## Loma Linda University School of Allied Health Professions



For Physical Therapy

Winter/Spring 2008

The Way I See It ....



#### Dr. Craig R. Jackson, Dean of Allied Health

...the School of Allied Health Professions is poised for a great future. There are a lot of things I can say attribute to our success. The first would be a faculty that is dedicated to their work and their students. I am fortunate to interact with such a determined set of individuals. Their love and enthusiasm for their work is contagious, as I'm sure you all know. These individuals have dedicated their lives to the future of this institution and for that, I can tell, our potential is endless.

Our students are another aspect of our exciting future. They have come on the Loma Linda campus poised to embark on this educational journey that you were a part of not so long ago. When I look at them, I can see the determination in their eyes. They are eager to learn and excited to see what the future holds for them. Their future is bright and I can't think of a better view from my office than the anticipation of service that I see from the way they study, learn, and live at LLU.

One of the brightest stars in our future is you, the alumni. You make us proud! And to be quite honest, we brag about you. You are a prime example of what we think about when the word success comes to mind. Alumni are the culmination of our vision for the school. You have taught us what we need to do and how we need to do it. We can't imagine what we would be without people like you who support us in so many ways.

With such an exciting outlook on our future, we can't help but celebrate it. This newsletter that you are reading is the first of many improvements to our communication with you. We realize that what happens in your department is very important to you, so we want to keep you updated with the inside scoop. Expect to read about students, faculty, and even stories of other alumni. We want to link you to the important happenings in the school and specifically your department. So, please take the time right now to read through this newsletter and catch up on the activities of your school. This is your opportunity to share in our celebration of the School of Allied Health Professions.

The future looks extremely bright, with lots of possibilities ahead – big possibilities. Like the song says, "We've only just begun."

Sincerely,

Craig Balso

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# NEWS 2 U

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#### **OT & PT Departments Unite to Educate Community**

On July 24 and 31 of 2007, Sharon Pavlovich, BA, COTA/C and Dr. Bruce Bradley, PT, DPTSc, GCS, embarked upon a collaborative mission between the departments of Physical Therapy & Occupational Therapy in the School of Allied Health Professions

(SAHP). They set out to train the employees of Easter Seals of Southern California in the importance of both employee and patient safety when lifting, transferring and assisting those in transit. Easter Seals is a program focusing on adult day services



for individuals with developmental, physical or multiple disabilities.

Sonia Godina, Program Coordinator for WestCovinaEasterSeals, firstapproached Pavlovich on the recommendation from an OT student interning at their facility. Godina and Pavlovich coordinated two days of instruction for 25 staff. The first class was an interactive lecture focusing on injuries to the back. Dr. Bradley took a model spine and explained the details of a herniated disk, what to do if it happens and how to avoid the injury. During the second session they learned by hands-on activities. They practiced transferring patients from a bed to a chair, assisting them as they walk and protecting them from falling. They also learned how to correctly position patients in wheelchairs. Each employee was provided a manual created by Bradley and Pavlovich with information from each session.

Godina rated this experience at a 10. "I was wishing we had an extra day. Our staff kept wanting to know more. And the fact that Sharon speaks fluent Spanish helped our staff feel comfortable asking questions," she said.

The Allied Health Professions make

such a difference in health care and these two departments want to make sure they are out making a presence in their community as well. When asked how volunteering effects him, Dr. Bradley responded with an eager "I get all fired up! I love it! They were hungry for what

we had to offer and that is what makes it all worth while." Pavlovich and Dr. Bradley did this as a free service for Easter Seals. The employees were so grateful and reported very positive feedback to Godina about the learning experience.

The Easter Seals Regional Director Kris Lyman was so impressed with the training that she wants the duo to provide the same training to other offices in Southern California. She is also interested in working with SAHP to provide students with internship opportunities at the West Covina office. Pavlovich was so positive about her experience with Easter Seals that she said, "I love being an active partner in fulfilling the mission of Loma Linda University. Educating those in the community is just as important as educating our students. I can't wait to do it again!"

# PROFILES

### PT Teaching Assistants

During the summer of 2007, 33 second year Physical Therapy students (PTs) polished their anatomy skills by teaching lab to their first year peers. In the anatomy lab there are three cubicles and 9 or 10 teaching assistant (TAs) in each one to oversee any direct work done on the cadavers. In total there were 28 TAs beside the cadavers (one at each), three monitoring each cubicle and two head TAs to guide the entire class.

One of the head TAs was Lori Aceres a native of Southern California. Lori attended La Sierra University and acted as a teaching assistant in some anatomy classes during her undergraduate years. She



was chosen by instructors who took notice of her good grades in Anatomy and Physiology as well as her cumulative GPA. She connected well with the faculty and the students and was pleasant and easy to work with. Lori noted her experience teaching as being "Absolutely wonderful!" She said that the chance to teach anatomy reinforced her

knowledge of the material. "We all have to be so on top of this information in order to help the first year students along."

Tony Valenzuela was the TA supervisor and, according to Lisa, is a wonderful teacher. "Tony has generated such a good rapport with his students. He is laid back in a sense but is still so dedicated to teaching."



Second year TAs during the summer of 2007

#### Young Researchers of the Year



Everett Lohman, DPTSc, PT and Eric Johnson, DPTSc, PT, are two esteemed associate professors in the Physical Therapy Department's. They were both presented with the Young Investigator's Research Award at the SAHP Awards Chapel on May 16, 2007. "This is the first year we have

given out this award," says Grenith Zimmerman, PhD, associate dean for Research and Statistics. "We wanted our faculty who are just starting out in the research arena to be awarded for their hard work and success." Some of the requirements for this award include: being a full-time faculty member with a masters or doctoral degree, having less than five years of research experience, and being the first author on more than 8 papers in peer-reviewed journals (with one to three of those papers representing non-student research projects.)



#### **Tony Valenzuela**

Tony Valenzuela has been a faithful steward of LLU, and more specifically the School of Allied Health, since 1989 when he was hired to be the Marketing Coordinator for SAHP. Tony worked in marketing until 1999 when he began teaching gross anatomy for Physical Therapy. He is currently an Assistant Professor



of PT and the lab coordinator for gross anatomy. Tony has recently finished his Masters in PT and has six more classes to complete for his Doctorate. This will be his second Doctorate degree as his first was in Education from La Sierra University in 1990.

The summer '07 gross anatomy teaching assistants were under the guidance of Dr. Valenzuela. He both hired and trained the 33 TAs in an on-the-job setting after their first school year.

# The Ink

Loma Linda University School of Allied Health Professions



# The Link

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