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PHILANTHROPY

KOLA Cares for Kids Radiothon raises \$1.2 million for Children's Hospital in its first decade

By James Ponder

Loma Linda University Children's Hospital has an extra special reason to celebrate the success of the KOLA Cares for Kids Radiothon this year: the \$75,213 raised on August 14 and 15 brings the total financial value of the popular radio station's contributions to the health care needs of Inland Empire children to more than \$1.2 million in its first decade.

According to Tiffany Hoekstra, major gifts officer at LUCH, the event represents an immeasurable amount of good will and generosity on the part of the station and its listeners.

"We are extremely grateful to the management, employees, and listeners of KOLA 99.9 for their generous and enthusiastic support," Ms. Hoekstra remarks. "They have demonstrated their love and concern for the children of the Inland Empire year after year, and this year, with the completion of the first decade, we are deeply touched by their kindness and generosity."

Ms. Hoekstra explains that proceeds of the radiothon benefit the transport team that flies juvenile patients to the pediatric and neonatal

intensive care units at Children's Hospital by helicopter. She adds that while the majority of funds raised help offset the considerable expenses of the airlift service and purchase much-needed life-saving equipment, by far the most popular element of the annual fund-raising event is the purchase of stuffed animals that accompany the frightened children during their helicopter trips to the hospital.

"The KOLA Bears have an enormous impact on the children," she explains. "Every time a donor pledges a certain amount, a KOLA Bear goes into the arms of a child."

According to Victor Bannis, coordinator of the transport team, the bears become surrogate therapists for children who have some sort of medical emergency and must be transported by helicopter to the hospital.

"They're being taken away from their parents," Mr. Bannis notes, pointing out that the spatial demands of transporting life-saving equipment and trained personnel leave no room in the helicopter for mom or dad to come along.

It isn't hard to imagine the event must be extremely stressful for children, but Mr. Bannis says everything changes for the better when a

member of the team places a KOLA Bear in the child's arms and says it's theirs to keep.

"This is what they have to hold onto," he explains. "This is their comfort!"

Ms. Hoekstra says that this year, generous donors contributed funds to purchase 854 KOLA Bears.

"We had a matching donor this year," she says, "who graciously purchased a KOLA Bear every time a listener called in to donate one. One bear makes an enormous impact on the anxiety level of one child; imagine the relief 854 bears will bring to these kids. It's wonderful!"

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Seven-year-old Emily from Redlands likes the idea of giving KOLA Bears, seen here in each of her arms, to patients of Loma Linda University Children's Hospital so much that she contributed a generous donation of her own money to the 2012 KOLA Cares for Kids Radiothon. This year marks the tenth anniversary of the fundraising event which, to date, has raised more than \$1.2 million dollars for the health care needs of Inland Empire children.

PHILANTHROPY

Children's Miracle Network bypasses the Inland Empire and Loma Linda University Children's Hospital

By James Ponder

Generous donors in the Inland Empire may have been misled into thinking that their gifts to Children's Miracle Network (CMN) went to help sick children at Loma Linda University Children's Hospital or other health care facilities in the Riverside/San Bernardino area when, in fact, the money went to a Los Angeles hospital.

According to articles published in the *Press-Enterprise* on June 29 and July 2, 2012, donors in Riverside and San Bernardino counties contributed approximately \$2.8 million to the giant fundraising organization since 2010, but not a penny benefitted Inland Empire hospitals or their patients. Instead, all the money went to Children's Hospital of Los Angeles.

The website—<<http://childrensmiraclenet.org>>—notes that the organiza-

tion, which was founded by entertainer Marie Osmond and members of her family in 1983, exists to meet two specific goals:

- To help as many children as possible by raising funds for children's hospitals
- To keep funds in the community in which they were raised to help local children.

That second goal is reinforced in another paragraph on the CMN website:

"These kids aren't in faraway countries, or from opposite sides of the nations—they're in your community."

Unless your community is located in the counties of Riverside or San Bernardino, that is.

Zareh Sarrafian, MBA, administrator of Loma Linda University Children's Hospital, notes that because 70 percent of the 130,000 children

served annually by LLU Children's Hospital are at, or below, the federal poverty level, the hospital suffers substantial losses since federal programs like Medicare and Medicaid only reimburse a small percentage of actual costs the hospital incurs in caring for those patients.

When Cassie MacDuff, author of the *Press-Enterprise* articles, investigated whether Loma Linda University Children's Hospital could become a participant in CMN and benefit from the generosity of Inland Empire donors, she was told that Children's Hospital of Los Angeles currently "owns" the rights to all monies collected in Southern California except in Orange and San Diego counties.

To access funds raised by CMN, a hospital must pay a substantial fee, rumored to be in the neighborhood of \$1 to \$2 million. However, Shirley Rogers, CMN's chief hospital relations officer, told Ms. MacDuff that hospitals typi-

cally get back three to five times as much money as they pay to belong to the network.

But even that option is denied to LLU Children's Hospital since Children's Hospital of Los Angeles holds a three-year contract guaranteeing them the rights to funds the organization raises from the Inland Empire—this despite the fact that Children's Hospital of Los Angeles does not provide care in Riverside or San Bernardino counties.

According to Ms. MacDuff, Children's Miracle Network solicits donations from shoppers at both local retailers and nationwide chain stores who are asked by checkout clerks if they would like to donate to help sick children.

Many donors—especially those who read the CMN website—would naturally assume that their dollars will benefit patients in the local community.

The website lists a large number of national businesses and organizations in the group's founders circle including:

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DEAN APPOINTED TO LCME

School of Medicine dean serves on accrediting body for medical schools

By Heather Reifsnyder

Roger Hadley, MD, dean of LLU School of Medicine, has been invited by the American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC) to serve on the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME). The LCME is the sole source for the accreditation of medical schools in the United States and Canada, on the joint authority of AAMC and the American Medical Association.

Over the past two years, both Darrell Kirch, MD, president of AAMC, and their chief academic officer, John Prescott, MD, visited the

Loma Linda University campus as invited guests. Independently impressed with the harmonious blend of mission and action on the campus, Drs. Kirch and Prescott submitted Dr. Hadley's name to serve as an AAMC representative to the LCME.

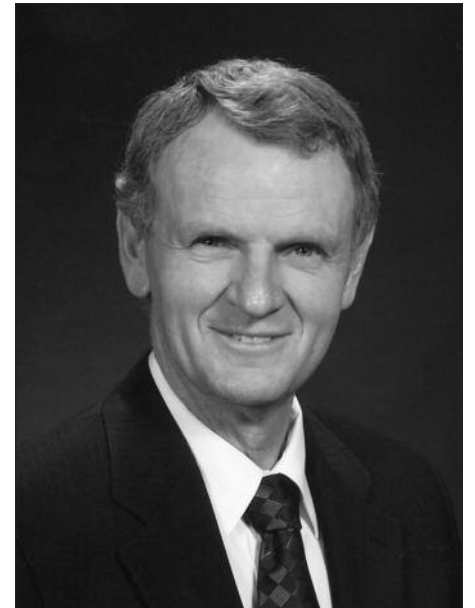
Dr. Prescott explained to Dr. Hadley that the LCME is being asked to make substantial changes in the standards of accreditation, with a greater emphasis on how schools integrate curriculum to match their mission. It was because of the school's clear success in this area that they asked Dr. Hadley to serve on this committee.

"They said that Loma Linda University School of Medicine, more than any other, is driven by its mission," Dr. Hadley says, referring to the school's charge to continue the teaching and healing ministry of Jesus Christ.

"It's enlightening to be part of this process from the perspective of the accreditor," he says. "Accrediting bodies like the LCME are the best way to maintain high standards for academics and professionalism."

Over the last decade, the LCME has seen a flurry of activity. It has granted preliminary accreditation for nine new medical schools established to address the need for more physicians.

LLU School of Medicine was last accredited in 2008 for the maximum term of eight years.



Roger Hadley, MD

PROVOST NAMED TO WASC COMMISSION

University provost named to WASC Accrediting Commission

By Larry Kidder

The Accrediting Commission of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) recently named Ronald Carter, PhD, provost of Loma Linda University, to serve a three-year term.

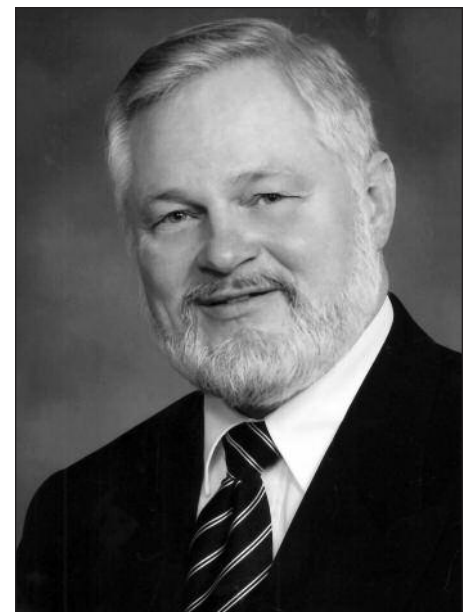
Dr. Carter joins 25 distinguished commissioners representing diverse institutions of higher education in California and Hawaii. Commissioners are primarily presidents and provosts, as well as two representatives from the public sector. They represent the full spectrum of higher education from well-known universi-

ties around California—such as Stanford and the University of Southern California—to smaller specialized university—such as Golden Gate University and Keck Graduate Institution of Applied Sciences. Commissioners serve three-year overlapping terms.

"Loma Linda University is highly regarded by WASC," says Dr. Carter. "The commission was very impressed with the last WASC visit to our campus, granting us the highest rating of 10 years with no interim visit."

Dr. Carter also attributes his appointment as a commissioner to his participation in visiting other institutions as part of accrediting teams. He adds that many faculty from the LLU are frequently asked to serve on accrediting teams. He mentions three who have distinguished WASC service histories: Marilyn Eggers, PhD, director of the office of educational effectiveness and associate professor of general studies; Beverly Buckles, DSW, dean of the School of Behavioral Health and chair of the department of social work and social ecology; and Billy Hughes, PhD, dean of the School of Pharmacy.

"I think what really sets us apart is our sense of mission," Dr. Carter continues. "The WASC accrediting team was particularly impressed with how thoroughly our mission is integrated into everything we do at Loma Linda."



Ronald Carter, PhD

Serving as a commissioner involves meeting several times a year typically in the San Francisco Bay Area. Teams of commissioners are assigned the task of serving as "readers" of the reports submitted by WASC site visitors regarding schools in California and Hawaii who are applying for accreditation.

The commissioners also meet periodically for retreats and workshops. "One of the burning

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LIFESTYLE MEDICINE FUND BIKE RIDE

Bicyclists to tackle 500 miles of the Natchez Trace for lifestyle medicine fund

By James Ponder

Pedaling 4 Prevention, a 500-mile bicycle ride down the Natchez Trace, will raise money for the LLU School of Medicine's lifestyle medicine fund when riders leave Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on October 1. It will conclude in Nashville, Tennessee, on October 5.

According to P. William Dysinger, MD, MPH, emeritus associate dean in the LLU School of Public Health, the ride is being held to commemorate three individuals who lost their lives to disease: Stephen Dysinger, who passed away at age 13 from rhabdomyosarcoma; Sandra Mundie, who died at age 38 from multiple sclerosis; and Piper Ivins, who passed away at age 48 from breast cancer.

"The bikers are committed to promoting a lifestyle that can help control the overwhelming

scourge of such diseases as obesity, diabetes, heart disease, and cancer that now cause most deaths in the United States and in the rest of the world," Dr. Dysinger notes.

For 444 miles, the ride will follow the prehistoric Natchez Trace, a trail across three states that was established by Native Americans from the Natchez, Chickasaw, and Choctaw nations. It was later used by explorers during the historical opening of the American West in the 1800s.

Dr. Dysinger adds that the lifestyle medicine fund was set up to promote research and education in the field of lifestyle medicine as well as to establish the evidence-based practice of the new medical sub-specialty. While noting that lifestyle medicine is recognized by the American Medical Association, American College of Preventive Medicine, and the American College

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Children's Miracle Network bypasses Inland Empire and LLU Children's Hospital ...

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- WalMart & Sam's Club
- Costco Wholesale
- Credit Unions for Kids
- RE/MAX
- Marriott
- Rite Aid
- Ace Hardware
- Dairy Queen
- Delta Air Lines

Other organizations—including Chevron, Circle K, Coca-Cola Company, Discover Card, IHOP, Kiwanis International, Mimi's Café, and Six Flags—are listed as partners with

CMN, while many more are called fundraising partners.

CMN spokeswoman Miranda Bernard told Ms. MacDuff that the three-year contract between CMN and Children's Hospital of Los Angeles is coming up for renewal soon.

She also said the network's goal is to keep funds in the local community where they're raised.

Whether that means their contract will be amended to allow LLU Children's Hospital to benefit from monies raised in Riverside and San Bernardino counties remains to be seen.

KOLA Cares for Kids Radiothon raises \$1.2 million for Children's Hospital in its first decade ...

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The KOLA Cares for Kids Radiothon is a collaborative effort between station personnel and volunteers, including family members of patients, and employees of both Loma Linda University Children's Hospital and Kohl's department stores. They come to the studio at 1940 Orange Tree Lane in Redlands to man the phones for an hour or two during the two-day event. Many get caught up in the idealism of the occasion and stay much longer.

As the station's enthusiastic on-air personalities—Brian Casey, Patti Banner, Cindy Davis, Vic Slick, and Kevin Machado—promote the event to listeners, the phones begin to ring. Volunteers take each call and thank every donor for digging deep to help the cause.

Seanna Hernandez, an 8-year-old patient who was treated at LLU Children's Hospital for a rare brain disorder, electrified the atmosphere

when she popped into the studio on the second day along with her mother Selena.

Selena attributes Seanna's amazing recovery—she was unconscious for five months—to the dedication and expertise of the doctors, nurses, and other health professionals at Children's Hospital. "They wrapped their arms around Seanna and gave us all the hope we could ask for," she recalls.

In addition to Ms. Hoesktra, Loma Linda University Children's Hospital administrator Zareh Sarrafian, MBA, was delighted to learn the outcome of this year's radiothon.

"I am overjoyed with the success of this year's radiothon," Mr. Sarrafian exclaimed. "Everyone at Loma Linda University Children's Hospital appreciates the dedication KOLA and its listeners give to this event, which ultimately affects the little lives that come to us every day for treatment."

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AWARD

Worldwide organization recognizes LLU nutrition researcher

By Heather Reifsnnyder

The International Nut and Dried Fruit Council awarded its 2012 Golden Nut Award for excellence in research to Joan Sabaté, MD, DrPH, professor and chair of the nutrition department and leader of LLU's world-renowned research on the health benefits of eating nuts.

The award recognizes outstanding researchers who have contributed significantly to nutritional knowledge related to nuts and/or dried fruits.

"According to the selection committee, the School of Public Health nutrition department is the research group with the most scientific publications on nuts and the highest impact factor in the world," says Dr. Sabaté.

Dr. Sabaté spoke at the event where the award was given, the World Nut and Dried Fruit Congress held in Singapore in May, which drew 950 attendees—businesspeople,

industry leaders, policymakers, and researchers. His presentation was called "Nuts: the story of my life."

"Growing up in an Adventist home and in a Mediterranean country, I have been eating nuts on a regular basis since my childhood," said Dr. Sabaté at his presentation. "Looking back at the trail of nuts throughout my life, I am astonished to see the immense impact and value that they have made in my personal and professional life."

Dr. Sabaté became the second School of Public Health faculty member to earn the Golden Nut Award. Gary Fraser, MD, PhD, was previously recognized in 1998. He is associate dean for research and professor of epidemiology and biostatistics in the School of Public Health, as well as a professor in the School of Medicine.

Dr. Fraser also leads LLU's Adventist Health Studies, which focus on how diet and lifestyle impact health. Data from Adventist Health



Dr. Sabaté speaks during the World Nut and Dried Fruit Congress, where he received the Golden Nut Award for excellence in research.

Study-1 was used in LLU's first nut research.

In his landmark 1990 study on walnuts and heart disease risk factors, Dr. Sabaté established for the first time the link between nut consumption and lowering of blood cholesterol. Published in 1993 by the *New England Journal of Medicine*, the results from this study have

fostered additional research on the role of nuts and health.

Loma Linda University nutrition department has conducted research on almonds, peanuts, pecans, and walnuts. For more information about the department's current and previous studies on nuts visit <www.nutstudies.org>.

CAMPUS PRAYER INITIATIVE

Loma Linda University campus ministries launches prayer initiative

By Darcie Moningka

In the midst of demanding schedules and long periods of study, students sometimes hit a wall with their spiritual life. With this in mind, members of the Loma Linda University campus ministries team set a goal of bringing their interfaith community together in prayer.

During spring quarter of the 2011-2012 school year, the department launched its first 40 days of prayer. Targeted toward students, this opportunity provided access on the prayer page of the campus ministries website—found online at <www.llu.edu/central/chaplain>—for a daily Bible text, prayer, and meditation. In addition, students could submit prayer requests through the website or Twitter.

However, after the event, campus ministries considered a larger question.

"How do we get prayer to become a part of our DNA as a larger community?" asks Dilys Brooks, MDiv, associate chaplain.

As a result of considering the issue, campus ministries decided to launch another 40 days of prayer to prepare for the 2012-2013 school year.

These 40 days of prayer began on Sunday, August 12, and ended during the Fall Faculty Colloquium on September 20. This prepared faculty for the upcoming school year, and represented the first time campus ministries encour-

aged staff, and not just students, in prayer. In addition, it included the same website opportunities as the first prayer initiative.

Another 40 days of prayer, which will be focused on faculty and students, will begin during the Fall Week of Renewal on October 8.

"That's 80 days of preparing for God's presence in this place and helping people understand that regardless of what we're studying or the challenges we're facing, we are a community that prays," says Chaplain Brooks. She also emphasizes that the community will realize there are people who have a genuine interest in praying for others.

"One of the big things students on campus face is the intensity of the programs," says Terry Swenson, DMin, MDiv, Loma Linda University chaplain. "The challenges they face here can cause their spiritual life to be hindered and set aside. Our plan is to help them find ways to reestablish their spiritual strength through prayer."

With the mission statement "Know, Grow, Go," the campus ministries department hopes to help this community know Jesus, grow spiritually, and live out a relationship with Him in tangible ways.

During the combined 80 days of prayer, faculty and students will be able to unite for the same purpose.

"When a community comes together to do something, it builds momentum and everybody feels like they are a part of the process," emphasizes Chaplain Brooks. In addition, she notes that the initiative is "an opportunity for us to share with those in our interfaith community that prayer is important to us as well."

With the establishment of these periods of prayer, the campus ministries department hopes

to continue this communal engagement in the future. Moreover, the emphasis is clear that this community recognizes God as the One it comes to for direction and help.

"This is a community that takes its faith seriously," says Chaplain Brooks. "Our community members go beyond just what is seen in worship or on paper. Prayer is the thread that holds us together; it is an intentional calling out to God."

AWARD-WINNING AESTHETICS

Loma Linda University Medical Center wins Spirit of Planetree Award

By James Ponder

Thanks to its aesthetics team, Loma Linda University Medical Center was recently declared a third-place winner in the Spirit of Planetree Award competition.

The honor will be presented at the conclusion of the Planetree Annual Conference on Wednesday, October 3, in Palm Desert, California. According to Kathy McMillan, MA, director of employee spiritual care, the

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Shelly Moore and Kathy McMillan (center) smile along with three of the 42 employees and patients who consented to share their stories with passersby in the lobby level corridor of the medical center as part of the recently completed "I Am" project, which was selected as third place winner in the Spirit of Planetree Award competition. Ms. Moore is manager of communications and marketing for the department of mission and culture, and Ms. McMillan is director of employee spiritual care.

Bicyclists to tackle 500 miles of the Natchez Trace for lifestyle medicine fund ...

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of Lifestyle Medicine, he notes that "LLU is the only institution anywhere with accredited training programs in lifestyle medicine."

Additional information for people interested in

participating as bicyclists or donors is available online at <www.pedaling4prevention.blogspot.com>. Dr. Dysinger points out that clicking on the donate link automatically redirects viewers to the School of Medicine donation page.

ADVENTIST HEALTH STUDY

Health study receives appreciation for matching cancer registries data

By Barry Manembu, MPA

Adventist Health Study-2 (AHS-2) received much commendation from its external advisory committee during a two-day consultancy meeting held at the School of Public Health on August 28-29.

"We're very pleased with the progress of the study, and the advisory committee is looking forward to great productivity and exciting findings for not only the Adventist Church, but for the world," enthused Laurence Kolonel, MD, PhD, chair of the advisory

committee and director of the University of Hawaii Cancer Center.

There were several achievements highlighted during the meeting, but the consultants specifically applauded AHS-2's pioneering work in matching all cancer registries in the United States and Canada—a nationwide linkage that has never been done before.

"Most health studies deal with only one or two states because of the lengthy, complicated procedures," says Dr. Kolonel, a former

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Dr. Gary Fraser (right) shares a moment with Dr. Laurence Kolonel during the consultancy meeting for Adventist Health Study-2.

ALUMNI OUTREACH

School of Pharmacy alumnus works to improve health in Ethiopia

By Stephen Vodhanel

Growing up in Ethiopia, Dekabo Saba, PharmD, witnessed how medicine used to be practiced in Africa just 20 years ago. Back then, a neighbor of Dr. Saba began his own pharmacy and medical clinic with less than three months of formal training.

"I am in no way discrediting this individual because at that moment that was what we were supposed to have, but this guy did everything from delivering babies to surgery," says Dr. Saba.

His current assessment of health care in Ethiopia, as well as in all African countries, is that the role of a pharmacist in the multi-disciplinary medical team is vague.

"I thought there is a clear regard for their professional image in medicinal knowledge, but the perceived value of their expertise to patients' health care is limited," remarks Dr. Saba.

According to Dr. Saba, there continue to be challenges in providing health care to Africa's poor, such as those that occur when unregulated and improperly compounded drugs are dispensed in what are sometimes lethal doses—something pharmacists can correct.

Dr. Saba returned to Africa shortly after receiving the PharmD degree from Loma Linda University in 2007 in order to "promote indigenous solutions to indigenous health care problems."

For Dr. Saba, this means focusing on education by providing guidelines for certain disease states to pharmacists and other African health care professionals to help them manage, treat, and prevent diseases. It also involves working with pharmacy boards in Africa to develop laws for pharmacists, pharmacies, and drugs.

"I hope to change the life of one person at a time," adds Dr. Saba.

INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION

School of Dentistry professor honored by Mexican government



Jaime L. Lozada, DDS, director of the School of Dentistry's advanced specialty education program in implant dentistry, was honored with a special award from the Mexican government, presented to him by the country's secretary of health at a commemorative ceremony celebrating dentistry in Mexico City earlier this year. The award recognizes Dr. Lozada's contributions to dentistry in Mexico and his outstanding professional record as an international ambassador for education and training in implant dentistry. By Doug Hackleman

PUBLIC HEALTH SUMMIT

Healthy Communities by Design Summit to convene

By Heather Reifsnnyder

Loma Linda University School of Public Health, in collaboration with geographic technology company Esri, will host the annual Healthy Communities by Design Summit on October 1 and 2.

With the theme "Place Matters," the conference will bring together leaders in policy, planning, industry, and academia to discuss the built environment's impact on health.

"The design of a strong community combines geospatial thinking with principles that improve people's health," says summit chair Seth Wiafe, MPH, director of the health geoinformatics program at the School of Public Health.

The keynote speakers are Richard Jackson, MD, MPH, chair of UCLA's environmental health sciences department, and Anthony

Iton, MD, JD, MPH, senior vice president for healthy communities at The California Endowment.

General registration for the summit is \$99, while students pay \$49. Eleven hours of continuing education are available for an additional \$15.

For more information, visit <www.llu.edu/public-health/hcbd> or call (909) 558-8072.

For the first time this year, the summit will be preceded by a September 30 workshop on HAZUS-MH, which is a free ArcGIS Desktop 10 extension computer program developed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency to estimate damage in disasters.

The HAZUS-MH workshop is free for registered attendees of the Healthy Communities by Design Summit. For all others, the cost is \$25.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS TRAINING

School of Public Health trains home health providers in disaster preparedness

By Heather Reifsnnyder

Loma Linda University School of Public Health trained 48 individuals in "Disaster Planning for Home Health Care Providers" on August 21 at Loma Linda University Medical Center.

Nurses, physical therapists, respiratory therapists, and others received a one-hour introductory course in disaster preparedness including those that threaten Southern California: earthquakes, fires, floods, and chemical spills.

During disasters, home health patients have increased vulnerability due to medical conditions, age, degree of mobility, or living alone.

The class taught home health care providers simple steps to prepare their patients for hazards, such as teaching them how to take cover in an earthquake, even if they're physically immobile.

At the end of the training, the School of Public Health gave participants an emergency planning checklist specific to persons with medical needs living at home, their family

members, guardians, and caregivers.

"The nurses and therapists plan to use these tools immediately in the patient visits, as well as to prepare their own families," says trainer Rachel Long, MPH, emergency management specialist and project manager for the School of Public Health at Loma Linda University.

"We each have to be personally prepared in our homes before we can help others in an emergency," she notes.

The School of Public Health's office of public health practice and workforce development conducted the training through funding as one of four schools of public health operating the California-Nevada Public Health Training Center.

The purpose of the training center is to strengthen the public health workforce in California and Nevada.

It is one of 38 centers in the National Public Health Training Center Network, which is funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

GRANT RECEIVED FOR RESEARCH

Assistant professor at LLU School of Medicine awarded grant to study gender differences in obstetrical care

By James Ponder

Lisa Kairis, MD, assistant professor of Obstetrics and gynecology at Loma Linda University School of Medicine, recently received a grant from the American Medical Association Foundation to study how gender differences among obstetricians/gynecologists affect the practice of delivering babies as well as the future of the profession.

Dr. Kairis was one of only five female physicians in the United States to receive the Joan F. Giambalvo Memorial Scholarship Grant for 2012, which was presented in partnership with the AMA's Women Physicians Congress.

Titled "Gender differences in practice patterns of obstetricians/gynecologists: a critical shortage of female physicians who perform deliveries," the study aims to evaluate the percentages of male and female OB/GYNs who stop deliv-

ering babies, and determine at what ages they quit. The study will be stratified in five-year increments.

Dr. Kairis, who began the one-year research study in May of this year, uses graphic and colorful terms to depict the real-world obstacles female OB/GYNs face on a daily basis.

"The pager goes off at 7:15 a.m.," she explains. "It's labor and delivery. Your patient is ready to push and you need to go right now. Your son still has pancake syrup on his face, and has put on two mismatched socks. You are frantically trying to figure out how you are now going to get your kids to school. As you announce, 'Mommy needs to go,' your daughter says, 'Mommy, my tummy hurts,' and her most recent stomach contents are now all over your dress.

"Imagine this same scenario," she continues, "but as the pager goes off, it belongs to Daddy.

The ending to this scenario is often quite different. Daddy leaves and goes to deliver the baby, while his wife takes care of the children."

She maintains the situation is hardly hypothetical. "As a female OB/GYN and mother, I have seen and lived scenarios like this more times than I can count," Dr. Kairis recalls. "I have listened to my fellow OB/GYN colleagues lament how the unpredictability and time demands of delivering babies are stressful, and pose significant difficulties to balancing work and family life."

Dr. Kairis believes many female OB/GYNs have stopped delivering babies because of conflict over professional and family obligations.

"Based on my own life experiences and those of other female colleagues, I have an interest in looking at this issue," she says.

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Lisa Kairis, MD, assistant professor at Loma Linda University School of Medicine, says an LLU study funded by the American Medical Association Foundation is designed to investigate how gender differences affect obstetrical care.

Loma Linda University Medical Center wins Spirit of Planetree Award ...

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medical center will serve as one of several host sites for the conference, with selected employees serving as tour guides for Planetree conference attendees.

"This represents the first time any Loma Linda University entity has won an award from Planetree," notes Shelly Moore, manager of communications and marketing for the department of mission and culture.

According to the organization's website, the Spirit of Planetree Awards promote patient- and resident-centered care by publicly recognizing individuals who personalize and demystify the health care experience for others as well as programs and services that support extraordinary achievement in patient-centered care.

The aesthetics team created two innovative hallway décor projects that took third place in the international competition in the category of architecture and interior design small project.

The team is chaired by Michael Knecht, MA, the former director of the faith and health initiative at the medical center who was recently appointed executive director for mission and community development at Loma Linda University Medical Center Murrieta. Other members include: Beth Rose, director of hospitality services; Bob Fischetti, director of facilities management and dispatch; Gerald R. Winslow, PhD, vice president for mission and culture; Long Duong, MArch, senior facility planner for LLU Medical Center; the aforementioned Mses. McMillan and Moore; and Olivia Moses,

DrPH, assistant professor in the LLU School of Public Health.

The first of the two projects, which the team submitted together for the Planetree competition, is the "I Am" gallery on the walls of the first level corridor in the medical center as well as in the south hallway of the LLUAHSC 101 building on Redlands Boulevard. At both locations, one stretch contains a selection of the "I am" statements of Jesus taken from the biblical *Gospel of John*, while an adjacent section displays framed 3-foot-by-3-foot photographic portraits of 42 employees and patients whose lives illustrate descriptive words on the posters.

In one of them, the radiant smile of a young woman who lost a family member to violence is displayed along with the caption "I am at peace." The accompanying text tells how forgiveness enabled the woman to move forward in spite of great personal tragedy.

The second project is the redesign of a hallway leading to the emergency department on A level. Using a variety of visual elements such as drawings of plants in muted shades of peach, green, and white, the graphics lead viewers to large panels containing three stories designed to bring comfort and hope, especially to family members of patients in the emergency department.

The excerpts are taken from the popular *LOV Stories: Living Our Values* book comprised of employee anecdotes on how the values of Loma Linda University Medical Center help them in their daily lives.

Ms. Moore and Ms. McMillan are excited about the award, but quick to share credit with others whose expertise and enthusiasm made it possible. In addition to the aesthetics committee, they point to other individuals who helped turn the ideas into award-winning reality: Connie Cunningham, executive director of trauma and emergency services at the medical center; Michelle Baty, proprietor of the Studio B graphic design firm in Redlands; and photographer Michael Easley, owner of <www.vital excess.com>.

"The projects have been very well-received," notes Ms. Moore. "Connie Cunningham was one of the people who had to approve it, and we are so very grateful for her help. We also could not have pulled this off without the support of Michelle Baty and Michael Easley. Their ideas and technical know-how made both projects come together in ways we never could have imagined. We are very thankful."

But Ms. Moore says many others contributed to the success of the projects as well, including the 42 employees and patients who shared their stories and allowed their faces to be pictured for the "I Am" campaign. "It really was a blessing to learn the stories of these people," she says.

She also notes that Ms. McMillan came up with the initial idea for the "I Am" project. "It was Kathy's creativity that got it going," Ms. Moore acknowledges. "We wanted to create visual reminders of the ideals of the organization."

In addition to the recognition from Planetree, support from medical center personnel has been very heartening to members of the aesthetics team.

"When the project was finished," Ms. Moore recounts, "we got e-mails from Ruthita and several of the vice presidents of the medical center saying they appreciate the way it humanizes the organization." She speaks, of course, of Ruthita J. Fike, MA, CEO of Loma Linda University Medical Center.

As much as Mses. Moore and McMillan enjoyed the affirmation from the Planetree awards committee and top administrators at the medical center, their greatest satisfaction



Shelly Moore, manager of communications and marketing for the department of mission and culture, expresses her enthusiasm for the newly finished redesign of an interior hallway leading to the emergency department on A level of Loma Linda University Medical Center. Ms. Moore attributes the success of the project, which was recently awarded third place in the Spirit of Planetree competition, to the large group of employees, volunteers, and community members who worked together to make it happen.

came from a totally unexpected source.

"We had a reception for the 42 employees and patients whose pictures are up there on the wall," Ms. McMillan recalls. "We had them go around the room and say their names and share why they were asked to be part of the 'I Am' campaign.

"When it came her turn, Rachel, a 6- or 7-year-old girl who was born with a cleft palate and has had several surgeries to correct it, stood up on her chair and said, 'I am Rachel, and I am beautiful!'

"That made it all worthwhile, the entire campaign, to help her realize that she is beautiful," Ms. McMillan concludes.

University provost named to WASC Accrediting Commission ...

Continued from page 2

issues right now is the application by WASC-accredited non-profit schools to become for-profit educational institutions," Dr. Carter explains. "Are the differences to mission so profound that they should start the accreditation process from step one or be considered

merely as a substantive change?" he asks.

Regarding his appointment as a commissioner, Dr. Carter comments, "It is a great honor to serve on the WASC Accrediting Commission. I think it speaks volumes about the quality of education we provide at Loma Linda."

PHILANTHROPY

Grow Together employee giving campaign gets off to an exciting start

By James Ponder

The Grow Together employee giving campaign recently established at Loma Linda University Health enjoyed a very successful kickoff week.

“The total raised last week from pledges, outright gifts, and payroll deductions,” notes Amanda Perry, annual giving manager, “came in at approximately \$30,000. We’re very pleased with the results!”

Ms. Perry says the program is driven by two major goals: to support the growth of a culture of philanthropy on campus, and to raise funds for a variety of worthy projects.

The question of why an employee would choose to contribute to his or her employer is, perhaps, best seen through the eyes of employees who have chosen to do that.

“I believe in our mission,” notes Chris Johnston, Esq., associate general counsel. “I believe it is important to continue the healing and teaching ministry of Jesus Christ. By working here, I am supporting this mission. By giving, I am investing in the future of this mission. That is why I choose to work here; that is why I choose to give.”

For Mary Nava, who works as an administrative assistant and events coordinator for the Centennial Complex, the desire to give back to the organization that has been her employer the last 30 years stems from her personal identification with the organization.

“For me, working for Loma Linda goes beyond saying it’s my job,” Ms. Nava insists, “it’s a part of who I am.”

Although employee giving to the organization over the years totals “somewhere in the millions” through capital campaign gifts, gala contributions, and other sources, Ms. Perry says the Grow Together employee campaign represents the first time it has involved a consistent employee program.

“We’re committed to continuing the campaign year after year,” she adds. “When we started going to the employee benefits fairs, we discovered that a lot of people didn’t even know there is a department of philanthropy on campus. So we have our work cut out for us in trying to re-educate and inform our employees about the vital role philanthropy plays in the life of the organization.”

Employees who choose to participate in the campaign have a large degree of flexibility in deciding where they want their money to go. Although only two specific programs are listed on the enrollment form, employees can select any program, fund, or project on campus or design their own.

The two forms listed—the Family Fund and Vision 2020—were created to help employees going through hard times, and support an ambitious expansion of facilities for health care, education, and research, respectively. Employees who wish to give to a fund not listed are invited to contact Ms. Perry to find out what funds are available to accommodate their giving preferences.

Ms. Perry first heard of the Grow Together employee giving campaign last year when she was asked to lead it by Rachelle Bussell, senior vice president for advancement, and David Colwell, executive director of philanthropy. As Ms. Bussell and Mr. Colwell shared their vision for building a solid employee-giving program, Ms. Perry became excited. After agreeing to manage the campaign, she organized a task force to provide guidance and manpower.

“Last year it was strictly a direct mail campaign,” she remembers. “There was a drive to kick off the campaign rather quickly. This year was the first time we created a framework to build on with several volunteers and advisors willing to contribute their personal involvement.”

Please turn to page 7



David Colwell, executive director of philanthropy, Amanda Perry, annual giving manager, and Ramona Jackson, assistant, show off their orange stress balls to celebrate the successful kickoff of the Grow Together employee giving campaign at Loma Linda University Health. So far, the campaign has netted approximately \$30,000 to help with a variety of worthy projects.

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STUDENT RESEARCH EXPERIENCES

Students steal the show at 12th annual Health Disparities Research Symposium

By James Ponder

As they do every year, student researchers stole the show at the 12th annual Health Disparities Research Symposium, which was held Wednesday, August 1, in the Wong Kerlee International Conference Center at Loma Linda University. The annual scientific event spotlights summer and year-round

research performed by high school, college, graduate, and medical students.

The students are the latest participants in the pipeline program—currently entering its second decade—designed to increase the numbers of socioeconomically disadvantaged and underrepresented groups that matriculate and complete doctoral degrees in a biomedical discipline.

“It’s remarkable when you think about it,” observes Marino De Leon, PhD, director of the Center for Health Disparities and Molecular Medicine. “The majority of these kids are sophomores or juniors in high school or college, and they impressed all of us with the top-level scientific research they are doing and their commitment to using this newly acquired knowledge to go back and help their own communities. It’s amazing and wonderful at the same time.”

At the symposium, Dr. De Leon noted that the peer-reviewed and National Institutes of

Health-funded health disparities research pipeline program employs evidence-based skill-building interventions and workshops proven to enhance student development. He also said that a total of 62 students participated this summer, observing that in past years, a high percentage of the summer research program students have gone on to careers as physicians or biomedical researchers.

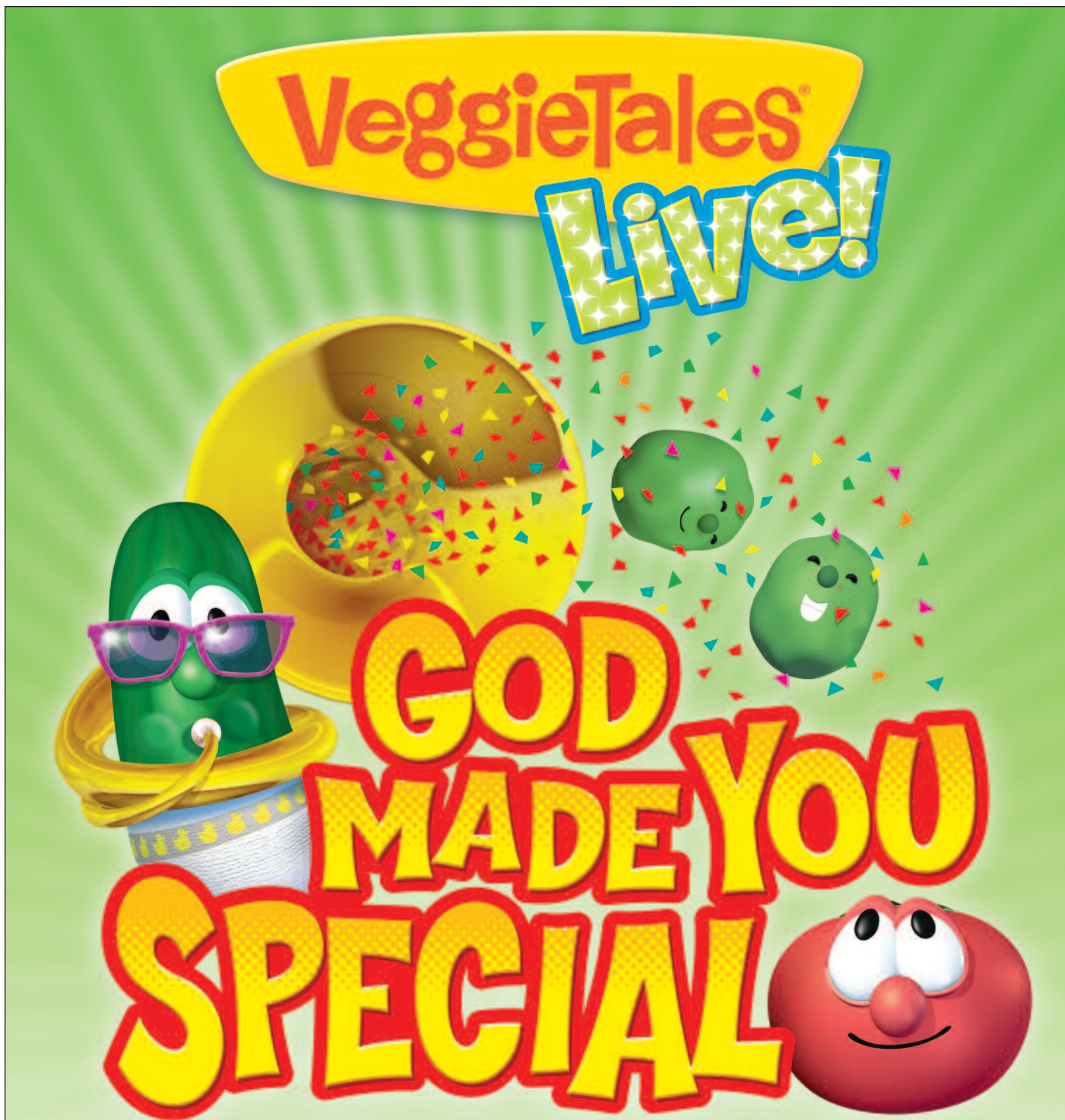
“A key goal of the summer research programs is to expose intelligent, dedicated young people from underrepresented minorities in the Inland Empire to options they might otherwise not have a chance to explore,” Dr. De Leon says. “There are huge disparities between the ratio of Hispanics, African Americans, Native Americans, and other minority groups in the general population of the United States vis-à-vis their representation in medical and scientific professions.”

By feeding the pipeline, the summer research program seeks to redress that imbalance by exposing talented students to the health professions and giving them a chance to get involved firsthand.

But as Carlos A. Casiano, PhD, associate director of the center and coordinator of the health disparities research pipeline program, notes, participants are taught more than just the fundamentals of biomedical research; they are also given solid career-building skills essential to success in any field, especially the biomedical and health sciences.

“One of our objectives,” Dr. Casiano points out, “is to challenge students to share what they learned this summer with their families and communities, and build on that knowledge as they continue their education and grow into service-oriented biomedical scientists and health care professionals.”

Please turn to page 10



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Grow Together employee giving campaign gets off to an exciting start ...

Continued from page 6

“Grow Together is an annual gift campaign to be repeated every year,” she continues. “It is pretty much grassroots fundraising; it was designed to be that way.”

During the kickoff week, members of the task force and other volunteers manned booths inside the dining rooms on campus, and distributed brochures about the program along with snacks and orange stress balls. Ms. Perry regards these individuals as champions.

“The success of this campaign would not have been possible without the diligence and hard work of our Grow Together campaign champions,” Ms. Perry says. “We had about 60 champions this year from across the institution. They helped in promoting the campaign, passing out information packets, and generating awareness of the importance of employee philanthropy. Next year, we hope to increase the number of champions and build on the successes of this year.”

For more information about outright gifts, employee payroll deductions, and other ways to contribute to Employee Grow Together, please visit <www.llugrow.org>.

PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

Dentistry professor and dean honored by College of Prosthodontists

By Doug Hackleman

Loma Linda University School of Dentistry Associate Professor Mathew T. Kattadiyil, DDS, MSD, MS, director, advanced specialty education program in prosthodontics, has been selected by the American College of Prosthodontists to receive the Educator of the Year Award during the first weekend in November at the forthcoming American College of Prosthodontists annual session in Baltimore, Maryland.

The American College of Prosthodontists, through its awards program, formally recognizes individuals whose contributions to the specialty or to the college are outstanding and substantial. Dr. Kattadiyil will be recognized on Friday, November 2, 2012, during the Annual Awards and President's Dinner.

Dr. Kattadiyil is a diplomate of the American Board of Prosthodontics and is a fellow of the American College of Prosthodontists.

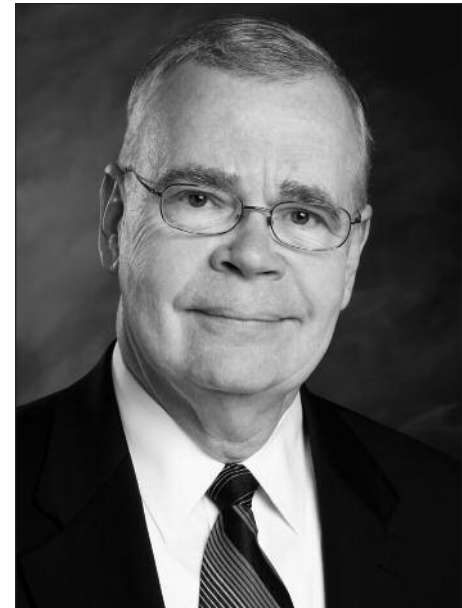
School of Dentistry Dean Charles J. Goodacre, DDS, MSD, has been selected by the American College of Prosthodontists to receive the Distinguished Lecturer Award during the same American College of Prosthodontists annual session in Baltimore, Maryland.

Dr. Goodacre will also be recognized on Friday, November 2, 2012, during the Annual Awards and President's Dinner.

Dr. Goodacre is a diplomate of the American Board of Prosthodontics and is a past president of the American College of Prosthodontists, the American Board of Prosthodontics, and the Academy of Prosthodontics.



Dr. Mathew Kattadiyil



Dean Charles J. Goodacre

ALUMNI EXCELLENCE

Alumnus receives an Outstanding Achievement Award

By Doug Hackleman

Marlin Meharry, DDS, became the 2011 recipient of the North Dakota Dental Association's Outstanding Achievement Award. Dr. Meharry, who practices dentistry in Harvey,

North Dakota, was nominated for this award by his peers in recognition of his participation as a volunteer in local health care projects and his life-long commitment to dental care overseas.

Upon graduation from dental school, Dr.

Meharry became a traveling dentist in the Marshall Islands. Two years later, in Okinawa, he reconnected with a high school friend, Jan, who soon became his wife and partner in service. Together they were associated with the Adventist Medical Center in Naha, Japan, before going to the Adventist clinic in Nairobi, Kenya.

During their 1989-1995 service in Nairobi, the Meharrys created a mobile dental unit to provide treatment in remote villages that previously had lacked access to rudimentary dental care. The needs of the Kenyans prompted them to establish the Maasai Development Project, a non-profit organization that provides leadership training for lay pastors, literacy teachers, and educational rescue centers.



Dr. Dennis Sommers (right) presents Dr. Marlin Meharry the North Dakota Dental Association Outstanding Achievement Award.

Health study receives appreciation for matching cancer registries data . . .

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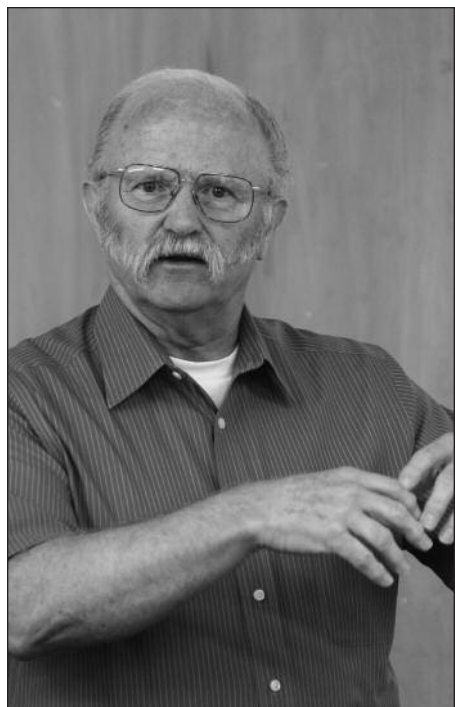
member of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) executive committee, who is currently the principal investigator of the multiethnic cohort study of diet and cancer. "Thus to be able to match cancer data in 48 states/provinces is a very remarkable feat."

Matching AHS-2 cohort data with those of cancer registries in all of the U.S. states and Canadian provinces has been the main method of finding incident cancer cases. The task would have been easier and faster had a national cancer registry existed. Unfortunately, there is no such thing as a national cancer registry and the different statutes, forms, and procedures at each state registry certainly don't make the life of researchers much easier.

That is why many scientists appreciate the contribution of AHS-2 in this field. In fact, with data gleaned from AHS-2's experience dealing with state registries, a pilot project has been launched by Dennis Deapen, DrPH, director of the cancer surveillance program, at the University of Southern California. Its main goal is to streamline the matching procedure so that other health studies do not have to go through the same laborious effort as AHS researchers.

The annual consultancy meeting is part of the AHS-2 agreement with the NIH. As an NIH-funded study, AHS-2 is required to share its data with other studies while at the same time also learning from them. Nearly all members of the committee are principal investigators of other prominent health studies—many have been advising AHS-2 since its 2002 inception.

In addition to Dr. Kolonel, attendees of the consultancy included: Dr. Margaret Hargreaves of the southern community cohort study, at Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee; Dr. Dennis Deapen representing the California teachers study and cancer surveillance program of Los Angeles, from the University of Southern California; and Dr. Leslie Bernstein who also represented the California teachers study and cancer etiology, from the Beckman Research Institute at City of Hope.



Dr. Larry Beeson, senior co-investigator, gives an update about the progress of matching cancer registries data.

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RESEARCH PUBLISHED

School of Pharmacy faculty member publishes fundraising research

Contributed report

A School of Pharmacy faculty member recently published his findings about why fundraising professionals at Seventh-day Adventist institutions in North America might choose to leave their organizations.



Jim Pinder, JD, MBA, assistant professor and director of academic affairs at LLU School of Pharmacy, recently surveyed fundraising professionals at Seventh-day Adventist academic and health care institutions in the United States and Canada to find out what might cause them to leave their organizations.

"I saw my fundraising colleagues leaving Adventist institutions at a rapid rate," says Jim Pinder, JD, MBA, assistant professor, "and wanted to know why. With these results, leadership at Seventh-day Adventist organizations can address retention concerns and improve their ability to meet the needs of their constituents."

Dr. Pinder used an online sample administered by Philanthropic Service for Institutions to survey development professionals at Adventist institutions in the United States and Canada. The questionnaire asked if a respondent was considering leaving, and if so, what considerations might entice him or her to do so.

The results were broken down by category of employee, such as development director, planned giving officer, vice president, or support staff.

Dr. Pinder found that directors of development are particularly problematic to retain in an organization. More than half of respondents in this category (53 percent) were either looking for another position or would consider leaving if the right offer came along. The most-cited reason was the desire for higher pay.

"The literature indicates that a higher salary is a good way to attract a new employee," Dr. Pinder notes, "but not a good way to retain an existing employee. Some of the best ways to retain employees are to provide them with a progression path and additional training. The

only reason to consider offering a higher salary to an existing employee is when the incentive is tied to a new position or additional responsibility."

Although he no longer works in fundraising—Dr. Pinder is now director of academic affairs at the school—he remains passionate about the

field and wants to see his colleagues flourish as they work to help Seventh-day Adventist institutions achieve their mission.

His findings, which were published in the July-September edition of *SAGE Open*, are available online at <<http://sgo.sagepub.com/content/2/3/2158244012458510.full.pdf+html>>.

DEMOLITION FOR NEW PARKING

Nelson and Small homes among buildings demolished for parking structure



In the photo above, taken on August 10, houses are being removed to make way for the new parking structure that will be located just west of the Loma Linda University Medical Center emergency department. Already removed is the Nelson home, owned by Don Nelson, a radiologic technologist who started working at Loma Linda Hospital—what is now Nichol Hall—in 1952, and later at LLUMC, for a total of 48 years. On the corner (left in the photo) stands what remains of the home of Carrol Small, MD, who chaired the LLU School of Medicine department of pathology for 21 years. Dr. Small served as president of the San Bernardino Medical Society, president of the School of Medicine alumni association, and was editor of the *Alumni Journal* for nine years. *By Larry Kidder*

Assistant professor awarded grant to study gender differences in obstetrical care ...

Continued from page 5

Concerns over how the issue affects both female OB/GYNs and the women for whom they provide care undergirds the study's hypothesis that there is a difference in both the ages at which they stop and the proportion of male and female OB/GYNs who stop performing deliveries.

"More so than in any other specialty," Dr. Kairis points out, "there is now a higher number of women trained in obstetrics and gynecology than men. More than 75 percent of residents currently in training for OB/GYN are women. Women are expected to become the majority of practitioners by 2014.

"Physician work-life balance has been shown to be especially important to female physicians," she continues. "Delivering babies makes an obstetrician's hours long and unpredictable. The high demands of taking call and delivering babies, as compared to taking call in other specialties, can significantly affect work-life balance and cause dissatisfaction. This may cause more female versus male OB/GYNs to stop delivering babies."

In applying for the grant, Dr. Kairis relied on data collected from a pilot study she conducted as well as other previously published studies.

"Research has suggested that dissatisfied

OB/GYNs retire early," she points out. "However, it has not been investigated what percentage of women stop performing deliveries by age versus men. It is possible that women may stop performing deliveries at a younger age than men due to the demands of raising children as well as other factors.

"Previous research," she adds, "suggests that the OB/GYN specialty faces a potential workplace shortage. These differences in practice patterns among women versus men may profoundly affect this specialty. Knowledge of these differences will allow for future planning and interventions to prevent not only a shortage of OB/GYNs, but also a critical shortage of female OB/GYNs who deliver babies. Barriers to female obstetricians from reaching work satisfaction and full career productivity and potential can then be mitigated or removed."

In acknowledging the money she received for the study, Dr. Kairis says it will advance the progress of female OB/GYN physicians.

"The support of the American Medical Association Foundation will help to identify and address issues that affect female OB/GYNs and lead to positive changes in the profession, as well as improving the care we provide to our patients," she observes. "For this, I am very grateful."

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3. Explore issues and opportunities unique to urban populations.
4. Understand the role of spirituality in health care ministry.
5. Provide opportunities for networking, sharing, and collaboration.
6. Provide forum for professionals and students who are interested in international development.



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INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH

Professor represents LLU at dental convention

By Doug Hackleman

Sean Lee, DDS, professor, restorative dentistry, was the sole School of Dentistry representative among 4,000 individuals who attended the summer 2012 annual meetings of the International Association for Dental Research (IADR), held at Brazil's Convention Center in the town of Iguacu Falls.

Located where three South American countries (Paraguay, Argentina, and Brazil) intersect at Iguacu Falls (the second largest cataract in the world), the venue provides a spectacular location in which to network with peers while learning the latest in dental, oral, and craniofacial research.

Manning the Loma Linda University booth solo in the Nobel Biocare exhibitor space for three days, Dr. Lee handed out (from his 67-kilogram stash of School of Dentistry materials) 500 organic mint-flavored lip balms embossed with the school's logo and motto, and a similar number of the school's 24-page "Facts Highlights and Firsts" brochure. Dr. Lee says that a dozen dentists expressed a definite interest in matriculating to one or another of the school's advanced specialty education programs.

Besides representing the School of Dentistry on the exhibitors' floor, Dr. Lee presented his recently completed 48-month research—a split-mouth study (52 restorations on 18 subjects) comparing the relative effectiveness of all-in-one

dental adhesive iBOND Self Etch (iBSE, Heraeus Kulzer GmbH, Germany) with the effectiveness of GLUMA Comfort Bond + Desensitizer (GLUMA) of Heraeus Kulzer in posterior class I and II composite restorations. The study was partially supported by a grant from Heraeus Kulzer GmbH.

Dr. Lee's collaborators on the research were Michael Meharry, DDS, MS, associate professor, restorative dentistry; Michele Arambula, technical coordinator, Center for Dental Research; Harvey D. Lee, DDS, assistant professor, department of pediatric dentistry; and Yiming Li, DDS, PhD, MS, director, Center for Dental Research.

The trip was not all work. Dr. Lee had the opportunity to enjoy sightseeing at nearby Iguacu Falls, as well as a tour of Rio de Janeiro.



Dr. Lee chats with one of IADR's 4,000 attendees.

Students steal the show at 12th annual Health Disparities Research Symposium ...

Continued from page 7

The center recruits high school, college, graduate, and medical school students to spend eight

to 10 weeks or an entire year—depending on which group they're in—working as research fellows in one of the following four programs:

- Apprenticeship Bridge to College (ABC)
- Medical Training Program (MTP)
- National Institute of General Medical Sciences-Initiative for Maximizing Student Development (NIGMS-IMSD)
- Undergraduate Training Program (UTP)

Dr. De Leon notes that the duration of the ABC, MTP, and UTP programs ranges from eight to 10 weeks while the NIGMS-IMSD program lasts a year.

Kristen Corona is a great example of the caliber of students the ABC program attracts. Ms. Corona had just completed her junior year at John W. North High School in Riverside when she arrived at Loma Linda University this June to participate in research for the first time in her life.

During the afternoon poster presentations that preceded the formal symposium, Ms. Corona discussed the meaning of the study she helped conduct. Titled "Insulin-like growth factor II regulates housekeeping genes in Her2+ cells," it focused on how insulin-like growth factors (IGFs)—hormones that stimulate protein synthesis and add sulfates—affect a number of biological processes.

Specifically, Ms. Corona, along with her mentors and colleagues, examined the effects IGF-II has on breast cancer cells in African American and Caucasian American women.

"IGF-II may regulate our housekeeping genes beta-tubulin and beta-actin," she says, explaining that the beta genes are involved in controlling the structure and function of cells. "Having IGF-II regulate them would make them unreliable as controls for any of our experiments that consist of IGF-II.

"It is fascinating how IGF-II could have such big effects on breast cancer, yet no one has truly discovered to what extent," she adds. "I am grateful for the privilege of being one of the few who have looked into it."

Although parts of her statements may seem esoteric to individuals outside the world of science, her next declaration revealed the kind of outcomes the summer research programs are designed to inspire in students.

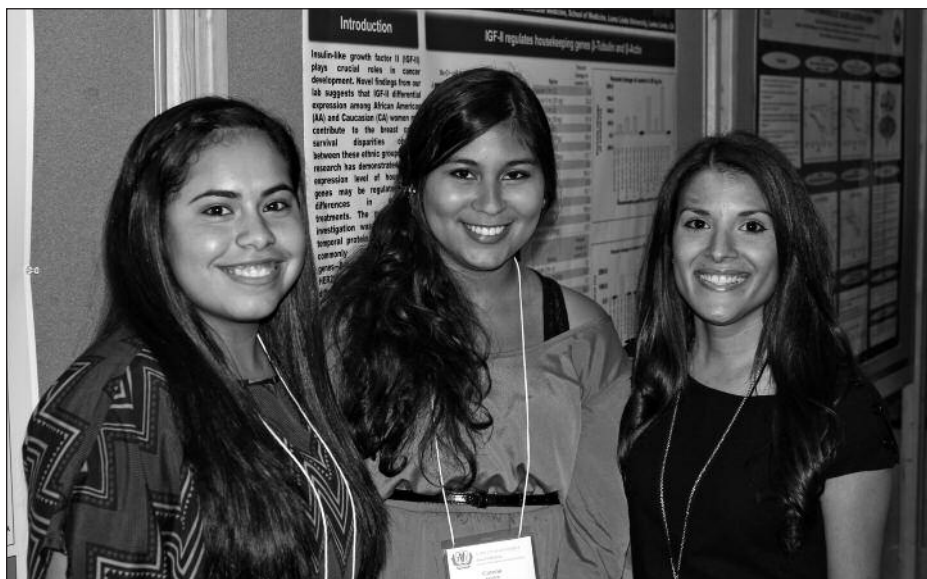
"My aspirations for the future would be to be able to conduct research on the spinal cord and the brain after I get my PhD," Ms. Corona asserts. The look in her eyes left no doubt that the budding researcher means what she says.

Two other students shared their perspectives before the symposium itself got underway. For Karen Figueroa, who took part in the ABC program for the second summer in a row, the program has been enormously influential.

Please turn to page 11



A scholarly and enthusiastic bunch, student researchers at the 12th annual Health Disparities Research Symposium smile as they hold certificates identifying them as graduates of the summer research program at Loma Linda University School of Medicine. This year, a total of 62 students representing members of underserved minority groups spent the summer conducting scientific research with members of the School of Medicine faculty. According to Marino De Leon, PhD, director of the Center for Health Disparities and Molecular Medicine, many participants in the popular research program from previous years have gone on to careers in medicine and biomedical science.



Karen Figueroa (left), Kristen Corona (center), and Kathia Cordero (right) represent the face of student research at Loma Linda University School of Medicine.



Maria Elena Zavala, PhD, professor of biology at California State University, Northridge, contemplates an audience question at the conclusion of her presentation.

NEW LEADERSHIP APPOINTMENT

Michael Knecht assumes new responsibilities at LLUMC-Murrieta

By James Ponder

Michael Knecht, MDiv, former director of the faith and health initiative at Loma Linda University Health System, was recently appointed executive director for mission and community development at Loma Linda University Medical Center-Murrieta. Mr. Knecht began at Murrieta on September 4.

"When executive leadership engaged me in a conversation about joining their team," Mr. Knecht recalls, "their intentional focus of leading with mission was captivating and influenced my decision to transition to the Murrieta campus. I believe this campus will build upon the tradition of Loma Linda University Medical Center in providing faithful and innovative care."

In describing his new position, Mr. Knecht notes that despite the dual-focus job title, there are actually five components to his new responsibilities: mission, community development, innovation, patient experience, and strategic planning.

He breaks those down to a number of indi-

vidual steps that will enable him to help the leaders, employees, and staff of the new campus realize their organization's highest potential within the community; he will provide leadership to the organization in fulfilling its mission; innovate solutions that integrate mission and practice; develop and implement initiatives to enhance spirituality at work; and create community partnerships to enhance the organization's mission to the community.

Additionally, he will provide leadership in developing a culture of innovation at the Murrieta campus; actively participate in the design of the patient experience; lead the campus master planning and aesthetics process; and assist the CEO in developing and implementing the strategic planning process.

In addition to the new full-time position, he will continue to provide leadership for the Loma Linda University Health System in the regional and national faith and health initiative, a partnership program involving a number of American health care providers in cooperation with the Center for Faith-Based and



Michael Knecht, MDiv, assumed new responsibilities as executive director for mission and community development at Loma Linda University Medical Center-Murrieta on September 4.

Neighborhood Partnerships at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

In Murrieta, Mr. Knecht reports to Loma Linda University Medical Center-Murrieta CEO Richard Rawson, MBA.

When asked what he likes best about the new

responsibilities, Mr. Knecht kept the focus on mission. "I like the developing culture of the new hospital," he observed, "and the dedicated work everyone is doing to make this a great place to receive faithful care. Leading with mission not only differentiates our presence in this market, but informs our strategy in moving forward."

EXSEED Program helps K-12 math and science teachers succeed ...

Continued from page 12

excited about math, the sciences, engineering, and technology."

"It is so nice to now feel a part of a much bigger picture," Tom Hunt smiles, "rather than an isolated little school struggling to survive."

During the 2012 EXSEED seminar, professors from Kettering College of Medical Arts, Walla Walla University, La Sierra University, Pacific Union College, Andrews University, and Loma Linda University presented STEM concepts and ideas through lectures and hands-on experiences.

"I really enjoyed the variety of presenters from so many different fields," comments Karin Strom, math and physics teacher at Pacific Union College Preparatory School, a small Adventist high school located in Angwin, California. "It demonstrated that the higher institutions of learning are committed to assisting and supporting the elementary and high school teacher."

Many of the elementary and secondary teachers taking part were sponsored by their individual conferences to attend the EXSEED workshop, which took place June 18-22 at the Centennial Complex on the campus of Loma Linda University.

Mini-seminars, like the one in geographic information systems (GIS), provided even more depth for the teachers.

"EXSEED has opened up the 'box,'" enthuses Norma Howard, teaching principal at Needles Adventist Christian School. "It has liberated teaching, taking it from solely textbook, paper, and pencil, to exploring—unencumbered by four walls—real life, hands-on, new, and fresh experiences."

Principal Howard teaches 14 students in Needles, California—right on the border with Arizona—which she describes as "desert, dry and hot." Situated on the Colorado River, the town of Needles is home to a "a beautiful school and church."

On the first morning of the EXSEED workshop, Drs. Carter and Eggers were able to surprise the teachers with brand-new Apple iPad tablets. "It was a closely held secret," remembers Dr. Eggers. "We didn't want to spoil the surprise."

Following the pleasant surprise—quite similar to Christmas morning—an Apple representative was on hand to teach the basic operation of the new iPads. The EXSEED program also funded the downloading of a variety of applications, which were given to the teachers.

"We only ask that you let your students use your iPads," said Dr. Carter on the morning the iPads were distributed. "We've given you a full two years of replacement coverage so that you won't be afraid to let your students experiment with the capabilities of the iPad."

One of the purposes of using the iPad in the classroom is to allow students to "teach" subjects to their peers. "Presenting a subject to classmates is a powerful way for students to learn," explains Dr. Eggers. "The process of thinking through exactly how to present concepts to others in clear and concise ways helps students

to internalize the subject matter."

A major component of the EXSEED program is a website portal where STEM teachers can network, find resources, and share ideas. For instance, teachers are encouraged to upload videos created by themselves or their students on various topics. The teachers at the 2012 EXSEED workshop were shown exactly how to develop short instructional videos on their iPads as well as how to access the resource portal.

EXSEED organizers heard many words of appreciation from the K-12 teachers who took part. "I would like to say 'thank you' for allowing me to be part of the EXSEED experience," says Principal Howard from Needles. "It has enabled me to open the doors of creativity and to apply new and exciting adventures in learning."

She continues, "I pray that this useful application of knowledge will be a source of understanding of how great and wonderful God is—how each child is loved infinitely more than this life can discover."

For more information about the EXSEED program, visit <www.llu.edu/exseed>.

Students steal the show at 12th annual Health Disparities Research Symposium ...

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"For the past two summers at Loma Linda," the junior from Riverside's Ramona High School informs, "I have been blessed by being surrounded by helpful people who have been more influential than 12 years inside a classroom."

If the title of Ms. Corona's study seems intricate, the one Ms. Figueroa worked on may come across as even more difficult to understand:

"Docosahexaenoic acid decreases palmitic acid-induced lipotoxicity effect in primary Schwann cells."

As Ms. Figueroa explains it, the two acids under investigation prevent the demise of glial cells that wrap around nerve fibers in the peripheral nervous system and form the myelin sheaths of peripheral axons.

"Docosahexaenoic acid is able to prevent Schwann cell death when caused by palmitic acid toxicity," she explains. "If we are able to prevent the death, we can potentially stop or prevent peripheral neuropathy, a common characteristic in Type 2 diabetic patients."

Ms. Figueroa says her career goals involve applying insights gained in the research labora-

tory to the care of juvenile patients.

"In the future," she shares, "I hope to receive my MD/PhD in order to conduct research and work as a pediatrician as well."

Kathia Cordero, another student researcher, is currently pursuing a dual MD/PhD degree at Loma Linda University School of Medicine. As a postgraduate student, she represented the NIGMS-IMSD program.

"This is my sixth year in the MD/PhD program," Ms. Cordero says. "I applied to the program because of my interest in research. One of my influences, Dr. Daisy De Leon, talked to me about the combined MD/PhD program and the scholarship it offers. She encouraged

me to apply and I was accepted."

In addition to serving as assistant to the dean for diversity and professor of physiology and pharmacology at the School of Medicine, Daisy De Leon, PhD, is also co-investigator and core director for the Center for Health Disparities and Molecular Medicine.

Ms. Cordero's career goals reflect Loma Linda University's heritage of global outreach and mission service.

"I would like to be a missionary doctor in a Spanish-speaking country where I can have a bigger impact since I am Hispanic and able to communicate with them and relate to their culture," she notes.

SUPPORT FOR STEM EDUCATION

EXSEED Program helps K-12 math and science teachers succeed

By Larry Kidder

Tom Hunt teaches at Magalia Elementary School, located in Magalia, California—about midway between Redding to the north and Yuba City to the south.

Actually, Tom is the only teacher ... and the principal ... and probably has a number of other duties as well. He has 12 students spread over grades K-8, a part-time teacher's aide, and volunteers who generously donate their time to help. His wife is one of the volunteers.

"I teach all subjects to all grades," says Tom. "Our school is annexed to the Upper Ridge Seventh-day Adventist Church here in north Magalia, a nice semi-rural setting with lots of trees."

This past June, Tom spent a week at Loma Linda University with about 50 other teachers from Adventist schools across North America who are responsible for STEM—science, technology, engineering, and math—education for their students.

During the weeklong seminar, titled "EXSEED"—for "Excellence in Science Experiential Education"—Tom and his education colleagues, who teach STEM subjects to young people from kindergarten through high school, came from as far away as Ontario,

Canada, to observe and take part in a variety of presentations by university STEM scientists and professors.

"The goal of EXSEED," explains Marilyn Eggers, PhD, director of the office of educational effectiveness at Loma Linda University, "is to build a network of Adventist science and math educators who teach students from kindergarten through post-doctoral education."

The EXSEED program is the brainchild of Dr. Eggers, Ronald Carter, PhD, provost of Loma Linda University, and Richard H. Hart, MD, DrPH, president of the university. While the program is hosted by Loma Linda University, both Drs. Carter and Eggers are quick to point out that EXSEED is a joint venture between Adventist educational institutions of higher learning.

"We're counting on having all of our universities involved if possible," points out Dr. Carter. "We want to create a support and resource network to help our K-12 science and math teachers as much as we can."

Dr. Carter continues, "All of our institutions of higher learning benefit from well-prepared and motivated students." He adds, "Our Adventist science and math teachers are on the front lines, inspiring students to explore and become

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Following a presentation by the LLU department of occupational therapy, in which the presenters demonstrated how STEM activities can be used to help individuals regain function after an upper extremity impairment, (from left) Rachel McDaniel (Oakwood Adventist Academy), Kidisty Kifle (Kingsway College), and Heidi Hunt (Umpire Adventist Church School) work on a take-home kit of session activities, assembling the bones of the hand.



Some of the 50-plus teachers, EXSEED organizers, and higher education partner representative faculty gather near the end of their time at Loma Linda University. The group photo was taken behind the LLU Centennial Complex on the north edge of the campus.



Rhonda Mock (Redlands Adventist Academy) tests the capabilities of a robot, which she built from a kit created by the Lego Company. Such activities are an ideal way to awaken a love for STEM subjects among elementary and high school students.



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