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Alumni Journal, School of Medicine

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Fall 2022

## **Alumni Journal - Volume 93, Number 3**

Loma Linda University School of Medicine

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# ALUMNI JOURNAL

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION,  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE  
OF LOMA LINDA  
UNIVERSITY

FALL/  
WINTER  
2022



## BIOETHICS AT LLU

The history and growth of bioethics at Loma Linda University and a look at the programs offered today

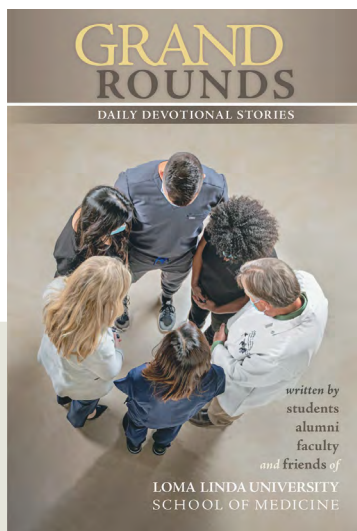
## INSIDE:

Alumni Trips | Department Report: Family Medicine  
| APC 2023 Preview | Mission Stories



# GRAND ROUNDS

*“But then I recall all you have done, O Lord;  
I remember your wonderful deeds of long ago.”  
Psalm 77:11, NLT*



**T**he beeping of my beeper reminded me that Christmas Eve will not be a quiet call night. Instead of calling the ER, I got up and walked down the hallways of the Jerry L. Pettis Memorial Veterans Medical Center. The nurses’ stations had their Christmas decorations in force. Yes, the Christmas spirit was alive.

His name was John, and he was lying on a gurney with a nasal cannula and an IV in his arm. From afar he was not in any acute distress. I went to the ER physician and asked the reason for admission.

Social admission. (In the 1980s we admitted veterans to the hospital for social reasons. Things have changed.) There was not much information in his paper chart, except for the letters ALS. Lou Gehrig’s disease.

John was a vet in his early 30s. He had had ALS for some time, and he knew what it was all about as I gathered his medical history. One thing that came across as I was asking questions was the look of peace in his face.

“I know my end is near,” he whispered.

“So why come to the hospital this Christmas Eve?” I asked. “Don’t you want to be with your family?”

“We already gathered together earlier for Christmas,” he shared. “My two daughters already opened their gifts. We had a good time.” They were young children.

“I told my wife to take me here once the girls were asleep. A friend took me here.”

He shared the reasons he wanted to be admitted to the hospital. His wife also knew.

“If something happens to me tonight or tomorrow, I don’t want my girls to see the face of death at home,” he reasoned.

“I want them to have a merry Christmas and remember me during the times we were happy,” he added.

I wrote admitting orders and wrote DNR.

As I tried to get a few hours of sleep that Christmas Eve, my thoughts turned to John. Beyond the material gifts he gave to his girls, he wanted to give a lasting gift of happy memories to them. I did get a few hours of sleep after midnight, wondering if I would have to endorse John to the incoming team on Christmas Day.

My beeper woke me up 4:00 a.m. on Christmas morning. I called the nurses’ station from our call room.

“Could you pronounce our DNR patient?” I heard a nurse’s voice over the phone.

I won’t have to endorse John to the next team on Christmas Day, but I will endorse his story to them.

Happy memories could be as much a gift for Christmas as gifts we wrapped for each other.

*Bevan Geslani completed his internal medicine residency at LLUH in 1987 and is now an assistant professor in LLUSM’s department of medicine. He graduated from LLUSPH class of 2009 with an MBA. He is married to Maysie Gerona (SAHP class of 1980) and has two married children: Van Geslani (LLUSM class of 2008) and Alison Geslani Chong (LLUSN class of 2008). His training at LLUMC and the Jerry L. Pettis Memorial Veterans Medical Center in Loma Linda, California, prepared him for the 24 years they spent serving at the Guam SDA Clinic. He believes that the Lord sometimes places us in unexpected situations to be a blessing to others.*



# ALUMNI JOURNAL



## EDITORIALS

- 2 From the Editor
- 4 From the President
- 6 From the Dean

## NEWS

- 8 Alumni News + This and That
- 10 APC 2023 Preview
- 12 School of Medicine News
- 14 Students  
By ALANNA ASGEIRSSON ('23)
- 16 Department Report: Family Medicine  
DANIEL R. REICHERT '88 shares departmental updates.

## BIOETHICS

- 18 What Does the Lord Require of Us?  
GRACE W. OEI '04 highlights the incredible work being done in bioethics at LLU, including the history of bioethics on campus, key founding faculty, the Center for Christian Bioethics, reflections from recent graduates, and a discussion on the unique integration of bioethics in a Christian medical school curriculum.

## FEATURES

- 26 Alumni Mission Stories
  - 28 Malawi: BRENT SHERWIN '15
  - 30 Kenya: DENNY HONG '15
  - 34 Nigeria: RANDELL SKAU '82 & MELINDA SKAU '82
  - 36 Ukraine: TROY ANDERSON '94
- 41 Alumni Trips 2022  
Featuring the two 2022 Alumni Association trips: The Heart of Europe Tour and the Rhine River Cruise
- 46 Life After Medicine  
By JON R. KATTENHORN '74
- 48 Historical Snapshot  
By DENNIS E. PARK, MA, '07-HON

## IN MEMORIAM

- 51 Alumni Remembered  
Featured Obituaries: STEWART W. SHANKEL '58 and ERNEST S. ZANE '56

*On the Cover: A collage of images depicting events and areas of medicine which challenge us to consider questions of bioethics and clinical ethics, including Dr. Leonard Bailey and Baby Fae; Dr. Jack Provonsha, a pioneer of bioethics at LLU; a rendering of a physician contemplating their patient; and lab-based research.*

## ALUMNI JOURNAL

Fall/Winter 2022  
Volume 93, Number 3

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# Can I? Should I?

I was a relatively new pediatric critical care attending when I received a text from one of my friends, a pediatric cardiac intensive care nurse. “What can be done isn’t always what SHOULD be done.” Boom. Mic drop. (This was almost ten years ago and mic drops were a thing then.) I closed my eyes and breathed a silent prayer for my friend. In this text, I could feel her swirling emotions—anguish for her patient, pride in her ability to provide quaternary-level pediatric care, uncertainty about the decision-making process. No doubt, multiple other team members caring for this patient—physician, nurse, and respiratory therapist—felt varying degrees of similar distress. Are we doing the right thing? Will this be worth it? How will we know if our collective decisions are right for our patient? This is a difficult place for a clinician to be. I think this brief text message encapsulates why I believe bioethics has been and will always remain a critical element in the practice of medicine.

Bioethics, according to Britannica.com, is the “branch of applied ethics that studies the philosophical, social, and legal issues arising in medicine and the life sciences.”<sup>1</sup> In other words, it is an examination of why we do the things we do in medicine. Clinical ethics is the practical application of our bioethical discussions. Ethical questions that arise within the practice of medicine are distinct from some of the more mechanical inquiries that result from discovering new knowledge. An example of these latter questions is ongoing scientific research into the molecular treatment of a known disease. Can this disease be cured by the application of a gene-level treatment? The corresponding ethical question is, “Should this disease be treated by application of a gene-level treatment?” Ethical

dilemmas are not always so dramatic. They are found within the everyday practice of medicine—even using the word “practice” has moral overtones. On whom are we practicing? How should we practice? Whether in public or private, many physicians have had the wearying experience of wrestling with the question, “Should...” in relation to their patient. I believe these experiences are infinitely worthwhile because, through reflection, we may be able to discern more clearly the goings and doings that occur within the patient/physician relationship. We may find ourselves refining the morals, ideals, and principles guiding our practice. Above all, the question, “Should...” properly situates the patient within medicine—at its center.

Loma Linda University School of Medicine is blessed that its administrators and educators had the foresight and leadership to establish bioethics at the heart of its campus and curriculum more than 40 years ago. In this edition of the *ALUMNI JOURNAL*, I am excited to provide a brief snapshot of how bioethics started on our campus and how it has grown. As part of the bioethics team at Loma Linda University Health (LLUH), I can assure you that our dedication to asking “Why...” and “Should...” remains as strong as ever. We are committed to helping clinicians at LLUH and beyond grapple with difficult ethical questions. I believe this is an essential part of the lifelong journey of medicine, and I invite you to come along as, together, we move toward wholeness. ■

#### Endnotes

1. [www.britannica.com/topic/bioethics](http://www.britannica.com/topic/bioethics)



Grace W. Oei '04  
Issue Editor

#### HOW TO GET INVOLVED WITH THE ALUMNI JOURNAL

- 1 **Communicate with us via:** Letters to the editor | Feedback, comments, and questions | Social media
- 2 **Notify us of:** Updates on life and career | In memoriam notices | Changes of address
- 3 **Contribute your:** Best photographs of hobbies, travel, and career | Manuscripts of stories, essays, and poems | Ideas for content, subjects, and themes
- 4 **Reach us at:** Email: [llusmaa@llu.edu](mailto:llusmaa@llu.edu) | Phone: 909-558-4633 | Address: 11245 Anderson St., Suite 200, Loma Linda, CA 92354

#### CORRECTIONS

In the Summer 2022 issue of the *ALUMNI JOURNAL*, on page 40, Dr. Eler Jaqua’s name was published as “Jaque.” We apologize for the spelling error.

For more information about the *ALUMNI JOURNAL*, how to submit an article, or to see past issues, please visit [www.llusmaa.org/journal](http://www.llusmaa.org/journal).

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# What Does the Lord Require?

Serving as the Alumni Association president remotely from Minnesota this year has presented a unique set of challenges. I am grateful for our amazing executive director, Calvin Chuang, whose incredible organizational talents have kept our processes intact and our Zoom docket full. Additionally, I appreciate the help of our past president, **JON R. KATTENHORN '74**, who has immensely assisted with day-to-day functions and operations such as paying Alumni Association bills and coordinating activities with the staff.

This issue of the *ALUMNI JOURNAL* is dedicated to the theme, "What does the Lord require of us?" When I think of the answer to this question, the Sabbath School song from Micah 6:8 pops into my head, "He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you, but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?" I hope you will keep this verse in mind as you peruse these pages, learning more about the Center for Christian Bioethics as well as the amazing humanitarian service our fellow alumni have been doing.

Recently, **ROGER HADLEY '74** stopped by my office in Minnesota to reconnect and catch up. It was an immense pleasure to carve out some time to hear updates about other graduates around the country with whom Dr. Hadley has connected and learned from. There are so many powerful stories of servitude both in the international mission field and here at home. As a past dean of the School of Medicine, Dr. Hadley compared notes of how we train our medical students with deans from other schools. The whole

person care approach we take, along with the direct integration of faith into the practice of medicine, is a truly one-of-a-kind medical school experience not available anywhere else.

Many of our retired doctors are still involved in mission work. **JAMES L. DAVIDIAN '70** is an example of one such person. He co-founded Adventist International Eye Services with **GORDON A. MILLER '75** over twenty years ago in Montemorelos, Mexico. This program has now grown into a major surgical training center for ophthalmology, has trained over 175 surgeons, and now supports over 12 clinics throughout Mexico. Dr. Davidian is not done; he has pivoted his focus to Madagascar and is working diligently to create another surgical training facility in a country with immense need, currently only serviced by 25 surgical ophthalmologists.

Stories like these abound within our alumni ranks and shed light on how each of us responds to the question, "What does the Lord require, and how may we be at His service?" We would love to connect with you and hear your personal journey or stories of fellow alumni. One key initiative of the Alumni Association is to document fascinating stories by creating video content, online stories, and the *ALUMNI JOURNAL* to celebrate the accomplishments of our membership and to inspire the next generation of physicians as they venture forward. ■



Jesse A. Dovich '03  
Alumni Association President

## PHOTO CONTEST WINNER

Congratulations, **EDWARD A. MCCLUSKEY '89**! You are the winner of this issue's photo contest. The Alumni Association will be in touch to arrange your prize.

For this photo contest, we invited you to identify the alumnus in the photo for a chance to win a prize. Thank you to all who participated and congratulations to our winner! Be sure to watch your email for more contests like this!

Did you miss the contest email but still want to participate? Here are a few hints: The alumnus pictured is a member of the class of 1969 and performed a groundbreaking and highly controversial procedure in 1984. **FIND THE ANSWERS ON PAGE 32.**



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# Kindly Differ

Reflecting on this *JOURNAL's* theme, "What does the Lord require of us?," it struck me how the world continues to become increasingly polarized. Are we training future physicians for this changing world? Are people looking for truth and what God requires of us? Are we asking questions to learn from those around us? Or, are we gathering data to support what we already believe?

Polarization is influenced by numerous factors, including how individual expectations and perceptions play into another's intent. Mismatches in expectations lead to misunderstandings. A patient comes into your office with a specific and unrealistic expectation, "I want an MRI today, I want to be admitted to the hospital now, I want antibiotics..." These expectation mismatches lead to unhappy patients. Differences in daily life can lead us to assume people have an ill intent. Differences in opinions can hold us back when we demonize those who differ with us. Even with this plethora of opinions, how different are we really? Maya Angelou starts her famous poem, "Human Family," with:

*I note the obvious differences  
in the human family.  
Some of us are serious,  
some thrive on comedy...*

She ends the poem with:

*...I note the obvious differences  
between each sort and type,  
but we are more alike, my friends,  
than we are unlike.*

*We are more alike, my friends,  
than we are unlike.<sup>1</sup>*

We are more alike, my friends, than unlike. Divisiveness is a defining workplace and leadership challenge of our time. With the many issues facing our nation, institution, medical practices, and lives, developing the skills to allow us to differ with others without demonizing them will serve us well. An interesting editorial points out it is dangerous to demonize our differences.<sup>2</sup> While we are in a space with many disagreements, a variety of opinions can be invaluable. They can result in a better product in the business place or health care organization. Demonizing points of view that differ

from our own results in an inability to see the strengths and weaknesses of alternative approaches.

Author Brené Brown's popular book, "Rising Strong," raises important questions about assuming intent. She grappled with the question: Do you believe that for the most part, people are doing the best they can? When she posed this question, she found a marked difference between those who answered yes and those who said no.

People who said no judged both themselves and others swiftly. Brené noted the yes responses included her husband, who said: "All I know is that my life is better when I assume that people are doing their best. It keeps me out of judgment and lets me focus on what is, and not what should or could be."<sup>3</sup>

"Keep me out of judgment," is a profound phrase allowing us to consider that others may be attempting to do their best. It is too easy to point out deficiencies when there are split opinions on virtually every topic. So, steps ahead might include—don't assume ill intent. Listen to understand another viewpoint. Don't plan your answer as they are talking just so they will know why you are obviously right!

I would like to challenge us as a group to learn to use our differences to make us better as a whole and to gain skills in learning how to differ well. In the School of Medicine's new Discovery Curriculum, there is a longitudinal multi-year course titled, "Christian Physician Formation," where issues of personal wellness, resilience, peacemaking, equity, social determinants of health, diversity, practicing in a hurting world, and providing spiritual care are included in the curriculum. I hope we are helping the students of today gain skills to navigate the problems of tomorrow, particularly the ability to differ with others without demonizing them.

"May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." Romans 15:5-6 (NIV).■

#### Endnotes

1. [www.familyfriendpoems.com/poem/human-family-by-maya-angelou](http://www.familyfriendpoems.com/poem/human-family-by-maya-angelou)
2. Paulson, Terry. "Demonizing Differences Is Dangerous." *Ventura County Star*, 17 Sept. 2017, [www.vcstar.com/story/opinion/columnists/2017/09/17/demonizing-differences-dangerous/671020001/](http://www.vcstar.com/story/opinion/columnists/2017/09/17/demonizing-differences-dangerous/671020001/).
3. Brown, Brené. *Rising Strong*. Vermilion, 2015.



Tamara L. Thomas '87  
School of Medicine Dean



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# ALUMNI News

What's new? Have you accomplished something of which you are proud? Have you received an award? Served overseas recently? Want to simply update us on your life? Email us at [llusmaa@llu.edu](mailto:llusmaa@llu.edu).

## 1990s

**DANNIELLE O. HARWOOD '97**, who has served the people of Butte County, California, for a number of years, received the California Medical Association (CMA) Gary S. Nye Award for Physician Health and Well-Being. CMA gives this recognition annually to a physician who has made significant contributions toward physician wellness. According to a CMA press release, "Dr. Harwood was recognized for her commitment to and passion for helping fellow and future physicians find success, fulfillment, happiness, and well-being in pursuit of their noble profession. Most notably, she has gone above and beyond to uplift a community devastated by the Camp Fire tragedy and the COVID-19 pandemic." ■

## This and That: Alumni Gatherings Across the U.S.



(Left photo, from left) **J. MARK MCKINNEY '87**, **BARBARA CHASE MCKINNEY '88**, **HAZEL EZERIBE '22**, **ISAAC OVERFIELD '26**, Cameron Overfield, Jacky Overfield, Emily Rigsby, and **RYAN RIGSBY '17**. (Right photo, from left) Desiree Verska, **JOSEPH M. VERSKA '87**, **LOREN G. HINGER '74**, **JON R. KATTENHORN '74**, Sylvia Grindley, **JAMES S. GRINDLEY '66**, **JACK C. CHAFFIN JR. '76-A**, Julee Chaffin, **KURT S. BOWER '83**, and Gaylene Bower. (Not pictured: **ERIK S. VALENTI '14** and Brittany Valenti).

The Alumni Association strives to create meaningful ways for our alumni to connect with one another. This year we were thrilled to support two regional get-togethers, one on the East Coast and one in the Pacific Northwest, where alumni of all ages had the opportunity to come together, create connections, and share a meal. The first was hosted in Neptune Beach, Florida, by **J. MARK MCKINNEY '87** and **BARBARA CHASE MCKINNEY '88** for new alumni who were settling into

residency and fellowships in the Jacksonville area. The second gathering was hosted by **JON R. KATTENHORN '74** and **JOSEPH M. VERSKA '87** in Boise, Idaho, where a number of our alumni practice. These events helped create new connections and strengthen old friendships. If you are interested in hosting or attending an alumni gathering in your area, please contact the Alumni Association at (909) 558-4633 or [llusmaa@llu.edu](mailto:llusmaa@llu.edu)! ■



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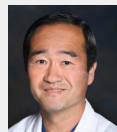


# APC 2023 Preview

Mark your calendars, book your flights, and plan to join us March 2–6, 2023, for the 91st Annual Postgraduate Convention (APC) held in partnership with Loma Linda University Health Homecoming Weekend! Your APC Governing Council members have been hard at work securing insightful speakers to bring you engaging continuing medical education sessions centered around the theme: “The Future of Medicine, Review of National Guidelines.” For more information, visit [www.llusmaa.org/apc](http://www.llusmaa.org/apc). ■

## Featured Guest Speakers

### Li Poa, MD



Dr. Poa is a pioneer and leader in minimal access cardiac surgery. He has been on the forefront of the development of thoracoscopic cardiac ablation, minimal access valvular surgery, and beating heart coronary/valvular surgery for more than 22 years. He performed his first coronary bypass surgery at the age of 21. He currently serves on the Presidential Health and Wellness Advisory Board and on the National Health Council. He was the founding chief and program director of cardiovascular surgery at the Stamford Hospital Heart and Vascular Institute and is currently a professor of surgery at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons and prior professor of surgery at David Geffen School of Medicine.

### Jason Fung, MD



Dr. Jason Fung is a Canadian nephrologist and world-renowned expert on intermittent fasting and low-carb diets, especially for treating people with Type 2 diabetes. He has written several bestselling health books and co-founded The Fasting Method, a program that helps patients lose weight and reverse their Type 2 diabetes naturally. Dr. Fung graduated from the University of Toronto and completed his residency at the University of California, Los Angeles.

### Yuman Fong, MD



A pioneer both in the operating room and in the laboratory, Dr. Fong holds the Sangiacomo Family Chair in Surgical Oncology and chairs the department of surgery at City of Hope Medical Center, a position he has held since 2014. He is an internationally recognized expert in cancers of the liver, pancreas, gallbladder, and bile ducts. He has led the research effort to employ genetically modified viruses to destroy cancer cells. Dr. Fong is both author and innovator and has developed many new surgical techniques and instruments and has written and edited hundreds of scholarly articles as well as nearly a dozen textbooks.

### Wise Young, MD



Dr. Young, founding director of the W.M. Keck Center for Collaborative Neuroscience and a distinguished professor, is recognized as one of the world's outstanding neuroscientists. Dr. Young is committed to bringing treatments to people with spinal cord injuries. In an issue devoted to cutting-edge work in science and medicine, TIME magazine named Dr. Young as “America's Best” in spinal cord injury research.

### MARILENE BETH WANG '86



Dr. Wang is a head and neck surgeon and professor in the department of head and neck surgery at David Geffen School of Medicine, where she has been a faculty member since 1992. She runs an active cancer research lab, skillfully mentoring medical students and residents. She specializes in treatment of nasal and sinus diseases, skull base tumors, head and neck cancer, thyroid/parathyroid disease, and snoring/sleep apnea. Dr. Wang has received recognition throughout her career for excellence in otolaryngology. She also serves on the Alumni Association Board of Directors and was a 2022 Honored Alumna.

### Gregory Guldner, MD



Dr. Guldner is vice president of academic affairs for HCA Healthcare Graduate Medical Education, which sponsors over 300 training programs in over 60 teaching hospitals across the U.S. He has a medical degree from Stanford University and a master's in clinical psychology from Purdue University. He completed an emergency medicine residency at Loma Linda University Medical Center, where he later served as program director for the emergency medicine residency program at Loma Linda University. He also served as DIO for a major teaching hospital. He has 25 years experience in the Army Medical Corps, including deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan. Currently, he studies well-being with the HCA/Claremont Graduate University Physician Wellness Research Lab.



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
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(Left) **JOHN Y. SHIN '14** addresses the class of 2026 at their White Coat Ceremony. (Right) The class of 2026 recites the physician's oath.

## Welcoming the School of Medicine Class of 2026

It was a memorable evening for the 176 newest medical students as the class of 2026 officially began its medical school journey during the School of Medicine's White Coat Ceremony. The event was held on July 28, 2022, and coincided with orientation week for the new medical students.

Assistant professor of medicine **JOHN Y. SHIN '14** shared stories and experiences of going through medical school. The ceremony closed with **TAMARA L. THOMAS '87**, dean of the School of Medicine, leading the students in a recitation of the physician's oath.

The 176 members of the class of 2026 were selected from more than 6,200 applicants. ■

### CLASS OF 2026 BY THE NUMBERS

- Average age is 23.4 years old
- 89 men and 87 women
- 12 international students from Canada, China, and South Korea
- 32 states represented, with 45% from California
- Degrees from 71 different universities and colleges
- 12% have at least one degree in a non-science major

## School of Medicine Introduces New CME Learning Management System

The School of Medicine's Continuing Medical Education (CME) Office is transitioning to a new online CME learning management system called Electronic Education Documentation System or "EEDS" to streamline processes for course materials, events, evaluations, and certificates. The new web-based system is a central location for faculty physicians to access, manage, and track CME credits and other educational activities.

Over the past ten years, the CME office has grown from 58 total activities for 11,281 participating physicians to pre-COVID peaks of more than 160 total CME activities serving 23,136 physicians. This represents over 200% growth due to the collaborative efforts of the CME office working with individual departmental CME physician champions and their administrative staff. The new electronic education documentation system will continue to



Faculty and administrative members of the EEDS implementation team gather for a photo together on campus.

foster this growth in the near future and for many more years to come. ■

## New Family Medicine Chair Announced



Loma Linda University School of Medicine has appointed **DANIEL R. REICHERT '88** as chair of the department of family medicine. Dr. Reichert joined the School of Medicine faculty in 2016. He currently serves as assistant professor of family medicine and previously served as vice chair of the department of family medicine. Dr. Reichert replaces **ROGER D. WOODRUFF '81**, who served as chair of the department since 2014. ■

## BRADLEY A. COLE '92 Honored for Excellence



Loma Linda University recognized **BRADLEY A. COLE '92** with the 2022 Kinzer-Rice Award, which is awarded to a full-time faculty member who exemplifies the finest traditions of education every two years. Dr. Cole has demonstrated mastery and leadership in teaching excellence in his field of study and contributes to students' long-range success. The first Kinzer-Rice Award was presented in 2008, and other alumni recipients of the award include **ELAINE A. HART '00** and **LORETTA J. WILBER '99**. ■

## Herrmann to Serve as Vice Dean for Academic Affairs



Loma Linda University School of Medicine has selected **PAUL C. HERRMANN '00** as its vice dean for academic affairs. Dr. Herrmann joined the School of Medicine faculty in 2008. He currently serves as professor and chair of the department of pathology and human anatomy.

In his new role he will continue to advance the School's programs, oversee the new curriculum, and work closely with leadership, faculty, and staff to provide the best education for our students.

Dr. Herrmann is replacing **TAMARA L. THOMAS '87**, who served in the vice dean for academic affairs role since 2011. Dr. Thomas will continue her primary appointment as dean. ■

## Raymond E. Ryckman Chair

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Raymond E. Ryckman, PhD (1917-2016), was a pioneer of research and a professor of basic sciences at LLU for over 30 years. In 2008, he received the University Distinguished Service Award (see photo).

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School of Medicine News is developed by Hillary Angel, communications specialist at the School of Medicine.

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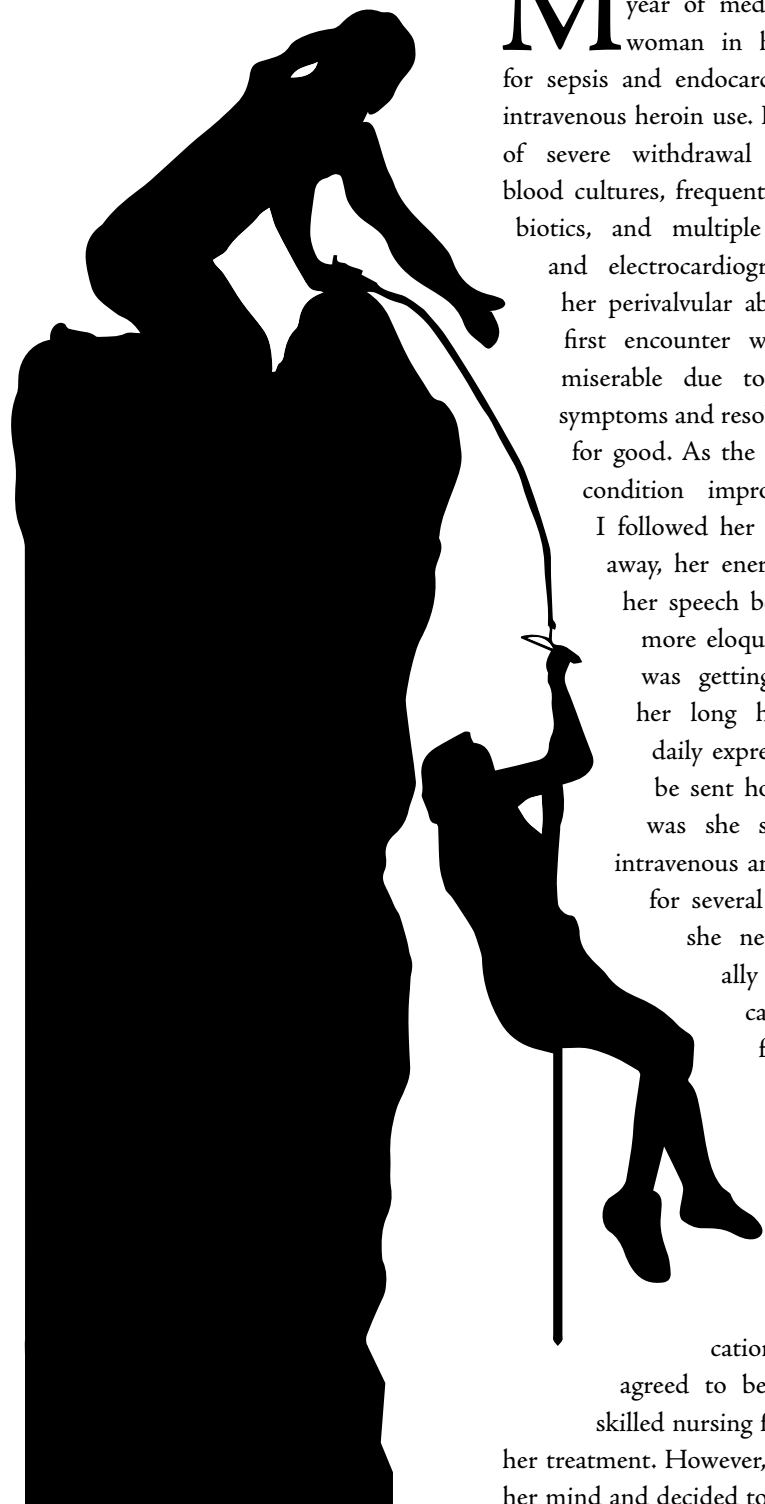
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# Watching Her Leave

BY ALANNA ASGEIRSSON ('23)



My first patient in my third year of medical school was a woman in her 30s admitted for sepsis and endocarditis secondary to intravenous heroin use. Her stay consisted of severe withdrawal symptoms, daily blood cultures, frequent intravenous antibiotics, and multiple echocardiograms and electrocardiograms to monitor her perivalvular abscess. During my first encounter with her she was miserable due to her withdrawal symptoms and resolved to quit heroin for good. As the weeks passed, her condition improved significantly. I followed her as her fever went away, her energy increased, and her speech became clearer and more eloquent. However, she was getting frustrated with her long hospital stay and daily expressed her desire to be sent home. The problem was she still needed daily intravenous antibiotic treatment for several more weeks, and she needed a peripherally inserted central catheter (PICC) for the antibiotics. Sending a recovering heroin addict home with a PICC will greatly increase the risk of complications. She eventually agreed to be discharged to a skilled nursing facility to continue her treatment. However, she later changed her mind and decided to leave the hospital

against medical advice. My attending had to chase her down to make sure her PICC was removed before she left the premises.

It is painful to try to help someone who is making a terrible decision. It feels like helping someone off the edge of a cliff while they're actively cutting the rope they are hanging from. This is what I chose to depict in my art piece (pictured left). While I want to use everything in my power to heal someone, they may not necessarily

**IT IS PAINFUL TO TRY TO HELP SOMEONE WHO IS MAKING A TERRIBLE DECISION.**

want the same outcome I do. And if they do want the same outcome, we may not agree on how to get to that outcome. For my patient, she wanted her infection to be cured, but she grew frustrated with how long it was taking. Our team had a lot of self-doubt regarding the right decision for her treatment. It was painful allowing the patient to leave, not knowing whether she would return if her condition took a turn for the worse. But I believe it was important to respect her choices and assure her that we would be here for her if she came back. I hope our patient felt like she was listened to during her stay, and I hope she feels it is safe to return to the hospital if she decides to. ■

**ALANNA ASGEIRSSON ('23)** is a fourth-year medical student at Loma Linda University School of Medicine and hopes to specialize in diagnostic radiology. In her spare time, she can be found rollerblading at the beach and painting landscapes for her home.



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## DEPARTMENT REPORT

# Family Medicine

BY **DANIEL R. REICHERT '88**, CHAIR,  
DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY MEDICINE, LLUSM

### The primary care specialty of family medicine has historically attracted graduates of Loma Linda University School of Medicine

(LLUSM). Sixteen percent of the 2022 LLUSM graduates matched in a family medicine residency. Our students' career aspirations lead them to family medicine at a rate twice the national average for other medical schools. Family medicine is a core rotation of the third-year student experience, recently increasing from four to six weeks. Despite the national challenges of attracting physicians to primary care, our students recognize its value to support an effective health care system. With family physician burnout rates at record levels, we remain committed to arming ourselves and our learners with training, connection to a community of support, and a mission

**HOW WONDERFUL IT IS TO SEE THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY MEDICINE GROW INTO SUCH A STRONG AND COMMITTED GROUP.**

that will promote resilience and fulfillment. I believe our students are drawn to this specialty as a pathway to becoming excellent clinicians, researchers, and community leaders who effectively promote the goal of making man whole.

**ROGER D. WOODRUFF '81**, chair of the family medicine department from 2014–2022, resigned from the position in June. Our beloved leader has moved on to become chair of clinical medicine and professor of family medicine at California Northstate University College of Medicine. Dr. Woodruff led our growth to a current faculty of 82, distributed in multiple locations across the region. He sought to celebrate a “high tech, high touch” approach to the delivery of medical care, emphasizing the need to connect with the emotional and spiritual needs of patients beyond the technical aspects of their care. We thank Dr. Woodruff for his significant contributions to the promotion of family medicine.

The department's footprint is impressive. Faculty clinics in Loma Linda, Redlands, and Beaumont/Banning have cared for approximately 50,000 unique patients over the last three years, with an annual ambulatory volume of 92,300 with continued growth. Last year, our Urgent Care saw approximately 22,000 visits, providing

the community with needed access to acute care, while the family medicine inpatient service provided in-patient hospital care for 837. Faculty at several SAC Health System (SACHS) clinics across San Bernardino and Riverside counties have cared for over 25,000 unique patients over the last three years, addressing disparities of care in those communities. Our faculty have been very active in state and county professional academies. Lauren Simon, MD, is the current president of the California Academy of Family Physicians (CAFP). Ecler Jaqua, MD, and **MAI-LINH TRAN '15** serve as president and vice president, respectively, of the Riverside/San Bernardino Chapter of CAFP.

Teaching at all postgraduate levels takes high priority in our department. Our residency has grown to 12 residents per year and has become part of a federal teaching health center grant located at SACHS, a federally qualified health center in San Bernardino. Elements of the residency include participation in a pilot program for the American College of Lifestyle Medicine curriculum and Health Resources and Services Administration Primary Care Training Enhancement funding for integrated behavioral health in primary care. The division of geriatrics provides inpatient consultations, outpatient specialty clinics, and manages patients in skilled nursing facilities. We have also applied to begin a new geriatric fellowship. Please see the adjacent sidebar summarizing our thriving palliative care division. Scholarly activity has grown with numerous faculty publications. We congratulate Hobart Lee, MD, Jeffrey Kim, MD, and Brian Huang, MD, on their recent article in the American Family Physician.

How wonderful it is to see the department of family medicine grow into such a strong and committed group. As family physicians, we aspire to learn from the Master Teacher and Healer, becoming more effective at promoting the teaching and healing ministry of Jesus Christ. This benefits our patients, while passing on the mission to the next generation of physicians. We are thankful to be a part of this great institution. ■

*Dr. Reichert was appointed chair of family medicine in July 2022 from his previous role as vice chair and medical director. In addition to his passion for family medicine, he enjoys spending time with his family and staying fit through running, cycling, and hiking the backcountry.*



## DEPARTMENT AT A GLANCE

### FAMILY MEDICINE

#### THE DIVISION OF PALLIATIVE CARE

By **GINA J. MOHR '96**

Palliative care was started at Loma Linda University Medical Center in 2000 with a part-time physician and a nurse practitioner. Since then, it has grown to five physicians and two nurse practitioners caring for both adults and children throughout the Loma Linda University Health system. We also have a dedicated chaplain and social worker for the adult hospital. Palliative medicine is dedicated to caring for those with serious underlying health conditions; sometimes patients have symptoms from their illness and sometimes they suffer from the side effects of their treatments.

Our work is best described through the stories of patients like Melissa (name changed for privacy). Melissa was a young woman diagnosed with an advanced cancer who was admitted to the hospital after ongoing abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, and weight loss. When I first met her she had already been diagnosed with an advanced cancer and was feeling very discouraged and anxious. We talked at length about what her diagnosis meant, explored where she found strength, and examined her spiritual beliefs that affected her health care choices. We were able to get her pain under good control, relieved her nausea and vomiting, and improved her eating and sleeping. She was worried about getting chemotherapy, but once she felt better she was more confident she could manage with the support offered by her palliative care team.

We now offer a palliative medicine fellowship to train future physicians in how to accompany patients on their illness journey. The goal is to help patients live as well as possible for as long as possible. ■



The family medicine residency class of 2025 takes a group photo.



#### LOCATIONS

Our department covers faculty clinics located in Loma Linda, Redlands, and Beaumont/Banning.



#### VISITS

Over the past three years, our department has been responsible for roughly 50,000 unique patient visits.



#### ALUMNI FACULTY

The family medicine department is home to 18 LLUSM alumni faculty members, roughly 22%.



#### PROVIDERS

Our department is supported by a total of 82 committed faculty members.





# What Does the Lord Require of Us?

BY GRACE W. OEI '04, ISSUE EDITOR

Highlighting Loma Linda University School of Medicine's (LLUSM) unique and ongoing contributions to the field of medical ethics and medical education

The advancement of medical technology brought about many thorny questions about the meaning of life, the definition of death, and the appropriate use of emerging technologies. Instead of shying away from ethically fraught topics, Loma Linda University became a leader in integrating the practice and teaching of medical ethics into the classroom and at the bedside. Decades later, we are still grappling with complex issues. From xenotransplantation to abortion

to anencephaly and brain death; from withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment to the meaning of respect for patient autonomy to the perennial questions of quality of life, LLUSM continues to provide education, scholarship, and clinical guidance to its students, faculty, and clinicians.

We hope never to stop wrestling with how to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly before our God. ■



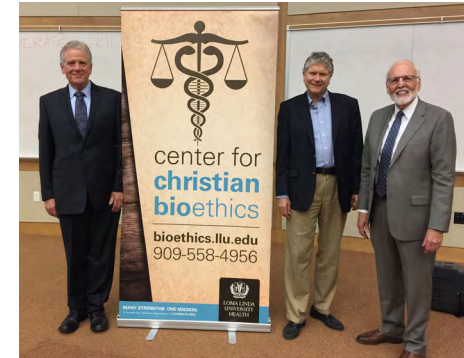
# A Timeline of Ethics at LLU



The infant known as Baby Fae in the hospital after her groundbreaking xenotransplant surgery performed by **LEONARD L. BAILEY '69**.



Dr. Robert Orr, first director of LLUMC's Clinical Ethics Consultation service.



(From left) Drs. David Larson, James Walters, and Gerald Winslow continue to contribute to the bioethics conversation at LLU and beyond.



**JUKES P. NAMM '05**, a surgical oncologist, serves as director of clinical ethics for LLU.



**FEMKE HORN '20** (left) and **LANDON SAYLER '20** (right) celebrate completion of their Master of Arts degrees with Dr. Winslow (center).

## 1980s

Forty years ago, Drs. **JACK W. PROVONSHA '53-A**, David Larson, and James Walters dreamed of a center providing leadership on bioethics at Loma Linda University (LLU). The center was to augment what Dr. Provonsha had already been doing on the LLU campus for years—helping faculty and students harmonize their faith with scientific learning and clinical practice. It was to be a center for both bioethics and Christian bioethics. In 1983, leaders at LLU approved a plan to create the Center for Christian Bioethics. In 1984, the Center opened with Dr. Provonsha serving as its first director. **BRIAN S. BULL '61** was pivotal in creating the Center's administrative structure. The same year, the infant known as Baby Fae received a xenograft heart transplant by **LEONARD L. BAILEY '69**. Dr. Provonsha chaired the Loma Linda University Medical Center's Ethics Committee that reviewed Dr. Bailey's work before Baby Fae's surgery. One of the Center's events later in the year was a joint conference on organ transplantation held in collaboration with what is now the Hastings Center. In retrospect, the discussion at this

event, which drew eminent scholars from all over the country, shows us that although the accepted medical interventions may change, the ethical questions of scarcity, allocation, experimentation, and tolerable risk, among others, remain.

In 1988, the Center launched its annual distinguished lectureship, the Jack Provonsha Lecture, at that year's School of Medicine Annual Postgraduate Convention. The lectureship carries on Dr. Provonsha's impactful work in integrating medicine, religion, and ethics. Since its inauguration, the lectureship has boasted a distinguished list of speakers, including thought leaders such as Dr. Edmund D. Pellegrino, Dr. H. Tristram Engelhardt, Dr. Margaret Mohrmann, and Dr. Ira Byock. The Provonsha Lecture continues to be a key annual Center event. ■

## 1990s

In 1990, LLU Medical Center began its Clinical Ethics Consultation service with Dr. Robert Orr as its first director. Dr. Orr's practice would set the standard for Clinical Ethics at Loma Linda University Health (LLUH). One still feels the legacy of his compassionate and patient-centered approach today. To offer a truly integrated approach to ethics and the health sciences, LLU began a Master of Arts degree in Biomedical and Clinical Ethics in 1993. This degree, now renamed the Master of Arts in Bioethics (MAB), continues to be offered and allows health science students to explore theological, ethical, and philosophical principles while engaging in their chosen health care field. This degree is also an excellent way to prepare students applying for their field of study. ■

(Special thanks to Dr. Gerald Winslow for his editorial contributions to the above information.)

## 2000s–2010s

In keeping with the national conversation, LLUH intentionally focused on the practice of clinical ethics consultation and training of clinical ethics consultants. Under the leadership of Dr. Gerald Winslow, LLUH established a program to train clinical ethicists and a sustainable model to provide 24/7 clinical ethics consultations for the LLUH campus. **GINA J. MOHR '96** and **GRACE W. OEI '04** were part of the initial training class and continue to be part of the Clinical Ethics Consultation Service. In this model, clinical ethics consultants rotate taking call while maintaining their active clinical role. They present their cases at the weekly Clinical Ethics Case Conference and serve on the LLU Medical Center and LLU Children's Hospital Ethics Committees. All current clinical ethics consultants with eligibility are certified Healthcare Ethics Consultants through the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities certification program. ■

## TODAY

The current team continues to focus on integrating ethical scholarship with its practical application through the close collaboration of the Clinical Ethics Consultation Service, the Center for Christian Bioethics, and the Schools of Medicine and Religion. The current director of clinical ethics is **JUKES P. NAMM '05**, a surgical oncologist. He leads a team of consultants, including **GINA J. MOHR '96**, **MARK D. ARD '16**, Carissa Cianci, MA, RN, CPHQ, and **GRACE W. OEI '04**. Dr. Mohr is a palliative medicine physician who directs the palliative care service and chairs the LLUMC and LLUCH Ethics Committees, Dr. Ard is a psychiatrist and director of the Psychiatry Consultation Liaison Service, Carissa is a nurse and analyst with patient safety and reliability, and Dr. Oei is a pediatric intensivist. She also serves as the co-director of the Center for Christian Bioethics alongside Yi Shen Ma, PhD, assistant professor for the School of Religion.

The Center for Christian Bioethics provides educational programming and sponsors scholarly exploration of ethical

issues occurring in the practice of medicine. The Clinical Ethics Consultation Service shapes these efforts by providing a glimpse into problems on the ground with which practicing clinicians grapple. Students enrolled in the MAB program actively integrate ethics into health care through their academic studies by participating in case conferences and observing consultations. They can also support the Center's scholarly efforts by working as graduate assistants within the School of Religion. Through the leadership of Dr. Winslow, the Center's efforts have extended beyond LLUH entities through the Adventist Bioethics Consortium (ABC). The ABC is a collaborative organization that provides education and support on bioethical issues for Seventh-day Adventist Church-affiliated hospitals throughout the United States and abroad. Moving forward, we anticipate ethical questions in health care will become more complex, not less. As LLU continues the teaching and healing ministry of Jesus Christ, we know that we are building on a solid theological and clinical foundation. ■



# Faculty Focus

## PIONEERS OF BIOETHICS AT LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY

Faculty member **JACK W. PROVONSHA '53-A** holds a special place among the great educators in the history of Loma Linda University School of Medicine (LLUSM). Physician, ethicist, author, teacher, minister, father, pilot, and artist, Dr. Provonsha had a unique vision of integrating religion and ethics into the practice of medicine and the education of its practitioners. It would be challenging to conceptualize care of the whole person at LLUSM without acknowledging the influence of Dr. Provonsha.

Dr. Provonsha served as a pastor and evangelist in Utah and Alaska before enrolling at LLUSM. He received his medical degree in 1953 and, after an internship in Maryland, practiced family medicine in California's Central Valley before moving his practice back to the remote village of Seldovia, Alaska. In Alaska, he often piloted an airplane to reach his patients. Dr. Provonsha returned to Boston, Massachusetts, to study religion and ethics at Harvard University, after which he settled in Southern California to join the faculty at LLU. He earned his doctoral degree at Claremont Graduate School in 1967 and began teaching at the newly consolidated campus in Loma Linda. His title, "Professor of Philosophy of Religion and Christian Ethics," reflected his ability to hold the secular alongside

the theological. One of Dr. Provonsha's essential teachings was on the nature of love. In his telling, the duties engendered by love should be more concerned about the needs of the person than the norms dictated by the principle. Dr. Provonsha trained a generation of physicians to place the patient in the middle of ethical and Christian clinical practice. Dr. Provonsha also profoundly believed in the scientific process and rejected attempts to separate the body from the soul. Instead, he advocated for clinicians to hold religion and science alongside each other in a search for unity and in service to the "Whole Person." While these concepts may seem commonplace today, Dr. Provonsha endowed LLUSM and its graduates with an incredible gift—the theological foundation for caring for the whole person. ■



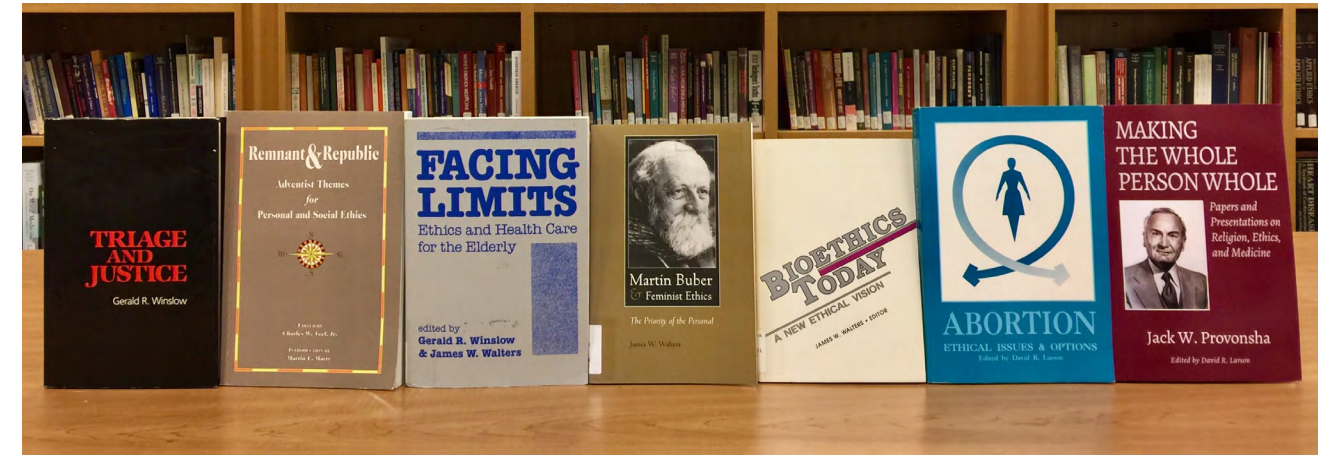
For many years, clinical ethics at Loma Linda University Health (LLUH) was synonymous with Dr. Robert D. Orr. During his time at LLUH, he shaped how clinical ethics was practiced and taught. After years of practicing family medicine in Vermont, Dr. Orr studied as a fellow of the MacLean Center for Clinical Medical Ethics. He completed his fellowship in 1990, moved to Loma Linda, and started the Clinical Ethics Consultation



Service at Loma Linda University Medical Center. He was the sole clinical ethicist for many years while continuing to see patients in his clinical practice and teach medical students. Dr. Orr was known for his clinical expertise, gentle bedside manner, and devout Christian faith. These traits were evident, especially when working with patients and clinicians amidst

complex ethical dilemmas. Dr. Orr was also a gifted author and speaker and accomplished leader. He published numerous articles in peer-reviewed journals on clinical ethics topics, including the clinical ethics consultation process.

In 1999, the American Medical Association awarded Dr. Orr the prestigious Isaac Hays and John Bell Award for Leadership in Medical Ethics and Professionalism to acknowledge his service to the growing field of medical ethics. In 2000, Dr. Orr returned to Vermont to serve as director of clinical ethics at Fletcher Allen Health Care. He missed California, however, and returned to Loma Linda in 2009 to lead a fellowship to train clinical ethics consultants and to teach as professor of medical ethics with the School of Medicine. After retiring and moving back to Vermont, Dr. Orr never stopped mentoring clinical ethicists. Only a phone call or email away, he always made time to address questions thoughtfully and provide insight. Today, students and clinicians can still access his wisdom through his writing. His book, "Medical Ethics and the Faith Factor: A Handbook for Clergy and Healthcare Professionals," continues to be a staple in the bibliography of medical ethics. ■



Several books on the theme of bioethics and clinical ethics used to stimulate engaging and challenging conversations on display at the Center for Christian Bioethics at Loma Linda University.

# The LLU Center for Christian Bioethics

## MISSION

The mission of the Center for Christian Bioethics is to continue the teaching and healing ministry of Jesus Christ by uniting scholarship with service in bioethics.

## LEADERSHIP

The current co-directors for the Center are Yi Shen Ma, PhD, assistant professor for the School of Religion, and **GRACE W. OEI '04**. Olivia Seheult, MPP, MA, serves as the Center's manager.

## LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Drs. Ma and Oei have set out three academic priorities to focus the Center's work:

1. Professional formation—the philosophical foundation for and praxis of professional formation of clinicians in the health professions.
2. Meritocracy—examination of the assumptions of meritocratic behavior in health care and how these beliefs have/may/can affect the formation of the patient/clinician relationship and how the clinical work of medicine can occur to others.
3. Practical philosophy—guidance on complex ethical issues to help inpatient and outpatient clinicians provide excellent patient care while continuing to develop and/or maintain their personal beliefs.

## ACTIVITIES

The Center's activities include sponsoring scholarly inquiry, hosting and producing educational lectures and webinars, and organizing activities for the Adventist Bioethics Consortium.

The Center is currently organizing the 7th Adventist Bioethics Conference. The conference will be held May 8–9, 2023, on the Loma Linda University campus. For more information, please go to [religion.llu.edu/bioethics](http://religion.llu.edu/bioethics) or email the Center at [bioethics@llu.edu](mailto:bioethics@llu.edu).

## STRATEGIC PARTNERS

The Center has a number of strategic partners, including Adventist Bioethics Consortium, Adventist Health Policy Association, LLUH Institute for Health Policy and Leadership, Conference on Medicine and Religion, ISC Bioethics Consortium, and The Society of Christian Ethics.

## SAVE THE DATE

The Center for Christian Bioethics will be hosting the 7th Adventist Bioethics Conference **May 8–9, 2023**, at Loma Linda University.

Visit [religion.llu.edu/bioethics](http://religion.llu.edu/bioethics) or email [bioethics@llu.edu](mailto:bioethics@llu.edu) for more information!



# Graduate Reflections

Three recent graduates of the joint MD/MA program reflect on their experiences earning a Master of Arts in Bioethics degree in addition to their medical degree at Loma Linda University. Medical students who elect to earn this degree are taught by faculty from the Schools of Medicine and Religion and take on extra coursework to complete the degree.



**ADAM BORECKY '19:** The marathon of medical school and residency doesn't leave one much time for reflecting on the perennial moral questions of medicine. Self-reflection has never really been our profession's strong suit either. After all, physicians were vastly overrepresented in early enrollees in the Nazi Party. Additionally, questions like, "Does our duty to respect the dignity of human life extend to those unlikely to ever recover conscious awareness?" don't tend to make very good Step

1 multiple choice questions. Not to mention the question of where moral duties even come from in the first place. God? Hippocrates? Some AMA committee? I applied for the MD/MA bioethics program because such questions terrified me. The program equipped me with something much more valuable than answers: it gave me a road map for reflecting on each question from multiple angles. As I am now just months away from completing my residency in psychiatry, I am immensely grateful for how that single year of extra study changed the way I approach every aspect of medical practice. ■



**MARTHA DUAH '21:** I always tell people that my bioethics year was the best year of my medical school experience. Though medicine does not operate in a binary and there are often multiple correct answers for one problem, medical school is often very different. We're taught in binary—the test question was either right or wrong. Bioethics allowed me to move beyond seeing the world of

medicine as binary. I was able to explore different ethical dilemmas that affected all aspects of life, from conception to death. I was able to interact with professors and students who really wanted to take time to explore these topics and bring in different lenses by which we could view the world. The program broadened my mind to better understand not only medicine but also the patients we are serving. The year spent growing, learning, and challenging my beliefs in the master's program has made me a better resident physician. ■



**RYAN MARAIS '21:** Recently, as I was driving home from my internal medicine clinic at Riverside University Health System, the well-known song "Summer of '69" by Bryan Adams began playing on the radio. It featured the following lyric: "Those days were the best days of my life." This got me thinking: what were the best days of my life? The answer came easily: my year in the

School of Religion's bioethics master's program! From the lifelong professional and personal connections I made there, to the competitive edge it afforded me in matching to my top choice of residency (internal medicine at Loma Linda University), to the knowledge I gained which has helped me navigate the ethical and legal complexities associated with caring for patients, I'll forever be grateful to the bioethics program for shaping me into who I am today! ■

# Clinical Ethics in Christian Medical Education

## HOW DOES OUR FAITH INFORM OUR PRACTICE?

BY GRACE W. OEI '04, ISSUE EDITOR

Loma Linda University imbues a distinct theological thread throughout its medical school curriculum. Graduates often fondly remember the mantra of whole person care, a reminder to the clinician to see the person instead of the diagnosis. This is a beautiful foundation for the study of clinical ethics—the practical discipline of identifying, analyzing, and resolving ethical issues that occur in the practice of medicine. During their first two years, students learn the principles of clinical ethics through lectures and case-based discussions. During their third year of medical school, students take Advanced Medical Ethics, which embeds clinical ethics discussions within each of the six core rotations. Each session is team-taught by an ethicist from the School of Religion and a clinician focusing on ethical principles pertinent to the rotation. For example, during their internal medicine rotation, students review the concepts of decision-making capacity and surrogate decision-making. During family medicine, students learn about advance care planning and how to speak with their patients about difficult news. At the end of the year, students submit a reflection paper or an artistic project that allows them to describe working through an ethical dilemma or express their personal growth over the year of clinical practice. The objective is not to identify ethical dilemmas as expressly Christian (ethical dilemmas occur



The Good Samaritan statue located on the Loma Linda University campus calls to mind the motivation of the Christian physician.

in secular and religiously affiliated institutions alike). The goal is to allow faith to become integral to the student's response to patient suffering. For example, a Christian understanding of agape (love) can inform the clinician's ethical response if one sees one's actions not as a duty to be discharged because of a professional code but as a manifestation of the God of love.

This reflective inquiry is just the beginning. We hope that students continue their journey of spiritual and ethical formation alongside their clinical formation for the remainder of their lives. Formation is learning that never stops and work that never finishes. In essence, we encourage students to move toward wholeness in themselves to better see the whole person in their patients. One may ask, in this rendering, where theology stops and clin-

ical ethics begins. Does one have to draw a dividing line? Ethical issues arise as an experiential manifestation of unrelieved suffering. The Christian clinician's faithful response, construed broadly, is theological, though it need not be evangelistic or baldly stated. Integrating clinical ethics throughout the LLUSM curriculum allows students to see the patient experience as part of their personal and professional growth. The uniquely Christian aspect of LLUSM provides students the opportunity to unify deeply held beliefs while engaging in rational and objective inquiry. ■

*Dr. Oei is co-director of the Center for Christian Bioethics. She is a practicing pediatric intensivist and clinical ethics consultant for Loma Linda University Children's Hospital and also serves on the faculty for LLUSM.*



# Alumni Mission Stories

BY TIFFANY C. PRIESTER '04, ASSOCIATE EDITOR

**M**issionary. Mission trips. Medical evangelism. These concepts were foundational to Loma Linda University when it was christened the College of Medical Evangelists so many years ago. As the world landscape has changed over the decades, so too have the needs. Today our alumni share God's love with those around them in every setting imaginable: from careers in field hospitals abroad, to short-term international trips, to daily outreach in their medical practices right here in the United States, sharing God's love through whole person care.

In this issue of the *JOURNAL*, we are highlighting the subset of medical students and alumni who have joined the Deferred Mission Appointee (DMA) program of the Seventh-day Adventist Church to become missionary physicians abroad. This feature highlights the journey of three alumni missionaries: from tough decisions about joining the DMA program in the first place to the long and unwieldy process of obtaining a call through the local church union, from preparing for an intercontinental move to finding a way to fit in and lead in a culturally appropriate fashion, from the honeymoon

phase of the first year out to settling in and creating the relationships that transform lives over years and months of friendships.

Please join us in supporting our DMAs! Engage them while they are facing the challenges of medical school. Assist them during their exhausting residency programs. And join them side by side on their projects in developing countries. In my experience, all our DMAs have a dire shortage of both money and time; they would always be grateful for both. But even more important to a missionary is fellowship. A support system. A sense of togetherness. God's love is more encompassing than the division we create around religion, politics, and culture. Beyond the phrase "mission work" and its varied connotations, let us be a group of people from mixed backgrounds, different cultures, and varied religious and political persuasions who care deeply about the physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being of others and support all who provide whole person care in their practice of medicine—both at home and abroad. ■







Malamulo Adventist Hospital (MAH), located in Malawi, Africa, an Adventist Health International Global Campus.

# In His Time

## JOURNEY TO BECOMING A DEFERRED MISSION APPOINTEE

BY BRENT H. SHERWIN '15

I still remember the first time I was exposed to the term, Deferred Mission Appointee (DMA). It was during my college freshman biology class when one of my professors played a short video on the work James Appel '00 was doing in Tchad at Béré Adventist Hospital. After viewing the video, I had a brief thought that maybe someday I would like to pursue mission service. However, at that point even getting into medical school, let alone the possibility of becoming a physician or missionary physician, still seemed a long way off.



Dr. Sherwin operates with a resident at MAH.

Fast forward several years and I began medical school at Loma Linda University (LLU). Throughout my time at LLU I was involved with the Mission Interest Group. I remember hearing stories from missionary physicians such as **RYAN A. HAYTON '05**, **GILLIAN L. SETON '08**, and many others. These stories, like the video from my undergraduate biology class, inspired me to consider going to serve as a DMA. My wife, Laura Sherwin SD'15, and I talked seriously during our second year of medical and dental school about joining the DMA program, and after much prayer we decided to apply. Little did we know this was just the start of a long journey.

During our fourth year of medical and dental school, Laura and I were able to get a taste of mission life. I took a monthlong rotation to Malamulo Adventist Hospital (MAH) with Dr. Hayton. Laura was able to work with

Dr. Paul Yoo SD'08, a dental DMA in Zambia, at Lusaka Adventist Dental Clinic. Through these experiences we felt God calling us to work abroad for Him.

By God's grace I matched into a general surgery residency program in Columbus, Ohio, and we spent the next five years finishing my training there. During my fourth year, I had the opportunity once again to go to MAH and work with Dr. Hayton, Dr. Moses Kasumba, and the Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons (PAACS) residents who were training at the hospital. At this point, Laura and I were seriously considering going to MAH for our mission call. After prayerful contemplation, we felt God was calling our family to work in Malawi. We started the process of getting our call approved with the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and things seemed

*THERE IS NO GREATER COMFORT THAN KNOWING NO MATTER HOW DIFFICULT OR JOYOUS OUR DAY WAS, GOD LED US TO THIS JOB AND HE WILL CONTINUE TO SUSTAIN US.*

to be running smoothly. By the start of my final year of residency training everything was lining up for our family to arrive at MAH in the fall of 2020.

After I completed my residency program in June 2020, we did some traveling to see friends and family before our anticipated departure date. However, due to several unexpected circumstances, including difficulties obtaining our temporary work permits, the fall of 2020 came and went, and we were still without confirmation of our start date. This was a very difficult time for me personally. I was used to being very busy in residency, and now I had no job, was living at home with my parents, and having difficulty seeing how God was going to work through this situation. It had seemed very clear that He was leading us to serve at MAH. He had sustained us through numerous years of schooling, preparing us to help others both physically and spiritually. We had been trained to offer whole person care, and we were ready to go. However, God decided we needed to wait a while, and at the time I didn't understand why.

We continued to wait through the Christmas holiday and into the following spring. I was unable to find any locum tenens positions and thus remained jobless, which was difficult. I felt a little bit like Moses in many ways. He was trained well to help lead Egypt, but then God had him go to the wilderness for 40 years until he was ready to return and lead the children of Israel. Finally, in June 2021 we



(Top) Malamulo PAACS residents and faculty take a group photo at MAH. (Bottom) The Sherwin family hiking on Mount Mulanje in Malawi.

got approval to head to MAH. We were very excited but somewhat apprehensive. Would we be able to work in our respective fields after little clinical experience over the past year? Again, like Moses, we doubted our abilities. Though we didn't feel ready, we would have to rely upon God to help us with the transition. And now we continue to learn daily how to provide the best health care to our patients at MAH.

Reflecting back over our first year at MAH, I can honestly say that God's plan is the best. I would not have had it any other way. Our transition to a new country and culture was made easier by our living one year relying on God for everything during the delayed DMA appointment process. There is no greater comfort than knowing that no matter how difficult or joyous our day was, God led us to this job, and He will continue to sustain us through whatever difficulties or delays we face. ■



*Dr. Brent Sherwin practices at Malamulo Adventist Hospital as one of the PAACS general surgeons. He enjoys teaching residents how to meet patients' physical and spiritual needs. In his free time he enjoys going on adventures with his wife, son, and daughter.*



# Not Growing Weary

IN OUR WEAKNESS, HE IS STRONG

BY DENNY HONG '15

I knew early on in medical school that I wanted to be a missionary, work in areas of great need, and experience the joy of service. Our family received the official call to Kenya in 2020, during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Flights were suspended, travel visas rejected, and our hopes faltered. Rather than accepting another job, my wife suggested we use our newfound time to reconnect with family—I was so busy during residency and fellowship that I hadn't been able to spend enough time with them. Eventually we made it to Kenya, and now 18 months have passed since we first arrived at Kendu Adventist Hospital.



The Hong family takes a photo together in Kendu, Kenya.

I serve as an internal medicine consultant and work on various quality improvement projects and medical curricula development within the hospital, while my wife serves as an internal auditor for the institution.

Kenya is unlike any other country I have visited. With an average life expectancy of 67 years and a national GDP of \$98 billion (USD), Kenya is one of the most developed and wealthiest nations on the African continent. Despite its economic growth, an array of health issues are still prevalent throughout the country. With HIV, TB, and malaria controlled by decades of support from NGO efforts, the landscape of disease has shifted toward non-communicable diseases such as hypertension, diabetes, obesity, stroke, and heart failure.

Our first year in Kenya flew by. Everything was new and exciting, and we were full of enthusiasm, hope, and optimism. I felt confident that I was making a positive impact within the community. After all, I was quite familiar with the bread-and-butter internal medicine cases. I had lofty ideas to conduct community health programs, implement hypertension screening, diabetes awareness campaigns, and even incorporate nutrition regimens for weight loss candidates in the hospital. I was thriving and felt like I was making a difference.



(Left) Dr. Hong sees patients during an outreach ministry day in Kisii Town. (Right) An aerial photo of Kendu Adventist Hospital Complex taken on a sunny day.



However, our second year has been more challenging; seemingly everything is more difficult. After the honeymoon period elapsed, I found myself depressed and bogged down by the lack of growth, slow progress, and frustrated by the myriad of medical errors. Yet another incorrect dose of insulin given to the incorrect patient was the proverbial straw that broke the camel's (or in this case, missionary's) back. My discouragement transformed into resentment. I was disheartened that preventable medical errors were still a frequent occurrence despite weekly educational didactics and workshops addressing these very same situations.

During Mission Institute, a training program for missionaries, when I was at my lowest point, Dr. Landless, the General Conference health ministry director, reached out

**“OUR FIRST YEAR IN KENYA FLEW BY. EVERYTHING WAS NEW AND EXCITING, AND WE WERE FULL OF ENTHUSIASM, HOPE, AND OPTIMISM. I FELT CONFIDENT THAT I WAS MAKING A POSITIVE IMPACT WITHIN THE COMMUNITY.”**

to me and inquired after my physical, mental, and spiritual well-being. My discouragement must have been palpable, as he shared a scripture passage which reads in part, “And let us not grow weary while doing good,” Galatians 6:9 (NKJV).

Physician burnout and health care fatigue are common colloquial phrases in this post-COVID-19 era. Though I was quite familiar with these concepts, I would have never imagined myself a victim of burnout. Some part of me (a

large part, if I'm being honest) believed that admitting burnout would identify me as a weak Christian with insufficient faith.

Coming from a Western culture where success is measured in quantitative metrics and tangible outcomes, I felt as though my efforts were fruitless and presence was redundant. However, I dared not voice these sentiments, for fear that I would shatter the ideal “missionary” paradigm. As time passed, I was slowly forgetting my true purpose and losing the joy of service. I even doubted if Kenya was the right place for me.

Thankfully, God reminded me of my mission and purpose through a humbling patient encounter, one that I believe He divinely appointed for me.

Alice is a sweet elderly lady with congestive heart failure who I have been following for several months. In fact, she was one of the first heart failure patients that I diagnosed and managed here in Kenya. She made marked improvement on guideline directed medical therapy (GDMT) and turned her life around. During this particular clinic visit, she brought her son, Mark, with her. Mark was her lastborn son, and Alice confided in me that she was worried about his health and implored me to intervene and set him on the straight and narrow path. I explained to her that I could give him all the health information and tips, but it would be up to him to make a change in his life. Not unexpectedly, Mark did not show much interest during our clinic visit. He had a disheveled appearance and was tipsy. I could tell he was annoyed with the questions I was asking; after all, he had come solely to appease his mother's nagging. Feeling as if we were getting nowhere, I asked if he had any prayer requests he would feel comfortable sharing. He rattled off a list of



requests, including financial struggles, general health issues, family conflicts, and a good yield on his crops. After that visit, I did not hear from him and thought nothing more on the matter.

Months later, I went into town for errands, and standing behind me in the crosswalk was Mark. I almost didn't recognize him because his demeanor had changed so much. He was dressed in a suit, sober, and had a huge grin on his face. We exchanged the usual pleasantries. Mark then asked if I would pray for him. He told me that my initial prayer was the catalyst that helped him to break free from his alcohol addiction. He had found Jesus and was living a spirit-filled life. I gladly accepted his invitation for prayer and asked God for continued abstinence.

I walked away from that encounter in awe and humility. What I thought to be a fruitless encounter was nothing short of a miracle, arguably the greatest miracle of all: a transformation of the heart. Even though I had not thought about Mark for a single moment after that encounter, God was thinking about him every moment. I had forgotten that what I perceived as my responsibility was really God's work.

I remembered that God called me to Kenya to do a special work, the solemn work of bringing souls to Him through my medical ministry. I was impatient and wanted instant results and craved immediate gratification. I was proud and assumed that I was in charge of this special work. Often the work that we are called to do is long-term, and like planting, growth is often invisible. Our family started gardening when we came to Kenya; at times, it is tempting to pat ourselves on the back for a job well done when we harvest a large crop, but we are reminded that it is God who causes the crops to grow. It was only God who could have changed Mark's heart.

I recently heard the following quote by American novelist Richard Powers, "Planting is silent and growth invisible." This timely proverb was yet another gentle reminder that applies to all the long-term investments that we deem

worthwhile in our lives. After all, the most rewarding and important long-term investment is a soul, a soul of infinite value. Seeds sown for God germinate in His time and grow under His care.

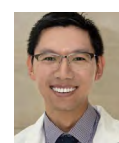
As health care providers, especially as physicians, we are in a position to do much more than provide GDMT for heart failure. Yes, we can provide excellent medical care because of our extensive training. But most importantly, we

**WHAT I THOUGHT TO BE A FRUITLESS ENCOUNTER WAS NOTHING SHORT OF A MIRACLE, ARGUABLY THE GREATEST MIRACLE OF ALL: A TRANSFORMATION OF THE HEART.**

can do more spiritually because of our inherent influence among our patients when they are at their most vulnerable moments.

I am sure there is a special work God has for you to do, a part that only you can play, a life to influence and a soul to save that God has placed in your path. He is eagerly waiting to work in and through you to reach souls. May each one of us take up that work and complete it diligently so that we may reap the harvest and hear those sweet words, "Well done, my good and faithful servant."


"And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart." Galatians 6:9 (NKJV). ■



*Dr. Hong is currently serving as an internal medicine consultant at Kendu Adventist Hospital, Kenya. He is accompanied by his wife, Jayeon Hwang (internal auditor for the institution), and three children: David, Abigail, and Sophia.*


**PHOTO CONTEST ANSWER**

The alumnus pictured on page 4 is **LEONARD L. BAILEY '69**. In 1984, Dr. Bailey performed a highly controversial and groundbreaking procedure: xenotransplantation of a baboon heart to an infant known as "Baby Fae," who had been born prematurely with hypoplastic left heart syndrome, a fatal defect. Baby Fae lived 21 days after the procedure.



# BABCOCK UNIVERSITY TEACHING HOSPITAL

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# Two Feet in My House

BY RANDELL S. SKAU '82 AND MELINDA S. SKAU '82

Randell S. Skau '82 strode through the Jengre Seventh-day Adventist Hospital courtyard after his morning ward rounds, heading to the clinic. Patients in West African garb were milling in the open courtyard under a spreading canopy of red-flowered flame trees.

A tall, handsome man caught his attention. "As Salaam Alaikum!" (Peace be upon you!), Randy greeted him with a respectful nod. "Wa Alaikum As Salaam, Likita!" (Peace be also to you, doctor!), the man responded. "What's your name?" Randy asked. "My name is Isa," the man answered.

"Isa?" *That's the name for Jesus in the Hausa language.* Randy mused. "Please, tell me how you came to have the name Isa," Randy inquired with interest.

Isa explained, "Isa is the name of a great prophet. It is written in the Holy Quran."

"I would like to know more about Isa from the Holy Quran," Randy responded. "Would you like to study that with me?"

Randy had a passerby fetch the hospital chaplain, Harry, so that together the three men could meet. Isa was agreeable, so the three men began to meet sporadically at Chaplain Harry's office or in the Skau's home, just down the dirt road. They looked together for references to the prophet Isa in the Holy Quran and in the Bible, and chatted animatedly about those stories. During those studies, Isa pointed out that the prophet Isa in the Quran was born of Maryamu (Mary) and was the only person who did no wrong. Even the great Islamic prophet Mohammed (Peace be upon him), did not claim to be perfect.

One Sabbath afternoon while Randy was managing an emergency in the hospital, **MELINDA S. SKAU '82** and their two children bicycled out to the granite

hills beyond the yam and corn farms. They had to climb up a rock chimney to reach a pleasant viewpoint where they could see the expanse of fields, farms, and mud brick homes for kilometers around. Shimmying up the last few feet of the crack in the rock, the children exclaimed, "Mom, there's a cloud of bees over there!"

Melinda glanced toward the sound of bees swarming nearby and guided the children in the opposite direction. "I don't think they will bother us if we leave them alone. They are just looking for a place for their

**NEARING THE ROCK CHIMNEY, THEY WERE UNEXPECTEDLY SWARMED BY ANGRY BEES!**

new home. Let's turn left and sit on the edge of the bluff to read our Sam Campbell nature books." Melinda suggested.

After reading several chapters, they noticed the breeze cooling and the sun lower in the sky, so they reluctantly rose to climb down the rocks and start the bike ride home.

Nearing the rock chimney they were unexpectedly swarmed by angry bees! Melinda yelled to her children, "Quick, follow me down!" as she slipped into the chimney. Reaching the bottom of the rock crack, she turned around to catch them, but they were nowhere to be seen. Melinda



Jengre Seventh-day Adventist Hospital where the Drs. Skau served for several years.

scurried back up the chimney to physically guide them down, finding them in the chaos of frenzied insects. They could hardly hear or see each other or even talk with the bees in their ears and mouths and around their closed eyes. It was like being in a frantically loud and dark tunnel. Bumbling through the buzzing bees, they scrambled down the rock chimney and stumbled toward the nearest road, already weakened by the many stings and too exhausted to ride their bikes the two miles home.

As her son raced ahead, Melinda shouted, "Flag someone down at the road to take you to the hospital and alert Dad!" He was fortunate enough to get a motorcyclist to help him.

Melinda and her daughter staggered along behind. Two farmers, noting their distress, stopped and scooped them up, placing them on the back of their bicycles. In their weakness, they fought to hold on to their rescuers.



(From left) Isa with Drs. Randy and Melinda Skau during a 2018 visit to Nigeria with the AHS and SIMS teams.

It felt like an eternity before all three Skau patients were dropped onto "casualty" stretchers in the emergency reception area. Nurses hooked an IV into Melinda, who had 100–200 stings and was rapidly swelling, administering emergency medications. Their son had about 40 stings and seemed stable. Their daughter, the youngest and smallest, had asthma and was at the highest risk. Fortunately, she had been treated the night before with steroids for a mild flare of her wheezing, so she was not reacting to the stings. The nurses worked quickly to flick off the stingers without rupturing the poison sacs. Finally, all three patients were transported home.

The next day Randy stayed home with his three patients while another doctor covered his hospital duties. Isa, having heard the news of the bees, stopped by to visit. Sending for Chaplain Harry to join them and help translate, they spent the entire afternoon in conversation and read the story of John the Baptist saying of Jesus, "Behold the Lamb of God." Muslims know

the story of Abraham going to sacrifice his son and God providing a ram as a "tremendous sacrifice" in place of Abraham's son. For Isa, this made the story of Jesus being identified as the Lamb of God more understandable and impactful.

Shortly after that visit, with all the Skau patients doing well again, Chaplain Harry

**I KNEW YOU WERE MY TRUE FRIEND WHEN YOU PUT YOUR TWO FEET IN MY HOUSE!**

and Randy decided to visit Isa at his home. They rode bicycles a few miles out through the fields on narrow paths to Isa's igloo-shaped, palm tree leaf-covered hut in the village. Isa was thrilled that his friends had come to his home. He mentioned that he had other foreign friends. One was a radio announcer on BBC who had answered some of his written queries. "But you are my true friend!" Isa exclaimed.

"When did I become your true friend?" Randy asked. "Was it when we met at the hospital? Or when you came to my house to study the Quran? Or was it when you visited us after the bees stung my family?"

"I knew you were my true friend when you put your two feet in my house!" Isa exclaimed.

What a great way to describe true friends! And this provided the perfect opportunity for Randy and Chaplain Harry to explain that Isa in the Bible is not only the Lamb of God but is also truly our Friend because He put His two feet in our "house," this earth, to help us see and know the true character of God. ■



The Drs. Skau live in Oroville, California. Dr. Randy Skau is a general surgeon and Dr.

Melinda Skau is a family physician. They lived in Nigeria with their two children from 1994–2004, practicing at Ile-Ife and Jengre Seventh-day Adventist Hospitals.





*“He will judge between the nations  
and will settle disputes for many  
peoples. They will beat their swords into  
plowshares and their spears into pruning  
hooks. Nation will not take up sword  
against nation, nor will they train for  
war anymore.”*

*Isaiah 2:4 (NIV)*

АЛЕКСЬ УЩІНА

# Providing Aid in Ukraine

BY TROY G. ANDERSON '94

*Editors' Note: Please be advised, this article includes depictions of war. The United Nations recently stated on Twitter, “There are no winners in war, but countless lives will be torn apart,” a paraphrase of a quote that frequently appears in war-time speeches. War brings grief, suffering, trauma, and death. We look forward to a time when there will be world peace.*

For Americans today, the concept of war is distant—defined as an event occurring on foreign soil. Not long ago, Ukrainians felt the same way. But now they have been abruptly awakened to the evil realities of war. Their country is under attack with no mercy shown to innocent civilians. Millions of refugees have evacuated their homes, and those who didn't leave find themselves oppressed behind enemy lines. Under such peril, any sane person would avoid visiting Ukraine. Yet, people around the world are mobilizing to provide relief for those suffering.

I traveled to Ukraine with a group of American physicians twice this year. While the first mission's goals were to deliver large quantities of critical food and water to the refugees on the roads and to assess where medical help was most needed, the second was primarily medically focused. When I returned from the first trip, I contacted **RICHARD H. HART '70**, alerting him to the medical needs of the crisis. Dr. Hart directed me to Dr. Yury Bondarenko, the director of the Angelia Clinic, a Loma Linda University Health international partner site, who welcomed the help. He in turn assigned the arduous task of working with me to Dr. Serhi Serdenyuk, chief medical officer.

When I first met Dr. Serhi in person, we bonded instantly. His gregarious, enthusiastic personality is infectious and matched my own joyful tendencies. The team of American physicians included Dr. Orson Anderson (family medicine), **WILLIAM E. GUTHRIE '19** (family medicine), Dr. John Mason (emergency medicine), and myself (neurology and sleep medicine). We worked alongside the Angelia Clinic physicians, including Dr. Tatiana Zubkova (gynecologist) and Dr. Serhi Serdenyuk (family medicine and chiropractor). In addition to the physicians, the medical team consisted of nurses, laboratory technicians, phlebotomists, ultrasound technicians, pastors, administrators, translators, drivers, and other volunteers.

In response to the attack on Kyiv, the Angelia Clinic was forced to evacuate and set up temporary operations in the southwestern city of Chernivtsi, Ukraine. Dr. Yury and Dr. Serhi cleverly adapted to the needs of the country and transformed their clinic into mobile medical vans. This inventive system allowed them to penetrate war devastated cities and deliver medical relief to many who had lost access to care.

Upon arrival, we hit the ground running; July 24–August 3, 2022, was a fast-paced whirlwind with little to no downtime. Our bedtime was typically midnight, and we were up before dawn, hosted by generous families who opened their homes to our group. As a team, we provided 1,076 medical services throughout the cities of Chernivtsi, Kremenets, Zhytomyr, and Vinnytsia. We visited the Chernivtsi Seventh-day Adventist youth camp, where many orphans are cared for and housed. Greater than any pill we could have prescribed, the Ukrainian people we met longed for validation, friendship, warm hugs, and prayer. Just letting them know they weren't alone and that they had friends across the ocean who cared about them and loved them brought many comfort and happy tears.

While the medical stories and diagnoses varied from one patient to another, the toll of the stress of war on the human soul was universal: insomnia, panic attacks, depression, anxiety, mood outbursts, and post-traumatic stress symptoms. Most families were split apart as men were ordered by the government to stay in the country in the event they were needed to fight, while their wives and children sought safety in other countries.

The young people of Ukraine particularly feel the weight of war on their shoulders. On one clinic day, my young translator, Sophia, went missing. I found her in the pharmacy van having a panic



(From left) **WILLIAM E. GUTHRIE '19**, Dr. John Mason, Dr. Orson Anderson, **TROY G. ANDERSON '93**, and Dr. Serhi Serdenyuk visit the abandoned Angelia Clinic.





(Left) Dr. Anderson performs a neurological consultation for a Ukrainian woman. (Right) The interdisciplinary medical team takes a group photo in front of the vans used to bring medical aid to hard-to-reach areas affected by the war.

attack, paralyzed and in uncontrollable tears. I praise God, He gave me uplifting words that brought her comfort, and she was eventually able to resume her crucial role in our work. At the end of the day, she asked if I could see one more patient. The patient was our driver who requested to remain anonymous. I'll name him Johnny.

Johnny stood at 6'4". He was only 19 years old and throughout our time together remained distant and callous. However, he was encouraged to seek help after seeing how Sophia's spirits were lifted. The weight Johnny carried was so painful he chose to bear it alone. He didn't even want a translator to assist in our conversation, which was problematic as he spoke zero English and I spoke zero Ukrainian. I resorted to communicating with him through a translation app on my phone. Like most Ukrainian kids his age, he was enraged by the war. Knowing that his friends and relatives were suffering behind enemy lines drove him to action: Johnny and his friends went on self-directed missions to retrieve loved ones caught behind enemy lines. He started telling his story with a list of facts, pictures, and videos. Then, Johnny became silent. He struggled to fight back the tears, but the tears won and crescendoed to an outpour. After several minutes he composed himself enough to communicate the horrific scene that haunted him. Three of his friends had been killed by a projectile explosive, just 15 feet in front of him. Johnny shared that he couldn't sleep unless he reverted to alcohol. Moved by the Spirit, I held him, and he held me back. The boy's soul craved comfort. I began to tell him his burden was too heavy to bear alone. I shared my personal story of how Christ helped me overcome my own PTSD by carrying my burdens for me. We bonded over the pain that occurs when a naive soul witnesses human suffering. At that moment, Johnny, who was an atheist, accepted Christ. For the second half of the trip, Sophia and Johnny, who had been sullen and distant, became engaged and upbeat, full of joy.

Many friends and family members expressed their concerns before we traveled to Ukraine. While their worries were valid, I strive to remember the reckless actions of love Christ took for us. Aren't we called to help the weak? And as Christian physicians, aren't we called to use the gift of medicine to help the suffering? As true ambassadors of Christ, aren't we called to love our fellow man just as recklessly, witnessing how Christ loved us? And perhaps in the process, our actions can inspire others to trust and have such faith in Christ.

As I sit here pondering the unforgettable experiences I had with my new brothers and sisters in Ukraine, I long for them. Indeed, we share a deep bond unlike anything I've experienced. This is evident by the many tears shed by all when we departed and the many messages sent after. The team would like to extend our appreciation to the many people who gave of their time and resources to make this mission successful. We are planning another mission next summer, and I'm eager to see them again. In the meantime, we'll continue to send them financial support, prayers, and kind words. I pray many readers will be inspired to join us on the next mission or give financial support. The people of Ukraine and the Angelia Clinic still have many ongoing needs. We will need many more general and specialty physicians.

Truly, evil will exist until Christ's return. However, until He comes again, may we be inspired to hold and help each other through life's suffering no matter the risk, just as Christ acted in love for us. ■



Dr. Anderson practices sleep medicine and neurology in Phoenix. He enjoys outdoor activities like skiing, hiking, and especially tennis. He equally enjoys lazy days at the beach with his wife, son, and two daughters.

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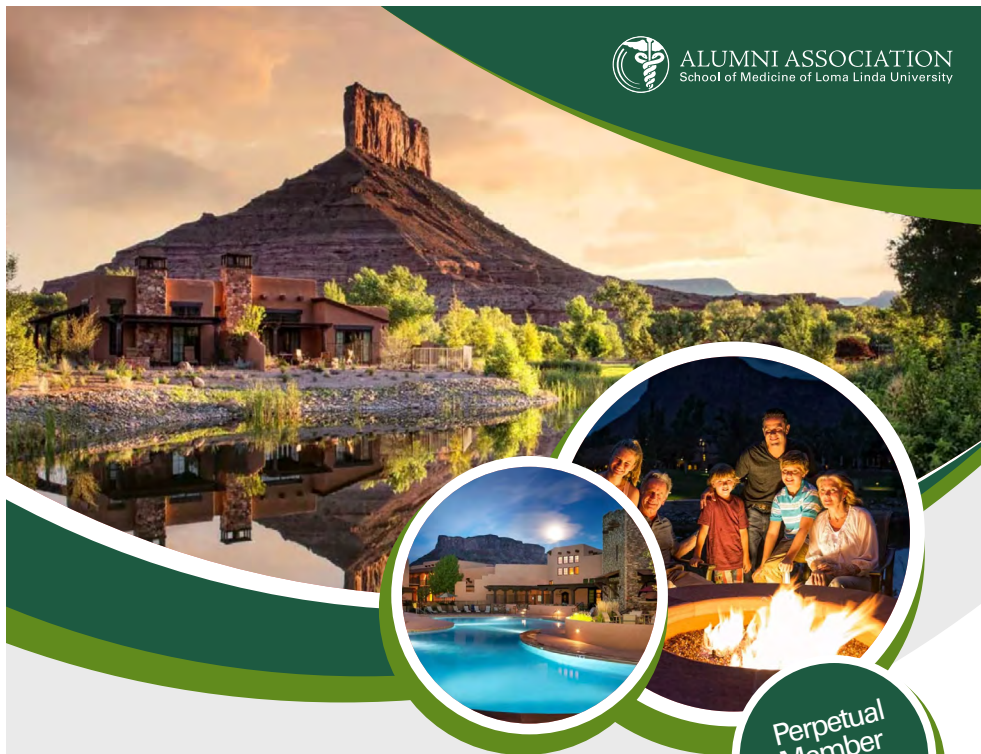
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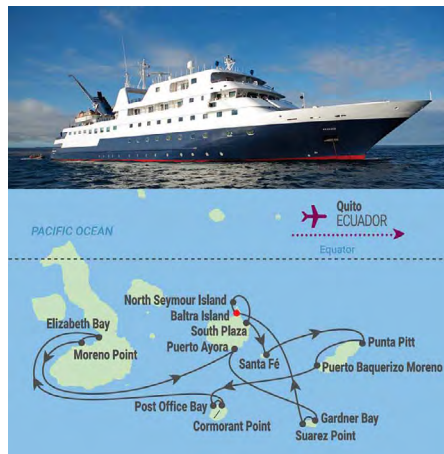
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Kapellbrücke, or “Chapel Bridge,” located in Lucerne, Switzerland. Both 2022 alumni trips visited this iconic landmark.

# Alumni Trips 2022

BY MEGHANN HEINRICH, MANAGING EDITOR

After several cancellations and postponements due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Alumni Association was at long last able to host the popular Lifetime Experience Trips again. To make up for lost time, two international tours were offered this summer: the Heart of Europe Tour and the Rhine River Cruise. Both itineraries gave alumni and their guests the opportunity to explore new places, take in breathtaking natural beauty, and taste foreign cuisine, all in the exceptional company of fellow alumni and their families.

The 67 travelers on the Heart of Europe Tour were treated to a whirlwind tour of Berlin, Prague, Salzburg, and Lake Lucerne. Perhaps the most highly anticipated event of the trip was attending the world famous Passion Play in Oberammergau, Germany. This theatrical offering claims a fascinating history dating back to 1633 when the villagers of Oberammergau made an oath to God, promising to perform a play of the suffering, death, and resurrection of Christ every 10 years, should God deliver their village from the Bubonic Plague. True to their word, Oberammergau residents have produced the Passion Play every ten years since 1634 (with a COVID-19 hiatus). **MARK E. REEVES '92** had this to say about the performance, “The Oberammergau Passion Play is something that everyone needs to attend at least once in their life.” For **ROGER HADLEY '74**, the beauty of Switzerland was a trip highlight, “...the views of the lush green valleys between the majestic Alps will forever be a peak experience. To share this moment with new and old friends is a treasured memory.” When asked about traveling with fellow alumni, **LINDSAY B. PADEN '76-A** shared,

“It enhanced the entire experience. [We had] lots of interesting conversations!” To view the Heart of Europe trip video and photos, visit: [www.llusmaa.org/travel/heart-of-europe/](http://www.llusmaa.org/travel/heart-of-europe/).

Cruising, castles, and cathedrals were part of the daily routine for the 29 passengers on the Rhine River Cruise. Peaceful days on the water interspersed with frequent shore excursions in France, Germany, the Netherlands, and Switzerland made for a memorable week abroad. Trip highlights included attending the Floriade Expo 2022 in Amsterdam, an international horticultural exposition celebrating the latest advancements in green living, horticulture, and sustainable technology. From gondola rides in Rudesheim, Germany, to taking in enchanting castles nestled along the Rhine and daily gourmet meals, this trip offered something for everyone. **SHARON WONG GOSNEY '89** and her husband, Brian Gosney, thoroughly enjoyed the experience, “Our week on the AmaSerena created wonderful memories and cemented friendships, old and new. I really enjoyed the morning we spent on the sun deck, cruising through the Upper Middle Rhine Valley (UNESCO World Heritage Site) viewing towns, castles, and vineyards under clear blue sky... It would be fun to cruise with alumni again.” To view the Rhine River Cruise trip video and photos, visit: [www.llusmaa.org/travel/rhine-castles-swiss-alps/](http://www.llusmaa.org/travel/rhine-castles-swiss-alps/).

The Alumni Association's next Lifetime Experience Trip is a cruise through the Galapagos Islands, July 13–23, 2023. This will truly be a once-in-a-lifetime experience for attendees. To learn more about the itinerary and accommodations, please visit our website: [www.llusmaa.org/travel/galapagos/](http://www.llusmaa.org/travel/galapagos/). ■



# Heart of Europe Tour

JUNE 28 – JULY 9, 2022



(1) (From left) **PAUL K. AKA '86**, Sheryl Aka, and their daughter, **ALLISON A. AKA '13** enjoying a boat ride on Lake Lucerne.

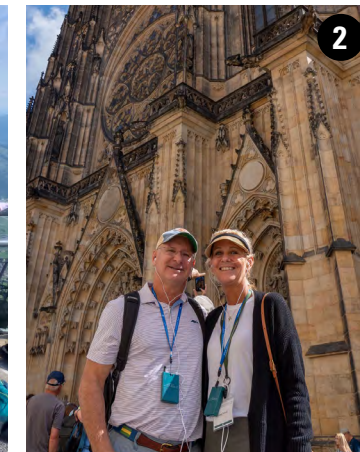
(2) Cherie Appleton Eickmann, DDS, and **THOMAS H. EICKMANN '99** take a photo together in Dresden, Germany.

(3) The open-air stage in Oberammergau, Germany, where the world-famous Passion Play is performed every 10 years.

(4) The entire Heart of Europe tour group gathers for a photo in front of the The Lion Monument in Lucerne, Switzerland.

(5) **GEORGE T. MATSUDA '88** lines up the perfect shot looking down upon Lake Lucerne from the Stanserhorn cable car.

(6) Neuschwanstein Castle in Schwangau, Germany.



(1) Alumni, friends, and family take a group photo on the observation deck atop the Stanserhorn in Switzerland.

(2) **H. DEL SCHUTTE '84** and Linda Schutte smile together in front of Prague Castle.

(3) Elissa Kido and **DANIEL K. KIDO '65** take in the views over Český Krumlov.

(4) **DEBORAH M. CARRITTE '86** and James Carritte, MD, smile on either side of a guard in Salzburg, Austria.

(5) Mimi Schramm and **J. MARK SCHRAMM '02** take a photo overlooking a breathtaking vista from Neuschwanstein Castle.

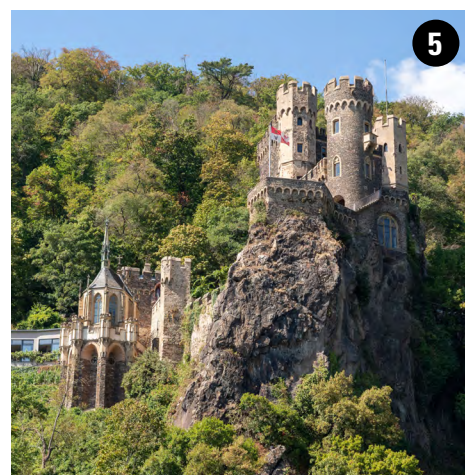
(6) **CARL B. ERMSHAR '68** and Arlene Ermshar enjoying the audio tour in Salzburg, Austria.

(7) The alumni travelers gather for a group photo in Interlaken, Switzerland, as a paraglider flies overhead.



# Rhine River Cruise

AUGUST 22 – 29, 2022



(1) A lovely group of intrepid alumni travelers take a group photo aboard the AmaSerena cruise ship.

(2) **RANDELL S. SKAU '82** and **MELINDA S. SKAU '82** enjoy the delightful views in Strasbourg, France.

(3) The group enjoys a morning on deck, taking in the beauty and history of the Rhine River from the water.

(4) **TERRY J. DIETRICH '71** and Jeannie Dietrich take a photo in the Kapellbrücke ("Chapel Bridge"), hailed as one of the oldest surviving truss bridges in Europe.

(5) The picturesque Rheinstein Castle juts upward from its rocky foundation, one of several castles nestled along the Rhine River.

(6) A row of iconic Amsterdam canal houses light up the water at night.

(1) Alumni, family, and friends gather for a group photo to commemorate the Rhine River Cruise.

(2) (From left) **JON R. KATTENHORN '74** and **RICARDO PEVERINI '84** take a quick break from bicycling to take a photo at the Dreiländereck, the point where Germany, France, and Switzerland meet.

(3) (From left) Esther Tan and **AI MAE C. WATKINS '93** take a photo in front of a unique natural art installation at the Floriade Expo in Amsterdam.

(4) (From left) Beth Stottlemeyer and **DEBRA L. STOTTLEMYER '86** pose with the Heidelberg Bridge Monkey on a sunny day Heidelberg, Germany.

(5) Alumni and friends enjoy Sabbath worship time on deck while the ship maneuvers through one of the many locks along the Rhine River.

(6) (From left) Brian Hartnell and **MONICA NEUMANN HARTNELL '74** prepare to take a cable car ride over the vineyards of Rudesheim, Germany. They are sitting in the same cable car Elvis Presley rode while filming "G.I. Blues."

(7) (From left) **KATHLEEN LAU-PEVERINI '82** and **PAMELA WATCASTER '86** enjoying the sights along the Rhine River.



# Life After Medicine

BY JON R. KATTENHORN '74

Physicians' lives tend to be unique. We went to school for more years than most, after which we generally transition into unrelenting work lives. Then come years of the proverbial "24/7" schedule, punctuated by 6:00 a.m. staff meetings, 7:30 a.m. surgeries, post-op rounds, mandatory department meetings at noon followed by a packed schedule of patients, already running 45 minutes behind. The entire time we are surrounded by staff, who despite their best intentions, need answers and urgent lab results, while a pharmaceutical rep is "patiently" waiting for a brief visit and a signature. Then there is the call from your family that your child fell and skinned his knee, plus the reminder about the school program this evening and church board meeting tomorrow, and are you on call next Tuesday? Because the Smiths are visiting from out of town and want to get together for dinner. Half your evenings are spent catching up on patient notes in the EMR. Meanwhile, the first patient on the schedule ... you know what I am saying!

Yes, we have family time and home projects. Our kids grow up. We take short vacations, only to return to the same "rat race" all over again. Part of the conflict is that we enjoy the intensity of our work; we are valued and needed by many and are rewarded with patient satisfaction. Then one day, we quit. We sleep in. The kids are gone. The pager doesn't buzz, and the phone doesn't ring. The next day is the same, no calls except one from medical records (they need one last signature).



(From left) JAMES J. COUPERUS '67 and JON R. KATTENHORN '74 discuss their retirement experiences.

Physicians are not the only people in the world who retire from busy lives. But statistics show we may struggle more with the process than others. No matter how brave we think we are or how well we have planned for our future, we are more susceptible to depression. Often the transition from overwhelmingly busy schedules to quiet retirement is a major letdown; where we were once so valued and needed, we now get to learn comfortability in stillness.

As I considered how best to approach this ongoing "Life After Medicine" project for the ALUMNI JOURNAL, I have consulted friends who are either already retired, in the process of, or seriously contemplating making that change in their lives. I posed these questions:

What do you look forward to most (or already enjoy) about retiring? "Less STRESS!" "I enjoy my practice now, and family get-togethers, but in the future I would like to buy a motorcycle as well as tour the USA and major national parks."

What are your biggest concerns as you face retirement? "How long will my wife and I live? Can we check off our 'bucket lists' and be around for our grandkids' major milestones?"

What would you do differently if you had the chance to prepare for retirement knowing what you know now? "I'd use a Roth IRA rather than a regular IRA." "I'd find an experienced financial advisor who charges by the hour not per stock transaction and fund the maximum amount of funds as early as I could afford in a balanced retirement fund."

What do you see as the biggest challenge for physicians going into retirement? "Disengaging from medical politics." "Creating new friends of like mind who have the same goals." "Determining where we will eventually live."

Life after medicine is something that we should all look forward to, carefully plan for, and emotionally prepare for. Moving forward, we will be using the Life After Medicine feature in the ALUMNI JOURNAL to explore unique aspects of planning for and transitioning into retirement as physicians. We value your feedback. If you have an idea or topic you would like to see covered in the Life After Medicine feature, contact us at llusmaa@llu.edu. ■

Dr. Kattenhorn is a retired OB-GYN specialist and faithful supporter of the Alumni Association. He is a past president of the Association (2021) and continues to serve on the ALUMNI JOURNAL editorial team.

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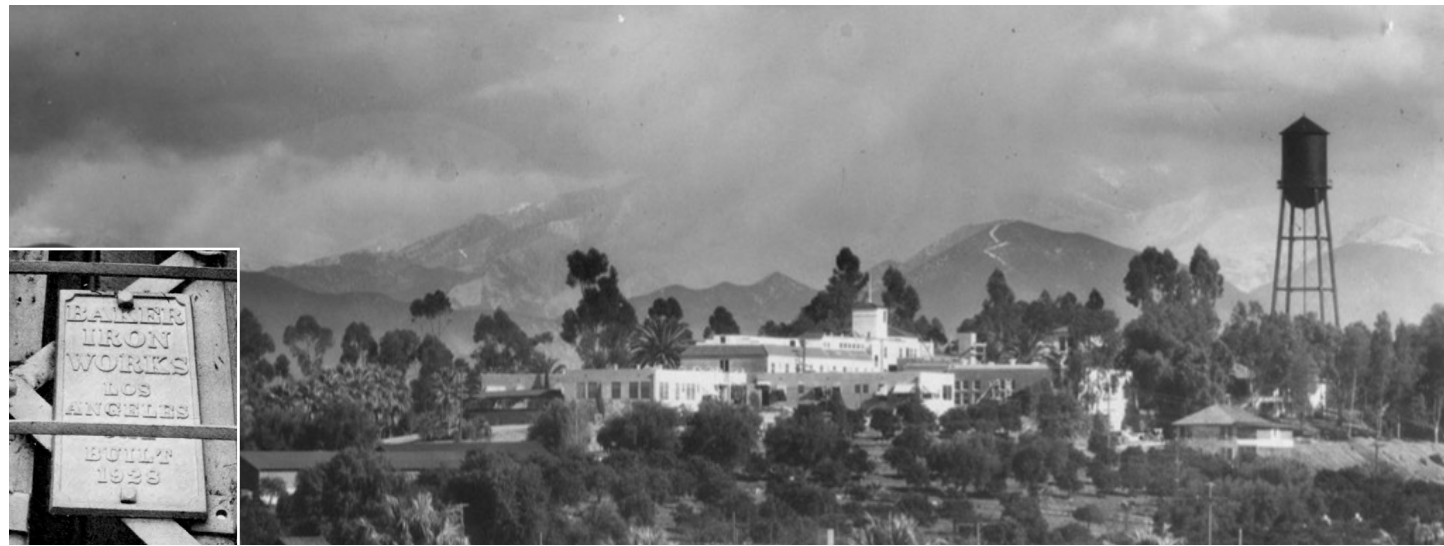
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A view of the hospital on the hill (circa 1948) and the water tower. (Inset) Photograph of the Baker Iron Works placard, iron of course, bolted to the angled support of the water tower, which once dominated the Loma Linda skyline.

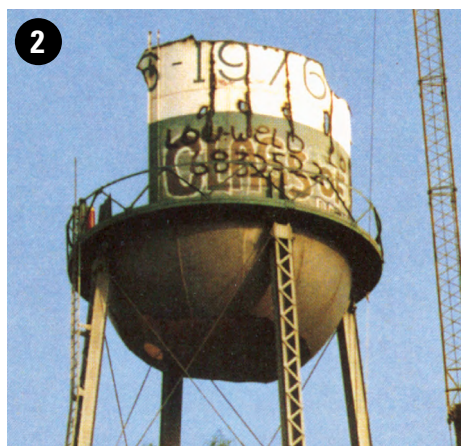
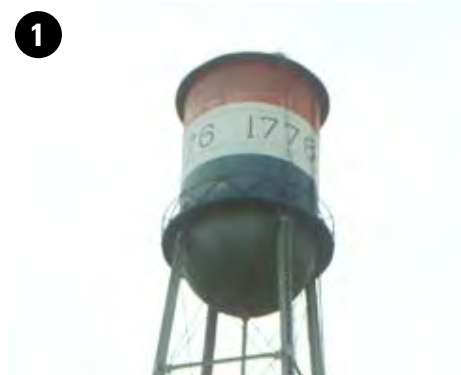
# The Water Tower on Loma Linda University Campus

BY DENNIS E. PARK, MA, '07-HON, CONSULTING HISTORIAN

During the 1920s, most of the College of Medical Evangelist's classes were taught on the hill. However, a few medical school classes were taught in the School of Medicine building, which was built around 1910 in the space between Evans Hall and Anderson Street. A new hospital opened on Oct. 28, 1912, in the center of what is today the campus quadrangle. The small hospital soon outgrew its quarters, and by 1924, the first phase of a new hospital was completed on the hill, south of where the old sanitarium stood. After the new hospital on the hill was built, campus leadership looked to the future. The board understood that as the Inland Empire continued to grow, so would the need for larger patient care facilities.

In anticipation of future expansion of the hospital on the hill, leadership understood that the utility services would require expansion as well. One of the greatest needs

would be consistent availability of water—greater than the water line capacity could handle at that time. The solution: a water tower. In 1928, Baker Iron Works (founded in 1877), in Los Angeles, California, manufactured and erected a water tower on the east side of the hill, slightly west of the “This is the Very Place” sculpture. Early black and white photographs of the water tower show both a dark tank and a lighter color tank, possibly white in color. In 1976, the water tower took on a patriotic role in celebrating the 200th anniversary of the American Revolution. Staff from campus maintenance painted the water tower red, white, and blue. Overlaid on the white band (between the red and blue) were the dates 1776 – 1996 (image 1). This iconic landmark would maintain watch over the campus until July of 1987, when the water tower was razed (image 2). ■



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## Stewart W. Shankel '58

*MEMORIES OF MY MENTOR, SECTION CHIEF, DEPARTMENT CHAIRMAN, COLLEAGUE IN PRIVATE PRACTICE, AND FOREVER AWESOME FRIEND, DR. STEWART SHANKEL*

BY ROBERT E. SODERBLOM '63

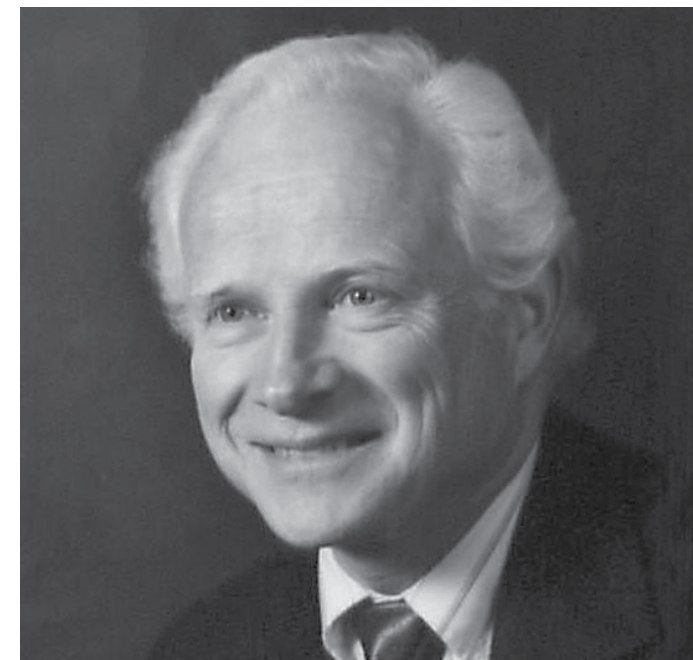
It was 1962 in an amphitheater at the White Memorial Hospital, Los Angeles. The occasion: third-year medical students "sitting at the feet" of this young, amazing, articulate teacher (then a cardiology fellow) as he explained the significance of P waves, QRS complexes, ST segments, et cetera.

This was my initial exposure to **STEWART W. SHANKEL '58**. Little did I know, this young physician garbed in a professional white starched coat would be integral to my journey in medicine, specifically nephrology.

When the original College of Medical Evangelists became Loma Linda University School of Medicine (LLUSM), the school transitioned entirely to the Loma Linda campus, where **VARNER J. JOHNS '45** was chair of the department of internal medicine. With his talent of persuasion, Dr. Johns convinced Dr. Shankel to take a nephrology fellowship. There being no nephrologist on the faculty, Dr. Shankel acquiesced, himself very committed to the mission of the school.

Dr. Shankel commenced a nephrology fellowship at Barnes Hospital in St. Louis, Missouri, where one of the "founding fathers" of nephrology was chief of medicine and section chief of nephrology, Dr. Neil Bricker. Fellowship completed, Dr. Shankel joined the LLUSM faculty as chief (and sole member) of the newly formed nephrology section in 1966. I was accepted into the internal medicine residency program at Loma Linda and fortuitously assigned to Dr. Shankel's rotation. One could not ask for a more awesome attending: superb teaching skills, exemplary bedside manners, knowledgeable, genuine mentor, modal Christian physician, researcher, humble, highly ethical, and so much more!

One must not fail to credit this icon with being the nephrologist who birthed hemodialysis at Loma Linda University (LLU) and the Loma Linda VA Hospital at a time when hemodialysis was still in its infancy. It started with a renal failure patient critically needing dialysis, a first-time dialysis nurse, Ms. Ziprick, and Dr. Shankel cautiously initiating the treatment and overseeing this historic event. This led to the opening of a 4–6 bed hemodialysis unit at LLU Medical Center—the beginning of what has now become a mega service provided at LLU. This same Dr. Shankel, along with



**LOUIS L. SMITH '49** (stellar vascular surgeon), completed the first renal transplant at LLU Medical Center.

During the third year of my residency, I was repeatedly encouraged by Dr. Johns and Dr. Shankel to apply for a nephrology fellowship and subsequently join the LLUSM faculty. Dr. Shankel desperately needed additional help as dialysis, transplantation, and patient referrals continued to expand. After a great deal of persuasion, I accepted the invitation. On completion of my fellowship, I joined Dr. Shankel—growing the nephrology section to the astronomical number two!

Dr. Shankel very effectively served as nephrology section chief until 1974 when he accepted a mission call to become chief of staff at Saigon Adventist Hospital. However, due to the unstable political situation in the country and the escalation of the war, he and his family were evacuated in 1975, shortly before its fall. He then practiced for a brief time at St. Helena Hospital in Angwin, California. From 1977–1980, by special invitation, he served as chief of the nephrology section at the newly opened Jerry L. Pettis VA Hospital. In 1980, he was recruited to lead the nephrology section at the University of Nevada Medical School, where he also became vice chair of medicine.

In 1986, he was invited back to LLUSM as professor and chair of the department of medicine. His family had now grown to include three sons and one daughter. His wife, **ELAINE L. SHANKEL '58**, joined the staff as a pediatrician. Dr. Shankel's infectious laughter and radiant cheerfulness in addition to his thoroughness and common sense endeared him to his students, residents, nursing staff, colleagues, and patients. His students voted him Teacher of

*Continued on page 56*



LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY  
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# ALUMNI Remembered

**MERLIN E. WOESNER '47** was born March 5, 1924, in Manila, Philippines, to missionary parents and died July 3, 2022, in Chino Hills, California.

Dr. Woesner attended Union College and then the College of Medical Evangelists, graduating in 1947. Following completion of his Army service at the end of World War II, he did his residency in diagnostic radiology at the White Memorial Medical Center. Following residency, he settled in Glendale, California, practicing initially at Glendale Adventist Hospital then later at the White Memorial Medical Center, where he was chief of diagnostic radiology for many years. He retired in 1983.

In retirement, he and his wife, Velma, moved to Oceanside, California. He had a passion for travel, visiting over 120 countries during his lifetime. He is survived by daughter, Carolyn Campbell SN'75; son, **RANDALL E. WOESNER '77-A**; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

**JOHN H. KONING '55** was born Aug. 31, 1929, in Oakland, California, and died Aug. 7, 2022, in Corona, California. He married Dolores, his wife of nearly 74 years, on Sept. 12, 1948. Upon finishing medical school, Dr. Koning completed an internship at Pontiac General Hospital in Pontiac, Michigan. He then returned to Southern California, and the family settled in Norco in 1961. He practiced family medicine in the Corona/Norco area for 50 years, delivering over 4,000 babies and serving as chief of staff at Corona Community Hospital and Corona Regional Medical Center. A civically minded man, Dr. Koning played an integral role in the incorporation of

Norco. He also served four years on the city council and one term as mayor.

After retiring in 2011, Dr. Koning occasionally assisted his son, **LAWRENCE K. KONING '81**, in his practice.

Dr. Koning leaves behind his wife, Dolores, and a loving family, including his brother, Conrad; son, **LAWRENCE K. KONING '81** (Julie SN'79); grandsons, **JONATHAN C. KONING '09** (Brooke) and **JEFFREY L. KONING '11** (Evalie SN'07); and three great-granddaughters.

**HARRY E. RICE '55** was born May 21,



1929, and died peacefully at home on Sept. 6, 2022, at age 93. He was born in Florence, Alabama, to Virgil Eli and Clara Lee Rice (Turner), both of Missouri. He spent his childhood in California and Missouri, and attended Broadview Academy, graduating in 1947. He graduated in 1951 from Emmanuel Missionary College (Andrews University) in Berrien Springs, Michigan, then attended Loma Linda University School of Medicine, a member of the class of 1955. Dr. Rice did his internship and residency in internal medicine at White Memorial Hospital in Los Angeles before being inducted into the U.S. Navy as a naval physician, serving from 1957–1959. After being discharged, he worked at the White Memorial and in private practice. He worked most of his professional life as a physician at Rancho Los Amigos in Downey, California. He resided in Los Angeles County for 69 years, the majority of which were in Long Beach.

He is survived by his daughter, Karin;

son, **KEVIN E. RICE '92** (Teresa); and two granddaughters, Karli Rice Chudeau (Nicolas) and Taylor Rice (Aaron Espinoza).

**EDWIN M. CLARK '57** was born in 1927 in Lincoln, Nebraska and peacefully passed away Aug. 19, 2022, in Newport Beach, California.



Dr. Clark and his cousin (and classmate), **MERLIN F. THOMAS '57**, grew up attending Seventh-day Adventist boarding academies, continuing on to Walla Walla College. It wasn't long before he fell in love with Gloria Burns while they sang together in the acapella school choir. They married on Aug. 24, 1947.

Dr. Clark worked as a master chemist for JPL in order to pay for medical school. In 1955, their daughter, Jill, was adopted. In 1957, Dr. Clark graduated from the College of Medical Evangelists and began an orthopedic residency at White Memorial Hospital. He and Gloria completed their family in the summer 1958 with the birth of their second daughter, Jody. They resided for several years in Glendale and then Pasadena. Many happy family times were spent enjoying Palm Desert, Balboa Island, Lake Tahoe, Sun Valley, and traveling the world.

At the age of 70, Dr. Clark began a new career providing Workers' Compensation evaluations for several Southern California orthopedic offices. He retired in 2017 at the age of 90. He truly loved his profession. Dr. Clark was an enthusiastic participant in all of his medical school reunions and enjoyed reconnecting with classmates. He leaves behind Gloria; daughters, Jill Hirst SN'78 (**DAVID B. HIRST '81**) and

## Ernest S. Zane '56

**ERNEST S. ZANE '56 WAS BORN SEPT. 21, 1926, IN HONOLULU, HAWAII, AND PASSED AWAY ON AUG. 26, 2022, IN LOMA LINDA, CALIFORNIA.**

Dr. Zane received his elementary education in a one-room Seventh-day Adventist school on the island of Kauai, where his fifth grade teacher inspired him to become a physician. In 1945, he was drafted into the U.S. Army and was later stationed in New Caledonia. Upon completion of his service, he attended Pacific Union College and then the College of Medical Evangelists, now Loma Linda University School of Medicine (LLUSM), earning his medical degree in 1956. A rotating internship at the Los Angeles County Hospital, an ophthalmology residency at White Memorial Hospital, and a three-month basic science course in ophthalmology at Colby College in Maine completed his training.

Dr. Zane joined the LLUSM faculty in 1963 as an associate professor and eventually served as interim chair of the department of ophthalmology in 1993. He held the appointment for seven critical years, rebuilding the department and preserving the residency program with two new residents every year and later increasing the program to three residents per year.

In 1999, Dr. Zane took on the immense task of recreating the department of ophthalmology. He facilitated the recruitment of **HOWARD V. GIMBEL '60** as department chair in 2000, and the recruitment and mentorship of many core ophthalmology faculty members in the department's early years. He served as a core faculty member until Dec. 1, 2013, and then worked on a per diem basis until Dec. 31, 2020, ultimately staying on faculty on a volunteer teaching contract through December 2021. He was named emeritus associate professor on Jan. 1, 2021. His mentorship has been invaluable to attendings, residents, and medical students. Two endowed funds



were created to honor his legacy of teaching: The Ernest Zane Endowed Fund for Ophthalmology Education (est. 2011) and the Dr. Zane Award Fund (est. 2022) to honor the top LLUSM student entering the field of ophthalmology.

Without the courage, foresight, and faith of Dr. Zane, the department of ophthalmology would not be what it is today, the "Center of Excellence" for eye care in the Inland Empire. He was recognized for excellence in his field and deep commitment to LLUSM throughout his career, receiving several awards including the following: Resident Teacher of the Year (2000), LLUSM Distinguished Service Award (2010), Loma Linda University Medical Center Administration Career Devotion Recognition (2016), and Alumni Association Honored Alumnus (2016).

Dr. Zane was predeceased by his wife of nearly 67 years, Dorothy. He is survived by their children, **RYAN E. ZANE '85**, Alan, **STEVEN E. ZANE '90**, and Sandra; and seven grandchildren, **S. ALEC ZANE '21**, Christian, Olivia, Adam, Samantha, Aiko Lissie, and Wyatt. ■

Jody Bower SAHP'86 (Brent), five grandchildren, and two-and-a-half great-grandchildren. His joyful, generous, and fun-loving presence will be greatly missed.

**LEONARD S. KUNINOBU '57** died May 15, 2022. He specialized in ophthalmology.

**ROBERT S. SMITH '57** died July 23, 2022. He specialized in family medicine.

**SAMUEL LAVERNE ENG '58** died July 24, 2022. He specialized in obstetrics and gynecology.

**JEROME L. BRAY '59** was born Oct. 9, 1933, in White Earth, Minnesota, and passed peacefully at age 88 on Oct. 7, 2022, in Lincoln, Nebraska. Dr. Bray married his sweetheart, Lois Daniels, in 1953. From an early age, he honed



his skills and discipline to serve the Lord. He graduated with a degree in biology from Emmanuel Missionary College (Andrews University) in 1955. After graduating from Loma Linda University School of Medicine in 1959, he went on to serve as a surgeon in Denver, Colorado; Frankfurt, Germany; and was chief of surgery in West Point, New York, where he retired from the U.S. Army as a lieutenant colonel in 1968.

Notify us of alumni who have passed, or review our obituary policy at [WWW.LLUSMAA.ORG/IN-MEMORIAM-SUBMISSION-FORM](http://WWW.LLUSMAA.ORG/IN-MEMORIAM-SUBMISSION-FORM).



Dr. Bray and Lois then moved their family north of his childhood stomping grounds to start a private practice in Thief River Falls, Minnesota, where he served as a general surgeon for 49 years. Although a man of few words, he was always willing to say a prayer to the Great Healer for guidance, healing, and comfort with his patients, family, and friends. His desire to help and bring a smile to those he met manifested in many ways. His kindness and joy were evident in snowmobile house calls to a patient's home, mission trips to El Salvador, Guam, Kenya, Nepal, and Peru, assisting many students to continue their education, and drawing smiley faces on a child's big toe.

Dr. Bray is survived by his wife, Lois Daniels Bray; their children, Bruce Bray (Karen), Bryce Bray, Jeri Lyn Grindley, and Laura Bray (Cassie Law); nine grandchildren, Melissa, Thomas, Brian, David, Becky, Greg, Rachel, Andrew, and Bryson; plus 16 great-grandchildren; his sister, Marilyn Wallace; brother-in-law, Bill Fuller; and nine nieces and nephews.

**GEORGE E. KIELER '59** was born Oct. 6, 1931, and died Dec. 11, 2021. He specialized in family medicine.

**WILTON H. BUNCH '60** died May 16, 2021. He specialized in orthopedic surgery.

**DONALD M. MORAN '60** was born Nov.



11, 1928, and died Jan. 31, 2022, at age 93 in Auburn, California. He was a most beloved and cherished husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, uncle, and friend, with diverse interests and passions and an insatiable curiosity that took his life in many directions: medicine, flying, travel, hiking, RVing, birding, and botany, among others.

He was born and raised in Loma Linda, California, and attended Pacific Union College, graduating with a degree in medical technology. Upon graduation, the U.S. Army called and he served as a medical technologist in El Paso, Texas. Medical school in Loma Linda was his next chapter, graduating in 1960 and later

achieving double boards in surgery and emergency medicine. He began his practice in general surgery in Paradise and Chico, California, before becoming a partner with California Emergency Physicians (CEP) in 1975. Adventure called and from 1984–1985 he and his wife, LaVerne, spent a year working at King Fahad Hospital in Saudi Arabia before returning to work for CEP in Roseville, California. He retired in 1999 from Roseville Medical Center to become a ship's doctor for Holland America Line/Windstar Cruises until his final retirement in 2004.

Dr. Moran was a lifelong adventurer, exploring many of the mountain trails of California, always pointing out the various birds, flowers, and plants and reciting their botanical names with ease. His greenhouse was filled with cacti and succulents that he couldn't resist propagating. Visitors to his greenhouse seldom left without a plant.

He will be deeply missed by his wife of 42 years, LaVerne; sons, Steve (Pat) and Curt (Terry); grandchildren; great-grandchildren; sister, Marianne Carty; and several extended family members.

**EIMING DJANG '62** died July 30, 2022. He specialized in internal medicine.

**FRANKLIN R. HOUSE '62** died April 13, 2022. He specialized in family medicine.

**ROBERT P. ROWE '62** was born in San Jose,



California, on May 17, 1936, to Robert Rowe and Pauline Rowe of Mountain View, California, and passed on April 4, 2022. He graduated from Mountain View Academy in 1954 and later attended Pacific Union College, graduating in 1958. Upon receiving his medical degree from the College of Medical Evangelists in 1962, he completed a rotating internship at the White Memorial Hospital in 1963. Dr. Rowe trained in otolaryngology in 1967 and received his certification later that same year. He was then drafted into the U.S. Army and served two years at Fort Stewart, Georgia. Following his service, Dr. Rowe played an instrumental role in developing

the training program for ENT residents at Loma Linda University (LLU). This program has been used to guide over 100 residents over the last 32 years.

Dr. Rowe and his wife, Dawn, had two sons: **MARK R. ROWE '94**, a pediatric otolaryngologist and chief of pediatric ENT surgery at Fresno State Medical Center, and Scott, a business graduate of Walla Walla University working as a CPA analyst in Bellingham, Washington.

Dr. Rowe was well known for his contributions to LLU otolaryngology and his dedication to furthering pediatric otolaryngology services through the craniofacial clinic team, pediatric allergy, and Totally Kids Rehabilitation Center. Countless children have experienced improved quality of life after Dr. Rowe diagnosed and treated their unique ailments. In 2001, Dr. Rowe entered retirement and moved to the Olympic Peninsula, residing in Sequim, Washington. He is survived by his wife, Dawn; sons, Mark and Scott; and grandchildren, Matt and Brett.

**WILLIAM E. WHITE '62** was born on March 1, 1936, and died Oct. 7, 2022, at 86, surrounded by his loving family.



Dr. White was born in St. Helena, California, and spent his childhood in Maryland. He attended Takoma Academy and graduated from Columbia Union College with a degree in zoology in 1958. In 1962, he graduated from Loma Linda University School of Medicine and interned at the White Memorial Hospital in Los Angeles, named after his great-grandmother, Ellen G. White.

In 1963, Dr. White began practicing in the Sierra Madre. He worked in this community for 54 years, serving countless patients until retiring at age 80. He served as chief of staff at Arcadia Methodist Hospital, chaired many committees, and was chief of staff at Sierra Madre Community Hospital. He was physician of record for the Sierra Madre British Home retirement center for many decades and had the great honor of being introduced to Queen Elizabeth II as the "Eminent Dr. White," during her visit in 1983. In 2003, Dr. White was named

Physician of the Year by the Alpha Auxiliary of Methodist Hospital Foundation and honored by state and local governments.

Dr. White met the love of his life, Patti Randall, in 1968, and they were married for 53 happy years filled with wonderful memories. They had two sons, Jeff and Greg.

Dr. White was an active man of many hobbies, including boating. He owned the famous racing sailboat, Ragtime—the first to finish the Transpacific Yacht Race in 1975 from Long Beach to Honolulu.

Dr. White touched many lives in his local community and beyond. He is predeceased by his son, Jeff, and survived by his wife, Patti; son, Greg; daughter-in-law, Annette; and four grandchildren.

**EDWIN E. VYHMEISTER '63-AFF** was born June 18, 1939, and died Oct. 16, 2022. He specialized in general surgery, thoracic and cardiac surgery, and pathology.

**LELAND M. KAHLER '64** was born on



March 7, 1936, in Goodwich, North Dakota, and died March 14, 2021, in Tracy, California. He earned his undergraduate degree from Pacific Union College in California before attending medical school at Loma Linda University. Dr. Kahler interned at Washington Sanitarium and Hospital in Takoma Park, Maryland, after which he served in the U.S. Air Force as a captain at McConnell Air Force Base in Wichita, Kansas.

After completing two years in the Air Force, he moved to Tracy, California, in 1967 and joined Tracy Medical Group, where he practiced family medicine until 2001. Then he worked part time for Tracy Urgent Care until 2012.

He enjoyed a number of hobbies, including fishing, backpacking, scuba diving, snow skiing, and flying.

Dr. Kahler is survived by his loving wife of 61 years, Viola, and his children, Philip, Sheryl, and Jeffery SD'92. He will be missed by his four grandchildren, Jared, **GABRIELLE KAHLER '20**, Maddison, and Lucas.

**ANDREW S. BOSKIND '65** passed away at age 81 on Aug. 28, 2022, after a long battle with Parkinson's Disease.



Dr. Boskind was born Jan. 12, 1941, in Malabar, Florida, to the late Sidney and Ethelwynn Boskind, the second of three boys. He was a Vietnam veteran and proudly served his country from 1966–1968. Dr. Boskind was an active staff member for over 30 years at Tennessee Christian Medical Center, Skyline Medical Center, and was an original member on the staff of Hendersonville Medical Center. At various times he served as chief of staff and/or chief of surgery at several of these hospitals. He retired in 2007 after 35 years of practicing general surgery. He was an active member of Madison Campus Seventh-day Adventist Church since 1974, teaching a Sabbath School class for over 30 years. He had a heart for missions, helping establish a fund to serve others in the Amazon, Egypt, Guatemala, Philippines, Russia, and Solomon Islands. He also traveled with a group from the Nashville area to Nigeria to do surgery. Locally, he started a Neighborhood Fund to help widows or the elderly who needed simple home repairs but could not afford them. After retiring, he helped establish Madison Christian Medical Clinic to serve the working uninsured.

He was preceded in death by his younger brother Christopher Boskind. He is survived by his loving wife of 58 years, Helen Boskind; son, John (Cindy, Spencer, Carter, Alexis); daughter, Julie Murphy (David, Andrew, Bryce, Bennett); brother, Richard (Martha); and sister-in-law, Connie, as well as several nieces and nephews.

**ROBERT J. BEREZCZ '66** passed away June 7, 2022, at age 81. He was born in Chicago in 1940 to Hungarian parents who arrived on Ellis Island less than 20 years earlier. When he was 6 years old, the family purchased a 180-acre dairy farm in central Wisconsin. He grew up working on the farm with his siblings.

Dr. Berezcz graduated from Wisconsin Academy in 1958, Andrews University in 1962, and Loma Linda University School

of Medicine in 1966. At the completion of a surgical internship at University of Wisconsin Medical Center, he was drafted into the military. He joined the U.S. Navy, was deployed to Vietnam, and served as medical officer with a Marine unit. In 1969, he was honorably discharged as a lieutenant commander. He then completed a four-year surgical residency—two years at a medical center in Milwaukie, Wisconsin, and two years at White Memorial Hospital in Los Angeles, followed by a fellowship in vascular surgery in Long Beach, California. His surgical career was spent in Oregon and Washington, where he and his wife, Carol, raised three daughters. Blessed with a wonderful tenor voice, music was an important part of his life as was involvement in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. He retired from his 50-year career in 2016 and moved to Medford and Lincoln City, Oregon, for retirement.

He was predeceased by his parents, William and Helen Berezcz; brothers, Bill and Joe; sisters, Helen and Judy; and grandson, Fisher Schroeder. He is survived by his wife, Carol Berezcz SN'66; brother, John (Deborah) Berezcz; daughters, Kari Schroeder (Todd), Michelle, and Diane; stepsons, Paul Peterlin (Martha) and Marcus Peterlin (Jayne); and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

**H. DAVID SPECHT '67** died April 29, 2022. He specialized in nuclear medicine and pathology.

**JOHN R. LAGOURGUE '70** was born Nov. 19, 1939, and died Aug. 14, 2022. He specialized in psychiatry.

**E. ARTHUR ROBERTSON '71** was born July 13, 1944, and died Sept. 9, 2022. He specialized in pathology.

**GORDON D. LEWIS '72** was born in



Billings, Montana, on June 16, 1947, and passed away July 20, 2022, in Nampa, Idaho, at the age of 75. His passing was unexpected, yet



peaceful. Known to many as “Spike,” he was born to parents Elder Morris Lewis and Barbara Kime Lewis. He grew up with his brother, Nathan, and sisters, Adenah and Jann, in Keene, Texas. Spike attended Southwestern Junior College in Keene, now Southwestern Adventist University, and completed his undergraduate studies at Union College in Lincoln, Nebraska. He attained his medical degree and orthopedic residency training from Loma Linda University. Spike settled and raised his family in Northern California, where he grew his orthopedic practice and served the people of Auburn for over 20 years. Not ready to retire, he continued his career with Kaiser Permanente in Modesto, California, for another 20 years. After retirement, Spike moved to Idaho for a slower and quieter life, where he spent time with family. He will be laid to rest in Keene, Texas.

**DUNCAN LEUNG '82** was born to Lai Wong and Tsao Leung in Liverpool, England, and passed away Jan. 12, 2022. Dr. Leung traveled from England to the United States in 1970.



He attended Newbury Park Academy and La Sierra University, where he met his wife, Janet. His grandfather, Dr. Big Wah Loh, was a missionary doctor from China and inspired Dr. Leung to pursue medicine. He attended Loma Linda University School of Medicine (LLUSM), graduating in 1982. He completed an internal medicine residency at Loma Linda University Medical Center with board certification in 1985. Dr. Leung then joined Kaiser Permanente, where he had a fulfilling career until retiring in 2019. In 2004, Dr. Leung accompanied his uncle, **JOHN WONG '60**,

and other LLUSM alumni to China to provide free medical and dental services and English instruction. While working for Kaiser, Dr. Leung was the physician-in-charge of two clinics in Loma Linda and Redlands. Later in his career, he taught residents at Kaiser Fontana. A former resident shared, “Like a beloved family uncle, Dr. Leung’s calming demeanor and quirky sense of humor would melt away any hardship that one encountered during the day. Though his mortal form is no longer with us, I believe the bits and pieces of his legacy will live on in all his mentees.”

Dr. Leung is survived by his wife, Janet; mother, Lai Wong; siblings, Sheila, Sylvia, and Ken; children, **DEREK LEUNG '11** (Emerald) and Trisha Van't Hof (**JEREMY VAN'T HOF '12**); four grandchildren; nephews and nieces; and the Loh family clan. ■

**STEWART W. SHANKEL '58**  
(Continued from page 51)

the Year in 1968, 1971, 1972, and 1988. In 1974, he was honored by the Walter E. Macpherson Society as its first Teacher of the Year. He was named Alumnus of the Year by Walla Walla College in 1989 and was the recipient of the Educator of the Year Award from Loma Linda University for three consecutive years (1989–1991). All of these were well deserved but accepted with great humbleness.

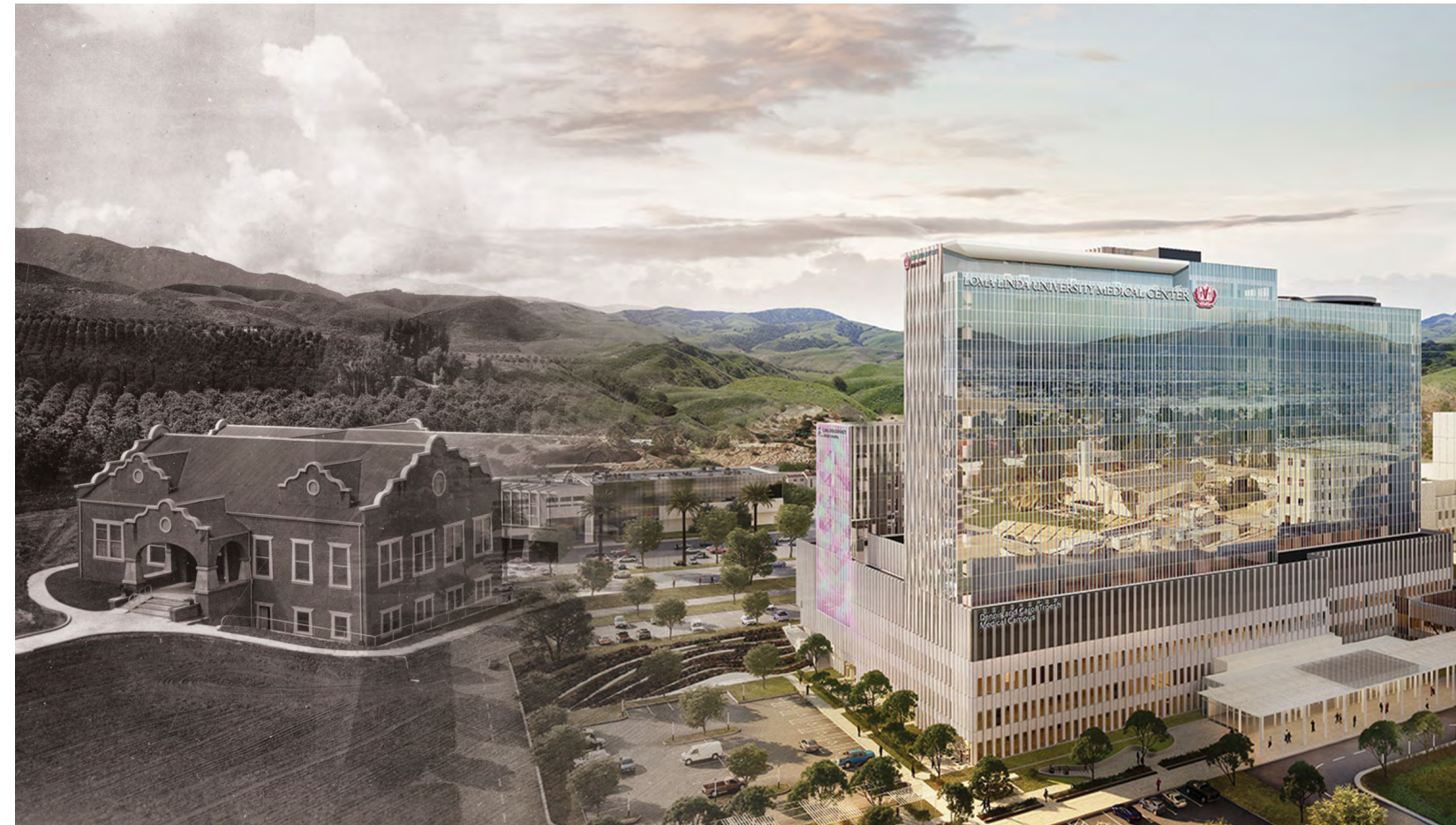
I now take a direct quote from the book, “The Department Of Medicine,” authored by the late **RAYMOND HERBER '57**, describing an event in Dr. Shankel’s career that hurtfully and unfortunately happened. “Dr. Shankel’s last year as Chairman of the Department of Medicine was associated with disagreements with the administration of the Loma Linda University School of Medicine, during which he (Dr. Shankel) showed great loyalty and support as he defended his faculty in their dispute. This was a most painful time for him, but he remained loyal to the Department...” And so in 1992, Dr. Shankel left to open a private nephrology practice with **GEORGE M. GRAMES '60** and yours truly. What a privilege it was to continue practicing with Dr. Shankel

from 1992–2000, at which time we retired from private practice. He was invited to advise and subsequently teach at the newly opened medical school at the University of California, Riverside and was thus back doing what he loved.

He retired in his 80s and loved living out in the country, tending to his orchards and his gardens. He loved his Creator; he loved his family; he loved his church; he loved the practice of medicine; and his patients and mentees. We lost a great man on Sept. 29, 2022. We will miss him greatly but not forget all he taught us, meant to us, and modeled for us here at Loma Linda. In the words of an old Hebrew proverb, “Say not in grief ‘He is no more’ but live in thankfulness that he was.”

Dr. Shankel was preceded in death by his wife, Elaine, and son, **THEODORE LEE SHANKEL '88**. He is survived by his second wife, Joy Shankel; his sons, Stewart Shankel (Helen) and Jeffery Shankel; daughter, Marti Ward (Bill); daughter-in-law, **TAMARA M. SHANKEL '88**; six grandchildren; and two great-grandsons. ■

# Though the campus may change, you will always be family.



We would not be where we are today without the hard work and dedication of each one of you, evident by the impact you have made in the world. As we enter the next phase of fulfilling our Mission to Continue the Healing Ministry of Jesus Christ, we are reaching out to partner with you as a member of our family. With the opening of our new hospital, our commitment is to grow our clinical faculty; meeting the needs of the Inland Empire, Southern California, and the world. If you have an interest in returning home, or know anyone who would like to join the team, we would love to hear from you. You can visit our website at [fmg.lluh.org](http://fmg.lluh.org) or contact me anytime.

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