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Alumni Journal, School of Medicine

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Summer 2023

## Alumni Journal - Volume 94, Number 2

Loma Linda University School of Medicine

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# ALUMNI JOURNAL

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION,  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE  
OF LOMA LINDA  
UNIVERSITY

SUMMER  
2023



## 2023 GRADUATION FESTIVITIES

Celebrating the newest members of our worldwide community of alumni, the class of 2023

## INSIDE:

Department Report: Surgery | Alumni Association Celebrates 100 Years | Two Epochal Leaders

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## ALUMNI JOURNAL



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**CARLA BLUM-JOHNSTON '23** smiles as she marches in with the class of 2023 for the Conferring of Degrees Ceremony on May 28, 2023.

## ALUMNI JOURNAL

Summer 2023 | Volume 94, Number 2

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ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE OF LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY



# So You Have Graduated. Now What?

This year, Loma Linda University graduated 162 new medical doctors into the workforce. What can new medical doctors expect from their careers? Most will go on to residencies, then perhaps fellowships. Some will enter private practice, others will join large medical groups, the military, or enter hospital employment, while some will choose short- or long-term missionary service. Some may delay their careers to raise a family, complete additional education such as a master's degree or PhD, or because they didn't match into their preferred specialty. Many now face mortgage-sized student debt. As the euphoria of completing this major career step fades in the next few months, these new alumni will need mentors to guide them through the complexities of modern medical practice options.

In addition to adding recent graduates to our ranks, the Alumni Association has broadened its network to include non-Loma Linda University School of Medicine (LLUSM) graduates who are in residencies or fellowships at Loma Linda University Health (LLUH). Residents and fellows experience LLU along with our medical student alumni and have strong ties to our institution. These social and professional networks overlap those of LLUSM, adding strength to our Alumni Association and providing networking abilities to residents and fellows, which are mutually beneficial.

There are many benefits of belonging to our Alumni Association. We are a valuable professional network full of mentors, volunteers, and role models. We provide a framework for connecting with our members and opportunities for professional and volunteer engagement. These connections allow us to contribute to projects and

ideas that will shape the future.

In this edition of the *JOURNAL*, we continue the celebration of the 100-years legacy of our Alumni Association. We honor alumni, some still present, and some no longer with us, whose contributions have impacted the trajectory of our education and careers.

The print *ALUMNI JOURNAL* is our flagship form of communication with our alumni. In addition, we continue to expand our media presence. We have an extensive collection of videos about alumni on our YouTube channel and weekly updates on our social media platforms. Our Alumni Association website is being updated with even more information, which includes expanded versions of some of the print articles, a library of historical data, event photos, and additional content regarding our alumni activities.

We welcome alumni involvement at all levels of our organization and hope our new and experienced alumni find ways to mutually nurture one another. Volunteering is one of the most significant factors in reducing medical doctor burnout. Please contact us if you would like to discuss ways to become a volunteer with the Alumni Association!

To our newest medical school graduates and alumni members, welcome to this fabulous club! We look forward to getting to know you. ■



Rolanda R. Everett '92

**Issue Editor**

*Dr. Everett has practiced pediatrics in Springfield, Oregon, since 1998. She has been on the ALUMNI JOURNAL editorial team since 2016. She is honored to follow in the footsteps of her late father, ROLAND C. ZIMMERMANN JR. '66, with her Alumni Association involvement.*

## HOW TO GET INVOLVED WITH THE ALUMNI JOURNAL

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- 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 | 11245 Anderson St., Suite 200, Loma Linda, CA 92354



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
School of Medicine of Loma Linda University

100<sup>TH</sup> | ANNIVERSARY  
CELEBRATION (1923-2023)

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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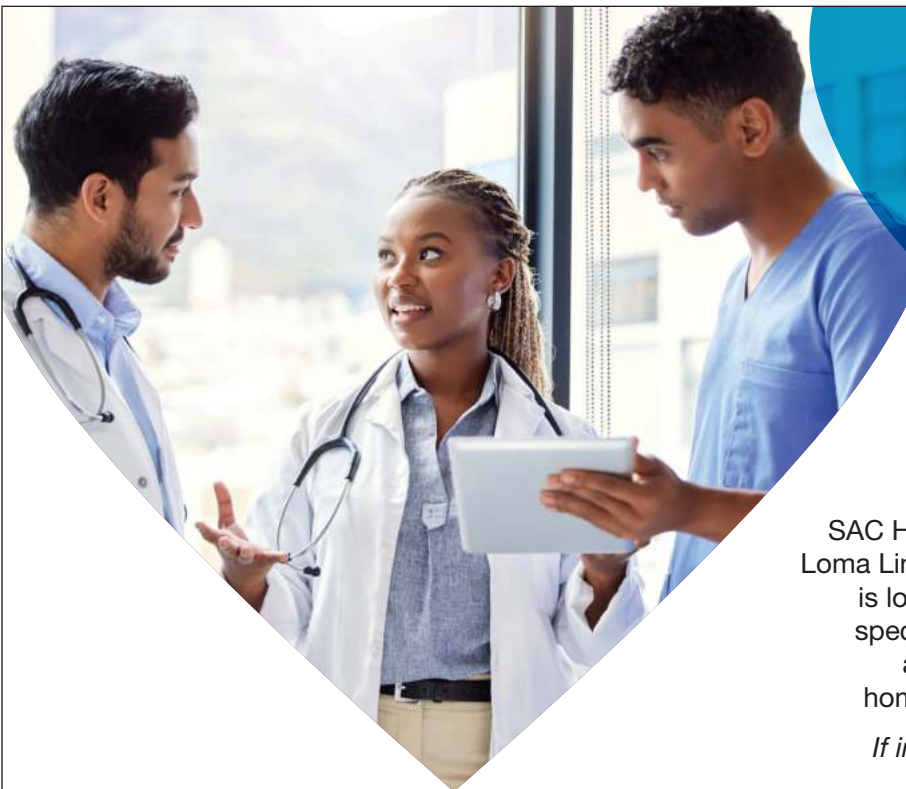


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# Caring Community

Thirty-seven years ago, the summer issue of this *ALUMNI JOURNAL* featured my graduating class of 1986. It contained a photograph of my grandfather, **MERRILL O. DART '32**, my mother, **MARILYN DART HERBER '58**, and myself, all in academic regalia. It posed the question, "Will there be a fourth generation?" That question was answered this year when **HELENA HERBER '23** joined her classmates to become the newest members of this Alumni Association.

At the graduation, in keeping with the School of Medicine tradition, I had the privilege of welcoming our 162 new graduates as alumni, and together we read our physician's oath. During the ceremony I had the chance to gaze out at the happy faces of the class and reflect on how their journey as physicians is just beginning. While celebrating the successful completion of the rigors of their medical education, new challenges await as they head off to their respective residency programs.

“**WHEN OUR NEW ALUMNI REACH OUT, LET'S BE THERE TO SUPPORT THEM.**”

I am proud of what we have done as an association to ease these challenges for our students. Our ambitious *Paying It Forward* Scholarship is reducing the debt burden for over 50 students and counting. This year in our 100<sup>th</sup> year we have the ambitious goal of adding 100 new donors for this project with our *100 for 100* Campaign to sustain this program for our students.

In addition, this year the Alumni Association board is expanding our focus to provide more resources to residents. Our resident alumni can benefit from networking, mentoring, and assistance in job searching through the Alumni Association. We can help prepare residents for a successful entry into practice. With the size and geographic distribu-



At LLUSM Conferring of Degrees, **STEVE HERBER '86** welcomes his daughter **HELENA HERBER '23** in as the fourth generation in the family to graduate from LLUSM.

tion of our membership, we likely have a member close to wherever our resident alumni might be located.

At commencement, I told the new graduates they were joining an amazing community that cares about each other. When our new alumni reach out, let's be there to support them. Can I count on you? ■



## Steve Herber '86

### **Alumni Association President**

Steve has practiced plastic and reconstructive surgery in the Napa Valley for 25 years. He has been President and CEO of Adventist Health St Helena since 2013.

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# People Matter

*"FOR I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU," DECLARES THE LORD, "PLANS TO PROSPER YOU AND NOT TO HARM YOU, PLANS TO GIVE YOU HOPE AND A FUTURE."*

*JEREMIAH 29:11 NIV*

This journal's theme is, "What lies ahead?" This could also be phrased, "What does my future look like?" The future holds both opportunities and challenges that did not exist for our alumni who graduated 100 years, 50 years, or even 10 years ago. And in our current world, there seem to be quite a few challenges. The class of 2023 invited me to offer some advice in their yearbook that fits with this theme. I would like to share an abridged version here.

As you transition to a life of practicing medicine, concentrate on being a really good doctor. There are so many moving parts in medicine: clinical pathways, mandatory training, clinical billing, and chart-completion guidelines, to name a few. These things add noise to your busy career. My advice, remember people are the most important. PEOPLE MATTER; let that guide your next steps.

**PATIENTS:** You have learned to treat the whole person. In addition to their illnesses, patients come to you with real-world problems – unemployment, family crises, spiritual concerns, and social issues, to name a few. Ultimately, they want to be well again. Treat their worries and fears with the respect you would give your family and friends.

**PEOPLE:** You will spend considerable time with your coworkers at all levels—from hospital staff to nurses to other physicians to CEOs. Make a conscious effort to contribute to a work environment that you truly enjoy. On those rare occasions when you are drained or overwhelmed, the people around you can help sustain you.

**YOU:** Remember your health—stay healthy, sane, and exercise. Be true to who you are and start living your best life now. As physicians, we know that tomorrow is not guaranteed. Do the things that sustain you and make you happy. Make time for loved ones.

Stay humble. For me, learning to listen has been a more valuable skill than always knowing what to say. When you don't understand what is going on clinically, keep looking. It is okay to ask for help—your colleagues, medical school teachers, or anyone who may be able to assist. Question everything and continue to stand out.

Be proud of the very meaningful profession you have chosen. Remember that it's a privilege, not a right, to be a part of your patients' lives in this meaningful way. Be an advocate for both yourself and your patients.

Finally, what happens when you don't know what to do? Three



*REMEMBER THAT IT'S A PRIVILEGE, NOT A RIGHT, TO BE A PART OF YOUR PATIENT'S LIVES IN THIS MEANINGFUL WAY. BE AN ADVOCATE FOR BOTH YOURSELF AND YOUR PATIENTS.*

words—just show up. Show up and be compassionate and kind and do the right thing. Put your skills and passions to work caring for your patients and their families. They need you now more than ever before! ■



Tamara L. Thomas '87  
School of Medicine Dean

# *Congratulations*

## *Class of 2023*

We are proud to have trained thousands of physicians including those who make it a family tradition.



John E. Hagele '93; Adam Hagele '23;  
Andrew J. Hagele '61



Gregory S. Lang '89; Annalise Freed '23;  
Thomas J. Dickinson '61



Kirk E. Weber '90; Ansel Weber '23;  
Rollin E. Weber '58

Celebrating the past and future of medicine.  
*Happy 100th anniversary Alumni Association!*



LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY  
School of Medicine

## New Department Chair of Cardiothoracic Surgery



Loma Linda University School of Medicine has selected **JOSHUA S. CHUNG '07** as chair of the department of cardiothoracic surgery, effective July 1.

Chung, who joined the School of Medicine faculty in 2019, is an associate professor of cardiothoracic surgery and recently served as vice chair of the department of cardiothoracic surgery.

He is leading a team of cardiothoracic surgeons and

is working with multidisciplinary teams to continue to grow and advance cardiothoracic services across the Loma Linda University Health system.

“Dr. Chung is a highly skilled surgeon, and we are confident that his talents and leadership will serve our faculty, residents, students, and patients with excellence,” said **TAMARA L. THOMAS '87**, dean of Loma Linda University School of Medicine.

He succeeds **ANEES J. RAZZOUK '82**, who served as chair of the department since 2007. ■

## New Chair for Department of Anesthesiology



Loma Linda University School of Medicine has selected **RICHARD L. APPLGATE '82** as chair of the department of anesthesiology, effective July 1.

Dr. Applegate joins Loma Linda from the University of California, Davis, where he served as professor and chair of the department of anesthesiology and pain medicine.

“Dr. Applegate demonstrates significant commitment and expertise to medical education, research and patient care that will benefit Loma Linda University Health and the School of Medicine,” said **TAMARA L. THOMAS '87**,

dean of Loma Linda University School of Medicine.

Dr. Applegate is a highly respected researcher and leader in the field of anesthesiology, with a distinguished record of accomplishment in clinical care, education, and research. He is leading a team of talented anesthesiologists, CRNAs, and support staff and is working collaboratively with other departments and disciplines to provide the highest quality care to our patients. He is also responsible for overseeing the education and training of our residents and fellows, and will play a key role in advancing our research programs.

Dr. Applegate replaces **ROBERT D. MARTIN '76**, who served as chair of the department since 2004. ■

## Alumni Inducted to Gold Humanism Honor Society

Congratulations to the three alumni faculty physicians who were inducted into the Gold Humanism Honor Society (GHHS). The School of Medicine established a GHHS chapter in 2020, which signifies to the medical community that an institution places high value on the interpersonal skills and attitudes essential for the highest level of patient care. The inductees are:

- MORGAN A. GREEN '16**
- BIANCA REBOLLEDO '17**
- MEGHAN ROSS COCHRAN-YU '13** ■

## Alumni Inducted Into Alpha Omega Alpha

Thirty-four members of the Loma Linda University School of Medicine class of '23, 4 faculty members, 27 residents, and alumnus **MICHAEL W. CATER '69**, were inducted into membership in the Alpha Omega Alpha (AOA) honor medical society during the organization's annual banquet, which was held Tuesday, March 14, at the Centennial Complex.

Election to Alpha Omega Alpha is an honor signifying a lasting commitment to professionalism, leadership, scholarship, research, and community service. A lifelong honor, membership in the society confers recognition for a physician's dedication to the profession and art of healing. ■

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



## Faculty Recognized at Conferring of Degrees Ceremony

**H. ROGER HADLEY '74**, emeritus dean, received the Loma Linda University School of Medicine (LLUSM) Distinguished Academic Service Award for his commitment to medical education. Loma Linda University School of Medicine is deeply grateful for his leadership and commitment to the mission.

**RICHARD D. CATALANO '76-B** and **KENNETH A. JUTZY '77-A** were recognized with the LLUSM Distinguished Academic Service Awards for their commitment to medical education and excellence in patient care. ■



(Top) Dr. Hadley with Dr. Hart & Dr. Thomas. (Middle) Dr. Catalano with Dr. Hart & Dr. Thomas. (Bottom) Dr. Jutzy with Dr. Hart and Dr. Thomas.

## Teacher of the Year Award

During the Senior Awards Banquet, the Macpherson Society announced **DANIEL K. ROGSTAD '09** as Basic Science Teacher of the Year for his excellence in the care of students and his exceptional dedication to teaching. ■



**KERBY OBERG '91**, **DANIEL ROGSTAD '09** and **TAMARA THOMAS '87**.

## Match Day



As part of the National Resident Matching Program, fourth-year medical students nationwide simultaneously opened their envelopes on March 17 at 9 a.m. PT to find out their future specialties and residency training locations for the next three to seven years.

The class of 2023 will start their residencies at numerous programs across the nation, including Kettering Health, Vanderbilt University, Massachusetts General Hospital, University of San Francisco, UC San Diego, Mayo Clinic, Ohio State Wexner Medical Center, and University of Washington, to name a few.

The future physicians competed for their residency programs with nearly 43,000 other students across the country.

At the event **KEVIN A. CODORNIZ '05**, associate dean of clinical education, addressed students and their families, sharing that 62% of Loma Linda University medical students will remain in California, and 36% will work as residents at Loma Linda University Health. There was a significant rise in students going into pathology compared to prior years. In addition, there are five students going into orthopaedics, the most of any other surgical subspecialty. ■

ALUMNI  
**News****1965****Loma Linda University School of Medicine congratulates****DANIEL K. KIDO '65, as the recipient of the Walter L. Stilson Endowed Chair in Radiology.**

Dr. Kido serves as professor of radiology and vice chair of academic affairs for the department of radiology.

Dr. Kido completed his radiology residency at LAC-USC Medical Center, and a neuroradiology fellowship at NYH-Cornell Medical Center. In 2000, he returned to Loma Linda University as director of neuroradiology. At Loma Linda he sparked a resurgence in scholarly activity and personnel development. He has served on national society committees, including those related to ethics, education, research, medical decision outcomes, editorials, technology assessment, practice standards, and program and awards committees, and participated in several national grants and published studies. He has spent 23 years as a member of the GE-American University Radiology Academic Fellowship Board, whose task is to develop academic radiologists with outcomes skills.

His awards include Honored Alumnus of Pacific Union College (2014), Honored Alumnus, Alumni Association of the LLU School of Medicine (2015), and the Award for Professionalism LLUH (2021).

The Walter L. Stilson Endowed Chair for Radiology honors his lifelong service (1935-1983) that emphasized patient care and education. Dr. Kido received the endowed chair because he demonstrates the qualities and commitment that **WALTER L. STILSON '34** advocated during his tenure at LLUH. This endowed chair was established to support academic growth throughout the radiology department. \*

**1994****Loma Linda University School of Medicine congratulates FRANCIS D. CHAN '94 as the recipient of the Robert F. Chinnock Endowed Chair in Pediatrics.**

Dr. Chan is an associate professor of medicine and pediatrics, and is the current chair of the Loma Linda University department of pediatrics.

A Loma Linda native, Dr. Chan received his Bachelor of Business Administration from La Sierra University in 1990 and completed a combined residency in internal medicine and pediatrics at Loma Linda University in 1998. He served as chief compliance officer for the Loma Linda University Faculty Medical Group and was awarded the Loma Linda University Health Physician Recognition Award for Leadership in 2019.

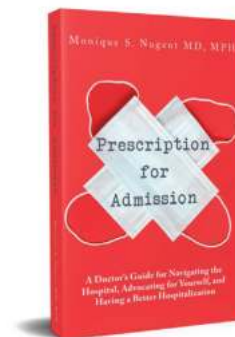
He is a diplomate of the American Board of Internal Medicine, the American Board of Pediatrics, and the American Board of Preventive Medicine in Clinical Informatics. He is a fellow of the American College of Physicians and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

The Robert F. Chinnock, MD Chair in Pediatrics was established in 1991 to honor a man who left a legacy of professionalism and dedication to his family and profession. This chair is the first endowed chair in pediatrics at Loma Linda University School of Medicine. **ROBERT F. CHINNOCK '44-A**, practiced in Iowa and at White Memorial Hospital, before returning to Loma Linda University School of Medicine as a professor of pediatrics. Dr. Chinnock gained national recognition for his lifelong commitment to children's health. He was widely published and founded a camp for children with diabetes, renamed "Camp Conrad Chinnock" after his death in 1975. \*

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).

## 2008

**MONIQUE S. NUGENT '08**, a hospital-based physician, published a book titled "Prescription for Admission: A Doctor's Guide for Navigating the Hospital, Advocating for Yourself, and Having a Better Hospitalization." Dr. Nugent completed her residency in internal medicine at Loma Linda University Medical Center. After completing her medical training, Dr. Nugent obtained her master's degree in public health while a fellow in the Commonwealth Fund Fellowship In Minority Health Policy at Harvard University.



## 2023

Twin sisters **KAREN BATHAN '23** and **LAUREN BATHAN '23** grew up in Loma Linda. Dr. Karen Bathan, older by one minute, says she and her sister only applied to LLU School of Medicine. "We wanted to be here," Dr. Karen Bathan said. "The culture of compassion and practice of whole person care was the perfect foundation for how we want to practice medicine."

Both sisters have a passion for mission service and are excited to continue to help the medically underserved locally and abroad.

The Sunday Conferring of Degrees Ceremony marked the second time the Bathan twins graduated from LLU with identical degrees. They completed their undergraduate program in clinical laboratory science at LLU School of Allied Health Professions.

Dr. Lauren Bathan is pursuing an internal-medicine pediatrics (Med-Peds) specialty and has been matched to a residency program at University of Illinois College of Medicine Peoria. At the same time, Dr. Karen Bathan will complete an internal medicine residency at Kaiser Santa Clara in Northern California. \* ■



(From left) **LAUREN BATHAN '23** and **KAREN BATHAN '23** at LLUSM Conferring of Degrees.

\*Reprinted with permission from the School of Medicine Report.

### CONNECT WITH THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION!

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# This & That

## Alumni Gatherings

The Alumni Association is thrilled to announce a series of alumni gatherings taking place in the coming months. Our continuous commitment to facilitating connections and engagement among our alumni has led us to organize these exciting events. These gatherings offer a unique occasion for alumni to socialize, reminisce, and foster new connections with fellow alumni residing in their local areas. Mark your calendars for the following upcoming alumni gatherings:

### Los Angeles, Sept. 17

Alumni Get-Together Los Angeles, CA: Sunday, September 17 from 5:00–7:30 p.m. at the home of **MARILENE BETH WANG '86** and **JAMES P. WATSON '86**.

### Saint Helena, Oct. 7

Alumni Get-Together Saint Helena, CA: Saturday, October 7 from 5:30–8:00 p.m. at the home of **RICHARD W. MARTIN '79-A**.

### Orlando, Oct. 28

Alumni, Alumni Residents, 3rd and 4th Year Get-Together Orlando, FL—Saturday, October 28 from 4:00–7:00 p.m. at the home of **VINCENT P. HSU '95**.

### Jacksonville, Oct. 29

Alumni Get-Together Jacksonville, FL—Sunday, October 29 from 11:00 a.m.–1:30 p.m. at the home of **BARBARA CHASE MCKINNEY '88** and **J. MARK MCKINNEY '87**.

### Seattle, Nov. 5

Meet the Dean and Alumni Gathering Seattle, WA – Sunday, November 5 from 5:00–8:00 p.m. at the home of **CHERYL L. TAN-JACOBSON '85** featuring an update on the School of Medicine from **TAMARA L. THOMAS '87**, dean, LLUSM.

SCAN THE CODE  
TO RSVP OR GO TO  
[WWW.LLUSMAA.ORG/EVENTS](http://WWW.LLUSMAA.ORG/EVENTS)



## Host a Gathering

The Alumni Association will be delighted to support you in coordinating an alumni gathering in your area, a wonderful opportunity to connect with fellow alumni and celebrate your shared experiences. Take a moment to complete our short form and our office will reach out or email Chaltu Sandiford at [csandiford@llu.edu](mailto:csandiford@llu.edu).

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## APC 2024

Save the date for APC 2024, four days of enriching experiences from February 29–March 4! Join us we cap off the 100th anniversary celebrations. Our captivating Continuing Medical Education lectures focused around our theme “What’s Next in Medicine.” There will be insightful specialty symposiums, memorable class reunions, and wonderful fellowship. Join us for an unforgettable experience that will foster growth, knowledge, and cherished connections. Registration opens early 2024.

## Issue Editor Updates

The Alumni Association is grateful to **ANDREW C. CHANG '90** for his contribution to the *ALUMNI JOURNAL* as issue editor for the past three years. His passion for Whole Person Care has produced excellent issues highlighting Whole Person Care in action. We appreciate his dedication, kindness, and service to the Alumni Association. We congratulate him on his new role at Loma Linda University School of Medicine as division chief of gastroenterology and hepatology.

We welcome **JON R. KATTENHORN '74** as the new issue editor for the spring edition starting in 2024. ■

# Class of '23 Cruise

BY SERENA LIN HEUNG '23

On May 11, the class of 2023 gathered together for the final time as a class to celebrate their upcoming graduation. A total of 170 senior medical students and their partners enjoyed a dinner cruise in Newport Beach. At the event, students took part in dinner, dessert, a photobooth, and a series of raffle prizes. The prizes included recognition in certain categories voted on live by the students at the event, such as a Loma Lifer sash presented to the student most likely to practice in Loma Linda for the rest of their life. The Alumni Association provided \$2,000 worth of prizes for the event, which included a KitchenAid Mixer and a Nintendo Switch, among many others. The evening is a memory to cherish for the class of 2023. ■



Class of 2023 students enjoyed a night together on a dinner cruise in Newport Harbor with prizes provided by the Alumni Association.



# Impacting Lives


## SHORT-TERM MISSIONS

BY **OLEN A. L. NETTEBURG '07**

### BEAUTIFUL BOY

Nadjikong is a beautiful little boy. When he arrived he was 15.4kg (33.95 lb). We thought he was seven years old, but we discovered Nadjikong was actually 12. He arrived with fulminant noma, a disease practically extinct in America, but still seen here in Béré, CHAD, where poverty, proper nutrition, and hygiene are challenged. Nadjikong's entire jaw was necrosing before our eyes. His lower lip was gone, and all the skin and most of the underlying soft tissue were gone from the corner of his right lip all around to the angle of his left mandible and down toward his sternal notch. More was missing every day. His hemoglobin was five, and Nadjikong was teetering on the brink of unconsciousness.

Fortunately, we had a visiting anesthetist and an excellent plastic surgeon, Dr. Bill Rhodes, volunteering with us. Dr. Rhodes and his wife, Laura Rhodes, have been missionaries in Kenya for 30 years and still spend most of each year traveling to wherever they are invited in Africa. After we had a lengthy chat with the family discussing the unlikelihood of survival but the necessity to try, we brought Nadjikong to the operating room for debridement. Though Dr. Rhodes has extensive knowledge of noma, this was his first time seeing active noma. Without Dr. Rhodes and his wife

 **GOD DOES NOT NEED YOUR ABILITY NEARLY AS MUCH AS HE NEEDS YOUR AVAILABILITY.**

here, this surgery would not have been possible, and Nadjikong would have succumbed, just as most noma patients do.

Over the course of the next two weeks, Nadjikong required a lot of blood and antibiotics, four debridements, a nasogastric tube that was eventually swapped for a Foley serving as his PEG tube, and a lot of love. Our team doted on him almost hourly, ensuring the best nutrition and physical therapy we could provide. By Nadjikong's last debridement, his entire mandible was gone. Now when he doesn't wear his mask, the base of his tongue is visible, and all other tissue is gone from ear to neck to ear, save for his parotids.

Currently, Nadjikong is still sick, but he is fattening up and

getting stronger.

He can run a bit for physical therapy, and he

loves to spend his days watching construction at our hospital or tracing his letters in the handwriting book we gave him for his first school experience. My wife [**DANAE R. NETTEBURG '06**] focuses on his spiritual development as she rounds on him daily. It remains incredibly difficult for him to speak or swallow. Our great hope is to send Nadjikong and his mother to Kenya so Dr. Rhodes can perform a series of operations over the course of many months to give him function and dignity as he grows into a young man.

This is one of many examples of what short-term missions can do, which we would never be able to do otherwise.

### THE BULLET

Appolose, known as "Appo," had a short-term physician God intervention as well. **GREG S. SHANK '99**, an experienced missionary surgeon to Cameroon, happened to be a visiting surgeon at Béré Adventist Hospital for a two-week volunteer stint.

"Did you know there's a bullet in your chest?" Dr. Shank asked the patient.

Appo, a tall and muscular Chadian in his early 20s and a talker, effortlessly (except for the dyspnea) shared his story with Dr. Shank. An anti-government protest had turned violent, and army bullets started flying. Appo felt a sting in his right chest, knocking him to the ground. "It was supposed to be peaceful," he thought as he drifted off. Appo shared how he had awakened in a crowded trauma ward, unsure how he had arrived. He had been shot. There was a tube sticking out of his chest. Appo could hardly breathe.

Dr. Shank was able to remove the bullet and place a new chest tube in Appo before returning to America. Dr. Shank's initial lifesaving care gave Appo a chance. Appo improved, catching his breath. However, his infection persisted, the chest tube producing daily purulence. Without a surgeon in Béré to provide specialized care, Appo was discharged.

A month after Appo's surgery, our friends **STEPHEN D. G.**



Nadjikong lost the corner of his right lip all around his mandible towards his sternal notch due to noma.

**Get Involved**

Learn: [www.llusmaa.org/volunteer-mission-opportunities](http://www.llusmaa.org/volunteer-mission-opportunities)

Sign up: [my.llusmaa.org/f/volunteer-missions](http://my.llusmaa.org/f/volunteer-missions)

Donate: [www.llusmaa.org/donate](http://www.llusmaa.org/donate)



**THORP '16** and Cherilyn Thorp arrived. Dr. Thorp is a general surgeon starting a cardiothoracic fellowship. In Béré's low-resource setting, thoracic surgery is risky. But Appo would not recover without it. We performed a thoracotomy and decortication. I intubated the left mainstem, filling the role of anesthesiologist. My wife and Dr. Thorp opened the chest, peeled off the infected scar tissue, and exposed the healthy normal lung.

The outside expertise of Dr. Thorp added the final piece. Appo is now healed. He is thankful God spared his life, especially when so many friends died in the demonstration at the capital.

Appo is alive because of physicians who came to the mission field when they could spare only a week or two. These surgeons and others do incredible work for mission hospitals in the short time they have. Both Dr. Shank and Dr. Thorp have done short-time missions in Béré multiple times, which drastically enhances their impact.

We love having visiting doctors. Often it seems God brings us patients requiring the visiting doctor's specialty at the moment they arrive. It strikes me as divine. An internist arrives with expertise in epilepsy and suddenly the first epileptic I've seen this year shows up. A pediatrician arrives at the same time our pediatric ward fills to overflowing. A surgeon arrives to replace a doctor going on vacation—it is remarkable.

#### YOU TOO CAN HELP

It is impossible to be sufficiently trained to serve in a place like this. The truth is, even without all the training you should have, lives will be saved and people will come to see Christ. For example, when we arrived in 2009 to visit Béré for the first time, the cesarean mortality rate had decreased to 30%, the maternal mortality rate was 2%, the neonatal mortality rate was 12.5%, and the under-5 mortality rate was 21%. Our hospital faces these realities daily. It can be humbling to stare at these numbers and think of all one must know in order to tackle the issues. However, at the end of the week, month, or years, you will be able to name people who are alive because you came to help, to heal, to save. Sending money is great. Sending people is infinitely better. God does not need your ability nearly as much as He needs your availability.

If you are considering volunteering in a mission hospital, consider an ongoing commitment. Whether short-term or long-term missions, physicians who commit three, four, or ten years to a hospital, maybe even a career, build relationships, by understanding the needs, the procedures, and the idiosyncrasies that make each place uniquely challenging.

By the time you read this, our 104-bed mission hospital performing more than 1,400 major surgical cases each year will have shrunk from six LLU missionary physicians to one brave soul attempting to heal the diseases of the body and the heart. One



Nadjikong has survived fulminant noma thanks to short-term missions doctors.

lone doctor in a district of 200,000 unreached people in a majority Muslim country. One physician who is not a surgeon, but does her best for every patient brought before her. The missionary doctor from your grandfather's storybooks is still needed. Hospitals like ours, the right arm of the Gospel, and patients like Nadjikong and Appo, are dying for lack of continued long-term engagement from physicians like you.

Don't wait for somebody else to answer the call. Your Nadjikong or Appo are out there, waiting for you to treat the sickness and to show Christ's loving healing.

"The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few," says Matthew 9:37; "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit," Matthew 28:19. ■



**OLEN A. L. NETTEBURG '07** and **DANAE R. NETTEBURG '06** have spent over 12 years serving as missionary physicians at Béré Adventist Hospital in Chad, Africa, with their five children.



## DEPARTMENT REPORT

# Surgery

BY SHARON S. LUM, MD, MBA, FACS, CHAIR, DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY  
CLIFTON & SANDRA REEVES CHAIR IN GENERAL SURGERY

The charge of the Loma Linda University department of surgery is to enable surgical faculty and trainees to reach their highest professional and academic potential while serving the Loma Linda University mission to make people whole.

Our vision is to create global surgical leaders in whole person care, education, and research. By 2030, we aim to be recognized as a leader in high value, technologically advanced, whole person surgical care in the Inland Empire and globally.

Growth in the department of surgery has been made possible by the foundation laid by the leadership of its former chairs: **DAVID B. HINSHAW SR. '47** (1961-1975), **BRUCE W. BRANSON '50** (1975-1992), **LEONARD L. BAILEY '69** (1992-2007), **ANTONIO E. ROBLES '72** (2007-2009), and Carlos A. Garberoglio (2009-2021). Each of these chairs added to the reputation of the department of surgery in cutting-edge surgical care, education, research, and outreach. When Dean **TAMARA L. THOMAS '87** appointed me chair of the department of surgery in March 2021, it was with deep gratitude that I accepted the position to further this remarkable surgical legacy.

While the COVID-19 pandemic changed healthcare forever, one of the most transformative events we experienced was our move into the Dennis and Carol Troesh Medical Campus in August 2021. With 20 new operating rooms, including two state-of-the-art hybrid rooms, our new hospital has served as a metaphor for hope and change in our department in this post-pandemic world. The department of surgery is the largest and most diverse of the surgical departments and includes the divisions of acute care surgery (chief, Kaushik Mukherjee, MD), colon and rectal surgery (interim chief, **ALLISON A. AKA '13**), gastrointestinal/minimally invasive surgery (chief, Keith Scharf, DO), pediatric surgery (chief, **DONALD C. MOORES '87**), surgical oncology (interim chief, **NEPHTALI R. GOMEZ '04**), transplant surgery (chief, Michael de Vera, MD), and vascular surgery (chief, Ahmed Abou-Zamzam, MD). The emphasis on surgical education is evident as our department is home to a general surgery residency program

(program director, **JUKES P. NAMM '05**) and a vascular surgery residency program (program director, **ALLEN G. MURGA '12**). The general surgery residency program recently added its seventh categorical position and the new integrated 0-5 vascular surgery residency program will allow early specialization in this field. The department's post-graduate fellowship training programs include complex general surgical oncology, minimally invasive/bariatric surgery, pediatric surgery, surgical critical care, transplant surgery, and vascular surgery. Our unique Global Surgery Fellowship offering is a component of the Center for Global Surgery, under the director **RYAN A. HAYTON '05** (see page 18). Faculty members provide outreach with clinical services and/or education at external sites including the Loma Linda VA, Riverside University Health System, LLUMC-Murrieta, San Geronio Hospital, and SAC Health System.

In July 2020, in the face of an unprecedented period of uncertainty, a grassroots effort of department of surgery faculty members created the Surgery Commitment. The Commitment was a promise to members of the Loma Linda surgical community to develop surgical leaders by recruiting, developing, and retaining faculty and trainees using the framework of LLU values of compassion, integrity, excellence, teamwork, wholeness, justice, and humility. Pillar Teams representing each value interpreted how the LLU value statement specifically applied to the department of surgery: Excellence espouses research and education; integrity, quality programs; compassion, outreach and global surgery; wholeness, wellness; teamwork, mentoring; humility, professional development; and justice, diversity, equity, and inclusion. Each Pillar Team created strategic initiatives to fulfill the surgery department value statements. The Surgery Commitment, now in its third year, provides a framework for goal setting across all divisions in the department and reminds us that what we do every day aligns with the values of Loma Linda University. ■

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*A dedicated breast surgeon at LLUH for over twenty years, Dr. Sharon Lum enjoys mentoring trainees in clinical and health systems research that focuses on disparities, quality measures, and health policy in cancer care.*





PHOTO COURTESY OF LLUMC-MURRIETA STAFF.

## DEPARTMENT AT A GLANCE SURGERY



### PROVIDERS

The department is supported by 40 (+recruiting) faculty members, 50 residents, and 11 fellows (+ incoming for the 0+5).

### ALUMNI FACULTY

There are 14 alumni faculty in the surgery department.



### RESIDENCY

- General Surgery Residency
- Minimally Invasive/Bariatric Fellowship
- Global Surgery Fellowship
- Surgical Critical Care Fellowship
- Complex General Surgical Oncology Fellowship
- Pediatric Surgery Fellowship
- Vascular Surgery Fellowship
- Vascular O+5
- Transplant Surgery Fellowship



### LOCATIONS

- Loma Linda University Medical Center – Troesh Medical Campus, East Campus, Surgical Hospital, Faculty Medical Clinics
- Jerry L Pettis Veterans Hospital
- Riverside University Health System
- SAC Health System
- Malamulo Adventist Hospital
- Arrowhead Regional Medical Center



### RESEARCH

Scan the QR code for recent research by the surgery department.



*Photo above: The first ever Whipple procedure was performed at Loma Linda University Medical Center (LLUMC)-Murrieta in January 2023 by Michael P. O'Leary M.D. and Garrett Newman N.P.*



DEPARTMENT REPORT

# Global Surgery Fellowship

BY RYAN A. HAYTON '05, DIRECTOR, GLOBAL SURGERY FELLOWSHIP

Loma Linda University department of surgery's unique Global Surgery Fellowship (GSF) received its first fellow in 2017 and has had three fellows since its inception, with the fourth fellow starting September 1, 2023. The Global Surgery Fellowship aims to prepare American-trained general surgeons to be competent and capable of performing the needed surgeries in rural, low-resource environments, and low- and middle-income countries (LMIC). The GSF furthers Loma Linda University Health's (LLUH) goal to make people whole physically, intellectually, emotionally, and spiritually by continuing Christ's healing and teaching ministry by addressing the overwhelming surgical needs throughout the developing world and increasing global access to safe surgery.

In 2015, the World Health Organization (WHO) recognized that the lack of access to safe surgical care results in three-times more deaths than HIV, TB, and malaria combined and WHO made global surgery a priority in public health. Approximately five billion people around the globe lack access to safe and affordable surgical and anesthesia care, with a vast majority of those living in the low-resource settings of LMIC. It is estimated that 143 million additional surgical procedures must be done annually in Sub-Saharan Africa alone. The LLUH GSF directly addresses surgery's indispensable part of health care in underserved areas. It positively affects the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by training surgeons to be capable and competent in surgery in rural, low-resource environments.

The one-year training program is for American Board of Surgery eligible or certified general surgeons and consists of eight months of training at LLUH, three months of guidance and experience at Malamulo Adventist Hospital (MAH) in Malawi, Africa, and one month of instruction in orthopaedics at Hôpital Adventiste d'Haïti, in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. The fellowship training at LLUH consists of rotations and case log completion in obstetrics, gynecology, urology, orthopaedics, and trauma, as well as anesthesia, neurosurgery, pediatric surgery, ENT, plastic surgery, wound care, dentistry, preventive medicine, tropical disease, public health, financial literacy for organizations, and leadership in health administration.



RYAN A. HAYTON '05 and colleagues at Malamulo Hospital in Malawi. Photo courtesy of Malamulo Hospital Staff.

LLUH is uniquely equipped for the GSF with its strong history of international service and its direct connection to a vast network of hospitals in low- and middle-income countries.

If you are interested in the fellowship or know someone who is, please contact Alana Symons at [asymons@llu.edu](mailto:asymons@llu.edu). Applications are open through the fall on a rolling basis. ■



*Ryan Hayton '05, FACS, FCS (ECSA) is an associate professor of surgery in Loma Linda University's acute care surgery division. He has spent 22 years as a missionary including serving as head of surgery at Malamulo Adventist Hospital in Malawi from 2010 to 2019 where he co-founded the LLUH international surgery rotation and the LLUH Global Surgery Fellowship as well as co-founding the Malamulo-PAACS general surgery residency with the help of LLUH, AHI, and the Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons. His hobbies include mountain climbing, bird and animal safaris, and snorkeling with his wife, Sharlene, and their three boys.*



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# CELEBRATING THE LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY CLASS OF 2023!



# CONGRATS

Pacific Union College  
is proud of our alums  
who graduated from  
LLU this year!



PUC.EDU

*"God has given each of you a gift from His great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve, love, and lift one another up." 1 Peter 4:10*

LEARN WITH PURPOSE. RISE IN FAITH. SERVE WITH LOVE.





# Graduation 2023

BY **KEVIN A. CODORNIZ '05**, ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR CLINICAL EDUCATION

We are so proud of each of you and your accomplishments! You have truly been a blessing to the University and School of Medicine. You have made it through the long nights of studying during the preclinical years, the stressors of tests and board exams, the unease of starting wards and clinic, and the anxiety of the Match. Collectively as a class, along with prayers and sacrifices from family and friends, you have made it!

As for our deans and faculty of the School of Medicine, I speak for all us in saying that you will be missed! You have created a legacy and your contributions to the institution will be longstanding. Years from now, I hope you look back with pride on the improvements and projects you were a part of during your time at LLU. Your class has tackled multiple issues surrounding social determinants of health in the local community and abroad, including starting non-profit organizations, developing systems to provide resources for patients experiencing food insecurity, and being the boots on the ground to provide no-cost medical services, mentorship, and emotional support to those in need in the local community, just to name a few of the many accomplishments. You have had an impact on the School of Medicine curriculum as well, helping to enhance

knowledge and practices for the classes that follow you. You have also been at the forefront of promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion at LLU and for your patients. In all things, you have shown great leadership, passion, and a true cohesion between classmates.

As you move on in your professional careers, remember to think back on your time at LLU. Remember your classmates and the reputation the class of 2023 developed, one of Christlike compassion, hard work, and altruism. May these memories bring you a renewed strength and further ignite your passion to serve God by serving others. As Jesus said "let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven," Matthew 5:16.

I pray that God will continue to pour out His richest blessings on each of you and your families. Just like in medical school, there will be hills and valleys throughout life, but cling to your creator who has already proven that He will carry you through the most difficult hardships and be there to celebrate your greatest successes. Hold fast to His promise that He will be "with you always, to the very end of the age," Matthew 28:20. May God's grace be with each of you. ■



Calvin Chuang, MBA, MSML, Alumni Association executive director (left) and **BARBARA CHASE MCKINNEY '88** (right) with the 2023 Herber Award recipients.

## Student Awards

Congratulations to the class of 2023, the newest members of the Alumni Association, School of Medicine of Loma Linda University. We extend a special acknowledgment to each of the graduates who received the following awards and recognition during their time in medical school.

### SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AWARDS

- ♦ **President's Award:** Janene Kuan
- ♦ **Dean's Award:** Jonathan Thomas
- ♦ **Academic Achievement Award:** Jordan Gildehaus, Elizabeth Peterson, Thomas Riggs
- ♦ **Impact on the World Leadership Award:** Shaunrick Stoll
- ♦ **Physician Scientist Award:** Cole Knox
- ♦ **Service to our School Award:** Serena Lin Heung
- ♦ **Wholeness and Engagement Mission Award:** Esther Gow-Lee
- ♦ **Class of 1990 Heart for Service Award:** Briana Greene
- ♦ **Wil Alexander Whole Person Care Award:** Genise Browne
- ♦ **Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society:** Carla Blum-Johnston, Alexander Chang, Natalie Chen, Hannah Chi, Evgeny Chirshev, Jordan Gildehaus, Rachel Guest, Adam Hagele, Gideon Harianja, Spencer Hart, Stephanie James, Do Hyun Kim, Janene Kuan, Annalise Lang, Donn LaTour, Victor Lee, Serena Lin Heung, Caleb McKinney, Evelyn Ouro-Rodrigues, Philip Papayanis, Ariel Park, Elizabeth Peterson, Karen Prakash, Michael Reimer, Thomas Riggs, Kyel Shaw, Mathew Shedd, Leah Shin, Jonathan Specht, Braden Stanyer, Reece Stutzman, Grace Tan, Jonathan Thomas
- ♦ **Gold Humanism Honor Society:** Jessica Ahn, Carla Blum-Johnston, Genise Brown, Haley Butler, Hannah Chi, Nicholas Chun, Esther Gow-Lee, Adam Hagele,

Loren Hall, Lindsay Hunt, Hayley Joel-Mortensen, John Jung, Janene Kuan, Annalise Lang, Donn LaTour, Jenna Lee, Serena Lin, Mackenzie Minehan, Richard Ong, Mathew Shedd, Jonathan Specht, Shaunrick Stoll

- ♦ **Alumni Association of Loma Linda University Herber Award:** Hannah Chi, Cheyenne Feig, Adam Hagele, John Jung, Evelyn Ouro-Rodriguez, Lindsay Hunt, Donn LaTour, Emmanuel Omosor, Jefferson Richards, Amanda Khalil, Carla Blum-Johnston, Genise Browne

### DEPARTMENT AWARDS

- ♦ **Department of Anesthesiology**  
*Bernard D. Briggs '40 Award:* Reese Stutzman
- ♦ **Department of Emergency Medicine**  
*3 a.m. Award:* Hunter Roberts  
*Society for Academic Emergency Medicine Award:* Jenna Lee
- ♦ **Department of Family Medicine**  
*Walter P. Ordelleide '54 Award:* Kathleen Martin, Joel-Mortensen Hayley
- ♦ **Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics**  
*Harold F. Ziprick '37 Award:* Alice Lee
- ♦ **Department of Medicine**  
*Daniel D. Comstock '06 Award:* Mathew Shedd  
*Donald E. Griggs '24 Award:* Caleb McKinney  
*Harold J. Hoxie '33 Award:* Adam Hagele, Hannah Chi  
*Varner J. Johns Jr. '45 Award:* Soyoun Pak, Jefferson Richards
- ♦ **Department of Neurology**  
*Guy M. Hunt '42 Award:* Mary Safaeipour  
*AAN Medical Student Prize for Excellence in Neurology:* Christina Istrate
- ♦ **Department of Ophthalmology**  
*Ernest Zane '56 Award:* Jonathan Thomas
- ♦ **Department of Orthopaedic Surgery**  
*Philip H. Reiswig '61 Award:* Evelyn Ouro-Rodrigues
- ♦ **Department of Pediatrics**  
*Robert F. Chinnock '44-A Award:* Mackenzie Minehan, Janene Kuan
- ♦ **Department of Preventive Medicine**  
*Dysinger Family Preventive Medicine Award:* Jade Deschamps, Monica Yamagata
- ♦ **Department of Psychiatry**  
*Benjamin Kovitz Award:* Serena Lin Heung



- ♦ Department of Radiology  
*Distinguished Student in Diagnostic Radiology*  
Award: Satchel Genobaga  
*Distinguished Student in Interventional Radiology*  
Award: Jadelyn Bautista
- ♦ Department of Surgery  
*David B. Hinshaw Sr. '47 Award*: Evgeny Chirshev
- ♦ Department of Urology  
*Roger W. Barnes '22 Award*: Briana Greene ■

## Military Commissioning and Promotion Ceremony

Following the Conferring of Degrees Ceremony, five new physicians from the class of 2023 were commissioned and promoted as officers of the U.S. military in a small ceremony on the rooftop terrace of Loma Linda University Church. The oath of office was administered by **GREGORY M. TAYLOR, CAPT, USN '86**.

Three commissioned graduates are now ranked as U.S. Air Force Captains: **SILAS GRIFFIN '23**, **SOYOUN JOO PAK '23**, and **HUNTER ROBERTS '23**.

Two commissioned graduates are now ranked as U.S. Army Captain: **JORDAN GILDEHAUS '23**, and **BRYAN URBINA '23**. ■

## LLUSM Alumni Awards

The following awards and recognitions were presented to alumni of Loma Linda University School of Medicine (LLUSM). Congratulations to each of our esteemed alumni who have been recognized by Loma Linda University Health and LLUSM for their outstanding achievements and dedication to the field of medicine.

### UNIVERSITY ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

- ♦ **MARK E. REEVES '92**

### UNIVERSITY DISTINGUISHED ACADEMIC SERVICE AWARD

- ♦ **H. ROGER HADLEY '77**
- ♦ **LEONARD S. WERNER (FAC)**

### SCHOOL OF MEDICINE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD 2023

- ♦ **RICHARD D. CATALANO '76-B**
- ♦ **KENNETH R. JUTZY '77-A**

### GOLD HUMANISM HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTEES

- ♦ 2023 Inductees: **MORGAN GREEN '16**,  
**BIANCA REBOLLEDO '18**,  
**MEGHAN COCHRAN-YU '13** ■



(From left) **SOYOUN JOO PAK '23**, **HUNTER ROBERTS '23**, **SILAS GRIFFIN '23**, **JORDAN GILDEHAUS '23**, **BRYAN URBINA '23**



To the **31 Southern Adventist University alumni** who graduated from Loma Linda University School of Medicine on May 28, 2023!

**WE'RE SO PROUD OF YOU!**





# The Graduating Class of 2023

## 2023 CLASS OFFICERS



**John Jung**  
*President*  
Medicine-Preliminary  
LLUH-CA  
Pacific Union College, LLU



**Natalie Chen**  
*Co-Vice President &  
Alumni Representative*  
Med-Prelim Ophthalmology  
UC Irvine MC-CA  
UCSD, Western U of HS



**Gideon Harianja**  
*Co-Vice President*  
Summer Completion  
UC Berkeley



**Jessica Ahn**  
*Co-Social Vice President*  
Pediatrics  
UC Davis MC-CA  
Southern Adventist U



**Jenna Lee**  
*Co-Social Vice President*  
Emergency Medicine  
Vanderbilt Univ MC-TN  
Southern Adventist U



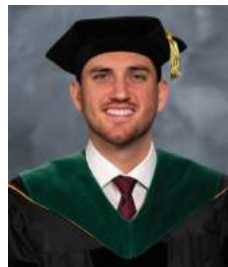
**Ariel Park**  
*Secretary/Treasurer*  
Medicine-Preliminary  
Kaiser Permanente-Fontana-CA  
Pacific Union College



**Serena Lin Heung**  
*Pastor*  
Summer Completion  
Stanford University



**Ryan Carey**  
*Diversity & Inclusion Officer*  
Family Medicine/Nampa  
Full Circle Health-ID  
Walla Walla University, LLU



**Gavin Skeoch**  
*Sports Coordinator*  
Family Medicine  
LLUH-CA  
Pacific Union College, LLU



**Janene Kuan**  
*Community Service Rep.*  
Pediatrics  
UC San Francisco-CA  
UC Berkeley



**Hannah Chi**  
*Historian*  
Medicine-Pediatrics  
Ohio State University MC  
Andrews University



**Dayton Brown**  
*IT Representative*  
Pacific Union College



**Laura Tobing**  
*IT Representative*  
Anesthesiology  
LLUH-CA  
Southern Adventist U



**Dave Mallari**  
*Senate Representative*  
Internal Medicine  
Olive View-UCLA MC-CA  
Southern Adventist U



**Emmanuel Omosor**  
*Senate Representative*  
Future Graduate



**Alanna Asgeirsson**  
Medicine-Preliminary  
LLUH-CA  
Andrews University



**Vicenda Augustin**  
Family Medicine  
Baptist Mem Hosp  
DeSoto-MS  
McGill U, Burman U



**Adam Basical**  
Internal Medicine  
Kaiser Permanente-  
Fontana-CA  
La Sierra University



**Karen Bathan**  
Internal Medicine  
Kaiser Permanente-Santa  
Clara-CA  
LLU



**Lauren Bathan**  
Medicine-Pediatrics  
U Illinois COM-Peoria  
OSF  
LLU



**Jadelyn Bautista**  
Family Medicine  
LLUH-CA  
La Sierra University



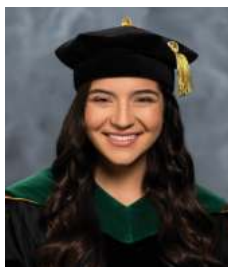
**Skyelor Black**  
Internal Medicine  
U Tennessee COM-  
Chattanooga-TN  
Southern Adventist U



**Lisa Blackley**  
Emergency Medicine  
Riverside University  
Health Sys-CA  
Walla Walla University, LLU



**Drew Blake**  
Southern Adventist U



**Carla Blum-Johnston**  
Medicine-Preliminary  
Kaiser Permanente-Fontana-  
CA  
Walla Walla University



**Nikoli Brown**  
Phys Medicine & Rehab  
LLUH-CA  
Southern Adventist U



**Genise Browne**  
Family Medicine  
Kaiser Permanente-  
Fontana-CA  
Oakwood University



**Haley Butler**  
*Summer Completion*  
Andrews University



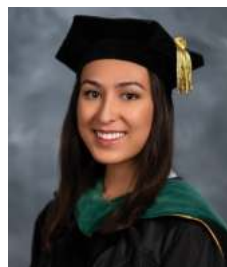
**Jacob Carlson**  
Internal Medicine  
Mountain AHEC-NC  
Walla Walla University



**Makayla Carlson**  
Pediatrics-Primary  
LLUH-CA  
Union College



**Jesse Castang**  
Anesthesiology  
LLUH-CA  
Andrews University



**Madeline Castella-Chin**  
Anesthesiology  
LLUH-CA  
Burman University



**Michael Caster**  
Pediatrics/UCI-CHOC  
UC Irvine MC-CA  
Pacific Union College



**Name**  
**Class Office**  
*First-year Residency Program*  
*First-year Residency Location, State*  
*Residency Program*  
*Residency Location, State*  
*Undergraduate School*

CM College of Medicine  
LLU Loma Linda University  
LLUH Loma Linda University Health  
MS Medical School  
MC Medical Center  
SM School of Medicine  
U University  
UC University of California

Residency information and data for the class statistics were provided by the LLU School of Medicine Office of Records and Student Services. We have done our best to correctly list these items. Graduates can update their information at [WWW.LLUSMAA.ORG](http://WWW.LLUSMAA.ORG). -Eds.





**JOHN Q. JUNG '23** shares his president's message to his fellow graduates during the 2023 Conferring of Degrees Ceremony.

## From the Class President

BY JOHN Q. JUNG '23

Dear Class of 2023,

Congratulations on another incredible milestone. Medical school graduation represents far more than the attainment of a degree. It symbolizes the culmination of a transformative journey, one that has tested our intellect, resilience, and dedication. It signifies the moment when we transition from being students to becoming healers, entrusted with the immense responsibility of caring for others. Lastly, it testifies to the strength of our relationships, especially with our village which has cheered us on. Beyond these acquisitions, graduation embodies the birth of a new beginning with opportunities to shape the world in profound ways.

The origin of the word "graduation" actually comes from the Latin word "gradus" which means step. We have been entrusted with unique talents, passions, and perspectives to take this next step in our journey to inspire change, to innovate, and to lead with integrity. In Jeremiah 29:11, it says that God has a plan for us. A plan that is not formulated by luck but rather a perfect alignment like the last puzzle piece that fits just right. There is nothing more beautiful in life than this feeling of finding our course. In the past, this journey might have felt aimless, but this path has been here all along, waiting for us to knock, waiting for us to see, waiting for us to finish that puzzle with that last final piece.

As we embark on this new journey, I invite you to join the AOA club with me. Not the academic AOA society we are accustomed to but one that is welcome for all to join. The Alpha Omega Always Club—where we let God be the start and finish, the first and the last of our plans, goals, and journey as we step into another beautiful chapter of our lives.



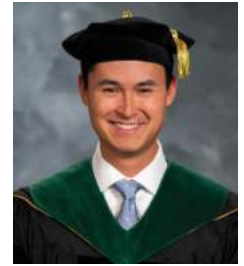
**Christopher Celis**

Southern Adventist U



**Micah Chairakorb**

Internal Medicine  
HCA Florida JFK Hosp-U  
Miami-FL  
Southern Adventist U



**Alexander Chang**

Orthopaedic Surgery  
UC San Diego MC-CA  
Pacific Union College



**Adrien Charles-Marcel**

*Transitional/OMFS*

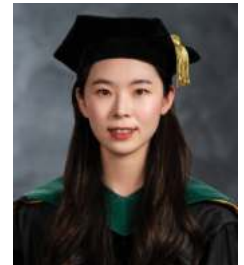
LLU



**Evgeny Chirshev**

Gen Surg/Dedicated  
Research

LLUH-CA  
Southern Adventist U, LLU



**Jeannie Choi**

Anesthesiology  
LLUH-CA  
La Sierra University



**Edwina Choung**

Pathology  
LLUH-CA  
U of Washington Seattle,  
LLU



**Nicholas Chun**

Andrews University



**Noah Chun**

Andrews University



**Katherine Chung**

Family Medicine  
PIH Health Hosp  
Downey-CA  
UC Irvine



**Narudee Churdsuwanrak**

Internal Medicine  
Kaiser Permanente-  
Fontana-CA  
Pacific Union College, LLU



**Tatiana Davidson**

Oakwood University





**John Davilmar**

Southern Adventist U, LLU



**Micheala Davis**

Georgia State University



**Isaac Delote**

*Summer Completion*

Southern Adventist U



**Jade Deschamps**

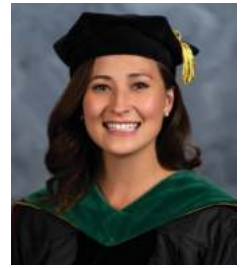
*Summer Completion*

Southern Adventist U



**Alexandria Dietrich**

Pediatrics-Primary  
LLUH-CA  
Walla Walla University



**Cassandra Drew**

Family Medicine  
Kaiser Permanente-  
Fontana-CA  
Andrews University, LLU



**Daniel Elkins**

Family Medicine  
LLUH-Murrieta-CA  
Corban College, LLU



**Cheyenne Feig**

Obstetrics-Gynecology  
LLUH-CA  
La Sierra University



**Brian Ferguson**

Pathology  
LLUH-CA  
Burman University



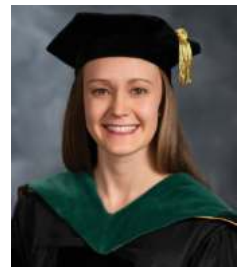
**Neria Gavriellov**

Anesthesiology  
LLUH-CA  
LLU



**Satchel Genobaga**

*Transitional*  
KPC Health Hemet Valley  
MC-CA  
La Sierra University



**Jordan Gildehaus**

Preventive Medicine  
Madigan Army MC  
Boise State University



**Esther Gow-Lee**

Internal Medicine/  
Kettering  
Kettering Health Network-OH  
Southern Adventist U



**Briana Greene**

Pediatrics  
LLUH-CA  
Univ of Miami



**Silas Griffin**

Family Medicine/Nampa  
USAF Regional Hospital,  
Eglin AFB  
Azusa Pacific University



**Rachel Guest**

Pathology  
Baylor Coll Med-Houston-TX  
Central State University



**Adam Hagele**

Internal Medicine  
LLUH-CA  
Walla Walla University



**Loren Hall**

*Summer Completion*

Southern Adventist U, LLU



**MACKENZIE MINEHAN '23** celebrates receiving her diploma.





Graduates stand during the Conferring of Degrees Ceremony.



**Spencer Hart**  
Psychiatry  
Kern MC-CA  
Walla Walla University



**Joshua Heldzinger**  
Emergency Med/  
Murfreesboro  
UT Ascension St Thomas-  
TN  
Southern Adventist U



**Amara Hendricks**  
Pathology  
Medical College of Georgia  
Oakwood University



**Ashlea Hendrickson**  
*Summer Completion*  
Oakwood University,  
Drexel University



**Sean Hendrix**  
*Summer Completion*  
Union College, LLU



**Helena Herber**  
Internal Medicine/  
Kettering  
Kettering Health Network-  
OH  
Union College



**Raul Hernandez**  
*Summer Completion*  
Pacific Union College



**Ashley Howard**  
Family Medicine  
In His Image Family  
Med-OK  
Southern Adventist U



**Pablo Huerfano**  
*Summer Completion*  
Southern Adventist U



**Lindsay Hunt**  
Pathology-AP/NP Comb  
University of Utah Health  
Colorado State University



**Nicole Hwang**  
*Summer Completion*  
Andrews University



**Temitope Idowu**  
Andrews University



**Jonathan Im**  
Emergency Medicine  
Riverside Community  
Hospital-CA  
Southern Adventist U



**William Im**  
Internal Medicine  
Adventist Health White  
Memorial-CA  
UCLA



**Christina Istrate**  
Neurology  
LLUH-CA  
Pacific Union College



**Stephanie James**  
Internal Medicine  
U of Texas at Austin Dell  
MS  
Walla Walla University



**Hayley Joel-Mortensen**  
Family Medicine  
Waco Family Medicine  
Institute-TX  
Biola University



**Katelyn Juneau**  
Emergency Medicine  
LLUH-CA  
Southern Adventist U





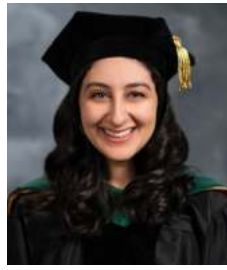
**Paul Jung**  
Transitional/OMFS

U of Washington Seattle,  
LLU



**Andre-David Kahwach**  
Transitional/OMFS  
LLUH-CA

El Camino College, Calif  
State Poly U Pom, LLU



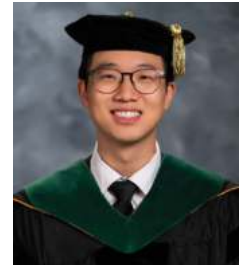
**Amanda Khalil**  
Psychiatry/CAP  
LLUH-CA  
UCLA



**Chan Kim**  
Anesthesiology  
LLUH-CA  
Andrews University



**David Kim**  
Psychiatry  
Riverside University  
Health Sys-CA  
La Sierra University



**Do Kim**  
Transitional  
Scripps Mercy Hosp-San  
Diego-CA  
Harvard University



**Young Ji Kim**  
Med-Primary/Global  
Health  
LLUH-CA  
La Sierra University



**Cole Knox**  
Transitional/Kettering  
Kettering Health Network-  
OH  
Cedarville University



**Andrew Krause**  
Psychiatry  
Eastern Idaho Reg MC  
Andrews University, LLU



**Christoph Kupperts**  
Simon Fraser University



**Christina Kwon**  
Family Medicine  
LLUH-Murrieta-CA  
Southern Methodist U,  
LLU



**Grace Kwon**  
Internal Medicine  
LLUH-CA  
Occidental College



**Annalise Lang**  
Psychiatry  
LLUH-CA  
Southern Adventist U



**Donn LaTour**  
Medicine-Preliminary  
Riverside Community  
Hospital-CA  
Andrews University



**Abraham Lee**  
Andrews University



(From left) **WILLIAM IM '23** stands with classmate and fellow graduate **NERIA GAVRIELOV '23**.



**Alice Lee**  
Obstetrics-Gynecology  
U Southern California  
Wesleyan University



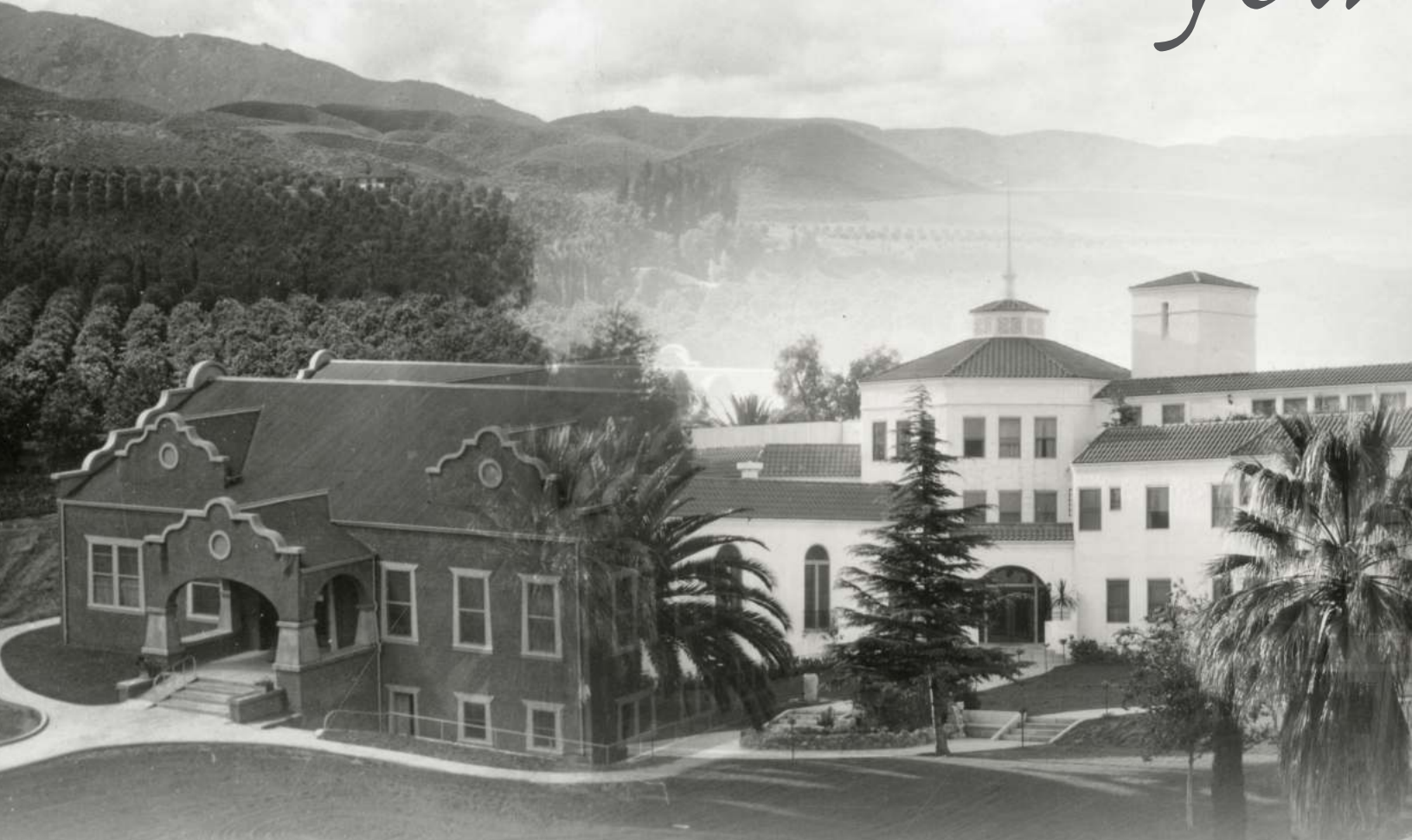
**Chanel Lee**  
Pacific Union College



**Iris Lee**  
Pathology  
LLUH-CA  
Pacific Union College



Though the campus  
*you*



LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY

---

Faculty Medical Group

**s may change,**  
*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 the 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 any time.

Mike Unterseher, CMSR  
Assistant Vice President for Provider Recruitment  
909-558-5912  
[munterseher@llu.edu](mailto:munterseher@llu.edu)



THE CLASS OF 2023

# By the Numbers

- 162** Total MD graduates
- 77** Female graduates (48%)
- 85** Male graduates (52%)
- 07** Children born during med school

**TOP SPECIALTIES**

- 24** Internal Medicine (15%)
- 19** Family Medicine (12%)
- 13** Pediatrics (08%)
- 09** Anesthesiology (06%)
- 07** Tie: Emergency Medicine, Pathology (04%)

**TOP RESIDENCY LOCATIONS**

- 51** LLU Medical Center (31%)
- 08** Kaiser Permanente (05%)
- 04** Kettering Health Netw.-OH (02%)
- 03** Tie: Riverside Community Hospital, Riverside U Health Sys-CA (02%)

**ETHNIC ORIGIN**

(as specified by students)

- 59** Asian or Pacific Islander (36%)
- 21** Black Non-Hispanic (13%)
- 15** Hispanic (0.09%)
- 17** Multiple Ethnicities (10%)
- 50** White Non-Hispanic (31%)



**Jin Lee**  
Medicine-Preliminary  
LLUH-CA  
Southern Adventist U



**Victor Lee**  
Emergency Medicine  
LLUH-CA  
Southern Adventist U



**Van-Dai Ly**  
*Summer Completion*  
Southwestern Adventist U



**Margarita Maksimova**  
*Transitional*  
LLUH-CA  
UC San Diego



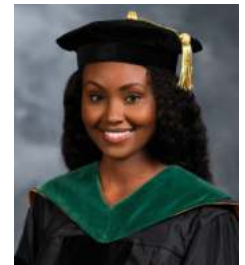
**Jonathan Mancao**  
Southern Adventist U



**Kathleen Martin**  
Family Medicine  
Arrowhead Reg MC-CA  
La Sierra University



**Michael Mathis**  
Internal Medicine  
Riverside Community  
Hospital-CA  
Walla Walla University



**Beatrice Mbaluka**  
Psychiatry  
Portsmouth Regional  
Hosp-NH  
Oakwood University



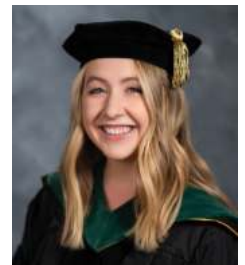
**Kaitlin McArthur**  
Otolaryngology  
Univ of Chicago MC-IL  
Union College



**Caleb McKinney**  
Internal Medicine  
University of Virginia  
Southern Adventist U



**Joseph Min**  
Pediatrics  
LLUH-CA  
Southern Adventist U



**Mackenzie Minehan**  
Pediatrics  
LLUH-CA  
U of San Diego



**Matthew Moran**  
Family Medicine  
Dignity East Valley-AZ  
Walla Walla U, LLU



**Alexandra Moseanko**  
Pediatrics  
UC Davis MC-CA  
Walla Walla University



**Hector Moz**  
*Surgery-Preliminary*  
NYMC-Metropolitan Hosp  
Ctr-NY  
UC Riverside, LLU



**Kevin Munoz Aizaga**  
Pediatrics  
NYU Grossman SM-NY  
La Sierra University





(From left ) Graduates **JADELYN BAUTISTA '23**, **SKYELOR BLACK '23**, **LISA BLACKLEY '23**, and **DREW BLAKE '23** line up to receive their diplomas.



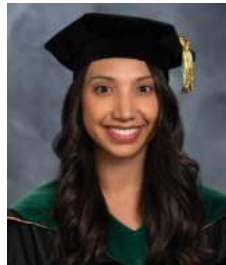
**Robert Niihara**  
Internal Medicine  
LLUH-CA  
Pacific Union College



**Meng-Khiang Ong**  
Internal Medicine  
Kaiser Permanente-  
Fontana-CA  
LLU



**Richard Ong**  
Family Medicine  
LLUH-CA  
Southern Adventist U



**Evelyn Ouro-Rodrigues**  
Orthopaedic Surgery  
LLUH-CA  
Walla Walla University



**Soyoun Pak**  
Internal Medicine  
Categorical  
San Antonio Military MC,  
Ft. Sam, TX  
U of Hawaii at Manoa, LLU



**Philip Papayanis**  
Internal Medicine  
Rush University MC-IL  
UC San Diego



**Hyeon Park**  
Transitional  
LLUH-CA  
Union College



**Ju An Park**  
Phys Medicine & Rehab  
LLUH-CA  
Southern Adventist U,  
LLU



**Jeffery Pascal**  
Transitional/OMFS  
Oakwood University, LLU



**Gregory Perrier II**  
Orthopaedic Surgery  
SUNY HSC Brooklyn-NY  
Manhattan College, Cornell  
U Endowed Colleges



**Elizabeth Peterson**  
Ophthalmology  
LLUH-CA  
Calvin College



**Karen Prakash**  
Internal Medicine  
Scripps Clinic/Green  
Hospital-CA  
La Sierra University





**Mykal Quinlan**  
Pediatrics  
Harbor-UCLA MC-CA  
Southwestern Adventist U,  
Mississippi College



**Michael Reimer**  
Transitional/PM&R  
Trinity Health Ann Arbor  
Hosp-MI  
Northwest Nazarene U



**Jefferson Richards**  
Internal Medicine  
LLUH-CA  
Pacific Union College



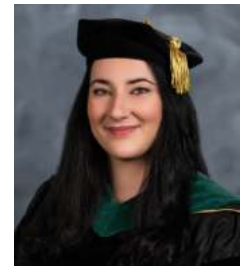
(Top, from left) **H. ROGER HADLEY '74**, **PAUL HERRMANN '00**, E. Albert Reece, speaker, and **TAMARA L. THOMAS '87** watch the academic procession at the Conferring of Degrees Ceremony on Sunday, May 28, 2023. (Bottom) **RICHARD H. HART '70**, university president, address the graduates.



**Thomas Riggs**  
Orthopaedic Surgery  
Spectrum Health/  
Michigan State U  
Bethel University



**Hunter Roberts**  
Emergency Medicine  
Wright-Patterson Air  
Force Base  
Azusa Pacific University



**Mary Safaeipour**  
Neurology  
LLUH-CA  
Mount St Marys College,  
USC



**Randy Sanchez**  
Pediatrics  
U Illinois COM-Chicago  
Andrews University, LLU



**Nicole Sandoval**  
Summer Completion  
U of Arizona



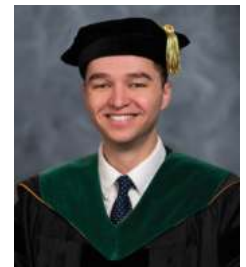
**Ashley Saunders**  
Neurology  
George Washington  
U-DC  
Oakwood University



**Rachel Scales**  
Pediatrics  
Oregon Health & Science U  
La Sierra University



**Kyle George Shaw**  
Anesthesiology  
Cleveland Clinic Fdn-OH  
Southern Adventist U



**Mathew Shedd**  
Internal Medicine  
LLUH-CA  
Walla Walla University



**Leah Shin**  
Medicine-Preliminary  
Huntington Memorial  
Hosp-CA  
Dartmouth College



**Bradley Snow**  
Walla Walla University



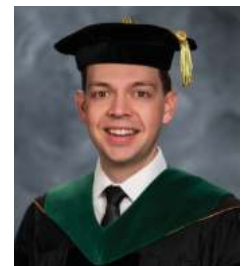
**Daniel Song**  
Family Medicine  
LLUH-CA  
York University



**Jonathan Specht**  
Internal Medicine/NYU  
Bkln  
NYU Grossman SM-NY  
La Sierra University



**Olivia Stanier**  
Emergency Medicine  
Mayo Clinic School of  
Grad Med Educ-MN  
Andrews University, LLU

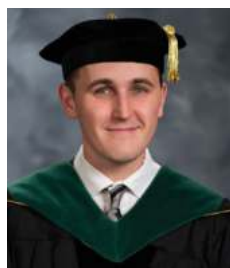


**Braden Stanyer**  
Medicine-Pediatrics  
UC San Diego MC-CA  
Walla Walla University





**Shaunrick Stoll**  
Family Medicine/Soin  
Kettering Health Network-  
OH  
Andrews University, LLU



**Reece Stutzman**  
Anesthesiology  
LLUH-CA  
Missouri State University



**Gustavo Suarez IV**  
Southern Adventist U,  
LLU



**Hyukje Sung**  
*Transitional/Occupational  
Med*  
LLUH-CA  
Andrews University, LLU



**Grace Tan**  
Med-Prelim/Neurology  
Cedars-Sinai MC-CA  
Vanderbilt University



**Jonathan Thomas**  
Ophthalmology  
LLUH-CA  
La Sierra University



**Cheng-Hsiao Tsui**  
*Summer Completion*  
La Sierra University, LLU



**Bryan Urbina**  
*Transitional*  
Eisenhower Army MC  
Worcester State University



**Owen Van der Werf**  
Grand Canyon University



**Dianne Wagner**  
Family Medicine  
Johnston Memorial Hosp-  
VA  
Southern Adventist U



**Sebo Wang**  
Surgery-Preliminary  
Riverside U Health Sys-CA  
UC Riverside



**Kaitlyn Wasli**  
Medicine-Pediatrics  
LLUH-CA  
Andrews University



(From top) **CASSANDRA DREW '23**, celebrates receiving her diploma with her alumni parents **A. SUNSHINE DREW '91** and **KEVIN G. DREW '90**. (Middle) Graduates recite the Physician's Oath along with **STEVE HERBER '86**, Alumni Association president. (Bottom) **TAMARA L. THOMAS '87**, dean LLUSM, stands with Orlando Regional Campus students **DO KIM '23** and **JOSHUA HELDZINGER '23**, along with **ELAINE ANGELA HART '00**, assistant dean, regional campuses.





**Ansel Weber**  
Family Medicine  
U Texas HSC-Tyler  
Walla Walla University



**Gabriela Wicaksono**  
Summer Completion  
Andrews University



**Timothy Won**  
Summer Completion  
Southwestern Adventist U



**Kenrick Wysong**  
Pathology  
U of Vermont MC  
La Sierra University, LLU



**Monica Yamagata**  
Transitional  
LLUH, CA  
Liberty University



**Stacy Youn**  
Anesthesiology  
LLUH-CA  
Pacific Union College



(From left) **HYEON PARK '23**, **ANDRE-DAVID KAHWACH '23**, **AMANDA KHALIL '23**, **MARY SAEFAEIPOUR '23**, **CHRISTINA ISTRATE '23**.



Graduates stand together proudly holding their diplomas.



Graduate **ALEXANDER CHANG '23** stands with his alumnus father **ANDREW C. CHANG '90**.





(Left) **MATTHEW MORAN '23** celebrates the completion of medical school. (Right) **CALEB McKINNEY '23** stands with his alum parents **J. MARK McKINNEY '87** and **BARBARA CHASE McKINNEY '88**.

**SCAN THE CODE FOR MORE GRADUATION PHOTOS  
OR GO TO  
WWW.LLUSMAA.ORG/PHOTOS**



*We celebrate your accomplishments  
and pray for God's blessings as you bring  
healing and hope to others.*

**"Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding.  
Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take."  
Proverbs 3:5-6**

**Walla Walla  
University**  
SEVENTH-DAY  
ADVENTIST  
HIGHER  
EDUCATION

- Omar Alfaro '19
- Sharilyn Marcia Larose Andersen '06
- Lauren Jessica Barlow '18
- Lisa Suzannane Blackley '16
- Carla Melinda Blum-Johnston '19
- Andrew Jarred Boskind '19
- Ryan Michael Carey '18
- Jacob Lane Carlson '19
- Nathaniel D. Chung '19
- Kevin Brock Cummings '20
- Alexandria Rose Dietrich '18
- Brandon Gregory Dudar '19
- Adam Andrew Hagele I '19
- Spencer Alexander Hart '19
- Phillip Dimitri Horning '18
- Stephanie Danelle James '19
- David Vassilyevich Khrapov '17
- Christian Thomas Lebold '21
- Michael Edward Mathis '18
- Sydney Blair Meadowcroft '19
- Matthew Apolonio Moran '18
- Alexandra Jean Moseanko '19
- Krista M. Neuendorff '20
- Evelyn Ann Ouro-Rodrigues '19
- Foluwasomia A Oyefeso '17
- Shaylen Rudyk '17
- Mathew Panayotaki Shedd '19
- Bradley Henderson Snow '19
- Ryan Andrew Spady '13, '17
- Braden Andrew Stanyer '18
- Christopher Reuben Tataryn '19
- Lauren Ana Alisa Tomas '19
- Ansel Christian Weber '19



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# Glimpses of God's Care

BY ADRIEN LANCELOT CHARLES-MARCEL '23

I was stressed already as I walked across the Loma Linda University campus from the parking structure in the early morning light. As a first-year oral and maxillofacial surgery (OMFS) resident, I had to round at the Medical Center prior to our full day of OMFS clinic.

I was also on call, which meant that I might not sleep that night if the two emergency departments we covered were busy. I had already spent a lot of time in the ED the day before and knew that the night might bring me patients with dental abscesses, jaw fractures, injured teeth, or facial/scalp lacerations. Additionally, looming in front of me was my unfinished sermon for that Sabbath. These pressures filled my thoughts, and I felt discouraged and inadequate as I walked through a campus that should have evoked memories of God's faithfulness and care.

As I glanced toward the School of Dentistry, I should have remembered my days as a dental student and God's sustaining grace in complex lab projects, exams, and boards. I should have recalled how He guided my hands in procedure after procedure as I sought to treat my patients with gentleness and excellence. A look at Coleman Pavilion should have reminded me of residency and School of Medicine interviews and the favor that God had granted in allowing me to be accepted into the combined OMFS/MD program. Even the cloverleaf towers of the Loma Linda University Medical Center stood as a testament to the miracle of life that had played out almost 29 years before when my mother brought me into the world in that very building.

In God's providence, I was able to talk to my parents on the phone during that short walk, despite them being thousands of miles away. As I shared my feelings, they encouraged me to focus on God's goodness instead and to look for ways that God was working in my day. I decided that they were right and determined to see what God might have in store for me.

As I made my way up the cloverleaf towers and onto the unit where I would be rounding, God must have been smiling at the ways He was about to remind me of His care for me. Pausing near the nurses station, I noticed a middle-aged woman wearing the red and black scrubs of the house-keeping department. Her face looked familiar—wait, it was my friend! Excitedly, we exchanged greetings and caught up. I had lived on her street years before as a dental student and had learned that she was an immigrant from Latin America. A Spanish speaker myself, the language had been our bond, and I had made it a habit to wave and say, "Hola!" whenever I saw her. Now, as we chatted and I updated her about my life, my spirits were lifted, and I could not believe the coincidence of rounding on the same unit where she worked. Later that day, another surprise came when I received an unexpected email from **TAMARA L. THOMAS '87** checking up on me to see how I was doing. She knew the first year of OMFS was difficult and wanted to encourage me. My heart was reassured by these reminders that God cared about me and that He had placed people in my life who also cared about me. My parents had been right. He had sent me just what I needed for that day. ■



*Dr. Charles-Marcel, LLU SD '18, is in his fifth year of the six-year combined oral and maxillofacial surgery MD program. He is happily married to Janessa, a pediatrician.*



# ALL THE WAYS WE GROW

BY ASHLEY SAUNDERS '23

there is no need to hurry  
to wistfully grasp for the future  
instead, collect moments and lessons  
lessons and follies  
these pearls from the journey

there is no wisdom in rushing  
everything that is given time  
refines itself with grace  
and defines itself with purpose  
do we rush the painter, the sculptor  
the architect or author  
do we rush the trees, the blossoms  
the oceans, or the suns  
why then do we rush each other

we will bloom when we bloom  
we will become what we become  
when we are ready  
and when we arrive in unbridled joy  
with sinuous roots in soil  
branches reaching toward the sky  
at last, we'll reap the seeds we've sown  
embracing all the ways we've grown  
and all the days we've tried



*Dr. Saunders recently began her neurology residency at George Washington University Hospital in Washington, DC. Outside of medicine, she is a lover of elephants and enjoys reading, spending time in nature, and exploring new places with family and friends.*

# Delayed, Not Denied

BY BRIANA GREENE '23

My life journey to and through medical school has shown me that with God, “delay” and “deny” are definitely not synonymous.

It was the summer of 2015, and I was in tears in a restroom stall of my science and physics building at my university. It had become clear I would not be prepared in time to take the MCAT with the rest of my classmates before graduation. It was unavoidable; I would have to take a gap year after receiving my bachelor’s degree and apply to medical school while my friends had their first day as incoming medical students. This was the first in a succession of delays that were devastating in the moment and did not make sense at the time yet were a part of a divine plan that later was revealed to me.

Discouraged but determined, I decided to spend part of my gap year abroad volunteering in Tanzania. While working to save money for this trip, I was given a book about the work of Seventh-day Adventist mission doctor **JAMES ERIC APPEL '00**. I had always dreamed about having such adventures, and little did I know God was already orchestrating a way for our paths to cross. But this plan involved not one, but two more delays in my scholastic journey.

After passing the MCAT, at 22 years old I set off for the adventure of a lifetime. I traveled solo 8,000 miles from home without an organization or even a picture of who would pick me up at the airport. I stepped off a plane into the dense green mountains and fields of Arusha, Tanzania, where I was hit by a wave of humid air, jolted out of my Western comfort zone and into my life’s purpose. Hearing about missionaries as a young child had sparked my interest in global missions, and while I can’t pin down the exact moment I decided to be a mission doctor, I remember being 15 and tasked with a school assignment of writing a letter to my future self 10 years down the line. I penned the words, “Hi, I hope you are a mission doctor when you read this!”

Fast forward seven years from that high school exercise and this trip to Tanzania was my first chance to fully immerse myself in my global service passions. For three months I volunteered independently at an orphanage and nursery school. I developed curriculum, instituted a drinking water

purification policy, installed sinks for hand washing, and oversaw the construction of a dental hygiene room where children learned to care for their teeth. I learned that God can equip the unqualified because I never dreamed that in two months’ time I would be bargaining in Swahili in the industrial market for sinks and hiring a plumber!

While in Tanzania I found out that there was another delay—I had not been immediately accepted into Loma Linda University School of Medicine (LLUSM). Instead, I was invited to the Master of Medical Science (MMS) program in biomedical sciences where one enrolls in five of the six blocks taken by first-year medical students. If at the conclusion of one year, and classes were completed with high marks, then I would be able to begin the first year of medical school.

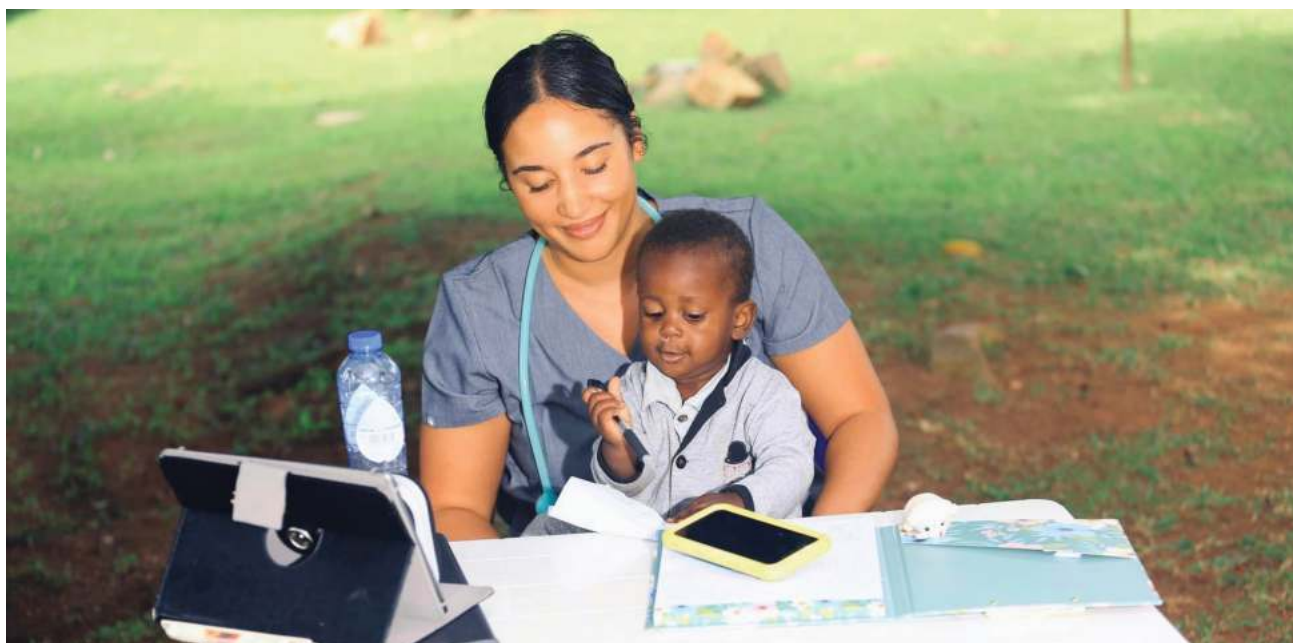
I was able to successfully complete the program and



**I REMEMBER BEING 15 AND TASKED WITH A SCHOOL ASSIGNMENT OF WRITING A LETTER TO MY FUTURE SELF 10 YEARS DOWN THE LINE. I PENNED THE WORDS, ‘HI, I HOPE YOU ARE A MISSION DOCTOR WHEN YOU READ THIS!’**

was officially accepted to LLUSM in 2018. The additional year delay of participating in the MMS program caused the completion of my official first year of medical school to coincide perfectly with the first LLU Mission Doctor Boot Camp. There, in 2019 in Carrefour, Haiti; I was thrilled to meet and work with mission doctors including Dr. Appel and his wife, Sarah, whom I had first read about in that gifted book in 2017! Not only did I gain inspiration from meeting people who were living out my dream, I had my book signed by them, and we developed a lasting friendship. But because God wasn’t yet done with this connection. That summer after Haiti I again flew to Tanzania, this time with the goal of building a playground for a local nursery school in two weeks. The day of my flight I was gratified to see the hard work pay off as I heard squeals of unbridled glee as children sped down a slide with a grin or pushed their





**BRIANA GREENE '23** writing prescriptions with an extra special assistant at Bugema University Hospital in Uganda during her Loma Linda University SIMS mission trip '23.

giggling friends on a swing set for the first time in their lives.

My second year of medical school went quite smoothly, except...for one class. I fought hard to improve that grade while keeping up with nonprofit projects. While buying cows 8,000 miles away via text for a needy family during a break between my genetics and microbiology classes did make for a unique medical school journey, I wouldn't have it any other way. When final grades were released, I opened every class's final score report and exhaled a sigh of relief with each "pass" that graced my computer screen. I saved this intense class for last and with hopeful trepidation clicked on the words "Final grade." My stomach instantly clenched and sank. I had missed passing by ONE percent. I flopped back on my bed in utter disbelief, broken and bitterly disappointed. This would be my biggest and hardest delay yet. Subsequently, I would have to repeat the entire second year of medical school and would not be continuing with my classmates, again. However, this repeated year taught me grit and resilience and broadened my clinical knowledge across all subjects. Years down the line, I now see even more of its purpose and significance.

I dusted myself off and again flew to Tanzania, this time with the goal of providing safe transport for the school children. This involved fundraising to purchase and refurbish a 15-seater van. This was a much-needed replacement of the current method which involved 15 kids in a car with only five seats! It was after this summer of 2018 that I officially launched my 501(c)(3) nonprofit From Hearts 2 Hands

Inc [fromhearts2hands.org]. This nonprofit has the guiding mission to "transform the goodwill of our hearts into action for children in need in Tanzania."

During COVID and the period after when travel was not feasible, several projects were completed from afar! From Hearts 2 Hands' Mind Investor Sponsorship Program grew, transferring children from crowded government schools with ratios of 100 students to 1 teacher, to private schools with great classroom ratios and resources. The 2021 Tanga Wheelchair Initiative provided 10 paralyzed children with new wheelchairs. Using only an iPhone as communication, the 2022 Kwamkono Handicap Accessible Bathroom Project came to fruition, and I virtually oversaw the construction of ten handicap-accessible bathrooms equipped with support rails, showers, and height-adjusted sinks for children at an orphanage for the disabled. Creating tangible change in a short time lit a fire in me and executing these projects from conception to idealization has brought me the deepest fulfillment.

In my fourth year of medical school, I chose to do mission electives and traveled across the continent of Africa to learn and volunteer at hospitals in Liberia, Chad, and Tanzania. Those eight weeks were some of the most amazing experiences of my life. I helped care for children with limb deformities that were being corrected through orthopaedic surgery in Liberia, while surfing turquoise waves with the locals on weekends. I journeyed to Chad, a country in central Africa where only 4% of the population has access to electricity and



(From left) Dr. Greene, in Béré Adventist Hospital, Chad, monitoring a 2-day-old baby who is using the hospital's only oxygen compressor machine. (Photos 2 & 3) Before and after images from the Kwamkono Handicap Accessible Bathroom Project in Tanga, Tanzania. (Photo 4) Dr. Greene with [JAMES ERIC APPEL '00](#) and his family in Robertsport, Liberia post surf session, Dec. 2022.

the death rates in children under 5 are some of the highest on the continent. I traveled ten bumpy hours on sandy roads by bus, then hopped on a motorcycle for two more hours, passing hippos and snaking through herds of cows to reach Béré Adventist Hospital. There I learned how to treat malaria and typhoid, delivered babies, and worked to ensure the entire maternity ward had mosquito nets for patients and babies. When I fell ill with a parasite and malaria, I gained a level of empathy for my patients that could only be attained through this firsthand shared life experience. I ended my trip back in Tanzania at a government hospital learning to make casts, treat burns, and navigate the social work system of another country. After working in the hospital for two weeks I transitioned to working on From Hearts 2 Hands' latest projects. In two weeks I oversaw the construction and completion of a science and physics lab for an Adventist high school. The other big project involved the fabrication and distribution of reusable sanitary pads to over 400 girls with no access to feminine hygiene products (Kwamkono Feminine Hygiene Product Project).

Looking back now I can see that without the initial MCAT delay in 2016, I wouldn't have had the gap year journey halfway across the world that would define my purpose and govern my life trajectory. Without the delay of the preparatory MMS program in 2017 I would have never gone to Mission Doctor Boot Camp in Haiti and met the Appels. Neither would I have started my nonprofit which has raised over \$55,000 to date that has gone directly into numerous projects in Tanzania to benefit children in need. Without the delay of having to repeat my second year of medical school in 2020, my senior year where mission elective weeks are available would have fallen too close to the COVID pandemic. I would not have been able to freely travel to all these countries for such a long period of time with all the strict protocols that existed at that time. In addition, I was delighted my path crossed again with Dr. Appel

and his family during my travels in Liberia. Our God is masterful in surprises and in making great out of seemingly bad situations.

Just a few weeks ago, I spent a week working as a volunteer physician with Loma Linda University in Bugema, Uganda. I saw over 50 pediatric patients a day in a tent pitched outside. Repeatedly I heard, "Dr. Greene, can you help?" What a privilege and honor to finally be able to say, "Yes! Send the patient my way! Bring that baby over here please." While there, I delivered a sermon to a crowd of 350 high school students encouraging them to stay on the path toward their dreams regardless of setbacks. I told them, "With God, delayed does not mean denied." He delivers on His promises.

In 2026 when I finish pediatric residency, I plan to move to Africa to work full-time as a mission physician, and while I hope there are no more delays in the near future, I know that delays or not God has a great plan bigger than my wildest dreams. I'm excited to join Him on the absolute adventure of a lifetime providing care for the needy in impoverished situations.

My life is a testimony, truly, that with God delayed does not mean denied. One never knows what destiny is waiting on the other side of a seemingly futile delay, but our God does. ■



*Dr. Greene is a Floridian turned Californian who is currently a pediatric resident at LLU Children's Hospital. When she's not thinking of the next service project for her nonprofit From Hearts 2 Hands Inc. she can be found surfing along the*

*California Coast, enjoying the weight room or a workout class, or organizing and dreaming of any number of DIY projects. She is currently signed up for a two-year commitment abroad as a mission physician post residency.*



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5:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Home of Marilene Wang '86 & James Watson '86



### Saint Helena, CA

Saturday, October 7

5:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Home of Richard Martin '79



### Orlando, FL

Saturday, October 28

4:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Home of Vincent Hsu '95



### Jacksonville, FL

Sunday, October 29

11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Home of Barbara '88 and Mark '87 McKinney



### Seattle, WA - Meet the Dean

Saturday, October 7

5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Home of Cheryl Tan-Jacobson '85



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# Honoring Two Epochal Leaders

BY RICHARD H. HART '70

Loma Linda University Health has had its fair share of stalwart leaders, some made famous by the crises they confronted, others by the times in which they led. **DAVID B. HINSHAW SR. '47**, and former LLUH President Norman Woods, were two of those whose imprint on LLUH continues to be magnified as the years pass.

In 1962, Loma Linda University received an ultimatum from the Council on Medical Education to consolidate the campuses, either in Los Angeles or Loma Linda. With the Board of Trustees struggling to make a decision, Dr. Hinshaw was named Dean of the School of Medicine in 1962 and commissioned to “make it happen.” With resistance from the clinical faculty living in Los Angeles, he pushed ahead with a resolve and determination that was frustrating to many and inspiring to others. In 1967, that new facility, renamed the Loma Linda University Medical Center, was opened.

Woods, previously the dean of men at Walla Walla College, by 1977 had become the LLU vice president for academic administration. In 1984, he accepted the presidency after V. Norskov Olsen retired. In

September 1984, just a few months into Norm’s presidency, the organization was thrust into the global spotlight following transplant of a baboon’s heart into “Baby Fae” by **LEONARD L. BAILEY '69**. Norm used that event to bolster Loma Linda University’s public relations team and gain international fame for this small California university. That foundation served us well when in 1990 **JAMES M. SLATER '63** launched our proton treatment program, the first in the world to be established in a hospital setting. These two events repositioned Loma Linda University Health into a scientific institution to be reckoned with.

The six years of Norm’s leadership were also a time of considerable internal reorganization on the campus. Concern over the accreditation status of Loma Linda University and its La Sierra Campus led to extensive discussions on how to more effectively integrate the two institutions. The board decided it was best to study the feasibility of physically locating them together on the Loma Linda campus. The Board of Trustees gave Norm the task of “selling”

this idea, which included identifying where to build the undergraduate campus at Loma Linda and how to convince the La Sierra faculty to move their programs here. This discussion started an epic discussion, similar to moving the Los Angeles campus to Loma Linda over two decades earlier. Moving an entire campus, with the associated travel implications for faculty and staff, was a huge consideration. Back and forth between the campuses, Norm traveled in his yellow VW Beetle, seeking consensus and an acceptable strategy. Unfortunately, the messenger was pilloried often more than the decision itself. After three years of debate, several board actions, and trying other administrative structures, it finally became clear that the political and physical costs were more than the institutions were willing to carry. At that time, Woods felt that the most peaceful course was for him to resign. The board realized if Woods could not bring them together, no one could. They ultimately decided to separate the two institutions entirely, ending the organizational linkage between them that had been in place for 23 years. Woods spent the next six months tirelessly working with many committees to implement this new decision and pull apart the structures that had been in place for one institution on two campuses for so many years.

In retrospect, this was clearly the right



(From left) **DAVID B. HINSHAW SR. '47** and **NORMAN WOODS** are major figures who helped shape the legacy of what is now Loma Linda University Health.





(Left) The historic clover leaf towers have been renamed the David B. Hinshaw, Sr. Towers honoring Dr. Hinshaw for his hand in combining the Los Angeles and Loma Linda campuses at Loma Linda. (Right) The central Loma Linda University walkway was named the Woods Walkway, honoring Norman Woods' leadership during the difficult transition of the La Sierra campus from the Loma Linda campus.

decision, setting each institution free to pursue its own destiny. La Sierra College, now University, has become a thriving campus on its own. Loma Linda University could now identify itself as an Academic Health Science Center with all the benefits and challenges that has brought. In honor of Woods' leadership during this difficult time and his dignified way of accepting these changes, we named the central path through

impacted Loma Linda University Health (LLUH).

In 1990, **B. LYN BEHRENS '63-AFF** took over from Woods as president at Loma Linda. Dr. Hinshaw, together with Dr. Behrens and **JOHN W. MACE '64**, greatly expanded our children's services in the Inland Empire with the growth of the department of pediatrics and construction of a children's hospital. Dr. Hinshaw supported the dream of **JAMES M. SLATER '63** to develop the world's first hospital-based proton treatment center on our campus. He saw the potential in purchasing the failed Charter Hospital near Redlands and converted it into our Behavioral

confidence and grow our research enterprise, including the Adventist Health Study. We then established the Schools of Public Health and Allied Health Professions and built a base for continued growth in both our student enrollment and clinical services.

To recognize Dr. Hinshaw's impact, the administration recommended, and the Board of Trustees approved, naming the 1967 legacy cloverleaf hospital as the David B. Hinshaw, Sr. Towers. This is a fitting tribute to a man who guided the transition of LLUH from a small clinical school in a rural area (known as "the farm") to an internationally valued icon. Dr. Hinshaw's death in 2019 at the age of 95 and Woods' death in 2022 at the age of 88 closed a chapter in our organization's history. These recognitions honor their legacy here—the foundations they built on this campus for generations to come. ■

**THESE RECOGNITIONS HONOR THEIR LEGACY HERE—THE FOUNDATIONS THEY BUILT ON THIS CAMPUS FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.**

campus the Woods Walkway several years ago. That path was once a street cutting the campus in half. It was during Woods' leadership that the street was closed to traffic and became a pedestrian thoroughfare.

In 1986, Woods and Dr. Hinshaw began working together as leaders at LLU Health. Dr. Hinshaw had left the institution in 1975, then was invited back in 1986 by President Woods to serve as vice president for medical affairs and then as president of the Loma Linda Medical Center in 1988. It was during this time that another series of decisions were made that have equally

Medicine Center, enabling psychiatry services to move from a 12-room ward in the hospital to its own 89-bed site. He started the conversion of the old Community Hospital into a major rehabilitation center we now call the East Campus.

It was during these critical 32 years, from 1962 to 1994, that Loma Linda University Health truly came of age as an academic health science center. We became a national leader in infant heart transplants, proton therapy, premier care of children, rehabilitation services, and psychiatric care. This enabled the rest of the campus to gain



**RICHARD H. HART '70**

*is the president of Loma Linda University Health, a post he has held since 2008. In this role, he oversees operations of the organization's eight schools and six hospitals, as well as collaborative and consulting relationships with organizations worldwide.*

# I Died Four Times

BY HARVEY A. ELDER '57

That morning, I woke up feeling more tired than usual, which I attributed to poor sleep the previous two nights. It was a Monday, one of my regular days to exercise at the Loma Linda University Drayson Center.

Several machines were in use, including some by a few Loma Linda firefighters who came in every morning. I crossed the floor to my favorite treadmill along the outside wall and began a slow walk. However, I quickly became short of breath and extremely light-headed. I started to lean against the front of the treadmill to avoid falling. The next thing I knew, I was on the floor with several firefighters surrounding me, one actively doing chest compressions.

A retired fire department captain, Terry, had seen me fall against the wall and then crumple onto the carpeted floor. He later told me he heard my head hit the floor “with such a loud thump” that he was concerned I might have broken my neck. Terry immediately called out for help while stabilizing my neck. Several of the Loma Linda firefighters also saw me collapse and responded. Thankfully, they were all trained emergency medical technicians.

Nate, the captain of the Loma Linda Fire Department, was the next to respond. Based on years of experience, he immediately noted I had no pulse and wasn't breathing. My pupils were also dilated, which was a bad sign; most people with dilated pupils don't make it.

A younger fire department member, George, began chest compressions within a minute of my fall. While George was performing compressions, Nate grabbed the gym's first aid supplies and inserted an IV in my right arm.

I later found out that my pulse was restored within four minutes of my collapse. As I awakened and blinked my eyes into focus, I saw firefighters' faces surrounding me. They were asking questions at rapid fire.

“What is your name?”

“Where are you?”

I knew the answers, but I didn't have enough air in my lungs to vocalize. It felt like the wind had been knocked out of me.

As I gained more awareness, I began to dry heave. This was extremely painful and added to the pain from the chest compressions.

I wanted to ask them to, “Ease up on the chest pressure, please,” but I thought better of it. I was surrounded by people trained to save someone's life; this wasn't a good time for me to take charge.

Lying there, I kept trying to figure out what had happened. I thought, “This must be some kind of medical drama, but I didn't leave the TV on!” Then I realized, “Oh, I am the TV show!”

I easily moved each foot and each hand. I rejoiced, grateful. This movement of my extremities suggested no stroke. My inability to speak was a concern, but vocalization rapidly developed. If the sudden onset was not a stroke, what was it? A heart attack? I didn't know.

As I lay on the floor waiting for more help to arrive, I felt strangely calm, at peace. I wasn't concerned about dying. I began to pray. I simply prayed for my wife, my children, and the firefighters. I don't recall praying for myself. I didn't pray to live; I wasn't concerned about dying. At a very deep level, I knew God was taking care of me. His hands and feet wore the navy uniform of the firefighters.

An ambulance arrived in mere minutes, and their EMT began to assist. They worked together to slide the gurney under me and transport me to the ambulance. Once I was inside, they resumed chest compressions, so I assume my heart had stopped again. I was alert and could feel the pain of the recurring pressure. I wanted to ask them to go easy on me, but I wasn't in charge. They were. God was.

They stopped doing chest compressions and began asking me

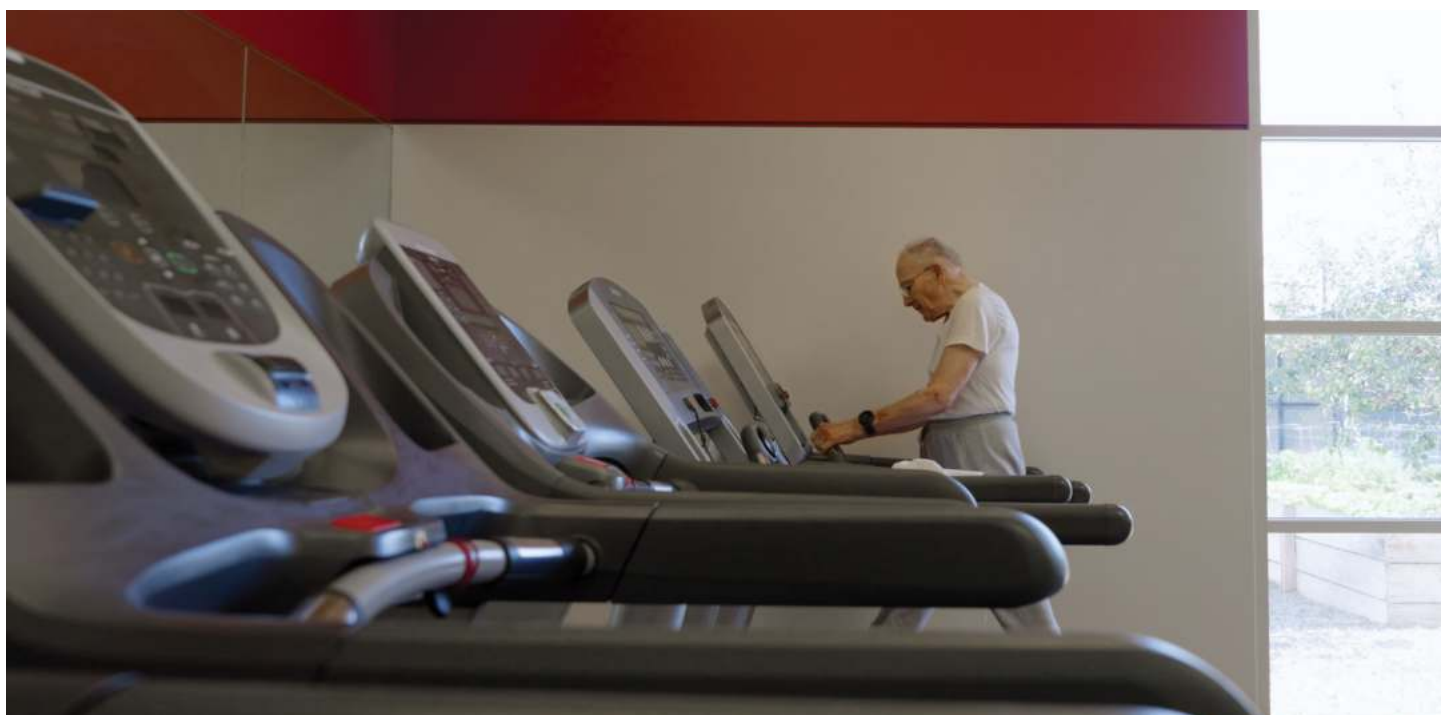


**AT A VERY DEEP LEVEL, I KNEW  
GOD WAS TAKING CARE OF ME.**

questions again. This time, I was able to reply right away. As I was still processing what exactly was happening, I continued to pray for the firefighters as God's ministers of mercy. I was surprised by how calm I felt.

We arrived at the Loma Linda University Emergency Department. While we were in the parking lot, they began chest compressions a third time, and I began to dry heave once more. I was in so much pain; I just wanted them to stop. Thankfully this round was short, and they wheeled me into the ED. I have very little





**HARVEY A. ELDER '57** collapsed to the floor on January 9, 2023, at about 8:16 a.m. during a regular exercise session at the Loma Linda University Drayson Center.

recall of these moments.

Again, there were even more chest compressions, more painful than the ones that came before. I didn't think I could take any more pain. They put on an external "pacemaker," a pad under me and a pad on my chest. I felt some mild shocks at the rate of a normal pulse. I was thankful for this distraction. It actually amused me. I know epinephrine was mentioned, but I don't know if they used it. Under local anesthesia, they inserted a temporary pacemaker.

During my time in the ED, a doctor named **LYNDA DANIEL-UNDERWOOD '91** visited me. She was a former student of mine and a friend of my daughter. She stayed with me and prayed for me. I deeply appreciated her caring kindness in my moment of need.

I was officially admitted to the hospital for the placement of a permanent pacemaker. A then senior medical student, **CALEB MCKINNEY '23**, did my admission evaluation and then asked if he could pray with me. I was beyond delighted to be prayed for by yet another hospital team member. I couldn't even fathom what was happening. I knew my family and friends were praying for me, but this was different. It was as if decades of my own prayers were being fulfilled at this moment.

For over thirty years, I had prayed with patients at this hospital and taught others to do the same. As the years passed, I prayed that God would raise up someone else to follow me in this teaching. He chose **AMY C. HAYTON '04**. She expanded the Whole Person Care program in practical and effective ways that included all areas

of diversity and is tailored to the needs of students in each year of medical training at Loma Linda University School of Medicine. More recently, **JOHN Y. SHIN '14** and Josh Jordan, MD have joined the team. With the program in such good hands I feel truly at peace. It has a great future.

Once I was admitted, I was taken to the waiting area for my procedure. I asked to see Dr. Bhardwaj, who would be the one to put in my permanent pacemaker. He and his colleague came, and I asked if I could pray for them. They readily agreed.

I prayed a simple prayer: that God would guide them, help them see what they needed to see, and know what they needed to do. I also prayed that the pacemaker would take over quickly with no complications.

Then they took me into surgery. The next thing I knew, I was waking up in the anesthesia recovery room. I had minor discomfort at the incision site, but the most pain was in my chest wall from the four rounds of chest compressions I had just endured.

By God's miracle, I had a new pacemaker. The X-ray showed that all the wires were in the right places and that I had no broken ribs. I felt relieved and confident that my cardiac rhythm problems were behind me.

While I had been in surgery, some family and friends had congregated in the waiting room. My wife, Grace, had been joined by friends Anita Roberts and Rosie Salcedo. I saw them all as I was wheeled to my hospital room for the evening. Once several family members and hospital personnel were gathered in my room, I was

overwhelmed by God’s loving graciousness and wanted to thank him for his goodness to me. I asked if they all would join me in a prayer of thanksgiving. A nurse who was with a nearby patient asked to join us. I offered a short prayer of thanks for all God had done for me and praised him for who he is. The nurse who joined us seemed particularly grateful for the blessing.

I didn’t know my future, but I knew who held my life in his powerful right hand. God was with me. I had died four times in less than half an hour. Through his ministers—the EMTs and hospital staff—He had revived me over and over.

That night I slept fitfully. I was still in pain, and the nurses had to take my vitals every four hours. By morning, I was starting to feel better.

Caleb returned to check on me and again prayed with me, for which I was deeply grateful. Several other people came by to pray with me. Pastor Adrian of the Loma Linda University Church sang and prayed with me. **LAREN D. TAN ’09**, the new chairman of the internal medicine department, said a prayer that was particularly meaningful to me. I truly praise God for all his ministers of his grace.

I was discharged that morning after another chest X-ray showed the pacemaker wires were still in place. Grace drove us out of the parking garage as I praised God. “We are going home!” Yes, to our home in Loma Linda. I felt so much closer to God and had a deep sense of coming closer to him with new opportunities to share my stories of his goodness.

Just two days later, my chest wall pain was almost entirely gone. Dr. Tan checked on me at home, and I was happy to report that I felt as well as I had several months earlier. He then asked me to share my experience of how prayers impacted me at the internal medicine department’s academic meeting the following month. I was thrilled to have the opportunity. And that’s what inspired me to share my story with you.

I am slowly picking up more exercise as I continue to heal. I’ve been able to thank the firefighters who helped to save my life that day. I am so incredibly blessed. I still wonder why I was rescued when so many are not. I’m aware that most people who experience cardiac arrest outside of a hospital setting do not survive. I now have a pacemaker whose battery I expect to replace in about ten years.

Days before my cardiac arrest, I’d joined with friends to pray. I shared that, despite a good prior year overall, I was feeling a little low. Not necessarily depressed, just like something was missing. My faith had lost its spark. It felt like my spiritual life needed a jolt.

I had been inquiring of God, “Who will continue the training in Whole Person Care when I can no longer carry the load?” I would remind him that time is rapidly approaching.

God is loving, of this I am certain. So loving, that he answered my prayers in a manner beyond anything I could imagine.

Caleb and Dr. Tan’s prayers overwhelmed me. God, through the prayers of these two, assured me that he had heard my plea for the Whole Person Care program at LLU School of Medicine and it was all under his control. I was stunned, thrilled, and totally at peace.

The power of prayer isn’t necessarily in receiving the answers we want. The real power is in knowing that God is working in us and through us to accomplish his purposes. Our time on earth is but a short blip in eternity: a time to know and trust God’s loving faithfulness, a time to sample the joy of the Lord while he leads us through our earthly sojourn. As we serve God where he assigns us, doing what he calls us to do, that’s a fulfilling life. We do astounding things with willing hearts, even if we do need a little jolt once in awhile. ■

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*Dr. Elder taught infectious diseases at LLUSM from 1967 to 2020. As he cared for patients with HIV and AIDS, his interest in the spiritual aspect of medical care increased and became a significant part of his practice. Student groups would meet regularly at his home and discuss spiritual aspects and the role of prayer in patient care.*



Dr. Elder shared in a video interview his story of dying four times and experiencing God’s love through prayers from the Loma Linda University Health medical staff.

**SCAN THE CODE  
TO WATCH THE INTERVIEW**  
[HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/5FAGQVL8B60](https://youtu.be/5FAGQVL8B60)







## Alumni Association 100 for 100 Campaign

To celebrate the 100th Anniversary, the Alumni Association has set a goal to create 100 *Paying It Forward* Scholarships by the Annual Postgraduate Convention (APC) in 2024. The *Paying It Forward Scholarship* is a covenant gift of 50% tuition and fees (\$33,000 for 2023-24) for a junior or senior medical student for one or two academic years aimed at tangibly reducing student debt.

30 FUNDED 70 REMAINING (As of July 5, 2023)

Your tax-deductible donation will be **double-matched** by the Alumni Association and Loma Linda University School of Medicine. You will also have the opportunity to mentor the student your donation is matched to.



YOUR  
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+



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
MATCH

+



SCHOOL OF  
MEDICINE MATCH

=



PAYING IT  
FORWARD SCHOLARSHIP

Students will apply for the scholarship and be selected by the School of Medicine Dean's office based on demonstrated financial need plus a record of community involvement or mentoring. Student recipients enter a covenant agreement to "pay forward" the amount they receive within 25 years to the scholarship program, thus allowing the program to grow.

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[www.llusmaa.org/100for100](http://www.llusmaa.org/100for100)

# The Alumni Association

## A POWER FOR GOOD

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

*This article is part two of an abridged history of the Alumni Association School of Medicine of Loma Linda University, which is celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Part one was featured in the Spring 2023 ALUMNI JOURNAL.*

“Our Alumni Association must be strong, vigorous, united, and independent. Not just for its own sake, but precisely because it is a service organization. I must have self to give.”<sup>1</sup>

**JACK W. PROVONSHA '53-A** (AA President 1964-1965)

The Alumni Association, School of Medicine of Loma Linda University was founded on a solid cornerstone laid down by **INER SHELD-RICHIE '15** who wrote:

“We feel that we have now come to the time when we can organize into a successful alumni association. Not after a worldly order, not for a selfish purpose, but a definite, high, and holy cause, even that of our Master.

“This Organization has great possibilities if properly developed.”<sup>2</sup> Then in his statement, Dr. Ritchie identified four objectives to be written on that cornerstone and the hearts of the alumni members who would be chosen to lead a successful Alumni Association. First: “It should necessarily be organized on a sound and proper financial basis.” Check: it was and continues to be. Second: “having the support of all its members.” Check: the Alumni Association

has support from its dues-paying and perpetual members. Third: “Such benefits as a poor students’ fund.” Check: this fund continues to be a priority for the Association.

Fourth: “Establishment or aid of medical missionary work, both at home and in foreign fields.”<sup>3</sup> Check: during its early years the Alumni Association was the driving force behind the school and the college (the College of Medical Evangelists also known as CME). As the medical school and university grew, the Alumni Association took a lesser role. Today, however, the Alumni Association continues to lend its support to the school, and the university through its fundraising efforts. It supports the Seventh-day Adventist Church through its Alumni in Mission’s Council (formerly the Adventist International Medical Society before merging with the Alumni Association in 2018). And finally, the Association supports the medical students (our future alumni) in various ways during their four years on campus. Most recently this has included the Emergency Student Fund and the *Paying It Forward* Scholarship.

And so, with the cornerstone laid, the alumni—28 members in all (from the first three classes 1914–1916)—from an unac-

## ALUMNI JOURNAL EDITORS

### EDITORS

Orlyn B. Pratt '24 | 1931-1944  
Hubert O. Swartout '33 | 1944-1946  
Molleurus Couperus '34 | 1946-1951  
R. Theodore Bergman '30 | 1951-1975  
Carrol S. Small '34 | 1975-1982  
Raymond O. West '52 | 1982-1988  
Carrol S. Small '34 | 1988-1990  
Henry K. Yeo '68 | 1990-2011  
Donna Carlson '69 | 2012  
Gary Barker '80-B | 2013  
Mickey Ask '79-A | 2013-214  
Roland Zimmermann '66 | 2014  
Burton Briggs '66 | 2014-2019

### ISSUE EDITORS

Tiffany Preister '04 (guest) | 2019  
Andrew C. Chang '90 | 2020-2023  
Rolanda R. Everett '92 | 2020-Present  
Heather R. McKenzie '05 | 2020-2021  
Grace W. Oei '04 | 2022-Present





The Alumni Association building at 11245 Anderson Street on a rare snowy Loma Linda day on Feb. 25, 2023.

credited medical school produced a circular letter to provide current information about their alma mater and news about their fellow graduates. The alumni continued to move forward. At last, their alma mater was accredited—receiving a C rating—by the Council on Medical Education, giving the alumni credence to form a loosely knit organization. Progress was being made.

There are four strategic decisions—based on the precepts Dr. Ritchie—adopted by the Board of Directors of the Alumni Association, which anchored the Alumni Association to the cornerstone.

#### **STRATEGIC DECISION NUMBER ONE: THE JOURNAL AND THE ANNUAL DIRECTORY**

The years 1931 and 1932 proved to be pivotal years. As the leadership of the Association looked to the future, they, including seven past presidents of the Alumni Association, took three bold steps that anchored the alumni to the Association

and to their alma mater.

First: The Association published its first edition magazine (Vol. 1; No. 1 dated January – February 1931) called: *The JOURNAL of the Alumni Association, College of Medical Evangelists*. The editorial committee of the 16-page first edition consisted of **ORLYN B. PRATT '24**; **GEORGE M. TAYLOR '24**, chairman; and **ROGER W. BARNES '22**. With the new *JOURNAL* in the mail, the informal informational circular letters writing brigade could lay down their pens. By the second edition, the editorial committee gave way to Dr. Pratt. The familiar periodical is now known as the *ALUMNI JOURNAL* and is enjoyed by alumni around the world. The *ALUMNI JOURNAL* no longer has a single editor, rather it has an editorial team that includes three issue editors. Each of the three issue editors is responsible for the content of one of the three issues that are published annually. Each issue is now

printed in color. This current issue boasts 64 pages, a far cry from the 16 black and white pages of the first issue.

Second: The Association took the step of faith by publishing the first annual *DIRECTORY* of the Alumni Association, College of Medical Evangelists 1931 – 1932. The 2023 *DIRECTORY* contained 302 pages. Through the years, the annual *DIRECTORY* has proved to be a valuable resource to our alumni.

In the first issue of the *JOURNAL*, **FRED B. MOOR '20**, president, wrote a very telling paragraph: “It is not fitting for an officer whose tenure is but one year to say what the Association will do in the future. It is safe to say, however, that it will continue to make progress, that it will become greater and greater power for good of the medical school and to the cause of which the school forms a part. Its success, however, depends upon its individual members; how loyal they are to the princi-

ples for which the school stands, and how loyal they are to the faith which has made the school a possibility.”<sup>4</sup>

Third: In 1932, at the recommendation of President **WALTER E. MACPHERSON '24**, and approved by the Board of Directors, the Association became a corporation. By incorporating as an autonomous entity, the Association was allowed under corporate laws of California to legally conduct business and to accept donations not only in cash, but also, in stocks, bonds, and real property. Dr. Macpherson explained in his article “Incorporating the Alumni Association of the College of Medical Evangelists” that “We believe that we are making definite progress and that, as our activities and obligations become increasingly greater, we should be preparing an organization that will be capable of fulfilling our obligations.”<sup>5</sup>

**STRATEGIC DECISION NUMBER TWO: RELOCATING FROM LOS ANGELES TO LOMA LINDA**

With CME becoming Loma Linda University and with the decision to move the medical campus to Loma Linda, it was inevitable that the Association would soon follow (not without some angst). Of this move, **ALBERT F. BROWN '33** wrote: “But the same fateful fact that opened Osler House (the last headquarters the Association occupied on the White Memorial Hospital campus in Los Angeles) to the alumni pilgrims soon began to take them out of it. LLU had moved and inevitably the Alumni office followed. In 1967, a Loma Linda branch office was opened. Space was limited in Loma Linda. The trenches were crammed again, instantly this time, and even the visiting generals had to learn lockstep.”<sup>6</sup>

In 1975, the Alumni office in LA was shuttered, and so, Loma Linda became the home of the Alumni Association.

**STRATEGIC DECISION NUMBER THREE:**

**FROM RENTER TO LANDLORD**

With the available rental space at a premium on the Loma Linda campus, the Alumni Association was forced to play musical offices as they vied for larger (and yes, more expensive) space. The decision was made to build. An 8,000 square-foot, two-story building was proposed and approved by the Board of Directors. “Association President **EDWIN H. KRICK '61**, gave major impetus to such a program and was authorized by the board to approach the University administration...with the idea.”<sup>7</sup> Of course there were minor details: for starters, where to get the money, and of course “delay after delay with permits, and other minuscule...totally unimportant recording errors.”<sup>8</sup> The new home of the Alumni Association opened its doors on September 17, 1981. The building was aptly named “Alumni Center.” By action of the Board of Directors, the building was renamed in 1998. During a ceremony on March 10, 1998, a new sign was unveiled. The “Alumni Center” would forever be known as the “Carrol S. Small Alumni Center.” **CARROL S. SMALL '34** did not donate the majority of the funds to construct the building, although he was generous with his money. However, he was best known as “Mr. Alumni.” Whenever and wherever he traveled, Dr. Small would visit alumni as his schedule would allow. As the Association settled into their new building, they no longer were renters, they would become landlords.

**STRATEGIC DECISION NUMBER FOUR: THE HOLDING FUND**

To the cornerstone, the Board of Directors added a financial anchor. They approved the establishment of The Holding Fund which would be a separate corporation named “HOLDING FUND, INC. OF THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, SCHOOL OF MEDICINE OF LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY. The specific and primary purposes are to receive, hold and

invest funds paid for life memberships in the Alumni Association. To procure additional funds. All funds held will be for the benefit of the Alumni Association.”<sup>9</sup>

And as the brief history of the Alumni Association is written, it is safe to say that during its 100-year history, the Alumni Association followed the trajectory that Dr. Moor outlined in 1931. The Alumni Association has and will continue to make progress, and it will become an even greater and greater power for good of the medical school, its alumni, and the future alumni who follow. ■

**Endnotes:**

1. *The JOURNAL of the Alumni Association School of Medicine of Loma Linda University*: Vol. 35; No. 7; 1964; p. 4
2. *Diamond Memories* p. 251
3. *Ibid*
4. *The JOURNAL of the Alumni Association College of Medical Evangelists*: Vol. 1; Number 1; January – February 1931 p. 5
5. *The JOURNAL of the Alumni Association College of Medical Evangelists*: Vol. II; Number 4; February 1932; p 7
6. *Diamond Memories* p. 257
7. *Ibid* p. 291
8. *Ibid*
9. *Holding Fund Bylaws*: 1970



Mr. Park is the consulting historian for the ALUMNI JOURNAL and former executive director of the Alumni Association. He is also the author of “The

*Mound City Chronicles: A Pictorial History of Loma Linda University 1905–2005.*”





**Current: \$7.4 Million** **Goal: \$12.5 Million**

We are proud to celebrate our 100th Anniversary. Help us celebrate this milestone by ensuring the organization continues its mission over the next 100 years. Perpetual memberships are invested by the Holding Fund to create income to support the operations of the Alumni Association.



The Alumni Association has a legacy of giving. Your memberships enable us provide emergency grants to students facing hardships, support for alumni serving overseas, events that enable alumni to connect with each other, financial and medical seminars that allow alumni to progress in their lives.

We are financially separate from Loma Linda University and rely on alumni memberships to operate. We invite you to join your fellow alumni in becoming a perpetual member or upgrading your perpetual membership today.

## Perpetual Membership Levels

			ALUMNI JOURNAL	ALUMNI DIRECTORY	Travel Discount	Studio Portrait	Priority Travel Notification	APC Sunday Luncheon	CME Discount	APC Gala Tickets	APC Bus Tickets	Recognition	
LIFE MEMBERSHIPS		Bronze Perpetual	\$ 5,000	X	X	X	X	Group 5	1 Ticket	20%	-	-	Website
		Silver Perpetual	\$ 10,000	X	X	X	X	Group 4	1 Ticket	40%	-	-	Website
		Gold Perpetual	\$ 15,000	X	X	X	X	Group 3	2 Tickets	100%	2 Free	2 Free	Website
		Platinum Perpetual	\$ 25,000	X	X	X	X	Group 2	2 Tickets	100%	2 Free	2 Free	Website & Annual Report
		Diamond Perpetual	\$ 50,000	X	X	X	X	Group 1	2 Tickets	100%	2 Free	2 Free	Website & Annual Report
		Double Diamond	\$ 75,000	X	X	X	X	Group 1	2 Tickets	100%	2 Free	2 Free	Website & Annual Report
		Triple Diamond Perpetual	\$ 100,000	X	X	X	X	Group 1	2 Tickets	100%	2 Free	2 Free	Website & Annual Report
		Four-Star Diamond Perpetual	\$ 125,000	X	X	X	X	Group 1	2 Tickets	100%	2 Free	2 Free	Website & Annual Report
		Five-Star Diamond Perpetual	\$ 150,000	X	X	X	X	Group 1	2 Tickets	100%	2 Free	2 Free	Website & Annual Report



## Paige Elyse Stevens '16

PEDIATRICS

PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA

### FOR WHAT ARE YOU FAMOUS AMONG FRIENDS AND FAMILY?

I am famous for being hardworking and determined. I remember my mom telling me as a kid to “just get a B” and stop being so stressed. Now my husband has the task of constantly reminding me to stop over-committing and to tone down my perfectionistic tendencies.

### WHAT IS YOUR BEST MEDICAL SCHOOL MEMORY?

Too many to count! Medical school was one of my favorite seasons of life because of the incredible relationships, outstanding teachers and mentors, and constant learning. I will never forget the memories that our class made together during a retreat that we planned in the mountains during our senior year. The yearly Pine Springs Ranch retreats stand out as favorite times spent with classmates and faculty. I will never forget all the late nights of studying in the study carrels and reviewing flashcards with my study buddies; I

still use many of the little mnemonics that we came up with in my clinical practice and when teaching residents. The people I met in medical school have been and continue to be my best friends and I am so grateful for the formative years that we shared together.

### WHAT HAS BEEN THE MOST MEANINGFUL EXPERIENCE IN YOUR MEDICAL CAREER?

I have the privilege of working with patients and families during some of their absolute worst times in the pediatric ICU. As hard as it can be sometimes, knowing that I get to support families and patients through their most challenging days/weeks/months is what keeps me going.

### IF YOU WERE TO HAVE WORKED IN A FIELD OUTSIDE OF MEDICINE, WHAT WOULD IT HAVE BEEN? WHY?

I would have been a teacher. I love teaching and mentoring students and know that some of the most formative people in my life have been the teachers who have invested in me and my education over the years. I love medicine because so much of what we get to do is teach the next generation of physicians and teach patients and families.

### IF YOU COULD LEARN TO DO SOMETHING NEW OR BETTER, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

I would love to be able to cook better. A running joke in my family is that I have about five recipes that I recycle all the time. It's a good thing I married a chef!

### WHAT IS THE BEST ADVICE YOU HAVE EVER RECEIVED?

I will never forget Randy Roberts preaching a sermon titled “Wow” at our baccalaureate service during graduation weekend. He encouraged us to remember the WOW of medicine and constantly be inspired and awed by the things we see, the relationships we form, and the impact we make. When things are hard, taking a moment to pause and reflect on the incredible privilege that it is to be a physician is what I do to reset myself. ■



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# Life After Medicine

BY JON R. KATTENHORN '74

As physicians, we spend our careers taking care of people. Our patients are our focus. We insist that our patients be seen on a regular basis, have all of the appropriate labs done regularly, schedule the necessary screenings as prescribed, and take all of their medications and supplements religiously. Are we as faithful to our own health needs as we expect our patients to be?

Our ongoing care for ourselves affects our quality of life. Our health or our spouse's may even be a determining factor as to when we retire. For others, once settled into retirement, health issues may become problematic, for example, orthopaedic issues like old and worn-out joints.

For this reason, **JAMES J. COUPERUS '67** recommends that one should be careful about selecting retirement health insurance that provides the greatest flexibility as to where and from whom one receives care.



## PHYSICIAN, HEAL YOURSELF

**LOREN G. HINGER '74** observed that men, as compared to women, are often negligent about their own healthcare. His observation was that men are frequently better at taking care of their car (servicing, checking the oil, checking the tire pressures, and washing) than themselves. Thankfully, many years before he retired, he connected with an internist who he continues to visit annually for wellness checks. Dr. Hinger feels strongly that we all should be connected with a primary care physician for regular checks.

In addition, as we might recommend to all of our patients, we should avoid being overweight, follow a nutritious diet, and exercise regularly, including some light weight training. **ROBERT A. HARDESTY '78-A** said if he could change one thing, he would have paid more attention to overall fitness when he was younger.

Our training at Loma Linda University taught us the



value of whole person care. We were all trained in a “Blue Zone,” and some of us still live in the area. It is interesting that the diet and lifestyle that we were taught and maybe have promoted has become more mainstream and readily applauded. We don't have to apologize for promoting a balanced plant-based diet. Exercise and nutrition remain a constant.

In Luke 4:23 Jesus is speaking to the crowd at the synagogue and he says: “Physician, heal yourself”—the implication is that if we are not healthy, we can't be expected to help our patients be healthy. In our busy lives we have often overlooked our own health, both physical and mental, in the pursuit of our mission, “To make man whole.” Before the years of our retirement, we often need to take a step back, reevaluate our own health, both physical and mental, and be sure we are doing everything possible to keep ourselves whole! The reward of doing so earlier in our careers will benefit us in a big way when we do retire. ■

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*Dr. Kattenhorn is a retired OB-GYN specialist and faithful supporter of the Alumni Association. He is a past president of the Association (2021-2022) and continues to serve on the ALUMNI JOURNAL editorial team.*



## Robert D. Mitchell '47

***YOU MIGHT NOT NOTICE HIM IN A ROOM FULL OF PEOPLE, BUT IF HE WEREN'T THERE, YOU'D CERTAINLY MISS HIM. CHEERFUL AND TENACIOUS, ROBERT DALTON MITCHELL '47 FOUNDED THE GASTROENTEROLOGY DEPARTMENTS AT LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE (LLUSM) AND AT THE JERRY L. PETTIS VETERANS HOSPITAL. HE DIED ON MARCH 23, 2023. HE WAS 99.***

Bob was born on June 2, 1923, in Bellingham, Washington. During the Great Depression when Bob was 14, his father, a logger, died. His mother, a nurse, supported her five children by giving fomentation therapy to wealthy patients. Bob worked his way through academy and college. He graduated from Auburn Academy (1940) and La Sierra College (1943).

Bob began medical school in 1943, during World War II. The War Department had virtually commandeered America's medical schools and instituted its "Accelerated Program." Compressing a four-year curriculum into three years meant no summer vacations, with classes starting every nine months. "The majority of my class was officially enlisted in the Army. The government paid our tuition and gave us a monthly stipend for living expenses. On Friday afternoons, we lined up to march and learn to be soldiers."—Mitchell

He graduated from the College of Medical Evangelists (CME) in 1947 at age 24.

During the Korean War, he was stationed in Pusan. In 1956, he returned to Loma Linda to start his internal medicine academic career. "I began to realize that I needed to know more about gastroenterology, so I applied to the VA in Los Angeles for a gastroenterology program."

Mitchell completed two residencies and was double-boarded in internal medicine and gastroenterology. Around 1962, **VARNER J. JOHNS JR. '45** asked Mitchell to start the LLUSM gastroenterology program when the medical school consolidated from Los Angeles to Loma Linda.

Mitchell established gastroenterology labs at LLUSM and at the Jerry L. Pettis VA Hospital. In 1981, he became a professor of medicine. He served as chief of gastroenterology, president of the medical staff and acting chair for the department of medicine at various times throughout his career.

In 2000, Mitchell was named Honored Alumnus by the Alumni Association. He was active in numerous medical associ-



ations, societies, and philanthropies. He established The Robert D. Mitchell, M.D., and Gladys E. Mitchell Endowment Fund for Gastrointestinal Research.

His great passion was teaching and mentoring medical students, interns, and residents for 41 years.

**MICHAEL H. WALTER '73-B** said, "Dr. Robert Mitchell was the consummate physician. He taught me the fundamentals of gastroenterology when I was a medical student in 1971. As an attending physician in the G/I wards when I was an intern, he was a superb mentor. Dr. Mitchell spent countless hours ensuring that we provided care to the highest standards. He taught us to think critically about what we were doing, and most importantly, to listen to the patient and always treat them with the utmost respect. There was never any condescension, and his method taught us to always read and think logically in diagnosing and treating patients. These were lessons that stayed with me for a lifetime of service."

Dr. Mitchell retired in 1997. His eyesight was failing due to Wet Macular Degeneration.

Dr. Mitchell was preceded in death by his daughter Anita and grandson David. He is survived by his wife, Gladys, of 78 years; three sons: Bob SD'78, Rick SM'81 and Ron; four grandchildren: Jane, John, Grayson, and Stephanie, and three great-grandchildren.

"A quiet, unassuming and modest man who never actively seeks the limelight, Dr. Mitchell is not unlike the rock that supports the pillar."—John A. Sponsler, MD, president of San Bernardino County Medical Society, 1997. ■

## Lloyd A. Dayes '59

### ***A HIGHLY RESPECTED NEUROSURGEON, LLOYD A. DAYES '59, PhD PASSED AWAY IN DECEMBER 2022 AT THE AGE OF 93 LEAVING BEHIND A LEGACY.***

Dr. Dayes was born on the beautiful island of Jamaica on February 15, 1929. His abilities as a scholar and academician were evidenced early when he passed the University of Cambridge (England) School Certificate and the General Certificate of Education (advanced level) for high school education. After earning a BA degree at Pacific Union College in 1955 with a major in biology and a minor in chemistry, he entered Loma Linda University School of Medicine (LLUSM) and graduated in 1959.

Dr. Dayes completed a rotating internship at Montreal General Hospital (Canada) in 1960 and a residency in general surgery in 1961. Continuing his postgraduate training at the Montreal Neurological Institute, he completed a neuropathology fellowship in 1962 and a neurological surgery residency in 1965. He was certified by the American Board of Neurological Surgery in 1967.

Dr. Dayes joined the faculty of LLUSM in 1965 as an instructor in neurosurgery. He rose through the academic ranks and in 1988 was appointed professor of neurosurgery. In 2002, he was named emeritus professor of neurosurgery.

During his service at Loma Linda University, he maintained the highest standards of patient care. His gift for teaching inspired hundreds of students and residents for whom he had organized a thorough neurosurgery training program that balanced didactics, research, and patient care.

Throughout his illustrious career, Dr. Dayes held positions at Loma Linda University Medical Center, Riverside General Hospital, and Redlands Community Hospital. He earned numerous accolades,



including being named “Alumnus of the Year” by both Loma Linda University and Pacific Union College, and honored alumnus by the Alumni Association.

Dr. Dayes retired from active practice but remained involved in his field as a consultant. He continued to participate in the education of residents and his dedication to his work earned him the love and admiration of his patients, peers, students, and friends. In addition to his medical accomplishments, Dr. Dayes authored a book, “Shekinah Glory in a Clay Pot,” and led a Bible class at Redlands Seventh-day Adventist Church for over 35 years.

He will be fondly remembered for his unwavering kindness, compassion, and generosity of spirit. A true trailblazer in his field, Dr. Dayes leaves a lasting impact on the countless lives he touched throughout his career.

Dr. Dayes is survived by his wife, Thelma, and three children. ■



## ALUMNI

# Remembered

**ALMON J. BALKINS JR. '51**, whose chosen



name was "Dick," was born February 19, 1928, in Tacoma Park, Maryland. He passed away peacefully on June 7, 2023, while living with his

family in McCall, Idaho. He graduated from Loma Linda University Medical School in 1951, preceded by his father **ALMON J. BALKINS SR. '23**. During medical school he married Dorothy Evelyn McConaughy, always known as "Dottie."

His early medical practice was in Powell, Wyoming, with his senior partner, **LOWELL KATTENHORN '41** where they both did true "family practice" delivering babies, performing surgeries, and caring for the needs of a small community. In 1964, he returned to Loma Linda for an anesthesia residency and then settled in Boulder, Colorado where he practiced for over 30 years until the age of 72. While living both in Wyoming and Colorado Dick enjoyed camping, sailing, boating, water skiing, exploring and flying.

Dr. Balkins and Dottie then moved to Boise, Idaho, to be closer to family. They were active in the Garden Valley and Eagle Seventh-day Adventist Church communities. After 58 wonderful years of marriage, Dottie passed away in 2005.

In 2020, in the midst of the COVID pandemic, he moved to McCall, Idaho, where he joined his family and continued to enjoy the Idaho scenery, daily walks, and abundant wild-life.

He is survived by his daughter, Chloe, and her husband, **NORMAN CLARK '79-B**; Jim Balkins and his wife, Judith; Glenn Balkins and his wife, Jeenie; along with four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

**RICHARD A. NELSON '51**, was born March 2, 1920, and passed away September 11, 2022, at 102 years of age. Dr. Nelson was a general surgeon.

**ROBERT LELAND HORNER '53-A**,



known as "Bob," was born April 21, 1928, in Glendale, California and passed away February 12, 2023.

He met Lirlie Elliott at Pacific Union College in the registration line when they were 17; they married four years later, in 1949.

Dr. Horner completed medical school at 24. He served in the Navy as acting chief of orthopaedics (Camp Pendleton) before moving with the family with four young children to Mayaguez, Peru, where he worked as chief of staff at Bella Vista Hospital.

In 1964, he co-founded Hand Surgery Associates in Denver, which grew into one of the largest hand surgery practices in the U.S. He was a founding member of American Society of Surgery of the Hand and was chief of staff at Porter Memorial Hospital. He planned to retire after a three-year stint at Mayo Clinic but did medical evaluations into his 90s, until the pandemic hit.

He traced his love of travel to childhood when his father brought home a discarded set of encyclopedias which he read by the hour, imagining a big world to explore. He traveled with Lirlie to six continents and over 60 countries. He volunteered in leprosy camps in Sierra Leone, Ethiopia, Kenya, and India, mastering techniques to better aid those he served.

His thirst for knowledge led him to Russia, where he studied a technique to extend limbs, and to China to observe anesthesia techniques.

**KELVIN A. LINDGREN '59**, passed away peacefully at home on November 8, 2022, after a long illness. Dr. Lindgren trained at Columbia University in New York City as an ear, nose and throat physician, a profession he worked in for 50 years, first in Roseville, California, and later in Vancouver, Washington.

**BENJAMIN D. TEMPLETON '60**, was born



to Benjamin C. and Mary Lee Templeton in Casa Grande, Arizona. He was the youngest of five children.

Dr. Templeton attended La Sierra College, where he met Lillie, whom he married in 1954. They adopted four children: LuCindi, Marilee, Scott, and Lindsey. After graduating from the School of Medicine, Dr. Templeton practiced family medicine in Tempe, Arizona with his brother, **FLOYD L. TEMPLETON '55**, for five years.

He then pursued a specialty in psychiatry, completing an internship at Camarillo State Hospital. During that time he was drafted into the Air Force and was stationed in Taiwan, moving there with his family. After returning to the United States, he set up a practice in Thousand Oaks, residing in Camarillo. He attained a certification from the American Board of Psychiatry. His children attended Linda Vista Jr. Academy, where he and Lillie met Robert and Caroline Turner. Their children became friends, and Ben, Lillie, Robert and Caroline also became friends.

In 1997, his daughter Marilee gave birth to twin boys, Benjamin and Brycen. They lived with the Templetons from birth and were an important part of their life.

Dr. Templeton retired from his practice and from serving as chief psychiatrist for the State

of California Youth Authority in 2004. Lillie passed away in 2010 and Robert Turner in 2009. Dr. Turner and Caroline continued their friendship and decided in 2012 to join their lives for the time they had remaining. The families are united and mourn the loss of Dr. Templeton.

Dr. Templeton was highly intelligent, kind, and loving, and he looked forward to an eternity in Heaven. He leaves behind his wife, Caroline, children: LuCindi Rader (Skeeter); Marilee Templeton; Scott Templeton and Lindsey Templeton (Martha), six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

**LESTER N. WRIGHT '69**, was born January 16, 1943, in Portland, Oregon, and passed away at the age of 79 on April 17, 2022, in Adelaide, South Australia.



Dr. Wright was deputy commissioner and chief medical officer for the New York State Department of Correctional Services. He was responsible for providing health care to over 60,000 inmates in 70 facilities. An international HIV prevention advisor, he started a clinical education program with

Albany Medical Center that broadcast educational HIV information to prisons. He was a senior lecturer at Columbia University School of Nursing, and completed a degree from Harvard University School of Public Health. He spent eight years in mission service in Africa. His interest in public health and epidemiology led to the implementation of a preventive program that tracked disease in the prison system. In 2011, he was named an Honored Alumnus by the Alumni Association.

He led Sabbath School classes at the Adventist Forum at Columbia and St. Mary's, and via Zoom during the pandemic.

He enjoyed dining out with family and friends, from Awash Ethiopian Restaurant in New York's Upper West Side, to Zen Palate in Hell's Kitchen, and The Dining Room at the Met. He enjoyed attending the theater on Broadway, enjoying musicals that went on to win national acclaim.

His son, Jason, recalls memories created with his father: visiting over 24 countries, hiking Mt Hood and the Grand Canyon, camping with no fences surrounded by lions, leopards and hippos, being inspired to join a state champion

band, attend college, and finding fulfilling work helping others, all because of the love of a father who continued exploring throughout his life.

**MATTHEW S. NIEMEYER '01**, passed away November 13, 2021. Dr. Niemeyer was the Olympic Peninsula's only ophthalmologist in Sequim, Washington, from 2007 until May 2021.

**KATHI P. REYNOSO\*** was born on April 14, 1950, and passed away on September 26, 2021. Kathi served the Alumni Association with distinction for 20 years, beginning in the spring of 1987 as a secretary to the director of development and then as development assistant until the spring of 2007.

**MARIANNE WALTER\*** was born November 30, 1950, and passed away on March 6, 2023. Marianne, wife of **MICHAEL H. WALTER '73-B**, passed away on March 6, 2023. Marianne briefly worked at the Alumni Association as a part-time accounting assistant. ■

\* *Alumni Association past employee.*

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

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Today, social media influencers are known for selling products. Truly great influencers change lives.

Dr. Raymond E. Ryckman, a Berkeley-trained medical entomologist and LLU professor, changed the lives of so many in science and he taught me life-changing lessons. He would say, “science doesn’t happen until the work is published.” He set a profound example, publishing more than 115 peer-reviewed articles, books, and monographs. As a professor, he demanded much of his students. He mastered the art of Socratic questioning and taught the importance of multiple hypotheses thinking. He inspired a faith in the Creator God—a God who designed genetic mechanisms to allow organisms to adapt and change in altered environments. Dr. Ryckman’s legendary studies on “kissing bugs” and the Chagas disease they carry formed a rich library of information (bibliography of 23,000+ publications and 25,000 curated insects, both still used today by the CDC and WHO).

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