4-1-2011

TODAY - April 1, 2011

Loma Linda University

Follow this and additional works at: http://scholarsrepository.llu.edu/today

Part of the Other Medicine and Health Sciences Commons

Recommended Citation
Loma Linda University, "TODAY - April 1, 2011" (2011). TODAY.
http://scholarsrepository.llu.edu/today/66

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by TheScholarsRepository@LLU: Digital Archive of Research, Scholarship & Creative Works. It has been accepted for inclusion in TODAY by an authorized administrator of TheScholarsRepository@LLU: Digital Archive of Research, Scholarship & Creative Works. For more information, please contact scholarsrepository@llu.edu.
Pulitzer-prize-winning author to discuss Scopes trial

Healthy People 2011 looks at food from all angles

Spiders and snakes to be featured at special program

ALUMNI POSTGRADUATE CONVENTION

Annual postgraduate convention offers fellowship, fun, learning, and worship

By James Ponder

n estimated 850 former students, alumni, and friends returned to the campus of Loma Linda University School of Medicine (LLU/SOM) for the 79th annual postgraduate convention (APC) weekend, March 4–7.

As it does every year, the event offered equal parts fun, fellowship, continuing education, and worship, but for the second year in a row, guests enjoyed the convenience of a central location.

Dennis E. Park, MA, executive director of the alumni association of the School of Medicine (AASM), received the Iner Shield-Ritchey Presidential Award in recognition of his 17 years as head of the organization during the APC weekend, March 4–7.

“APC 2011 will go down in the history books as one of the nicest APC homecoming weekends in recent memory because the alumni association was again able to house its registration, technical exhibits, scientific poster session, and scientific lectures in the Centennial Complex,” Mr. Park notes.

Carolyn O. Weider, APC convention manager, agrees. “It was great for attendees along with the staff because they didn’t have to navigate from the technical exhibits to classes that were previously strung all over campus. It worked exceptionally well.”

Many visitors arrived on campus two days early to attend the 23rd annual cardiology symposium. Although not officially connected with APC, the symposium is timed to coincide with the convention in order to accommodate individuals who wish to attend both events.

The APC officially began on Friday, March 4, with a devotional at 7:45 a.m. A presentation by Nihan Khunbi, MD, MBA, the anesthesiology resident who received the Thomas J. Zirkle Award for outstanding APC abstract poster, followed.

The morning plenary sessions on cardiology, palliative care, and rheumatology began at 12:30. The final plenary session of the day was scheduled for 4 p.m.

Blue skies echoed the sentiment of a large sign welcoming Loma Linda University School of Medicine alumni to the 79th annual postgraduate convention (APC), which was held the weekend of March 4–7 inside the Centennial Complex.

According to A.T. Tuot, manager of records and system manager for the alumni association of the School of Medicine, which sponsors the event, “The overall total of 850 attendees to the convention represents a very strong turnout.”

MEDICAL CENTER RANKED NO. 1

LLU ranks No. 1 in Riverside-San Bernardino counties in U.S. News & World Report Best Hospitals metro area rankings

By Herbert Atienza

Loma Linda University Medical Center has been ranked No. 1 in Riverside-San Bernardino counties in U.S. News & World Report’s first-ever Best Hospitals metro area rankings. The rankings are available online at www.usnews.com/hospitals.

Of all 41 hospitals in the metropolitan area encompassing the Inland Empire and Coachella Valley, Loma Linda University Medical Center received the top ranking, with seven specialties identified as “high performing”—cancer; diabetes and endocrinology; eye, nose and throat; gynecology; kidney disorders; pulmonology; and urology.

The new rankings recognize 622 hospitals in or near major cities with a record of high performance in key medical specialties, including 152 of the 152 hospitals already identified as the best in the nation. There are nearly 5,000 hospitals nationwide.

U.S. News & World Report created Best Hospitals more than 20 years ago to identify health care facilities that are exceptionally skilled in handling the most difficult cases, such as brain tumors typically considered inoperable, and delicate pancreatic procedures.

The new metro area rankings are relevant to a much wider range of health care consumers. They are aimed primarily at those whose care may not demand the special expertise found only at a nationally-ranked Best Hospital.

Patients and their families will have a far better chance of finding a U.S. News & World Report-ranked hospital in their health insurance plan.

The accreditation team was on campus October 27 to 29, 2010. The team’s report validates the university’s commitment to mission-focused learning.

“Mission-focused learning has become an important theme on campus, underscoring the university’s commitment to providing an approach to education that blends the professional with the personal, helping graduates to approach their health care profession not as a mere job, but as a calling to service,” says Dr. Carter.

Mission-focused learning prepares students for a dedicated lifelong journey of service to mankind,” says Dr. Carter. “And this was recognized by the review team.”

Lowell C. Cooper, MD; MPH, chair, Loma Linda University School of Medicine, thanked the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) for their work.

The institutional proposal to WASC from LLU outlined three themes and related outcomes for the comprehensive review: faith and normative culture, mission-focused learning, and strengthening a culture of evidence. The WASC team affirmed that these selected themes “resonated in such a way that the review team was convinced that the theme was implemented.”

The local review team also reviewed LLU’s institutional proposal to American Medical Association’s Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) for re-accreditation of its Graduate Medical Education Program.

LUU outlined three themes and related outcomes for the comprehensive review: faith and normative culture, mission-focused learning, and strengthening a culture of evidence. The WASC team affirmed that these selected themes “resonated in such a way that the review team was convinced that the theme was implemented.”

LLUU outlined three themes and related outcomes for the comprehensive review: faith and normative culture, mission-focused learning, and strengthening a culture of evidence. The WASC team affirmed that these selected themes “resonated in such a way that the review team was convinced that the theme was implemented.”
School of Dentistry department of dental hygiene honors alumna and student

By Doug Hackleman

Loma Linda University School of Dentistry’s alumni association dental hygiene co-presidents (and mother-daughter classmates) Patti Lyon and Kelli Lyon Alexander hosted the annual dental hygiene and assistant lunch at San Bernardino’s Arrowhead Country Club during the school’s February 2011 alumni student convention.

Besides feting the 11 honored alumni classes (beginning with the class of 1961), the homecoming luncheon was also the occasion for the presentation of two department of dental hygiene annual awards: the Student of the Year and Alumna of the Year awards.

Janean Duff, MA, assistant professor, dental hygiene department, presented dental hygiene senior Angela Wakefield with the 2011 Student of the Year Award. Determined by the dental hygiene faculty each year, the award acknowledges the recipient for both academic and clinical achievement. Ms. Wakefield “is in the top of her class academically and is patient, sociable, and giving with clients,” said Patti Lyon and Ms. Duff. “She has a great sense of humor, and some would call her a bit of an actress, as evidenced in role-playing exercises in class! She applies what she has learned academically and synthesizes it into the clinical environment with confidence.”

One faculty member said, “I would allow her to clean my teeth now before graduation!” Another faculty member said, “She’s good with patients, is refreshing, respectful, and always teachable in wanting to learn new things during clinic.”

Ms. Wakefield was the first in her class to finish her eligibility requirements, and it was the judgment of her mentors that she is a stickler for an attention to detail and thoroughness with clinical procedures.”

Ms. Duff suggested that Ms. Wakefield’s degree in business management “enabled her to honor her exceptional interpersonal skills with patient education, as she counsels patients like a seasoned veteran.”

Ms. Wakefield has continued to work part time, while staying on the dean’s list during her rigorous course of study in dental hygiene.

Department of dental hygiene Chair Kristi Wilkins, MA, presented Darlene Cheek, MPH, with the 2011 Alumna of the Year award as “an outstanding dental hygienist and alumna who has served Loma Linda University’s community, our profession, and hundreds of students as well during her 40-year tenure.”

Ms. Wilkins reviewed Ms. Cheek’s clinical career that began in the San Francisco Bay area in the early 1970s, before a call to Johannesburg, South Africa, in the mid 1970s provided her an opportunity to extend the school’s influence to a dental teaching hospital where she was offered the position of director. “I personally crossed paths with our Alumna of the Year while she was an assistant professor of dental hygiene in the late 70s and early 80s,” Ms. Wilkins recalled.

In 1978, Ms. Cheek earned a master of public health degree with an emphasis in health education from Loma Linda University’s School of Public Health. She was elected into the Delta Omega Honorary Public Health Society, where she served as secretary-treasurer. She also served as faculty advisor for the LLU Student American Dental

No one was more surprised than Dennis Park, MA, when a documentary video titled “A Moment in Time” turned out to be a tribute to his remarkable 17 years as executive director of the alumni association. At the conclusion of the video—which featured tributes and accolades from a large number of his associates and colleagues—he was treated to a thunderous standing ovation. The presentation was made all the more poignant by Mr. Park’s recently announced decision to step down from his position on September 30 of this year. As the applause subsided, Mr. Park was escorted to the stage to receive the Inier Shield-Ritchey Presidential Award from Dr. Reisswig.

When it came to announce the Alumnae of the Year for 2011, Lawrence D. Longo, MD, director of the Center for Perinatal Biology at LLU’s School of Medicine, stepped to the podium to introduce Dr. J. Baylink, MD (class of 1957), as winner. Dr. Baylink is something of an icon at the School of Medicine; as an endocrinologist and researcher, his reputation for excellence is known worldwide through the tongue.

In 1986, and 1951 were presented next, followed by remarks from Dr. Robert J. Baylink, MD (class of 1969). The presentation was made all the more poignant by Mr. Park’s recently announced decision to step down from his position on September 30 of this year. As the applause subsided, Mr. Park was escorted to the stage to receive the Inier Shield-Ritchey Presidential Award from Dr. Reisswig.

When it came to announce the Alumnae of the Year for 2011, Lawrence D. Longo, MD, director of the Center for Perinatal Biology at LLU’s School of Medicine, stepped to the podium to introduce Dr. J. Baylink, MD (class of 1957), as winner. Dr. Baylink is something of an icon at the School of Medicine; as an endocrinologist and researcher, his reputation for excellence is known worldwide through the tongue.

Gom ez, MD—who spoke on cancer, kidney, liver, and heart disease; and the School of Medicine, stepped to the podium to introduce Dr. J. Baylink, MD (class of 1957), as winner. Dr. Baylink is something of an icon at the School of Medicine; as an endocrinologist and researcher, his reputation for excellence is known worldwide through the tongue.

According to A.T. Tsut, manager of records and system manager for AASM, attendance was very good for this year’s convention—especially in this economy.

“Approximately 350 people participated in the continuing education courses,” Ms. Tsut noted. “The total overall of 850 attendees to the convention represents a very strong turnout.”

Annual postgraduate convention offers fellowship, learning, and worship...

Continued from page 1

began at 1:45 p.m., when A. Dean Sherezai, MD, assistant professor of neurology, delivered the Cyril B. Cowley, MD Memorial Lecture on “Cognitive Aging, Dementia, and What Can Be Done About It.” Sarah Uffindell, MD, instructor in neurology at LLUMS, was scheduled to share the lecture with Dr. Sherezai but was unable to attend. Jeffrey A. Bounds, MD, JD, associate professor of neurology, led a panel discussion instead.

Friday evening wraps up the spiritual weekend in the sanctuary of the Loma Linda University Church. The program featured the Cal Baptist University Men’s Chorus and Orchestra under the baton of Judd Bonner, DMA, associate dean of the Steele and Fernie Collinsworth School of Music at Cal Baptist. Saal Barcelo, MA, associate pastor at the Calimesa Seventh-day Adventist Church, offered a devotional homily with the help of a number of LLUMS students.

Randy Roberts, DFmF, MFT, senior pastor of LLU Church, spoke for both church services Saturday morning on the topic of “The Best Thing You Can Do for Others,” Members of the anniversary classes of 1961 and 1986 participated in both services.

In the afternoon, Ed Knick, MD, president of the Association of International Medical Services, Inc. (AIMS), welcomed attendees to the AIMS annual meeting and mission symposium. The program featured a presentation regarding the LLU response to the crisis in Haiti by Scott Nelson, MD, an overview of overseas missions from G.T. Ng, secretary of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists; and an update on the student mission program on campus. At the end of the meeting, Calmar Mattingly, MD, and Walter C. Thompson—members of the classes of 1961, 1960-A, and 1961 respectively—received the 2011 SIMS Global Mission Award for their participation or support of world missions.

“Go Ye Into All the World” was the theme of a memorable Saturday evening wrap-up sponsored by the national auxiliary to the School of Medicine Alumni Association. Mission stories and reports from Loma Linda graduates in Africa, Haiti, Hindus, Korea, Japan, Thailand, and other areas brought the international scope of LLU’s mission into focus. The Saturday night program featured Grammy-nominated recording artist Steve Green and Gospel Music Hall of Fame member Larnelle Harris, who performed to a near-capacity audience in LLU Church. Back-up music was provided by an 80-voice, multi-choir led by O.D. Hall and Oluf Ritchey.

Sunday, March 6, was a full day. Technical displays from 34 exhibitors were open beginning at 10:00 a.m.

The Walter E. Macpherson Memorial Lecture featured internationally recognized author Caldwell N. Esselstyn, MD, in a presentation titled “Ending the Coronary Heart Disease Epidemic—Making Yourself Heart Attack-Proof.”

The Roger W. Bannerman Memorial Lecture featured three surgeons—Maheswari Senthil, MD; Arvand Elihu, MD; and Nepthali R. Gomez, MD—who spoke on cancer, kidney, and hernia surgery respectively.

Daylong presentations on ophthalmology, orthopedic surgery, otolaryngology, and plastic surgery, as well as plenary sessions on psychiatry, dermatology, evidence-based wound management, marriage, retirement, and women as physicians rounded out the very packed schedule.

Saturday and Sunday evenings featured class reunions for members of more than 25 LLUMS Alumni classes at a variety of Southern California locations.

The final day of APC—Monday, March 7—featured lectures and question/answer sessions on a variety of topics related to nutrition, lifestyle, and chronic disease; risk assessment and treatment options; childhood obesity; nutritional management after bariatric surgery; plant-based diets and childhood obesity prevention; Vitamin D and chronic disease; and diet and colorectal cancer.

The 79th APC banquet—which was held Monday, March 7, at 7:00 p.m. in the Empire Ballroom of the DoubleTree Hotel at Ontario Airport—was the social highlight of the entire convention. Master of ceremonies Dennis Park welcomed guests to the event and introduced Pastor Randy Roberts, who delivered the invocation.

Following dinner, outgoing AASM President Philip H. Reiswig, MD, and incoming President Gary R. Barker, MD, welcomed the 2011 honored alumni recipients—Linda F. Furry, MD (class of 1979-B); Anton N. Hasso, MD, (class of 1967); Rebecca J. Patchin, MD (class of 1989); Elaine A. Tupper, MD (class of 1953-A); Beverly Cox Wiebe, MD, and Henry Wiebe, MD (both from the class of 1963); and Lester N. Wright, MD (class of 1969)—to the stage. Members of the honored classes of 1986, 1961, and 1951 were presented next, followed by remarks from F. Roger Hadley, MD, School of Medicine dean, and Richard H. Hart, MD, DvPhl, president of Loma Linda University.

No one was more surprised than Dennis Park, MA, when a documentary video titled “A Moment in Time” turned out to be a tribute to his remarkable 17 years as executive director of the alumni association. At the conclusion of the video—which featured tributes and accolades from a large number of his associates and colleagues—he was treated to a thunderous standing ovation. The presentation was made all the more poignant by Mr. Park’s recently announced decision to step down from his position on September 30 of this year. As the applause subsided, Mr. Park was escorted to the stage to receive the Inier Shield-Ritchey Presidential Award from Dr. Reisswig.

When it came to announce the Alumnae of the Year for 2011, Lawrence D. Longo, MD, director of the Center for Perinatal Biology at LLU’s School of Medicine, stepped to the podium to introduce Dr. J. Baylink, MD (class of 1957), as winner. Dr. Baylink is something of an icon at the School of Medicine; as an endocrinologist and researcher, his reputation for excellence is known worldwide through the tongue.

According to A.T. Tsut, manager of records and system manager for AASM, attendance was very good for this year’s convention—especially in this economy.

“Approximately 350 people participated in the continuing education courses,” Ms. Tsut noted. “The overall total of 850 attendees to the convention represents a very strong turnout.”
Kristi Wilkins, MA, presents the Alumna of the Year Award to Darlene Cheek, MPH.

Continued from previous page
dental hygiene brand—Christ’s compassion and whole-person care with a soft touch.

An invertebrate contributor to her church and its institutions, Ms. Cheek volunteers with academy home and school associations, as a Sabbath school teacher, and in the Loma Linda University Church chamber and sanctuary orchestra. She is a 40-year member of the American Dental Hygiene Association, recently served for two years as president of the Tri-County Dental Hygienists’ Society, and most recently as trustee to the California Dental Hygiene Association and the American Dental Hygiene Association.

After months of personal reflection in 2005, Ms. Cheek returned to full-time teaching at the School of Dentistry, where she oversees the community health curriculum, dental health education, advanced clinical techniques at numerous off-site clinical rotations, and spends hundreds of hours a year planning student involvement in health fairs, dental screenings, and volunteer clinics. Currently she chairs the School of Dentistry’s treatment of tobacco-dependent patients committee.

Ms. Cheek is actively involved with the Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco, including co-presenting research in 2009 at the annual session in Dublin, Ireland.

Ms. Wilkins affirmed the words of the students who voted Ms. Cheek 2008 Teacher of the Year: “...hard times on clinic and in class she gave us contagious hope and motivated us to persevere ... with her comforting touch in times of stress—but delighted touch in times of celebration—her caring touch all the times in between.”

HEALTH CARE CONGRESS

American Health Care Congress expands beyond Loma Linda University

By Heather Reifsnyder

Born at LLU School of Public Health, the American Health Care Congress went in a new direction this past December during its seventh year.

Under the leadership of LLU, the congress—designed to start a non-partisan conversation about health care reform—grew to take on a life of its own, attracting as many as 1,000 participants at one point.

Now, in a post-reform climate, Loma Linda University has endowed the congress to a national health care leadership organization in order for the discussion to continue on an even wider scale as the nation looks to implement new health care legislation.

The 2010 event took place in Irvine on December 7 and 8 under the auspices of the Massachusetts-based World Congress.

This organization runs numerous health care summits and conferences, including its major World Health Care Congress on the nation’s East Coast, in Europe, and in the Middle East.

But Loma Linda University remains involved in the American Health Care Congress, particularly through the School of Public Health’s health policy and leadership program.

LLU’s agreement with World Congress ensures future inclusion of students, who were another key motivation for the congress’ founding in 2004 by Dora Barilla, DvPh, assistant professor of health policy and management, School of Public Health.

“Now that health reform has passed, we wanted to expand the conversation and continue to give our students opportunities to network with key leaders in health care,” says Dr. Barilla. “And this was a way to do that on a national level. That was really why I started the conference—the students earning their doctorates in leadership will remain involved with the congress in several ways for the next few years. First, they will be responsible for planning a leadership summit, open to all conference goers, in which they will either speak or invite others to present.

The doctoral students will also present the Randall Lewis Leadership Award, which comes with a $1,000 check to a three-year commitment for funding from the real estate developer for which it’s named.

Students crafted the criteria on which the award is bestowed; the idea is for Loma Linda University to play a role in developing the concept of leadership. A call for nominations was sent out to the Southern California region.

On the first day of the 2010 conference, December 7, leadership doctoral student Shirley Simmons presented the first-annual award to winner Roldan Aguilar, community outreach specialist at San Antonio Community Hospital.

Also that day, the LLU students participated in the first-annual LLU Leadership Conference held in conjunction with the American Health Care Congress.

In the morning, they had their own private session with David Penner, PhD, director of the doctorate in leadership, along with Dr. Barilla and Eileen Fry-Bowers, JD, MS, assistant professor of health policy and leadership.

During this morning session, both cohorts of students currently going through the leadership program—the first-ever cohort, now in year one of the program, and the second cohort currently completing its orientation year—came together for only the second time to learn about each other, as well as hear from the faculty what the future of the program holds for them.

During the afternoon, the students attended the leadership summit planned by LLU as part of the whole congress, which took place before a standing-room-only crowd.

Please turn to page 5
HEALTHY PEOPLE CONFERENCE

School of Public Health conference examines food from all angles

By Heather Reifsnyder

Food choice is more than a matter of taste; economic, physical, and social conditions also determine what we eat. That’s what approximately 400 people learned who attended the Healthy People 2011 conference put on by the LLU School of Public Health March 8 and 9. And in turn, the foods people eat impact not only their personal health but also the environment, the economy, and society.

The conference studied food from these various angles, with speakers ranging from physicians and public health experts to lawyers and policy advocates. The two keynote addresses were delivered by Caldwell Esselstyn, MD, of the Cleveland Clinic, author of Prevent and Reverse Heart Disease, and Jane Brody, a New York Times health columnist and author of the bestselling Jane Brody’s Good Food Book and Jane Brody’s Nutrition Book.

Attendee Sarah Turner, MD, states that the conference stressed the importance of community planning and policy. It also addressed points directly related to her work as a family practice and preventive medicine resident. “It’s so applicable to the patient population we’re serving,” she says. “A lot of the time, lifestyle interventions are more economical and have improved health outcomes.”

Other topics included the slow food movement, the high cost of cheap food, food marketing aimed at children and adolescents, and the environmental costs of agriculture and the food industry. One key speaker was Jeffrey Smith, MBA, an author and founder of the Institute for Responsible Technology—a world leader in educating the public and policy makers about health risks of genetically modified food.

Attendee Patrick Scalzitti found himself interested in the ideas presented by Mr. Smith, whom he reports was able to convince listeners to pay closer attention to what they’re buying and eating. “Overall, the conference was very informative and opened my eyes to the hidden secrets of the food industry,” he says.

The conference also presented the upcoming documentary “Forks Over Knives” two months ahead of its May 6 theater release. The film examines the claim that most degenerative diseases can be controlled or reversed by eschewing the common diet of animal-based and processed foods.

Jeffrey Smith, MBA, discusses genetically modified foods on the conference’s second day.

During the conference, the School of Public Health also hosted an expo with representatives from activist organizations, health organizations such as the American Heart Association, public health agencies, and nutrition vendors.

Exhibitor Stephanie Georgioff, president of the Redlands, California, chapter of Slow Food USA, said that Healthy People 2011 is the type of conference her organization would put together if it had the resources.

Healthy People is an annual health and lifestyle conference devoted to moving Americans in a healthier direction. Organized by the School of Public Health at Loma Linda University, its beginnings date back to the 1970s, though it was first called Healthy People about the year 1990.

NIH awards $1.3 million to Schools of Science, Technology, and Pharmacy

By Patricia Thio

Every week in the United States, 200 people are diagnosed with multiple sclerosis (MS)—a chronic, often disabling disease that attacks the central nervous system. Symptoms can be mild such as numbness in limbs, or severe, such as paralysis and loss of vision.

But before these patients are diagnosed with MS, most have gone through months or even years of health tests. During that time, their symptoms typically grow worse.

Professors in the School of Science and Technology (SST) and School of Pharmacy (SP) are striving to alleviate symptoms in MS patients, thanks to an NIH $1.3 million grant.

By using cutting-edge technology, the LLU researchers plan to develop new techniques to more accurately diagnose MS earlier, before patients experience severe symptoms.

When any part of the nerve, which consists of an axon covered by myelin sheath, is damaged or destroyed, nerve impulses traveling to and from the brain and spinal cord are distorted or interrupted, producing MS symptoms.

This potentially leads to permanent neurological impairment.

However, there currently isn’t a way to specify axon degeneration, meaning that some patients receive ineffective treatment. In MS, the earlier and less severe damage is caused by inflammation in the myelin sheath, followed by more severe damage to the axon.

While the first kind of damage can be detected, the second type occurs when prolonged inflammation triggers axonal dying-back degeneration, resulting in permanent neuronal loss.

Currently, this type of damage has been neglected in MS because there is no tool for non-invasive detection.

“Treatments for MS have focused on suppressing the occurrences of inflammation, and very little on the more critical neural protection,” says Shu-Wei (Richard) Sun, PhD, assistant professor of biophysics and bioengineering, SST, and principal investigator of the study, “Understanding Neuronal and Axonal Degeneration in a Murine Model of Human MS.”

Most MS patients exhibit cycles of relapsing and remitting along the disease progression. “We suspect that this cycle may relate to the progression from early inflammatory disorder to the process of neurodegeneration,” says Dr. Sun. “It is critical to visualize and differentiate stages of axonal damage, so that therapeutic approaches can be used effectively to target each pathological condition,” states Dr. Sun.

To do that, Dr. Sun will be utilizing diffusion tensor imaging (DTI) coupled with a high-resolution signal on a mouse model of MS. DTI is a clinically available imaging technology. According to Dr. Sun, this project will provide significant clinical impact to MS diagnosis and treatment.

“It is critical to visualize and differentiate stages of axonal damage so that therapeutic approaches can be used effectively to target each pathological condition,” states Dr. Sun.

To that end, Dr. Sun will be utilizing diffusion tensor imaging (DTI) coupled with a high-resolution signal on a mouse model of MS. DTI is a clinically available imaging technology. According to Dr. Sun, this project will provide significant clinical impact to MS diagnosis and treatment.

In addition, Wei-Xiong Shi, PhD, professor of pharmaceutical sciences and basic sciences at the LLU School of Pharmacy and School of Medicine, and co-investigator of the study, begin neuromyelographic research with the goal to help those living with multiple sclerosis.

Medical and co-investigator of the study, will be recording electrical signals emitted by neurons with a small probe called a microelectrode. Hence, he can verify whether changes revealed by DTI are associated with changes in nerve function.

According to Dr. Shi, multiple sclerosis is one of the most difficult diseases to diagnose in its early stages. “We’re hoping that before patients show severe symptoms they can receive accurate diagnosis,” says Dr. Shi, “and therefore, receive treatment earlier to prevent severe MS symptoms.”

School of Dentistry Alumnus honored ...

Continued from page 8

South America, Dr. Stoll’s earliest years were spent in the Charity district along the Pomerone River. The eldest of four brothers, he attended Catholic school for his first three grades, and then relocated to the country’s capital, Georgetown, where he attended several grades at an Anglican school before completing the elementary grades at the first Seventh-day Adventist school in that city.

Dr. Stoll attended the University of the Southern Caribbean in Trinidad and Tobago; Union College in Lincoln, Nebraska; and La Sierra University in Riverside, California, where he graduated with a bachelor’s degree in biology. He earned his doctor of dental surgery degree from Loma Linda University School of Dentistry in 1962.

The dental clinic for employees of the Local 770 grocery stores in Hollywood, California, provided Dr. Stoll with his first work as a dentist. After three years in Hollywood, he moved to Watts, California, to work at the Watts Community Health Center run by the University of Southern California.

Please turn to page 6
From Valentine’s Day to this spring day of love of the pale green beauty in our midst, it seems fitting to talk about the love that calls to usevery moment of our lives… Listen to this love through the language of John Eldredge in the book The Sacred Romance:

“It whispers to us on the wind, invites us through the laughter of good friends, reaches out to us through the touch of someone we love. We’ve heard it in our favorite music, sensed it in the birth of a child, been drawn to it while watching the shimmer of a sunset on the ocean—it is even present in times of personal suffering. Something callsto us through experiences like these and rouses an inconsolable longing deep within our heart, wakening in us a yearning for intimacy, beauty, and adventure. This longing is the most powerful part of any human personality. It fuels our search for meaning, for wholeness, for a sense of being truly alive. However we may describe this deep desire, it is the most important thing about us, our heart of hearts, the passion of our life. And the voice that calls to us this place is none other than the voice of God.

“We set out to discover if there is in the wide world out there a reality that corresponds to the world within our heart.”

Spiders and snakes among those attending program

Contributed report

The department of earth and biological sciences, part of the Loma Linda University School of Science and Technology, will present “Spiders and Snakes and Other Amazing Ambassadors of God,” a special program featuring live creatures from the laboratories of Loma Linda University’s non-human biology program.

This event will take place on Saturday, April 16, at 5:00 p.m. in the Loma Linda University Church Sanctuary and will highlight the department’s ongoing work with a variety of animal species, as well as introduce the concept of its on-campus Biodiversity Discovery Center.

Many live animals, including a Harris’ Hawk, a bobcat, tarantulas, scorpions, centipedes, and a number of poisonous snakes, will be on prominent display.

The event promises to provide 60 minutes of heart-pounding wonder for kids of all ages—especially those who love God’s unique and sometimes frightening creations.

Learn why these animals who share our Planet Earth with us are truly God’s amazing ambassadors.

Those attending will be able to get a too-close-for-com fort look from any seat in the house while high-definition video cameras project these amazing creatures in startling detail onto the big screen.

See the spiny hairs of a spider’s leg or the point of a cobra’s forked tongue—all in real time.

Don’t miss this rare opportunity to observe Loma Linda University’s professional snake educators as they interact with some of the world’s deadliest and most beautiful snakes.

All children in attendance who are 10 years of age or younger will receive a realistic baby snake replica, made of genuine plastic.
Black Alumni of Loma Linda and La Sierra Universities (BALL) hold 27th scholarship banquet in Los Angeles

By Nancy Yuen

On February 26, 2011, alumni and friends of Loma Linda and La Sierra Universities gathered in the grand banquet room of the downtown Los Angeles Marriott for the Black Alumni of Loma Linda and La Sierra Universities (BALL) 27th scholarship banquet.

The room was filled with applause as Loma Linda University students walked to the stage to receive 2011 BALL Scholarships.

They include Rebekah Ndinda Ngewa, a doctor of public health student in the School of Public Health, Wendella Wray, who is pursuing an MS degree in marriage and family therapy; Fiona Lewis, who is in the preventive care PhD program; and Brandly Marie Jones, who is completing her second year in the master of public health program, School of Public Health.

During the banquet, Lloyd E. Stoll, DDS, was named BALL 2011 Loma Linda University Alumnus of the Year. In addition, the group paused to remember long-time member Timothy S. Greaves, MD, who died May 8, 2010, and Jacob Maarase, a well-known Pasadena florist who, with his son, Hank, provided floral arrangements for the BALL scholarship banquet for more than a decade, who passed away in late 2010.

The speaker for the evening was Julian Bond, former chair of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Professor Bond is a distinguished scholar in residence at the American University in Washington, DC, and a professor at the University of Virginia in the department of history, where he is co-director of explorations in black leadership. Mr. Bond highlighted events in the civil rights movement and emphasized that making education attainable for everyone is becoming even more critical to every American as society faces an uncertain economic future.

BALL was formed in 1980 as a support system for minority students. The late Dr. Gaines R. Partridge, along with other interested alumni, formed the organization to address the needs of black students seeking higher education. Its mission is to be instrumental in promoting and facilitating Christian professional health science education for black young men and women at Loma Linda University and La Sierra University.

Annual Food 4 Less and Ralphs campaign begins, benefiting LLU Children’s Hospital

By Nancy Yuen

New through May 22, Food 4 Less and Ralph customers and associates are supporting their local children’s hospital through the Ralphs Fund by donating spare change in collection canisters located at checkstands in their neighborhood Food 4 Less and Ralphs supermarkets.

Loma Linda University Children’s Hospital is one of six Southern California children’s hospitals that will benefit from this charitable fundraising drive.

“Ralphs believes strongly in giving back to the communities our stores serve,” says Mike Donnelly, Ralphs president. “We’re pleased to extend our commitment to community service to our local children’s hospitals. We cannot think of a better way to invest in our communities than by giving families and children hope through our support of the outstanding work these hospitals are doing to provide world-class medical care for children.”

Since 2005, Food 4 Less, Ralphs, its associates, and customers have given more than $1 million to children’s hospitals in Southern California. This year, the company has set a goal of raising $170,000 for children’s hospitals. Ralphs Grocery Company was founded in 1873.

Loma Linda University earns praise and reaccreditation from WASC Commission

By Nancy Yuen

Continued from page 2

In a letter sent March 3 notifying the university of the commission’s decision, the commission took special note of table 8.1 in LLU’s educational effectiveness review report.

“The education outcomes that are reported as performance indicators in this appendix are impressive and stand out among ample comparative and benchmarked data,” said Ralph A. Wolff, president of WASC.

According to the letter, the data from this table indicated that Loma Linda graduates regularly perform at or above national norms in almost all professional programs in terms of pass rates and mean scores on standardized examinations. This includes retention rates for master’s and first professional degree programs above 96 percent, and 85 percent for associate’s and bachelor’s degree programs.

Last accredited by WASC in 1999, Loma Linda University commenced the new accreditation process in May 2006. The process began with an institutional report, followed by a capacity and preparatory review visit in October 2006. The final step was the educational effectiveness review visit on October 27 to 29.

According to Marilyn Eggers, PhD, director, office of educational effectiveness, the reason Loma Linda University received the desired 10-year reaccreditation from WASC is because of the enormous efforts of faculty, staff, and administrators across the campus, and in Saudi Arabia as well, where there was also a site visit for the off-campus programs there.

“LLU’s successful WASC site visit and reaccreditation were the result of institutional collaboration of faculty, staff, and administrators,” states Dr. Eggers. “Such collaboration across the university has never before been done on this scale and with such a remarkable outcome.

“God blessed Loma Linda University’s wonderful faculty, staff, and administrators as they prepared for WASC by working hard to design and set up processes for assessment and program review,” states Dr. Eggers. “These processes will help LLU to constantly strengthen its programs and student learning.”

For more information on accreditation, go to the Loma Linda University accreditation website at www.llu.edu/central/assessment/index.page.

School of Dentistry alumnus honored…

Continued from page 4

In 1969, Dr. Stoll opened a solo dental practice on the campus of White Memorial Medical Center, which he has maintained for 42 years.

For the past 22 years, Dr. Stoll has been involved with Guyana Medical Relief (GMR)—a non-profit organization (composed primarily of expatriate Guyanese) that raises funds to provide medicine and hospital supplies to seven government and two denominationally owned hospitals in Guyana. He also serves as the liaison between GMR and Davis Memorial Hospital, a Seventh-day Adventist facility in the country’s capital.

Dr. Stoll is president of the Southern California chapter of the University of the Southern Caribbean and has been a leader in the Berean Seventh-day Adventist Churches in Los Angeles for the past 48 years.

He is married to the former Pat Gaff. The couple raised three sons—Jeffrey (deceased), Michael, and Anthony—and has a grandson and four granddaughters.

LLUMC ranks No. 1 in U.S. News & World Report Best Hospitals metro area rankings…

Continued from page 1

Once network and might not have to travel to get care at a high-performing hospital.

“We are very proud of being ranked the No. 1 hospital in Riverside-San Bernardino counties in the U.S. News & World Report’s first-ever Best Hospitals metro area rankings,” Loma Linda University Medical Center Chief Executive Officer Ruthatha Fike said. “The ranking recognizes the hard work and exceptional skill of our doctors and staff, as well as our commitment to our mission of continuing the teaching and healing ministry of Jesus Christ.”

To be ranked in its metro area, a hospital has to score in the top 25 percent among its peers in at least one of 16 medical specialties.

“All of these hospitals provide first-rate care for the majority of patients, even those with serious conditions or who need demanding procedures,” said health rankings editor Avery Comarow. “The new Best Hospitals metro ranking can tell you which hospitals are worth considering for most medical problems if you live in or near a major metro area.”

All hospitals that ranked in Riverside-San Bernardino counties are listed below. For the full list of metro area rankings, visit www.usnews.com/hospitals/.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Hospital</th>
<th>Number of high-performing specialties</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Loma Linda University Medical Center</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Kaiser Foundation Hospital</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Desert Regional Medical Center</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Desert Valley Hospital</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Kaiser Foundation Hospital</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Riverside Community Hospital</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Riverside County Regional Medical Center</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>St. Bernardino Medical Center</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Charlene Wilson brings passion to her role as executive director for human resource management at LLUSS

By James Ponder

When Charlene Wilson, MPA, newly appointed executive director of human resource management (HRM) at Loma Linda University Shared Services (LLUSS), took the reins of her duties on March 7, she brought a strong HRM background and a desire to dedicate her service to the organization as a minority consistent with its mission, “to make man whole.”

But talk with Ms. Wilson for five minutes and it quickly becomes apparent that she also brings an active wit to her new responsibilities. When asked, for instance, how she feels about her recent move to Southern California after living on the East Coast the past four years, Ms. Wilson comes back with a zinger.

“I love it here,” she jokes. “My parents didn’t get born in the West.”

Maybe they just didn’t read it. Either way, the transplanted Easterner is happy to be in Loma Linda. For the last four years, she served the 64-hospital Catholic Health East—which she proudly calls “the largest faith-based health care system on the East Coast”—as vice president for human resources and organizational development. The fact that she was based in Wilmington, Delaware, was icing on the cake since her old hometown of Philadelphia was just 20 minutes away. Prior to that, she held a similar position in Phoenix, Arizona, for five years. It was there that she first discovered her love for the natural splendor and wide open spaces of the American West in general, and the breathtaking red rock landscapes of Sedona in particular.

Although she’s only been on board at LLUSS since March 7, Ms. Wilson looks forward to helping LLU President Richard H. Hart, MD, DPH, fulfill his vision for the future of the organization.

“I am particularly interested in integrating HRM into some of the strategic initiatives Dr. Hart is articulating,” she observes. “I’m also looking forward to promoting best practices in performance enhancement and management, and helping to enhance the diversity and culture of inclusiveness for which Loma Linda is becoming famous. I feel it’s vitally important that we develop our current staff to fit the strategic goals of the organization. I see us moving from a tactical and transactional model to a strategy-driven plan.”

Ms. Wilson graduated from Hampton University in Virginia and studied at Thurgood Marshall School of Law in Texas before transferring to Villanova University in Pennsylvania where she received her master of public administration degree with an emphasis in organizational development.

In her personal life, Ms. Wilson is a committed United States and adopted “worthly to serve the suffering” as the organization’s motto. Today, the mission statement of the national medical society proclaims that it is “dedicated to the belief that in the profession of medicine we will improve care for all, by ... 
- Recognizing high educational achievement;
- Honoring gifted teaching;
- Encouraging the development of leaders in academia and the community;
- Supporting the ideals of humanism; and
- Promoting service to others.”

Dr. Reddy says the Epsilon chapter of AOA was chartered in 1956 to the College of Medical Evangelists, as Loma Linda University School of Medicine was known in those days. “We are very proud of our newly initiated senior students as well as alumni and house staff,” she concludes.

Charlene Wilson, MPA, newly appointed executive director of human resource management at Loma Linda University Shared Services, is excited about prospects for helping the organization integrate diversity, inclusiveness, and best practices into operational procedures. “I see us moving from a tactical and transactional model to a strategy-driven plan,” she observes.

Wilson decided to run a half-marathon just because it was different than anything she’d ever done before. “I tend to be workaholic,” she recalls, “and thought this would be a good way to get some exercise. So I set a stretch goal of running a half-marathon on Martin Luther King’s birthday when we lived in Phoenix.”

Three successful half-marathons later and Ms. Wilson is planning to return to Arizona in January 2012 to run the 26-mile full marathon. She’s working on cardio fitness at the gym right now and will begin training outdoors when the weather warms up.

“Running is very much a mental discipline,” she observes. “I didn’t realize the mental stress before I started doing this, but I understand it now! I look at it the same way I look at my job. You have to be very intentional about it. You have to set goals, stretch goals, and go beyond your comfort zone.”

She says there are other advantages as well. “Running is a link to my personal, professional, and spiritual life,” she remarks. “It helps me stay on track. If I want to succeed, I have to find time for praying, fasting, reading, and fellowshipping. Running never lets me forget that worthwhile goals take time and commitment.”

Epsilon chapter of Alpha Omega Alpha initiates 32 from LLU School of Medicine

Continued from page 8

Unfortunately, Dr. Kirch’s reply was lost to the ensuing laughter.

In addition to his alleged prowess on the ski slopes, Dr. Kirch is a distinguished physician, educator, and physical scientist who is also widely recognized as an authority on the organization and management of academic medical centers. In his address—titled simply “Will You Lead?”—he offered a candid and forthright assessment of the state of health care in America and said the time has come for leaders to eithera physician’s assistant or an MD,” she notes.

Jesse apparently inherited his mother’s sense of adventure. He says there are other advantages as well. “Running is a link to my personal, professional, and spiritual life,” she remarks. “It helps me stay on track. If I want to succeed, I have to find time for praying, fasting, reading, and fellowshipping. Running never lets me forget that worthwhile goals take time and commitment.”

Charlene Wilson brings passion to her role as executive director for human resource management at LLUSS

By James Ponder

When Charlene Wilson, MPA, newly appointed executive director of human resource management (HRM) at Loma Linda University Shared Services (LLUSS), took the reins of her duties on March 7, she brought a strong HRM background and a desire to dedicate her service to the organization as a minority consistent with its mission, “to make man whole.”

But talk with Ms. Wilson for five minutes and it quickly becomes apparent that she also brings an active wit to her new responsibilities. When asked, for instance, how she feels about her recent move to Southern California after living on the East Coast the past four years, Ms. Wilson comes back with a zinger.

“I love it here,” she jokes. “My parents didn’t get born in the West.”

Maybe they just didn’t read it. Either way, the transplanted Easterner is happy to be in Loma Linda. For the last four years, she served the 64-hospital Catholic Health East—which she proudly calls “the largest faith-based health care system on the East Coast”—as vice president for human resources and organizational development. The fact that she was based in Wilmington, Delaware, was icing on the cake since her old hometown of Philadelphia was just 20 minutes away. Prior to that, she held a similar position in Phoenix, Arizona, for five years. It was there that she first discovered her love for the natural splendor and wide open spaces of the American West in general, and the breathtaking red rock landscapes of Sedona in particular.

Although she’s only been on board at LLUSS since March 7, Ms. Wilson looks forward to helping LLU President Richard H. Hart, MD, DPH, fulfill his vision for the future of the organization.

“I am particularly interested in integrating HRM into some of the strategic initiatives Dr. Hart is articulating,” she observes. “I’m also looking forward to promoting best practices in performance enhancement and management, and helping to enhance the diversity and culture of inclusiveness for which Loma Linda is becoming famous. I feel it’s vitally important that we develop our current staff to fit the strategic goals of the organization. I see us moving from a tactical and transactional model to a strategy-driven plan.”

Ms. Wilson graduated from Hampton University in Virginia and studied at Thurgood Marshall School of Law in Texas before transferring to Villanova University in Pennsylvania where she received her master of public administration degree with an emphasis in organizational development.

In her personal life, Ms. Wilson is a committed United States and adopted “worthly to serve the suffering” as the organization’s motto. Today, the mission statement of the national medical society proclaims that it is “dedicated to the belief that in the profession of medicine we will improve care for all, by ... 
- Recognizing high educational achievement;
- Honoring gifted teaching;
- Encouraging the development of leaders in academia and the community;
- Supporting the ideals of humanism; and
- Promoting service to others.”

Dr. Reddy says the Epsilon chapter of AOA was chartered in 1956 to the College of Medical Evangelists, as Loma Linda University School of Medicine was known in those days. “We are very proud of our newly initiated senior students as well as alumni and house staff,” she concludes.
Epsilon chapter of Alpha Omega Alpha initiates 32 from LLU School of Medicine

By James Ponder

Alpha Omega Alpha (AOA), the national medical honor society, and its Epsilon chapter at the Loma Linda University School of Medicine (LLU SM), inducted 32 new members into the organization during its annual awards banquet, which was held on Tuesday, March 1, in the Centennial Complex of Loma Linda University (LLU).

After a welcome by Gregory Arutyunyan, student vice president, and an invocation by Sarah Roddy, MD, associate professor of pediatric neurology, Henry Lamberton, PsyD, associate dean for student affairs, introduced the newest AOA members:

From the LLU SM class of 2011 …

Cordel Anderson
Claire Andrews
Gregory Arutyunyan

Matthew Beucka
Natasa Candarevic
Vlatka Candarevic
Michael Chiang
Christopher Elström
Kate Friedenreich
Ashley Hay
Jason Hong
Stephanie Jones
Sarah Killian
Lucy King
Jeffrey Koning
Daniel Kwon
Jonathan Lao
Shino Magaki
Kurt Meyer
William Millard
William Mortensen
Miriam Peckham
Matthew Perkins
Carin Reinsch
Melissa Sirichotiratana

Christina Tan
Timothy VanderHeide
Victoria Chen Yin

Alumni house staff …

Robert Ayer, MD
Andrew Graves, MD
Forrest Jellison, MD
Haas Syed, MD

Dr. Lamberton peppered his introductory remarks with personal anecdotes about each initiate's individual interests in medicine and in life. At the conclusion of his comments, the newest AOA members lined up for a photograph with the guest speaker, Darrell Kirch, MD, president and CEO of the American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC).

Following the presentation of the newest members, H. Roger Hadley, MD, LLU SM dean, introduced Dr. Kirch.

After a playful repartee between the two men, Dr. Hadley responded to Dr. Kirch's assertion that he was a better skier than the dean by asking, "What are you doing tomorrow?"

Please turn to page 7

The newest members of Alpha Omega Alpha (AOA), the national medical honor society, celebrate with guest speaker Darrell Kirch, MD (center, standing), president and CEO of the American Association of Medical Colleges, just moments after their induction into the Epsilon chapter of AOA at the Loma Linda University School of Medicine on March 1. Standing (from left) are Cordel Anderson, Matthew Brucks, Jeffrey Koning, Christopher Elström, Jonathan Liao, Kurt Meyer, William Millard, William Mortensen, Miriam Peckham, Matthew Perkins, Carin Reinsch, Melissa Sirichotiratana. Seated (from left) are Miriam Peckham, Natasa Candarevic, Ashley Hay, Sarah Killian, Carin Reinsch, Victoria Chen Yin, Christina Tan, Melissa Sirichotiratana, Claire Andrews, Stephanie Jones, Vlatka Candarevic, and Shino Magaki.

2011 BALL ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

School of Dentistry alumnus honored

By Doug Hackleman

For his personal and professional contributions, the Black Alumni of Loma Linda and La Sierra universities (BALL) honored LLU School of Dentistry alumnus Lloyd E. Stoll, DDS (class of 1962), as the 2011 BALL Alumnus of the Year during its 27th annual scholarship banquet, held on February 26 at the Los Angeles Marriott.

Born in British Guiana (now the Cooperative Republic of Guyana) on the northern coast of South America, Dr. Stoll received his DDS degree from the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine in 1962. He has maintained a successful private practice in Los Angeles for over 40 years.

The 2011 BALL Alumnus of the Year award was presented to Dr. Stoll by Dr. Gregory Arutyunyan, student vice president, and Dr. Michael Chiang, associate dean for student affairs. The award recognizes outstanding service to the University, the profession of dentistry, and the black community. Dr. Stoll received the award for his many contributions to the University and to the black community.

The University's Black Alumni Association is a student organization that provides support for black students at the University. It also sponsors a variety of events and activities, including the annual scholarship banquet.

Dr. Lloyd E. Stoll (right) receives the 2011 Alumnus of the Year Award from Leroy A. Reese, MD. Dr. Stoll’s wife, Pat, holds his plaque.