



LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY

Loma Linda University  
TheScholarsRepository@LLU: Digital  
Archive of Research, Scholarship &  
Creative Works

---

TODAY

Loma Linda University Publications

---

3-9-2009

**TODAY - March 9, 2009**

Loma Linda University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarsrepository.llu.edu/today>



Part of the [Other Medicine and Health Sciences Commons](#)

---

**Recommended Citation**

Loma Linda University, "TODAY - March 9, 2009" (2009). *TODAY*.  
<https://scholarsrepository.llu.edu/today/96>

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the Loma Linda University Publications at TheScholarsRepository@LLU: Digital Archive of Research, Scholarship & Creative Works. It has been accepted for inclusion in TODAY by an authorized administrator of TheScholarsRepository@LLU: Digital Archive of Research, Scholarship & Creative Works. For more information, please contact [scholarsrepository@llu.edu](mailto:scholarsrepository@llu.edu).

- LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY
- LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY Medical Center
- LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY Children's Hospital
- LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY Medical Center—East Campus
- LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY Behavioral Medicine Center
- LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY Health Care
- LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY Heart & Surgical Hospital
- Faculty Medical Group of LLUSM
- Faculty Physicians & Surgeons of LLUSM



LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY

## School of Pharmacy celebrates major step in achieving six-year ACPE accreditation

BY JAMES PONDER

On Monday, March 2, 2009, Billy Hughes, PhD, dean of the Loma Linda University School of Pharmacy (LLUSP), demonstrated how grateful he was to the more than 100 members of the School's faculty, staff, volunteer preceptors, students, and their family members by treating them to an evening of friendship, food, and fun at Gourmet Pizza Shoppe in Redlands.

The School has a lot to celebrate this year. Although it's only officially been open for business since 2002, administrators recently received news that the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) extended its accreditation from the initial two-year status to a full six-year accreditation. Bottom line: The School is fully accredited to educate pharmacists through June 2013.

The ACPE news is just one of the reasons the School was celebrating: The National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP)—the independent, international, and impartial standards enforcement agency—just released its triennial report ranking the LLU School of Pharmacy well above state and national averages.

"LLU scored high on the NAPLEX test among both first-time test-takers, and total candidates," Dr. Hughes reports. NAPLEX is a standard examination created by NABP to help state

boards of pharmacy assess a prospective pharmacist's competency and knowledge so that he or she may be given a license to practice. The scores of LLU students

ranked significantly higher than both California averages and the national scores. "Needless to say, we're very proud of our students!" Dr. Hughes affirms.



Billy Hughes, PhD, dean of the Loma Linda University School of Pharmacy, hosts a party for his team. More than 100 of the School's faculty, preceptors, staff, students, and family members converged on the Gourmet Pizza Shoppe in Redlands for a celebratory bash in honor of some good news from the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education. The photos depict Dr. Hughes with both female (top photo) and male (bottom photo) members of his staff.

How did they do it? Dr. Hughes says the School has been blessed. He's not content to stop there, of course. He goes on to list everyone from Richard Hart, MD, DrPH, president and CEO of the University, to members of the faculty and staff, both present and former.

In that context, he specifically mentions Avis Erickson, PharmD, former administrative dean of the School, for getting things organized, hiring committed faculty, and developing the initial curriculum.

He also praises the four-year program's students for applying themselves to academic excellence and service. Preceptors were commended for their dedication to providing clinical training and oversight to students.

But a significant number of other people seem to think Dr. Hughes himself is a very large part of the reason the School is doing so well.

"My world changed for the better the day Billy walked in the door," says Jana Neilsen, special assistant to Dr. Hughes. "I have the best job in the University, and I've been here 25 years, so I know what I'm talking about."

Michael Jackson, MPH, vice president of LLU Medical Center—East Campus, and his wife, Melanie, executive assistant to the provost of LLU, say there's no doubt that Dr. Hughes has been the catalyst for all the good news

*Please turn to page 2*

## SAHP speech-language pathology and audiology department changes its name

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

The LLU School of Allied Health Professions department of speech-language pathology and audiology is changing its name to the department of communication sciences and disorders.

The name change was prompted by two major facts: 60 percent of

college and university programs use either "communication sciences and disorders" or "communication disorders" as a name to describe their speech programs, and "communication sciences and disorders" represents the true scope of practice, which includes more than just speech and language therapy and

audiology services.

Speech-language pathologists and audiologists work in a variety of settings—clinical, research, and educational—and perform a variety of functions, such as evaluation, treatment, clinical research, administration, and education.

The name change will be fully

implemented July 1, 2009; however, the department's website now utilizes the new name, as well as the old one.

All programs in the department, which include the bachelor of science, master of science transitional program, and master of science, will be followed by "...in communication sciences and disorders."

Diplomas of students who graduate in June 2009 will show their degrees in the previous style. All diplomas from then on will reflect the name change.

## Big Hearts for Little Hearts guild event 'Dressing Up Red' celebrates heart recipients as 'walking miracles'

BY JAMES PONDER

The Loma Linda chapter of the Big Hearts for Little Hearts Guild threw a party to celebrate the lives of young ladies who received a second chance at life thanks to the cardiology team at Loma Linda University Children's Hospital (LLUCH).

Called "Dressing Up Red," the event—which occurred on Sunday, February 15, 2009, in the Wong Kerlee International Conference Center on the campus of Loma Linda University—showcased approximately 40 girls and young women whose hearts are beating just fine thanks to a transplant or other surgical procedure at Children's Hospital.

"We're very happy with the way the event turned out this year," says Eloise Habekost, president of the guild. "It just brought tears to your eyes to see so many young ladies whose lives had literally been saved by the surgeons of Loma Linda University Children's Hospital."

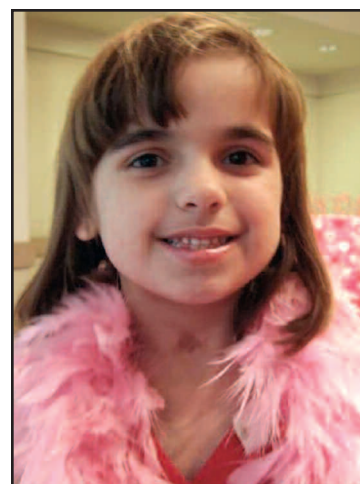
"Dressing Up Red" originated in the mind of Cathy Grinnan, a member of the guild's board of directors whose daughter Hannah is a heart transplant recipient. "Cathy was just remarkable in putting this together," Ms. Habekost observes.

The event raised a total of \$23,000 to purchase cardiac monitors for the LLUCH heart pro-

gram. WalMart was the biggest donor, offering \$15,000 in cash and an additional \$1,200 in merchandise, but individual donors also made generous contributions to the event. In all, a crowd estimated at 175 attended the party.

"I think the girls realize that their lives are miracles," Ms. Habekost says. "They just have that effervescence to their personalities. How many of us would like to have a second chance at life? They're just walking miracles, every one of them!"

Individuals who would like to know more about the guild and its efforts to raise funds and awareness for LLUCH are invited to contact Ms. Habekost at (909) 227-0109.



Heart recipient Alexis Lane, age 6 and a half, is having a good time at the "Dressing Up Red" event sponsored by the Loma Linda chapter of the Big Hearts for Little Hearts Guild on Sunday, February 15, 2009. The event raised \$23,000 for cardiac monitors at Loma Linda University Children's Hospital.

## Arrowhead Credit Union raises \$8,026 for Children's Hospital

BY NANCY YUEN

"A Little Change Can Change a Lot" was the theme of Arrowhead Credit Union's fundraising drive for Loma Linda University Children's Hospital (LLUCH).

During the fundraiser, which began during the holiday season and ran through January 2009, donation cans were placed in Arrowhead Credit Union's Inland Empire branch and service center locations.

In addition, members were invited to make donations through the credit union's online banking system; funds were also raised

through bake sales at some locations. Arrowhead Credit Union members were very supportive throughout the fundraiser and pennies, nickels, and dimes were joined by much larger donations—in fact one day when an announcement about the fundraiser sounded over the public address system at a Stater Bros. grocery store where the branch is located, a customer dropped in a \$50 donation.

When the donation cans were emptied for the last time, \$8,026 had been collected. On February 27, Arrowhead Credit Union rep-

resentatives presented a check to LLUCH.

"We came up with the theme 'A Little Change Can Change a Lot' so that our members could get involved in the great work that happens at the hospital," says Robert Reed, senior vice president, Arrowhead Credit Union. "We are so fortunate to have such an outstanding facility in the Inland Empire and we are proud to be able to contribute to its success."

LLUCH administrator Zareh Sarrafian, MBA, adds, "Our partnerships with local companies such

as Arrowhead Credit Union are vital to helping Loma Linda University Children's Hospital continue to provide world-class compassionate health care to the children of our community."

The monies raised will go to the areas that have the greatest need such as equipment for our neonatal intensive care unit and pediatric emergency department."

Arrowhead Credit Union, established in 1949, serves more than 162,000 Inland Empire members.



At the check presentation were (from left) Janel Isaef, chief and patient care director, LLUCH; Ted Kim, vice president of marketing, Arrowhead Credit Union; Elsa Montes, vice president of corporate sales, Arrowhead Credit Union; Robert Reed, senior vice president of service and sales, Arrowhead Credit Union; and Richard Chinnock, MD, chair of pediatrics, Loma Linda University School of Medicine, and physician in chief, LLUCH.

## School of Nursing celebrates student nurses with dedication

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

One hundred students from Loma Linda University School of Nursing stood before their family, friends, and School faculty in the Loma Linda University Church on Saturday, February 7. This special ceremony marks the students' successful completion of the introductory classes in their baccalaureate nursing curriculum. Marilyn Herrmann, PhD, RN, dean of the School of Nursing, welcomed family and friends to the service that has occurred each year for the past 103 years at Loma Linda.

Perryn Baker, religious vice president of the junior class, gave the opening prayer. This was followed by Matei Chelbegean, junior class president, who led out in the nurse's pledge.

The ceremony included special music provided by members of the nursing class. Clive Arante and Steven Pepe were then accompanied by Eileen Fraley, singing "Yet I Will Praise." Mana Manoukian followed with a piano piece, titled "Elegia."



From left, Floyd Cabanada, Davy So, Colin Quisido, and Elyssa Rivero pose for a picture following the nurses dedication.

The address for the dedication service was given by Elizabeth Bossert, DNS, RN, associate dean of the graduate program, School of Nursing. Dr. Bossert's talk, "Three Views of Nursing," explored the student's perspective of nursing as a job, as a profession, and as a calling. Each view was examined, linking it with a biblical perspective. The students were encouraged to decide that all three would be true for them in their future careers.

Sally Curnow, MN, RN, and Lana Kanacki, MS, RN, junior class sponsors, then lit each of the students' lamps, symbolizing the passing of knowledge from teacher to student.

Dynnette Hart, DrPH, RN, associate dean of the undergraduate program, introduced the class to the audience that filled the church. In her presentation she told a little about this group and why they had chosen nursing.

"What an impressive sight with 100 nursing students in full uniform standing before the audience," says Dr. Herrmann.

The ceremony concluded with the students, together with practicing nurses in the audience, standing and reciting the International Pledge of Nursing.

"Despite these economically challenged times, the world will continue to need competent health care workers who seek to fulfill the 'teaching and healing ministry of Jesus Christ,'" says Dr. Herrmann.

"This ceremony provides evidence that the LLU School of Nursing is working towards meeting this global need."

The history of this service in the field of nursing is extensive and can be traced back to the founding

of modern nursing by Florence Nightingale. In years past, the ceremony was titled "capping," because after students successfully completed their "probationary" nursing courses, they were given nursing caps.

Even though caps are not worn by most nurses any longer, the students of Loma Linda University School of Nursing wish to continue the dedicatory tradition. Additionally, during the service the students continue the tradition of carrying a lamp representing the lamp Florence Nightingale carried during her rounds attending soldiers in the Crimea.

Following the dedication, the School of Nursing alumni association presented Bibles to each nursing student.

## LLU School Pharmacy celebrates six-year accreditation...

Continued from page 1

emanating from the School in recent months.

"Billy is an outstanding person with so many wonderful characteristics," Mr. Jackson notes. "He's a great person to work with, and he's always that way"—motioning towards an animated Dr. Hughes, who is busy slapping people on the back and fraternizing good-naturedly with his large extended family. "He was one of the very first people I met when I came to work here."

Ms. Jackson agrees with her husband's assessment. "I interface with all the deans," she notes. "The thing Billy does is to add value to everything he does."

"He is one of the primary leaders on the Dean's Council and works tirelessly on the WASC accreditation, steadily and positively making progress."

WASC is the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, an accrediting body for educational institutions.

In commenting on the School's recent successes, Dr. Hughes says there were a number of challenges on the road to accreditation since he became dean in January 2007. "Prior to that, my life was going in one direction"—referring to his previous assignment as director of educational support services for the University—"and the next week, it was going in another."

It didn't take long for Dr. Hughes and his team to set the School on target for success. "Within about five months, with the diligent work of the accreditation steering committee, led by Eric Mack, PhD, associate dean for academic affairs, the situation was turned around," he notes.

"The School's commitment to continuous quality improvement is a core responsibility of Nancy Kawahara, PharmD, associate dean for assessment and professional affairs," he continues. "Also, a large part of our success is a direct result of the solid relationship with the LLU Medical Center, to provide

introductory and advanced clinical experiences for students. Paul Norris, PharmD, associate dean for clinical affairs, with support from Ruthita Fike, MA, CEO and administrator of LLUMC, is committed to ensuring this critical part of a student's education."

But grateful as Dr. Hughes and his team were for the initial accreditation, they knew there was still important work to be done. When officials of the ACPE returned to the School for a follow-up focused visit on October 21 and 22 of last year, they gave the School a green light to extend to a full six-year accreditation at their board meeting in January 2009.

"During a focused visit," Dr. Hughes shares, "the visiting team hones in on prior areas of concern. Right now, there are three areas we need to address. In 2012, we'll have to provide an interim report on how we're doing in strategic planning, preceptor development, and space. We're limited for space in our current location; we're sharing

the facilities of West Hall with the School of Nursing."

After a meal consisting of several different varieties of pizza—none of which stayed on the table for long—and two types of salad, and even dessert pizza, Dr. Hughes held a prize drawing. Two individuals walked away with their choice of a stay at the luxurious Laguna Cliffs or Lake Arrowhead resorts.

In commenting on the School's excellent showing among American pharmacy schools in only its seventh year of operation, Roger Hadley, MD, dean of the LLU School of

Medicine, and Rick Williams, PhD, vice president for enrollment management and student services for LLU, called the School's success "a gift," but said the University does not cover the highest ranking. "Our goal is not to be ranked No. 1," Dean Hadley observes.

"It's difficult to talk about rankings without thinking about GPA," Dr. Williams states. "There are 125 academic medical centers in the United States. Just a handful of those are faith-based. It's easy to find students who are smart—to recruit only the smartest students—but to find people who are smart and interested in service, that's much harder. That's what we're after."



(909) 478-3888 DIRECT  
(909) 725-9729 CELL  
camonette@roadrunner.com  
www.carolmonette.com

**DON & CAROL MONETTE**  
Realtor® • License # 01100348

**COLDWELL BANKER**



**COLDWELL BANKER REALTY CENTER**

501 W. REDLANDS BLVD., SUITE A  
REDLANDS, CA 92373

An Independently Owned and Operated Member of Coldwell Banker Residential Affiliates, Inc.

## National Social Work Month celebrates the work of those who serve as a bridge between the medical community and patients

BY JAMES PONDER

They wouldn't want to leave the impression that hospital-based social work—which deals with serious situations on a daily basis—is a laughing matter, but right now Toyia Greene, MSW, and Roberto Reid, MSW, are trying hard to keep a straight face.

The currents of their conversation over how to impact public perceptions of what social workers do in a medical context have just taken an unexpected turn.

"When people think of us," explains Ms. Greene, a clinical social worker at the Loma Linda University Children's Hospital specialty team centers, "they think we just do taxi vouchers for them, get food coupons for the hospital cafeteria, or arrange referrals for family members of pediatrics patients to the Ronald McDonald House. But the range and scope of services we provide go way beyond that."

"Yes," Mr. Reid concurs, "and it isn't just patients who think that way—sometimes it's doctors!" Mr. Reid should know something about complex role expectations: He currently serves Loma Linda University Children's Hospital (LLUCH) as manager of the social work department; University Hospital—the main medical center at LLUMC—as interim manager of the social work department; and both entities as manager for language services.

The pair attempts to stifle a laugh, but without much success. Social work may be serious business, but sometimes the best way to cope with the high-stress demands of the helping professions is through the relief afforded by humor.

"Social workers serve as a bridge between the medical community and patients and their families," Ms. Greene says. "We bring cultural considerations and family situations to the attention of doctors and support staff."

She says things are often not what they seem. For instance, when a child is brought to the emergency department for treatment, the person bringing the child in may be the custodial parent, but often he or she is not.

"It's our job to make certain that the person signing an advanced directive has the authority to do that," she notes. "We deal with legal and ethical issues as they relate to patients' medical care. We get the background information that helps when it comes to decision-making."

In addition to explaining the nuances of patient situations to physicians, social workers provide resources and referrals directly to patients. "We make referrals to agencies that provide help like food, clothing, counseling resources, and school services," Mr. Reid explains.

"That's right," Ms. Greene adds. "We empower the families of patients to find help. We also advo-

cate for our patients on a number of different levels. Those are important words; we don't like to hand-hold, we advocate and empower!"

Drive along University Avenue in Loma Linda this month and you'll see a giant banner proclaiming March as National Professional Social Work Month.

To celebrate the month, a committee of social workers is putting up fliers and information sheets at various locations around the Medical Center to explain what social workers do to empower the delivery of health care in our community. Others will speak to their colleagues at rounds and staff meetings on patient units to inform the staff about the services the social work department offers.

You don't have to salute as you drive under the banner, but Ms. Greene, Mr. Reid, and the rest of the 43 social workers at LLUCH and LLUMC might appreciate the gesture if you do. But don't only do it in March; it's always social work month around here.

Because their work often calls for them to intervene in difficult situations, social workers tend to be caring, empathic individuals.

"Social work is definitely not an area for the weak-hearted or weak-minded," Ms. Greene insists. She cites a type of situation that, for example, happens in the emergency department.

"Let's say there's a report of a non-accidental trauma of a 9-month-old," she begins. "The social worker, as a mandated reporter, is called in to interview physicians and parents, or whoever brought the child in. Even though doctors and nurses are also mandated reporters and can technically make the reports, the Medical Center requires social workers to make suspected child abuse reports."

Sometimes the challenge involves reaching across the world. "Suppose a patient has a terminal diagnosis and is in the final stages of life," she theorizes. "The patient's brother would like for family members from the patient's country of origin, let's say Egypt, in this case, to be able to come see the patient in his last days. A social worker is called in to write a letter explaining and verifying the current medical situation of the patient to the American consulate in that country, and requesting that the family members who may not have valid passport, be allowed to come to the United States to see the patient sooner, rather than later."

Other cases may involve: helping patients, many of whom are low-income and/or live far away, obtain housing at the Loma Linda Ronald McDonald House while their child receives treatment at LLUCH; helping a parent through the bereavement process if their child dies, and pointing them to resources for burial preparations and long-term grief recovery counseling; exploring with members of a

patient's family to find out why a patient is unwilling or unable to follow a plan of treatment; and helping a patient who is having difficulty getting a teacher, for instance, to understand that due to his medical condition, he will need extra bathroom breaks throughout the course of a day. The list goes on and on.

"Our job is not easy," Ms. Greene admits, "but with the help of a supportive manager, supervisor, co-workers, family, and friends—and speaking for myself, God—we are able to make it through each day."

Roberto Reid says that public perceptions of social work have increased in recent years, thanks to a few prominent social workers that have advanced to larger roles in society. He cites the case of a social worker that went on to become mayor of New Orleans in 1987, in part due to his internship in the mayor's office. Then Mr. Reid brings the analogy closer to home.

"Here at Loma Linda," he points out, "our longest-serving

vice president was a social worker." He refers to W. Augustus Cheatham, MSW, who—until his retirement in 2007—served LLU and LLUMC as vice president for public affairs and marketing for



When the going gets tough, the tough start laughing. Toyia Greene, MSW, and Roberto Reid, MSW, share a moment of levity during a discussion on the services social workers provide to patients and families. Ms. Greene is a clinical social worker at the Loma Linda University Children's Hospital (LLUCH) specialty team centers. Mr. Reid wears many hats: He's manager of the social work department at LLUCH; interim manager of social work at Loma Linda University Medical Center; and manager of language services for both entities.

## Commission on Dental Accreditation site review approves and praises LLU School of Dentistry

BY DOUG HACKLEMAN, MA

"At the end of every seven years thou shalt make a release," wrote the author of Deuteronomy 15:1. And at the Thursday, February 12, 2009, conclusion of its intensive two-and-a-half-day scrutiny, the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) released the Loma Linda University School of Dentistry with what might reasonably be called its blessing. LLU Provost Ron Carter, PhD, stated: "As they left, they issued many commendations . . . In my experience, I have never seen an accrediting group that was so delighted."

Every seven years CODA, a component of the American Dental Association, conducts a very thorough review of each dental school in the country. The accrediting team reviewed five advanced educa-

tion programs (endodontics, orthodontics, pediatric dentistry, periodontics, and prosthodontics), the dental hygiene program, and the predoctoral dental program.

"We received an excellent evaluation from the site visit team," acknowledged School of Dentistry Dean Charles Goodacre, DDS, MSD, "thanks to the outstanding work of everyone in the School of Dentistry family."

There were many acknowledgments regarding the quality of the programs, faculty, students, staff, and facilities." A few examples of the consultant's specific praise regarding the School's programs included:

- Highly dedicated and satisfied faculty;
- Happy and confident students;
- Curriculum management system is

very strong;

- Service learning program is comprehensive and very strong;
- Electronic curriculum is very impressive;
- Excellent, well organized international dentist program; and
- Outstanding dental and dental hygiene student research program.

For most of the past two years, Dr. Ron Dailey, PhD, associate dean for academic administration, guided the self-study process, as he worked closely with Tom Rogers, DDS, to assemble pre-doctoral data, with Joni Stephens, EdS, MS, as dental hygiene coordinator, and Pat Naylor, DDS, for the advanced education programs.

Dean Goodacre congratulates all of the School family on an outstanding performance!

## Medical radiography students 'come on down' to 'The Price is Right'

BY LARRY KIDDER, MA

This past July, 23 medical radiography students "went on down" to be part of a taping of "The Price is Right" in Los Angeles.

The group of students sported dark blue Loma Linda University tee-shirts.

Marlene Gutierrez, a second-year student in the program, was actually called as a contestant.

While she didn't win a major prize, she did receive some nice consolation prizes.

On the way out to their cars, "The Price is Right" host Drew Carey was also heading out and recognized the dark blue shirts of the LLU group.

He approached the students and chatted for awhile. Then he posed for a photo with each of the students.

Some of the LLU students were particularly impressed when Mr. Carey, during a commercial break, comforted a losing contestant who was especially disappointed.

"Hey, we don't own anything anyway; we are all just stewards," Mr. Carey told the contestant. "Maybe you aren't here today to win; maybe you are here today to show sign language saying 'I love you' like you did a minute ago. Maybe you really made someone's day and that is why you are here today."



Christina Casillas, a second-year medical radiography student at LLU, poses with "The Price is Right" host Drew Carey.

## School of Medicine professor attends AMPAC health care leadership campaign workshop

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Don Kurth, MD, MBA, MPA, associate professor of psychiatry and preventive medicine in the LLU School of Medicine, attended the AMPAC Candidate Workshop last month in Washington, D.C. AMPAC is the political action and education arm of the American Medical Association. Physicians from across the nation were invited to attend the February 13-15 event.

"Our health care system is in shambles. All Americans deserve better care than what we are getting," says Dr. Kurth. "But if we don't have legislators who under-

stand our health care needs, we will never be able to solve these problems."

A growing number of medical professionals are seeking local, state, and federal offices across the country. These busy individuals take time away from their families and careers to campaign. This personal sacrifice does make a difference. Every elected physician becomes an invaluable resource for his or her legislative colleagues because of practical knowledge of health care in America.

"Health care reform is a critical issue for all Americans," continues Dr. Kurth.

With all of the problems surrounding health care in America, more and more physicians are serving in local, state, and national elected office. Currently 15 physicians serve in the 111th Congress: two members in the U.S. Senate and 13 members in the U.S. House of Representatives. Six of those physicians have graduated from AMPAC's political education programs.

Due to their leadership skills, expertise in medicine and treating patients, and dealing with regulations, each of these members of the medical community plays a key role on committees with jurisdic-



Don Kurth, MD, MBA, MPA

tion over health care legislation.

"Physicians can no longer sit on the sidelines and complain about

state and federal politicians ruining our health care system," explains Dr. Kurth. "Our patients and all those who depend on our care deserve better than that."

Dr. Kurth, currently mayor of Rancho Cucamonga, will be running for the 63rd California State Assembly District in 2010.

In May, Dr. Kurth will assume duties as president-elect of the American Society of Addiction Medicine.

Additionally, he is the founder of both the California and the National Annual Addiction Treatment Legislative Days, and a past recipient of the prestigious Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Fellowship for Developing Leadership in Reducing Substance Abuse.

You can learn more about his work at <www.DonKurth.com>.

## Clinical laboratory sciences program celebrates grand re-opening of student laboratory

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

The LLU School of Allied Health Professions hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony this past November to celebrate the grand re-opening of the clinical laboratory sciences student laboratory.

The remodeling process took several months and was enhanced by the refurbishing of a classroom

and several faculty offices.

More than 50 alumni and guests had the opportunity to view the remodeled department, chat with faculty and staff, and enjoy some refreshments.

Clinical laboratory sciences department chair Rodney Roath, MBA, demonstrated some of the new equipment during his presen-

tation, followed by an opportunity for guests to freely explore the laboratory facility.

"We have been thrust into the 21st century with the opening of this lab," commented Craig Jackson, JD, MSW, dean of the School. "I'm excited that our students will be learning in an amazing lab with state-of-the-art equipment."



Clinical laboratory sciences (CLS) students (left photo) enjoy the new state-of-the-art classroom. Craig Jackson, JD, MSW (center photo), talks about the significance of the new facilities while department chair Rodney Roath, MBA, listens. Robert Moncrieff, MD (top right photo), former medical director of the CLS program, receives a personal tour of the new facility by Mr. Roath. Dr. Jackson and Mr. Roath officially cut the ribbon (bottom right photo).



## Spiritual Life & Wholeness Committee plans a host of events for students

BY LARRY KIDDER, MA

Some of the events planned and coordinated by the LLU School of Allied Health Professions Spiritual Life & Wholeness Committee during the school year include:

- Health promotion program (62 individuals have signed up and log their weekly exercise);
- Lunch Power (inspirational message and lunch prepared by nutrition students and faculty virtu-

ally every Tuesday);

- Bible study (led by Brad Cole during lunch virtually every Monday during the school year);

- Wear Red Day (annual national event promoting women's heart health);

- Pilates class (led by physical therapy faculty member and Pilates

certified instructor Christy Wilson every Tuesday noon);

- Greeting card ministry (notes of encouragement sent to faculty, staff, and students);

- Healthy vending machines (possibility of installing healthy snacks/lunch is being explored);

- Chat-'n'-Chew (faculty and

staff noon social event once each quarter during fall and spring);

- Prayer ministry <prayer@llu.edu> (students, faculty, and staff e-mail prayer requests); and

- Walk/stretch/balance class (led by physical therapy graduate student Michelle Prowse—to be initiated).



Some members of the Spiritual Life & Wholeness Committee choose a pose that symbolizes their team philosophy. They include (starting at the front left of the circle and going clockwise) Helen Martinez, Renee Stone, Teri Ross, Christy Billock, Molly Kurth, Melody Chambers, Jeannine Mendes, Ardis Wazdatskey, Danelle Herra, Intithar Elias, and Maxine Taylor.

### Napoli Italian Restaurant

FINE ITALIAN CUISINE

24960 Redlands Blvd.

(909) 796-3770

Banquet Facilities & Catering Available

Open 7 Days A Week  
11:00AM TO 9:30PM

Napoli Gift Certificates are Available for All Occasions

www.napoli-italian.com

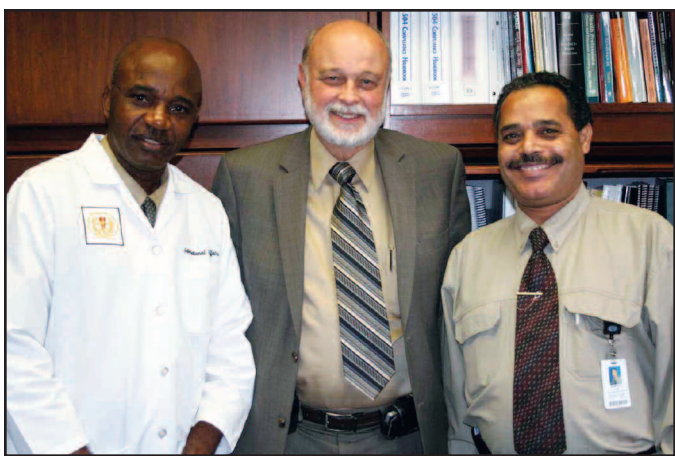
### Lunch Special

**\$7.99**

Baked Ziti  
Pasta Alfredo  
Meat Lasagna  
Vegetarian Lasagna  
Spaghetti with meat sauce  
Spaghetti with marinara sauce  
Chicken Parmigiana

Limited time offer. No other discount good with this offer

### Administrators from Nigeria and Ghana hospitals study at Loma Linda



Chief Samson Popoola, RN (left), director of nursing for Ile-Ife Adventist Hospital in Nigeria, and Walid Redeini, MD (right), a surgeon and administrator at Kumasi Adventist Hospital in Ghana, report to Richard Hart, MD, DrPH (center), president and CEO of Loma Linda University, on health care issues in their respective nations during a recent visit to his office. Mr. Popoola and Dr. Redeini are visiting the campus for an intensive two-month study tour coordinated by the LLU Global Health Institute.

### Public health professor helps honor Jamaica's governor general

BY HEATHER REIFSNYDER

Jamaica's new governor general Patrick Allen, PhD, CD, was awarded an honorary doctorate in public service by Northern Caribbean University (NCU) on February 17 in Mandeville, Jamaica. Loma Linda University's director of the doctoral leadership program, David Penner, PhD, gave the main address during the ceremony and participated in the hooding exercise.

Like Loma Linda University, NCU is a Seventh-day Adventist institution. Dr. Allen is the first Adventist to serve as Jamaica's governor general, the highest office in the nation. He was sworn into office February 26.

"Dr. Allen and I have been friends and colleagues for many years," Dr. Penner says.

When Dr. Penner worked at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan, he was Dr. Allen's advisor and dissertation chair. Additionally, as Andrews University registrar, Dr. Penner chose Dr. Allen to be assistant registrar.

"My wife, Josée-Marie, and I

were delighted to be a part of this historic event," Dr. Penner says, extending thanks to the Allens and to Herbert Thompson, PhD, CD, president of NCU, for being included in the proceedings.

Dr. Allen served as president of the West Indies Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists for eight years, stepping down in January in preparation for his new role. He has also served as chair of the board of governors at NCU.



From left, Dr. Allen and his wife, Patricia, are pictured next to Dr. Penner and his wife, Josée-Marie. Photo courtesy of Nigel Coke.



Cory Gheen, culinary chef

### Culinary chef joins SAHP nutrition department

BY LARRY KIDDER, MA

Cory Gheen, chef and culinary specialist, recently joined the faculty in the Loma Linda University School of Allied Health Professions department of nutrition and dietetics.

A graduate of New York's Culinary Institute of America, Mr. Gheen was raised a Seventh-day Adventist and has always had a pas-

sion for vegetarian cooking. He spent the past 10 years working in Northern California in various restaurants and hotels, most recently managing the Bouchon Bakery.

As his resume circulated among Adventist institutions, he realized the need for skilled food service providers in this arena. He was drawn to Loma Linda University

because of the opportunity to teach students the skills of food preparation and presentation, and equip them to serve.

Bert Connell, PhD, nutrition and dietetics department chair, is delighted to have Chef Gheen on board. "He brings such competency in the areas of culinary arts," says Dr. Connell. "People eat with their

eyes and their nose; with Chef Gheen, we know that if it smells good and looks good, then it will taste good."

Once Chef Gheen is fully integrated into the nutrition and dietetics program, he hopes to look into developing a program designed to train kitchen managers. He also hopes to travel.

LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL OF ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS  
*presents*  
**RUDY MICELLI**  
in a *FREE* concert  
**April 17, 2009 @ 7pm**  
Loma Linda University Church Sanctuary

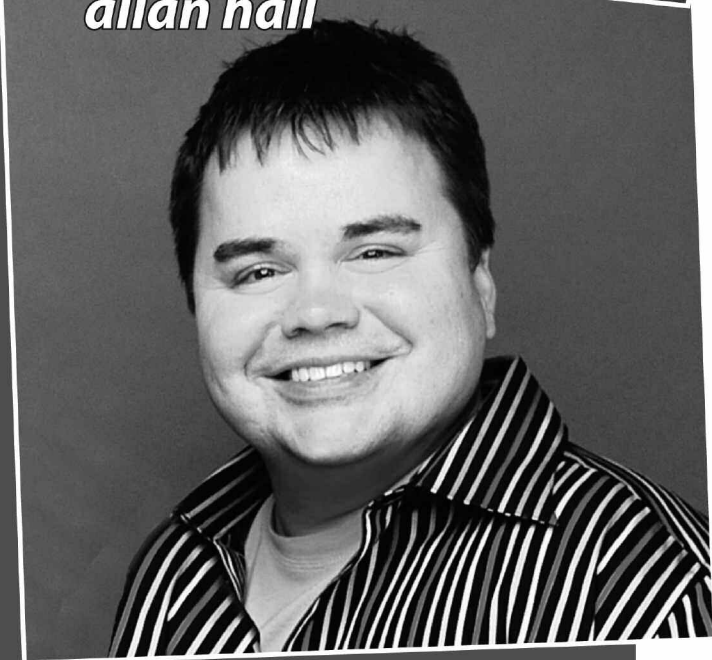


#### ABOUT THE ARTIST:

Rudy Micelli's powerful and passion-filled tenor voice is an experience to remember. And yet, the focus of his ministry is not about the vessel, but the spirit of Christ which certainly flows through the medium of Rudy's voice and ministry. He has appeared on the Adventist Channel Network, The Quiet Hour Telecast, and on the Voice of Prophecy Family Reunion videos.



LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY  
School of Allied Health Professions

*todd smith**amy perry**allan hall*

# SELAH

---

## in concert

---

Revealing the Heart of the Song

**Five-time  
GMA Music Award  
Winners**

#### **Where to Buy Tickets**

- Adventist Book Center, Loma Linda
- Berean Christian Store, Redlands
- Loma Linda University Office of Student Affairs

*Front reserved seating, \$15*

*Open seating, \$10*

#### **Tickets by Mail**

Make check to "Concert Series" and send with self-addressed, stamped envelope to Calimesa Concert Series, P.O. Box 647, Calimesa, CA, 92320.

#### **For More Information**

Call the Concert Line at (909) 795-4960

**Saturday  
March 21, 2009  
7:30 p.m.**

**Loma Linda University Church  
11125 Campus Street  
Loma Linda, CA**

# The Greening of LLUAHSC—Part Two

JAMES PONDER

*In the first installment of this three-part report, the question of what Loma Linda University Adventist Health Sciences Center (LLUAHSC) can do to conserve natural resources yielded solid solutions from leaders of the LLUAHSC construction office and the LLU Medical Center support services department.*

*The second installment continues with an examination of two more LLUAHSC departments determined to reduce the organization's carbon footprint.*

Donna Gurule, MPH, REHS, brings a big-picture focus to her work as environmental health and safety officer in the LLUAHSC department of risk management.

Ms. Gurule has an encyclopedic grasp of what LLUAHSC is doing to comply with federal, state, and local environmental regulations, and she's constantly watching for what else the organization can do to go green.

Ms. Gurule can tell you, for instance, that her office currently maintains compliance with more than 50 environmental regulations. The latest is a 2009 ruling that requires LLUAHSC to report its greenhouse gas emissions to the California Air Resources Board.

She's quick to point out that in 2006, LLUAHSC produced the carbon dioxide equivalents of 1,186 metric tons from its fleet of 350 vehicles, and an additional 114,715 metric tons from its power plant. She also notes that in 2008 alone, LLUAHSC entities recycled 1.6 million pounds of paper. "That equates to 13,377 trees!" she says with amazement.

Ms. Gurule calculates that LLUAHSC's participation in shredding and recycling also saved more than \$44,000 in landfill disposal fees and conserved 5.1 mil-

lion gallons of water.

"We do surveillance and monitoring to see how various departments are doing," she says. "We go out and conduct inspections, investigations, and audits. We're doing a variety of activities daily to see what our liabilities are. We don't see this as a negative thing, but as an opportunity for improvement."

Ms. Gurule notes that paper isn't the only commodity getting recycled around here. "We recycle tons and tons of cardboard boxes, mostly from the Medical Center, the University, and the market," she says. "We also recycle most of our hazardous wastes. We collect solvent wastes from laboratories all over our campus and sell it to be used as fuel for processing cement in kilns off-campus."

"And we recycle batteries—both alkaline and metal-based—as well as computers, other electronic devices, and fluorescent tubes. Last year, we recycled 55,000 pounds of those wastes."

Not surprisingly, when asked what else we can and should do to conserve natural resources, Ms. Gurule is ready with answers.

"We need to look at not producing some things in the future," she insists. "We're already using electronic records in the Medical Center. That has eliminated whole rooms full of paper-based medical records—tons of them."

"We've also reduced the amount of hazardous waste we produce by going digital and eliminating X-ray film. If we could insist on receiving all our supplies in reusable plastic containers instead of cardboard boxes, we could save a lot of time and money in cardboard recycling, which is very labor-intensive."

She's just warming up. "We need to invest in green vehicles," she states. "We need solar energy. We're in a great geographical area for solar power because we have lots more sunny days than cloudy or rainy ones."

"Most of all," she observes, "we need an environmental management system that integrates sustainability. We need to study how we can reduce or eliminate our environmental load—our carbon footprint. It can be done! There is a university in Vancouver, British Columbia, that has already

achieved that goal. It operates on a neutral or even negative carbon footprint. We need to have a goal for that, and we need to develop a standard to identify the steps to meet that goal.

"If we can reduce our carbon footprint," she concludes, "that will be wonderful!"

Do shuttle buses really make a difference to the health of the planet? Steve Hertel, executive director for traffic and parking, knows they do.

"Our shuttle bus Rideshare program transports between 25,000 to 32,000 riders per month," he notes. "The Air Quality Management District (AQMD) was very surprised at the efficiency of our shuttle program."

"There is data to support the fact that short-haul car trips produce the highest pollution factors because engines don't have time to get fully warmed-up."

"Someone driving from the Medical Center to East Campus creates more air pollution in that one-mile trip than he or she would in driving a warmed-up car to Palm Springs."

Additionally the AQMD asked us for a 20 percent reduction in specialty equipment emissions, but we achieved a 40 percent decrease because the organization decided to install the most advanced systems available at the time."

Mr. Hertel is eager to maximize the fuel efficiency of the organization's vehicle fleet. "We're trying to identify the gross polluters in the fleet," he says. "We're also studying which vehicles are the most fuel-efficient."

Although he agrees with Donna Gurule on the need for green vehicles, he finds that current hybrid vehicles are less fuel-efficient than regular cars when used for the specific applications the LLUAHSC fleet demands. "Hybrid technology is still relatively new," he states. "When there's a significant amount of distance involved, they do very well. But the majority of our trips are short hauls."

He also notes that currently there isn't enough data to support the use of green vehicles in a fleet

environment such as ours. "Alternative fuel vehicles are a great idea in principle," he notes, "but models currently on the market aren't as efficient on gasoline as they are on flex fuel such as methanol. We're trying to stay away from them until they become as efficient on gas as methanol."

"The other problem that a green vehicle presents to the fleet operator is that fueling stations are not as available in Southern California as in other parts of the country."

Mr. Hertel says that whenever one of the approximately 350 vehicles in the campus fleet comes in for routine maintenance, several components—catalytic converters, fuel injectors, electronics, and vapor recovery systems—are carefully inspected to maintain full operating efficiency.

He also says the department is preparing to install new charcoal-enhanced vapor recovery systems on fuel tanks the campus uses to reduce emissions even further.

While Mr. Hertel admits there are many demands to be faced as tougher environmental standards are mandated in the future, he is very proud of what his team has accomplished so far.

"Taking 25,000 to 32,000 drivers off the road every month saves an estimated 97,000 gallons of gasoline every year," he reports. "And that's not even counting the tons of emissions they eliminate. Not bad for a start!"

A comprehensive report on all the environmentally friendly activities going on at LLUAHSC would require thousands of pages to produce. But suffice it to say, all over the campus, conscientious individuals are doing everything they can to reduce, re-use, and recycle.

The final installment of this report will explore what the landscape department is doing for the environment; then it will ask the most important question of all: What else can the organization do to help safeguard the health of the planet?

Perhaps no one phrased the crucial environment issues of this age better than Marshall McLuhan.

"There are no passengers on Spaceship Earth," the enigmatic philosopher observed in 1964. "We are all crew."



Donna Gurule, MPH, REHS, environmental health and safety officer in the LLUAHSC department of risk management, points to the recycling code on the bottom of a plastic bottle. While very pleased with progress LLUAHSC has made in recent years, Ms. Gurule envisions the day when the organization can reduce or eliminate its environmental load, or carbon footprint.

## Reportable Crimes

The Crime Awareness and Campus Security Act of 1990 requires Loma Linda University to publish interim reports on campus crime activities. Listed below are the crimes reported for the month of February 2009:

Type of Crime	Number of Crimes	Place of Crime
Vehicle Burglary	2	Lot T Lot S
Burglary	2	Daniells Residence Drayson Center
Grand Theft	1	Mortensen Hall
Assault	1	Pediatric ER
Trespassing	1	Children's Hospital

You can assist the Department of Security in maintaining a safe and secure environment by notifying Security immediately at extension 911 if you see or know about a crime taking place.



Steve Hertel, executive director for parking and transportation, says the LLUAHSC shuttle bus Rideshare program transports between 25,000 and 32,000 riders per month. "The Air Quality Management District was very surprised at the efficiency of our shuttle program," he reports. The program significantly reduces pollution from short-haul car trips, which account for the highest pollution factors. "Someone driving from the Medical Center to East Campus creates more air pollution in that one-mile trip than they would in driving a warmed-up car to Palm Springs," he says.



## Global Health Institute trip offers international perspective on life

BY JAMES PONDER

There's nothing like a truck stop to showcase literary excellence.

As the nine of us wait for dinner at the Wagon Wheel Restaurant in Needles, California, I try to explain the nuances of redneck philosophy to my eight guests—six medical professionals from China, and one each from Nigeria and Ghana.

I'm the volunteer driver/tour guide for the expedition, which is coordinated by the Loma Linda University Global Health Institute as a recreation and travel break from a two-month intensive study program designed to provide visiting practitioners an opportunity to upgrade clinical skills, learn the latest advances in their respective fields, and enhance leadership roles. My job isn't easy; humor doesn't translate well across cultural and linguistic boundaries.

Domestic tranquility provides the inspiration for these literary jewels. One, for example, offers a cogent insight into family living: "Ain't Momma happy, ain't nobody happy."

It's good to be on the road again! We're heading for the Grand Canyon tonight. Tomorrow, we'll explore the canyon in the morning, stop for lunch at the fabled Cameron Trading Post around 1:00 p.m., spend the afternoon at the 11th century ruins of Wupatki National Monument, and drive through the Navajo Nation to spend the night at Page, Arizona.

Saturday morning will find us en route to Zion National Park; we'll take in the awesome sights of Grand Staircase, part of Escalante National Monument, along the way. On Sunday, we'll head to the 4,000-year-old Ancestral Puebloan petroglyphs carved into the orange walls at Valley of Fire State Park in Nevada. That evening, we'll bask in the gaudy sideshow that is Las

Vegas before heading home on Monday.

The moon has a thing for Williams, Arizona. For some reason, the moon above this postcard-perfect little town always seems bigger than in any other place on earth. The biggest moon I ever saw was a gigantic, cheddar yellow circle rising between a pine-lined notch in the mountains a handful of miles west of Williams a decade ago.

I will never forget the sight so long as I live. Tonight's lunar majesty floats a little higher in the sky and appears to be a little more than two-thirds full. The glowing orb looks positively humongous, and close enough to touch. The peaceful village snuggles beneath its benevolent glow. Icicles hang from the eaves of Arizona territorial bungalows as we snap pictures. "This place reminds me of China," one of the guests observes.

The Grand Canyon, as everyone knows, is a great big hole in the ground. Stretching 10 miles wide, one mile deep, and more than 200 miles long, the sense of grandeur and infinite space is hard to explain; you have to see it for yourself.

That's what Mr. Popoola and Dr. Redeini are doing. Chief Samson Popoola, RN, director of nursing at Ile-Ife Adventist Hospital in Nigeria, and Walid Redeini, MD, a surgeon and administrator from Lebanon serving at Kumasi Adventist Hospital in Ghana, have never seen the Grand Canyon before. They take turns posing for pictures on the South Rim. Mr. Popoola looks magisterial in his dignified, serious demeanor. Dr. Redeini flashes a movie star grin as wide as the canyon.

At 7:30 in the morning, the outside air temperature is flirting with the high teens. "It never gets this cold in Nigeria," Mr. Popoola pro-

claims. "I've never been so cold in my life!"

Sandy catches a nap as we head down Highway 89 to Wupatki. Back in China, Sandy is known as Xiang Weilan, RN, a nurse manager on the oncology unit at Sir Run Run Shaw Hospital in Hangzhou. Here on the road, she is proving to be the inveterate walker of the group. Whenever the rest of us stop to grab a bite to eat, Sandy—who prefers to snack in the van—sets out on foot to explore the terrain.

Right now, she's tired from walking around the sandstone promontory overlooking the Little Colorado River at Cameron Trading Post. She awakes just in time to hike out to the ruins of Box Canyon and Lomaki at Wupatki National Monument. The air temperature has warmed to maybe 44 or 45 degrees Fahrenheit; the sky is blue, and filled with wispy clouds. "I like this place!" Sandy says, stifling a yawn. "It's beautiful here."

Horseshoe Bend of the Colorado River used to be hard to find. If you asked for directions in Page, Arizona, the man at the gas station would mumble something about driving exactly 1.6 miles south of town, looking for the next mile marker after that, going another hundred yards or so, and finding a dirt road leading to a homestead in the distance. I never could find it.

Nowadays, however, a large sign directs travelers to the overlook. It's 4:00 p.m. on a Friday afternoon, and we're ready for a good hike.

Lee and Lilly are particularly excited. They may be sophisticated and responsible health care professionals in China, but here in the Great Southwest, they giggle like schoolgirls. Lee leads the way up the steep slope of fine orange sand. At Beijing Children's Hospital, Li Yuchuan, MD, takes care of sick children with compassion and scientific precision. So does Lilly, who is known as Lou Fang, MD, oncologist at Sir Run Run Shaw Hospital in China.

Today, though, they laugh and talk all the way to the top. When they crest the summit, the women "ooh and ah" at the expansive vistas below. We're less than halfway to Horseshoe Bend—the hike is three quarters of a mile long—but the serpentine stone maze and expansive skies of the Colorado Plateau offer unsurpassed vistas of geologic time and space. "We have red rocks in China," Lilly observes, "but this is really beautiful!"

The parking lot at the entrance to Zion Narrows is nearly full. No sooner does the engine die than Frank, David, and Jeffrey bolt from the van, cameras in hand.

The three men all work at Sir Run Run Shaw Hospital. Frank, or Fan Hui, PharmD, is a pharmacist; David, also known as Song Guanghui, MD, is a research physician; and Jeffrey, who goes by Sun

Weijun, MD, back home, is a neurosurgeon. This afternoon, they photograph a wonderland of sandstone and cottonwood under a blanket of snow. Exotic scenery abounds; the three friends waste no time, and leave no pictures untaken in their wake.

On the last night of the trip, Dr. Redeini, Mr. Popoola, and I are talking over dinner. We've seen 4,000-year-old rock art in Nevada and the fossilized remains of Utah

dinosaurs alleged to be 95 million years old. We've also gazed into the grandest canyon on earth, interacted with elk and buffalo in Springdale, Utah, and stalked deer with our cameras in Zion. What left the biggest impression?

"The Grand Canyon," says Mr. Popoola. "We don't have anything like it in Nigeria." For me, it's the Valley of Fire. "We don't have art that old in California," I add.

Dr. Redeini flashes his million-dollar grin. "I like Las Vegas," he notes. "There is nothing like this in Ghana!"



Say hello to the members of the Global Health Institute's February 2009 trip to the Southwest (from left): "David" Song Guanghui, MD; Chief Samson Popoola, RN; Walid Redeini, MD; "Lee" Li Yuchuan, MD; "Frank" Fan Hui, PharmD; "Lilly" Lou Fang, MD; "Jeffrey" Sun Weijun, MD; and "Sandy" Xiang Weilan, RN. An unofficial poll taken at the end of the trip found that the group ranked Grand Canyon slightly ahead of Zion National Park in terms of most impressive destination visited on the trip. Participants said they enjoyed getting better acquainted with the people and natural beauty of the United States.

Volume 22, Number 5  
Monday, March 9, 2009

TODAY

- LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY
- LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY Medical Center
- LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY Children's Hospital
- LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY Medical Center—East Campus
- LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY Behavioral Medicine Center
- LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY Health Care
- LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY Heart & Surgical Hospital
- Faculty Medical Group of LLUSM
- Faculty Physicians & Surgeons of LLUSM

LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY

**Volume 22, Number 5**  
**Monday, March 9, 2009**

**Executive Editor** Richard W. Weismeyer  
**Editor** Larry Kidder, MA  
**Advertising coordinator** Carol Berger

**CORRESPONDENTS**

Doug Hackleman, MA  
*School of Dentistry*

Dustin R. Jones, MA  
*School of Nursing*  
*School of Religion*

Larry Kidder, MA  
*School of Allied Health Professions*

James Ponder  
*School of Medicine*  
*Loma Linda University Medical Center*  
*Loma Linda University Children's Hospital*

Heather Reifsnnyder  
*School of Public Health*  
*Loma Linda University Behavioral Medicine Center*

Patricia K. Thio  
*Faculty of Graduate Studies*  
*School of Science and Technology*

Richard W. Weismeyer  
*School of Pharmacy*

**TODAY** is a nonprofit news publication of Loma Linda University, operated under the auspices of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

Advertising accepted for publication in **TODAY** is intended to be a service to the students, staff, employees, and faculty of all Loma Linda University entities.

The management, at its sole discretion, reserves the right to refuse, without explanation, any advertisement. The acceptance of advertising in this publication does not represent an endorsement or guarantee of any kind by Loma Linda University, Loma Linda University Medical Center, or Loma Linda University Adventist Health Sciences Center.

Questions about advertising, circulation, and subscriptions should be directed to **TODAY**, Burden Hall, Loma Linda University, Loma Linda, California 92350. Phone (909) 558-4526.

World Wide Web address: [www.llu.edu](http://www.llu.edu)



Bighorn sheep and strange android creatures cavort across the Atlatl Panel petroglyph site at Valley of Fire State Park near Moapa, Nevada. Five doctors, two nurse managers, and one pharmacist—participants in a Southwestern tour coordinated by Loma Linda University's Global Health Institute—climbed 85 stairs up the side of a giant sandstone boulder to see the ancient art. Anthropologists believe the images were pecked into the surface of the stone approximately 4,000 years ago by shamans of the prehistoric Ancestral Puebloan group of Native Americans, perhaps to guarantee success in the hunt. An atlatl is a type of spear-throwing device used before the advent of bow and arrow technology. The prehistoric inhabitants of the Colorado Plateau were sometimes referred to as members of the Anasazi Culture in the past, but more recent thinking asserts that they should be classified as Ancestral Puebloans, a term that encompasses a far wider, and more inclusive, geographical and chronological range. Regardless of nomenclature, the original inhabitants of the Colorado Plateau were highly skilled in the arts of survival, and left a legacy of highly developed art, architecture and trade networks across the Southwest.