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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
- FACULTY MEDICAL GROUP OF LLUSM
- FACULTY PHYSICIANS & SURGEONS OF LLUSM



LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY

Noted TV personality will be keynote speaker at first Loma Linda University lecture series

BY RICHARD WEISMAYER

Contributing editor to *Newsweek* magazine, and regular panelist on the syndicated talk show *The McLaughlin Group*, Eleanor Clift will be the guest speaker at the first Loma Linda University School of Nursing class of 1967 endowed lectureship series. Continuing education credit will be available for nurses who attend the lecture. Admission is free to the event.

Speaking on "Two Weeks of Life: The Intersection of Medicine and Morality," Ms. Clift will focus on two singular weeks in her own life and in the nation's history.

She will be speaking in the Loma Linda University Church of Seventh-day Adventists on Wednesday evening, October 29, at 7:00 p.m. Ms. Clift will be available following the lecture to sign her book *Two Weeks of Life*. The book will be available for sale at \$18 (retail price is \$26) following the lecture.

Spending every night with her quietly fading husband, Tom Brazaitis, a renowned journalist

based in Washington, D.C., who was dying from cancer, Ms. Clift was spending her days writing about and discussing on national television the debate over Terri Schiavo's fate, the woman who was dying in a Florida nursing home.

In her talk, Ms. Clift will explore questions surrounding death from a very personal angle. She will deal with questions such as "how should we handle the decisions made necessary by a loved one's death?" and

"what do we do when that person has not spoken about these issues—and sometimes cannot?"

Ms. Clift currently writes a column in *Newsweek* on the Washington power structure, the influence of women in politics, and a variety of topical issues.

She is currently assigned to follow the jockeying over policy and politics in the Democratic-controlled Congress, and now is following the 2008 presidential race. She writes a weekly column on *Newsweek.com* titled "Capitol Letter," where she analyzes the political news of the week.

Formerly *Newsweek* White House correspondent, Ms. Clift also served as congressional and political correspondent for a number of years.

In 1985, Ms. Clift briefly left *Newsweek* to serve as White House correspondent for the *Los Angeles Times*. She returned to *Newsweek* the following year to cover the Iran-Contra scandal, which tarnished the Ronald Reagan White House.

In addition to being a regular panelist on the PBS program *The*

McLaughlin Group, Ms. Clift has appeared playing herself in several films including *Independence Day*, *1600 Pennsylvania Avenue*, *Dave*, and the CBS series *Murphy Brown*.

She is on the board of the Washington Center for Politics and Journalism, the International Women's Media Foundation, and the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization.

Ms. Clift and her late husband, who was a columnist for the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, wrote two books together, *War Without Bloodshed: The Art of Politics* and *Madam President: Shattering the Last Glass Ceiling*.

She has written *Founding Sisters*, a book about the passage of the 19th Amendment giving women the vote. Her latest book is *Two Weeks of Life: A Memoir of Love, Death, and Politics*, which examines the debate over the right to die through the lens of her personal experience with the loss of her husband.

Speech and language programs offered at LLU Medical Center

BY JAMES PONDER

What does breastfeeding have to do with speech and language pathology?

That's just one of many unexpected connections that are coming to light in an innovative series of educational programs offered by the Loma Linda University Medical Center department of speech-language pathology. The department, which is emerging as a strong leader in health education, offers conferences, seminars, and in-service programs that bring experts from a wide range of disciplines together to create programming that is both cutting-edge and useful to a variety of health professionals including physicians, nurses, case managers, speech pathologists, and others.

According to Melissa Backstrom, MS, clinical manager of speech pathology at LLUMC, the unlikely relationship stems from the central role of swallowing in

Please turn to page 2



Eleanor Clift

Friends of SACHS celebrate improvements

BY LARRY KIDDER, MA

More than 100 were on hand Friday, October 3, to celebrate the generosity of hundreds of donors and volunteers who help Social Action Community Health System (SACHS) serve approximately 40,000 people each year in the San Bernardino area.

The Friends of SACHS Celebration included remarks by Richard Hart, MD, DrPH, president of Loma Linda University Adventist Health Sciences Center (LLU-AHSC), whose dream it was in the mid 1990s to expand the facilities of several small area clinics operated by Loma Linda University students.

Dr. Hart recalled the challenges and miracles involved in securing the medical clinic facility, located on the former Norton Airforce Base, from the federal government.

The property allowed SACHS to expand its services for individuals in the surrounding communities who

earn too much to qualify for welfare-based health care, but too little to afford their own health insurance.

Also speaking at the event were San Bernardino mayor Patrick Morris; Ken Hart, MD, medical director of SACHS; Nancy Young, SACHS executive director; Cynthia Rollins, development manager of

SACHS; and two grateful recipients of health care services—Albert, an HIV patient who received dental work at SACHS, and Ruben, a recovering drug addict and alcoholic, who was treated for his addictions.

Remarks were followed by a tour of the renovated areas of the facility, as well as refreshments.



Mayor Patrick Morris of San Bernardino (right) presents Ken Hart, MD, medical director of SACHS, with a plaque commemorating the contribution of SACHS to citizens of San Bernardino and the surrounding communities and as a major provider of free or affordable health care.

Dental hygiene class of 2009 collects books, toys for Afghanistan

BY NANCY YUEN

Children in Afghanistan are now learning and having fun using school supplies, books, and toys donated by dental hygiene students in the School of Dentistry.

When Kellie Bergendahl, assistant professor, dental hygiene, mentioned a newly opened elementary school in Afghanistan that didn't have enough classroom supplies to Jamie Patton, president, class of 2009, Ms. Patton contacted classmates for help.

They collected items requested by Major Kenneth W. Wical, an American soldier stationed in Afghanistan who is the project officer for the new school.

They collected supplies

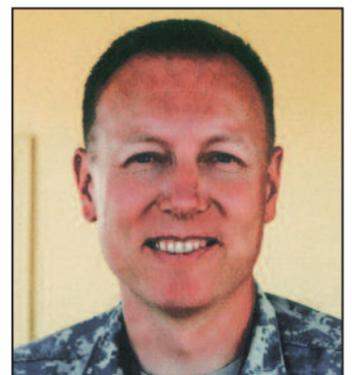
including pens, pencils, colored crayons, and paper. The kids, from kindergarten to sixth grade,

study English, and so the class also collected picture books in English.



Members of the dental hygiene class of 2009 assemble school supplies to send to an elementary school in Afghanistan. Pictured from left are: January Chay, Leslie Ross, Jessica Black, Jamie Patton, Sherry Lister, Landi Hansen, Melissa McEwen, Amy Russell, Rebecca Burke, Loredana Burciu, and Tiffany Harris.

On July 16, the class met and filled five boxes with brand new, colorful school supplies. Ms. Bergendahl forwarded them along with two boxes of toothbrushes to Major Wical in Afghanistan.



Major Kenneth W. Wical

American Health Care Congress looks for healthy solutions

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

National health care experts and leading advocates for health care reform will host an upcoming Loma Linda University event focusing on the critical state of the current American health care system, as well as what's in store for the future. The fifth-annual American Health Care Congress is designed to allow health care professionals to add their voices to the discussion on health care change, leading to reduced financial burden on families, businesses, and public agencies.

The October 21 and 22 congress is open to the public and will take place at the DoubleTree Hotel in Ontario, located at 222 North Vineyard Avenue, with the theme of "Health Care Debate in California: Challenges and Opportunities."

The conference will begin with a session on lessons learned in state initiatives. Nancy Turnbull, MBA,

from Harvard School of Public Health, will represent Massachusetts; Robert Kraig, PhD, from Citizens Action Group, will represent Wisconsin; and Peter Harbage, MPP, of Harbage and Associates, will discuss California. Later, Safeway, Inc., will share how this company has successfully reduced health care costs by promoting health among its employees.

The day will conclude with a panel dialogue on practical implications of health care reform in California between Jim Lott, MBA, of the Hospital Association of California, and two top executives at Kaiser Permanente: Benjamin Chu, MD, and Jeff Wesz, MD.

Day two will begin with a discussion designed to inspire on "creating a culture for change," delivered by Greg Turk, president of the Pacific Institute. Next, innovative solutions in health care will be highlighted by

Christine Martin of California Telemedicine and eHealth Center; Michael Weiss, MD, a pediatrician working with local schools to combat childhood obesity; and Gerald Winslow, PhD, of Loma Linda University Medical Center.

Later, in the afternoon, David Buchanan, DrPH, of the University of Massachusetts Amherst will discuss contrasting visions of justice in American health care policy debate. Finally, presidential candidates Barack Obama and John McCain, or their designees, have been invited to speak on their health care proposals. More information will be available closer to the date of the congress.

Each day will also include candid workshop discussions facilitated by experts in their respective health care fields, allowing attendees to brainstorm ideas for reform on topics ranging from patient-centered care to employer involvement. Attendees will

choose one workshop each day, with 10 total to select from.

Registration for the American Health Care Congress is \$145 for one day and \$215 for two days. The registration fee for seniors and students will be \$45 for one day and \$60 for two days.

Registration is available by telephone (credit card only) by calling (909) 558-8382. To register by mail or fax, please visit the American Health Care Congress website at <www.americanhealthcarecongress.org>.

The event is open to the public. Physicians; public health administrators, educators, clinicians and students; community-based health care organizations and foundations; members of health organization governing boards and executive staffs; small business owners; and concerned members of the general public are strongly encouraged to attend.

The congress is presented by Loma Linda University School of Public Health. It is supported by Kaiser Permanente, San Antonio Community Hospital, The California Endowment, City of Ontario, First 5 San Bernardino, Hospital Association of Southern California, I-215 South Corridor Economic Development Summit, Inland Empire Health Plan (IEHP), Institute for Healthcare Advancement (IHA), Jobing.com, Latino Health Collaborative, Lewis Group of Companies, Loma Linda University Medical Center, Pfizer Public Health Group, Professionals in Human Resources Association (PIHRA), San Bernardino Healthy Communities, St. Mary's Medical Center, and Turning Technologies. The signature sponsor for the fifth annual American Health Care Congress is the Institute for Healthcare Advancement (IHA).

Innovative education programs offered at LLUMC...

Continued from page 1

both breastfeeding and in the development of speech and hearing capacity in infants born with cleft lip and/or palate.

Ms. Backstrom and her colleague, Gary Lucas, MS, senior speech pathologist, insist that the connection will become clearer at a daylong conference on May 1, 2009. The conference, which was originally scheduled for June 2008, is titled "Best Feeding: Putting the Pieces Together in the Craniofacial Population."

What exactly is the craniofacial population? Two answers have been put forth. Since craniofacial combines two words—cranio, referring to the head and skull, and facial, which describes the structures of the face—the craniofacial population either means that segment of the population with congenital malformations of the head, skull and face, or members of the subspecialty within the practice of medicine that provide care and treatment to individuals with craniofacial anomalies. Representatives of both groups stand to gain a lot by insights offered at the conference.

Scientific presentations at the conference will include a discussion by Edward N. Elmendorf III, MD, director of the craniofacial team at LLU Children's Hospital, on the care and feeding of the newborn infant with cleft palate; a summary of the genetics of orofacial clefts by Subhadra Ramanathan, MS, certified genetics counselor at LLUMC; an overview and update of cleft care from the surgeon's perspective, by Mark C. Martin, MD, DMD, a craniofacial, plastic, and reconstructive surgeon at Loma Linda University Health Care; a synopsis on the swallowing puzzle from the perspective of a speech pathologist and patient, by Adriana Saunders, MA, of Palm Elementary School; and a discourse on breastfeeding babies born with cleft lip and/or palate, by Gini Baker, RN, MPH, program coordinator of perinatal

health programs at the UC San Diego extension.

In addition to the breastfeeding conference, the department of speech-language pathology offers a wide variety of other educational programs designed to keep practitioners informed on the latest developments. The department will host an upcoming conference on November 7, 2008, on issues related to the care of the patient who has undergone a laryngectomy. The congress will feature Andrew S. Florea, MD, assistant professor of surgery in the LLU School of Medicine; Paul Kim, MD, a head and neck surgeon at LLU Health Care; and special guest Kim Webster, MA, MS, a speech-language pathologist from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland.

According to Alfred Simental, MD, chair of the department of otolaryngology and head and neck surgery at LLUMC, Dr. Florea was, until recently, the director of the Loma Linda voice and swallowing center, scheduled to open next year. "We are currently in the process of recruiting a voice and swallowing fellow who should join the team in 2009," Dr. Simental notes.

At a recent in-service in Nichol Hall, Kate Gattuso, RRT, RCP, assistant professor in the department of cardiopulmonary sciences at the LLU School of Allied Health Professions, clarified the teamwork roles of speech pathologists and respiratory therapists in working together to care for patients with artificial airways. The lecture—titled "Everything you ever wanted to know about respiratory therapy and were afraid to ask!"—turned into a highly interactive event as students raised questions and dialogued with Ms. Gattuso, who responded by demonstrating the procedures under discussion on anatomical models.

In highlighting the cooperative aspects of teamwork between respiratory therapists and speech pathologists, Ms. Gattuso's presentation underscored the vital necessity for

both groups to understand each others' roles in ongoing patient assessment and emergency care. Since her two-hour presentation dealt extensively with issues of airway obstruction and ventilation, one attendee proposed that the working title be amended to read, "Everything you ever wanted to know about respiratory therapy, but were too choked-up to ask!"

The comment garnered a predictable and, perhaps, well-deserved groan from other participants.

At another recent in-service, Dr. Florea spoke to a group of approximately 25 speech pathologists from the Medical Center, Children's Hospital, and East Campus about the new voice and swallowing center. The new center will serve outpatients with swallowing difficulties as well as adults with voice disorders, including those experienced by professional singers. Dr. Florea also discussed different types of vocal pathologies and the role of the ear, nose, and throat physician in offering surgical treatments for patients. He strongly advocates for cooperation between speech pathologists and surgeons in offering a comprehensive therapeutic approach.

The role of automated technology in assisting individuals with a variety of communicative disorders was the topic of an in-service recently presented by Margaret Perkins, MA, a regional consultant for Prentke Romich Company. Titled "AAC access to language," Ms. Perkins' presentation explored the automated language program Unity, which is marketed by her organization to meet the needs of individuals who cannot communicate through speech because of impairments caused by autism, stroke, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (also known as Lou Gehrig's disease), head injury, cerebral palsy, apraxia, and dysarthria.

AAC—which stands for augmentative and alternative communication—is one of the most exciting scientific breakthroughs of recent decades. In her animated presentation to a group of speech pathologists, Ms.

Perkins demonstrated how simple it is to communicate even the most eloquent and complex ideas by pushing a series of picture icons that represent verbal elements. With these symbols, the Unity system—which is available in a laptop-sized personal communications device—allows users of all ages to say what's on their minds.

"Everyone needs some way to communicate," Ms. Perkins explained. She went on to note that AAC use does not exclude individuals from developing or improving natural speech, but may actually heighten their ability to do so. She cited evidence from scientific studies, which found that from 2.5 to 6 percent of special education students have severe communication impairments of such a nature that they cannot be understood by either their peers or teachers, and that an estimated 0.8 to 1.2 percent of the U.S. population have communication impairments strong

enough to warrant AAC. The percentages translate to between 2.5 and 3.5 million Americans afflicted with communication impairments.

It's hard to thoroughly comprehend the frustration these individuals must experience on a daily basis, especially since many of them have well-developed ideas but merely lack the resources to express them.

Fortunately, with the Unity program, and other AAC devices, they can now enjoy a sense of confidence in being able to express their thoughts in ways that other people can understand.

At the end of the day, Melissa Backstrom and Gary Lucas can look with satisfaction on the far-reaching effects of their work.

By putting together so many top-level educational opportunities, their work is helping to advance a large number of healing modalities for individuals with speech and hearing disorders.



The Loma Linda University Medical Center department of speech-language pathology is developing a reputation for excellence in educational programs. In this image, Margaret Perkins, MA, a regional consultant for Prentke Romich Company, demonstrates how easy it is to use an augmentative and alternative communication device her firm manufactures to help individuals who cannot communicate through speech because of impairments caused by autism, stroke, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (also known as Lou Gehrig's disease), head injury, cerebral palsy, apraxia, and dysarthria.

Cops for Kids Fly-In brings goodies and goodwill to LLUCH kids

BY JAMES PONDER

Don Miskulin is up in the air. Make that *was* up in the air. A moment after directing the Hughes 500 helicopter he is piloting into the airspace between the Loma Linda University Church and Prince Hall, Mr. Miskulin sets the bird down on the lawn. Something's going wrong with the big bird.

Clark Bassham and I can hear Officer Miskulin talking over the headphones with co-pilot Mike Pelissero and with pilots of two other helicopters circling above us. But between the crackling static of the headphones and the loud drone of the engine, it's nearly impossible to tell what they're saying. We also hear a piercing, high-pitched sound we can't identify. Our ride isn't going anywhere, and we'd like to know why.

Officers Miskulin and Pelissero fly for the Riverside Police Department. Mr. Bassham is a second-year student at the LLU School of Dentistry, and I'm on assignment to cover the 10th annual Cops for Kids Fly-In as a reporter and photographer.

Don Miskulin is also one of two founders of the Cops for Kids Fly-In, the humanitarian, airlifted toy drive for hospitalized kids, which he started in 1999 with Jeff Werblun of the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department. Due to a mechanical breakdown in the aircraft Officer Werblun was scheduled to fly from Sacramento last night, he can't attend

today's event. Too bad, too—like Mr. Miskulin and Mr. Pelissero, Mr. Werblun's a nice guy with a big heart.

A group of 15 to 20 curious individuals gathers on the sidewalk in front of the Church to watch our dilemma. I stick my camera outside and snap photos of the curious crowd and the beautiful facade of the Church. Then I turn to Clark Bassham, who looks at me and shrugs.

A group of 10 or 15 law enforcement officials moves through the halls of 4800, the hematology/oncology unit at LLU Children's Hospital, meeting kids who couldn't come downstairs to the Stater Bros. Activity Center to pick out a toy earlier. Corporal Kurt Franklin of the Riverside County Sheriff's Department's aviation unit seems to be enjoying himself perhaps just a bit more than his fellow officers. Corporal Franklin is spending the final day before his retirement tomorrow from 33 years in professional law enforcement by helping kids.

The year 2008 has been good to Officer Franklin: along with Deputy Chad Marlatt, his partner in the aviation unit, Mr. Franklin received the Airborne Law Enforcement Association's coveted Captain "Gus" Crawford Memorial Air Crew of the Year Award this year.

The association is an international organization dedicated to promoting excellence in a dangerous field. The Crawford Award—the association's highest honor—is given to an individ-

ual or aircrew for heroic action or outstanding performance in a critical incident.

Earlier this morning, Kurt Franklin received another award, or rather, reward, from a little boy of the same first name whom Officer Franklin helped into the cockpit of his helicopter. As the two Kurts grinned from ear to ear, the boy's mom snapped pictures to commemorate the occasion. The smile little Kurt gave big Kurt was a warm and fitting tribute to Corporal Franklin's career.

At LLU Children's Hospital and associated LLUAHSC entities, organizers acknowledge that too many people are involved to enumerate, but they take care to point out the following individuals for special thanks: Zareh Sarrafian, MBA, administrator, for hosting the event and welcoming the officers to LLUCH; George Johnston, assistant vice president at LLU Adventist Health Sciences Center, for obtaining permits to allow the helicopters to land on the lawn; George DeLange, executive director of hospitality services at LLUMC, for moving equipment and supplies; Lieutenant John D. Marshall of the LLU security department, for closing off the front entrance to LLUCH so the SWAT vehicle and 17 motorcycles could arrive in style; Steve Hertel, executive director of traffic and parking for LLUMC, for maintaining the flow of traffic without significant disruption; Chuck Powell, director of dispatch services at

LLUMC, for providing transportation services for law enforcement officers; Gerhard Steudel, director of landscaping services at LLU Health Services, for making sure no sprinklers came on during the landing; Dorothy Clark Brooks, child life specialist at LLUCH, for providing tours of the Children's Hospital units for the officers, and assisting the children in making posters to welcome the officers; Lee Ann Gridley, teacher of the LLUCH school, for helping the kids make thank-you cards for all the officers; and finally, Luke the Lion, the venerable mascot of LLUCH, for welcoming everybody and posing for countless photos throughout the day.

To the kids on the ground, the Fly-In seems a lot like Christmas. The officers may not dress in red or arrive in sleighs pulled by reindeer, but they do descend from the sky with bags full of presents and goodies. What's more, it isn't every day that kids get to climb inside helicopters and pretend to guide the airship into the skies. Nor do they get so much attention from police officers or roving reporters who point video cameras in their direction and ask how it feels to sit inside a chopper. Sometimes the children are too shy to reply, but sometimes they're not. When the verdict comes in, they say it feels terrific.

The interior of the Stater Bros. Activity Center on the first floor of LLU Children's Hospital looks like a crowded toy store. There are goodies

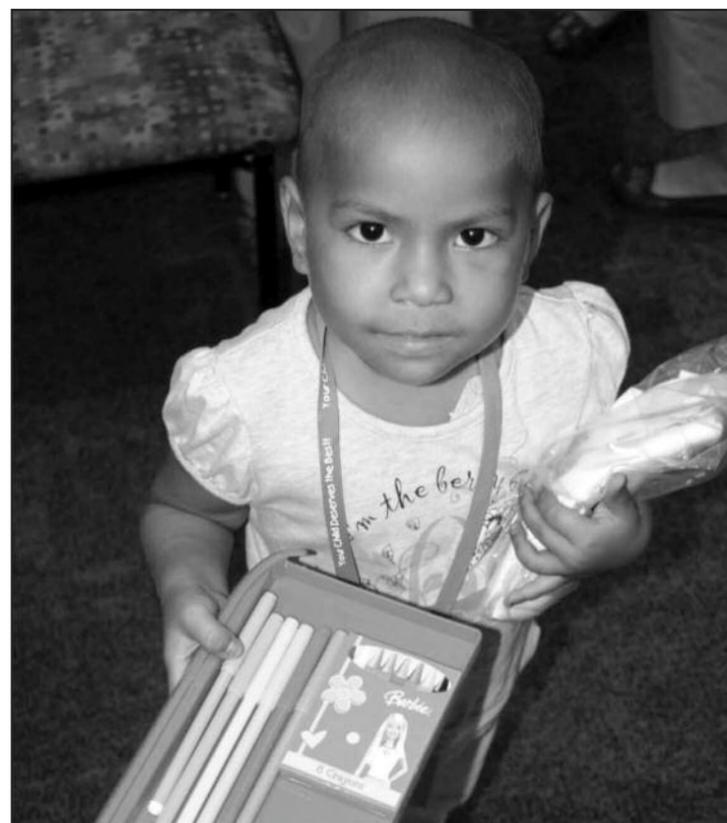
and games of every description and color piled on tables all over the room. Officials and employees of the child life department are quick to make sure every child gets to pick out a present or two. Some of the kids are pushing portable IV stands; others are in wheelchairs. All of them are attending to the serious business of selecting their favorite toys as if were a matter of earnest importance.

Salvador Briseno takes his time. With mom by his side, the 9-year-old patient moves from one table to another, eyeing action figures, foot-powered rocket launchers, model cars, and video games. His expression seems to shift by the moment as first one, then another, of the brightly packaged playthings catch his eye. It's not hard to imagine he's having the time of his life.

In 2002, the Airborne Law Enforcement Association recognized the Cops for Kids Fly-In with the Robert L. Cormier Memorial Award, the organization's highest honor. The award is presented to an individual or group in recognition of outstanding achievement in the advancement of aircraft in public use. Officer Miskulin points out that Loma Linda is not alone: there have been Cops for Kids Fly-Ins at Shriners Hospital for Children in Sacramento, and at UC Davis Children's Hospital for the last three years. Those events draw about 100 officers from a dozen central and northern California agencies every year.



Corporal Kurt Franklin and his younger namesake smile for the camera. Corporal Franklin, who retired from 33 years of law enforcement service the day after the 10th annual Cops for Kids Fly-In at Loma Linda University Children's Hospital, hoisted his new friend into the cockpit moments before learning that he and the boy share the same first name.



A patient of Loma Linda University Children's Hospital proudly displays the gifts she chose from the huge supply of toys, games, and dolls that members of the 10th annual Cops for Kids Fly-In brought on September 23, 2008. The girl chose a set of colorful marking pens and some clothes for her doll.



Moms, dads, uncles, aunts, and lots of kids gather for a snapshot in front of the University Church during the 10th annual Cops for Kids Fly-in on September 23, 2008. The children got to climb inside the helicopter and pretend they were flying. The Fly-In is sponsored by a group of law enforcement officers who love kids.



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Walanika Lum, SP'08 (left), Phi Lambda Sigma alumna, corded Noella Ndreka, SP'09 (center). Tuan Pham, SP'10 (right), current Phi Lambda Sigma member, pinned Noella Ndreka, officially inducting her into the Gamma Beta chapter of Phi Lambda Sigma.

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School of Pharmacy honor society inducts 11 new members

BY JIM PINDER, JD, MBA
Nine School of Pharmacy students, one faculty member, and one honorary member were inducted into Phi Lambda Sigma, Gamma Beta chapter, on September 28.

The induction banquet, held at Wong Kerlee International Conference Center, honored those who were chosen by their peers for their exemplary leadership skills.

The nine students included (class of 2009) Noella Ndreka, Nga Nguyen, and Norela Ocampo; (class of 2010) Thu Hoang, Alice Khong, Tiffany Royer, and Larry Rutebuka; (class of 2011) Scott Glenny and Caroline Nguyen.

The inducted faculty member was Rebecca Cheung, PharmD, assistant professor in the department of pharmacotherapy and outcomes science. The inducted honorary member was Brian Hodgkins, PharmD, director of pharmacy at Desert Regional Medical Center. Dr. Hodgkins was also the guest speaker for the event.

Total current membership in Phi Lambda Sigma, Gamma Beta chapter includes 17 students, 12 faculty, and three honorary members.

Phi Lambda Sigma was founded in 1965 to honor leadership. For students to be eligible for membership, they must be of "high moral and ethical character," have successfully completed at least one professional year in a recognized pharmacy program, and demonstrated exceptional leadership qualities.

Excerpt from the book

Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. Matthew 5:5, KJV

I had to smile when I walked into the room.

Not because a large man with a pony tail wearing dark leather pants was pacing the room. Not because he had a leather belt with a buckle identifying him as a member of a motorcycle group. Not because he was wearing a sleeveless tight undershirt and had tattoos covering his muscle-filled biceps.

No, I smiled because sitting next to him on the bed was a six-year-old boy dressed just like him.



The boy's undershirt didn't fit so well. His little thin arms poked out like a stick-man drawing. Yet, he had the requisite ponytail and leather pants. His undershirt was blood stained from a forehead wound. A quick evaluation of the wound verified that he needed stitches. "This is something we can fix. I expect things to heal up just fine," I said, trying to put them at ease. They both looked at me—wanting to trust that I could make things okay.

I described how I would wash out the wound, make it numb, and then work on the sutures. The little boy looked worried, and, despite my verbal assurances, I wasn't sure he would be able to hold still for the procedure. I explained that a nurse might be needed to help him cooperate.

"That won't be necessary. I'll hold him," the man said. Skeptical, I set up the tray of supplies. I made sure a nurse was close by.

As I started to wash out the wound, the boy whimpered. I braced myself for a difficult job. The motorcycle man leaned across the boy's chest. He offered soothing words. "It's OK; she knows what she's doing. You'll be fine." I had to adjust the drape as the man's ponytail was close to my sterile field.

I decided that I wouldn't call the nurse. It soon became clear that his holding of the boy was more for comfort than restraint. Amazed at the tenderness, I kept working. The boy's fingers grabbed tight to the muscle-filled arm, making tiny red dents among the tattoos.



I finished the job. The little boy reached up and hugged the motorcycle man. They both had tears in their eyes. Touched, I said, "You are really good with your son."

"Oh, he's not my son," he corrected. "He is just a kid from the neighborhood we took in. His momma is high on cocaine most of the time when she's not turning tricks to buy more. We never saw his old man. My wife and I just kinda look out for him."

I was quiet a minute, then I realized that it was my turn to talk. "That is wonderful," I said. "What a difference you are making!"

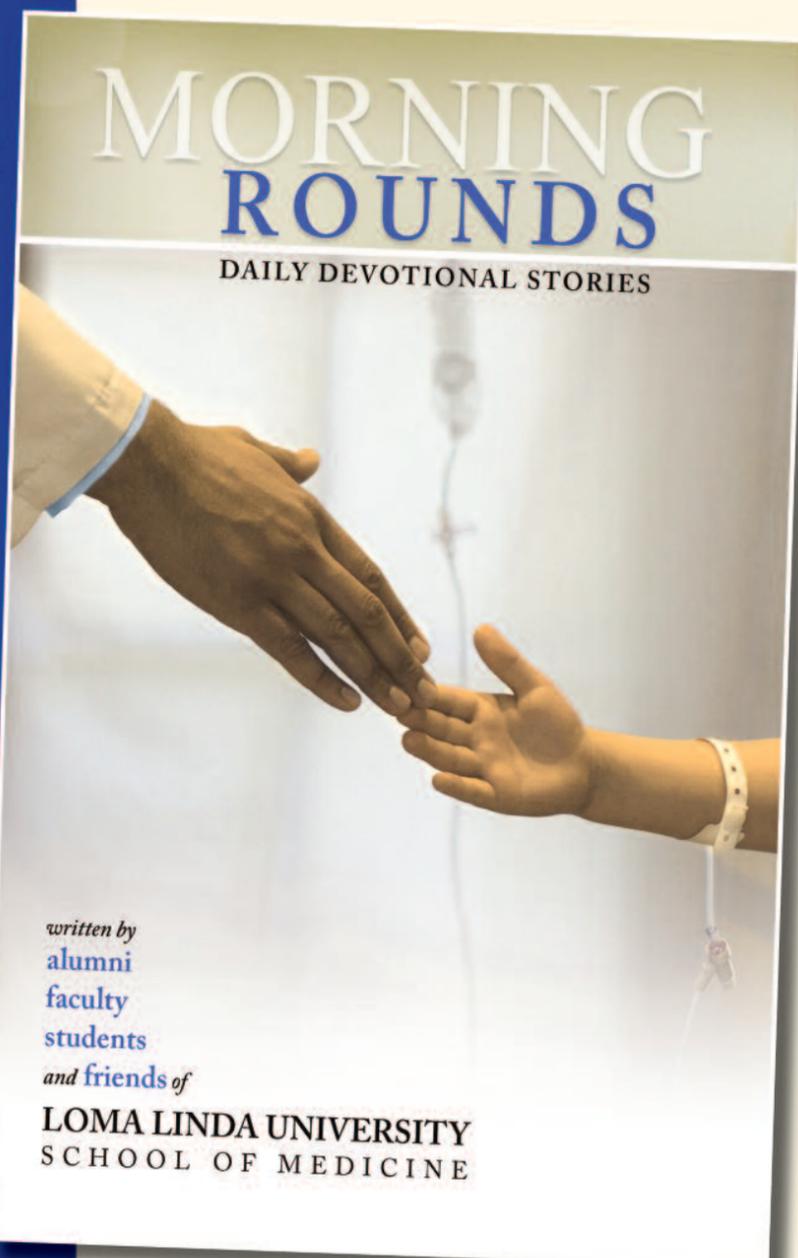
He looked at me with an unexpected shyness, and said, "Oh, this is nothing. It's not like I am saving the world or something like you, Doc."



"Oh, but you are," I said.

Kathleen Clem is a LLUSM graduate, class of 1989. Kathleen is associate professor in and chair of LLUSM department of emergency medicine. She is also the first woman to chair a department at LLUSM.

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Next
LLU TODAY
October 27,
2008

Eleventh annual research symposium explores bone and joint development

BY JAMES PONDER

Although the theme for the 11th annual basic science research symposium of the Loma Linda University School of Medicine was "bone and joint development and physiology," the event—held on September 10, 2008, in Wong Kerlee International Conference Center—encompassed a wider range of scientific and ideological issues than the title might imply.

"The symposium provided a wonderful opportunity for the School of Medicine faculty, students, and staff to interact, refocus on the new school year, share our scientific discoveries, and broach some of the challenging questions facing our scientific communities," says Kerby Oberg, MD, PhD, chair of the symposium organizing committee, and associate professor at LLU. "I am thankful that we work at an institution that not only allows this type of collaborative interaction and scientific inquiry, but embraces it."

In his welcome, Ronald Carter, PhD, vice chancellor for academic affairs at LLU, observed that while Loma Linda University is widely known for excellence in training health care providers, the heart and soul of a university is the acquisition of new knowledge through research.

"Science hasn't been accomplished until you've published your findings in a peer-reviewed journal," Dr. Carter noted. He said that Loma Linda University is uniquely positioned to blend faith and reason in its pursuit of truth. "The journey, the attempt to hear all perspectives, is what we cherish here at Loma Linda."

In his opening remarks, Dr. Oberg stressed the importance of bridging the gap between basic and clinical science, and he pointed with pride to the fact that the annual research symposium has been doing that for the past 11 years. He then introduced Tom Linkhart, PhD, professor in the departments of biochemistry and microbiology; research professor of pediatrics at the LLU School of Medicine; and career scientist at Jerry L. Pettis VA Medical Center.

Dr. Linkhart, who chaired the meeting's mini-symposium on molecu-

lar aspects of development, opened with an unusual expression of gratitude. "I'd like to thank the Internet for giving us DNA sequences—no more photocopying at the library," he said. He then introduced the presenters for the mini-symposium: Kimberly Payne, PhD, assistant professor of pathology and human anatomy at LLU; Dr. Oberg; and Subburaman Mohan, PhD, research professor in medicine, biochemistry, and physiology, and director of the musculoskeletal disease center at Jerry L. Pettis VA Medical Center.

In her presentation on B cell development during ontogeny, Dr. Payne noted that B cells are specialized cells of the immune system that give rise to antibodies, and that when B cell development goes awry, cancer, lupus, and other diseases of the immune system result. "B cell development begins in the liver early in life," she explained, "then occurs in the bone marrow. B cells are generated continuously throughout life."

Dr. Payne's presentation quickly transitioned from the basics into a discussion of the roles played by Ikaros, an essential regulator of lymphocyte differentiation, and interleukin-7, a growth factor secreted by the stromal cells of the red marrow in the process of B cell development. She also discussed in vitro culture models that she and her team have developed for studies of human B cell development.

Dr. Oberg asked a question to launch his presentation. It laid the foundation for everything else he said: how can molecular biology help us further define or classify formation issues related to limb anomalies? To answer the question, Dr. Oberg invoked a trio of abbreviations: AER, FGF, and SHH. The apical ectodermal ridge (AER) exerts a considerable influence in vertebrate limb development via fibroblast growth factors (FGF) that initiate and maintain limb outgrowth, and Sonic hedgehog (SHH), a potent morphogen which shapes limbs as they develop.

Dr. Oberg ended with an observation. "On the molecular level, we fine-tune what is seen on the gross or anatomic level," he said. "The bottom line is that the molecular basis of limb



Service of dedication held for LLUAHSC president

On August 26, the members of the Board and institutional administration participated in a dedication service for Richard H. Hart, MD, DrPH, president, Loma Linda University Adventist Health Sciences Center. Lowell Cooper, MDiv, MPH, chair of the Board, led out in the reading of a specially prepared litany, and Donald Schneider, vice chair of the Board, offered the dedicatory prayer. Participating in the service were (from left) Darold Retzer, executive pastor, Loma Linda University Church; Mr. Cooper; B. Lyn Behrens, MBBS, immediate past president, LLUAHSC; Dr. Hart; Judy Hart, MS, RN; Ruthita Fike, MA, CEO, Loma Linda University Medical Center; and Kevin J. Lang, MBA, executive vice president for finance, LLUAHSC.

development doesn't appear to change the classification scheme; it refines and clarifies it."

The final presenter of the mini-symposium was Dr. Mohan, who delivered his analysis on the role of ephrin-B1 reverse signaling in skeletal development. After pointing out that "bone development is a complex process," Dr. Mohan talked about two transcription factor proteins, namely RUNX-2 and osterix, before addressing the function of ephrin-B1, a bone growth factor.

Dr. Mohan presented data using a mouse model, which demonstrated that disruption of the ephrin-B1 gene, specifically in osteoblasts, caused serious defects in the development of craniofacial bone. In terms of the mechanism by which ephrin-B1 regulates skeletal development, he pointed out that typically, when a growth factor binds to a receptor, it leads to the activation of a receptor-mediated signaling cascade called forward signaling. However, in the case of ephrin-B1, the interaction between it and its receptor leads to activation of a ligand-mediated signaling cascade called reverse signaling, which results in the transcriptional activation

of osterix and other genes, and a subsequent bone formation process.

In introducing Clifford J. Tabin, PhD, professor and chair of genetics at Harvard Medical School in Boston, Massachusetts, and presenter of the Ryckman lecture at the symposium, Dr. Oberg noted that, "Dr. Tabin seems younger than me. Maybe he got his PhD at age 12." He went on to say that "Dr. Tabin has consistently been at the forefront of developmental biology for several decades."

When Dr. Tabin took the podium for his presentation on the development and evolution of vertebrate morphology, he began by telling a funny story about the Sonic hedgehog (SHH) homolog and its unusual name. Apparently the post-doctoral student who discovered and named the vertebrate homolog of the *Drosophila* gene—called hedgehog for the bushy appearance of the fly when the gene is knocked-out—played the bass guitar in a rock band and liked the connection to all things sonic. Hence the nomenclature: Sonic hedgehog.

Dr. Tabin went on to describe what happened as the spouse of one of his research associates was driving home one afternoon. "He passed a McDonald's on the way and noticed that they were featuring a promotion on Sonic the Hedgehog," Dr. Tabin shares. "So he ran to a pay phone—this was before the days of cell phones—and called his wife and said, 'McDonald's is doing a promotion on Cliff's gene!'"

In reality, of course, the colorful McDonald's campaign focused on the newly released cartoon character by Sega, but the zippy little hedgehog is not a bad metaphor for the impressive role this protein plays in digit and limb development.

"My laboratory has a strong interest in morphology," Dr. Tabin asserted in setting the stage for his discussion on asymmetrical environment of the interior of the human body. "How do you modify the instructions," he asked, "that turn a one-celled organism into an animal, then into different animals?"

The question, of course, reflects Dr. Tabin's interest in evolutionary biology,

a discipline some Adventist scientists approach with caution. But Dr. Tabin found an appreciative response for his candor in acknowledging the differences. "I realize there are people in this room, and in the world at large, who do not share my views," he commented.

Dr. Tabin's lecture explored the molecular basis for asymmetrical development and the genetic basis for the loss of eyes in the Mexican cave tetra (*Astyanax mexicanus*), also known as the blind cave fish.

Many of our organs are asymmetrical. "The heart is left-sided," Dr. Tabin observed, "but it's a complex pump, and complicated to study. The lungs are also asymmetrical, fitting around the heart. The intestinal tract, however, is a simple elongated tube, but it is also asymmetrical."

Because of its relative simplicity, the small intestine was selected for a study utilizing electroporation to probe the mechanism by which asymmetrical formation occurs in the body. Electroporation is a technology designed to focally alter gene expression, which allows scientists to unravel the molecular programming during an organ's development.

In the small intestine, asymmetrical development is triggered by unique molecular programming that accelerates tissue growth on one side of the organism. The asymmetrical growth is slight, but substantial enough to direct the orientation of rotation as the intestines continue to grow.

The studies on the blind cave fish demonstrated that multiple genes were disrupted during the progression to blindness, which argues for a pleiotropic function for some of these genes, i.e., they effect multiple features of the fish.

At 6:00 p.m., Dr. Oberg announced the winners of the student oral presentation and poster contests. First place in the oral contest went to Eva Sahakian. Second place was awarded to Rachel McKenzie. Kurt Meyer took third, and Jason Herring won fourth place. In the poster contest, Andrew Galffy won first prize, Gabriel Linares took second, Asharie Campbell won third, and Nathan Chan took home an honorable mention.



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**LOMA LINDA
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Dental students present research during IADR annual meeting in Toronto

BY NANCY YUEN

Fourth-year dental students Dane McClurg and Vanessa Chun traveled to Toronto, Canada for the International Association of Dental Research (IADR) annual meeting,

Retirement party...

Continued from page 8

daughter, Laura), and Della Bonson of Redlands. Wow, what a pleasant surprise!"

Ms. Bonson had a fabulous time at the celebration and was thoroughly delighted that so many others were there to share it with her.

"Loma Linda has grown in leaps and bounds," she shares. "The new hospital opened in 1967, and in 1968, I came to work as an operator." Not long after that, she got to meet the politician she had talked to over the phone.

How fitting, then, that the occasion should officially conclude with one final story about Richard Nixon.

"Shortly after, President Nixon landed in an oversized helicopter on the grass between the hospital and the dental school," she recalls.

In the same way that her associations with the president and the crooner have come to an end, Della Bonson's career has likewise come full circle. Forty years is a long time to answer the phone, and it was time to lay down the receiver and let someone else handle the calls.

In a healing entity as large as Loma Linda University Medical Center, employees come and go all the time. But seldom does a retirement party offer such intimate glimpses of an America just past as Della Bonson's did. In an age when transience is a way of life, Ms. Bonson's admirable record of staying in one place and doing her job with passion, dedication, and commitment for 40 years is a remarkable accomplishment.

Peru tour slated for March 20-28, 2009

For nearly 10 years, Loma Linda University students, faculty, and benefit-eligible employees have participated in an annual Andes and Amazon River spring vacation study tour to Peru.

Offered through Loma Linda University School of Religion and led by Charles Teel Jr., PhD, adjunct professor of ethical studies, this tour is scheduled for March 20 to 28, 2009, during Loma Linda University's spring vacation. A three-day extension to south Peru's Ballestas Islands will also be offered.

While the tour rate is \$3,190 for the nine days (an additional \$990 for the tour extension), Loma Linda University benefit-eligible employees may enroll in the 2009 winter quarter coursework meeting on Sunday, January 4, 11, and 26, 2008, with the tour rate reduced to \$1,134 for graduate students and \$1,346 for undergraduate students.

Information sessions are scheduled for Sunday afternoons November 9, December 7, and January 4 in the University Church, room 111.

where they presented their orthodontic research titled "Orthodontic bracket induced contrast changes in NewTom and iCAT images." They were also the recipients of a \$1,000 American Association for Dental Research travel bloc grant to help assist with travel expenses.

The department of orthodontics and the Center for Dental Research at LLU also provided funds enabling them to present their research.

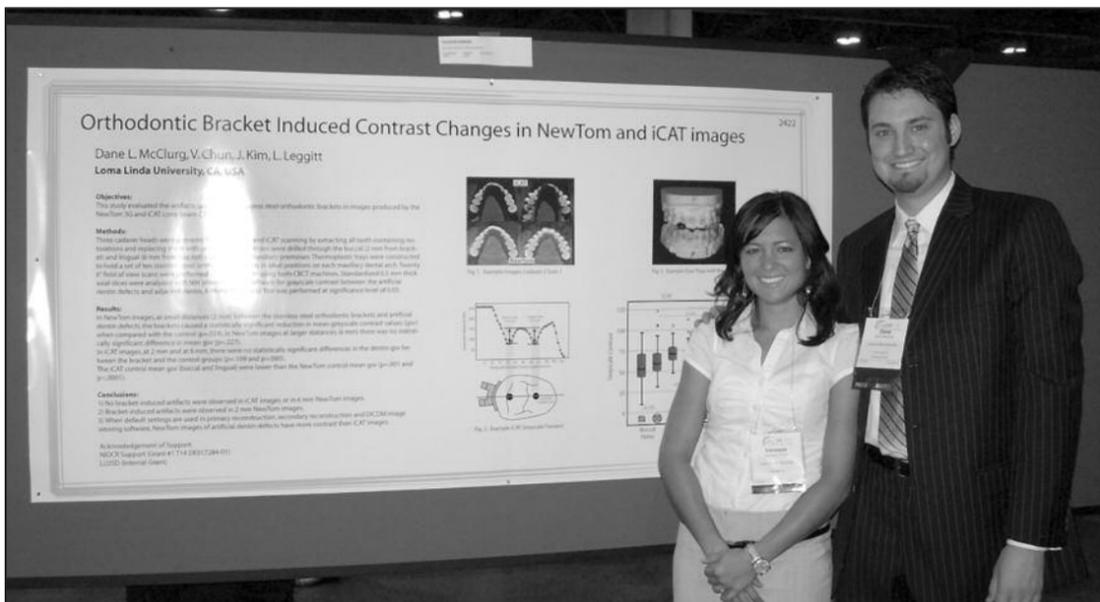
While there, they learned about many new advances in dental research as well as reconnected with Carla Beneduce, RDH, a former instructor at the School.

"It was an amazing experience," says Mr. McClurg, "to travel to Canada to represent Loma Linda University at the IADR meeting. The recent developments in CBCT technology have revolutionized the way many orthodontists diagnose and treat their patients. The increased information provided using 3-D imaging creates a very powerful instrument in effectively evaluating each case."

Both students plan to pursue advanced dental education in orthodontics after graduation and are currently in the application process. Leroy Leggitt, DDS, PhD, MS, program

director, advanced education program in orthodontics, was research mentor and provided technical expertise throughout the project. Plans are being made to have the research pub-

lished in a peer-reviewed orthodontic journal in the coming months. Jay Kim, PhD, professor, dental education services, provided the statistical analysis for the research.



Fourth-year dental students Vanessa Chun and Dane McClurg present their research project, "Orthodontic bracket induced contrast changes in NewTom and iCAT images," at the International Association of Dental Research annual meeting in Toronto, Canada.

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Medical Center switchboard operator retires after 40 years of service

BY JAMES PONDER

You can learn a lot by hanging out at retirement parties.

Take Della Bonson's for instance. When Ms. Bonson retired after 40 years on the job at the LLU Medical Center switchboard on Thursday, June 12, 2008, she had a few eyebrow-raising confessions to make.

Not just garden-variety gossip, mind you. Ms. Bonson came clean about her walk on the wild side with Johnny Cash and her flamboyant failure to communicate with the president of the United States.

The scene was room 1830 in LLU Children's Hospital. There was Ms. Bonson—dressed in a pair of blue slacks and a light blue top—surrounded by a cadre of co-workers, friends, and relatives determined to send her on her way with all the pomp and circumstance befitting a career that spanned four decades. One after another, the guests rose up to pay tribute to Ms. Bonson's admirable work ethic and homespun conviviality.

While it might have seemed like you could have heard a pin drop as Ms. Bonson stood to receive a commemorative plaque from her boss, you actually did hear a gaggle of laughter once she told about her embarrassing encounter with Richard Nixon.

Apparently the 37th president of the United States was planning a trip to Loma Linda University Medical Center to announce the government's decision to build a hospital in Loma Linda to replace the Veterans Administration Hospital that collapsed during the deadly San Fernando earthquake on February 9, 1971. As fate would have it, Della Bonson answered the phone when the chief executive called. However, because everything was being done under a mantle of top secrecy, President Nixon did not tell Ms. Bonson who he was.

Ms. Bonson meant to put the call on hold, but she accidentally hung up. Moments later, she got a call from the White House demanding

to know why she had hung up the phone on none other than Richard Milhous Nixon. Needless to say, the shocked Ms. Bonson apologized profusely, and peace was restored to the free world.

Her encounter with Johnny Cash was similarly unexpected.

"Returning to LLUMC from a lunch-hour errand for my boss, I saw Johnny Cash on the circle drive by the lobby," Ms. Bonson recalls. "He was waiting for his car."

She pauses a moment before finishing the story. "I wasn't clocked-in, so they couldn't fire me for 'bothering a celebrity,'" she notes with a straight face.

"I said, 'Sir, may I shake your hand?'"

It's probably worth noting—in fact, it's a testament to the largesse of his personality—that the famous Mr. Cash responded to Della Bonson's question with a resounding, "Why, shore!"

Ms. Bonson remembers that his hands were "impressive, big, and

down-home, and wonderful. I told him, as I left, that we had read about Johnny and June Carter Cash, and that we were praying for them. He thanked me. What a memory!"

Ms. Bonson seems equally wowed by the turnout at her going-away party. Not only did former bosses and co-workers show up for the momentous occasion, but so did members of her family, many of whom came from very long dis-

tances just to be there.

"My retirement was stunning!" she reflects. "I knew that four of the living six brothers and sisters were coming. The third brother, Jim, of Northern California, finally got off from his job at Merced Airport. June 12, in walked Walter Bonson of Renton, Washington. Also here was Bill Bonson, of Hesperia, John Bonson, of Mentone, Mary Lou Sanford, of San Diego (with her

Please turn to page 7

Public relations staff take home top awards

BY RICHARD WEISMEYER

At the annual Public Relations Society of America awards banquet, held Wednesday evening, May 30, at Riverside Art Gallery, Loma Linda University took home several top-level awards.

"Loma Linda 360," LLU's broadcast show, received the Polaris Award of Excellence. Maranatha Hay, Patricia Thio, and Michael Wolcott, MS, special projects editors, office of University relations, were on hand to receive the award.

"This is my first award, and it is humbling to be recognized among our peers," says Ms. Hay.

Produced by the office of University relations, "Loma Linda 360" tells stories reflecting the institution's mission to make man whole. Reaching about four million people in



Loma Linda University Health Services employees winning awards at the annual Public Relations Society of America awards banquet display their awards. Pictured (from left) are Dustin Jones, MA; Maranatha Hay; Patricia Thio, and Michael Wolcott, MS.

Southern California, it is aired on four different television stations. It is also available worldwide through Loma Linda Broadcasting Network

and on the Internet at <youtube.com/lomalinda360>. For more information, visit the show's website at <llu.edu/360>.

For the third year in a row, the *Adventist Health International Annual Report* received the Polaris Award. Dustin R. Jones, MA, special projects editor, office of University relations, serves as editor for the report and provides the layout and design. Richard H. Hart, MD, DrPH, president of Adventist Health International, is executive editor for the annual report.

Additionally, Mr. Jones received the Polaris Award for his work on *Loma Linda Nurse*, the alumni publication for the School of Nursing.

Mr. Jones serves as editor for *Loma Linda Nurse* and provides layout and design for the publication. Marilyn Herrmann, PhD, RN, dean of the School of Nursing, serves as executive editor.

Awards were judged by Public Relations Society of America members from other chapters and were designed to recognize outstanding public relations achievements from the previous year. The Inland Empire chapter presents two awards—the Capella Award for achievement in public relations and the Polaris Award for superior achievement in public relations.



It is said "You can observe a lot just by looking." That phrase may have been referring to Della Bonson who recently retired from four decades of service to the patients and staff of Loma Linda University Medical Center as a switchboard operator. What did Ms. Bonson observe? Johnny Cash standing in front of the Medical Center, for one thing. And that hanging up on the president of the United States doesn't have to ruin your career, for another.

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