

# The Link



LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY  
School of Allied Health Professions

*Quality is never an accident: it is always the result of high intention, sincere effort, intelligent direction and skillful execution; it represents the wise choice of many alternatives.*

-- William A. Foster

## HONEYBEES AND SAHP: Pollinating The World



For as far back as I can remember, I've been in love with nature! My mother, who I'm certain would be a contender for the world's most patient person, tolerated a menagerie of "friends" I was constantly bringing home to share my room. Mammals, reptiles, amphibians, birds, spiders and insects – I lived with them all!

Though anything fauna was special, I always held a particular fascination for the social insects – bees, wasps and ants. Honeybees were especially intriguing as they could be found anywhere there were flowers; and furthermore, I learned early on that honeybees were responsible for much of the world's flower pollination, and thus, for many of the fruits and vegetables we eat and the seeds we plant.

An average honeybee is slightly greater than one centimeter in length and weighs approximately 2-tenths of a gram – that is about 1-tenth the weight of a penny. Yet, in spite of their small size, pollinating honeybees contribute to the annual U.S. production of 4.5 million metric tons of apples, and internationally, 75 million metric tons of citrus, 32.5 million metric tons of tomatoes and 750 thousand metric tons of almonds, to name just a few. In 2008, honeybees pollinated over 70 million acres of soybeans in the United States. That translates into 109,375 square miles of pollinated soybeans in one year!

How do such small creatures, which at top speed fly only about 15 miles per hour, accomplish such an incredible feat?

The sheer enormity of this task, and the speed with which it is carried out, is attributable to the well-ordered division of labor programmed into a colony's behavior. Every worker in a colony

is a specialist. Each does her job and none other. Mistakes, risks and duplication of effort are dramatically minimized as a result of this specialization. And likewise, specialization results in a remarkably-high labor efficiency. By working together, each in its own niche specialty, these small insects achieve work on a grand scale, and they do it well!

As my career has taken me into the field of education within the allied health professions, the similarity of this organizational structure to a honeybee colony has not been lost on me. In both cases, working populations, though perhaps large in absolute numbers, are proportionately small compared to the size of the task. You, our alumni, are our "honeybees." You are well-trained specialists, able to efficiently integrate your skills with the skills of the other disciplines making up the spectrum of healthcare specializations.

As our world moves farther into the 21st century, demographic changes will be accompanied by increasing pressure on the U.S. healthcare industry. The ability of the industry to meet this increasing demand, and to do that work well, is in part dependent on a labor force that is well-trained, specialized and working in synchrony between specializations. That's you! Special, dedicated, and qualified to meet the demand of our ever growing population. You are our honeybees!

Sincerely,

Ernest Schwab, M.S., Ph.D.  
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs



## CODING SPECIALIST GRADUATION

January 11, 2009 marked a very special day for SAHPs Coding Specialist Program. Fourteen students who started the program a year and a half ago celebrated their completion of the program in a ceremony attended by friends, family and faculty in the Randall Visitors Center.

Dr. Craig Jackson opened the program with a welcome and his sentiments of pride and congratulations. Shortly after, Rita Stiffler, RHIA, took the stage and spoke to the graduates on ethical issues and the future impact of the coding profession on the medical community. Since her graduation in 1966 with her B.S. in Medical Records, Rita has dedicated her career to the Loma Linda Medical Center. She is currently the Executive Director of Health Information Management, and is planning her retirement for May of 2009.

"Not only was this year's Coding Graduation made memorable by Rita Stiffler's message," says Debbie Hamada, RHIA, Program Director, "but the ceremony was also enriched by the vocal performance of Charity Fortajada. The day was truly a grand and emotional celebration of the student's hard work and dedication over the last twenty-seven months."



2009 Graduating Class



Left to Right: Marilyn Davidian, Terri Rouse, Evelia Muñoz, Pauline Calla, Rita Stiffler, Debbie Hamada

## CODING PROGRAM RE-APPROVED

The Approval Committee for Certificate Programs (ACCP), offered cooperatively by the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) and the Association for Healthcare Documentation Integrity (AHDI), just recently reviewed the Coding program at Loma Linda University. It is with great pleasure that we announce that the ACCP has voted to extend the approval of the program. The peer reviewers indicated that it was a pleasure to review the

program in the Health Information Management department, commending the strong plan and innovative approach to coding.

The ACCP also commended Marilyn Davidian, MA, RHIA, department chair, and her colleagues for their continued commitment to a quality coding education certificate program.

## HEART DISEASE AWARENESS: SAHP GOES RED



It's frightening to imagine that heart disease is the leading cause of death for both women and men in the United States. And across the world, coronary heart disease kills more than seven million people each year ([www.cdc.gov/heartdisease](http://www.cdc.gov/heartdisease)). In an effort to change those numbers for the better, the American Heart Association promotes a "Wear Red Day" each February to raise heart health awareness. The School of Allied Health Professions took part in this special day by encouraging all faculty, staff and students to wear red on Friday, February 6 and spread the heart healthy message.

To find out how you can be heart healthy, visit [www.goredforwomen.org](http://www.goredforwomen.org) and you'll find:

- Go Red heart checkups
- Risk Factors
- Differences between women's and men's heart research, treatment, and symptoms
- Ten ways to love your heart
- Healthy meal planning and grocery lists

In the next year, why don't we all start showing our hearts some love and do something to beat heart disease!

## 13<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL ALUMNI HOMECOMING

The School of Allied Health Professions invites its alumni and friends to the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Alumni Homecoming and Continuing Education Convention to be held April 16-19, 2009. Events will include continuing education courses, a free Friday evening vespers concert by powerful tenor vocalist Rudy Micelli, the Sabbath potluck on the hill, tours of the new buildings and facilities on campus, and the Saturday evening Alumni Recognition Banquet. For registration and weekend information, visit: [www.llu.edu/llu/sahp/alumni/continuinged](http://www.llu.edu/llu/sahp/alumni/continuinged).

## FORMER SAHP DEAN PASSES AWAY



Former SAHP dean, Ivor C. Woodward passed away in the early afternoon of Saturday, August 2, 2008. He is survived by his wife, Clarice, and daughters Gwen Schmidt and Cathy Kolin.

In 1965, Dr. Woodward was appointed by Dr. Robert Cleveland, vice-president of academic affairs at Loma Linda University from 1964-1973, to be the first dean of the new School of Allied Health Professions which opened July 1, 1966. Cleveland said of the appointment, "There is a need for an overall administrator to give these sciences representation in the councils of the university, and the academic and administrative advantages that accrue."

Woodward had the challenge of bringing five disciplines together which had operated independently for a number of years. You can imagine the initial struggle: departments physically moving to new locations, having a new administrator and new policies...it was an endeavor that most of us would not favor.

However, Woodward demonstrated outstanding leadership in forming the first five departments under the umbrella of the school. Later in his twenty-year tenure, two other departments joined the school. Many programs were added to each department creating the largest school on the LLU campus.

An educator with a keen interest in high technology, Woodward had added training in radiological technology prior to his appointment which prepared him well for leadership in the allied health arena.

Woodward retired in 1986 and continued to live in the Loma Linda area until 1995 when he and his wife, Clarice moved to Marysville, Washington near their two daughters.

## CELEBRATING THE 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF MHIS: Reunion Invitation

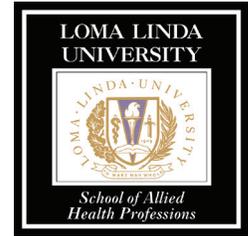


Two-thousand and nine marks the 10-year anniversary of the first graduating class from the MHIS program. Although the program ended six years later, the time spent with the students who passed through the program has not been forgotten. As we celebrate the class of 1999 [pictured left to right: James Krausz, Kathleen Moore, Carrie Termin, Wilan Wong, Kimberly Carrillo, and Katherine Bartell] and their 10-year anniversary, we would like to invite all graduates from the program to join us for a time of celebration and remembrance at this year's Alumni Homecoming.

All graduates from the program, and their families, are welcome to join us for an alumni reunion on Saturday, April 18 at 5pm in the Wong Kerlee Conference Center on the LLU campus. Please RSVP to Steve Larsen at slarsen@llu.edu by April 10, 2009. We look forward to seeing you!

### DID YOU KNOW?

All of the entities under Loma Linda University have undergone an identity transformation over the past year. Each school logo has been modified, as can be seen from the SAHP logos below.



Previous SAHP Identity



LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY  
School of Allied Health Professions

New SAHP Identity

## DEPARTMENT UPDATES

We are happy to announce the birth of Department Chair, Marilyn Davidian's twin granddaughters, born January 15, 2009 to Nathan and Janna Lusk. The girls, Genevieve Aline and Gwendolyn Rae, join the Lusk family of four: mom, dad and older brothers, Jonathan and Patrick. Congratulations!

## ALUMNI UPDATE

Janet Henderson, BS '95, MHIS, '05, was recently promoted to a new position at the University of California, Irvine Medical Center. She is now the Team Leader for their Electronic Medical Record Project. In her new position, Janet is responsible for planning and directing efforts necessary to implement a legal electronic health record with integrated Health Information Management functionality. Congratulations Janet!

## CONTACT US

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## 2009 CALENDAR

MARCH:  
SAHP alumni reunion in  
San Diego.....4

APRIL:  
13<sup>th</sup> Annual Alumni  
Homecoming & Continuing  
Education Convention.....16-19

MAY:  
Physician Assistant alumni  
reunion at Prime Med West  
in Anaheim, CA.....8

EMC/Respiratory alumni reunion  
in Palm Springs, CA.....14

JUNE:  
Graduation.....14



# Great Idea

Good news! You don't need to fill out a contact card, address it, stamp it, and mail it to us so we have your updated information. You can now update everything ONLINE! Visit [www.llu.edu/llu/sahp/alumni/stayconnected](http://www.llu.edu/llu/sahp/alumni/stayconnected) and fill out the forms.

We would love to know about any new events happening in your life. Email your photos and stories to [jpuehs@llu.edu](mailto:jpuehs@llu.edu).

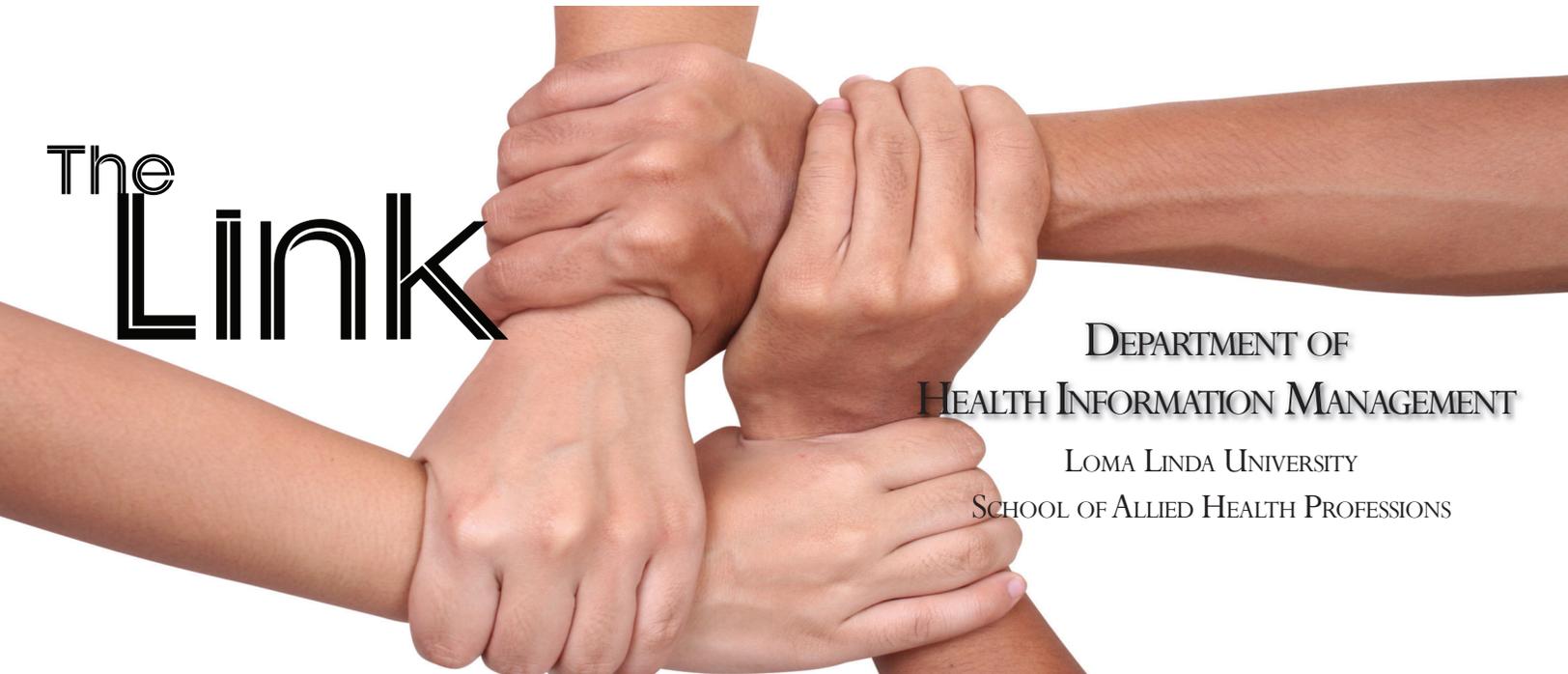
Sign up now for our new online mailing list to receive the *SAHP Source*, email notifications of Alumni events, school/university updates and so much more! You will find the sign up form on the Stay Connected page.



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School of Allied Health Professions  
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DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH INFORMATION MANAGEMENT  
LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL OF ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS