

# The Link

Spring 2013  
News from Loma Linda University  
School of Allied Health Professions

## Sweatshirt Unites School of Allied Health Professions

*A new tradition emerges, p. 32*

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LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY  
School of Allied Health Professions

# [from the dean]



Dear friends,

As the end of another school year approaches, I am struck once again by the blessings we enjoy at Loma Linda University's School of Allied Health Professions. We have a student body engaged in their programs and in service. We have a faculty and staff willing and wanting to do everything to support them. At this time of year we also celebrate a fine group of graduates going out to make a positive impact on the world.

This year was a year of new endeavors and beloved traditions. As you will see in the following pages, we were thrilled by the response to our Senior "Hoodie" Ceremony, the growing number of students we had helping our communities both domestic and foreign, and the beginnings of a GOLD Alumni Society. Of course, we are equally excited by the excellent education we strive for year after year, having our valued alumni back on campus for Homecoming and Reunions, and the achievements of each of our Departments.

I invite you to read the stories on the following pages, appreciate the photos that truly are worth a thousand words, and let us know what you think. We are always happy to connect with you, to catch up, and to share the progress and the values of the School of Allied Health Professions.

Sincerely,

Craig Jackson  
Dean

## Spring 2013 • 11th Edition

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The Link is published bi-annually by the Loma Linda University School of Allied Health Professions Alumni Department. Send all notices of change of address to: [AHalumni@llu.edu](mailto:AHalumni@llu.edu), (909) 558-7840.

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LOMA LINDA  
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School of Allied  
Health Professions

# LLULIFE



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*The Link*

# ALLIED HEALTH FACULTY AND STAFF "STEP IT UP" TO IMPROVE THEIR HEALTH

By Danelle Herra



Loma Linda University has always emphasized wholeness as a core value. In order for LLU to be a positive influence in the local community and around the globe it is important to demonstrate wholeness in the lives of its employees as well. Physical activity is just one element of wholeness, but it is an essential part. To encourage that, Loma Linda University and the Department of Risk Management developed the Living Whole Employee Wellness Program in 2006.



**Melinda Mercado**  
SAHP Department: Occupational Therapy  
Team Name: The Crazy Dazed Walkers  
Other Team Members: Heather Javaherian-Dysinger, Kathy Davis, Sharon Pavlovich

"I achieved my goal to walk between 5 – 10 miles a day, working out in the morning and again after work. This program has drastically impacted my life; my blood pressure is down, sugar and cholesterol are down. I reversed the numbers of my HDL and LDL's and most of all I have lost a lot of weight and clothes sizes."



**Hanan Sadek**  
SAHP Department: Dean's Office  
Team Name: Queens of Soles  
Other Team Members: Laura Alipoon, Margie Martinez, Karen Westphal

"It was definitely encouraging to move more and made me more mindful of not sitting for too long and finding creative ways to incorporate walking in my day. I also had a wonderful walking partner, who was fun and the time together gave us a chance to know each other more. I definitely enjoyed that part and hope to continue the tradition in some capacity. I appreciated opportunities and activities that are easy enough to incorporate in my schedule and that give me results."



*School of Allied Health Professions faculty and staff who participated in the “Step It Up” walking competition hold up signs with their team names and team members. Some got creative with the name of their team! By the end of the two-month competition, SAHP faculty and staff had racked up over 30 million steps!*

Between February 13 and April 17, over 750 Loma Linda University employees participated in the Living Whole Employee Wellness Program’s “Step It Up” Walking Challenge. All LLU employees were invited to enroll in this two-month competition, enlisting as four-person teams with a team captain and a fun team name. As an incentive to enroll, the Risk Management department provided an omron HJ-720 pedometer to each employee who registered for the program.

“During the competition, employees would come up to me and enthusiastically show me the number of steps on their pedometer,” says the Wellness Program Administrator, Olivia Moses, DrPH, CHES, CPH, ACSM-HFS. “It has been so rewarding to see people have fun with it.”

The LLU Wellness Program partnered with Walkingspree, so that employees could easily log their steps online and compare



**Cathy Oms**  
SAHP Department: Physician Assistant Sciences  
Team Name: Fit 4 Life  
Other Team Members: Gerry Glavez, Yasmin Chene, Ghina Katrib

“I reached my goal of doing 10,000 steps per day! When someone I didn’t know asked why I was wearing a pedometer and I explained it was for a work competition to increase awareness about health and fitness, they were so impressed that our university is so involved in promoting wellness and that the faculty are involved as well!”



**Yolanda Martinez**  
SAHP Department: Portfolio Office  
Team Name: Steps to Christ  
Other Team Members: Ardis Wazdatskey, Jeannine Mendes, Melisa Reinmuth

“I was hesitant to join the pedometer group because I have knee problems and I thought I would not be able to keep up with the rest of my team. However, what I found is that I can now walk further and faster than I thought. I actually think that walking (and yoga) have helped my knee tremendously! This program has definitely made a positive impact on my life. I have more energy, and I now feel like something important is missing from my day if I don’t get a good walk in.”



their progress to other participants across campus. Features available for employees to utilize on the Walkingspree system include:

- Ability to track steps by directly downloading information from pedometer to a computer
- Helpful tips and a FAQ section
- Food tracking
- Virtual walking with Google Earth maps
- Tracking progress of individuals steps as well as number of team steps
- Ability to create a profile with weight, personal goals, and progress towards those goals
- Adding “buddies” from LLU who were on other teams to easily compare number of steps to other buddies, as well as write messages to them

The pedometers recorded movement in many forms, so steps were logged for riding a bike, jogging, and other activities.

Though employees competed in teams, they did not have to walk together as a team to build steps. Although teamwork was not required, one of the most notable outcomes of the program was the stronger sense of community and cohesion as teams.

*“...it changed the culture of their department and they would walk together during breaks with their office colleagues.”*

“The best part about the whole competition was that everyone was doing it together,” explains Dr. Moses. “I had a number of people tell me that it changed the culture of their department and that they would walk together during breaks with their office colleagues.”

Sixty-two employees from the School of Allied Health Professions competed against their colleagues in the “Step It Up” challenge. The Department of Physician Assistant Sciences had the highest percentage of participants, and as a whole the School’s participants completed over 30.2 million steps in the two-month time span. Out of approximately 180 LLU teams, the team with the second highest number of



Esther Huecker  
SAHP Department: Occupational Therapy  
Team Name: Four 4Fun  
Other Team Members: Liane Hewitt, Madge Oh, Heather Rouse

“I found myself not able to go to bed each night until I had my 10,000 steps completed. I think our whole team has inspired each other to keep going...more fun than competition. We often talked about it each day to see how we were doing.”



Eric Johnson  
SAHP Department: Physical Therapy  
Team Name: Shoe Man Crew  
Other Team Members: Bruce Bradley, Tim Cordett, Wes Swen

“I was recruited to join a team by my colleagues because they thought my cycling would be worth a lot of steps! At first, I didn’t have a goal but then it got a bit competitive so I tried to log at least 10,000 steps daily. My favorite part about this program was the healthy competition it breeds within the teams. I believe more programs like this are needed on campus to help improve the overall health of our students, staff, and faculty.”

**FIT FOR LIFE**  
 Yasmin Chene Ghina Katrib Jerry Glavez Kathy Oms

**Health InFull Motion**  
 Debbie Hamada Pauline Calla Terri Rouse Braden Tobiasub

**Four 4 Fun!**  
 Esther Liane  
 1,624,326 steps!  
 Madge Heather

**Sole Providers**  
 Larry Chinnock Donn Therpe  
 Christi Wilson Henry Garcia

**WALK IT LIKE IT'S HOT!**  
 Danelle Maria Jacquelyn Clare

**Steps to Christ**  
 Jeannine Mendes Ardis Wazdatskey Yolanda Martinez Melisa Reinmuth

steps overall was Rhythm and Inspiration, a team from the School of Allied Health. The two SAHP employees, Dr. David Lopez, Chair of the Cardiopulmonary Sciences Department and Alan Alipoon, Director the Cardiac Electrophysiology Program, with the highest number of individual steps were members of Rhythm and Inspiration.

The recommended goal for employees to strive for was to log an average of 10,000 steps per day. Some LLU employees averaged over 30,000 steps a day! At the end of the competition, taking everyone who participated into account, the employee average was close to 8,500 daily steps. With increasing exercise, some employees also made it a personal goal to lose weight during the two-month period. Of those who had a goal to lose weight, the average weight loss was 8 lbs. About 118 individuals lost 5 lbs or less, 61 people lost 5-9 lbs, and nine employees lost over 20 lbs!

"I couldn't be more pleased with the results of the competition," Dr. Moses states.



Employees who enrolled in the Living Whole Employee Wellness "Step It Up" Walking Challenge received complimentary pedometers to keep track of their physical activity. The number of steps could be easily uploaded to the walkingspree website to keep track of progress.



Heather Hebron-Roybal  
 Other team members: Alan Alipoon, David Lopez, and (not pictured) Janelle Guerrero  
 SAHP Department: Cardiopulmonary Sciences  
 Team Name: Rhythm and Inspiration

Rhythm and Inspiration was the SAHP team with the most steps and had the second highest number of steps across the university!

"On our own time we would walk before and after work. During the work day we would take walking meetings. I volunteer at a dog rescue walking and socializing dogs, so I got a lot of steps in there. I know Alan would play golf and walk the course. He also got a lot steps in working in his yard and doing his Insanity work outs. Dr. Lopez got a lot steps in checking on his departments and working out. Janelle was training for a half marathon and has a one year old to run after."

# School of Allied Health Dean Named Fellow of Professional Association

By Heather Reifsnnyder

Craig Jackson, JD, MSW, dean of the School of Allied Health Professions at Loma Linda University, has achieved recognition as a fellow at the Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions. This national organization represents 112 academic institutions, two professional associations, and approximately 200 individual members.

“I was surprised to be notified by Dr. Thomas Elwood, executive director, that I was voted, along with four other colleagues in the field, to be inducted as a fellow in 2012,” Dr. Jackson says. “It is quite an honor and I feel privileged to have been selected.”

The Fellows Award recognizes members of the association who have meaningfully contributed to allied health as administrators, educators, clinicians, or researchers. Criteria for selection include leadership, publishing in professional journals, and professional creativity.



Photos by Art Kroetz

**“Craig Jackson has presided over the enrollment growth from 700 to over 1,200 students, and the development and growth of international programs in Japan, Puerto Rico, and Saudi Arabia.”**

A maximum of five fellows yearly are vetted and chosen by the board of directors at the Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions.

“Craig has worked in the health care field for over 30 years, starting as a clinical social worker and progressing to director of social work at Loma Linda University Medical Center,” says Richard Talbott, PhD, association president.

“Since accepting the appointment as dean of the School of Allied Health Professions in 2002,” Dr. Talbott goes on, “Craig Jackson has presided over the enrollment growth from 700 to over 1,200 students, and the development and growth of international programs in Japan, Puerto Rico, and Saudi Arabia.”



*Dr. Jackson is one of five leaders in the allied health field named fellows in 2012 by the Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions. The other leaders sharing the honor include Allan Johnson, PhD, Howard University; Yasmen Simonian, PhD, Weber State University; Deborah Larsen, PhD, Ohio State University; and Sharon Stewart, EdD, University of Kentucky.*



# Respiratory Care Students Win the Sputum Bowl

By Nicole Orr

Don't let the name fool you! The Sputum Bowl is a prestigious and long-standing annual academic competition known for being tough. Loma Linda University's School of Allied Health students participate, and every year it's not a question of if they will do well, but whether or not they will bring home first place. This year was no different, and on April 4 Respiratory Therapy's team of Natalie Beltran, Tafadzwa Dzimiri, Vrej Mekhjian, and William Murphy won and brought home the cup!

The Sputum Bowl is a double elimination tournament, with teams competing in preliminary rounds and semi-finals to reach the finals. Teams answer questions coined from seventeen different reference books and fifteen 15 categories which include: Anatomy and Physiology, Diagnostics, Pathology, Acute Care, Mechanical Ventilation, Neonatal & Pediatrics, Airway Management, Gas Therapy, Microbiology, Pharmacology, Cardiopulmonary Rehab and Home Care, Chemistry and Physics, Humidity and Aerosol, Management, and History.

Upon returning home, the Department of Cardiopulmonary Sciences celebrated the win and received even more good news. Carter Tong who serves as a clinical instructor for the Respiratory Therapy BS program received the Jimmy Schultz award for presenting the best research paper at the Snowbird High Frequency Ventilation Conference and Abdullah Alismail, also a clinical instructor for the Respiratory Therapy BS program, received third prize for a Scientific Poster Session at the Annual Post graduate Convention 2013 that same weekend.



## EMC Lending Library

By Danelle Herra

Textbooks are expensive. Period. However, they are essential tools for learning in an academic environment and students often invest thousands of dollars for required textbooks over the course of earning their degree.

The faculty in the Emergency Medical Care (EMC) program at Loma Linda University understand the importance of students having access to the valuable knowledge that is encompassed in textbooks, but they also recognize that students have already invested significantly just to attend the program. This is where the idea of an EMC Lending Library began.

In looking at ways to reduce the financial burden of higher education for students, the EMC faculty examined where an impact could be made quickly and easily. Many

schools offer scholarships to help attract and assist students. However, in a small program such as EMC, scholarship funds are often limited. "Scholarships are an excellent way to lessen the financial burden on a student, but our scholarships can only help one or two students at a time" explains Ehren Ngo, MS, EMT-P, EMC Program Director. "By having a lending library where students can check out a required textbook for a class, we can help an entire group of students save money on some of the most expensive textbooks."

"We presented the concept to the current EMC students in the Class of 2013 and Class of 2014 and the students' response was overwhelming," reports Ehren Ngo. "Most of the students donated their books to the EMC Lending Library at the end of the year." As the EMC Lending Library officially begins this next year, donors will be individually recognized inside of each textbook that has been given to the EMC Lending Library, so every student borrowing a book will be connected to an alumnus of the program. Students will have the option to either buy a replacement textbook at the end of the class if they would like, or they can return it to

the EMC Lending Library for future EMC students to utilize. By choosing textbooks that have been recently released to add to the EMC Lending Library, the EMC Program anticipates that these textbooks will be utilized by students over and over again for many years.

"Eventually, we hope to raise enough funds to purchase the required textbooks for every student in the EMC program for all of their classes," Ehren Ngo says. "This is how we could save every student in the program around \$1,500 - \$2,000 in costs while completing their Bachelor's degree."

.....  
*Want to make a difference? Want to learn more about how you can help EMC students or students in other SAHP programs? Contact Nicole Orr, [norr@llu.edu](mailto:norr@llu.edu) or Ehren Ngo at [engo@llu.edu](mailto:engo@llu.edu) to see how you can get involved!*





## First CSHA Recruitment/SLP Night at LLU Encourages Networking and Increase in Professional Membership

By Jacquelyn Muga

LLU CMSD Graduate Student, NSSLHA Co-President, CSHA Student Representative Southern Region

On Thursday, April 25, Loma Linda University National Student Speech Language Hearing Association (NSSLHA) had a fantastic turn out for our very first CSHA Recruitment/SLP Night! Twenty-five students and six SLPs, including CSHA District 10 Director Christina LeRoy, past CSHA President Diane Collins, professors, and experts in Early Intervention, Stuttering, and Voice attended the event in Nichol Hall. Christina and other members of the District 10 Advisory Committee shared the benefits of joining CSHA while students enjoyed dinner and dessert. Then students participated in a Q&A with a panel of experienced SLPs, offering students valuable insight and advice about practice, the Clinical Fellowship Year and the profession.



It was a great opportunity to network and a tremendous source of encouragement to get involved in our amazing profession! CSHA Memberships were offered at a discounted price for all attendees and six new members signed up at the event.

NSSLHA

# KFSH&RC Radiology staff to be the first in Saudi and the region to get the American Board on Radiology Medicine

Reprinted with permission from *Sandscript*, the official magazine of the King Faisal Specialist Hospital & Research Centre.  
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In line with the hospital mission to provide the best services to our patients and the community, and as an effort of continuous quality improvement, the Training and Development Department, in collaboration with the Department of Radiology and under the direction of the Academic and Training Affairs and the hospital administration, has conducted the Radiologic Technology Advanced Placement (RTAP) Program.

This program is a training certification offered by Loma Linda University, California, USA, to prepare those radiologic technologists who were not graduates of American schools of radiography to be eligible to sit for the registry examination of the American board, the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT).

This program includes 11 units and was offered from January 2012 through July 2012. The program has the following courses:

- RTAP 221 – Patient Care and Education (1 unit)
- RTAP 255 – Radiographic Procedure (2 units)
- RTAP 283 – Equipment Operation and Quality Control (1 unit)
- RTAP 284 – Radiation Protection (1 unit)

- RTAP 287 – Image Production and Evaluation (2 units)
- RTAP 971, 972 – Clinical Affiliation (2 units, 2 units)

The program was taught by the training and development faculty and staff, as well as faculty from Loma Linda University who came to KFSH&RC and were responsible for conducting the competency checks required by the ARRT. Those competencies included a total of 56 clinical competencies, which included radiographic procedures, patient-care skills, and professional conducts.

A total of 14 technologists were enrolled in the program, and enrollment was based on a voluntary basis since classes were conducted during the weekend and utilizing the days off work for each individual participant.

Once the program is completed the graduate name will be forwarded to the ARRT who will issue eligibility cards to the graduates enabling them to apply for examinations with Pearson Vue, which has centers throughout the world. The graduation was held on August 14, 2012, with representatives from the university included the dean of the School of Allied Health Professions, Dr. Craig Jackson and the Chair of the Radiation Technology Department Dr. Laura Alipoon.

## AT | LU

Contributed report by the Communication Sciences & Disorders Department

We are proud to announce that Jackie Muga, a first-year graduate student and NSSHLA chapter co-president, is the student representative from Southern California on the CSHA Board of Directors. This is a great honor and distinction for Loma Linda University. Jackie planned or headed up the following NSSHLA activities at the 2013 CSHA convention in Long Beach:

- Planned CSHA Student Luncheon. Speakers included: Dr. Paul Rao (former ASHA President) and Amelia Cheikh (NSSLHA Region 10 Delegate)
- Organized CSHA Student Donation Drive
- Recruited NSSLHA members to volunteer
- Represented LLU students at the Alumni Breakfast

NSSHLA class representatives serve as liaison to the local NSSLHA chapter committee. The committee meets one to two times per month, and is charged with promoting student advocacy, professional advocacy, and community. Class representatives serve on the various subcommittees, which include community outreach, fundraising, social, and education. The NSSLHA elected chapter Co-presidents are, Jackie Muga and Jordan Shimamura. Class representatives are:

2nd Year Graduate Class Representatives - Stevie Hill, Lauren Savino, Heidi Littell

1st Year Graduate Class Representatives - Cristina Ramos, Jillian Kerstetter, Melissa Heine

Transitional Master Class Representative: Hope Tang

Senior Class Representatives: Madison Turley, Ivana Lozano

Junior Class Representatives: Karina Gutman, Carl Nolasco

# PA Mission to Haiti Results in Lasting Good Will, Improved Health

Contributed report

Children and adults in Haiti continue to experience improved health as a result of projects planned and implemented by a group of Loma Linda University physicians and physician assistants, nurses, and students during a fall 2012 mission trip.

The mission was organized by Jordon Personius, a student in the physician assistant program, LLU School of Allied Health Professions (SAHP). Mr. Personius is president of Legacy International Response (LIR), a non-profit medical relief organization he founded in early 2010 after the devastating Haiti earthquake.

One project completed during the trip, the construction of a 7,000-gallon-per-day water filtration system, continues to improve the health of families living in Desdunes, Haiti.

“For the same cost that had been paid to purchase unsafe water,” says Mr. Personius, “a self-sustainable business was put into

place to provide access to clean water.” According to Mr. Personius, the business, operated by local Haitian affiliates of LIR, “will help break the cycle of disease, and benefit the people of Desdunes for decades. Plans for future expansion are in the development stages.”

While in Haiti, members of the 21-member team spent the majority of their 10-day mission in Desdunes and nearby Duclos in the Artibonite region. This region was the most heavily affected by the cholera epidemics that occurred after the earthquake that took 250,000 lives.

The team’s visit is also helping prevent vision loss through the distribution of

more than 450 pairs of sunglasses. The sunglasses were collected during a drive at SAHP before the team left for Haiti. They were distributed to individuals in the community to help prevent cataracts, the leading cause of preventable blindness.

In addition, each of the physician assistant students gave a presentation on a public health topic. Their talks were translated into Creole by two Haitians who are also medical students. They were presented to more than 1,200 patients who visited a clinic hosted by the team over a six-day period and were videotaped. The videos are now being distributed to local communities. The LLU team members worked in the clinic with the Haitian medical students, a community health





*“For the same cost that had been paid to purchase unsafe water, a self-sustainable business was put into place to provide access to clean water.”*

*The mission trip to Haiti was organized by a student in the PA program, Jordon Personius. Jordon is also the president of Legacy International Response (LIR), a non-profit medical relief organization he founded in 2010. Eight students from the PA class of 2013 went on the trip, which was nearly one third of the total class. The eight students are pictured above, along with other members of the trip: Jordon Personius, Brett Bergman, Diane Schoendienst, Jorge Romo, Randy Culler, Eric Wagoner, and Wesley Harrington. Also, PA faculty member Frank Sirna went to Haiti with the team.*

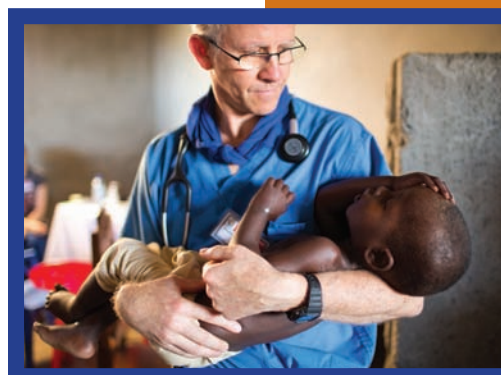


nurse, and a Haitian team of 17 additional translators and security personnel.

The trip was co-sponsored by Students for International Mission Service/Global Health Institute and the LLU department of physician assistant sciences. The eight participating students from the PA class of 2013 represent nearly one third of the total class. They and LIR raised more than \$68,000 for the trip. In addition, the team brought 1,500 pounds of medication and medical supplies to Haiti.



On their last night, the team hosted a celebration and fed more than 550 children. They also distributed toys, stuffed animals, and toothbrushes and toothpaste to the children. “It was a perfect end to a wonderful trip,” says Mr. Personius, “getting to spend time with the children of Desdunes. Smiles and cheers filled the room and served as a reminder to us why we all went.”



# Cultural Immersion for Physician Assistants Provides Deepened Understanding

Contributed report

In the master of physician assistant (MPA) degree program at the LLU School of Allied Health Professions, students perform health care services with physician supervision as members of the health care team. As part of their preparation, they study anatomy, physical diagnosis, and evidence-based medicine. The course “Cultural immersion for PAs” is also required.

A closer look at the MPA program philosophy provides an insight into why this course is included in the curriculum—“[At LLU, the] master of physician assistant program was established ... to train physician assistants with an emphasis on primary care. It is our goal to prepare our students to serve others through the practice of medicine with both excellence and compassion. We feel it is important for our students to become culturally proficient, service-minded, and prepared to serve the community around them.”

During the cultural immersion class, taken the second or third quarter of the students’ first year, each student interacts with two

and politics. Shared experiences have included watching Spanish-language TV and film, and reading newspapers.

The students also ask their host families about their medical histories. “Though they seek medical attention here in the United States,” writes one student about his host family, “they told stories about traveling to Mexico for certain procedures and medicines. There was a mix of modern medicine and homeopathic medicine. It was interesting to learn how they viewed the origins of their medical issues and their subsequent thought processes in addressing them.”

*“There were countless invaluable lessons I could not have learned anywhere else. The families I met taught me to be a patient, understanding, and even more compassionate woman.”*

Latino families. They assist making meals and they participate in family celebrations. They attend church with their host families and meet their children and grandparents. They inquire about their work and hobbies and with each visit the students experience and learn about Latino culture.

While spending a minimum of 15 hours with each of their assigned families, the students talk about their religious beliefs

The success of this MPA program goal is expressed in the students’ own words. Says one student: “There were countless invaluable lessons I could not have learned anywhere else. The families I met taught me to be a patient, understanding, and even more compassionate woman. They taught me to see the world from a different perspective—one that is warmer, more delicious, and even more vibrant than I had seen it before. They helped create a new spark in me, one that wants to learn and grow even more. I am forever grateful for this experience and hope to stay in touch with my families for years to come.”

Another student summarizes her experience: “This entire process has exceeded my expectations. I learned so much about the Hispanic culture in my short time with these families. I look forward to using what I have learned to provide a more educated and understanding type of patient care to families from Hispanic cultures.”

***Congratulations to the MPA Class of 2012 who had 100% board pass rate! According to Dr. Yasmin Chene, faculty member in the PA program, the national PA program average for 2012 was about 93% pass rate. This is the first class from the LLU PA Program that has had 100% rate! We’re proud of you! Keep up the great work!***

# Big Day on the Job

By Kyndra Pedrino, MS, RD  
(class of 2011) & Sheena Hamilton,  
SAHP Nutrition & Dietetics student  
(MS in progress)

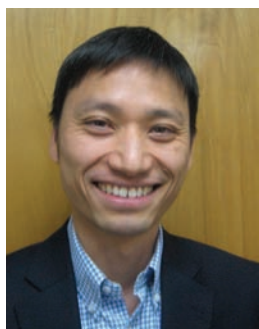
“He touched my shoulder,” one 5th grade boy said to me as President Bill Clinton left the classroom. “I even made him laugh,” he exclaimed. This little boy’s life will be changed forever, as he will have a memory that will last him a lifetime.

My name is Kyndra Pedrino, ‘11 and I am a registered dietitian and recent graduate from Loma Linda University School of Allied Health Professions, Department of Nutrition and Dietetics. I have the great privilege of working with elementary students everyday, shaping their minds into knowing where their carrots come from and what foods make a healthy lifestyle. In turn, everyday these students deeply enrich my own life with their passion and enthusiasm for the nutrition lessons they receive.

Part of the Nutrition Education Program at Palm Springs Unified School District (PSUSD) involves having chefs come into the classroom with our nutrition educators and teach the students hands-on skills to prepare and cook healthful foods. Sheena Hamilton, currently a student at Loma Linda University in the SAHP Nutrition and Dietetics Program, is a spectacular chef that we work very closely with since she completed a supervised practice rotation with us. PSUSD is always looking for creative ways to curtail the childhood obesity epidemic from continuing to rise, and President Bill Clinton has also made efforts toward fighting this growing problem. As part of the Bill Clinton



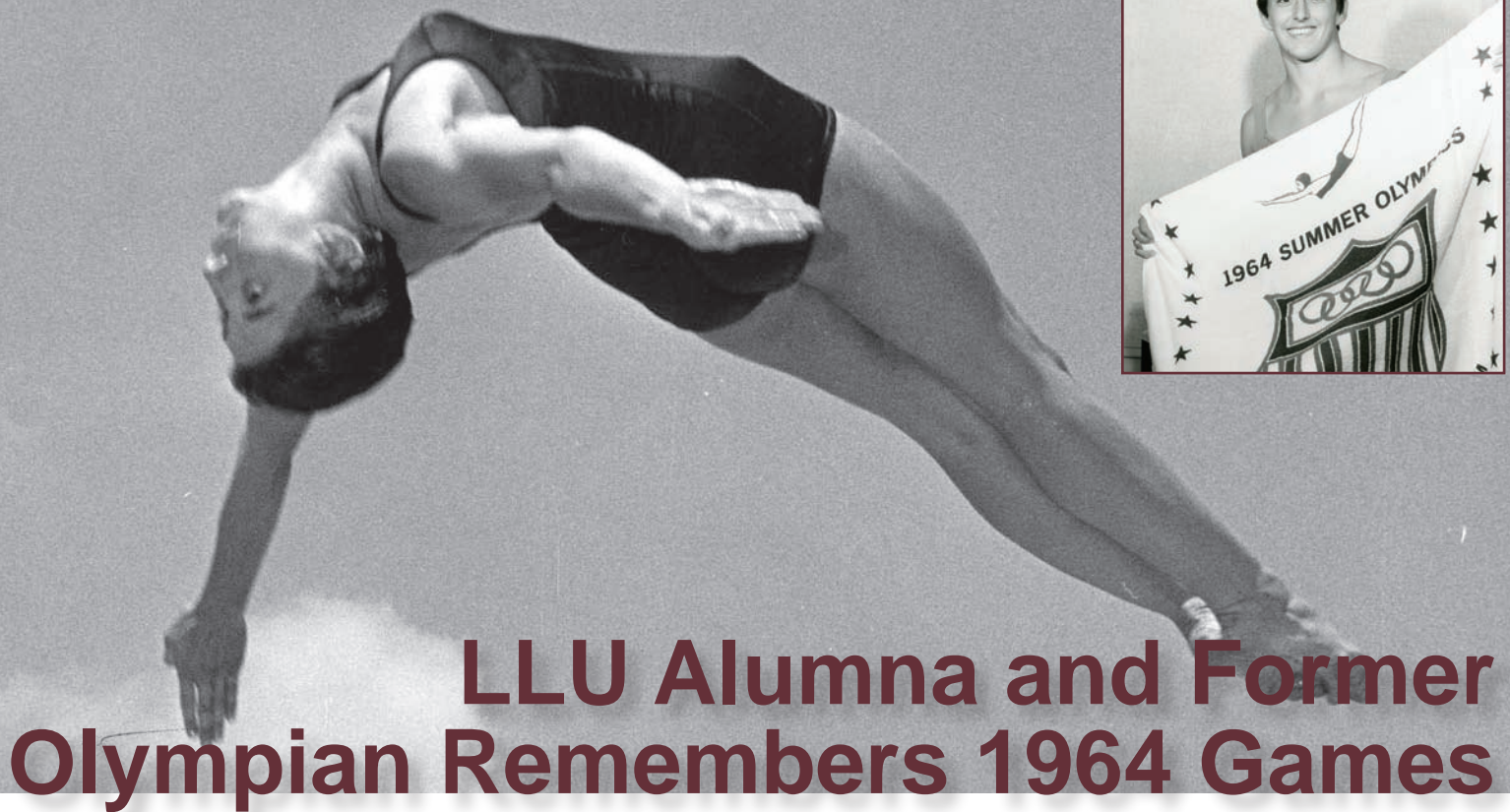
Foundation’s Health Matters Initiative, President Clinton is trying to make a change all over the United States by positively influencing change with what our kids are eating and the way they look at nutrition. January 15, 2013 was an extraordinary big day on the job as PSUSD had the opportunity of showing Bill Clinton just all that we do: farm-to-school lunches, produce farmers as well as dairy farmers coming to the schools, and nutrition educators/chefs cooking with all of our students. Just as that little 5th grade students’ life has been changed, Sheena and I share in his sentiment and are extremely proud after being recognized by President Clinton for our efforts in the fight against child obesity.



## Alumni Profile - Nutrition and Dietetics - WONG CHI WING

Ever wondered how to run a good business? Wong Chi Wing (“Wing”, SAHP Nutrition and Dietetics, class of 1997) can show you how. As the Department Head of the Food & Dietetic Department at Hong Kong Adventist Hospital, this Registered Dietitian achieved a net profit of over \$250,000 in 2012. Combining his dietetic skill with his business knowledge (he also holds an MBA), Wing has managed to provide a restaurant-style vegetarian menu at the hospital that is so well accepted, patients are willing to pay restaurant prices while receiving care. (Meal charges are separate from bed charges). The 21 employees meet the requests of patients in the 125-bed

hospital when they order off the menu. Therapeutic diets are tailored to meet specific requirements, i.e., low sodium, low cholesterol, etc. Providing healthy vegetarian meals to patients while making a profit is quite an accomplishment. Wing knows how to make it happen.



# LLU Alumna and Former Olympian Remembers 1964 Games

By Darcie Moningka

A girl from Germany had just exited the pool when it was time for Linda Cooper to take the steps up to the platform. Both hands slowly slid across the cold metal rails as she reached the top. She paused for a moment, took a deep breath, and reached down to run her fingers along the platform. It did not feel any different from others she had dived from before.

*Remain steady.*

She looked down at her feet as she walked toward the water. The rest of the U.S. Olympic Diving Team waited below. Her heart pounded as she tried to calm herself once more.

*Remain steady.*

After adjusting the straps of her swimsuit, Linda took a few long seconds staring straight ahead to compose herself. Only a year had passed since she won the gold medal at the 1963 Pan American Games in Sao Paulo, Brazil. She was ready for this.

*Remain steady.*

Just the night before, one of the Japanese divers had hit his head on the platform during his dive, causing serious injury. It was all Linda could do to not worry if that would happen to her as well. "I felt confident, but as I got ready for the last dive, the image flashed in my mind, and that is not the best focus for any diver," recalls Linda.

*Remain steady.  
With God, all things  
are possible.*

She took a few steps forward and turned so her back faced the pool. As she cautiously moved backward, she extended her arms in front of her for balance. Her toes were the only body parts keeping her on the platform. Linda placed her arms by her sides.

*Remain steady. With God, all things are possible.*

She took a deep breath and jumped.

"I was nine years old when I knew I loved diving," says Linda. "And it was my mother's dream for me to compete in the Olympics. With her vision and my dedication, we made a good team."

Linda began her pursuit to be on the U.S. Olympic Diving Team when she moved from her home in San Bernardino to Anaheim at the age of 15. There, she received training from former Olympic gold medalist Sammy Lee and coaches Glenn McCormick and Jack Roth.

Determined, Linda trained for five years until she was ready for the 1964 Olympic Trials in New York. "I knew my responsibilities and I was a committed individual," says Linda. Then, at age 20, it was not a surprise to Linda when she was chosen to compete in the 1964 Olympic games in Tokyo, Japan.



When she entered the Olympic Village in Tokyo, Linda felt patriotic. "I was incredibly excited to represent the U.S. that year," she recalls. "However, there was very little interaction between the athletes. There were some really amazing people that I never had the chance to meet."

As she watched her competitors and the male divers before her, Linda noticed the different body forms of each athlete. "I liked watching my competitors. The German and Russian athletes had especially good bodies for diving; they were beautiful," she says. "And as I watched, I never wanted to 'best out' another person. I just desired to perform my best."

The thought of competitors slid from her mind as she jumped into an inward two and a half somersault, tuck position. Linda moved her body into several turns until only the splash of water could be heard as she dove in. When she came up for air, applause filled the arena.

Immediately, she swam to the edge of the pool to push herself out. As she walked

across the concrete adjusting her swimsuit straps, she turned around to see her scores. She paused in anticipation. Deep breaths. By the smallest margins, Linda had come in fourth place.

"We hugged, confident that we all had competed to the very best of our abilities," she says. "And I cried, but it was out of total relief that I could go on with my life from the many years of hard work and dedication."

When she returned to her home in San Bernardino, Linda applied to the physical therapy program at Loma Linda University, after being inspired by a physical therapist she met in Tokyo. "This was the perfect profession for me," she recalls.

After starting the program in 1965, she married Lieutenant Bill Tiger from Norton Air Force Base, and graduated in 1967. Linda practiced physical therapy for 14 years, and had three children—Julie, Heather, and Jeffrey. Today, Linda lives in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. She and Bill are both retired. The kids are grown and writing is one of her main



Linda, with her family, pictured above.

hobbies. Loma Linda University Children's Hospital purchased her book, *A Touch of Prayer*, in 2007.

There was a time when Linda considered competing in the Olympics again. With the help of her husband, she tried to resume training. Yet, as time passed and busy schedules conflicted, she realized she was content with the way her life was going.

"I have never regretted not going back," she insists.



## ORTHOTICS AND PROSTHETICS PROGRAM INITIATES STUDENTS

By Heather Reifsnyder

Students in the newest academic program in the School of Allied Health Professions—an entry-level master of science degree in orthotics and prosthetics—initiated each other into their future profession by a new type of ceremony for the LLU campus.



Some academic programs offer a jacketing or pinning ceremony to usher their students into their professional calling. The orthotics and prosthetics students chose a different approach: an apron ceremony. The ceremony is meant to exemplify the mission of the degree, which is "to graduate students equipped and capable of creating a culture of service" within the context of their biomechanical interventions of the profession, according to Hans Schaepper, MDiv, program director and board-certified prosthetist orthotist. The students in the top photo compose the class of 2014 and received maroon aprons. They will be the first group to graduate with this new degree. The class of 2015 in the bottom photo received blue aprons.

Photos by Art Kroetz

# Community Teachers Share their Experiences with PT Students for Class and Build Friendships Along the Way

Contributed report by the Department of Physical Therapy

Physical therapists (PTs) are known for using touch to help people overcome their physical difficulties. Students learning to become PTs need experience with a wide range of people who are in need of their skills after they graduate.

One course taken at LLU by second year doctoral physical therapy (DPT) students introduces the DPT students to people who live with a permanent disability that began in their childhood, such as cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy and spina bifida. These are known collectively as developmental disabilities (DD). In their course titled Lifespan Studies II: Developmental Disabilities,

the lead course instructor, Dr. Bonnie Forrester, hires “Community Teachers” who are young adults living with a developmental disability, to share their experience growing up with a disability that has severely restricted their ability to move on their own, relying on a wheelchair and caregiver help to live as independently as possible.

“At the beginning of class, Dr. Forrester reinforced that they’re here to help answer our questions,” one DPT student, Meghan Bensen explains how nice it is that the community teachers are willing to come to their class and speak so openly.

The students get to integrate their 18 months of training so far to practice hands-on assessment of people whose limbs and body do not feel or move like those who

have intact musculoskeletal/nervous systems. The students also get first-hand experience with complex power wheelchairs and with communicating with someone who has speech that is difficult to understand. The students are grateful for the opportunity to become comfortable around those who live life from a wheelchair, seeing that they are people too, just wanting to have a fulfilling life.

Lindsay Myers, a second year DPT student, states, “It’s a huge help to spend some time with these individuals and be able to ask them questions before we see patients in the clinic environment.”

Another benefit of this interaction is the friendships that are made between student and community teacher that last after lab. One person who has taught in these labs is an internationally recognized artist, Raul Pizarro. He has muscular dystrophy, which causes him to lose muscle power every year. His spirit and determination to overcome obstacles shines through, inspiring those around him.



Top left photo: Picture of Dr. Bonnie Forrester, volunteering with Wheels for Humanity that inspired Raul Pizarro's painting in the bottom left photo.



# RAUL PIZARRO



"I go to class at Burden Hall because these are the future therapists, menders and in many cases best sources for helping kids and adults find ways to improve their life. I grew up receiving therapy on a weekly basis and though little was known about the effects of therapy on patients with muscular dystrophy (MD) at the time, my therapists were my favorite people in school. I felt like they were there to do their best to help me improve physically. Sadly, I didn't improve physically but my moral was buffer than Arnold Schwarzenegger in the 80's. That was my childhood, my adult years have been a very different story. Though the common idea of a therapist's role seems to be exercises that'll help fix and alleviate bodies struggling or suffering with different conditions, I have found that is not the sole benefit and life changing affect a therapist can offer. My body has changed a lot due to MD, leaving me very thin to the point where sitting can be horribly painful considering that I'm sitting on two bones. This is where therapist friends have changed my life. A good therapist goes above and beyond to understand the full condition of the person they are working with and they can offer a lot of suggestions as far as equipment and sometimes different sitting positions. I've been able to continue working on my paintings because of cushions that my therapist friends have researched and found for me. I also do this because Loma Linda seems to have some of the best pickings' for friends!

I've become very good friends with some of the professors and students. From lunch outings to hikes and mostly any other event that's an excuse to go eat chocolate. All in all, I do it because I think it's important for the students to see that we are real people outside of the textbooks or whatever the preconceived notions in regards to what people with disabilities are like. We are just like them and the rest of the world. The only difference is that they can help us live fully within our abilities and sometimes much past them."



Photo by Art Kroetz

*Top right: Raul doesn't let muscular dystrophy stop him from doing what he loves most. Above: Raul, with DPT second year students on their way to class in Burden Hall on LLU Campus.*

*Left: Raul continues his passion of painting by resting his arm, as well as using cushions researched by some of his PT and OT friends from LLU.*



# Step into Shape

By Julie Kugel, OTD, MOT, OTR/L  
Assistant Professor, OTD Program Director



*Two MOT students, Roy Tabingo and Yorda Paez, helped Julie Kugel, OTD Program Director integrate a program focusing on exercise and other activities to combat childhood obesity at the Boys and Girls Club. The culminating activity was open to the community called "Walk for a Cause" which emphasized the importance of physical activity and healthful living.*

It all started with a suggestion from a friend and colleague to submit for a grant targeting childhood obesity. As the idea took shape, I submitted for a grant with the Redlands Boys and Girls Club and their director Janice Jackson. Our idea was to take the grant money (\$1,000) and integrate a program focusing on walking and exercise as well as other activities and ideas to combat

childhood obesity. I wasn't sure that our proposal would get accepted but when the acceptance came through I knew it was time to get excited about planning our program.

In working with the occupational therapy department we were able to get two amazing Fieldwork Level 1 students, Roy Tabingo and Yorda Paez, from the Masters program to help plan and implement the program. Each week emphasized walking/running and other ways to stay active in addition to other areas of health such as eating habits, drinking water, emotional health, stress management, dealing with bullying, sleep habits, and activities to promote a positive self-esteem. As occupational therapists we are concerned with how daily habits, roles, routines, and essentially occupations determine whether an individual is living a healthy and meaningful life or is living a life that may lead to disease and debility.

Childhood obesity is an area of concern for all communities and especially as representatives of Loma Linda University we wanted to emphasize the importance of a holistic program that would examine all areas of health, not just physical activity. Fieldwork student Roy Tabingo reflected on the program, "The program was great and I felt it was very beneficial to the young kids. I felt this program not only taught them about exercise and

healthy habits, but the goal was to empower them to choose to live a healthy lifestyle and I feel for many of them it did just that."

Destiny, one of the youth participants, collaborated on this idea sharing that the program "encouraged me to walk more, persuaded me to eat more healthy food, and made me stop eating so much candy." It is statements like these from the participants that have encouraged the volunteers to keep working for change at the community level.

The culminating activity of the project was an event open to the community "Walk for a Cause" emphasizing the importance of physical activity and healthful living. The event featured 16 vendors who came out to share tips and suggestions for kids and families to live a healthy lifestyle. Some of these vendors included LLU's School of Dentistry, Department of Nutrition and Dietetics, School of Public Health, the Occupational Therapy Department, and Molina Healthcare. The kids helped plan the event that promoted walking games, healthy snacking, and other healthy lifestyle habits such as good oral health. This event was also an opportunity to share our message of Good News and hope with the community and the children were involved in gathering donated food for a local emergency family assistance program for local teens.

While the program was designed to empower the youth at the Boys and Girl's Club, it did just as much to empower me to continue working in our communities to promote a healthier lifestyle for children. All it took was an idea, some encouragement, a little bit of effort, and a lot of incredible volunteer hours to make this little idea a very big reality in our own community. Sometimes I think it can be intimidating to think of ways to be involved at the community level but as student Yorda Paez reminded us, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13. We look forward to continuing this program again in the coming year and to make "Walk for a Cause" an annual event.

# Transforming lives through occupation, service, and advocacy

By Heather Javaherian-Dysinger, OTD, OTR/L  
Associate Professor, Department of OT, LLU

The Department of Occupational Therapy is excited to move into a new curriculum as of summer 2013. In looking at the mission of the university and our department vision we have redesigned the curriculum threading service-learning across each quarter. This provides students with the opportunity to learn in an authentic environment integrating, synthesizing, and applying classroom knowledge. Not only is this a transforming learning experience for our students it creates lasting partnerships with our community.

We have five curricular threads that reflect the values and mission of the department and university:

1) Transformative nature of occupation, 2) Evidence-based practice and research, 3) Health, lifestyle, and wellness, 4) Service-learning, and 5) Advocacy, justice, and civic responsibility.

Continuing to look towards the future we envision this curriculum revision as a stepping stone to transition to an Entry-level OTD in the future.



*OT students participate in service-learning in Pomona, CA, by performing CarFit testing to individuals in the area, offering them the opportunity to check how well their personal vehicles are adjusted to them. This program is designed to improve driver safety by looking at things such as how mirrors are adjusted, foot positioning, and seating in relation to the steering wheel.*

## PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS AT AOTA!

At the AOTA 93rd Annual Conference & Expo in San Diego, CA, we had the following faculty, alumni, and current student presentations involving short courses, workshops, and posters – a commitment to lifelong learning!

### Short Courses:

- Faculty Subsection Annual Program: Faculty Exchange of Teaching and Grading Techniques. Rika Molinsky, Donna Costa, Robyn Otty (OTD 2011), Judith Parker Kent, Camille Sauerwald.
- Meeting the Challenge of Supporting Students in Acute Care Settings From Classroom to Clinic. Stephanie M. Stegman, Robyn Otty (OTD 2011), Jessica Lange.
- Spirituality in Practice: The Occupational Therapy Spiritual Assessment. Christy Billock (Faculty).
- Occupational Therapy and Lifestyle Medicine: A Different Approach to Health and Wellness. Donna P. Mann (OTD 2013), Wayne Dysinger
- Buzz Session: Developing a Technology Presence to Encourage Student Engagement. Robyn Otty (OTD 2011).

### 3-Hour Workshops:

- Tools of the Trade: Educational Theory and Strategies for New Faculty. Christine C. Sullivan, Debbie Amini, Cynthia Carr, Donna Costa, Cynthia Meyer, Robyn Otty (OTD 2011), Ingrid Provident.
- Narrative, Phenomenological, and Ethnographic Approaches to Studying Human Action in Context. Mary C. Lawlor, Cheryl Mattingly, Olga Solomon, Melissa Park, Esther Huecker (Faculty), Karla Ausderau, Kimberly Wilkinson, David Leary, Aaron Bonsall.
- Training the Trainer: Occupational Therapy Practitioners as BodyWorks Trainers. Liane Hewitt (Faculty)
- Drama: A Tool to Decrease Stigma and to Educate on Mental Illness. Heather Javaherian-Dysinger (faculty), Mona S. Girgis (MOT 2012), Mariem Metry (MOT 2012), Jennie Milliner (MOT 2012), Lorrie Padilla-Zellmer (MOT 2012).

### Posters:

- Best Practices for Online Teaching and Learning. Tamara Pinchevsky-Font, Sandra Barker Dunbar (OT 1982).
- Exploring the Role of Occupational Therapy in Childhood Obesity Prevention and Treatment: Impact of a Seven-Week Healthy Lifestyle Program. Julie Kugel (OTD 2010)
- Leader or Manager: What Are You? Kyle Yetter, Gail Takaki-Alfaro (OT 1982), Deena Yanari.
- ASD, Quality of Life, and Social Relationships: an Exploratory Sequential Mixed Method. Claudia G. Peyton (OT 1980), Yan-hua Huang.
- Occupational Therapy: Our Role in Domestic Violence. Heather Javaherian-Dysinger (faculty), Tamara Domenech (MOT 2012).
- Dementia and Driving. Debbie R. Ricker (OT 1978).
- Motivational Interviewing To Facilitate the Change Process: Illustrations From the Pressure Ulcer Prevention Study. Jesus Diaz, Clarissa Saunders-Newton (OT 1983).
- Burden and Stress of Caregiving for an Elderly Family Member Who Has Fallen. Yan-hua Huang, Claudia G. Peyton (OT 1980)
- Self Efficacy and Quality of Life Among Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders. Yan-hua Huang, Claudia G. Peyton (OT 1980).



# HOMECOMING



## Homecoming at a Glance...

### Continuing Education Courses

Each Alumni Homecoming Weekend presents the exciting opportunity for alumni to reunite with former classmates, faculty, and friends. It also gives alumni the opportunity to engage in lifelong learning by attending continuing education courses.

Over 350 alumni, faculty, current students, clinical instructors, and healthcare professionals attended the 17th Annual School of Allied Health Professions Continuing Education Convention. Many of the continuing education (CE) courses were offered at Wong Kerlee International Conference Center, while there were several PT CE courses located in another building on the Loma Linda University Campus.

This year's CE convention included classes specifically geared for the allied health professions of physical therapy, clinical laboratory science, communication sciences and disorders, health informatics and information management, nutrition and dietetics, occupational

therapy, and physical therapy. The convention also included a CE course called An Interdisciplinary Approach to Whole Person Care. This course featured topics of ethics, spirituality in healthcare, patient safety and reliability, priorities of the Affordable Care Act, and how to use an iPad in a healthcare setting, and was offered for CE credits to multiple disciplines within the allied health professions. Those in attendance were excited with the new information they were able to learn from the various speakers, especially related to tablet technology.

At Wong Kerlee Conference Center, several job recruiters were in attendance and met with alumni and students to inform them of job opportunities in their area. A number of contacts were made and interviews set for the following weeks. Those who visited vendor booths were entered into a drawing for an iPod Shuffle. This year's winner was Mr. Dwight Parker, a physical therapy graduate from the class of 1995. Congratulations Mr. Parker!



Students, alumni, and healthcare professionals sign in at the registration table.



"Applying your Clinical Skills into an Industrial Ergonomics Program" was taught by Sonia Lopez, SAHP Alumna of the Year 2012.



A Physical Therapy CE course is taught at the new PT Lab, located in the building above the Campus Store.

# CONNECTION

## Friday Evening Supper and Vespers

The Friday evening supper and vespers event was a special time, not only because of the great food and fellowship, but also because alumni were able to spend some time in Nichol Hall, the place where many of our alumni attended classes while they were Allied Health students. Before the program began, several alumni took advantage of the opportunity to stroll through the hallways to see what was new and what still remained of their time as students in those same hallways.

The meal was provided by the Nutrition and Dietetics Department, with the menu consisting of recipes created by the faculty. When asked for the recipe for the delicious lentil soup, Dr. Georgia Hodgkin answered “just a master’s and a doctorate degree!” to the laughter of the group.

While guests finished eating, the vespers program began with a beautiful song service led by two alumni, JeJe Noval (Nutrition and Dietetics, '93, also current faculty member) and Kit Caraig (Communication Sciences and Disorders, '99) who graciously accepted the invitation to sing with JeJe on the spot. It was a very moving start to the program. Any further proof needed to show that our students and alumni are very musically talented, as well adept in the world of science, was on display as two Nutrition and Dietetics students performed several songs for those in attendance. Kimberly Paulien, '13, played the guitar and sang a couple of songs she wrong herself, while Jenny Chen, '13, played the violin with a fellow LLU student playing the flute. Terry Swenson, a chaplain for Loma Linda University, closed the program with an inspirational talk followed by prayer.

## Saturday Luncheon on the Lawn

A favorite tradition during Homecoming is the Saturday afternoon lunch on Cottage Lawn behind Nichol Hall. Many alumni share exciting stories, other share pictures and bring their class photos, but all are given a warm invitation to relax in the memory of Loma Linda University School of Allied Health Professions and enjoy some amazing food while doing so.

Before gathering under the shade of the trees and tents, alumni had the opportunity to view posters created by various departments in the School of Allied Health that showcased recent accomplishments of students, faculty, and staff and displayed photos of exciting things going on in their respective areas. The meal was provided by the faculty and staff of the School so alumni could enjoy a “home-cooked” meal without having to put forth any effort, besides attending the luncheon! Alumni are eager and excited to try the delicious, yet healthy, entrée that the Nutrition and Dietetics Department brings to the table each year.

This year, the Physical Therapy Class of 1963 met at the luncheon for



*The meal on Friday evening was provided by the Nutrition department and was served in Nichol Hall, followed by a Vespers program.*



*A favorite event during Alumni Homecoming Weekend is the Saturday Luncheon on the Nichol Hall Cottage Lawn.*



*The Alipoon family enjoys the nice weather, good food, and great conversations with Allied Health alumni, friends, and guests.*

as many of them were in town for their 50-year class reunion. They had fun sharing stories and photos, as well as spending time with the PT Director when they were in school, Mr. Ron Hershey. Also, several alumni from the Clinical Laboratory Sciences department attended, as this year was a celebration of 75 years of CLS (aka Medical Technology) education.

After the lunch was over, Dr. Howard Sulzle from the PT Class of 1963, led a tour of the new Physical Therapy labs in the area that was formerly the Risk Management Department, located in the building above the campus stores. Current Physical Therapy students are able to enjoy these labs for class thanks largely to generous alumni!



Clinical Laboratory Science (aka Medical Technology) alumni, current faculty, former faculty, and staff reunite to celebrate 75 years of CLS education at Loma Linda University. The Alumni Reunion on Saturday evening was held at the Wong Kerlee Conference Center. Those in attendance included: Ken Cantos, Albert Castellanos, Samuel Chafin, Jeff Chambers, Kathy Davis, Nikki Gilbert, John Haines, John Lewis, John Nei, Thuan Nguyen, Celine Palaad, Vivian Pham, Rodney Roath, Richard Roath, Teri Ross, Paula Santos, Jack Schleicher, Jennifer Shum, Sue Stock, and Melanie Thornburg.

## Clinical Laboratory Sciences Celebration

This year during Homecoming weekend, the School of Allied Health Professions celebrated the 75th anniversary of the first graduating Clinical Laboratory Science (CLS) class! At its inception, it was called Medical Technology and was a one-year program at the White Memorial Hospital.

At the Alumni Recognition Banquet on Thursday evening Rodney Roath, Chair of the CLS Department, was the Master of Ceremonies. The program featured a video featuring special guests and former Chairs and alumni discussing the history and service of

the department. On Saturday during Sabbath School at the Randal Visitor's Center on LLU Campus CLS alumni and faculty were featured, and after the Lunch on the Lawn interested CLS alumni were able to take a tour of the CLS lab that was built in 2008.

The activities of the weekend culminated in the CLS Alumni Reunion on Saturday evening at Wong Kerlee Conference Center. While enjoying dinner CLS alumni, previous faculty, current faculty, and staff appreciated the opportunity to reminisce about the past while learning about new updates to the program and its direction in the future.

## GOLD Alumni Connection

It was a great start to a new tradition here at the School of Allied Health Professions! Aware that we are increasingly connected through Facebook and LinkedIn, the Alumni Office saw a need for continued connection face to face, and thus the GOLD (Graduates of the Last Decade) Alumni concept was born. Graduates from all disciplines have the shared experience of embarking on new careers,

and this event was a great opportunity to socialize, network, and engage with their fellow grads of the SAHP.

GOLD Alumni gathered on the evening of April 20 of Homecoming Weekend at the downtown Redlands spot, Gourmet Pizza Kitchen. About 40 guests enjoyed dinner and conversation, and the SAHP had the opportunity to recognize our GOLD Alumni Society members. The GOLD Alumni Society is a giving club, recognizing that while one is establishing a career can be a difficult time to give back. The Alumni and Philanthropy Office appreciated the opportunity to recognize those are giving back to any fund at the institution, making the future bright for those following them here. This year's gift was a gold business card holder reading "GOLD Alumni Society, School of Allied Health Professions."



The very first GOLD (Graduate of the Last Decade) Alumni Event was held during Homecoming 2013 on Saturday evening. GOLD alumni gathered at Gourmet Pizza Shoppe in Redlands, CA, enjoying dinner, conversation, and hearing about the new GOLD Alumni Society.



## 2nd Annual 'Operation: Service'

With the challenges of academic life including demanding study and work schedules, giving back is something that often takes place during the summer or spring break. Faculty, students, and staff in the School of Allied Health Professions, however, are making service a priority. For the second year the School hosted Operation: Service, an opportunity to volunteer in the community.

The second annual Operation: Service was held on the final day of the 2013 SAHP Alumni Homecoming and C.E. Convention, and alumni were invited to participate. Approximately 50 volunteers met at Social Action Community Health System (SACHS) Norton Clinic in San Bernardino. After a light breakfast, they were given the opportunity to volunteer at Fairfax Elementary School, SACHS-Frazee, or SACHS Norton.

The results were visible and lasting as they cleaned and beautified a playground, planted trees and shrubs, and refreshed buildings with new coats of paint. With participation from faculty, staff, alumni, students and their families, the second annual Operation Service was a success.

“Loma Linda University was founded to send medical missionaries throughout the world,” says Craig Jackson, JD, MSW, dean, SAHP, “and we do that very well. It is no less vital to meet the needs of those in our local communities.”

Service and mission are considered a crucial part of the education provided at SAHP. “I tell our students that they are citizens of the world,” says Dr. Jackson, “with opportunities for service wherever they are. I want them to be as comfortable using a bus pass to do service as they are using a passport.”

To enable service projects to happen, the SAHP Outreach Fund—interdisciplinary mission and outreach, was established in 2012 to support ever-growing needs both locally and abroad. “The Outreach Fund was started to support students from all disciplines within the School of Allied Health Professions in their service,” says Dr. Jackson, “an interest that links each of our distinct programs and departments together. In the first year we raised more than \$37,000 with the generous support of our alumni. With that, we were able to fund airfare for about 40 students performing international outreach in three different countries. The Fund also enabled us to provide supplies for the Operation: Service volunteers, in our own backyard.”

*SAHP students, faculty, staff, and alumni volunteer on Sunday of Homecoming Weekend for the 2nd Annual 'Operation: Service' event.*



*One group volunteers at Fairfax Elementary School in San Bernardino, CA.*



*Volunteers help paint the outside of the SACHS Norton Clinic.*



*Dr. Craig Jackson, Dean of the School of Allied Health, and his wife help clean up the grounds at Fairfax Elementary School.*





## 1963 Physical Therapy 50 Year Class Reunion

Howard Sulzle, PT '63, said it best. Homecoming weekend was "very monumental!" The Class of 1963 arrived in force, with almost half of the class back for its 50th Homecoming celebration. They arrived from near and far: Donna Gray-Hammersly came all the way from North Carolina, while Tom and Mary Lou Cates drove over from right here in Loma Linda! A great time was had by all.

Festivities started on Thursday evening with the Banquet and continued to Friday with East Campus and SIMS Lab tours, then Vespers, followed by Sabbath School and Potluck on Saturday, and culminating in a very special Class Reunion that evening in Wong-Kerlee Conference Center. Howard Sulzle led the way in preparation of this exceptional night with thoughtful letters to classmates and perhaps most special of all, bringing beloved Professor Ron Hershey and his wife Elma to the banquet, potluck, and reunion during the weekend.

It was obvious to all involved in Homecoming that the presence of the Hershey's was a blessing not just this weekend, but in those formative years at University 50 years ago!



Members of the PT Class of 1963, with Mr. Ron Hershey front and center; first row: Margaret Jones-Parker, Christina Horn, Donna Gray-Hammersly, Yvonne Levos-Harris, Joanne Parham, and Jody Frank-Rogers; back row: Tom Cates, Bill Cox, Barney Lambert, Wes Ringering, Mick Campbell, Howard Sulzle.

## Alumni Recognition Banquet

One highlight during Homecoming Weekend was the Alumni Recognition Banquet on Thursday evening. The banquet is a highlight, not only because it gives guests a great opportunity to dress up and have fun, but also because our alumni are celebrated and recognized for their accomplishments!

This year's celebration was located in the Wong Kerlee Conference Center where guests strolled from table to table, greeting old friends and teachers while Celia Chan Valerio filled the room with beautiful harp music. During dinner, guests had a blast at the photo booth set up by Tawny Alipoon and her husband, as they were able to put on funny attire or hold up signs with captions.

The evening's program included a roll call by Radiation Technology Department Chair, Dr. Laura Alipoon, which recognized graduates from the honor years as well as those who traveled from fair distances to attend Homecoming Weekend! Next, Dr. Craig Jackson, Dean of the School, gave a warm welcome followed by a video presentation featuring the Clinical Laboratory Sciences Department and 75 years of service and education at Loma Linda University (beginning at White Memorial before it came to LLU). The remainder of the evening was devoted to our Rising Stars, Distinguished Alumni, and our Alumna of the Year as we recognized them for their achievements.



# Alumna of the Year, 2013

# Tracy A. Elmer

## Health Informatics and Information Management

The Department of Health Informatics & Information Management is proud to present the 2013 Distinguished Alumna Award to Tracy A. Elmer. Tracy graduated from the B.S. program in Health Information Administration in 1997. She showed her remarkable professional promise early when she received the President's Award from Dr. Lyn Behrens at graduation that year.

While enrolled in the B.S. program, Tracy worked as the Team Lead in Health Information Management at the Fallbrook Hospital District. She is currently employed at Rady Children's Hospital as the Director of Clinical Information Systems & EMR Initiative.

Tracy was nationally recognized by the American Health Information Management Association in 2011 when she received the Triumph Award for e-HIM. This award recognizes awardees for envisioning, promoting, and transitioning the paper medical record to the electronic health record format. Her expertise and knowledge of the legal requirements for both paper and electronic records enables her to proactively identify and assist in the evaluation of emerging

technologies for proper system implementation and support make her especially notable.

In addition, Tracy has an outstanding record of service to the health information management professional associations. Currently, she is the president-elect of the California Health Information Association. Service to the American Health Information Association includes membership on the Envisioning Collaborative and past membership of the Electronic Health Record Practice Council. Tracy has also been president of the San Diego Health Information Association.



Tracy's past volunteer activities include events with the American Heart Association, March of Dimes, Annual Women's Healthcare Symposium for Sharp HealthCare, and foundation fundraisers and sponsored events for Fallbrook Hospital. Tracy A. Elmer is truly deserving of the award for 2013 Distinguished Alumna Award. She represents the highest standards of professionalism for the health informatics and information profession.

*Did you notice the name change? We've updated our department's name to follow with the latest trends and our latest degree offering. We are now known as the Department of Health Informatics and Information Management!*



# Rising Stars Award Recipients 2013



Front row, from left to right: Moneer Essa (Radiation Technology), Summer San Lucas (Physical Therapy), Jamie Morris (Occupational Therapy), Earl Macaso (Nutrition & Dietetics), Amanda Nunez (Health Informatics & Information Management), Jennifer Shum (Clinical Laboratory Science), Lauren Savino (Communication Sciences & Disorders), Abdullah Alismail (Cardiopulmonary Sciences - Respiratory Care), David Williams (Cardiopulmonary Sciences - Emergency Medical Care), Latasha Johnson (Physician Assistant).

## Moneer Essa

When Moneer was younger, he always knew he wanted to have a career in the medical field. After researching several professions, he found the radiologic technology career. He says, "I have always been fascinated by x-rays, the bony skeleton, and how the human body looks underneath the skin." As he researched the profession more, he chose the LLU Medical Radiography Program for its strong reputation.

Moneer has been on the Dean's List throughout the program, and he is a TA and tutor for first year students. Moneer's goal is to further his education by continuing on to the Bachelor's in Radiation Sciences, work as a radiographer, and then apply for the Physician's Assistant program at LLU.

Moneer exemplifies professionalism and desire to serve others, collaboration with faculty, and an ability to mentor students to help them gain higher academic achievement.

## Summer San Lucas

Dr. Summer San Lucas graduated from LLU in 2012 with a Doctor of Science in Physical Therapy. Previously she earned a clinical Doctor of Physical Therapy degree in 2005, and Bachelor's in Kinesiology in 2001. Dr. San Lucas reflects the type of alumna that our institution strives to produce.

Dr. San Lucas has served as a Research and Clinical Neurology Instructor in the PT Department at LLU since 2006, and always brings genuine enthusiasm and knowledge to the classroom that is very much appreciated by her students and peers. She is a published author and is actively engaged in clinical

research including vestibular rehabilitation, Parkinson's disease, and walking aides after stroke.

Dr. San Lucas is also a practicing clinician at the LLUMC Outpatient Rehabilitation and is loved by her many patients. Her continued professional development includes clinical certifications in stroke, traumatic brain injury, and Parkinson's disease. Dr. San Lucas has been an active member of both the American and California Physical Therapy Associations since 2002.

## Jamie Morris

Jamie Morris graduated with a Master's in Occupational Therapy in 2012 and currently works as an early intervention Occupational Therapist for brain injury and eating disabilities at Every Child Achieves in Los Angeles.

As an OT student, Jamie exhibited a strong interest in advocacy for the profession. She was instrumental in advocating for and implementing the first Student Occupational Therapy Association chapter at LLU in 2011, and has also recently created the first ever American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) national newsletter specifically for OT students. While a student, Jamie was a volunteer trainer for Guide Dogs for the Blind, Inc., and there were many days when we could see her guide dog-in-training sitting at her feet in class.

In her young career, Jamie has presented at both the Occupational Therapy Association of California conference, and the AOTA conference.

Jamie has started working on a new multi-media home program designed to assist children in learning daily living tasks.

## Earl Macaso

Graduating with honors in 2008, Earl Macaso jumped right into the field of Nutrition and Dietetics by becoming the only clinical dietitian at San Dimas Community Hospital. A year later, he started private practice consultations for La Verne Medical Group, gaining experience with clients who needed diabetes education and weight loss. In 2010, Earl began working at Kaiser Riverside on a Step Down unit and telemetry floor. Being the dietitian on the Diabetes team, he helped the hospital achieve the "Advanced Certification in Inpatient Diabetes."

In 2011, Earl transferred to Kaiser Ontario where he is now the dietitian in charge of the Intensive Care Unit and Step Down Units. He teaches dietetic students from LLU as they are in supervised practice in the critical care setting. Students frequently state how impressed they are with Earl's knowledge and ability to teach. He consistently exhibits enthusiasm for supervising students who have a desire to learn.

## Amanda Nunez

Amanda Nunez is a hardworking student in the Health Information Administration program at LLU. She transferred from Riverside Community College with an Associate degree in Math and Science, Behavioral Science, and Social Science. Her various degrees have led her to Loma Linda

in hopes to one day become a director of a hospital for a health information management (HIM) department. Graduating in June of 2013, Amanda is finishing up the last quarter to prepare to take the test for the Registered Health Information Administration (RHIA) credentials. Apart from school, Amanda is currently employed at Commonwealth Asset Management as a clerical assistant.

As a future health information leader, Amanda hopes to help bring success in bridging patient information to better deliver patient care. She envisions furthering her education to a master's degree in clinical informatics.

## Jennifer Shum

Jennifer Shum's journey to become a Clinical Laboratory Scientist started in 2001 as a laboratory assistant at Life Stream. She was inspired to learn more about the medical laboratory field. Jennifer worked full-time for three years, while going to school to finish her undergraduate degree in science. During this time, she sought to further advance herself in the field by getting a phlebotomy certificate. Shortly after, with God's blessing, she was offered a position at LLUMC as a Clinical Support Technician in the Blood Bank. Then, in 2009, she was offered a scholarship from laboratory administration to complete her Bachelor of Science degree in Clinical Laboratory Science (CLS).

Jennifer graduated in 2011, and was offered a position as a Clinical Laboratory Scientist in the Blood Bank department. As a symbol of thanks and appreciation, she gives back to the University by showing commitment as a teaching assistant for the CLS program. She hopes that future students will be inspired with similar wonderful experiences at Loma Linda.

## Lauren Savino

Lauren Savino graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor's in Communication Sciences and Disorders (CMSD) in 2011 and her Master's in 2013. She could be a rising star on academic achievement alone, having been on the Dean's List every year of her Bachelor's program and accumulating a GPA of 3.8 in her master's program. Did we mention she is fluent in Italian?

For the past two years, Lauren has been her Class Representative for the National Student Speech-Language Pathology Association (NSSHHA) and an active member of the California Speech-Language-

and Hearing Association (CSHA).

Lauren's education, training, and clinical experiences have led her to a career in speech-language pathology. Lauren expresses her desire to serve children, not only at the Palm Desert SDA Church, but also in public schools. Her goal is to become a Speech-Language Pathologist who will be not only an advocate for her students, but also one who uses best practices. Her mantra is, "I will have fun with my students. I will keep my creative edge. I will learn from my colleagues. I will keep my mind sharp by constantly challenging myself with new situations."

## Abdullah Alismail

Abdullah Alismail was born in Alkhobar, Saudi Arabia. He began studies for Respiratory Care at the LLU Riyadh campus in 2006. In 2009, he transferred to the LLU's main campus and graduated with his Bachelor's in Respiratory Care in 2010.

After graduation, Abdullah entered a special 10-month respiratory care residency program at LLUMC allowing him to get advanced work experience in all aspects of respiratory care over a two-year period. He earned advanced credentials as a Registered Respiratory Therapist and Neonatal and Pediatric Specialist through the National Board for Respiratory Care.

Abdullah and three of his colleagues have shown competence and mastery in their profession by competing and winning the 2011 California State and National Sputum Bowl Championship.

Abdullah also developed an interest in research, and has volunteered as a research assistant for the respiratory care department with Dr. Takkin Lo since 2011. He has made research presentations of several abstracts, including the Asian Pacific Society of Respirology in Hong Kong and the American Thoracic Society.

Abdullah has taught for the Respiratory Care program at LLU as a clinical instructor since 2011. Abdullah's passion for education led him to also pursue a Master's degree in Health Professions Education in 2012 at LLU.

## David Williams

David Williams was born and raised in Los Angeles, California. He decided to become a paramedic while attending Francisco Bravo Medical Magnet High School and has now worked in Emergency Medical Services (EMS) for 15 years. For the last 10 years, David has

worked as a field paramedic for American Medical Response in Hemet, California. David has also worked as a firefighter and an organ/tissue transplant coordinator during this time.

Within the Emergency Medical Care Program, David served as class president and co-led a class initiative to raise over \$2,000 for Charity Water, a non-profit organization that brings clean water to communities in developing countries. He is currently working on a project to study how storage effects medications in ambulances, for example, how the temperature extremes on ambulances affect the potency of medications. Ultimately, he hopes to become a Physician Assistant while continuing to play a significant role in advancing EMS.

## Latasha Johnson

Latasha Johnson is finishing her last year as an intern in the Masters of Physician Assistant Program at LLU. She received her Bachelor's in Sports and Health Sciences, with a concentration in Sports Medicine from American Military University in 2008. Following graduation, she deployed on behalf of the Army National Guard to Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo, where she worked as an Emergency Department (ED) Medic and Evacuation Non-Commissioned Officer for Multi National Task Force East for one year.

Latasha returned to the U.S. to attend the Warrior Leadership Course for promotion to Sergeant rank. In 2010, she was transferred to a Medical Battalion Support Brigade to take responsibility as a squad leader and acting platoon sergeant in a treatment platoon. Latasha has eight years of experience in military service as a medic, receiving numerous decorations, awards, and medals while serving.

Latasha also worked as a civilian in a Family Medicine office as Lead Medical Assistant and as a traveling registered Phlebotomy Technician in 2010-2011. She completed her externship as a Clinical Care Extender with St. John's Hospital in 2011, and received two exemplary service awards in Rehab and ED. She volunteered for a number of U.S. and international humanitarian missionaries and contributed her time to community service agencies, such as Red Cross, Food Share, and LLU Street Medicine for several years.

Latasha aims to continue serving in the military as a medical missionary until retirement. She is committed to providing compassionate medical aid and much needed education to underserved areas in the United States and globally.

## Chris Clark

In August of 2003, Chris received a Master of Physician Assistant degree from Loma Linda University. Since December of that year, he has worked at a Physician Assistant-C at California Emergency Physicians-America (CEPA). As a Physician Assistant for CEPA, Chris works clinical shifts in the Emergency Departments of Redlands Community and St. Mary Apple Valley, and currently practices at Riverside Community Hospital.

In January of 2010 Chris was promoted from site Lead Physician Assistant at Riverside Community Hospital Emergency Department to Regional Lead Physician Assistant for CEPA. He currently splits his time working clinical shifts in the ER and supervising Physician Assistant operations in Los Angeles, Riverside, Ventura and Chicago, Illinois

Chris has also been enjoying volunteering for CAPA CME as a Committee Member since 2009, and POWER Ministry Christian outreach since 2004.

## Eric Johnson

Dr. Eric Johnson graduated from LLU in 1992 and joined the faculty as Clinical Neurology Coordinator in 1998. In 2008, he became the youngest faculty member in the School of Allied Health Professions (SAHP) to promote to the rank of Full Professor. He is an APTA Board Certified Clinical Specialist in Neurology and maintains clinical competency certificates in Vestibular Rehabilitation, Cervicogenic Dizziness, Parkinson's disease, and Stroke Rehabilitation. He has taught graduate and post-graduate courses in the United States, Argentina, Brazil, Puerto Rico, and Japan.

In 2009, he was honored to serve as the Keynote Speaker for the 44th Annual Seminar of the Japan Physical Therapy Association. Dr. Johnson has authored more than 40 peer-reviewed journal and book chapter publications and his current research includes cervicogenic contributions to dynamic gaze stability and fall prevention in older adults. Dr. Johnson is a Harvard-Macy Scholar and is presently working on a Master's in Health Professions Education at Massachusetts General Hospital Institute of Health Professions. He has served as Chairman of the SAHP Faculty Council Executive Committee and is currently Chairman of the University Faculty Council.

## Mark S. Rogers

Mark Rogers is a graduate of LLU's BS in Respiratory Therapy program, class of

1988. Mark worked in the Respiratory Care Department at LLUMC in the Neonatal and Pediatric areas where he was a staff respiratory therapist, supervisor and house supervisor, focused primarily on pediatric critical care. He also began teaching in the Respiratory Care Program at LLU where he taught the Advanced Respiratory Science laboratory and coordinated the Annual Perinatal-Pediatric Respiratory Care Specialist Program for several years.

Mark served as research coordinator where he participated in many research programs such as equipment bench evaluations, sponsored and unsponsored drug studies, as well as translational research in liver dialysis. He has published seven peer reviewed research papers and 17 scientific abstracts. Mark also authored or co-authored three book chapters on inhaled gas mixtures and high frequency ventilation.

Mark has served the regional chapter in the California Society for Respiratory Care (CSRC) in several capacities and on numerous committees, including chairing the Program Committee for six years. Mark won the CSRC's President's Award in 1998. Mark has also served on the Panel of Consultants for the Perinatal/Pediatric Respiratory Specialty exam and the Sleep Disorders Specialty Exam for the National Board of Respiratory Care.

For the past nine years, Mark has been senior marketing product manager for CareFusion, responsible for the global marketing of multiple mechanical ventilators and other medical devices, and is now involved in the research and development of next generation of medical devices. Mark also teaches in the Cardiopulmonary Sciences department at LLU.

## Sharon Palmer

Sharon Palmer is alumna LLU's BS in Dietetics program, class of 1984. Sharon has created an award-winning career based on combining her two great loves: food and writing. As a registered dietitian with 16 years of health care experience, she channels her experience into writing features covering health, wellness, nutrition, cooking, cuisine, and entertainment. She loves what she does because it can make a huge difference in people's lives and can help them lead a rich, healthy, active life for years to come. Sharon is also a passionate writer about food and environmental issues, having published a number of features on plant-based diets, hunger, agriculture, local and organic foods, eco-friendly culinary practices, sustainability, food safety, humane animal practices, and food security.

Over 850 of Sharon's features have been published in a variety of publications, including *Better Homes and Gardens*, *Prevention*, *Oxygen*, *LA Times*, *Cooking Smart*, *Delicious Living*, *Food Product Design*, *Today's Dietitian*, and *CULINOLOGY*. She has contributed to several books, including *Food & Cultural Issues for the Culinary, Hospitality and Nutrition Professions* (Jones and Bartlett Publishers, Inc. 2009). Sharon is also the editor of the acclaimed health newsletter, *Environmental Nutrition*. Her book *The Plant-Powered Diet: The Lifelong Eating Plan for Achieving Optimal Health, Beginning Today* (The Experiment, July 2012) was a critical success, and will be followed with her second book publication in 2014.

Sharon also shines in culinary arts, focusing on globally inspired recipes featuring whole plant foods. She enjoys hosting culinary demonstrations and farm to table cooking classes. In addition, Sharon regularly appears in the media as a nutrition expert, and presents on food and nutrition at venues, including California Dietetic Association, Whole Foods, and Supermarket Symposium all across the country. She also serves as a nutrition advisor to Oldways Vegetarian Network and Today's Dietitian.

## Gina Rovetti

Gina Rovetti, MS, CCC-SLP, completed the Master of Science degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders in 2003. After graduating, Gina worked in pediatric sub-acute and early intervention. In 2005, she took the job that became her career in acute care at Arrowhead Regional Medical Center (ARMC), where she continues to be one of only two full-time Speech and Language Pathologists (SLPs). Her accomplishments over the past eight years at ARMC include: developing and implementing the Swallow Screen Protocol for the stroke center certification, supervising the training of all critical care nurses in this screening protocol, teaching classes for Newborn Intensive Care Unit (NICU) nurses in how to transition infants to oral feedings, presenting lectures on the SLPs role in critical-care of the tracheostomized and ventilated patient to respiratory therapists, and presenting lectures at the annual Stroke Summit.

In addition to her work within the hospital, Gina is always willing to supervise student clinicians. She regularly provides clinical instruction for student clinicians from LLU. During these rotations, Gina makes it possible for students to experience a wide variety

# Distinguished Alumni Award Recipients 2013



Front row, from left to right: Chris Clark (Physician Assistant), Eric Johnson (Physical Therapy), Mark S. Rogers (Cardiopulmonary Sciences), Sharon Palmer (Nutrition & Dietetics), Gina Rovetti (Communication Sciences & Disorders), Agnes Jong Wilbur (Clinical Laboratory Science), Paul Hawkins (Radiation Technology). Not pictured: Danielle Meglio (Occupational Therapy).

of disorders in patients ranging in age from NICU to geriatric.

## Agnes Jong Wilbur

Agnes Eva Jong was born and raised in Denver, Colorado. Agnes' fascination with the laboratory sciences began with her appreciation of the environment and the beauty of the majestic Colorado Rockies. In fifth grade, she discovered the microscopic world of pond water, plant cells from an onion and skin cells. Her interest continued with her favorite classes at the University of California-Riverside in Honors Chemistry, Microbiology and Human Physiology. She graduated with a Bachelor's in Biology in 1992.

After graduation, Agnes worked for an Internal Medicine doctor where she gained invaluable experience. Agnes was encouraged to become a cytotechnologist and began her intensive cytology training at LLU. Agnes completed the Certificate program in 1996 and earned the Bachelor's degree in 1997. After graduation, she worked for small, independent labs until 2000 when she started with Unilab Corporation, which became a part of Quest Diagnostics, and continues to work as a Cytotechnologist. Since graduation from LLU, Agnes became a member of the California Association of Cytotechnologists (CAC), American Society for Cytotechnology (ASCT), American Society of Cytopathology (ASC), and American Society of Clinical Pathology (ASCP).

## Paul Hawkins

Paul Hawkins is celebrating his 23rd year as an alumnus of LLU. Paul graduated in 1990 from the AS in Medical Radiography program after receiving the Walter L. Stilson Award for Clinical Excellence. He came back a year later to complete the Special Studies Course in Angiography and Magnetic Resonance Imaging and Computed Tomography. In 2003, after completing his Bachelor's degree from Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences, Paul came back to LLU to be one of the first graduates from the Radiologist Assistant (RA) Certificate Program.

Paul has been an advocate in support of the RA profession participating in various RA Councils, attending meetings trying to pass legislature in the state of California, and was even offered to be filmed for a video in support of the cause. Currently, Paul is working as a Chief Technology Officer in Hemet, CA, as well as the Vice-President of White Hawk Medical Solutions (a consulting company). "My duties include IT support of the network within the radiologist owned imaging center and hospitals we contract with, PACS/RIS administration, management of scheduling the radiologists at the hospitals we cover, reviewing contracts, assisting with the residency program, and working as a MR and CTA post processing technologist."

## Danielle Meglio

Danielle Meglio graduated with her A.A. degree in the Occupational Therapy

Assistant (OTA) program in 1993. She is currently a Certified OTA employed at Eisenhower Medical Center in Palm Springs, California, where she takes a special interest in working with the elderly; she is the community class coordinator for the Rehabilitation Department coordinating classes, senior screening, health fairs, and community walks. She obtained certification in arthritis instruction, Tai-chi, Ai-chi, Pi-Yo-Chi, Lebed senior therapy exercise, geriatrics trainer, rehab trainer, and water instructor. In addition, she received her MLD/CDT certification (Manual Lymph Drainage, Complex Decongestive Therapy).

Danielle is a fieldwork educator for occupational therapy (OT) students who are placed for fieldwork experience at Eisenhower Medical Center, as well as a co-teacher for Intervention Techniques & Strategies in the OT Department at LLU.

Danielle is actively involved with the Occupational Therapy Association of California (OTAC) and has been since she was a student. Since 1993 she has held officer positions in all areas in the local chapter, and on the state association level as treasurer, awards chair, and conference chair. The OTAC has recognized her with a Service Award, COTA Award, and in 2012 she received the OTR/COTA Partnership Award. The Arthritis Foundation has also recently awarded Danielle a Lifetime Achievement Award for her dedication to helping people with arthritis live a successful life.

# Sweatshirt Unites School of Allied Health Professions

By Heather Reifsnnyder



On December 5, 2012, the School of Allied Health Professions inaugurated a new tradition. In a shift on the typical academic hooding ceremony, the School offered hooded sweatshirts to the class of 2013 from all nine academic departments.

“Since our School is so diverse, there are many different student induction ceremonies in different departments, such as jacketing or pinning,” says Danelle Herra, MBA, alumni affairs officer for the School of Allied Health Professions. “But until now, there hasn’t been one that the whole school participates in.”

More than 230 students joined in the ceremony, including emergency medical

care classmates Lynn Nguyen and Joslyn De Los Santos. Their program is small and only meets on campus one day per week, which can lead to them feeling isolated.

“When this hoodie ceremony was announced, I knew I would attend,” says Ms. Nguyen, “and I’m glad.

“It did not disappoint. I felt a heightened sense of camaraderie amongst my fellow

classmates and schoolmates.” Ms. De Los Santos agrees. “I thought it was neat how we were included in something that usually is a graduate-level event. It made me feel more involved,” she says.

.....  
*We would like to continue this tradition for our seniors. Contact Nicole Orr at [norr@llu.edu](mailto:norr@llu.edu) if you are interested in supporting this event for future classes!*





Photos by Art Kroetz

[rehab sciences]



[cardio/pulmonary sciences]



[clinical lab science]



[occupational therapy]



[communication sciences & disorders]



[health informatics & information management]



[nutrition & dietetics]



[physician assistant]



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