 IDP, and 47 post-professional degrees.

The School of Allied Health Professions traditionally divides its commencement into two ceremonies — one for the physical therapy program and another for all other allied health programs. On Sunday, June 14, the school awarded a total of 555 degrees during its two ceremonies.

The first ceremony recognized graduates with 66 certificates, 50 associate's and 86 bachelor's degrees, 51 master of occupational therapy (MOT) and 37 master of physician assistant (MPA), 75 master of science degrees, and six with the doctor of occupation therapy (OTD).

Among the 66 certificates awarded were 16 given to rehabilitation technologists from Haiti, trained to continue the care of those still recovering from the historic earthquake in 2010. Loma Linda University Health not only committed personnel and resources in the wake of the devastating earthquake but continues to invest in the long-term care of victims by training local rehabilitation technologists.

During the same ceremony, graduates of the respiratory care degree program centered in Saudi Arabia joined via satellite to take part in the graduation ceremony.

The School of Allied Health Professions physical therapy program followed,



Loma Linda University School of Medicine kicked off the 2015 commencement season promptly at 8:00 a.m. on Sunday, May 24. Two more commencement ceremonies followed that day on the central campus mall, as well as five more on Sunday, June 14 — this time at Loma Linda University Drayson Center's Opsahl Gymnasium.

with 44 associate's degree graduates, four with the master of rehabilitation science degree, 14 with the master of science degree, one post-professional master's graduate, 61 with the doctor of physical therapy (DPT) degree, 49 with post-professional DPT diplomas, seven doctor of science (DSci) candidates, and three with their PhDs.

The School of Public Health recognized 131 graduates — 23 MBA students, 88 with their MPH, one with a master of science degree, 18 with their doctor of public health (DrPH) degrees, and one with a PhD.

The School of Religion and School of

Behavioral Health collaborated for the next ceremony. The School of Religion graduated 16 candidates — six with their master of science and 10 with their master of arts degrees. The School of Behavioral Health presented diplomas to a total of 108 candidates — 33 with their master of social work (MSW), 36 master of science, two doctor of marriage and family therapy (DMFT), 12 doctor of psychology (PsyD), and 25 PhD graduates.

Bringing the 2015 commencement season to a close, the School of Nursing recognized 193 graduates with 142 bachelor of science degrees, 38 master of

science, nine doctor of nursing practice (DNP), two PhDs, and two post-master's diplomas.

Please see pages 6 and 7 for scenes from the two weekends.

In his comments, part of the "Message from the President," Richard H. Hart, MD, DrPH, president of Loma Linda University Health, tells graduates: "Now go with confidence wherever your dreams lead you — questioning, learning, and challenging as you change our world for the better." He adds, "I wish for you a satisfying and successful journey as you serve in the name and spirit of our gracious God."

University celebrates honorees during ceremonies

By Larry Kidder and Jiggs Gallagher

A number of individuals — faculty, administrators, and students — received awards during commencement ceremonies on the Sundays of May 24 and June 14.

Twelve individuals received the highest honors bestowed by Loma Linda University.

During the first commencement ceremony of 2015 for Loma Linda University School of Medicine, six individuals were honored with university-wide awards.

Receiving the Lifetime Service Award for outstanding leadership, exemplary service, and demonstrated commitment was Myrna L. Hanna, MS, assistant vice president for administrative affairs and assistant vice president for alumni and donor relations, Loma

Loma Linda University Health.

Dennis and Carole Troesh, who donated \$100 million toward Vision 2020: Campaign for a Whole Tomorrow, were honored with the Distinguished Humanitarian Award in recognition of the lasting legacy of their mission-aligned giving.

John H. Zhang, MD, PhD, director of the Center for Brain Hemorrhage Research — one of two research centers on the campus of Loma Linda University funded by the National Institutes of Health — and professor of anesthesiology, basic sciences, neurology, and neurosurgery, School of Medicine, received the Distinguished Investigator Award for his research contributions that have led to lifesaving scientific discoveries and breakthroughs.

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Myrna L. Hanna, MS, right, received the Lifetime Service Award.

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

University celebrates honorees during ceremonies ...

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Col. Dallas C. Hack, MD, MPH, MSS, a School of Medicine alumnus (1976) and brain health/fitness research program coordinator, U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command, was one of two individuals named University Alumnus of the Year.

A second alumnus, Robert E. Soderblom, MD, associate professor of medicine, School of Medicine, and a 1963 graduate of the same, was also awarded University Alumnus of the Year.

During the School of Dentistry commencement, Nancy Young, MHES, president and CEO of the Social Action Community (SAC) Health System, was honored for her leadership, her unselfish service to underprivileged and underserved communities, and her exemplary service with the Community Engagement Award.

On Sunday, June 14, six more individuals received university-wide honors.

Juan Carlos (J.C.) Belliard, PhD, MPH, assistant vice president for community partnerships and diversity as well as director of the Institute for Community Partnerships, Loma Linda University Health, is also an associate professor at the School of Public Health. For his initiatives that provide health care to diverse cultural settings and that establish and strengthen institutional-community relationships, he received the Community Engagement Award during the School of Public Health commencement.

Jerry Daly, MSLS, MA, assistant vice president for global outreach, Loma Linda University Health; associate director, Global Health Institute; administrative director, Overseas Heart Surgery Team; and assistant professor,

School of Public Health, was honored for his passion and commitment to global missions, receiving the Global Service Award during the School of Public Health commencement.

Marilyn M. Herrmann, PhD, recently retired as dean of Loma Linda University School of Nursing. Now dean emerita, she was also a longtime faculty member and administrator at the school. For her leadership and exemplary service, which has translated into competent and committed nurses and nurse educators, and for her long-standing career, Herrmann was awarded the University Distinguished Service Award at the School of Nursing commencement.

Audrey V. Howard, EdD, is director of academic publications and of Loma Linda University Press. In recognition of a career dedicated to capturing the heart and mind of Loma Linda University Health through "words that work," Howard received the University Distinguished Service Award at commencement ceremonies for the School of Allied Health Professions.

Janice Zumwalt, MS, MBA, is associate director, Global Health Institute, Loma Linda University Health; executive director for international affairs, Loma Linda University Medical Center; and assistant professor of nursing in both the School of Nursing and School of Public Health.

For her commitment to continue the teaching and healing ministry of Jesus Christ and for her efforts to bring wholeness and hope to humanity through successful international collaborative health care initiatives and projects, Zumwalt was awarded the Global Service Award at the School of Nursing commencement ceremony.



Dennis and Carole Troesh received the Distinguished Humanitarian Award during the School of Medicine commencement. They accepted the award via a video that was played during the ceremony.



John Zhang, MD, PhD, right received the Distinguished Investigator Award.



Col. Dallas Hack, MD, right, received the University Alumnus of the Year award.



Robert Soderblom, MD, right, received the University Alumnus of the Year award.



Nancy Young, MHES, right, received the Community Engagement Award.



Juan Carlos Belliard, PhD, MPH, left, received the Community Engagement Award.



Jerry Daly, MSLS, MA, left, received the Global Service Award.



Marilyn Herrmann, PhD, MS, right, received the University Distinguished Award.



Audrey Howard, EdS, EdD, MA, right, received the University Distinguished Service Award.



Janice Zumwalt, MS, MBA, right, received the Global Service Award.

Safe Kids and Children's Hospital host media event for water safety awareness

By Briana Pastorino

Safe Kids Inland Empire and Loma Linda University Children's Hospital, along with the Inland Empire Drowning Prevention Network, hosted a media event at Splash Kingdom Waterpark in Redlands to bring awareness to the importance of water safety.

Local fire departments and a team from Splash Kingdom demonstrated the importance of water safety on Wednesday, May 27, with a presentation remembering the eight lives lost to water submersion in 2014.

Seven inflatable bodies and a baby doll representative of those eight people were placed in the pool and were retrieved by Splash Kingdom lifeguards one at a time. Lifeguards then handed the "bodies" off to personnel from Redlands Fire Department.

During the presentation, Clark Morrow from San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department highlighted the water safety issues in the county, the pitfalls of submersion, and the ABC's of water safety.

There was also a cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) station set up where Matt Payne, Rialto Fire Department paramedic, demonstrated the appropriate way to give CPR to both adults, children and babies.

Loma Linda University Children's Hospital pediatric intensive care physicians, Drs. Shamel Abd-Allah and Jesse Wyatt, discussed the medical aspects of water submersion, emphasizing the fact that water deaths are 100 percent preventable.

Summer is nearly here and the temperatures prove it. As hot weather continues to persevere, families are spending more time at the pool, beach,

and even taking longer, cooler baths.

Loma Linda University Children's Hospital wants to remind parents and caregivers that it is imperative kids are safe around water.

Some key points to remember are:

- ➔ There's no substitute for active supervision
- ➔ Educate your kids about swimming safely
- ➔ Don't rely on swimming aids
- ➔ Check drains in your pool and spa
- ➔ Learn CPR

For more information on how to be water safe, reach out to Safe Kids Inland Empire at 909-558-8118.



Rialto Fire Department paramedic Matt Payne demonstrates the proper way to deliver CPR to an infant.

Zipcar, which brought car sharing to Loma Linda University Health, may expand

By Nancy Yuen

In January, Zipcar, a car-sharing program, became available for the first time on the Loma Linda

University Health campus.

During the Jan. 8 Zipcar launch, representatives from Loma Linda University Health and Zipcar were present at a booth in front of Magan Hall.

Students and passersby stopped to see the two cars that were available, to ask questions, and sign up for Zipcar.

Jennifer Jesson, who earned her MPH degree in biostatistics from Loma Linda University on June 14, is an enthusiastic Zipcar user. "It might be considered odd or even crazy to not own your own car in California, since just about every licensed driver owns a car," she says. "When I heard about Zipcar, the idea of car sharing excited me for several reasons. I would have access to a car and not have to worry about insurance, gas and car payments. Since I live on campus, during the week I hardly use a vehicle as I walk or bike to classes and around the university. Zipcar gives me the freedom to pay for using a car when I need it. Since Zipcar's arrival, I've used it about half-a-dozen times. It has come in really handy when I am in a crunch and need to run an errand, and I don't have a friend who can take me or lend me their car. It is comforting to know that I have that option and that I am saving money."

Nipher Malika, who earned her degree in research epidemiology from the School of Public Health on June 14, also uses Zipcar. "Zipcar is convenient, easy to use and, for short trips, very affordable," she says. "My first experience with Zipcars was summer 2014 when I was at University of Michigan. I didn't have a car and renting one for a whole summer was very expensive. But

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Kids learn to trust health care providers during teddy bear clinic

By Heather Reifsnyder

From a kid's viewpoint, doctors and nurses are strangers who wield needles and shine bright lights. That's why volunteers from Loma Linda University Health staffed a teddy bear clinic at the nonprofit SAC Health System in San Bernardino on April 9.

A teddy bear clinic allows kids to see medical procedures performed on the stuffed animals instead of themselves, familiarizing them with the tests so that when it happens to them, they know what to expect.

When the children arrived, they saw different stations designed to mimic what they would encounter in a medical office — registration, waiting room and examination rooms.

A free teddy bear waited for each child, and a nursing student introduced medical equipment such as blood pressure cuffs, penlights and stethoscopes, using them on the bear for demonstration.

"Laughter could be heard while the children were then given the opportunity to use each item on themselves, the teddy bear and even the nurses," says volunteer David Yuen, a 2014 alumnus of the School of Nursing.



Nursing student Maureen Malaguit allows this young health care provider to examine her.

Children also learned from dental hygiene students how to care for teeth — demonstrated on giant stuffed animals — and why it is so important. They were given bags of oral care products too.

Before leaving, children and their parents were debriefed and given a bag filled with educational materials and goodies, provided by SAC Health

System family resource center.

LLU nursing students, dental hygiene students, and staff from the LLU Medical Center business office volunteered to help with the clinic. Loma Linda University Health works closely with SAC Health System, which offers affordable health care to the surrounding communities.

Nancy Young, MHES, CEO of SAC Health System, says "The teddy bear clinic was such an amazing gift to the children and families we serve.

"It was not only an educational opportunity," she continues, "it was a wonderful time of sharing and bonding between our little patients and our future health care providers. It was awesome to see the interactive participation of all attending. The students were incredible with the families and this activity blessed so many. We are very, very grateful for the students' outstanding planning and organizing efforts. It was one of our most successful events ever!"

"Thank you all sincerely," Young concludes.

The teddy bears were donated by students and staff of LLU School of Nursing and by Walmart.

Annual Celebration of Life provides heartfelt laughter, inspiration and hope

By Nancy Yuen

At 12:30 on June 7, the Wong Kerlee International Conference Center began to fill with cancer survivors attending Celebration of Life. They and their family members and friends were joined by physicians and staff who had provided care during their treatment.

During the next hour-and-a-half, the room would be filled with heartfelt laughter, tears, and ultimately

inspiration and hope.

Judy Chatigny, executive director, Loma Linda University Cancer Center, welcomed the audience. She stated that now there are more than 14 million cancer survivors in the United States. She emphasized the importance of gathering and visiting with others who have survived or are living with cancer, encouraging each other and celebrating milestones.

Celebration of Life is an international

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Empty parking spots mean that the two Zipcars assigned to Loma Linda University Health are both in use. The car-sharing program has proven to be so successful that a third car may be added.

Food and family are important to LLUMC – Murrieta chef

By Shirley Neill

For many who choose to pursue their passion of food, creativity, and cooking to become a chef, it means working nights, weekends, and holidays, as well as missing special occasions with family to serve others.

As the executive chef at Loma Linda University Medical Center – Murrieta, Chef Anastacio “Chito” Rodriquez finds the balance of spending quality time with family while being able to use his creative talents not only to cook for hospital patients and staff, but even an occasional opportunity to cook for celebrities, including the President of the United States.

Chef Chito credits his growing up in a large Mexican family as his inspiration to become a chef. At a young age, he watched his grandmother cook. Later, as a teen working for an uncle at a popular Mexican Restaurant in Santa Barbara, he was able to leave his station to sneak to the back of the restaurant and observe the back of the house in action. Emeril Lagasse was another influence and Chef Chito enjoyed watching him on television.

Chef Chito shares a memory of one of his early attempts at cooking. Fascinated by seeing Emeril prepare Bananas Foster. The dessert is made from bananas and vanilla ice cream, with a sauce made from butter, brown sugar, cinnamon, then the dish is ignited. The flames, or flambé, make Bananas Foster a favorite in restaurants when served in a table-side performance. However Chef Chito remembers at the age of 12, his first attempt at to make the dessert went awry, and he almost burned down his grandmother’s kitchen in the process.

After high school, when Chef Chito was faced with the tough decision of joining the military or pursuing his dream to become a chef, his family supported his decision to enroll in culinary school. He attended Cordon Bleu Cooking School and, upon graduation, began his culinary career at The St. Regis, a luxury hotel in Orange County. There he worked under a Michelin three-star French Chef, where the two experimented with food science and molecular gastronomy years before the techniques would become popular in mainstream cooking.

Chef Chito held several other positions before coming to Loma Linda. He was connected by a friend with Suzanne Goin of Lucques in West Hollywood. That connection led to opportunities to work catering for swanky private parties for celebrities. On one occasion, Chef Chito was asked to complete a background check required to clear him to work on an upcoming event. In answering more than the usual number of questions, Chito soon realized that the client he would be working with was none other than President Obama. On days the president is holding a fundraising event or visiting Southern California, Chef Chito is likely to be a member of the team preparing the meal. He has met the president personally and has had his photo taken with him.

Chef Chito first learned about Loma Linda University Health by meeting J. R. Rafoth at a convention and was later called to interview for an opening in the kitchen at the LLUMC – Murrieta campus. The interview process required the completion of a written test and preparation of ingredients found in a mystery basket. Instead of just making



Chef Anastacio “Chito” Rodriquez, adds some color to a culinary creation. Chef Chito serves as executive chef for LLUMC – Murrieta.

one dish, Chef Chito wowed the panel by creating several gourmet creations in a short amount of time with the limited ingredients provided.

LLUMC – Murrieta is a community-based hospital that serves the residents of Murrieta, Temecula, and the surrounding area. The hospital menu allows patients to order entrees containing beef, chicken, fish, and turkey, but it is far from typical hospital fare. Patients have left comment cards and posted on Facebook to tell how much they enjoyed the food during their stay making it seem more like a five-star hotel than a hospital.

Café Padrino, the hospital cafeteria, is open to employees and the public,

and serves a vegetarian-only cuisine. Chef Chito works to prepare menus that will appeal to both vegetarians as well as those whose diet typically includes meat. Dishes feature hot entrees from different ethnicities, soups, and fresh made-to-order specialty salads using local fruits and vegetables, creating a colorful mélange of flavors. Café Padrino is one of the only completely vegetarian restaurants in the area. One Yelp reviewer posted “The best vegetarian cuisine in Southern Riverside county is located in a hospital.”

When asked what his favorite dish was to prepare, Chef Chito said that is typically a difficult question for him to answer until recently. As he gave the ingredients and described the steps to make his favorite barbecued Meyer lemon chicken with a side of corn pudding and grilled vegetables, Chef Chito shared a personal story.

His youngest son is on a gluten-free diet, but the two were able to share warm corn bread fresh from the oven as it was prepared as a component of the corn pudding. Food and family connections are an important part of who Chef Chito is and how he cooks.

As executive chef at LLUMC – Murrieta, Chef Chito works with his professionally trained team to collaborate on ways to take ordinary dishes and seasonal produce to the next level. When asked what he appreciates most about his job, Chef Chito immediately shares how the values of the organization and supportive environment make Loma Linda University Health a great place to work, but the ability to spend quality time with his wife and three sons while still being an executive chef is what he enjoys most of all.

Official negotiations begin for affiliation with San Gorgonio Memorial Hospital

By Briana Pastorino

Loma Linda University Health and Adventist Health have officially entered into exclusive negotiations with San Gorgonio Memorial Hospital (SGMH). The SGMH board voted unanimously to begin negotiations

during its meeting on Thursday, May 28.

“Loma Linda University Health has been serving the Pass communities for many years,” says Kerry Heinrich, chief executive officer, Loma Linda University Medical Center. “We are thrilled at this new opportunity to expand our services to this community.”

Under the proposed affiliation, Loma Linda University Health and Adventist Health will provide resources to SGMH to enhance medical and hospital services to the San Gorgonio Pass communities.

“After a lengthy and thorough evaluation of our options, the board made this decision to unify efforts,” shares Dr. Jerilynn Kaibel, board chair, SGMH. “Combining our current strengths with the long-standing history of Loma Linda University Health and Adventist Health was the best option for the community we serve.”

This proposed affiliation will improve the quality of care and patient safety in the San Gorgonio Pass communities by expanding the range of services provided while retaining and recruiting talented personnel and staff. Additionally, this relationship will provide resources to complete the last phase of construction for the patient care building at SGMH, which will increase licensed the bed count from 71 to 91.

Over the coming months, representatives from SGMH, Loma Linda University Health and Adventist

Health will be working to finalize an affiliation agreement.

The hospital district will remain public, with a local public board managing district operations.

“San Gorgonio Memorial Hospital’s mission has always been ‘to provide safe, high quality, personalized health care services,’” Kaibel states, “and this new affiliation will allow us to keep that focus, continuing our dedication to care for our community.”

“We want to promote wholeness and health for people in the Pass communities,” details Loma Linda University Health president, Richard H. Hart, MD, DrPH, “and we intend to integrate our commitment ‘to make man whole’ with San Gorgonio’s mission and dedication to the community.”

“Adventist Health is very pleased to have the opportunity to bring our successful experience in community hospitals to this partnership with Loma Linda University Health and San Gorgonio Memorial Hospital,” comments Bob Beehler, vice president for market development/mergers and acquisitions, Adventist Health. “Together we will work tirelessly to provide high-quality health care to the San Gorgonio Pass communities.”



Administrators at San Gorgonio Memorial Hospital, located in Banning, California, have begun negotiations with Loma Linda University Health and Adventist Health to create an affiliation agreement.

Study finds increased respiratory risks for children living near major rail yards

Contributed report

A new study from Loma Linda University School of Public Health shows that children

attending school near the San Bernardino rail yard have significantly increased prevalence of respiratory health challenges compared to children at a control school seven miles away.

As part of the Environmental Rail Yard Research Impacting Community Health Project, School of Public Health investigators and members of a community-based health organization

evaluated the respiratory health of more than 1,000 children from the two inland cities of San Bernardino and Fontana. The inland region of Southern California has consistently poor air quality, and with the heavy rail and vehicular traffic carrying commercial goods through the area, increasing amounts of air pollution.

Continued next page

Milestone employee anniversaries celebrated with banquets

By Heather Reifsnyder

Because of the high value with which Loma Linda University Health holds its employees, it celebrates those who reach milestone employment anniversaries with annual banquets.

The 2015 banquets took place June 2, 3 and 4 at the Drayson Center Opsahl Gymnasium — which was transformed into an elegant setting of greens and golds. Separate banquets took place for different entities: Loma Linda University, Loma Linda University Medical Center/all hospitals, Loma Linda University Shared Services, and Loma Linda

University Health Care.

Employees who were recognized have reached anniversaries of 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45 or 50 years of service.

Additionally, several employees received special awards for exemplifying the values of Loma Linda University Health — compassion, integrity, excellence, teamwork and wholeness.

The honored employees are:

Loma Linda University Health Care

- Ann Elliott – Compassion
- Elizabeth Bates – Teamwork
- Kim De La Torre – Excellence
- Amelia Maeda – Integrity
- Ana Polanco – Wholeness

Loma Linda University

- Jerry Lee – Integrity
- Evelyn Roach – Compassion
- Ardis Wazdatskey – Excellence

Loma Linda University Medical Center/all hospitals

- Jamie DeView – Integrity and compassion

- Emily Ndlela – Teamwork
- Rudolph Pojoh – Excellence

Loma Linda University Shared Services

- Antonio Burrueal – Integrity
- Pauline Deeb – Excellence
- Deanna Walters – Excellence

Zipcar, which brought car sharing to Loma Linda University Health, may expand ...

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Zipcars made navigating around tolerable. Registration didn't take more than five minutes and I was free to use the cars. They made my life easier and even on the Loma Linda University campus where I have a car, when I need to go out to lunch or run a quick errand (and don't want to move my car due to lack of parking on campus) it's conveniently placed and makes life easy."

"The service has made it possible for transportation without having to buy a car," says Juan Carlos Belliard, PhD, assistant vice president, community partnerships and diversity. "I would like to encourage faculty, students and staff to go to the Zipcar website and learn more about the service. More users will make it possible for the service to grow."

Led by graduate student Ladi Khoddam, Loma Linda University students signed a petition asking that the

service be made available at Loma Linda University Health so they could more easily participate in off-campus service opportunities.

When Zipcar launched, Rodney Neal, MBA, senior vice president, financial affairs, Loma Linda University, said, "There are many foreign and out-of-state students who don't own cars. This service will help meet this need while also encouraging the ride-share aspect of environmental stewardship."

Loma Linda University Health faculty, students and staff can join Zipcar by visiting zipcar.com/llu.

The cost for Loma Linda University Health students, faculty, and staff is \$25 for the first year plus an hourly fee. Members share the cars with rates beginning at \$7.50 per hour (\$69 per day). Gas, insurance, and up to 180 miles are included in these rates, and cars can be reserved up to one year in advance.



Loma Linda University Medical Center employees receive gold watches in honor of 40 years of service.

Study finds increased respiratory risks for children living near rail yards ...

Continued from previous page

As part of the study, funded by a grant from the South Coast Air Quality Management District, measurements of airway inflammation and lung volume were taken from children from two socio-demographically matched schools: one located next to the San Bernardino rail yard and the other seven miles away in Fontana.

The control school, while removed from the rail yard's emissions, was still exposed

to air pollution from traffic corridors.

Results from the two tests showed that children attending the school near the rail yard had decreased lung function; the results were even more pronounced in children who had lived at their address for at least six months.

This was in line with data collected from their parents, a majority of whom reported statistically higher rates of chronic coughs and wheezing in their children.

"The results are concerning," says study coinvestigator Rhonda Spencer-Hwang, DrPH, assistant professor at LLU School of Public Health. "Our respiratory testing supports what the parents have been telling us all along. Taken as a whole, it paints a picture of sicker kids."

Children are a sensitive population for respiratory health risks due to many biological factors including their developing lungs, increased breathing rates, smaller body size, and more time spent outdoors than adults.


Previous research found that asthma is one of the most-cited reasons for children missing school, especially in lower-income households.

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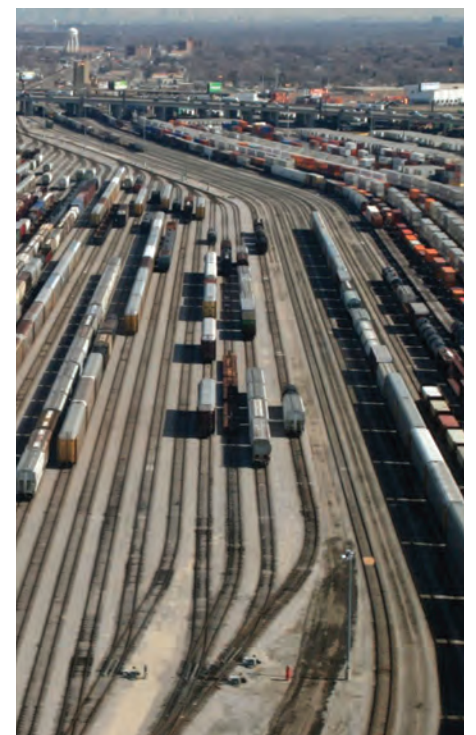
TUESDAY, JULY 28, 2015

- 3:00 – 5:30 pm
with a dedication at 4:00 pm
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Loma Linda, CA 92354
(Southeast corner of Anderson Street and Prospect Avenue)
- 909.558.7022



LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY HEALTH

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Scenes from Loma Linda University



2015 Commencement Ceremonies



Patients 'Spring Into Reading' with books, arts and crafts

By Briana Pastorino

Patients at Loma Linda University Children's Hospital (LLUCH) were treated to an afternoon of books, arts and crafts at the annual "Spring Into Reading," a patient diversionary event sponsored by the Big Hearts for Little Hearts Loma Linda Guild.

"This is part of the Loma Linda Guild's mission to enhance the patient experience for our precious children at Loma Linda University Children's Hospital," says Eloise Habekost, cofounder of the Loma Linda Guild.

On Monday, April 20, kids of all ages were welcomed to the lobby level of the hospital where a library of books and

craft tables were set up. Kids were able to take a book of their choosing to keep.

Tables were strewn with various craft items like stickers, chicken wire, markers, crayons, foam visors and much more to use their creativity to the fullest.

One patient, Ken Ferguson, 6, from Corona, excitedly made the trip down from his patient room to enjoy the activities.

"He loves to color, but reading is one of his favorite things to do," said his mom, Carla. She added that although in first grade, her son is reading at a third grade level.

Goodie bags of books and craft materials were taken up to the rooms of patients who were unable to make it down to the lobby for the event.



Children's Hospital patient, Ken Ferguson, 6, shows off his new book and craft creations at the annual "Spring into Reading" event at Loma Linda University Children's Hospital.

Medical Center's bariatric surgery program earns 'Blue Distinction'

By Briana Pastorino

Blue Shield of California has recognized Loma Linda University Medical Center (LLUMC) with a Blue Distinction® Center designation in the area of bariatric surgery as part of the Blue Distinction® Centers for Specialty Care program.

Blue Distinction Centers are nationally designated health care facilities shown to deliver quality specialty care, based on objective measures that were developed with input from the medical community, for patient safety and better health outcomes.

"Loma Linda University Medical Center is dedicated to giving the highest quality of care in every specialty," says LLUMC CEO Kerry Heinrich. "This recognition is a true testament to the individuals who are providing care to our bariatric patients, and for that I congratulate them."

To receive a Blue Distinction Center for Bariatric Surgery designation, a

health care facility must demonstrate success in meeting patient safety as well as bariatric-specific quality measures, including complications and readmissions for gastric stapling and/or gastric banding procedures. A health care facility must also have earned national accreditations at both the facility level and the bariatric care-specific level.

Keith Scharf, DO, FACS, director of metabolic and bariatric surgery at LLUMC, is proud to be part of the team recognized by Blue Shield of California for meeting the rigorous selection criteria for bariatric surgery set by the Blue Distinction Centers for Specialty Care program.

"This honor reinforces our efforts and we look forward to continuing to perform at this high level," Scharf shares.

Most bariatric services are currently offered at Loma Linda University Health. The metabolic and bariatric surgery program offers effective tools and services to help patients achieve and ultimately maintain better health and

improved quality of life. The respected team of medical professionals and fellowship-trained surgeons are dedicated and committed to the lifelong success of their patients.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 909-558-2822 or visit the hospital website.

Bariatric surgeries are among the most common elective surgeries in the U.S., which provides a significant opportunity to improve quality within the health care system. There were 179,000 bariatric surgeries performed in 2013, according to the American Society of Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery, and the average cost is more than \$28,000 per episode, according to the Journal of the American Medical Association. Furthermore, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that 72 million Americans are obese and

24 million suffer from morbid obesity. The estimated annual health care costs of obesity-related illnesses are \$190.2 billion, or nearly 21 percent of annual medical spending in the U.S., according to the Journal of Health Economics.

Research shows that facilities designated as Blue Distinction Centers demonstrate better quality and improved outcomes for patients compared with their peers.

Since 2006, the Blue Distinction Centers for Specialty Care program has helped patients find quality providers for their specialty care needs in the areas of bariatric surgery, cardiac care, complex and rare cancers, knee and hip replacements, spine surgery and transplants while encouraging health care professionals to improve the care they deliver.

For more information about the program and a complete listing of the designated facilities, please visit bcbs.com/bluedistinction.

Special delivery to Children's Hospital from Hard Rock Hotel Palm Springs



Patients at Loma Linda University Children's Hospital recently received a special delivery from Hard Rock Hotel Palm Springs. Sixty-three Hard Rock teddy bears were brought over from the desert hotel to be handed out to patients as part of their "Share A Bear" program. LLUCH patient, Vivian Olgon, 4, from Cathedral City, made an appearance for the delivery, and happily accepted her new, cuddly bear. Hard Rock Hotel Palm Springs has been an incredible supporter of LLU Children's Hospital through a presenting sponsorship of the 22nd annual Foundation Gala, participation in the LLUCH Foundation Board, and through patient diversionary activities such as "Share A Bear." By Briana Pastorino

Local organizations gather for Luke's Pride Spring Community Day



Patients at Loma Linda University Children's Hospital (LLUCH) were treated to an afternoon of fun at Luke's Pride Spring Community Day on Tuesday, April 14, thanks to the support of local businesses and organizations. The community-fair-style patient diversionary event allowed multiple local businesses and organizations to see the hospital firsthand and brighten the kids' day by providing an activity, game, or craft in the hospital lobby and Stater Bros. Activity Center. Those who participated were San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, Arrowhead Credit Union, University of California Riverside men's basketball team, Medals of Courage, Farmers Insurance, and Lowes. Six-year-old Daniel Gonzalez of Moreno Valley was one of many patients who was able to participate in the activities along with his brother Moses and mom, Julie Arevalo, who said he was "very excited to come down." In the photo, Daniel poses with Arrowhead Credit Union's mascot Rocky Raccoon. By Briana Pastorino

Nursing homecoming weekend reunites alumni and raises scholarship funds

By Heather Reifsnyder

The School of Nursing's homecoming weekend proves to be a popular event each April for this school's very loyal alumni.

Take the loyalty of the class of 1965, which was honored for its 50th anniversary, as an example. The class members raised \$50,000 among themselves and gifted it to the school for scholarships.

"The School of Nursing greatly appreciates the generosity of the members of the class of 1965," says Elizabeth Bossert, PhD, dean. "Their decision to 'give it forward' to help future students achieve their goal of becoming a Loma Linda Nurse will make a significant difference in many lives, both for the future nurses and their many patients and families."

Along with the class of 1965, the other

honored classes during the weekend, held April 10 and 11, were the classes of 1955 (60 years), 1975 (40 years), 1990 (25 years), and 2005 (10 years).

The weekend included tours of the newly remodeled and expanded West Hall — home to the School of Nursing; special Sabbath services; a lunch for alumni, faculty and students; and a Saturday night vespers and banquet.

To plan for their 50th-year gift, some members of the class of 1965 held meetings with the school beginning several years ago to find out the school's greatest needs, present them to a class vote, and start the fundraising.

Though they were approaching half a century since their time as classmates, they found all 38 of themselves. Through letters and phone calls, the fundraising got underway.

"It took lots of sleuthing," says class

member Judith Hart. "Our message was that most of all, we want you at the reunion."

Sixty percent of the class of 1965 was able to attend, which included a special

luncheon for them, during which it was announced that the class achieved its \$50,000 goal. Seventy-eight percent of class members donated.

The class gave this gift to the Anabelle Mills Hills Scholarship Endowment Fund.

This scholarship gives financial aid

Continued on page 10



Class of 1965 members Judith Hart (left) and Linda Levisen (right) present their 50th-anniversary class gift to Elizabeth Bossert, PhD, center, dean of the School of Nursing. It will benefit scholarships for undergraduate nursing students.

Clinical pathology society awards phlebotomy alumna



Arabella Bardakjian (left), a 2014 graduate of the phlebotomy certificate program in the School of Allied Health Professions, recently received a \$500 scholarship from Seimens and the American Society of Clinical Pathology. The honor is not surprising, considering that her professors liked Bardakjian so much they invited her to return to help teach in the laboratory. Here she is shown helping student Ashley Howard (middle) how to perform a venipuncture with fellow student Maurita Pasillas. Bardakjian chose phlebotomy as her health care specialty because it offers significant opportunity to interact with patients and to positively support the lives of many. *By Heather Reifsnyder*



Loma Linda School of Nursing Reunion Class of 1965

Patients enjoy 'Hugs Help Healing' Build-A-Bear workshop



Patients at Loma Linda University Children's Hospital (LLUCH) were treated to a Build-A-Bear workshop thanks to the ladies of the Desert Guild Chapter of the Big Hearts for Little Hearts on Tuesday, April 28. Teddy bears and their outfits from Build-A-Bear Workshop were donated through the Desert Guild allowing the children at LLUCH to select their very own bear and outfit, creating many beautiful smiles. Four-year-old Caden Cressy, from Yucca Valley, was excited to get his teddy bear, who he named "Spiderman." In the photo, Desert Guild board member Debbie Casden helped Caden pick out the Spiderman costume for his bear. More than 350 bears from Build-a-Bear have been donated through the Desert Guild since 2014. *By Briana Pastorino*

Public health alumna receives grant providing Nexus 7 tablets for perinatal research

Contributed report

Arti Desai, a 2013 MPH graduate from LLU School of Public Health, has received a grant from Map Your World, an innovative, multi-platform project that incorporates technology and places the power of new technologies into the hands of young change agents.

Desai is currently a PhD student at LLU School of Medicine, and she is working with the Perinatal Institute at Loma Linda University Children's Hospital to address the growing needs and issues around gastroschisis, a congenital birth defect, in the Inland Empire region of Southern California.

Map Your World awarded Desai and her team six Nexus 7 tablets, made possible by a donation from Google. This grant provides new technologies and an innovative platform to address issues relating to health and well-being.

"I applied for this grant to aid in some of my doctoral research where we are focusing on maternal and child health in the Inland Empire, and particularly looking to see if environmental or chemical contaminants contribute to a certain adverse pregnancy outcome," says Desai.

"My aim is to use GIS, mapping technologies, and interactive surveys to see if there is a clustering of birth defect cases, then educate and empower women to be better aware of taking care of themselves prenatally."

This project not only aids in research

but has clinical and public health implications as well. Specifically, the project contributes toward achieving the Millennium Development Goals for reducing child mortality rates and improving maternal health by 2015, through deepening the understanding of contributing risk factors linked to birth defects with the use of geoinformation technology.



The Nexus 7 tablets will enable research on the birth defect gastroschisis. Grant recipient Arti Desai, MPH, is pictured with Bryan Oshiro, MD, adjunct associate professor of OB-GYN and basic sciences in the School of Medicine and adjunct associate professor, School of Public Health.

Fourth annual Tip-a-Firefighter event raises more than \$5,000 for Loma Linda University Children's Hospital

By James Ponder

The fourth annual Tip-a-Firefighter event, which was held recently at The Old Spaghetti Factory in Redlands, raised more than \$5000 to benefit the patients of Loma Linda University Children's Hospital.

According to Tiffany Hoekstra, senior development officer and coordinator of

the event, the money increases the grand total raised in the last four years to more than \$22,000.

"We are so incredibly grateful to The Old Spaghetti Factory, to our local firefighters and to our community for their support of this wonderful event," Hoekstra noted, adding that firefighters served as waiters for both lunch and dinner, and that all tips given to them were donated to the hospital.



Firefighters gather around Dominic Cumo (front row, center) with his dad, Matthew Bateman, mom, Shawnee Cumo, and canine sidekick, Kipper, at the fourth annual Tip-a-Firefighter event at The Old Spaghetti Factory in Redlands. (Left to right, back row): Firefighter Paramedic Christian Dominguez, Caption Dempsey Chappell, Engineer Josh Maldonado, Engineer Damion Pelonis and Firefighter Paramedic Jon Engle. Dominguez, Chappell and Pelonis are from the Redlands Fire Department; Maldonado is from the Loma Linda Fire Department and Engle is from the Colton Fire Department.

Tim Venturi hosts Sixth Annual Bladder Cancer Awareness Golf Tournament

By Nancy Yuen

In January 2009, Tim Venturi was diagnosed with bladder cancer. For nine months, he underwent painful treatments in hopes of saving his bladder. "After the final set of treatments," says Venturi, "my doctor told me the painful truth — there was nothing more that could be done."

Venturi's doctor referred him to Loma Linda University Medical Center, where he learned the only way to save his life would be to remove his bladder.

On September 11, 2009, Venturi

checked in for what was to be a routine surgical procedure. "While the surgery came off without a hitch," he recalls, "it was the days and weeks after surgery that proved to be a long, hard battle."

Venturi would return to intensive care not once but three times during his two-and-a-half month stay at Loma Linda University Medical Center.

"I was in a coma for two-and-a-half weeks," he says, "at which time doctors gave me only a 20 percent chance of survival."

Venturi thanks the doctors and nurses at Loma Linda University Medical



Tim Venturi, left, who received treatment for bladder cancer at Loma Linda University Medical Center, is grateful to the doctors and nurses there for his remarkable recovery and maintains a close friendship with Herb Ruckle, MD, chair, department of urology, School of Medicine.

Annual Celebration of Life provides heartfelt laughter, inspiration and hope ...

Continued from page 3

event held the first Sunday in June, providing celebration for survivors and inspiration for those recently diagnosed. It is also a gathering of support for families and an outreach to the community. The theme of this year's event was "Inspiring a future of hope."

Mark Reeves, MD, PhD, director, Loma Linda University Cancer Center, discussed the future of cancer care. He traced the history of cancer treatment beginning in 1991, when Richard Nixon declared war on cancer. The National Cancer Institute was established at the National Institutes of Health. "For the first time," Reeves said, "The rate of people dying from cancer peaked, then went down." The trend has continued, he reported, with numbers of deaths from cancer becoming lower each year.

According to Reeves, there have been victories in treatment of testicular cancer, leukemia, and colon cancer,

among others. Research has led to treatments that are more effective with fewer side effects. These include treatments that target individual cancer cells, and focused radiation (proton therapy). Reeves shared that Loma Linda University Health is fortunate to have a powerful tool in cancer treatment — the James M. Slater, MD Proton Treatment and Research Center.

There are now 229,000 patients alive who were diagnosed with metastatic colon cancer. "Twenty years ago, each of these patients would have died," he said, thanking each of the patients who have altruistically agreed to participate in cancer research.

"Stories are important," he said, inviting cancer survivor Jeanne Malcuit to share her story. Malcuit was diagnosed with stage 2B breast cancer after discovering a lump in her chest on Father's Day. While initially she felt as if everything had been taken away from her, "I

Center for his remarkable recovery and maintains a close friendship with Herb Ruckle, MD, chair, department of urology, School of Medicine.

"Bladder cancer is the fourth most common cancer among men and fifth most common overall," he says. "A basic awareness of the symptoms and early treatment could save lives and prevent suffering." Venturi created the golf tournament to raise awareness and to help fund bladder cancer research.

This year's Venturi Bladder Cancer Awareness Golf Tournament, held at The Classic Club in Palm Springs, honored his father, Ken Venturi, who passed away in 2013.

The Venturi connection with Loma Linda goes back many years when Ken Venturi's mother was first treated by James M. Slater, MD, FACR, vice chair and professor, department of radiation medicine. Venturi served as chair and host of the first Proton Charity Invitational in May 1991. Since that time, Ken had been the host of every Proton

Charity Invitational until his passing in 2013. His celebrity status brought significant support and funds.

Tim Venturi is committed to following his father's example. Continuing to build on each year's success, his tournament, held the first Friday in April has raised in excess of \$90,000. Sponsorships make this possible. Those with an interest in participating can contact Patricia Eiseman in the office of philanthropy at 909-558-3179.

Nursing homecoming weekend ...

Continued from page 9

to undergraduate nursing students at LLU who "demonstrate a Christian lifestyle by exemplifying the scripture to 'do justly, love mercy and walk humbly with thy God.'" The receiving students must have financial need and live with a focus on missions.

Students who receive scholarships from this fund will know that they are not alone, which is an echo of the class of 1965's song — "You'll Never Walk Alone." This song was initially sung at the class' student capping ceremony. At each reunion since graduation, these words are sung.

Memories made and pictures taken at this 50th anniversary are recorded in a handcrafted book created by Jessica Rorick Youngberg, a friend of class members Judith Hart and Linda Levisen.

The first entry in this book is an original poem by Youngberg that reads in part, "As we think back on each precious day, we move forward making memories along the way." Each classmate, whether present at the reunion or unable to attend, was presented a book.

The reconnected class members aspire to stay in touch.

Class of 1965 member Linda Levisen says, "We're committed to maintaining this connection. The rich blessing of these friendships is a foretaste of heaven."

decided not to sit in a chair," she says. She began running, completed a half marathon, and is now training for a 60-mile bike ride.

Dilys Brooks, MDiv, associate campus chaplain, talked about relying on her Savior and her faith during her own journey back to health after being diagnosed with a heart condition. Brooks was motivated by the love of her family — her husband and her two children.

This year Courage to Care awards were presented by Katie Kroetz, whose uncle Don passed away in 1997 after battling leukemia. Katie's grandmother, Jan Kroetz, RN, MN, NE-BC, began giving the award to honor exceptional oncology nurses after her son Don's passing. Two nurses, Becki Yartzoff and Lexine Thall, were honored this year with Courage to Care Leadership Awards.

The Celebration of Life event, which marked its 24th year at Loma Linda University Health this year, is sponsored by the Loma Linda University Cancer Center.

A delicate conversation: nursing students discuss tobacco with patients

By Heather Reifsnyder

Abstaining from tobacco use is a key way to stay healthy — and patients hear this over and over. But how can a health care practitioner have this conversation in a way that will make patients feel comfortable, motivated and supported?

Loma Linda University School of Nursing ensures students in its health promotion class learn how to approach this difficult subject. The school holds tobacco dependence workshops in which students speak with current or former smokers and tobacco users — learning how to break the ice and how to evaluate their tobacco use and the severity of their nicotine addiction.

Because this is more than many schools offer, Bonnie Meyer, MS, assistant professor, was invited to discuss the LLU School of Nursing's method during a pre-conference working for the

2015 annual meeting for the Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco.

"Research shows that nurses can be very effective in influencing patients to stop using tobacco," Meyer says. "The workshop we offer helps students develop their confidence in having this conversation.

"It has been very powerful," she continues. "Students who were afraid to bring up the topic become comfortable talking about it with patients, family and friends."

The school uses quantifiable evaluation techniques to ensure students learn what they need to do.

In addition to allowing students to speak with real tobacco users, the workshop also involves faculty members coaching students through various scenarios they might encounter with patients, such as what to do in the situation of a psychiatric patient who needs tobacco to stay calm.



Student Marjorie Cruz interviews a former smoker about his cigarette use during the School of Nursing's May 1 spring-quarter workshop to teach students how to talk with patients about nicotine addiction. Next to her, fellow student Jia Lin raises her hand to ask a question.

One student who took the class this past school year said on the evaluation form, "I learned much more by talking to individuals who have struggled with tobacco addiction than I could ever learn through books."

Ninety-six percent of students who took the workshop during the 2014–2015 year agreed with the statement "I

intend to routinely use tobacco-dependence counseling and treatment skills for my patients while in nursing school."

The number of students agreeing with the statement "I feel confident that I have adequate skills to begin discussions with smokers" grew 178 percent after completing the workshop compared to before.

Homecoming reunites diverse alumni from School of Allied Health Professions

By Heather Reifsnyder

As the name of their school indicates, the allied health alumni of Loma Linda University have many different professions — but they all have one place to call home. The Loma Linda University School of Allied Health Professions invites them back each year to the place where they achieved their professional start.

The school hosted its 19th annual Homecoming Weekend and Continuing Education Convention April 22–26.

The events this year began with continuing education courses on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, and continuing Sunday.

The school's executive chef instructor, Cory Gheen, hosted a cooking class

Friday in the U.D. Register Research Kitchen, after which participants walked away with a cookbook and a logoed apron from the School of Allied Health Professions.

A GOLD alumni event and vespers was also held Friday — GOLD standing for graduates of the last decade.

Saturday was the biggest day of the weekend, with several events starting with Sabbath services at Loma Linda University Church. Following that, the school hosted a reunion lunch with Craig Jackson, JD, MSW, dean of the School of Allied Health Professions, and Ronald Carter, PhD, provost of Loma Linda University.

The evening began with a vespers program, titled "Operation Service," featuring mission videos of the

school's activities and comments from Jackson, Carter and Richard Hart, MD, DrPH, president of Loma Linda University Health.

The night was capped by the annual alumni and student recognition banquet at the Fox Theater in Redlands. More

than 170 guests attended the banquet, which included a silent auction and student scholarship dash — raising more than \$15,000 for scholarships. Jackson also showed a teaser video for the school's 50th anniversary year, which will be celebrated in 2016.

Twenty-one individuals received awards as Rising Stars, Distinguished Alumni, Distinguished Service Awardees, and Alumni of the Year.



Suzette Paredes Sanchez (front row, middle), a 2003 and 2006 graduate of the School of Allied Health Professions, was named a Distinguished Alumna during homecoming by the radiation technology department. To her left is Brigit Mendoza, MAM, assistant professor in the department of radiation technology and also a 2003 and 2005 alumna of the school. On Sanchez's right are her mother and father, Pilar and David Paredes. Behind Sanchez is her husband, Luke, who is standing to the right of John Mendoza, husband of Brigit Mendoza.

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 month of May 2015.

Type of Crime	Number of Crimes	Place of Crime
Auto Theft	3	Lot A; South Parking Structure; Old Costco Building
Attempted Motor Vehicle Theft	1	Lot A
Battery	1	Behavioral Medicine Center
Disturbance in Progress	1	Lot DP
Attempt to Commit a Crime	1	Kate Lindsay Hall
Larceny (bicycle)	1	Cancer Research Institute
Unauthorized Entry	2	LLUMC Adult Hospital; Clock Shop
Suicidal Subject	1	Emergency Room
Attempted Burglary	1	Global Health Institute
Burglary (motor vehicle)	2	Lot DC; North Parking Structure
Fire/Fire Alarm	2	LLUMC Adult Hospital; Cape Cod Building

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.

Canine officer felled by cancer obeys one final command ...

Continued from page 12

building, it was almost 11:00 p.m. on the saddest birthday of his life. With a heavy heart, he asked Marshall to don the special bite sleeve that would allow Ki to chomp on his arm without injuring the chief.

Despite his weakened condition, Ki bit down hard at Symonett's command. In the very next instant, the veterinarian administered the intravenous injection to ease his suffering. Shortly after that, the valiant canine officer slumped over and released his grasp.

"Being there at the end and watching Ki summon the full force of his abilities, even in the moments of death, truly show his desire to finish the job and finish it well," Marshall concludes. "He will be sorely missed as a member of our team and a friend to us all."

In the best tradition of law enforcement officers everywhere, one of Loma Linda's finest died doing what he always did best: protecting the employees, patients and visitors of this great organization.

Farewell, noble hero, farewell!

Canine officer felled by cancer obeys one final command

By James Ponder

Officer Ki, a full-fledged canine officer who served the Loma Linda University Health security department for nearly seven years, passed away on Friday, March 13, after losing his battle with an aggressive, malignant tumor.

Ironically, the day of his passing was the birthday of his human partner, Corporal Dwayne Symonett.

Born April 1, 2007, the purebred German Shepherd joined the force one month after his first birthday. His partner recalls the day they met.

"When a potential canine officer is getting ready to be paired up with an officer, the canine director tests the dogs to see how their personality matches," Symonett explains. "There was another dog I liked, but when we tested him, instead of attacking the 'suspect,' he took off for a tree and hugged it with his paws, trying to de-bark the tree and take it out. We realized he wouldn't be a good canine officer."

Fortunately, for Symonett, Ki was ready for action. "He matched my personality the most — kind of laid back, but ready to do his job when the time came."

Although Ki was barely out of puppyhood, he was all business.

"Ki's best work quality was that he was really good with area finds or searches, such as when we're in a big open field and a suspect is hiding in a tree, potentially armed and dangerous," he recalls. "Ki had a really good nose and was able to find suspects."

He was equally good at playing the role of canine ambassador at events.

"These dogs have to protect our lives," Symonett observes, "but they also have to attend student bashes and other events where they have to interact on a friendly basis with humans."

While Ki was very popular with event attendees and loved to be recognized, Dorothy Cain, a fellow officer of the security department, says he was

forever on duty.

"Everybody always asked if he was allowed to be petted, and there were times when he was not," Cain shares. "His focus was really on scanning the field, looking for whatever looked suspicious. He could be laying on the ground getting petted, but his eyes were constantly searching for anything that looked out of place."

Symonett says not every dog is fitted by nature or training for police service.

"By the time we get the dogs, they already know the basics like how to bite," he recalls. "With dogs in general, it is rare for them to attack a human because we're not in their natural food chain. The dogs we get for police work are bred for characteristics needed to do the job, not for the way they look."

"Pet dogs are usually pretty friendly," he goes on. "They either have a high play drive, a high defense drive, or not much drive at all. If you have a dog with just a high play drive, he'll chase after the suspect, but won't take him down. A dog with a high defense drive won't chase the suspect, but will bite to defend himself and his handler if attacked. Ki's personality was well-balanced with the ability to pursue a fleeing suspect and apprehend him."

Ki and Symonett were sometimes called to assist other police departments in searching for suspects, but Ki was never ordered to bite anyone under actual field conditions. Instead, he loved pursuing decoy 'suspects'—officers wearing the protective linen bite suit that allows dogs to attack, but not harm.

"He didn't really enjoy playing with tennis balls," Symonett points out. "Off the job, I didn't try to work with him. I just allowed him to be a dog. He liked to do normal dog stuff: eat, drink water, and hang out. For liability reasons, I usually kept him in the kennel, but when it was really cold outside, I'd let him come inside the house. I had a large dog crate for him indoors."

Symonett remembers what happened

when he first realized something was wrong with Ki on March 13.

"I was running errands," he discloses, "and when I walked by the kennel, he was usually in the corner watching me because he figured we were getting ready to go to work. But this time, he just stayed in the corner."

When Ki still seemed lethargic late in the afternoon, Symonett notified John

D. Marshall, director of the Loma Linda University Health security department, that he was taking the dog to the vet. Marshall said to keep him informed.

"I took Ki to the vet and she did an X-ray," Symonett reports. "She suspected it was heart-based hemangiosarcoma [HBH]. Once she told me what the hunch was, I went outside and called my chief. He said he was on his way. I could hardly speak."

The vet ordered an ultrasound that confirmed her hunch. "Fluid was building up around his heart," Symonett notes. "When he breathed in, she could not feel a pulse in his arteries. So he was diagnosed with HBH. When Marshall arrived, I told him the prognosis: even with surgery, the chances of Ki surviving were only about six months. He would have required chemo the whole time."

Marshall told Symonett he would trust his decision and support him fully. Symonett went back outside to consider his options.

"I asked myself, 'Later in life, what am I going to remember? That I had an awesome dog and he was a great work partner, and that he died the day after my birthday?'"

According to Marshall, security officers tend to be intensely loyal to their canine companions — and vice versa.

"We work with them all day, and chill together at home at night," he says. "It's a rare relationship — one that you can't fully understand until it's gone. It's one thing to understand that a dog is man's best friend, but it's another thing entirely to know that he's ready to put his life before yours to make sure you make it home safely at the end of the day."

When Symonett re-entered the

Continued on page 11



Corporal Dwayne Symonett and Officer Ki of the Loma Linda University Health security department strike a pose on the lawn. A veteran law enforcement officer, Ki sports the badge that identifies him as a full-fledged member of the force. The two were frequently seen around campus until Officer Ki lost his life earlier this year. Symonett keeps his ashes on the fireplace mantel of his home.

Twelve graduates receive their military commissions



Two of the 12 graduates receiving their commissions are joined on stage by their significant others during the Commissioning and Promotion Ceremony for the class of 2015, held May 24, 2015, at Randall Amphitheater. Air Force graduates included Second Lieutenant (2LT) Taylor Bingham, 2LT Ashley Coggins, 2LT Jonathan Eilers, and 2LT Lucas Kim. Army graduates comprised 2LT Yu-Sheng Chen, 2LT Charles Graves, 2LT Tess Harmon, and 2LT James Kim. Navy graduates consisted of Ensign (ENS) Kristofer Ceredon, ENS Maurice Hardy, ENS Andrew Korcek, and ENS Anthony Marin. Participating in the commissioning ceremony were Clyde Roggenkamp, DDS, retired Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Air Force, and associate professor of restorative dentistry, School of Dentistry; Michael Walter, MD, retired Brigadier General, Army, and associate professor of medicine, School of Medicine; and Richard E. Chinnock, MD, retired Captain, U.S. Navy, and professor and chair of pediatrics, School of Medicine, and professor, School of Public Health.



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